



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

MARCH 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kkp.co.uk www.kkp.co.uk



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION	2
PART 2: VISION	10
PART 3: AIMS.....	11
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	12
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS	41
PART 6: ACTION PLAN.....	54
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS	93
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE	93
APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT	105
APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN	113

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LSOA	Lower Super Output Areas
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
MES	Match Equivalent Session
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch Strategy and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SC	Stoolball Club
SCB	Sussex Cricket Board
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under
WDC	Wealden District Council

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1. A Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) has been commissioned by Wealden District Council (WDC), to assess playing pitch and outdoor sport facility needs. This report provides the Strategy for Wealden.
2. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, this Strategy & Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2039 (in line with new Local Plan). It has been developed to provide:
 - ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
 - ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
 - ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
 - ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
 - ◀ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.
3. The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:
 - ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
 - ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
 - ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
 - ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
 - ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date.
4. This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is updated.
5. A PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:
 - ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
 - ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, highlighting particular local demand issues.
 - ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
 - ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.
 - ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
 - ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
 - ◀ Supporting funding applications.
 - ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

6. The Strategy and Action Plan recommends several priority projects for Wealden which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.
7. Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), sports organisations, education establishments and parish/town councils. In many instances, Wealden District Council will not be the organisation which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

Scope

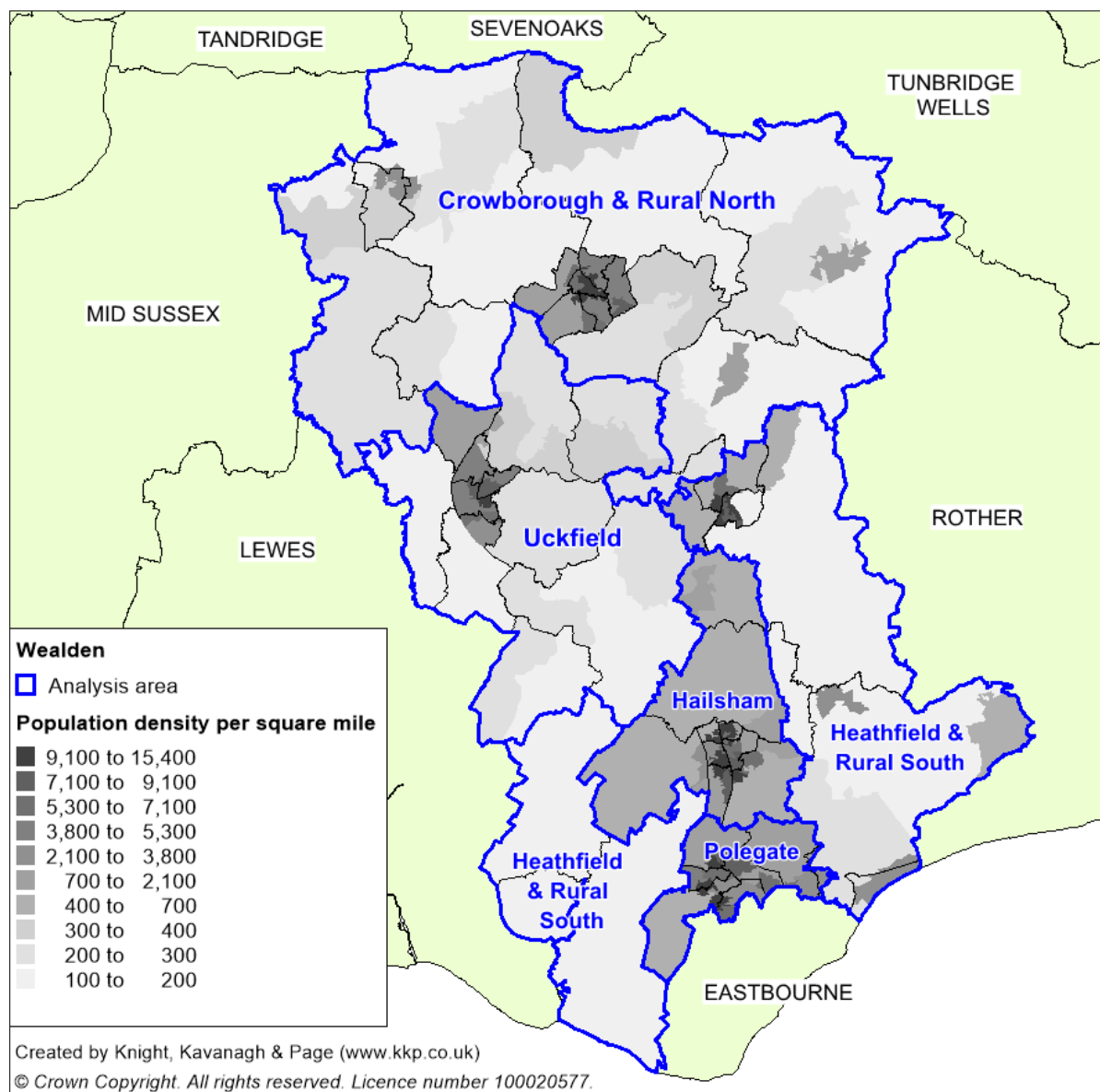
8. The following are the key outdoor sports in Wealden and as such are included within the scope of this report:
 - ◀ Cricket
 - ◀ Football (including 3G pitches)
 - ◀ Rugby union
 - ◀ Hockey (artificial grass pitches)
 - ◀ Bowls
 - ◀ Tennis
 - ◀ Netball
 - ◀ Stoolball

Study area

9. The study area comprises the whole of Wealden District Council's administrative area which has been broken into smaller subsections known as analysis areas. Five analysis areas are identified and have been created using Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) boundaries.
 - ◀ Hailsham
 - ◀ Polegate
 - ◀ Crowborough & Rural North
 - ◀ Heathfield & Rural South
 - ◀ Uckfield
10. Analysis areas have been created for reporting purposes. These provide breakdowns of area clusters which broadly align to anticipated future housing developments and can therefore provide a useful guide for localised future investment. However, the sports catchment areas do not naturally fall into defined administrative areas such as these and that this needs to be taken into account when assessing need for new or improved provision in the future.
11. Cross boundary issues have been explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.
12. The analysis areas and population density are shown in figure 1.1.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Figure 1.1: Analysis areas



Local context

13. Wealden District Council is preparing a new Local Plan which will set out a vision and framework for the future development of the area up to 2039 and will make decisions on the location, amount and type of development needed in the district.
14. The Council undertook a Regulation 18 Direction of Travel Consultation in November 2020. This included a dedicated chapter on health and wellbeing including providing a number of policy options.

Healthy Wealden – Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2025)

15. The improvement of health and wellbeing of Wealden's residents is not only pivotal to living happier, healthier and potentially longer, more fulfilled lives it will also have an impact on the Districts economy, prosperity and in terms of generating income and investment while helping to maintain and enhance local services and amenities.

16. Within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy the Council describes health and well-being as “Leading a healthy lifestyle through good health choices, physical fitness and mental resilience”.
17. The Councils’ Strategy further sets out four priority themes that it will focus on over a three year period (2022-25). These are:
 - ◀ Priority One: Mental Health and Resilience
 - ◀ Priority Two: Loneliness, Social Isolation and Connected Communities
 - ◀ Priority Three: Positive Health Choices
 - ◀ Priority Four: Active Communities, Environments and Facilities

National context

18. Paragraphs 98 of the NPPF states that Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate as relevant.
19. Paragraph 99 of the NPPF discusses assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.
20. An up-to-date PPOSS will form a key element of the Council’s evidence base to support its emerging health and well-being policies and the Local Plan as a whole.
21. This may provide opportunities to develop new playing pitches or improve the quality of existing playing pitches in Wealden in response to housing developments that create additional demand for pitches (as well as the accompanying ancillary offer). Any requirement would be calculated by using the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator¹. Where possible, this will be aligned to existing community sport clubs in Wealden which already play an integral part in providing sport and physical activities to the local community

Headline findings

22. Table 1.1 below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (it’s carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.
23. The position on future demand is established through ONS projections (2019 MYE) and through a mixture of consultation feedback from community clubs in the district and information provided by the relevant national governing bodies of sport. Full details of this can be found in the preceding Assessment Report.
24. Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

¹<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/playing-pitch-calculator>

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

25. Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is usually played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.
26. The Sport England PPS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.
27. For artificial surfaces (AGPs/3G pitches), how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e., tennis, netball bowls etc) where it is not as easy to determine carrying capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	Crowborough & Rural North	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 5
	Hailsham	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	Heathfield & Rural South	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	At capacity
	Polegate	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
	Uckfield	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Football (3G pitches) ^[2]	Crowborough & Rural North	Full size	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 2.5
	Hailsham		Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
	Heathfield & Rural South		Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
	Polegate		No identified shortfall	No identified shortfall
	Uckfield		Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
Cricket	Crowborough & Rural North	Saturday	Spare capacity of 49	Spare capacity of 13
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 147	Spare capacity of 93
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 198	Spare capacity of 150
	Hailsham	Saturday	Spare capacity of 9	At capacity
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 32	Spare capacity of 14
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 42	Spare capacity of 24
	Heathfield & Rural South	Saturday	Spare capacity of 27	Spare capacity of 18
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 64	Spare capacity of 46
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 54	Spare capacity of 24
	Polegate	Saturday	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 10	Spare capacity of 10
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 54	Spare capacity of 24
	Uckfield	Saturday	Spare capacity of 29	Spare capacity of 9
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 73	Spare capacity of 37
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 89	Spare capacity of 59
Rugby union	Crowborough & Rural North	Senior	Shortfall of 4.25	Shortfall of 4.25
	Hailsham		At capacity	At capacity
	Heathfield & Rural South		At capacity	At capacity
	Polegate		At capacity	At capacity
	Uckfield		Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
Rugby league	Wealden	Senior	No demand so no provision required	No demand so no provision required
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wealden	Full size	Currently no shortfall	Shortfall of 2 pitches unless replacement surfaces are provided at existing facilities (Beacon Academy and Hailsham Community College), or new provision is built within the district. It is estimated that each surface has circa three to five years remaining before becoming unusable.

^[2] Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

28. For non-pitch sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal club activity. The current and future picture for each sport is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	There is a theoretical capacity shortfall for East Hoathly, Halland, Groombridge and Mayfield tennis clubs at their current venues. In addition, there is a requirement to focus on informal activity at non-club courts and to improve the recreational tennis offer (e.g., at town and parish council sites).	There is a theoretical shortfall of capacity at for East Hoathly, Halland and Groombridge, Mayfield and Hailsham tennis clubs. In addition, there is a requirement to focus on informal activity at non-club courts and improving the recreational tennis offer (e.g., at town and parish council sites).
Netball	There is a limited supply of netball provision for affiliated and recreational programming in the District. This limits opportunities for local residents and consequently most known demand is exported into Eastbourne for competitive play. There is a perceived shortfall of provision for recreational activities within the district, with a known over reliance on provision located at education sites.	There is a limited supply of netball provision for affiliated and recreational programming in the District. This limits opportunities for local residents and consequently most known demand is exported into Eastbourne. There is a perceived shortfall of provision for recreational activities within the district, with a known over reliance on provision located at education sites.
Bowls	A sufficient supply of greens exists in the District to accommodate existing levels of demand.	A sufficient supply of greens exists in the District to accommodate future levels of demand. Infrastructure requirements may be required at several clubs
Stoolball	Stoolball adequately catered for across Wealden, with clubs accessing existing provision for other sports such as Football and Cricket.	Stoolball is adequately catered for across Wealden, with clubs accessing existing provision for other sports such as Football and Cricket.

Conclusions

29. From a quantitative perspective, the existing position for each sport is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. Where shortfalls exist, these are currently small but are expected to be exacerbated in the future (based on increases in demand for each sport).
30. Where shortfalls do not currently exist, particularly for football, it is anticipated that over the Local Plan period that shortfalls will emerge, but at levels which are manageable and that can be theoretically be addressed through pitch improvements of existing provision, rather than the need for providing additional pitches.
31. Shortfalls are identified for 3G pitches, and these shortfalls cannot be addressed unless this type of pitch is approved and constructed within the District.
32. There are also shortfalls of recreational provision for tennis and netball. This is because of a relatively high supply of provision being located within education sites, as opposed to local authority or parish and town council sites. Facilities at education sites are either unavailable for community use have limited access or not floodlit meaning they cannot be generally used by the public out of school hours.

33. For hockey, demand is currently being met by provision at the Beacon Academy and Hailsham Community College, however, both pitches are at the end of their life expectancy and unless quality issues are improved over the lifespan of the PPOSS, a shortfall will emerge for two full size pitches.
34. Across all sports where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead spare capacity is a solution to overcoming current or future shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.
35. For the most part, the shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, re-configuration, installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities, or enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. However, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches that can likely only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, particularly at sites managed by parish and town councils, an increase in such provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can reduce overplay and aid pitch quality improvements.

PART 2: VISION

Vision

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

Wealden will be a district where its residents and communities have the opportunity to enjoy an excellent quality of life through active, healthy and fulfilling lifestyles with opportunities to access thriving community clubs, sport, recreation and leisure provision. This will be achieved through partnership working and by supporting the provision of both improved and additional leisure, sporting and recreational facilities across the District”.

37. The three core principles underpinning this vision are:
- ◀ Support for the creation of a high quality and sustainable indoor sport and leisure facility mix, which provides accessible and inclusive activities for all Wealden residents leading to increased participation and active lifestyles, thereby meeting community need.
 - ◀ Recognising the importance of sport and leisure facilities as relevant community spaces, accessible to all and offering opportunities for the delivery of a wide range of activities, services, support and entertainment to local communities and people.
 - ◀ Recognise the importance of accessible informal indoor and outdoor community spaces and activities in contributing to the improved physical and mental health and wellbeing of local residents.
38. To achieve this vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives:
- ◀ Working collectively with partners to create opportunity for everyone to participate.
 - ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport.
 - ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
 - ◀ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place and available at the right time to meet current and projected future demand.
 - ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.

PART 3: AIMS

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

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

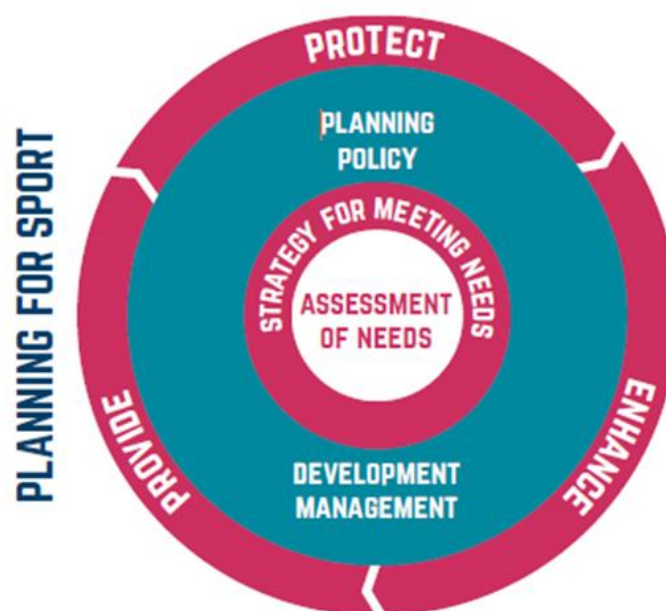
AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England objectives



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

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

40. In this section, in order to help develop recommendations and actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This then informs sport specific recommendations.

Football – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ✦ Actual spare capacity totals 22.5 match equivalent sessions per week across football pitches in Wealden, which is a sizeable amount.
- ✦ A total of 11 pitches across eight sites are overplayed by a combined total of 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ✦ There is a current shortfall of adult and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst minimal capacity exists on youth 11v11 pitches, and a large capacity exists on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- ✦ After factoring in future demand, spare capacity in certain pitch types are exacerbated and shortfalls are predicted for, adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.
- ✦ The audit identifies a total of 140 grass football pitches within Wealden across 65 sites, with 110 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 50 sites.
- ✦ As a breakdown, there are 40 adult, seven youth 11v11, 18 youth 9v9, 27 mini 7v7 and 18 mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use.
- ✦ Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at one site.
- ✦ Town and Parish Councils and schools are the predominant supplier of football pitches.
- ✦ Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC expresses an aspiration to receive a long-term lease of the playing provision and clubhouse at West Park (Uckfield).
- ✦ Most community available pitches are considered to be standard quality, with 51 assessed as this.
- ✦ 30 pitches are assessed as good quality, whilst 29 are deemed poor.
- ✦ Quality of ancillary provision is an issue at sites such as West Park (Uckfield), Maurice Thornton Playing Field and Wallsend Road Recreation Ground.
- ✦ Through the audit and assessment, 236 teams from within 34 clubs are identified as playing within Wealden, consisting of 51 adult, 78 youth and 107 mini teams.
- ✦ There is a trend of participation growth across Wealden in recent years.
- ✦ There are six clubs within Wealden exporting demand outside of the district, due to a lack of pitch capacity and availability within the area.
- ✦ No unmet demand has been identified by any clubs within Wealden.
- ✦ A total of 11 clubs express latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitch capacity was available to them.
- ✦ Based on population growth, an increase of two adult mens teams is projected (to 2039), whilst 17 clubs report aspirations to grow by a combined total of 31 teams.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay / Improving pitch quality

41. In total there are 11 pitches overplayed in Wealden across eight sites, with overplay equating to 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of these pitches (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and consequently reduce both current and future shortfalls.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

42. To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating as detailed in the table below:

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

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

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating ²	Good quality capacity rating ³
10	Buxted Recreation Ground	Adult (9v9)	1	Poor	1	1
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Adult	1	Good	0.5	0.5
47	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	0.5
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Adult	2	Poor	1.5	2.5
		9v9	1	Poor	1	2
63	New Barn Lane	Adult	1	Good	0.5	0.5
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
104	West Park (Uckfield)	9v9	2	Poor	6	-

43. As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if their quality was improved to good. The only sites that would continue to accommodate some level of overplay are Forest Row Sports Ground and New Barn Lane, as the provision provided at both sites are already of a good quality.
44. On this basis, only one match equivalent session provided across two adult pitches would remain across Wealden, compared to 13.5 match equivalent sessions currently, and this would also only exist on adult pitches. The impact this would have on the supply and demand balance across the district is shown in the Table 4.2, with all shortfalls being alleviated.

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

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Current actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total	Potential overplay	Potential total ⁴
Adult	5.5	6.5	1	1	4.5
Youth 11v11	2	-	2	-	2
Youth 9v9	3	7	4	-	3
Mini 7v7	5.5	-	5.5	-	5.5
Mini 5v5	6.5	-	6.5	-	6.5

² Match equivalent sessions

³ Match equivalent sessions

⁴ Potential total if pitches are improved to a good quality..

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

45. Given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also 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 3G for competitive matches, which can not only alleviate overplay of grass pitches but can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use. However, from a sustainability perspective, there also needs to be a sufficient level of midweek training taking place on these pitches to justify the initial development costs.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

46. As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving specific strategic sites. To that end, the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies nine sites for grass pitch improvements that are in need of investment and that are key to the development of football across Wealden. This improvement is led by the County FA and FF with local clubs playing a role in the activation of projects
47. Table 4.3 identifies the impact on the supply and demand balance of pitches at these sites if their quality were improved too good.

Table 4.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
1	Alderbrook Playing Field	Adult	2	Good	5	N/A
		9v9	1		1	N/A
5	Bede's School	Adult	3	Good	2	N/A
			4	Poor	-	8
29	Goldsmiths Recreation Ground	Adult	3	Good	8.5	N/A
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Standard	1	2
		9v9	1	Standard	1	3
		7v7	2	Poor	2	10
		5v5	1	Standard	3	5
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Adult	2	Good	2	N/A
		Youth 11v11	1	Good	1.5	N/A
		7v7	2	Good	7.5	N/A
		5v5	1	Good	4	N/A
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Adult	2	Poor	1.5	5.5
		9v9	1	Poor	1	2
		7v7	2	Poor	2	10
		5v5	2	Poor	3	11
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1.5	3.5
		7v7	2	Standard	5	9
		5v5	2	Standard	7	11
104	West Park (Uckfield)	9v9	2	Poor	6	-
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	0	2
		9v9	1	Standard	2.5	4.5
		7v7	2	Standard	8	12
		5v5	4	Standard	16	24

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

48. Improving quality as set out in table 4.3 would create an additional 79 match equivalent sessions (note this is not peak time capacity, but wider pitch capacity). In reality, this reduces to 71 match equivalent sessions due to pitches at Bedes School being unavailable for community use.
49. Pitches at Alderbook Playing Field, Goldsmith Recreation Ground and Lime Kiln Playing Field are already adjudged to be good quality so would not see theoretical capacity improvements (albeit it is understood that through the FA Pitch Improvement Programme administered through PitchPower that there may still remain to be capacity improvements outside of the PPS Guidance). Where this is the case, substantial efforts should remain in place to ensure quality remains as such, this will enable pitches to sustain their already high carrying capacity.
50. The impact the improvements to sites identified in the LFFP would have on the overall supply and demand balance is shown in Table 4.4. This table only reflects the position on peak time demand access, and discounts capacity outside of this. Quality improvements at several sites, such as Horam Recreation Ground and Wolf Recreation Ground won't create further capacity during peak periods of play but will still improve the user experience and durability of pitches.
51. As such, only two sites from this list create peak time capacity (based on the PPS methodology) and this is on two adult pitches at Maurice Thornton Playing Fields and on one mini 5v5 pitch at Wolfe Recreation Ground. This is because there is no additional peak time availability by improving capacity.

Table 4.4: Impact on current supply and demand if quality improved at LFFP sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1	1
Youth 11v11	2	2
Youth 9v9	4	4
Mini 7v7	5.5	5.5
Mini 5v5	6.5	7.5

Table 4.5: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved at LFFP sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential total
Adult	4	2
Youth 11v11	2	2
Youth 9v9	6	6
Mini 7v7	1.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	4	5

52. Note that the future total identified in Table 4.5 is based on the future projections in the PPOSS Assessment Report.
53. As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPS, it is recommended that the priority list is updated on the back of this study to account for changes in demand since the project was completed. To help guide this process, the table below comments on whether the PPS provides evidence to support the inclusion of the sites currently featured.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Table 4.6: Assessing LFFP priority list (grass pitch improvements)

Site ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP update recommendation
1	Alderbrook Playing Field	Key site accessed by step 5 Club, Crowborough Athletic.	Retain for improvement
5	Bedes Senior School	The site provides four good quality adult pitches and four poor quality pitches. No community use for community clubs and should be removed as an LFFP project for this reason.	Remove as a project
29	Goldsmiths Recreation Ground	Underutilised playing field site which could be better used.	Retain for improvement
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Key site that contains pitches which are poor quality.	Retain for improvement
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Key site accessed by regional feeder league Club, Jarvis Brook.	Retain for improvement
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Key site that is poor quality and is overplayed.	Retain for improvement
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Key site that is of a standard quality.	Retain for improvement
104	West Park (Uckfield)	Key site that is poor quality and overplayed.	Retain for improvement
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Key site that is of a standard quality.	Retain for improvement

54. In addition to the above, additions should also be sought given the quality issues and shortfalls evidenced across Wealden. In that regard, the following sites should be considered given the number of pitches supplied and the quality/overplay issues identified:

- ✦ Huggets Lane Recreation Ground
- ✦ Maresfield Recreation Ground

55. For sites not featured within the LFFP, respective owners/managers of playing field sites should still utilise the use of PitchPower to aid their ability in improving the quality of pitches.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect the existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ✦ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ✦ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ✦ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity (or 3G provision), or to sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ✦ Work to accommodate exported, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ✦ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ✦ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.

- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches to meet the identified shortfalls for football training demand.**
- ◀ **Meeting the 3G pitch shortfall for training will also help alleviate grass pitch shortfalls and quality issues, providing that the transfer of play is pursued as and when more 3G pitches are established.**
- ◀ **In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated.**
- ◀ There is one full size 3G pitches in Wealden, this is located at Uckfield Leisure Centre/Community College, it is floodlit and available for community use.
- ◀ There are also two smaller sized 3G pitches at Hailsham College and Grovelands Primary School, both of which are not floodlit and not available for community use.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitch at Uckfield College, is currently FA approved and can therefore host competitive matches, as is the smaller sized pitch at Hailsham Community College.
- ◀ The pitch at Uckfield College was World Rugby compliant, however its certification has since expired and the site is in need of a certification test.
- ◀ Potential 3G developments are outlined at five possible sites, Beacon Academy, Bede's School, Goldsmiths Recreation Ground, Uplands Community College Centre and the Wealden Sports Hub
- ◀ In addition to the potential developments outlined above, Welcroft Park Rangers FC have aspirations to develop a 3G pitch (at New Barn Farm within Hailsham).
- ◀ The small sized pitch at Grovelands CP School is not accredited and it is poor quality having reached the end of its lifespan.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitch at Uckfield Leisure Centre is reported to be operating near capacity at peak times, between a combination of football and rugby based community activity.
- ◀ With 236 football teams currently playing in Wealden, there is a calculated shortfall of six full size 3G pitches to meet training needs.
- ◀ When accounting for future demand, this shortfall does not further increase.
- ◀ When assessing 3G pitch need by analysis area there is a current and future shortfall four of the five analysis areas, with only the Polegate Analysis Area not having any identified shortfall.
- ◀ Both Tunbridge Wells RFC and Crowborough RFC have long term aspirations to install World Rugby compliant 3G's on their respective sites.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

56. As evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report, in order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's scenario of one full size 3G pitch equivalent being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for six full size equivalent 3G pitches to accommodate all training demand (increasing to seven when considering demand on an analysis by analysis area basis). Based on a current supply of one full size 3G pitch provided at Uckfield College this equates to a shortfall of six full size pitch equivalents as shown in the table below.

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

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G pitch requirement ⁵	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Crowborough & Rural North	85	2.5	0	2.5
Hailsham	44	1.5	0	1.5
Heathfield & Rural South	42	1.5	0	1.5
Polegate	14	0	0	0
Uckfield	51	1.5	1	0.5
Total	236	7	1	6

57. As seen in the tables above, four of the five analysis areas have a shortfall, ranging from 0.5 pitches in the Uckfield Analysis Area to a shortfall of 2.5 pitches in the Crowborough & Rural North Analysis Area. When accounting for future demand (club aspirations), there is no change to the shortfall across any of the five analysis areas.
58. The Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for Wealden identifies the need for four full size, floodlit 3G pitches across the District.
59. As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up to date PPS, the priority project list should be revisited following this study and updated/amended based on the findings, if necessary. To help further guide this process, the table below identifies what impact delivering the current projects would have on existing shortfalls.
60. The list below outlines the potential full size 3G pitch developments included within the LFFP:
- ◆ Beacon Academy (Full size 3G) – *Crowborough and the Rural North*
 - ◆ Goldsmiths Recreation Ground (small sized 3G) - *Crowborough and the Rural North*
 - ◆ Uplands Community College Centre (Full size 3G) - *Crowborough and the Rural North*
 - ◆ Bede's School (Full size 3G) - *Hailsham*
 - ◆ Wealden Community Sports Hub (Full size 3G) – *Hailsham*

Beacon Academy (Full size 3G) – Crowborough and the Rural North

61. The site currently has one adult football pitch and a sand dressed AGP that was first installed in 1999 and has not had a replacement surface provided. The current AGP provision, accessed by Crowborough HC, is therefore very near condemnation. The surface is currently used by Crowborough Athletic FC, Jarvis Brook FC and Rotherfield JFC for training purposes.

⁵ Rounded to the nearest 0.25.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

62. Given the lack of available hockey provision in Wealden, the site requires protection for hockey use of Crowborough HC. Further investigatory work is required to determine the impact on the sustainability of this AGP if additional artificial provision were to be developed on site.

Goldsmiths Recreation Ground (small sized 3G) - Crowborough and the Rural North

63. The site is underutilised for football purposes at present but is identified as a potential site for the delivery of a small sided 3G pitch which would reduce known shortfall for this catchment area. There is a need for further investigatory work from football partners to determine usage and social outcomes. These investigations have yet to commence.

Uplands Community College Centre - Crowborough and the Rural North

64. This site is a theoretically suitable to meet identified catchment shortfalls, for the north of the district. Several clubs have pledged financial support exchange for priority pitch allocation in support of the development, but this work has yet to commence. These clubs are; Wadhurst United Juniors FC, Wadhurst FC, Rotherfield Juniors FC as well as imported demand from clubs such as; Ticehurst FC and Luca FC which are from Tunbridge Wells.

Bede's School – Hailsham

65. A boarding school with a rich supply of sport provision. It has poor community lettings offer as evidenced with its existing AGPs being unavailable for community use. Ultimately an unsuitable site for the development of a full size 3G pitch.

Hailsham (area catchment)

66. The LFFP identifies a need for a full size pitch to be delivered within the Hailsham locality (a shortfall that increases to two full size pitches when accounting for the updated position at Bede's School). This could potentially be met through the Wealden Sports Hub project, that is currently being progressed by Wealden District Council.

Table 4.8: Impact of delivering current LFFP 3G projects

Analysis area	Potential 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Shortfall if delivered
Crowborough & Rural North	2.5	0	2.5	2.25	0.25
Hailsham	1.5	0	1.5	2	-
Heathfield & Rural South	1.5	0	1.5	-	1.5
Polegate	0	0	0		0
Uckfield	1.5	1	0.5	-	0.5
Total	7	1	6	4.25	1.75

67. Based on the existing portfolio of projects identified in the LFFP, there is a need for an updated document to discount the existing project at Bede's School and to provide clearer clarification on any development at Beacon Academy, taking note on the importance of safeguarding the existing artificial grass pitch for hockey requirements.
68. Furthermore, there is a theoretical need to identify projects within the Heathfield & Rural South Analysis Area. However, this should be considered a low priority until proceedings with the Wealden Sports Hub are finalised, as it may be able to accommodate teams from within this catchment.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

69. There is also a discrete need for an increased supply of projects (or adaptation of existing projects) in the Crowborough & Rural North and Uckfield Analysis Area to account for the remaining shortfall should all of these projects be delivered.

Moving football mini match play demand to 3G pitches

70. To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities and providers within local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches to cater for different formats of match play.
71. The FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created for Wealden to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Sunday mornings.

Table 4.9: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

72. Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 5.75 full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 30 teams playing 5v5 football and 77 teams playing 7v7 football at peak time.
73. If the current 3G pitch requirement of six additional pitches for training within Wealden were to be provided; it is feasible that all mini football requirements could be accommodated on these additional 3G pitches.

The table below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football.

Table 4.10: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	2 x 9v9	2/4
Noon – 2pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
2pm – 4pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

74. This demand could also be accommodated on six full size pitches based on 30 teams currently playing this format within Wealden at peak time. There would also be scope for additional demand for this format to be played on the known figure of six additional required pitches.
75. As such, it is also worth noting that if all youth 9v9 football were to be moved to a Saturday and all mini football remained on a Sunday (or vice versa), all current demand for mini and 9v9 football could be accommodated on six and a half pitches just below the locality based need of seven pitches.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

76. However, it would take a significant amount of re-programming and league restructure at local youth level to facilitate the transfer of all U11 and U12 football (youth 9v9) to take place on Saturdays instead of Sundays so this may not be a realistic option. It is also unrealistic to further increase the known shortfall of 3G pitches to programme this football to take place concurrently and after mini football.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

77. World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union.
78. There is one full size 3G pitch within Wealden (by football standards, but not full size for rugby union standards) located at Uckfield College, that at the time of installation had a World Rugby compliance certification, deeming it fit for rugby training purposes and match purposes. The pitch was not however lined for rugby union purposes so has never been used for competitive rugby.
79. The pitch has now lost its World Rugby compliancy certification, due to the pitch not being recertified since 2017. This means that the pitch can no longer be utilised for contact rugby union activities (such as line outs, rucking, mauling, etc)⁶.
80. Uckfield RFC utilise this pitch for training purposes, having financially supported the development in 2014. Usage of the pitch generally equates to seven match equivalent sessions per week. Unless the issue with certification is resolved, for the 2022/2023 season, Uckfield RFC will become overplayed by 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week including the existing shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions. This is further explored in the rugby union scenarios further down in this section of the report.
81. Given that the remainder of existing shortfalls for natural turf rugby union pitches can be addressed through a mixture of maintenance and drainage improvements (as detailed in the rugby union part of this report), there is not an explicit need for additional dedicated World Rugby compliant 3G pitches to be provided in the district.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ✦ Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches in the district to cater for football training demand (and demand for other sports as applicable)
- ✦ Work with partners such as the FA, FF, Sport England and other NGBs as applicable to identify the most suitable locations to build new 3G pitches to alleviate known shortfalls.
- ✦ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ✦ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches.
- ✦ Ensure that all other full size and larger smaller sized pitches remain on the FA register and are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ✦ Ensure all current and future providers have in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ✦ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards.
- ✦ Undertake a certification test for 3G provision at Uckfield College as to regain its World Rugby Compliancy certification, thus enabling provision to be accessible for rugby union training and competitive match play for age grade teams.

⁶ Note since the production of this report that the pitch has regained World Rugby certification.

Cricket pitches

Assessment report summary

- ✦ There are 35 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets; however, only 12 of these are considered to have actual spare capacity for senior cricket on a Saturday due to peak time programming.
- ✦ 32 squares have actual spare capacity on Sunday's, whilst 34 do during midweek for junior cricket.
- ✦ Three squares are overplayed, with total overplay equating to 18 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ For senior cricket, both current and future spare capacity is present for Saturday, Sunday and midweek demand.
- ✦ In total, there are 45 grass cricket squares in Wealden across 43 sites, with 40 being available for community use.
- ✦ There are three squares provided in the Polegate Analysis Area, whilst the Crowborough and Rural North analysis area features 18 squares.
- ✦ There are two disused squares located at two sites. Fairwarp Sports Field and The Village Green (Frant), both of which are situated within the Crowborough and Rural North Analysis Area. Provision at the latter site is outlined for overspill use by Bells Yew CC.
- ✦ There are Non Turf Pitches (NTPs) accompanying grass wicket squares at nine sites and there are standalone NTPs at six sites.
- ✦ Of the clubs with lease arrangements in place, no clubs report any issues related to their existing agreements.
- ✦ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found four to be good quality, 37 to be standard quality and four assessed as poor.
- ✦ The NTPs servicing the squares at Maresfield CC, Crowborough CC, Selmeaton and Alfriston CC and Forest Row CC are poor quality and passed their anticipated lifespan.
- ✦ Hadlow Down CC, Pevensey CC, Fletching CC, Polegate and Stone Cross CC, Pevensey CC and Crowborough CC all report frustrations related to their accompanying ancillary provision.
- ✦ 14 clubs report a demand for new, improved or additional training facilities.
- ✦ There are 34 clubs in Wealden which collectively provide 87 senior men's, 4 senior women's and 43 junior boys and 5 junior girls teams.
- ✦ Newick CC, which is predominantly based in Lewes, imports demand to Temple Grove CC (Uckfield), whilst no other clubs report any examples of accessing provision outside of Wealden.
- ✦ 12 clubs in Wealden offer both All Stars and Dynamo sessions.
- ✦ No clubs are known to take part in softball activity, which may be caused by demand choosing the more regional Sussex sport of stoolball as opposed to softball.
- ✦ No Wealden based clubs are used by Sussex CC to deliver Wicketz sessions or Chance to Shine sessions. The nearest activity of this type takes place in Crawley.
- ✦ Future demand through club growth aspirations alone equate to ten senior men's, four senior women's, 20 junior boys and five junior girls' teams.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

82. Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality of cricket squares over time.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

83. In Wealden, overplay is identified at three sites and across three squares. The PPOSS methodology states that poor quality squares do not have a carrying capacity due to being unfit for use. Regarding the squares below, all are poor quality. The impact of improving quality at all these sites, to good, where each wicket has a theoretical capacity of five is considered in the table below.

Table 4.11: Overplay if all overplayed squares were good quality

Site ID	Site name	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (matches per season)	Potential position (matches per season)
27	Frant Playing Field	1	Poor	2	5	5
49	Jevington Recreation Ground	1	Poor	6	6	30
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	1	Poor	7	7	28

84. As seen in the table above, the squares at all three overplayed sites are currently assessed as poor.
85. Cricket squares can be accompanied by Non-Turf Pitches (NTP's), made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on natural turf wickets (grass wickets). By the nature of its design, an NTP is able to accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass Cricket squares.
86. None of the three overplayed squares are currently serviced by an NTP, meaning the installation of one could alleviate overplay at each site. The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance⁷ on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets. On this basis, the development on non-turf pitch provision at Frant Playing Field, Jevington Recreation Ground and Maresfield Recreation Ground would be beneficial in alleviating overplay.

Accommodating future demand

Junior demand

87. Through delivery of its new strategy, Inspiring Generations, the ECB and county board programmes of activity are targeting growth in women's cricket, club and school's activity targeting growth in girls' cricket and there is increased engagement of young people.
88. At a national level, the All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, alongside "Chance to Shine" cricket in primary schools, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year.,

⁷ <http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-ts6-final-328.pdf>

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

89. The ECB has also launched Dynamos Cricket, a new programme to inspire kids aged 8-11 to play cricket. Dynamos Cricket is the latest launch by the ECB, building on the existing All Stars programme for 5-8-year-olds. Participants continue to develop their skills and are introduced to a countdown style of cricket match.
90. Of the 13 clubs that express aspirations to increase their number of junior teams, all can accommodate for the additional capacity required using the current grass wicket stock. This is due to the sizeable amount of spare capacity for midweek demand.

Senior demand

91. Nine clubs indicate a desire to field additional senior teams. Of these, Forest Row CC, Hadlow Down CC, Hellingly CC, Herstmonceux CC, Uckfield Anderida CC and Wadhurst CC all have ambitions to develop additional senior men's teams; whilst Crowborough CC, Forest Row CC, Hailsham CC and Pevensey CC have desires to develop new senior women's teams.
92. Forest Row CC and Uckfield Anderida CC both express ambitions to add further Saturday men's teams; however, neither have capacity to do so at their current venues due to a lack of available capacity. To satisfy this demand they will either need to be fielded outside of peak time, or alternative venues will be required. There are venues across the district which are not used on Saturdays therefore, with the right relationships established with neighbouring clubs or parishes, the level of future demand for Saturday senior cricket can be met.
93. For Forest Row CC (based in the Crowborough & Rural North Analysis Area) there are opportunities to play at Colemans Hatch CC (eight minute drive), Eridge CC (23 minute drive), Fords Green (12 minute drive) and Groom bridge CC (16 minute drive). Note drive times are from club to club.
94. For Uckfield Anderida CC, there are similar opportunities provided for at Temple Grove CC (13 minute drive), The War Memorial Ground (East Hoathly) (10 minute drive), Hadlow Down Playing Field (14 minute drive) and Blackboys Recreation Ground (9 minute drive). Note drive times are from club to club.
95. Similarly, four clubs have ambitions to field senior women's teams and all four have capacity to do so.

Hybrid wickets

96. Although not readily available within grassroots cricket, there may be potential in the future to address overplay through the installation of hybrid wicket/s on competitive senior squares. The ECB has been working with SIS Pitches on the installation of hybrid cricket wickets at county cricket clubs (2019) and more recently recreational squares such as Perry Hall Park in Birmingham (2021) and Didsbury Cricket Club in Manchester (2022).
97. A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less the 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds.
98. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time.

99. Ideally, once these become more readily available for community cricket clubs and have gone through the required testing, they could act as a way to increase levels of playing capacity on overplayed squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to restrictions things such as boundary length or ball strike.
100. Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on each site's capacity, it is suggested that it could potentially alleviate all the overplay on all three squares in the District. This assumes that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ✦ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good through partnership working with Sussex County Cricket Board.
- ✦ Address overplay via quality improvements, including an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets and increased utilisation of existing NTPs.
- ✦ If overplay cannot be alleviated through the abovementioned methods, explore the feasibility of creating new cricket squares, particularly if future growth aspirations are realised.
- ✦ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place.
- ✦ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so.
- ✦ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities, as 15 clubs raise this as an issue at their sites.
- ✦ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ✦ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ✦ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning (i.e. via a sports needs assessment/feasibility study/assessment of need) on an individual basis i.e relating to specific sites.
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.

Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ✦ **There are five rugby union clubs within Wealden, which collectively provide 16 senior men's, two senior women's, seven colt's teams, 27 junior teams and 27 mini teams.**
- ✦ **There are four sites experiencing overplay within Wealden which equates to a combined 10.5 MES.**
- ✦ There are 36 rugby union pitches across 14 sites. When broken down by community use, there are 30 available pitches across eight sites, made up of 20 senior and 10 junior pitches.
- ✦ All ten unavailable provision is located at education sites.
- ✦ Of the pitches available for community/club use, there are seven good quality, 18 standard and five poor quality pitches across Wealden.
- ✦ All five clubs within the district have secure tenure of their respective sites.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ Crowborough RFC, Tunbridge Wells RFC and Heathfield and Waldron RFC are all based within the Crowborough and the Rural North Analysis Area, with Heathfield and Waldron also accessing provision based within the Uckfield Analysis Area. Hellingly RFC is based within the Hailsham Analysis Area and Uckfield Rugby Club is based within the Uckfield Analysis Area.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by Uckfield RFC who has ambitions to gain a third senior men's team, whilst both Crowborough RFC and Tunbridge Wells RFC have intentions to develop an additional senior women's team.
- ◀ Provision across all sites used for formal rugby match play have some form of spare capacity. Simultaneously, four of the six sites also experience some form of overplay across their match provision, with only Tunbridge Wells RFC and Hellingly RFC seeing no overplay.

Scenarios

Loss of access to Uckfield College 3G pitch

101. The World Rugby certification on the 3G pitch at Uckfield College has lapsed, meaning it can no longer be utilised for contact rugby union activities⁸.
102. Uckfield RFC had utilised the pitch up until the end of the 2021/2022 season for training purposes, having financially supported the development in 2014. Its usage of the pitch equated to seven match equivalent sessions per week.
103. Unless the issue with certification is resolved in time for the 2022/2023 season, teams will need to use the grass pitches at its home site which will then become overplayed by 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week (already overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week).
104. If the issue is not resolved, the existing site will require additional floodlighting to be provided as well as improvement to the pitches to accommodate existing levels of training demand which was previously undertaken on the 3G pitch.
105. It should be further noted that the existing strip of e sports lighting servicing Uckfield does not meet RFU recommendations and that the existing level of sports lighting would be broadly inadequate for such a high level transfer of demand off the 3G pitch on site.
106. Further details on this can be found here: <https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/running-your-club/facilities/floodlights>.
107. The current position of Uckfield RFC supply vs demand balance is identified in the table below: The subsequent tables highlight the impact on the loss of access to Uckfield RFC on the 3G pitch at Uckfield College.

Table 4.12: Uckfield RUFC supply vs demand balance (with existing use of 3G pitch)

Site ID	Site name	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	M1/D2	Standard	No	2	0	2.5	0.5
		M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.75	0	2	0.75

⁸ Since the initial production of this report the 3G pitch at Uckfield College has regained certification and can be used for contact rugby practises.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site name	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
		M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.5	0	2	0.5

108. The table below highlights what impact accommodating all midweek training demand from the 3G pitch onto its two partially floodlit senior pitches would have. As can be seen, overplay increases to 8.25 match sessions per week across two pitches.

Table 4.13: Uckfield RUFC supply vs demand balance after loss of 3G pitch

Site ID	Site name	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	M1/D2	Standard	No	2	0	2.5	0.5
		M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.75	3.5	2	4.25
		M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.5	3.5	2	4

109. To accommodate this increased demand more practically, as a minimum, there is a need to improve pitch quality and increase the level of floodlighting. This would stop concentrated usage on existing pitches which are currently only partially floodlit.
110. The table below explores this further, by looking at the impact of improvements to an M2/D3 scale would have. This would provide the greatest capacity for pitches on the site. Although additional floodlighting doesn't technically affect pitch capacity, in real terms this would allow a midweek spread to be better accommodated across existing provision. It should be noted that the first team pitch is not factored into this equation as it is considered that this would not be used for training purposes.

Table 4.14: Uckfield RUFC supply vs demand balance with improvements (and floodlighting)

Site ID	Site name	Non-tech score	New quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	M1/D2	Standard	No	2	0	2.5	0.5
		M2/D3	Good	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.75	3.5	3.5	2.75
		M2/D3	Good	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.5	3.5	3.5	2.5

111. The above table illustrates that even with improved pitch quality, overplay would remain at a total of 5.5 match equivalent sessions a week; highlighting the importance of ensuring the 3G pitch at Uckfield Community College regains its World Rugby certification.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Regaining access to Uckfield Community College for mini match play

112. In the future, if the pitch at Uckfield Community College were to regain its World Rugby certification, there would be scope to accommodate match play for mini teams (U7-U12) on the basis that line markings are suitably drawn as part of any refurbishment work. It may also be able to accommodate up to U13 age grade matches.
113. As there is no requirement for kicking at the mini's age group level the 3G can suitably accommodate mini pitch size requirements and up to the age range of U13 junior rugby. The 3G pitch could work to provide a capacity solution to the existing overplay on the site. The Club currently operates seven mini's teams which contribute a total of 1.75 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on senior pitches (a total of 0.25 match equivalent sessions per team). If this demand were transferred onto the 3G pitch, existing overplay on the partially floodlit pitches would be alleviated with a small level of spare capacity emerging.

Table 4.15: Uckfield RUFC supply vs demand balance (with use of 3G for mini match play)

Site ID	Site name	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	M1/D2	Standard	No	2	0	2.5	0.5
		M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2	0	2	-
		M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	1.5	0	2	0.5

Improving pitch maintenance and drainage

114. Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand throughout the season.
115. Maintenance can typically be improved at club sites by volunteers or paid ground staff and is usually dependent on size and infrastructure of any club. However, if suitable maintenance equipment is in place/available, clubs can generally improve pitch maintenance. In contrast, drainage improvements generally require capital investment to make a genuine impact on improving pitch quality/durability. Installation of drainage can often be a catalyst for clubs to also undertake better maintenance of their grass pitches.
116. Currently, there are seven rugby union pitches across four sites in Wealden which are overplayed by a total of 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week. These pitches are located at Crowborough RFC, Hardy Roberts Playing Field (Heathfield), Uckfield Rugby Club and Waldron Recreation Ground (Heathfield).
117. The table below illustrates the RFU pitch quality scoring methodology which ascertains the capacity of pitches based on the scoring criteria.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Table 4.16: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

118. The table below looks at what capacity benefits would be ascertained through improvement of both maintenance and drainage solutions in one increment on the above technical criteria. It further looks at the benefit of maximum improvements to both drainage and maintenance to explore maximum benefits.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Table 4.17: Improving maintenance on overplayed pitches by one increment

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
16	Crowborough RFC	1	M1/D0	Poor	Yes	4.75	1.5	3.25	M2/D0	Good	2.75
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field	1	M1/D2	Standard	Yes	5	2.5	2.5	M2/D2	Good	1.75
		1	M1/D1		No	3.75	2	1.75	M2/D1	Good	0.5
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	2.75	2	0.75	M2/D1	Good	0.25
		1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	2.5	2	0.5	M2/D1	Good	0.5
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	2	M0/D1	Poor	No	4.5	3	1.5	M1/D1	Standard	0.5

Table 4.18: Improvements to existing drainage regime by one increment

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
16	Crowborough RFC	1	M1/D0	Poor	Yes	4.75	1.5	3.25	M1/D1	Standard	2.75
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field	1	M1/D2	Standard	Yes	5	2.5	2.5	M1/D3	Standard	2
		1	M1/D1		No	3.75	2	1.75	M1/D2	Standard	1.25
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	2.75	2	0.75	M1/D2	Standard	0.25
		1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	2.5	2	0.5	M1/D2	Standard	-
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	2	M0/D1	Poor	No	4.5	3	1.5	M0/D2	Poor	1

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Table 4.19: Maximum improvements to maintenance and drainage outcome

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
16	Crowborough RFC	1	M1/D0	Poor	Yes	4.75	1.5	3.25	M2/D3	Good	1.25
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field	1	M1/D2	Standard	Yes	5	2.5	2.5	M2/D3	Good	1.5
		1	M1/D1		No	3.75	2	1.75	M2/D3	Good	0.25
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.75	2	0.75	M2/D3	Good	0.75
		1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.5	2	0.5	M2/D3	Good	1
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	2	M0/D1	Poor	No	4.5	3	1.5	M2/D3	Good	2.5

119. The above three tables illustrate the theoretical benefits of improvements to maintenance regime and drainage solutions. These shows that maintenance improvements by one increment would alleviate all existing overplay at Uckfield Rugby Club (this does not factor into the issue relating to the loss of the 3G pitch at Uckfield College) Overplay at Waldron Recreation Ground would require an incremental increase of one to both its maintenance and drainage offer to alleviate it overplay. As Waldron Recreation Ground is the secondary site for Heathfield and Waldron RFC (which utilise Hardy Roberts Playing Field), an opportunity to alleviate on site overplay there would be pitch improvements at Waldron Recreation Ground and providing floodlighting for it to be used as a secondary training venue. If pitches are improved to good, there would be scope to utilise the site for at least one night a week for midweek training, reducing the pressure at Hardy Roberts Playing Field.
120. For Crowborough RFC, pitch and drainage solutions alone won't alleviate known capacity issues on its floodlit pitch as existing demand exceeds. Supply even with these improvements. This site also accommodates three senior pitches which are not floodlit and provides spare capacity equating to 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Providing floodlighting on one of these senior pitches, coupled with pitch improvements would cumulatively alleviate overplay on the site.

Recommendations

- ✦ Ensure pitch quality improvements take place at overplayed sites such as Uckfield Rugby Club and Waldron Recreation Ground.
- ✦ Protect the existing quantity of rugby union pitches for curricular and extra-curricular demand.
- ✦ Work with clubs to improve their ancillary offer where this a need to do so.
- ✦ Look to provide additional floodlighting where possible. Clubs with specific needs for this are Uckfield RFC, Crowborough RFC and Heathfield and Waldron RFC.
- ✦ Retain supply of rugby pitches at school sites for curricular and extra-curricular purposes.
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ✦ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Assessment Report summary

- ✦ **There is a sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Wealden to accommodate current levels at peak time demand; however, both pitches (Hailsham Community College and Beacon Academy) are poor quality and are likely to fall out of use for competitive play within the time frame of the PPOSS.**
- ✦ **There is either a need to improve the quality of the pitch at Beacon Academy or, if 3G proposals which impact on the viability of the AGP or the pitch itself, to provide a pitch elsewhere.**
- ✦ **There is also the need to retain and improve the quality of facilities provided at Hailsham Community College.**
- ✦ There are five full size hockey suitable AGP in Wealden, provided across as many sites.
- ✦ Two of the five pitches are available to the community use and serviced by floodlights (Hailsham and Crowborough).
- ✦ There are two smaller sized pitches provided at Heathfield Community College and Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School, the former of which is floodlit and open to community use.
- ✦ There are two affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Wealden, those being Crowborough HC and Hailsham HC.
- ✦ The two hockey clubs comprise of 20 teams, consisting of five senior men's, six senior women's and nine junior teams.
- ✦ Crowborough HC uses facilities at Beacon Academy, whilst Hailsham HC uses facilities at Hailsham Community College.
- ✦ Both clubs stress the need to either replace or upgrade existing provision or that alternative pitches are provided.
- ✦ England Hockey is concerned about the lack of hockey suitable provision in the District and is currently searching for a site where a new facility could be provided.
- ✦ The pitches at Beacon Academy and Hailsham Community College are assessed as poor quality and are not known to have been resurfaced since they were installed in 1999 and 2001, respectively.
- ✦ Beacon Academy only offers portable floodlights that only service half a pitch. This is an issue as it significantly limits pitch access.

- ◀ Facilities provided at Bede's School and Cumnor House School are of a good quality, whilst Mayfield Girls School is serviced by standard quality provision.
- ◀ No England Hockey initiatives are currently due to be delivered in the District.
- ◀ Both pitches require issues to be addressed, such as pitch replacements and improved floodlights in order to enable a greater allocation of pitch use to be utilised.

Scenarios

Meeting demand for hockey suitable AGPs

121. The PPS Guidance suggests that a pitch with sports lighting can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday. With teams playing on a home and away format, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).
122. However, it is acknowledged that the pitch at Beacon Academy has floodlighting issues (as identified in the Assessment Report) and therefore matches cannot be played into the later winter afternoons, reducing the capacity to three match sessions per day, and the ability to accommodate six teams.
123. Due to the rural nature of the district, it is important to determine pitch need by club, as opposed to an overall figure to present the picture of need on a specific basis.

Hailsham HC

124. Hailsham HC has three women's teams, two men's teams and one junior development team, which collectively combines to a membership of around 100 people. Based on the methodology, the Club has a requirement for five senior teams to accommodate Hailsham College for match play (which would align to two or three fixtures per week based on home vs away rotation). On this basis, the Club can accommodate all existing demand on the site. It has no future demand aspirations and therefore it is apparent that this pitch can support all demand from the Club. However, it is imperative that the known quality issues of the pitch are resolved over the lifespan of the PPOSS to ensure it can continue to operate.

Crowborough HC

125. Crowborough HC consists of three senior men's, three senior ladies, an U16 mixed team, U14 boys and six junior sides from U12 to U18. In addition to this the Club has around 50 juniors aged from five to 10 that are not playing in a team but do engage in Saturday morning training sessions. In total its membership equates to around 320 members. Based on the methodology (and its revised position of being able to accommodate three matches per day or six teams) it is considered the pitch is fully at capacity for peak time need. Similarly, Hailsham College quality issues are an ongoing concern and improvements to the playing surface are required over the lifespan of the PPOSS.
126. Aspirational future demand expressed by Crowborough HC equates to a senior men's, senior women's and an U14 girls' team. If growth aspirations are achieved, none of these teams could be theoretically accommodated at Beacon Academy and as such would need to be accommodated elsewhere; currently likely at Lingfield College in Surrey with which it has a pre-existing relationship. This pitch is a circa 30 minute drive from Beacon Academy and although would accommodate demand, is not ideal for becoming a secondary home venue due to drive time distances. As such, if future demand is to be realised, an additional pitch would be required within the broad Crowborough & Rural North catchment to accommodate demand.

Conclusion

127. Both pitches are required to support existing clubs, with no scope for consolidation of hockey suitable pitches. Therefore, both pitches require long-term protection from both development and conversion to 3G. The priority for all relevant partners should be working towards the improvement of these pitches to ensure their long-term useability. Future demand needs should be monitored as part of Stage E of the PPOSS with consultation with England Hockey.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect all sand-based AGPs for continue hockey use.
- ✦ Improve quality of the AGP at Beacon Academy and Hailsham Community College or mitigate for the loss of any pitch on a like for like basis so hockey is not negatively impacted.
- ✦ Ensure all hockey suitable AGPs have a sinking fund in place for their eventual refurbishment.
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site hockey provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ✦ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site hockey provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ✦ Look to provide Crowborough HC with suitable ancillary facilities.

4.6: Tennis courts

Assessment Report summary

- ✦ **East Hoathly and Halland TC, Groombridge TC and Mayfield LTC all have current capacity issues.**
- ✦ **As no non-club courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts such as Horam Recreation Ground.**
- ✦ There are 99 tennis courts in total identified in Wealden across 26 sites, with 64 courts categorised as being available for community use at 18 sites.
- ✦ The large majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 68 being of this type compared to 18 having an artificial surface, seven are clay based and the remaining six are concrete courts.
- ✦ In Wealden, ten of the 13 clubs' access floodlit courts at home sites.
- ✦ Of the 64 community use courts, 53 are assessed as good quality, seven as standard quality and four as poor quality.
- ✦ The ancillary facilities servicing Alfriston Tennis Club are considered to be poor quality, with the clubhouse resembling an outdated wooden building.
- ✦ At Hartfield LTC, Hailsham TC and Nutley TC, the facilities are adequate, with the changing rooms provided at both Hailsham TC and Nutley TC in need of modernisation.
- ✦ There are 13 tennis clubs in Wealden which collectively cater for 2,121 members, which as a breakdown equates to 1,607 senior and 514 junior members.
- ✦ Five clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 212 potential additional members (152 senior and 60 junior).
- ✦ Away from clubs, it is considered that all local authority courts available for community use in Wealden have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not always recorded due to the open access nature of many sites.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Scenarios

Satisfying club demand

128. Table 4.19 explores what opportunities could be available to resolve identified capacity issues at tennis clubs by highlighting nearby provision which could present opportunities for satellite participation. All clubs that are overplayed are either land locked or are adjacent to playing field where there would be an impact on existing playing pitches, so it would be unlikely to be possible to expand.

Table 4.19: Accessing nearby education sites:

Club name	Current membership balance	No. of additional courts required	Nearby education provision to satisfy demand	Comments
Mayfield TC	142	N/A – Landlocked	Mayfield Girls School (0.4 miles)	Eight floodlit courts with no community use. Access would have to be granted in order to use provision.
Groombridge TC	97	N/A – Would have to be accommodated for at the loss of grass football pitches	Beacon Academy (4.2 miles)	Four non floodlit courts with no community use. Access would have to be granted to use provision.
Hailsham TC	6	N/A – Would have to be accommodated for by encroaching onto a Cricket outfield	Hailsham Community College (0.7 miles)	Two non floodlit courts with no community use. Access would have to be granted to use provision. New provision at Wealden Community Hub may also play an integral role in supporting demand.

129. If peak time capacity challenges exist at any of these sites, one of the options for resolving this could be access to education sites to utilise these sites as satellite facilities. This may also provide a partnership opportunity to encourage coaching, development and linked club-school pathways for students.

Improving recreational and informal tennis

130. The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, LTA Play and Gate Access and may be used individually or in combination. The products provide a remote booking and access system.

131. Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members to access tennis courts using a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. In addition, it provides income generation that can go towards ongoing maintenance of the courts.
132. In 2021 the LTA and Government announced a £30 million package to refurbish more than 4,500 public tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition at more than 1,500 venues in the most deprived parts of the UK⁹.
133. Currently no sites have been identified in Wealden as part of this scheme by the LTA; but it is continuing to work to identify potential sites for development/improvement across the country.

ClubSpark

134. ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions of their venue(s) including:
 - ◀ Managed Website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
 - ◀ Managed Coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
 - ◀ Membership Management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch. Take online payments, manage direct debits and monitor revenue streams with ease.
 - ◀ Membership modules can also be used to take 'Season Ticket' payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee. 'Season Tickets' can be configured to allow court bookings to be made for free or at a reduced rate by players who hold one, whilst still allowing non-holders to book.
 - ◀ Organise Payments - Set the way you want payments to be taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package.
 - ◀ Court Bookings – Reduced admin for managing bookings. Give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
 - ◀ Scheduling - Set unique booking and price rules to suit your venue. Enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
 - ◀ Book and Pay remotely - Customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
 - ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders. This allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

LTA PLAY

135. LTA Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via partner venues ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them, and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book. LTA Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the LA.

⁹[Link to Press Release](#)

Gate Access

136. The LTA has developed two Gate Access systems that work in association with ClubSpark, to secure your courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and will receive a four digit access code via email, to enter using the courtside keypad. The system will allow entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.
137. Nationally the LTA has reported that in the last three years sites with gate access installed have attracted 64,841 unique players to make bookings, leading to 609,671 courts being booked, and has generated £1.1m of income.
138. There are two gate options available Smart Access Premium & Smart Access Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue will determine the most appropriate system for each site.
139. The LTA report that use of park tennis courts are greatly increased where there are accessible toilets and a café nearby providing more of a destination to play tennis. Additional floodlighting expands the maximum available courts hours available to play for longer periods of the year. Overall, the combination of these ancillary elements is shown to increase the value and sustainability of tennis within park sites and therefore these features should be considered when investing into court provision.
140. Sites such as Forest Row Sports Ground and Victoria Pleasure Ground could be considered as key sites across Wealden for the development of informal tennis. To facilitate this demand, it is likely that floodlights would have to be provided, in addition to court improvements and potential provision or improvement of changing facilities.

Padel tennis

141. Padel is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and sociable. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although players serve underhand and the walls are used as part of the game, with the ball allowed to bounce off them.
142. Padel tennis is one of the fastest growing sports across continental Europe, it has gained increasing popularity over recent years. As of 2021, there are around 6,000 active padel tennis players across Great Britain, with 107 courts provided at 52 clubs. This is predicted to grow substantially in future years.
143. There are currently no padel tennis courts in Wealden, however, the LTA is keen to find providers/operators which are looking to provide this facility. As part of the plans for Wealden Community Sports Hub, plans should be considered for the installation of Padel Tennis. Crowborough TC is also exploring opportunities for this facility type.

Recommendations

- ❖ Protect existing tennis courts from development or loss.
- ❖ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are (or could be) well used for recreational demand.
- ❖ Linked to the above, improve park courts as a priority to create a year-round recreational tennis option to meet local demand.

- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Explore installation of additional floodlighting at club-based venues, particularly at sites operating above the capacity guidance. Key clubs this is applicable to are Groombridge TC and Mayfield LTC.
- ◀ Provide additional court space for clubs operating above the capacity guidance, where it is required, potentially via better utilisation of existing provision.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at club sites, where it is required.

Netball courts

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ In total, there are 18 outdoor netball courts located across five sites in Wealden. All of the courts are available for community use except for six provided at Mayfield Girls School.
- ◀ 17 courts are located at education sites and one is located outside of this setting at Goldsmiths Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Of the 18 available courts, 14 are good quality, which equates to 78% of all provision. No courts are poor quality.
- ◀ Two clubs are identified as playing in Wealden; Crowborough Netball Club which has 30 juniors and 20 seniors and Heathfield Panthers with 50 juniors and 30 seniors. Heathfield Panthers has three competitive teams and play in the adult Eastbourne League, whereas Crowborough Netball Club operate for social sessions and run non-competitively.
- ◀ Based on the current supply of outdoor netball courts in Wealden it is determined that there is a theoretical shortfall to accommodate existing and future demand.

Scenarios

Accommodating unmet demand

144. Unmet demand is the existing demand that is not getting access to courts. For example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a court, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. England Netball identify that there is an unmet demand in Wealden to accommodate its recreational and participation programmes which is to the detriment to the residents of the district who may want to participate in easier and more introductive sessions of the sport.
145. Sites such as Heathfield Community College or Uplands Community College Centre have the potential of offering sessions to accommodate the identified unmet demand. However, for this to take place, floodlighting would need to be installed to extend the playing timeframe. Alternatively, if community use could be theoretically secured, there are six good quality floodlit courts located at Mayfield Girls School which would represent a significant offer for programming potential.
146. The above solutions, however, put an increasing reliance on the education sector to provide for netball locally. Where possible, security of tenure should try and be arranged if any external investment is granted. Otherwise, other netball centric solutions should be explored, one key opportunity is the development of the Wealden Community Sports Hub. As it stands the full facility mix is still to be determined, but this could provide a theoretical supply of provision to meet all known unmet demand in district.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all netball courts.
- ◀ Ensure all netball courts remain fit for purpose and improved when needed.
- ◀ Enter into discussions with Mayfield Girls School to determine whether courts on site could be opened up for community use.
- ◀ Explore the creation or extension of another venue as to better service Netball demand across Wealden.
- ◀ Look to continue and expand the use of courts for England Netball initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.
- ◀ Facilitate improved engagement between England Netball and schools.

Bowling greens

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **The artificial green club at Wealden BC currently accommodates 357 members. The Club also has access to one indoor green. On this basis, despite a high membership, it has no capacity issues.**
- ◀ **Only Maresfield Bowls Club (BC) (16 members) and Mayfield BC (8 members) are operating below the level of membership required to ensure that the greens that they use are sustainable.**
- ◀ There are 22 flat green bowls greens in Wealden provided across as many sites.
- ◀ There is one disused green, at Mayfield Bowls Club, provision is currently utilised by a local scout troop.
- ◀ Of the clubs which responded to the consultation, four own their greens, ten have lease arrangements in place and one rents its green from Ninfield Parish Council (Ninfield BC).
- ◀ Overall, nine flat greens are assessed as good quality, 11 as standard quality and two as poor quality.
- ◀ The greens provided at Mayfield BC and Isle of Thorn and District BC are assessed as poor.
- ◀ Groombridge BC expresses intentions to develop its current clubhouse with improvements such as re-roofing the building and replacing wearing equipment.
- ◀ None of the greens in Wealden are currently serviced by floodlighting, however in the case of Wadhurst BC the green is serviced by floodlights that were vandalised and are now in need of replacement.
- ◀ There are 22 clubs using bowling greens in Wealden.
- ◀ Where membership is known, there are a total of 884 members, equating to 530 senior men, 345 senior women and no juniors.
- ◀ The average membership across the clubs is 52.
- ◀ Despite a national trend of declining membership, only three of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years.
- ◀ Due to a predicted increase in persons living in Wealden aged 65 and over (to 2039), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ◀ Frant BC and Cross in Hand BC are the only clubs with no ambitions to further increase membership figures.
- ◀ Wealden BC has an aspirational future demand of 50 additional members on its one indoor and one outdoor artificial green.
- ◀ All clubs report that their existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away, suggesting that there is no latent or unmet demand.

Scenarios

Accommodating demand

147. As no clubs in Wealden indicate a need to access an additional green, the current provision for bowls is sufficient to meet current and future demand in the District. Therefore, focus should be on increasing participation and improving or maintaining the current stock of bowling greens.

Disused provision

148. One disused bowling green is identified in Wealden at Mayfield BC. Due to a lack of members the green is now being accessed by a local scout troop. As the Club owns the green outright and still operates the aligned sport and social club (with a bar and tv facilities), its likely it will come back into use in the future for a bowls related purpose, even if that is for a recreational and social offer.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect and retain existing bowls greens.
- ✦ Improve greens assessed as poor and standard quality and maintain greens assessed as good.
- ✦ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised and accommodated.
- ✦ Monitor clubs with a particularly high membership to ensure that demand can continue to be accommodated.
- ✦ Support clubs, where necessary, with any future ancillary provision improvements.
- ✦ Ensure that any potential development of greens considered as disused/lapsed are mitigated in line with planning policy, if proposals for development emerge in the future.

Stoolball

Assessment Report summary

- ✦ There are 19 sites across Wealden that are accessed for the regional Sussex based sport of Stoolball.
- ✦ There are 22 clubs playing within Wealden forming a combined total of 27 teams.
- ✦ Given how the required playing provision for Stoolball is merely an open field, there are no current supply or demand issues for the sport across Wealden.
- ✦ There are no dedicated stoolball pitches in Wealden. Utilised sites are generally overmarked with cricket, football and rugby union pitches.

Scenarios

149. N/A

Recommendations

- ✦ Ensure that availability of required provision across Wealden continues to be accessible for Stoolball use, as to enable the sport to continue to be played.
- ✦ Support clubs to maximise their demand to ensure sustainability.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

150. The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

151. The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes lapsed, disused (including any which may not have been identified in this document) underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.
152. When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- ♦ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - ♦ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - ♦ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
153. The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years. They will use the PPS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

Policy Exception E1:

154. 'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.
155. Where the PPOSS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

156. 'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

Policy Exception E3

157. The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:
- ▶ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
 - ▶ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
 - ▶ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
 - ▶ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
 - ▶ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

Policy Exception E4:

158. 'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:
- ▶ of equivalent or better quality and
 - ▶ of equivalent or greater quantity;
 - ▶ in a suitable location and;
 - ▶ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Policy Exception E5

159. The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.
160. Lapsed and disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused/lapsed playing fields are included within this Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

161. It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger and better quality venues (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed could be developed for other uses. It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities, and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.

162. Unlike some authorities nationally, there is not too much an overreliance for on the education sector to provide for most of the demand for playing pitch & outdoor sport facilities. However, where this is the case, particularly for the likes of hockey, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenure for clubs is explored and progressed where possible.
163. The following schools provide community use to clubs. These clubs and the sport are detailed in the table below.

Table 5.1: Known use of education sites

School	Club	Sport
Beacon Academy	Crowborough HC	Hockey
Hailsham Community College	Hailsham HC	Hockey
Heathfield Community College	Heathfield Panthers NC	Netball
Willingdon Community School	Willingdon Athletic FC	Football

164. Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time.
165. For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as England Hockey can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.
166. In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review: ([Link to Government website](#)), which announced significant public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing this is to the benefit of sport.
167. The Council (including parish and town councils) and private landlords (as relevant) should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.
168. Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council (where relevant), parish and town councils and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work.

169. For example, club development should be support and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.
170. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)¹⁰. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.
171. Each club interested in leasing a council site (including those from parish and town councils) should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

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

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

172. The Council could establish core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate are assigned sites. Outcomes may, for example, include:
- ✦ Increasing participation.
 - ✦ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
 - ✦ Commitment to quality standards.
 - ✦ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or at minimum retaining existing standards.
173. In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.
174. For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain to improve security of tenure and aid the attraction of funding; clubs with fewer than 25 years remaining on a lease agreement are unlikely to be eligible for external funding.

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

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

175. To maximise community use of education facilities, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train.
176. A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for school provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.
177. Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.
178. Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as floodlit courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.
179. As detailed earlier, NGBs, the Active Partnership and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

AIM 2

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

Recommendations:

- d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

180. There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. In the first instance, it is advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g., the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest quality sites to increase matchplay provision). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which are a priority for improvement.
181. With such pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

182. Quality across Wealden is variable, but most pitches are assessed as poor or standard quality. Where there are facilities that are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.
183. Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).
184. It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if no drainage systems are in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

185. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues).
186. In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.
187. For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.
188. The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.
189. For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the GMA. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England Wales.
190. Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.
191. For the 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/

Addressing overplay

192. In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).
193. The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Table 5.3: Capacity of pitches

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

194. For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a floodlit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.
195. It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, to transfer to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. Alternatively quality, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.
196. For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed adjacent to existing squares.
197. For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch (or greater utilisation of existing provision).
198. As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality that are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality were improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

Improving changing provision

199. There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the District, these are generally centred at either club or parish/town council managed sites.
200. Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance.

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

- ◀ Hadlow Down
- ◀ The Red Lion
- ◀ Forest Row Sports Ground
- ◀ Maresfield Recreation Ground
- ◀ Wallsend Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Maurice Thornton Playing Fields
- ◀ Town Croft
- ◀ Jevington Recreation Ground
- ◀ West Park (Uckfield)

201. In addition, the sites below are not serviced by changing provision or social space. These sites are utilised for football and further investigatory work with football partners should be undertaken by the Council and relevant stakeholders to determine if this should be a priority for future investment.

- ◀ Harland's Farm
- ◀ Lime Park
- ◀ Medway Park (Forest Row)
- ◀ New Barn Lane
- ◀ William Daly Recreation Ground

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

202. To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

203. Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

204. To address community need a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group.

205. Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

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

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

207. It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development contributions.
208. For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.
209. The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth. The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.
210. The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).
211. Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.
212. It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the study as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).
213. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

214. Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
 - ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
 - ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
 - ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
 - ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

AIM 3

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

215. The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).
216. It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:
- ✦ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
 - ✦ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
 - ✦ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
 - ✦ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
 - ✦ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.
217. Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e., it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur.
218. Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to redesignate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.
219. The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

Recommendation (i) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand

220. The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

221. Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches and potentially sand-based AGPs, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.
222. However, notwithstanding the above, large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the school to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community.
223. For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

224. The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is organised by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

Site hierarchy

225. The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to compile a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach. The Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.
226. The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a District-wide context i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the district. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP (or with the potential to).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers such as town or parish councils
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

227. **Hub sites** are of district wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified

on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

228. **Key centres** are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site. An example of site of this locally is Hailsham Community College.
229. It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.
230. **Local sites** refer to those sites offering limited provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).
231. For local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.
232. Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

Partners

233. The column indicating partners in the Action Plans below refers to the main organisations that the Council (or the relevant provider) would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.
234. Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners (including the Council where relevant) will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.
235. In some instances, it will be the case the partners will need to be treated as stakeholders, and consulted on any factor which may impact on a site accommodating provision which falls within an NGBs respective sport. In some cases (i.e., provision at unavailable sites) due to many actions being low priorities, NGBs will just need to be aware of any happenings at these sites.
236. As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues).

Priority

237. Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** level actions, as they have wide importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the respective key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

238. The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

Costs

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

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

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

Timescales

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

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

Aim

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

CROWBOROUGH & RURAL NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Summary pitch sports (Crowborough & Rural North Area) – Analysis Area Table A1

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039) ¹¹
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ⁽¹⁾	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Crowborough and Rural North	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 5
	Wealden	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 6
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 4
Football (3G pitches)	Crowborough and Rural North	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 2.5
	Wealden	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
Cricket	Crowborough and Rural North	Saturday	Spare capacity of 49	Spare capacity of 13
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 147	Spare capacity of 93
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 193	Spare capacity of 145
	Wealden	Saturday	Spare capacity of 108	Spare capacity of 18
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 326	Spare capacity of 200
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 396	Spare capacity of 246
Rugby union	Crowborough and Rural North	Senior	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
	Wealden	Senior	Shortfall of 8.5	Shortfall of 9
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wealden	Full size, floodlit	Currently no shortfall	Shortfall of one pitch at Beacon Academy if it becomes unusable for competitive hockey.

Summary non-pitch sports (Crowborough & Rural North) – Analysis Area Table A2

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	There is a shortfall in number of courts at Groombridge TC. Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club has ambitions to install two Padel courts on site.	There is a shortfall in number of courts at Groombridge TC. Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club should have a success Padel programme.

¹¹ Future demand (2039) is determined via ONS forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPOSS Assessment Report (2021).

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

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Netball	Crowborough NC, one of two clubs within the district operate purely on a social basis rather than competing competitively. Courts provided at Uplands Community College Centre should look to be re-surfaced as to improve the quality of offering.	Crowborough NC, one of two clubs within the district operate purely on a social basis rather than competing competitively. If courts provided at Uplands Community College Centre are to be re-surfaced Crowborough NC could look to access the site for formal use.
Bowls	None of the ten greens across Crowborough and the Rural North report any current capacity issues. Mayfield Bowls Club represents the only lapsed green within the district.	None of the ten greens across Crowborough and the Rural North report any current capacity issues. Future demand does not change this picture at any of the ten sites.
Stoolball	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Crowborough and Rural North Analysis Area and across Wealden.	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Crowborough and Rural North Analysis Area and across Wealden.

Overarching recommendations (Crowborough & Rural North) – Analysis Area Table A3

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	⬇ Protect provision. ⬇ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Wolfe Recreation Ground and Forest Row Sports Ground. ⬇ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites. ⬇ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs. ⬇ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ⬇ Improve changing facilities where required.
3G pitches	⬇ Protect provision. ⬇ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ⬇ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ⬇ Look to increase the supply of 3G provision within the District ⬇ Ensure that all 3G pitches on education sites have Community Use Agreements
Cricket	⬇ Protect provision. ⬇ Undertake improvements to playing provision where possible. ⬇ Improve changing facilities where required.
Rugby union	⬇ Additional sports lighting required at Crowborough RFC ⬇ Pitch quality improvements required at Crowborough RFC ⬇ Support Heathfield and Waldrons RFC's aspiration to develop a sportslit training area at Hardy Roberts Playing Field to support a reduction on overplay.
Hockey	⬇ Protect provision. ⬇ Resurface existing provision at Beacon Academy
Bowls	⬇ Protect provision.
Tennis	⬇ Protect provision. ⬇ Seek to improve park courts such as at Forest Row Sports Ground via implementation of LTA products.
Netball	⬇ Protect provision.
Stoolball	⬇ Protect provision.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
1	Alderbrook Playing Field	Football	Sports Club	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch, all of which are of a good quality and accompanied by ancillary provision of the same quality. Quality of provision recently improved, following investment through the Football Foundation. Site is the home of Crowborough Athletic FC who compete in the Southern Combination Premier Division. One of the adult pitches has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES. Club have been selected by the Sussex FA to receive a consultant as part of the Women's 2022 Euros to try and develop girls football.	Utilise identified actual spare capacity. Seek to develop the junior girls' section of the Club as to provide the Sussex FA consultant with a good starting point to build upon when visiting the Club.	Sports Club SCFA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect
4	Beacon Academy	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch open to community use. Site has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular demand.	School SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		(Hockey) AGP		One poor quality full sized, partially sports lit, sand filled AGP that was initially installed in 1999 and yet to be resurfaced. Site is accessed by Crowborough HC for training and matchday purposes who stated the site is very near condemnation and in need of a new surface, a viewpoint that is shared by the school. England Hockey confirms that as of 2023 the School is working towards a planning application for sports lighting for the site and a new surface carpet.	The site should be prioritised for the installation of a new AGP surface as to replace the existing surface that has long since passed its lifespan. . Any planning application supporting the full installation of modern sports lighting should be supported to enable a higher capacity of pitch use to be generated. This will support one of the larger clubs in Sussex to better meet its demand levels on the site.	School EH SCFA FF SE		H	S	H	
		Tennis		Two standard quality, non-floodlit concrete courts that have no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square accessed by Colemans Hatch CC, with accompanying standard quality ancillary provision. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and midweek play. Actual spare capacity for two Saturday teams is present at the site.	Utilise actual spare capacity for Saturday Cricket. Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek play. Sustain current maintenance of the square as to improve quality.	Sports Club ECB SCB	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Lawn Bowls		One good quality green accessed by Colemans Hatch BC. Club are operating within BCGBA guidelines.	Sustain current maintenance for the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	

¹² (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
13	Court Meadow Playing Field	Football	Town Council	One poor quality adult pitch with accompanying ancillary provision that is of a standard quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand.	Town Council SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
14	Cousley Wood	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square accessed by Bell Yew CC as its secondary ground. Site is accompanied by ancillary provision that is of a standard quality and has no potential spare capacity.	Protect existing provision. Sustain current maintenance of the square as to improve quality.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
15	Cross in Hand Bowls and Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Five clay and one macadam court, all of which are floodlit, open to community use and are of a good quality. Site has adequate changing facilities and parking. Cross in Hand TC have 230 members, meaning they have no capacity issues with the current quantity of provision on site.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Sports Club LTA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Lawn Bowls		One standard quality green accessed by Cross in Hand BC. Club are operating within the BCGBA recommended guidelines.	Improve current maintenance regime as to enhance quality of provision.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
16	Crowborough RFC	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Club have a freehold ownership of the four pitches and accompanying good quality ancillary provision. Three pitches have been deemed of a good quality, whilst the training pitch is of a poor quality due to concentrated training demand. Club raised ambitions to develop its floodlit training pitch into a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch as to better service training demand and alleviate the 3.25 MES of overplayed currently taking place on the pitch.	There is a need for targeted pitch improvements and for an increase in floodlighting for allow the transfer of midweek training provision on the site.	Sports Club RFU	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
17	Cumnor House School	Rugby Union	School	Site has two senior and eight junior pitches that have all been assessed as of a standard quality. Pitches are occasionally accessed by Crowborough RFC as an overspill for match play.	Ensure that the community link between the School and Crowborough RFC is sustained and that community access to the on-site pitches can continue when needed.	School RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		(Hockey) AGP		One good quality, full sized, non-floodlit sand dressed AGP that was installed in 2015 and has no community use.	Explore the means of opening the site to community use. Explore the possibility of installing floodlights as to enable midweek training.	School EH SE SCFA FF		M	S	L	
		Cricket		Two good quality cricket squares with no community use that are accompanied by good quality ancillary provision.	Protect existing provision for curricular demand.	School ECB SCB		L	L	L	
18	Danehill Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One adult and one 7v7 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality. Site has actual spare capacity of 1 MES but has no accompanying ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square accessed by East Dean and Friston CC who access provision on an annual agreement with East Dean Parish Council. Site has capacity for one additional Sunday team and Midweek play.	Sustain current maintenance of the square as to improve quality. Utilise spare capacity for Sunday and midweek play.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		One poor quality, non-floodlit macadam court that is open to community use.	Explore the means of resurfacing existing provision.	Parish Council LTA		M	M	M	
21	Eridge Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square accessed by Eridge CC. Site is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision in the form of a traditional small wooden building. Site has spare capacity for an additional Saturday and Sunday team.	Sustain current maintenance of the square as to improve quality. Explore the possibility to renovate existing ancillary provision as to improve quality.	Sports Club ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
22	Fairwarp Sports Field (Queen Elizabeth II Sports Field)	Football	Town Council	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches accessed by Fairwarp FC. Site is accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision and has actual spare capacity of 1 MES across the two pitches.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise actual spare capacity	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One of the two disused squares across Wealden that has no evidence of use since 2019.	Protect provision. Explore the means of bringing provision back into existence to be fit for match play. Following this engage with local clubs to see if there is demand for an overspill second pitch, given its current availability.	Town Council ECB SCB		M	M	M	
		Stoolball		Site is used for stoolball and is accessed by Fairwarp (mixed) SC.	Protect provision for community use.	Town Council		L	L	L	
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Cricket	Town Council	One standard quality square with good quality ancillary provision that is utilised by Fletching CC. Club report quality of playing provision has improved in recent years having received an increasing amount of investment and time into maintenance. Site has spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and Midweek play.	Build upon recent improvements in maintenance as to further enhance square quality. Utilise spare capacity for Saturday, Sunday and midweek play.	Town Council ECB SCB	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Stoolball		Site is accessed by Fletching Ladies and Juniors SC.	Protect provision for community use.	Town Council		L	L	L	
24	Fords Green	Football	Town Council	One adult, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch, all of which are to a standard quality and accessed by Nutley FC. Site is accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision and has no actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with standard quality ancillary provision that is accessed by Nutley CC. Site has capacity for an additional Saturday and two Sunday teams.	Sustain current maintenance of the square as to improve quality. Utilise spare capacity for Saturday and Sunday Cricket.	Town Council ECB SCB		M	L	L	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one 7v7 pitch, both of which are of a good quality and accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Forest Row FC who heavily use the adult pitch, causing overplay of 0.5 MES for the site.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. If space is available on site, mark additional pitches on site to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club SCFA FF	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One standard quality square with good quality ancillary provision that is accessed by Forest Row CC. The Club self-assessed its own square as being of a poor quality due to a lack of maintenance equipment. Consultation with the Club also raised an issue of vandalism on the NTP accompanying the square. Site has spare capacity for two additional Sunday teams.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Replace existing vandalised NTP as to improve quality. Utilise spare capacity for Sunday demand.	Sports Club ECB SCB		M	M	L	
		Tennis		Three good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use and accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. Parking on site is reportedly adequate and can raise some issues during times when provision is being heavily accessed.	Protect existing provision. Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Seek the means of improving current parking offering on site.	Sports Club LTA		L	L	M	
28	Frant Village Hall Bowls	Lawn Bowls	Parish Council	One standard quality bowling green accessed by Frant BC who are currently operating within the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.	Improve current maintenance for the green as to enhance quality.	Parish Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
29	Goldsmiths Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	Three good quality adult pitches with good quality ancillary provision in the form of Crowborough Leisure Centre. Site is accessed by Crowborough Athletic U23's team for overspill purposes, giving it actual spare capacity of 2.5 MES. Site has been outlined in the LFFP for the potential development of a floodlit 5v5 3G pitch.	Maximise use of site given good pitch quality and actual spare capacity of 2.5 MES.	Town Council SCFA FF SE	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Netball		One good quality, non-floodlit macadam court that is accessed by Crowborough NC.	Protect existing provision. Explore the possibility of installing floodlights as to improve offering provided at the site if a recreational offer can be aligned to the investment required.	Town Council EN SE		L	L	M	
31	Greenfields School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School SCFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Three non-floodlit macadam courts that are not open to community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
32	Groombridge Bowls Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Groombridge BC who are operating within the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.	Sustain current maintenance for the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field	Rugby Union	Town Council	Three standard quality senior pitches accessed by Heathfield and Waldron RFC. One of the three pitches are accompanied by floodlights that were converted to LED as of 2022. Club stress intentions to develop a dedicated additional floodlit training space on site, as to reduce the 4.25 MES of overplay identified. Site has recently had planning permission from Wealden District Council approved for a £350,000 development of its on-site clubhouse that shall see the installation of new changing rooms and general improvements.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Having received approval from Wealden District Council, follow through the proposed plans to re-develop its ancillary provision. Explore the means of installing an additional floodlit grass training area as to reduce overplay of 4.25 MES.	Town Council RFU	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Football	Sports Club	Site has two adult, one youth 11v11, two 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch, all of which are of a good quality, accompanied by good quality ancillary provision and accessed by Jarvis Brook FC and has no actual spare capacity. Site has been outlined in the LFFP for targeted pitch improvements. The regional feeder league Club state through consultations that if promoted it would seek the possibility of ground sharing with AFC Uckfield.	Protect existing provision. If feasible, follow through the work outlined in the LFFP for site to receive pitch improvements. If mens first team are to be relocated to AFC Uckfield following the Clubs promotion into the National League System, utilise the spare capacity that shall become available.	Sports Club SCFA FF SE EH	Local	H	M	L	Protect Enhance
56	M.O.D	Football	Town Council	Two poor quality 9v9 pitches with accompanying poor quality ancillary provision. Site is outlined to be used by Crowborough Athletic FC however the Club choose not to access it due to frustrations with pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand.	Town Council SCFA CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
59	Mayfield Bowls Club (Vale Road)	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Site represents the only disused bowling green across Wealden that was formerly accessed by Mayfield BC.	Protect existing provision.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
60	Mayfield Girls School	(Hockey) AGP	School	One full sized, floodlights and filled AGP. The pitch was installed in 2009 but has had careful limitations of usage due to no community demand being able to access the site, resulting in it being deemed of a standard quality.	Protect existing provision. Explore the means of opening site to community use. Financially prepare for a sinking fund to replace existing provision once it has passed its lifespan.	School EH SE SCFA CFA, FF	Key Centre	H	L	H	Protect Provide Enhance
		Cricket		One poor quality square with an accompanying NTP that has no community use. Site is getting a new building developed, which shall see the relocation of the existing square 16m North of its current location.	If proposed plans of a new building are to go ahead, ensure provision is re-provided. Upon the re-installation of replacement provision, aim to provide as good a quality square as possible.	School ECB SCB SE		L	M	L	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
		Tennis		Eight good quality, sodium floodlit, macadam tennis courts that are not open to community use. Consultation confirmed aspirations to re-surface and re-paint current provision despite good quality rating.	If necessary, re-surface existing provision and re-paint lines as to further enhance court quality. Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	School LTA		L	L	M	
		Netball		Six good quality, floodlit macadam courts with no community use.	Protect existing provision. Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Look too secure access for community use to the site as to utilise unmet demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
61	Medway Park (Forest Row)	Football	Town Council	One standard quality 7v7 pitch with actual spare capacity of 1 MES. Site has no accompanying ancillary provision.	Sustain current maintenance regime and try and maximise use of the site. Explore the possibility of developing some form of ancillary provision on site.	Town Council SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
65	Nutley Bowls	Lawn Bowls	Charitable Organisation	One standard quality bowling green accessed by Nutley BC who are operating within the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines. Club have a lease for the site that is due to expire in 2031.	Improve current maintenance regime as to enhance quality of provision.	Charitable Organisation BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
66	Nutley CE Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 9v9 pitch that has no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one youth 11v11, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch. All provision is of a good quality, excluding the youth 11v11 which is of a poor quality. Site is accessed by reginal feeder league Club Rotherfield FC who would have to relocate if promoted into the National League System due to being unable to reach ground grading requirements on site. Site received £46,000 of Football Foundation funding in 2020 for pitch improvements, which the Club confirms has improved the quality of provision. Site has standard quality ancillary provision which the Club would like to expand as to enlarge the communal area currently provided.	Sustain current maintenance regime as to service community demand. Consider the re-configuration of current layout as to reduce identified overplay. Explore the means of developing ancillary provision by relocating existing changing rooms to the back of the current building, to then allow existing changing rooms to be converted into a larger communal area.	Parish Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One standard quality square, with standard quality ancillary provision that is accessed by Rotherfield CC. Site has spare capacity for an additional Sunday team.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Parish Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Rotherfield BC who are operating within the BCGBA recommended guidelines.	Sustain current maintenance for the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.	Parish Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
75	Sacred Heart School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
76	Selmeston and Alciston Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square with good quality ancillary provision. Site has spare capacity for an additional Saturday and Sunday team.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Sports Club ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
78	Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches with no community use.	Protect for curricular demand.	School SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union		Two poor quality junior pitches with no community use.	Protect for curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		(Hockey) AGP		One half sized non floodlit AGP with no community use.	Protect for curricular demand.	School EH, SE		L	L	M	
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One youth 11v11, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches, all of which is to a standard quality and accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. Site has spare capacity of 0.5 MES on the youth 11v11 and 1 MES on the 5v5 pitches.	Utilise actual spare capacity. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Town Council SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Four good quality artificial tennis courts, two of which are floodlit. Site is accompanied by good quality ancillary provision that is accessed by Wadhurst TC who are operating within the LTA recommended capacity guidelines. Of these courts, one is available for wider community use outside of the Club.	Explore the means of installing floodlights on the remaining two courts. Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council LTA		L	L	M	
81	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
85	The Field	Football	Town Council	One standard quality adult pitch, with standard quality ancillary provision. Site is used by Wadhurst United FC and has no spare capacity.	Protect existing provision.	Town Council SCFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with standard quality ancillary provision that is accessed by Wadhurst CC. Site has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek demand.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity for Sunday and midweek demand.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Wadhurst BC who are operating within the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.	Sustain current maintenance for the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.	Town Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
87	The Nursery Ground	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square with good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Bells Yew CC and has no spare capacity. The Club desire to have a third practice training lane installed next to the two currently located on site. Club state it has outgrown is current site and is in need of a tenure agreement for a second site as to accommodate for sizeable demand.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Seek the possibility of installing a third practice lane on the overgrown grass space next to the current two existing lanes. Seek the means of granting the Club tenure of a secondary site as to alleviate demand on current provision and enable future growth of the Club.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
94	Town Croft	Football	Town Council	One poor quality adult pitch with poor quality ancillary provision in the form of a small brick building. Site is accessed by Hartfield FC and has no spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Explore the means of improving on site ancillary provision.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Provide Provide
		Cricket		One standard quality square with poor quality ancillary provision that is in need of modernisation. Site is accessed by Hartfield CC and has actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek play.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the means of improving on site ancillary provision. Utilise identified actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek play.	Town Council ECB SCB		M	M	M	
		Tennis		Two good quality macadam courts that are open to community use and one of which is floodlit. Site is accessed by Hartfield LTC who are operating within the recommended LTA guidelines.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Explore the possibility of installing floodlights to service the second court.	Town Council LTA		L	L	M	
		Stoolball		Site is accessed by Hartfield mixed and ladies SC.	Protect provision for community use.	Town Council SE		L	L	L	
97	Uplands Community College	Football	School	One adult and two 7v7 pitches, all of which are of a standard quality and open to community use. Site has been identified in the LFFP for the potential development of a 3G pitch, something that has been financially supported by Wadhurst FC, Wadhurst JFC, Rotherfield JFC, Ticehurst FC and Luca FC. Proposed 3G development would be located on the right side of the site where a current 7v7 pitch is marked and would go 5m into the next field into land the school also owns.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand. If feasible oversee the installation of a full sized floodlit 3G pitch as identified in the LFFP. If development is able to go ahead, relocate the standalone NTP that shall be lost in the 3G development.	School SCFA FF SE	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch that is open to community use but is un-used.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Cricket		One standalone NTP with no community use. Provision is located on the land where the proposed 3G development is set to be installed.	If proposed 3G development is to go ahead, relocate the standalone NTP within the site as to accommodate for its loss.	School ECB SCB		H	S	L	
		Tennis		Three non-floodlit macadam courts that are not open to community use.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Four good quality courts which were replaced in late 2021 as part of a school refurbishment. Currently no known community use.	Consider long term need for floodlighting and if this can be aligned to England Netball Recreational programming.	School EH		L	L	L	
100	Wadhurst C of E Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One youth 11v11, one 9v9, two 7v7 and four 5v5 pitches, all of which are of a standard quality. Site is accessed by Crowborough Athletic FC and is outlined in the LFFP for pitch improvements.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. If feasible undertake pitch improvements of the existing provision as to improve pitch quality.	Town Council SCFA FF SE	Key Centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
				Ancillary provision is the former home of Crowborough Hockey Club who were forced to relocate due to water and electricity damage causing the building to be condemned. The Club state it desires to return back to this site where it has been located there for 50 years.	Resolve issues that are preventing Crowborough Hockey Club from accessing the onsite ancillary provision. Following this, open access back to Crowborough Hockey Club as to better service the Clubs social offering.	EH					
		Cricket		One standard quality square with accompanying NTP and standard quality ancillary provision. Site has spare capacity for two Sunday teams.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Town Council ECB, SCB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Three standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights to enhance the quality of offering at the site.	Town Council LTA		L	L	M	
109	Alfriston Tennis Centre	Tennis	Parish Council	Three poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts with poor quality ancillary provision that is reportedly accessed by Alfriston Tennis Club. During site assessments, provision was un-suable due to several large hazardous objects preventing play, thus suggesting the site may be un-used.	Explore the possibility of clearing existing obstacles off the playing surface. Following this explore the possibility of re-surfacing existing provision as to enhance court quality. Explore the possibility of improving on site ancillary provision by modernising the existing poor quality dated wooden building.	Parish Council LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
110	Ashdown Park Hotel and Country Club	Tennis	Commercial	Two standard quality non-floodlit macadam courts with no community use.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Commercial LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
111	Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club Ltd	Tennis	Sports Club	Nine good quality community use macadam courts, seven of which are floodlit. A key tennis site for Wealden with good quality ancillary provision, Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club are operating within the LTA recommended capacity guidelines. Club has ambitions to build two Padel courts on its site in 2023.	Protect existing provision. Maximise use of site. Support the development of Padel tennis on site to enable the Club to be one of the limited number of clubs within Sussex to have such provision.	Sports Club LTA	Local	H	M	H	Protect Provide
113	Groombridge Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Three macadam and one clay court, all of which are of a good quality and floodlit. Site has good quality ancillary provision; however, parking has been deemed adequate. The Club are operating above the LTA recommended guidelines and have ambitions to further increase members by 55 people.	Protect existing provision. Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Explore the means of improving the available parking on site. As there is no available land for additional provision, look to gain access to the four non-floodlit courts at Beacon Academy as an opportunity to provide additional capacity to the club.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
115	Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Four artificial courts and one clay court, all of which is of a good quality and are floodlit.	Protect existing provision. Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
				Site has good quality ancillary provision; however, parking has been deemed adequate. Club are operating over LTA recommended capacity guidelines by 142 members, making it the most overcapacity tennis site in Wealden.	Explore the means of improving the available parking on site. As there is no available land for additional provision, look to gain access to the eight floodlit courts at Mayfield Girls School to gain additional capacity.						
116	Crowborough Wolfe Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	Town Council	One good quality bowling green accessed by Crowborough Wolfe BC who are operating within the BCGBA recommended guidelines.	Sustain current maintenance for the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.	Town Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
117	Isle of Thorn and District BC	Lawn Bowls	Town Council	One poor quality bowling green accessed by Isle of Thorn BC.	Improve current maintenance for the green as to enhance quality.	Town Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
124	Wellbrook Recreation Ground	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality green with accompanying ancillary provision of the same quality. Site is accessed by Mayfield CC and has spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek play.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
127	Five Ashes Village Hall & Playing Field	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality green with accompanying ancillary provision of the same quality. Site is accessed by Mayfield CC third and fourth teams and has spare capacity for two Sunday teams.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Stoolball		Site is accessed by Five Ashes (mixed) SC for Stoolball.	Protect provision for community use.	Parish Council		L	L	L	
129	Nutley Tennis and Squash Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Two good quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Explore the means of installing floodlights on the two courts as to enhance the quality of offering for the site.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
132	Groomsbridge CC	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square with standard quality ancillary provision. Site has spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and midweek play.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
133	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Four good quality senior pitches with an additional floodlit grass training area and good quality ancillary provision. Club have ambitions to develop a World Rugby 22 compliance 3G on site, which would be at the loss of the floodlit training area. Club also wish to extend the second story of its clubhouse to mirror the amount of floor space currently given to the ground floor.	Sustain current maintenance for the pitches as to ensure quality does not deteriorate. If feasible see through the development of a World Rugby 22 compliance 3G as to provide the Club with an improved training facility. If feasible, oversee the development of the second floor of the clubhouse as to extend the function room.	Sports Club RFU	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide

HAILSHAM ANALYSIS AREA

Summary pitch sports (Hailsham Area) – Analysis Area Table A4

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039) ¹⁴
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ⁽¹⁾	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Hailsham	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	Wealden	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 6
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 4
Football (3G pitches)	Hailsham	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
	Wealden	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
Cricket	Hailsham	Saturday	Spare capacity of 9	At capacity
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 32	Spare capacity of 14
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 42	Spare capacity of 24
	Wealden	Saturday	Spare capacity of 108	Spare capacity of 18
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 326	Spare capacity of 200
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 396	Spare capacity of 246
Rugby union	Hailsham	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wealden	Senior	Shortfall of 8.5	Shortfall of 9
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wealden	Full size, floodlit	Currently no shortfall	Shortfall of one pitch at Hailsham College if it becomes unusable for competitive hockey.

Summary non-pitch sports (Hailsham Area) – Analysis Area Table A5

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	There is no shortfall of capacity at any of the clubs accessing their current venues in Hailsham. Horam Tennis Club stress desires to enhance the changing facilities and outdoor social seating provided at Horam recreation ground. Recreational offer poor due to lack of available provision.	There is no current or future shortfall of capacity at any of the clubs accessing their current venues in Hailsham. Horam Tennis Club stress desires to enhance the changing facilities and outdoor social seating provided at Horam recreation ground. . Recreational offer poor due to lack of available provision.

¹⁴ Future demand (2039) is determined via ONS forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPOSS Assessment Report (2021).

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

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Netball	There are no capacity issues outlined at any of the sites.	There are no capacity issues outlined at any of the sites. Additional courts should look to be established or access to an alternate venue should be secured to ensure future demand can be adequately accommodated.
Bowls	None of the three greens have a shortfall of capacity. None of the three clubs have any issues to report.	None of the three greens have a shortfall of capacity. Ensure quality of greens are to a good standard as to accommodate for future demand. None of the three clubs have any issues to report.
Stoolball	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Hailsham Analysis Area and across Wealden.	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Hailsham Analysis Area and across Wealden.

Recommendations (Hailsham Area) – Analysis Area Table A6

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	- Protect provision. - Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Horam Recreation Ground and Maurice Thornton Playing Fields. - Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites. - Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs. - Enable use of currently unavailable sites. - Improve changing facilities where required, such as the provision provided at Maurice Thornton Playing Fields.
3G pitches	- Protect provision. - Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. - Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. - Look to resolve community use issues regarding the floodlight curfew at Hailsham Community College. - Work to increase the supply of full size floodlit 3G pitches.
Cricket	- Protect provision. - Undertake improvements to playing provision where possible. - Improve changing facilities where required.
Rugby union	- Protect provision - Improve changing facilities provided at Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground to better service Hellingly RFC.
Hockey	- Protect provision. - Resurface existing provision provided at Hailsham Community College.
Bowls	- Protect provision. - Consider the installation of a new bowling green at Maurice Thornton Playing Fields.
Tennis	- Protect provision. - Improve quality of changing facilities and outdoor social offering provided at Horam Recreation Ground - Seek to improve park courts such as at Western Road Recreation Ground via implementation of LTA products. - Look to oversee the development of the Wealden Community Sports Hub.
Netball	- Protect provision. - Look to oversee the development of the Wealden Community Sports Hub.
Stoolball	Protect provision.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁵	Cost ¹⁶	Aim
5	Bede's senior school	Football	School	Seven adult pitches, three of which are of a good quality, with the remaining four pitches deemed of a poor quality. Pitches are reportedly out of use from October to March due to clay soil causing drainage issues. Despite scale of provision, site does not take lettings. Identified in the LFFP for potential pitch improvements and the possible installation of a full sized floodlit 3G pitch.	Retain pitches for community use.	School SCFA FF SE	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
		Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch that is not open to community use.	Retain pitches for community use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		(Hockey) AGP		One good quality water base pitch with accompanying floodlights. Provision is not open to community use. The site formerly shared a relationship with Eastbourne Hockey Club; however, this relationship has since broken down.	Protect existing provision and ensure a robust maintenance regime is in place as to preserve quality for as long as possible. Consider the site as a strategic reserve for hockey for the District. There will be an explicit need to engage with the school to secure community use of the site.	School EH SE SCFA FF		M	S	L	
		Cricket		Two standard quality squares with standard quality ancillary provision.	Retain for curricular use.	School ECB, SCB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Seven good quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not open to community use.	Retain for curricular use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three good quality non-floodlit, macadam netball courts that are open to community use.	Retain for curricular use.	School EN		L	L	L	
33	Grovelands CP School	Football	School	One adult and two 7v7 pitches both of which are of a standard quality and not open to community use.	Sustain current maintenance regime as to preserve quality for curricular use.	School SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
		3G		One 39m x 17m short pile, non-floodlit, 3G with no community use. Provision is of a poor quality, having not been resurfaced since 2011.	Retain for curricular demand.	School SCFA FF, SE		M	S	H	
35	Hailsham Community College	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches that are open to community use. Site has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain current maintenance regime as to preserve quality for curricular and community use.	School SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
		3G		One 70m x 30m, non-floodlit 3G that is not open to community use. Provision is of a good quality, having been installed in 2021, and is FA approved for match play. Site is accompanied by four good quality changing rooms. Site has an issue with a curfew of 19:00 being in place for the floodlights.	Explore all possibilities of extending the current curfew as to improve the community use offering at the site. Financially prepare for a sinking fund to replace existing provision once it has passed its lifespan.	School Council SCFA FF SE		H	S	M	

¹⁵ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁵	Cost ¹⁶	Aim
		(Hockey) AGP		One full sized floodlit poor quality AGP that was installed in 2001 and is yet to have its surface replaced. Site is accessed by Hailsham Hockey Club and is very near being deemed unfit for play. Site has four good quality changing rooms. The fence on the East side of the provision nearest to the new car park is in need of raising following reports of hockey balls damaging car's accessing the new car park.	Protect existing provision. Given the age of provision, explore the possibility of replacing the existing surface that is very near condemnation. Raise the height of the current fence on the East side of the site as to prevent hockey balls from damaging cars. Following the advised replacement of provision, financially prepare for a sinking fund to replace existing provision once it has once again passed its lifespan.	School EH SE SCFA FF		H	S	H	
		Cricket		One standalone NTP that has no community use.	Protect existing provision.	School ECB, SCB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Two non-floodlit concrete tennis courts with no community use.	Protect existing provision.	School LTA		L	L	L	
36	Hailsham Primary Academy	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
37	Hailsham Town FC	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch with good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Hailsham Town FC who compete in the sixth step of the National League system. Club report the floodlights servicing the pitch are over 20 years old and in need of upgrading. Club have drawn plans for the re-development of its clubhouse which has been priced at costing £250,000 in total, and hope can be completed by 2023. The development would see the new changing rooms installed where the current covered stand is located, for the covered stand to then be relocated.	Protect existing provision. Replace current floodlights that need upgrading. If feasible support the Club in its ambitions to renovate its clubhouse.	Sports Club SCFA FF SE	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One adult, one 9v9, two 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch all of which are of a standard quality, other than the two 7v7's that are assessed as poor. Site is accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. The LFFP has outlined this site for potential pitch improvements as to better service Heathfield and Horam FC.	If feasible, follow through the work outlined in the LFFP for site to receive pitch improvements.	Town Council SCFA FF SE	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Three good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Site is accessed by Horam Tennis Club who state that the changing facilities are of a poor quality and in need of improving. Club state through consultation desires to improve the outdoor social space on site. Club are operating within the LTA recommended guidelines.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Explore possibilities to improve the ancillary provision provided at the site through enhancing the changing rooms and developing the outdoor social space.	Town Council LTA SE		M	M	M	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁵	Cost ¹⁶	Aim
		Lawn Bowls		One standard quality bowling green accessed by Horam BC who are operating within the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Town Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One 9v9 and one 5v5 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality. Site is accessed by Link Football Coaching FC and Hellingly FC and has no spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
		Rugby Union		One senior and one junior pitch, both of which are of a standard quality. Provision is accessed by Hellingly RFC and has a total spare capacity of 3 MES. The senior pitch is serviced by poor quality floodlights in need of upgrading. Club has ambitions to upgrade the on-site ancillary provision to gain two additional RFU spec changing rooms and a referee's changing space.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand. Explore the possibility of replacing the poor-quality floodlights accompanying the main pitch. Explore the possibility of improving the ancillary provision offering at the site as to increase the number of changing rooms and a referee changing space.	Town Council RFU SE		H	M	H	
		Cricket		One standard quality square with accompanying NTP. Site is accessed by Hellingly CC and has spare capacity for two additional Sunday teams and Midweek play. Accompanying ancillary provision is of a good quality.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One standard quality bowling green that is operating within the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines for both current and future demand.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Town Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
		Stoolball		Site is accessed by Hailsham mixed SC, Geebro Ladies SC and Stone Cross Ladies SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Town Council SE		L	L	L	
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Football	Town Council	Three adult, one 9v9, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches, all of which are of a poor quality and accessed by Hailsham United Juniors FC. Pitches are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision with poor quality changing rooms and no hot water or working cooker. Site has been prioritised in the LFFP for both pitch improvements and ancillary provision improvements, both of which should be prioritised.	If feasible, follow through the work outlined in the LFFP for site to receive pitch improvements. If feasible, follow through the work outlined in the LFFP for site to receive ancillary provision improvements.	Town Council SCFA FF SE BCGBA	Local	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
82	St Mary's School	Football	School	One standard quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School SCFA CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
89	The Red Lion	Football	Private	One poor quality 9v9 pitch that is open to community use and is un-used.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and enable spare capacity to be utilised.	Private SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁵	Cost ¹⁶	Aim
105	Western Road Recreation Ground	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one 7v7 pitch, both of which are of a good quality and accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Hailsham Town FC and Welcroft Park Rangers FC.	Protect existing provision. Ensure capacity is maximised.	Sports Club SCFA FF	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with good quality ancillary provision that is accessed by Hailsham CC. The Club report that quality of provision has noticeably improved following increased investment of finances and time by the groundsman. Club report the outfield is too long and should be cut shorter. Site has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek play.	Explore the means of ensuring the outfield is cut to the length of grass that is suitable for Cricket use during summer months. Utilise spare capacity.	Sports Club ECB SCB		M	S	L	
		Tennis		Four good quality, floodlit artificial tennis courts that are accessed by Hailsham TC. Club are operating within the LTA recommended capacity guidelines but will marginally be over capacity if future demand ambitions are to be achieved.	Protect existing provision. Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Sports Club LTA		L	L	L	
118	Hailsham BC	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green accessed by Hailsham BC who have a 28-year lease for the site with Wealden District Council as of 2019.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
125	Upper Dicker Recreation Ground	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square with poor quality ancillary provision in the form of two small wooden huts. Site is accessed by Dicker CC and has spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and midweek play.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
126	Roebuck Park	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square with good quality ancillary provision that is accessed by Hailsham CC as its overspill site. Square has spare capacity for additional midweek play.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Utilise spare capacity.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Stoolball		Site is accessed by Hoppa (mixed) SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Parish Council		L	L	L	
130	The Church of St Peter and St Paul Grounds	Stoolball	Parish Council	Site is accessed by Hellingly Ladies SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect
	Wealden Community Sports Hub	3G Tennis Netball	Council	The Council is working to progress plans to create a sporting hub destined for the District's residents. The current facility mix is yet to be determined but will follow the evidence base emerging from the PPOSS.	Progress site development relative to on-going work with partners.	Council	-	-	-	-	-

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁵	Cost ¹⁶	Aim
	New Barn Farm	-	Private	Site is currently a farm under the ownership of the chairman of Welcroft Park Rangers FC. The Club has ambitions to develop the site for the benefit of local football. This is currently an aspiration development and no feasibility work has been undertaken.	Monitor site development.	Private Council SCFA FF, SE	-	-	-	-	-

HEATHFIELD & RURAL SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

Summary pitch sports (Heathfield & Rural South Area) – Analysis Area Table A7

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039) ¹⁷
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Heathfield and Rural South	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	At capacity
	Wealden	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 6
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 4
Football (3G pitches)	Heathfield and Rural South	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
	Wealden	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
Cricket	Heathfield and Rural South	Saturday	Spare capacity of 27	Spare capacity of 18
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 64	Spare capacity of 46
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 54	Spare capacity of 24
	Wealden	Saturday	Spare capacity of 108	Spare capacity of 18
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 326	Spare capacity of 200
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 396	Spare capacity of 246
Rugby union	Heathfield and Rural South	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wealden	Senior	Shortfall of 8.5	Shortfall of 9
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wealden	Full size, floodlit	Currently no shortfall	Shortfall of one pitch at Beacon Academy if it becomes unusable for competitive hockey.

¹⁷ Future demand (2039) is determined via ONS forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPOSS Assessment Report (2021).

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

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Summary non-pitch sports (Heathfield & Rural South Area) – Analysis Area Table A8

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	Limited, but sufficient supply.	Limited, but sufficient supply.
Netball	Heathfield Community College supplies the only provision within the Analysis area. Courts should be protected for community use by Heathfield Panthers.	Heathfield Community College supplies the only provision within the Analysis area. Courts should be maintained to a good level as to ensure the long-term access for community use by Heathfield Panthers.
Bowls	Four bowling greens, three of which are of a standard quality with remaining a good quality surface. None of the clubs report any capacity issues.	Four bowling greens, three of which are of a standard quality with remaining a good quality surface. Ensure maintenance of existing provision is kept to standard as to ensure greens can accommodate current and future demand.
Stoolball	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Heathfield and the Rural South Analysis Area and across Wealden.	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Heathfield and the Rural South Analysis Area and across Wealden.

Recommendations (Heathfield & Rural South Area) – Analysis Area Table A9

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	- Protect provision. - Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Lime Park and Berwick Playing Field. - Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites. - Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs. - Enable use of currently unavailable sites. - Improve changing facilities where required such as that servicing Wallsend Road Recreation Ground.
3G pitches	Look to provide an additional one a half full sized pitches within the Analysis Area to cater for future demand.
Cricket	- Protect provision. - Undertake improvements to playing provision where possible. - Improve changing facilities where required.
Rugby union	- Protect provision. - Consult with Hellingly RFC to determine if it may benefit from any formal usage of the proposed Wealden Sports Hub.
Hockey	Protect provision.
Bowls	Protect provision.
Tennis	- Protect provision. - Seek to improve park courts such as at Herstmonceux Recreation Ground via implementation of LTA products.
Netball	- Protect provision. - Ensure courts provided at Heathfield Community College are maintained to a good standard.
Stoolball	Protect provision.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹	Aim
2	Alfriston Recreation Ground	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square with accompanying NTP and standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Alfriston CC and has spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and midweek demand.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Sports Club ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
6	Berwick Playing Field	Football	Town Council	One poor quality pitch with standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Welcroft Park Rangers FC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Town Council SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
19	Deanland Bowls	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green that is accessed by Deanland BC.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square with standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by East Dean and Friston CC who state the quality of playing provision has improved following the installation of a new square.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		One poor quality, non-floodlit, community use macadam court.	If feasible explore the possibility of resurfacing existing provision as to enhance the quality of offering.	Parish Council LTA		M	M	M	
40	Heathfield Community College	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School SCFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		(Hockey) AGP		One poor quality 75m x 30m, floodlit AGP that was installed in 2009 and is open to community use.	Protect existing provision. Given the age of provision, explore the means of replacing existing provision with a new surface. Financially prepare for a sinking fund to replace existing provision once it has once again passed its lifespan.	School EH SCFA FF SE		M	S	H	
		Cricket		One standalone NTP that is not open to community use.	Protect existing provision.	School ECB, SCB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Six floodlit, artificial courts that are not open to community use.	Protect existing provision. Explore the possibility of opening provision to community use.	School LTA		M	S	L	
		Netball		Four standard quality, non-floodlit, concrete courts that are open to community use. Provision is accessed by Heathfield Panthers.	Protect existing provision. Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Courts provided are of particular importance for netball as it is one of two sites across Wealden being accessed for outdoor use.	School EN SE		M	L	L	

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

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

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹	Aim
41	Heathfield Park Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square with good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Heathfield Park CC and has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek demand.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Utilise identified spare capacity.	Sports Club ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square that is accompanied by an NTP and standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Herstmonceux CC and has capacity for additional Sunday and midweek demand.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise identified spare capacity.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		One standard quality, non-floodlit, macadam tennis court that is open to community use.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Parish Council LTA		L	L	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One standard quality green accessed by Herstmonceux BC.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Parish Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
45	Hooe Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One adult and one 7v7 pitch, both of which are of a good quality and accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
52	Lime Park	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is accessed by Herstmonceux FC. Site has no formal accompanying ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Parish Council SCFA, FF	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One adult and one 7v7 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality. Site is accompanied by good quality ancillary provision and is accessed by SC Pass and Move and has no actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with accompanying NTP and good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Pevensey CC's third team and has spare capacity for Saturday, Sunday, and midweek demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Utilise spare capacity.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green that is accessed by Ninfield BC who are operating within the recommended BCGBA capacity guidelines for both current and future demand.	Sustain current maintenance of the green as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
71	Punnets Town Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One good quality adult pitch with standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Heathfield and Horam FC and has no spare capacity.	Sustain current maintenance of the pitch as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Punnets Town Ladies SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Town Council		L	L	L	
76	Selmeston and Alciston Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square with an accompanying NTP and good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Semeston and Alciston CC and has spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and midweek demand.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Sports Club ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹	Aim
77	Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One good quality adult pitch with standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Heathfield and Horem FC and has no capacity during the peak period.	Sustain current maintenance of the square as to preserve quality of provision.	Town Council SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
93	Tower Street Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One youth 11v11 and 7v7 pitch, both of which are of a good quality and is accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Heathfield and Horem FC and has no spare capacity during peak periods.	Sustain current maintenance of the pitch as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
98	Upper Street Bowls	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green that is accessed by East Dean and Friston BC.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One youth 11v11, 7v7 and 5v5 pitch, all of which are of a standard quality and accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Pevensy and West Ham FC who stress the need to tarmac the existing car park and install a second gate entrance from the car park to the playing provision as to minimise congestion of traffic which causes mud near the clubhouse. The standard quality brick clubhouse is also in need of modernising with it currently having a very dated feel.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Improve quality of accompanying car park by re-tarmacking existing space and adding a second gate. Explore the possibility of enhancing the accompanying clubhouse.	Town Council SCFA CFA FF SE	Key Centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with accompanying NTP that is accessed by Pevensy CC. The Club report quality of playing provision improving following increased investment into maintenance. Site has spare capacity for midweek demand.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Pevensy Rookies (mixed) SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Town Council		L	L	L	
131	Yew Tree Inn	Stoolball	Parish Council	Site is open to community use and is accessed by Yew Tree (mixed) SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect

POLEGATE ANALYSIS AREA

Summary pitch sports (Polegate Analysis Area) – Analysis Area Table A10

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039) ²⁰
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Polegate	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
	Wealden	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 6
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 4
Football (3G pitches)	Polegate	Full size, floodlit	No shortfall	No shortfall
	Wealden	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
Cricket	Polegate	Saturday	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 10	Spare capacity of 10
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 18	Shortfall of 6
	Wealden	Saturday	Spare capacity of 108	Spare capacity of 18
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 326	Spare capacity of 200
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 396	Spare capacity of 246
Rugby union	Polegate	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wealden	Senior	Shortfall of 8.5	Shortfall of 9
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wealden	Full size, floodlit	Currently no shortfall	Shortfall of one pitch at Beacon Academy if it becomes unusable for competitive hockey.

Summary non-pitch sports (Polegate Analysis Area) – Analysis Area Table A11

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	No existing provision within Analysis area.	No existing provision within Analysis area.
Netball	No existing provision within Analysis area.	No existing provision within Analysis area.
Bowls	No existing provision within Analysis area.	No existing provision within Analysis area.
Stoolball	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Polegate Analysis Area and across Wealden.	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Polegate Analysis Area and across Wealden.

²⁰ Future demand (2039) is determined via ONS forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPOSS Assessment Report (2021).

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

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Recommendations (Polegate Analysis Area) – Analysis Area Table A12

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Huggets Lane Recreation Ground and Polegate War Memorial Ground. ◀ Where pitches remain overplayed, seek the transfer of demand. ◀ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. ◀ Look to support Willingdon Athletic in its potential advancement into the National League System.
3G pitches	◀ No action required.
Cricket	◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve wicket quality at overplayed sites such as Jevington Recreation Ground. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. ◀ Explore better utilisation of NTPs or seek the transfer of demand from overplayed sites to those with actual spare capacity.
Rugby union	◀ Protect provision.
Hockey	◀ No action required.
Bowls	◀ No action required.
Tennis	◀ No action required.
Stoolball	◀ Protect provision.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²¹	Cost ²²	Aim
47	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One adult one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch, all of which are of a poor quality and accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision. The one adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES. The site is accessed by Willingdon Athletic FC who compete in the regional feeder league. If promoted the Club would have to relocate due to not being able to reach ground grading.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate identified overplay. If Club do get promoted, look to support its ambitions in finding a suitable site in order to reach ground grading. Following this, if feasible look to reconfigure the current pitch layout as to better support youth football.	Town Council SCFA FF SE	Key Centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with good quality accompanying ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Willingdon CC and has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek demand.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
49	Jevington Recreation Ground	Cricket	Town Council	One poor quality square with an accompanying NTP and standard quality ancillary provision. Square is overplayed by six sessions per season due to poor quality rating.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate identified overplay.	Town Council ECB SCB	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Jevington (mixed) SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Town Council		L	L	L	
69	Polegate School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand	School SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	Football	Town Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision and is used to capacity by Polegate Town FC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with an accompanying NTP and good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Polegate and Stone Cross CC and has spare capacity for additional demand on Sunday's and midweek.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Utilise spare capacity.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
84	Stone Cross School	Football	School	One standard quality 11v11 pitch with no community use.	Protect existing provision for curricular use.	School SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
92	William Daly Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	Three 9v9, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch, all of which are of a standard quality and are un-used.	Find a partnered Club to access existing provision as to utilise the un-used provision.	Town Council SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
106	Willingdon Community School	Football	School	One adult one 9v9 and two 5v5 pitches, all of which are of a standard quality. The 9v9 pitch is accessed by Willingdon Athletic FC, however the adult and 5v5 pitches are un-used.	If feasible grant access to the adult and 5v5 pitches to a Club.	School SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide

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

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

**WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²¹	Cost ²²	Aim
		Rugby Union		One senior pitch that has no community use.	Protect existing provision for curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Cricket		Site has one standalone NTP that is not open to community use.	Protect existing provision for curricular use.	School ECB, SCB		L	L	L	
107	Willingdon Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

UCKFIELD ANALYSIS AREA

Summary pitch sports (Uckfield Analysis Area) – Analysis Area Table A13

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2039) ²³
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Uckfield	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Wealden	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 6
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 4
Football (3G pitches)	Uckfield	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
	Wealden		Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
Cricket	Uckfield	Saturday	Spare capacity of 29	Spare capacity of 9
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 73	Spare capacity of 37
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 89	Spare capacity of 59
	Wealden	Saturday	Spare capacity of 108	Spare capacity of 18
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 326	Spare capacity of 200
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 396	Spare capacity of 246
Rugby union	Uckfield	Senior	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
	Wealden	Senior	Shortfall of 8.5	Shortfall of 9
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Wealden	Full size, floodlit	Currently no shortfall	Shortfall of one pitch at Beacon Academy if it becomes unusable for competitive hockey.

Summary pitch sports (Uckfield Analysis Area) - Analysis Area Table A14

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	There are four community use sites across the Uckfield Analysis Area. Both East Hoathly and Halland TC and Maresfield TC are operating above the LTA recommended guidelines. Changing facilities provided at East Hoathly and Halland TC and Maresfield TC are of an adequate quality.	Ensure the quality of provision is to a good standard at both Both East Hoathly and Halland TC and Maresfield TC as to ensure both can accommodate for future demand. Ensure that all floodlights provided across the two sites remain in use as to reduce further capacity issues.
Netball	No existing provision within Analysis Area.	No existing provision within Analysis Area.

²³ Future demand (2039) is determined via ONS forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPOSS Assessment Report (2021).

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

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Bowls	Five bowling greens, three of which are good and two are standard. Maresfield BC resemble the only site operating below BCGBA recommended guidelines.	Five bowling greens, three of which are good and two are standard. Look to improve the quality of provision at Maresfield BC and provide support in increasing members as to reduce the risk of the Club folding.
Stoolball	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Uckfield Analysis Area and across Wealden.	Stoolball is adequately catered for within both the Uckfield Analysis Area and across Wealden.

Recommendations (Uckfield Analysis Area) – Analysis Area Table A15

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	- Protect provision. - Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as West Park (Uckfield). - Where pitches remain overplayed, seek the transfer of demand. - Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites. - Look to support clubs potentially relocating into the Analysis Area following promotion into the National League System, such as Jarvis Brook FC. - Improve changing facilities where required, such as at West Park (Uckfield) accessed by Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC.
3G pitches	- Protect provision. - Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. - Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. - Look to ensure provision at Uckfield College receives a World Rugby Regulation 22 Compliance test as to re-gain its now lapsed accreditation. - Look to provide an additional half size pitch within the Analysis Area to cater for future demand.
Cricket	- Protect provision. - Improve quality of playing provision provided at sites such as Buxted Park and Maresfield Recreation Ground. - Provide Uckfield Anderida CC improved storage for its covers and sightscreens at Victoria Pleasure Ground. - Improve changing facilities where required, such as the existing provision at Temple Grove CC.
Rugby union	- Improve quality of playing provision provided at Uckfield Rugby Club through improvements to its ancillary provision and through providing RFU recommended sports lighting solutions (dependent on outcome associated with Uckfield 3G pitch). - Work to improve quality of the grass senior pitches at Waldron Recreation Ground through maintenance improvements. - Support Uckfield Rugby Club in its development of its clubhouse. - Work to regain certification of World Rugby 22 compliancy on the 3G pitch at Uckfield College
Hockey	No action required.
Bowls	- Protect provision. - Support Maresfield BC to increase membership, improve quality of playing provision and increase available parking on site.
Tennis	- Protect provision. - Seek to improve park courts such as at Victoria Pleasure Ground via implementation of LTA products.
Netball	No action required.
Stoolball	Protect provision.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
8	Blackboys Recreation Ground	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square with ancillary provision of the same quality. Site is accessed by Blackboys CC and has spare capacity for an additional Saturday team, two Sunday teams and midweek play.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Utilise spare capacity.	Parish Council ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
9	Buxted Park	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square with standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Buxted Park CC who report that the quality of playing provision has improved following the Club groundsman investing more time to the surface. The outfield is reportedly uneven and in the process of being levelled. Club report the need for additional non turf practice lane and a portable practice cage. Site has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek play.	Continue with the work taking place levelling the outfield as to improve quality. Explore the possibility of installing an additional non turf practice lane next to the current provision, and a portable practice cage. Utilise spare capacity.	Sports Club ECB SCB	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Buxted Park BC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Buxted Park Ladies SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Sports Club		L	L	L	
10	Buxted Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One poor quality 9v9 pitch with good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Buxted FC and is overplayed by 1 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate overplay.	Town Council SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
11	Chiddingly Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square with standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Chiddingly CC who report the quality of playing provision has notably improved after recently gaining a full-time groundsman. Site has spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek demand.	Further improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Utilise spare capacity.	Sports Club ECB SCB	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Chiddingly Ladies SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Sports Club ES		L	L	L	
22	Fairwarp Sports Field	Stoolball	Town Council	Site is open to community use and is accessed by Fairwarp (mixed) SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Town Council SE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One good quality adult pitch with accompanying ancillary provision of the same quality. Site is used by Fletching FC and has no spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through continuing current maintenance regime as to service community demand.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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

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

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
		Cricket		One standard quality square with an accompanying NTP. Site is accessed by Fletching CC who have an annual agreement with Fletching Recreation Ground Charitable Trust for the site. The Club report the quality of playing provision has improved following an increasing investment of time and money by the Club. Consultation raised the challenges associated to maintaining the site, specifically regarding finances and volunteers.	Further improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Fletching Ladies SC and Fletching Juniors SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Town Council		L	L	L	
30	Grants Hill Court Bowls	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green that is accessed by Uckfield BC who are operating within the recommended BCGBA guidelines.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
34	Hadlow Down MW Cricket Club	Football	Town Council	One 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality and accessed by Crowborough Athletic FC. Site is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision and has spare capacity of 0.5 MES on the 7v7 pitch.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Explore the means of improving the onsite ancillary provision.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with an accompanying NTP. Site is accessed by Hadlow Down MW CC who report the quality of playing provision has improved following the retirement of the former groundsman causing several volunteers to now prepare the surface.	Look to further improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
39	Harlands Farm	Football	Town Council	Two adult pitches, both of which are of a good quality and accessed by Uckfield Grasshoppers Juniors FC. Both pitches have spare capacity of 0.5 MES. Site has no accompanying ancillary provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity. Look to install some form of ancillary provision as to accompany the pitches and enable adult match play.	Town Council SCFA FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect Provide
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One standard quality adult pitch with accompanying ancillary provision of the same quality. Site is accessed by AFC Uckfield Colts and has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with accompanying ancillary provision of the same quality. Site is accessed by Isfield CC and has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek play.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Isfield Ladies SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Town Council		L	L	L	

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
50	Laughton Community Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School SCFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Football	Town Council	One adult, one 9v9, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch. All mini and youth pitch scaled provision is of a standard quality, whilst the adult pitch is of a poor quality. Site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision and is accessed by Maresfield Dynamo Juniors FC and Maresfield Village FC. Adult pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate overplay.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One poor quality square with accompanying NTP. Site is accessed by Maresfield CC who report the playing provision can experience issues related to vandalism. Square is overplayed by 7 sessions per season, due to poor quality rating.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate overplay. Look to support the Club in efforts to reduce identified vandalism to the square.	Town Council ECB SCB		M	S	L	
		Lawn Bowls		One standard quality square that is accessed by Maresfield BC who are currently operating below the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines. The club report issues related to parking, with only six spaces available on site.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Look to support the Club with membership figures as to reduce the risk of the Club folding. If feasible look to source increased parking provision for the site.	Town Council BCGBA		H	S	L	
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Maresfield (mixed) SC and Maresfield ladies SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Town Council		L	L	L	
63	New Barn Lane	Football	Town Council	One good quality adult pitch with no accompanying ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Uckfield Grasshoppers Juniors FC.	Sustain current maintenance of the pitch as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
68	Pelham Field	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square with an accompanying NTP and good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Laughton CC and has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek play.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Sports Club ECB SCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
83	St Phillips Catholic Primary School	Football	School	One 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches, all of which are of a poor quality and not open to community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School SCFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
88	The Oaks	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch and good quality ancillary provision that is accessed by AFC Uckfield Town. Site is potentially outlined for ground sharing with Jarvis Brook FC if the Club are to be promoted into step 6.	Sustain current maintenance of the pitch as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. If feasible and the promotion of Jarvis Brook FC is to take place, begin conversations regarding the possible relocation of the Club to this site.	Sports Club SCFA FF	Local	H	S	M	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
91	The War Memorial Ground	Football	Town Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is un-used.	Utilise identified spare capacity.	Town Council SCFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with an accompanying NTP and standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by East Hoathly and Halland CC and has spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and midweek demand.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Town Council ECB SCB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Three good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council LTA		L	L	L	
95	Uckfield College	Football	School	Two standard quality 9v9 pitches that are open to community use and are un-used.	Protect existing provision for curricular use.	School SCFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G		One full size, floodlit, FA accredited 3G pitch that was installed in 2014. The site was installed with a rugby compliant shock pad, making it suitable for training purposes of Uckfield Rugby Club who are a partner for the site. Consultation with Uckfield Rugby Club raise issues with the rugby markings needing re-painting.	Ensure FA and World Rugby accreditations for use are retained. Re-paint existing rugby markings as to improve quality of offering at the site. Establish an improved programme of use for Uckfield RFC. Including match play offers for teams at mini age groups. Financially prepare for a sinking fund to be in place as to ensure the long term sustainability of the site.	School SCFA FF SE		H	S	M	
		Rugby Union		School is in the process of reinstalling a replacement for its junior pitch, following a re-build of the site. Provision is expected to be fit for play as of 2024.	Continue work taking place to install a new rugby pitch on site.	School RFU		H	M	H	
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Three standard quality senior pitches, with floodlights installed on a strip in between two of the three pitches. Club have plans to install a disabled toilet and lift as well as increasing the size of its function room. One of the pitches has spare capacity of 0.5 MES whilst two of the pitches are overplayed by a total of 1.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Look to support the clubs' ambitions to enhance its clubhouse and better cater for disabled members of the public. If feasible, look to redistribute pitch and training allocation as to reduce overplay Need for increased floodlighting at site if issues at Uckfield College 3G are not rectified forcing the Club to train site, something that shall also worsen overplay.	Sports Club RFU	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Uckfield RFC Ladies SC and Uckfield RFC SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Sports Club		L	L	L	
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Football	Town Council	One good quality adult pitch with good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by AFC Uckfield Town and Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC and has no spare capacity during peak periods.	Sustain current maintenance of the pitch as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council SCFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
		Cricket		One good quality square with an accompanying NTP that is accessed by Uckfield Anderida CC. Club report that a new square was installed in 2020, resulting in the good quality rating. Consultation with the Club raised issues with having nowhere to store the covers or sightscreens that were recently damaged. The onsite practice lane nets funded by the Club are also in need of repair. Site has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek demand.	Sustain current maintenance of the site as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. Utilise actual spare capacity. Explore the means of granting a form of storage unit for the use of the covers and sight screens. Look to support the club in undertaking repairs of the onsite fixed practice lane.	Town Council ECB SCB		M	M	M	
		Tennis		Three standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. As of 2022, the Urban Tennis Foundation utilise the site and have installed a gate access system.	Sustain current maintenance of the courts as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council LTA		L	L	L	
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Two poor quality senior pitches that are accessed by Heathfield and Waldron RFC. Provision is overplayed by 1.5 MES as it is used for both training and matchday purposes.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate overplay.	Sports Club RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality square with an accompanying NTP and ancillary provision that is of a standard quality. Site is accessed by Waldron CC and has no spare capacity.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Sports Club ECB SCB		L	L	L	
		Stoolball		Site is open to community use and is accessed by Waldron (mixed) SC.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Sports Club		L	L	L	
103	Wealden Bowls Centre	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality artificial bowling green that is accessed by Wealden BC. Site is accompanied by good quality ancillary provision, a large car park and an indoor bowling green. Wealden BC represent by far the largest bowls club across the District.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
104	West Park (Uckfield)	Football	Town Council	Two 9v9 pitches, both of which are of a poor quality and serviced by poor quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC and is overplayed by a total of 6 MES. Club express ambitions to rotate the pitch nearest to the clubhouse by 90 degrees to create one youth 11v11 pitch. Pitches have been outlined in the LFFP for both targeted pitch improvements and renovations of existing ancillary provision.	Follow through with the work undertaken in the LFFP to see pitch improvements take place on site as better service community demand and alleviate overplay. Follow through the work undertaken in the LFFP to renovate the on-site clubhouse. If feasible consider changing the current pitch layout as to enable a youth 11v11 pitch to be present on site. If feasible look to grant the Club a form of long term tenure for the site, as to enable developments to take place.	Town Council SCFA FF SE	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
				Consultation with the Club expressed ambitions to increase the size of the kitchen and social space at the loss of some of the four changing rooms that are not currently used.							
112	East Hoathly and Halland Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Three good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are accessed by East Hoathly and Halland TC who are operating above the LTA recommended capacity guidelines. Club report the changing facilities are merely adequate, whilst the facility as a whole and parking are both good.	Sustain current maintenance of the courts as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. If feasible look to improve the quality of the changing facilities.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
114	Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Five good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are accessed by Maresfield TC who are operating within the LTA recommended capacity guidelines. Club report the changing facilities are merely adequate, whilst the facility as a whole and parking are both good.	Sustain current maintenance of the courts as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible. If feasible look to improve the quality of the changing facilities.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
122	Newick BC	Lawn Bowls	Town Council	One good quality bowling green that is accessed by Newick BC.	Sustain current maintenance of the green as to preserve quality of provision for as long as possible.	Town Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
128	Temple Grove Cricket Ground	Cricket	Town Council	One standard quality square with an accompanying NTP. Site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision in the form of an outdated traditional wooden structure.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Look to enhance the onsite ancillary provision.	Town Council ECB SCB	Local	M	L	M	Protect Enhance

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

242. The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2039 (in line with emerging Wealden Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.
243. Experience shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.
244. Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.
245. The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Wolverhampton, thus showing how the calculator works and what it provides. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches (rugby).
246. The following scenarios are based on high, medium, and low growth options over the Local Plan period. Additionally, an individual allocation is also tested.
- ◀ **Scenario One** – High – 10,277 dwellings
 - ◀ **Scenario Two** – Medium – 8,227 dwellings
 - ◀ **Scenario Three** – Low – 7,197 dwellings
 - ◀ **Scenario Four** – 400 dwelling allocation
247. For reference, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3²⁶ per dwelling.

²⁶ The occupancy rate of 2.3 is in line with figures used in the 2011 Census.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Scenario One – High – 10,277 dwellings

248. The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 10,277 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 23,637 people. This population increase equates to 21.53 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 1.37 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 187.08 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 34.86 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.17 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 10,277 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 10,277 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ²⁷	Training demand ²⁸
Adult football	3.69	34.86 hours
Youth football	6.00	
Mini soccer	7.74	
Rugby union	4.10	4.39 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.79	2.38 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.58	0.59 hours
Cricket	187.08	-

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

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	No. of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ³⁰	No. of rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	3.69	£401,837	£84,788	7.37	£1,386,339
Youth football	6.00	£523,474	£109,930	6.94	£1,305,381
Mini soccer	7.74	£210,896	£44,288	0.00	£0
Rugby union	4.10	£625,943	£133,952	8.20	£1,542,503
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	4.28	£1,376,308	£278,014	8.56	£1,609,581
Sand based AGPs	0.21	£187,513	£5,813	0.41	£77,942
3G	0.92	£994,876	£33,771	1.83	£344,957
Total	26.94	£4,320,847	£69,0556	33.31	£6,266,703

250. Overall, an additional 25.81 grass pitches (including cricket squares), 0.21 sand based AGPs and 0.92 full-size 3G pitches will be required to accommodate increased demand from the high level growth options in the emerging Local Plan.

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

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

²⁹ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2021 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

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

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

251. This represents a significant increase of provision if delivered. The findings of this scenario and the PPC need to be adjudged against the findings of the PPOSS to look at utilisation of existing spare capacity and the impact of improving existing provision before further provision is provided.

Scenario Two – Medium – 8,227 dwellings

252. The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 8,227 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 18,922 people. This population increase equates to 17.24 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 1.1 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 149.76 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 27.90 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 2.38 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 8,227 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 8,227 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ³¹	Training demand ³²
Adult football	2.95	27.90 hours
Youth football	4.81	
Mini soccer	6.20	
Rugby union	3.28	3.67 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.64	1.91 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.46	0.47 hours
Cricket	149.76	-

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

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	No. of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ³³	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ³⁴	No. of rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	2.95	£321,679	£67,874	5.90	£1,109,793
Youth football	4.81	£419,063	£88,003	5.56	£1,045,011
Mini soccer	6.20	£168,828	£35,454	0.00	£0
Rugby union	3.28	£501,086	£107,232	6.57	£1,234,820
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	3.43	£1,101,764	£222,556	6.85	£1,288,504
Sand based AGPs	0.17	£150,110	£4,653	0.33	£62,395
3G	0.73	£796,429	£27,035	1.47	£276,149
Total	21.57	£3,458,959	£552,807	26.68	£5,016,672

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

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

³³ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2021 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

³⁴ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

253. Overall, an additional 17.24 grass pitches (including cricket squares), 0.17 sand based AGPs and 0.73 full-size 3G pitches will be required to accommodate increased demand from the medium level growth options in the emerging Local Plan.
254. This represents a significant increase of provision if delivered. The findings of this scenario and the PPC need to be adjudged against the findings of the PPOSS to look at utilisation of existing spare capacity and the impact of improving existing provision before further provision is provided.

Scenario Three – Low – 7,197 dwellings

255. The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 7,197 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 16,553 people. This population increase equates to 15.07 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.97 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 131.01 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 24.41 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 2.08 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 7,197 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 7,197 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ³⁵	Training demand ³⁶
Adult football	2.58	24.41 hours
Youth football	4.20	
Mini soccer	5.42	
Rugby union	2.87	3.21 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.56	1.67 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.41	0.41 hours
Cricket	131.01	-

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

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	No. of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ³⁷	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ³⁸	No. of rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	2.58	£281,407	£59,377	5.16	£970,853
Youth football	4.20	£366,586	£76,983	4.86	£914,151
Mini soccer	5.42	£147,689	£31,015	0.00	£0
Rugby union	2.87	£438,345	£93,806	5.75	£1,080,207
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	3.00	£963,823	£194,692	5.99	£1,127,183
Sand based AGPs	0.15	£131,315	£4,071	0.29	£54,583
3G	0.64	£696,707	£23,650	1.28	£241,572
Total	18.86	£3,025,872	£483,594	23.33	£4,388,549

³⁵ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

³⁶ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

³⁷ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2021 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

³⁸ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

257. Overall, an additional 18.07 grass pitches (including cricket squares), 0.15 sand based AGPs and 0.64 full-size 3G pitches will be required to accommodate increased demand from the low level growth options in the emerging Local Plan.
258. This represents a significant increase of provision if delivered. The findings of this scenario and the PPC need to be adjudged against the findings of the PPOSS to look at utilisation of existing spare capacity and the impact of improving existing provision before further provision is provided.

Scenario Four – 400 dwelling allocation

259. The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 400 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 920 people. This population increase equates to 0.83 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.05 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 7.28 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 1.36 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.11 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.7: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 400 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 400 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ³⁹	Training demand ⁴⁰
Adult football	0.14	1.36 hours
Youth football	0.23	
Mini soccer	0.30	
Rugby union	0.16	0.18 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.03	0.09 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.02	0.02 hours
Cricket	7.28	-

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

Table 7.8: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	No. of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁴¹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁴²	No. of rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.14	£15,638	£3,300	0.29	£53,950
Youth football	0.23	£20,379	£4,280	0.27	£50,824
Mini soccer	0.30	£8,208	£1,724	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.16	£24,363	£5,214	0.32	£60,038
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.17	£53,563	£10,820	0.33	£62,642
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£7,299	£226	0.02	£3,034
3G	0.04	£38,722	£1,314	0.07	£13,426
Total	1.05	£168,172	£26,878	1.3	£243,914

³⁹ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

⁴⁰ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

⁴¹ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2021 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁴² Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

260. Overall, an additional 1.05 pitches (including cricket squares), 0.01 sand based AGPs and 0.04 full size 3G pitches will be required to accommodate increased demand from a development of 400 dwellings.
261. As none of these figures represent full pitch or changing room developments, contributions to improve existing facilities within the vicinity of the development should be sought.

Conclusion

262. For the scenarios above, the PPC show that, through housing growth, demand will be generated for football, rugby union, hockey and cricket.
263. The high, medium, and low scenarios all show a potential need for a new provision to be provided over the lifespan of the Local Plan (2039). These each represent a significant increase of provision if delivered. The findings of these scenarios need to be adjudged against the findings of the PPOSS to look at utilisation of existing spare capacity and the impact of improving existing provision before further provision is provided. The only exception to this is for where shortfalls are already high within given settlement areas or for artificial grass pitches (hockey and 3G) where there are current shortfalls with future need exacerbated by development.
264. For significant allocations (i.e., those over, say 600 dwellings) a potential need for new provision may be warranted. However, providing single pitch sites is generally considered, by Sport England and NGBs, to represent low value assets due to the limited sporting outcomes associated with these. In these instances, the Council should consider pooling S106 pots with nearby allocations to create bigger and more strategically functional multi pitch offers.
265. In most instances, demand generated from the housing growth (such as is the case with the 400 dwelling scenario) will not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, and contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level to accommodate new demand. The PPOSS and the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).
266. With housing growth having the potential to exacerbate existing shortfalls at key sites, off-site contributions should be sought to increase capacity for these sports, whether that be through pitch quality improvements or ancillary improvements to ensure underused sites can be fully utilised.
267. To provide the greatest impact, contributions from housing developments could be pooled together to improve key sites. The action plan identifies high priority sites which would likely provide the most benefit from investment. Key sites which would benefit are provided below, by analysis area.

Table 7.9: Site contribution options

Analysis area	Site	Potential need
Hailsham	Goldsmiths Recreation Ground	Pitch improvements
Hailsham	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Pitch improvements Ancillary upgrades
Hailsham	Hellingly Rugby Club	Ancillary upgrades
Hailsham	Upper Dicker Cricket Club	Ancillary upgrades
Hailsham	Hailsham Tennis Club	Ancillary upgrades
Polegate	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground	Pitch improvements
Polegate	Jevington Playing Field	Cricket square improvements
Crowborough & Rural North	Alderbrook Playing Field	Pitch improvements

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Analysis area	Site	Potential need
Crowborough & Rural North	Goldsmiths Recreation Ground	Pitch improvements
Crowborough & Rural North	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Pitch improvements
Crowborough & Rural North	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Pitch improvements
Crowborough & Rural North	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Pitch improvements
Crowborough & Rural North	Crowborough Rugby Club	Floodlighting
Crowborough & Rural North	Frant Playing Field	Cricket square improvements Ancillary upgrades
Crowborough & Rural North	Groombridge Bowls Club	Ancillary upgrades
Heathfield & Rural South	Alfriston Tennis Centre	Court improvements Ancillary upgrades
Heathfield & Rural South	Horam Recreation Ground	Pitch improvements
Heathfield & Rural South	Horam Tennis Club	Changing facility upgrade
Heathfield & Rural South	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground	Ancillary upgrades
Heathfield & Rural South	Waldron Recreation Ground	Pitch improvements
Heathfield & Rural South	Healthfield Rugby Club	Floodlighting
Uckfield	West Park (Uckfield)	Pitch improvements Ancillary upgrades
Uckfield	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Pitch improvements Cricket square improvements
Uckfield	Uckfield Rugby Club	Pitch improvements Floodlighting Changing room expansion
Uckfield	Hadlow Down	Ancillary upgrades

268. Further to this list, there is a specific need for an increase in 3G pitches in the District. Table 7.10 below identifies existing need. It does not include the potential development at Wealden Community Sports Hub⁴³. As such, opportunities to provide an increase of provision relative to identified need should also be considered in addition to the above list. These sites should be identified in tandem with Sussex County FA and the Football Foundation.

Table 7.10: 3G requirement per analysis area

Analysis area	Current shortfall
Crowborough & Rural North	2.5
Hailsham	1.5
Heathfield & Rural South	1.5
Polegate	0
Uckfield	0.5
Total	6

269. For hockey, also not featured in Table 7.9, it is expected that the responsibility of improvement of provision at Hailsham Community College and Beacon Community College should lie with each provider of provision. However, it is known that the position for hockey in the District is not certain with poor quality provision across the board. An opportunity to improve existing facilities and/or provide a fit for purpose hockey pitch as part of any future development plans should be given consideration to safeguard the sport.

⁴³ <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/news/wealden-sports-hub/>

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Table 7.11: Cricket club training requirements

Club	Training requirement (club comments)
Bells Yew CC	An additional third practice lane next to the existing two on site.
Buxted Park CC	Additional non turf nets, mobile cricket cage, more space.
East Dean & Friston CC	Non turf pitch
Pevensey CC	Non turf practice nets
Polegate & Stone Cross CC	Non-turf pitch with portable net for both adult & junior practice sessions
Willingdon CC	Mobile net cage and covers
Uckfield Anderida CC	Mobile net and another permanent net.
Hadlow Down MW CC	Mobile net cage
Heathfield Park CC	Increasing numbers - improved practice surface and more nets
Forest Row CC	Non turf practice nets, mobile net cage and mobile pitch covers.
Fletching CC	Better quality training nets and mobile net cage
Rotherfield CC	Practice nets and mobile cages
Herstmonceux CC	Grass pitch & mobile cage

270. There are 13 cricket clubs which also identify a need for new training provision to accommodate for existing but also future demand (this is particularly the case for clubs working to develop women's and girls' sections). Where these clubs are close to a development, meeting these known training needs will help satisfy increased demand from said development.
271. Lastly, the above suggestions should be updated as part of the PPOSS Stage E process to capture changes in the local sport landscape.

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

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

Delivery

273. The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Wealden. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the District can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and recommends how best to resolve this in the future.
274. It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is used to engage with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.
275. The creation of this document should be regarded as part of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.
276. To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are needed to improve the situation and meet future demand. For this to be achieved, the Steering Group needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.
277. The process of completing the PPOSS 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 PPOSS 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

278. It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.
279. It is agreed that the Council (potentially via consultants e.g., KKP) is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up to date in order that area-

by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

280. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.
281. An annual review should not be regarded as a 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 PPOSS 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.
282. Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.
283. 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.
284. The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Checklists

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

Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan		
1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?		
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?		
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?		
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?		
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?		
6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?		
7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?		
8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?		
9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?		
10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?		
11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?		
12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?		
13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?		
14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?		
15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?		
16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?		
17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?		
18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?		
Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy		
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?		

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
2. Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?	✓	
3. Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4. Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5. Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6. Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?	✓	

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

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

For more information, see:

<https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/facility-cost-guidance>

APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

287. The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

288. 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: Uniting the Movement 2021

289. Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.
290. It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.
291. There are three key objectives to the Strategy:
- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
 - ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
 - ◀ Creating the catalyst for change
292. In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:
293. ***Recover and reinvent:*** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
294. ***Connecting communities:*** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
295. ***Positive experiences for children and young people:*** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
296. ***Connecting with health and wellbeing:*** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
297. ***Active environments:*** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.
298. The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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

299. The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:
- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
 - ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
 - ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
 - ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
 - ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
 - ◀ A more productive sport sector.
 - ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
 - ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

300. The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.
301. The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the FF.
302. These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.
303. Its vision is: "Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"
304. £1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).
305. The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:
- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
 - ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;

- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

306. To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has now been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.
307. The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, DCMS, FF) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.
308. Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.
309. LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.
310. It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A

The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

311. The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:
- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
 - ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
 - ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
 - ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
 - ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

312. Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ✦ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ✦ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ✦ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ✦ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

313. The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

England Hockey Strategy

319. England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy).
320. **Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.
321. **Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities
322. The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:
1. **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**
 - There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
 2. **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**
 - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
 3. **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**
323. England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.
324. The intention is to:
- ◀ Be progressive.
 - ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
 - ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
 - ◀ Lead the sport.
 - ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)

325. The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'. The strategy can be found [here](#).
326. It identifies four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives', to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

Game objectives

- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Enable positive player experiences on and off the field.
- ◀ **Winning England** – Create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby.

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ **Welfare** – Enhance players welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players.
- ◀ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society.

Driving objectives

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

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

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

England Netball

328. In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.
329. England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.
330. The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-
- ◀ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
 - ◀ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
 - ◀ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.
331. At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.
332. Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.
333. The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar.

335. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.
336. Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.
337. The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.
338. Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

Facility Development

339. The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-
- ✦ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
 - ✦ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
 - ✦ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
 - ✦ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
 - ✦ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
 - ✦ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
 - ✦ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
 - ✦ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
 - ✦ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
 - ✦ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

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

Objectives

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

Strategies

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

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

341. Bowls England's new Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

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

Awarding body	Website link
The National Lottery Community Fund	http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/
Sport England	https://www.sportengland.org/funding/
Football Foundation	https://footballfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do
Rugby Football Union	http://www.englandrugby.com/participation/running-your-club/funding
The England and Wales Cricket Trust	https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding
National Hockey Foundation	http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/
Lawn Tennis Association	Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities (lta.org.uk)

Funder's requirements

343. 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

344. The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website: <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/facility-cost-guidance>
345. The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility based on the last quarter. The Facilities Costs are updated on the Sport England website every quarter
346. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.