

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

## DRAFT REPORT

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Review Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Trafford Council and its partners.

This report serves to identify key changes and actions undertaken, including any consequent change in strategic position, to the evidence based initially produced through the Trafford PPS 2017 assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. The purpose of this was to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

Whilst this review highlights and updates data on demand for formal sport, as well as known changes to quantity or quality of pitch supply where known, it does not represent a renewed capacity analysis of these two factors except in the case of 3G pitch and cricket provision. Modelling of both 3G pitch provision for football and cricket provision against current demand has been reviewed due to fundamental changes in FA and ECB methodology to determine capacity and because the shortfall of 3G pitches particularly is a critical strategic issue in Trafford.

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

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steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.'*

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

The key drivers for this review are as follows:

- ◀ To update the supply and demand data and effect on concluding position to ensure the PPS remains a robust and usable evidence base.
- ◀ As a response to foreseen facility closure in order to determine course of contingency action (if any) required.
- ◀ To reflect strategic change of direction with regards to capital facilities investment, most notably the approach to pursuing delivery of additional 3G pitches for football team training and match play.
- ◀ To adapt to changes in NGB guidance for assessing supply and demand balance, applicable to both cricket (ECB) and 3G pitches for football (The FA).
- ◀ To re-assess housing growth scenarios in line with the since revised Greater Manchester Spatial Framework second draft (2019).
- ◀ To ensure an up to date picture of supply and demand issues so that the FA Local Football Facility Plan for Trafford can be based on current strategic thinking towards site investment and the most currently identified priority issues.

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*How has the delivery of the recommendations and action plan progressed?*

Trafford Council has retained the PPS steering group which continues to meet regularly to progress actions and projects based on the PPS findings. The steering group members are also engaged within three 'task and finish' groups which have been formed since the PPS was adopted, relating to specialisms for some sports where relevant, these are:

- ◀ Maintenance - grass pitch maintenance, cross-sport working, club support and workforce.
- ◀ Investment – capital investment into facility development/improvement and partnership funding opportunity.
- ◀ Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) – specialism for football to ensure that the PPS aligns with the priority projects for development of football facilities identified within the Trafford LFFP.

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## PART 1: PRESENT POSITION (2019)

This section serves to evidence any identified changes to the supply and demand and/or contextual issues which were highlighted and found through the initial PPS in 2017. Any changes to either numerical data (e.g. season team data or change in number of pitches) or qualitative/contextual issues were identified through present season team/membership affiliation data and consultation with the PPS steering group, inclusive of NGBs.

### 1.1: Football

#### *Context*

- ◀ In 2017 The FA commissioned the production of over 300 Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs), in order that by 2020 every local authority in England has an LFFP which identifies priority projects for investment into football facilities over the next decade to 2028. The LFFP for Trafford will be produced in 2019 following this PPS review process, so that it is able to reflect the most current priorities and direction for football.
- ◀ Planning consent<sup>1</sup> was granted in March 2018 for change of use of part of the Powerleague site to alternative leisure provision. The site presently accommodates 17 small sized 3G pitches in total (four outdoor, 13 indoor). Permission was granted for the conversion of sports facilities which is anticipated to result in the loss of six indoor pitches and the multi-function indoor surface.
- ◀ Powerleague vacated the site in March 2019 as the venue operator, having failed to renew the expiring lease agreement, reportedly due to the new terms no longer financially viable. A new operator Fives has reportedly taken over management of the site in late March 2019, though no further details of the operating model or availability of facilities is yet known.
- ◀ Though the majority of provision is indoor, the facilities serve a key role to football in Trafford with the Timperley & District Junior Football League mini soccer leagues based there as a central venue each weekend (70 teams) and some teams using the pitches for training.
- ◀ The loss of pitches would also reduce small sided football centre capacity available for small sided and recreational participation – now a priority for The FA nationally and a key commitment within its emerging National Football Facilities Strategy to be published in 2019.
- ◀ Also a priority for The FA is to grow futsal participation and whilst the preferred facility type for futsal is indoor sports halls rather than outdoors, the impact on current futsal activity and the ability to grow this form of the game should be noted. Manchester Futsal Club uses the indoor hard court at Powerleague for 90 minutes on Monday evenings for its U14 and U16 futsal academy sessions.
- ◀ Loss of pitches would further influence the small sided football facility offer in the area since the withdrawal of the Powerleague operation from Whalley Range High School in early 2019, located seven miles from the Trafford site. Community use of the pitches is still available through another commercial operator which has since taken over the management responsibility outside of school hours.
- ◀ In September 2017 Trafford Council initiated a consultation on the 'Refreshed Stretford Masterplan'. The catalyst for updating the original Masterplan for Stretford (2014) was the University Academy '92 (UA92) proposal to develop a new innovative higher education facility on Talbot Road focusing on sport, media and business.

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<sup>1</sup> Planning application number [93120/FUL/17](#)

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- ◀ As part of the Refreshed Stretford Masterplan, a planning application was submitted in February 2018 for proposed hub development of Turn Moss, to retain 15 municipal football pitches and three Gaelic sports pitches (or their footprints if unmarked based on demand) and the development of three grass football pitches to the eastern portion of the site proposed for exclusive use by Salford City FC and UA92 for daytime use by academy programmes and teams. Proposed within the heart of the site was a new full size 3G pitch for shared daytime use by Salford City FC, with wider community use in the evenings, as well as new café and new ancillary provision. Plans also included trim trail paths and exercise points around the perimeter of the site.
- ◀ The application for the masterplan to develop the site as a sporting hub was withdrawn in May 2018 in light of significant public opposition raised through the public consultation process.

## Supply and demand analysis

- ◀ 2018/19 season data shows 534 teams playing in Trafford which affiliate to either Cheshire FA or Manchester FA. Excluding U5/U6 development groups, pan-disability disability and futsal teams, there are 481 affiliated football teams playing mainstream football within the Borough.
- ◀ Since the initial PPS was produced, five sites in Trafford have received technical assessments through the FA Pitch Improvement Programme, with a set of professional maintenance and workforce recommendations in place for each. They are:
  - ◀ Salisbury Playing Fields (Broadheath Central) – September 2018
  - ◀ Budworth Road (former Sale Moor Cricket Club - Brooklands Dragons JFC) – March 2018
  - ◀ Jacksons Boat ground (Brooklands Dragons JFC) – March 2018
  - ◀ Mersey Valley Sports Club (Mersey Valley FC) – November 2018
  - ◀ Beech Avenue Recreation Ground (Timperley Villa YFC & Altrincham-Hale FC) – August 2018.

*Table 1.1: Most well used sites for competitive football as per FA affiliation data 2018/19 (10 or more teams<sup>2</sup>):*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Teams
29	Crossford Bridge	Central	40
91	Salisbury Road	South	27
56	Lees Field	West	24
10	Beech Avenue Recreation Ground	South	19
105	Timperley Cricket Hockey and Lacrosse	South	19
41	Grove Park	South	18
18	Broadoak School (Partington Sports Village)	West	16
14	Bowdon Cricket - Hockey & Squash Club	South	14
88	Sale High School	Central	14
121	Wellacre Academy	West	14
28	Cross Lane (Partington Youth Centre)	West	13
122	Wellfield Junior School	Central	13
126	Woodsend Park	West	13

<sup>2</sup> Excluding the former Powerleague small sided soccer centre

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Teams
11	Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College (3G pitch)	South	12
63	Lostock Park	North	12
113	Turn Moss	North	12
130	(Former) Sale Moor Cricket Club – Brooklands Dragons JFC	Central	10
93	Smith Fields	Central	10

- ◀ Trafford remains a strong local authority for large multi-team clubs. FA affiliation data for the 2018/19 season shows that there are 11 clubs with 20 or more teams and a further three with between 10-19 teams.
- ◀ Moor Nook Park is now used by Sale United FC U21, at least in some capacity. The site is recorded as the team's affiliated home venue, however in practice it plays at Sale United FC home base Crossford Bridge when possible on Sunday mornings, using Moor Nook Park as an overspill facility when required.
- ◀ St Bride's Park was identified as being unused for affiliated football, however 2018/19 season data shows the site to be used by eight teams from Manchester Bee Junior FC (four teams), Old Trafford Juniors AFC (two teams), Old Trafford FC and Hulme FC. The site is now used for both adult and juniors (mini soccer and youth 9v9 football).
- ◀ Previously recorded as unavailable for community football use, Urmston Grammar Academy is now used by one team – Urmston Sports Club U17.
- ◀ The previously unused Jacksons Boat ground is now back in use by Brooklands Dragons JFC. The site is owned by the Jacksons Boat public house opposite, however is maintained by the Club itself. The site previously identified as an unused adult pitch is presently marked as youth 9v9, but can still accommodate an 11v11 sized pitch as youth teams progress through age groups. The recent FA Pitch Improvement Programme visit identified that line markings were burnt into the surface; a practice which is not advocated by The FA and one which brings potential safety hazards.
- ◀ Broadheath Central JFC was granted planning permission in October 2018 to develop a pair of painted blockwork dugouts to the side of one of the pitches at Salisbury Road Playing Fields.

## **Manor Farm**

- ◀ The 2017 PPS records Manor Farm as a lapsed site, however, the site has now been returned to formal sport use and is now maintained as such. Aerial imagery from April 2018 shows that the site, which is able to accommodate up to circa five adult football pitches (or equivalent), now has two adult pitches prepared and maintained.
- ◀ The site continues to be held on long-term lease by a private individual who sublets the site to Kickworldwide, an organisation which operates a private football academy for international students offering football and education opportunities, as well as activities such as short term overseas camps/tours. The level of weekly usage is unknown.
- ◀ FA affiliation data also records the site as now being used by two U19 male teams from Interactive Sports FC, a football academy programme linked to Altrincham Town FC which offers full time further education with competitive football. Students receive up to 12 hours per week of professionally coached football training and matches on Wednesday afternoons in the Association of colleges (AoC) North West Invitational Leagues.
- ◀ It is not known exactly who is responsible for pitch maintenance or how frequent or extensive this is. The site is not available for wider community use and is regarded as private use.
- ◀ The site is located in the South Analysis Area (allocated new PPS Site ID 158) and lies within the Timperley Wedge allocation outlined within the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). If accepted, the GMSF allocated area could see the proposed development of up to approximately 2,400 new homes.

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- Manor Farm was not included in the PPS Action Plan; however, it should now be added in as part of this update.
- Based on the assumption that pitch quality onsite is good and that Interactive Sports FC spreads weekly training and match play across both pitches presently marked, capacity balance is likely to be as follows:

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Pitch type	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Match equivalent sessions per week		
						Actual play	Capacity	Capacity balance
158	Manor Farm	No (private)	Adult	Good	2	9	6	3

- Please note that this scenario does not include usage from Kickworldwide, therefore it is likely that the level of overall site use throughout the week is higher. Also, the exact current site layout is unknown, and more pitches could be prepared onsite, or sessions are delivered on the unmarked surrounding land of which there is a significant amount.

## 1.2: 3G pitches

### Context

- Since the completion of the 2017 PPS, Trafford Council in partnership with Cheshire County FA and Manchester FA had been pursuing the development of a portfolio of new 3G pitches for football through the FA Parklife Football Hubs programme.
- In late 2018, Trafford Council made the decision to formally withdraw from the FA Parklife process and has now chosen to instead pursue a range of single site investments rather than the portfolio approach to deliver new 3G pitch provision.
- In order to reflect the objectives of the forthcoming new National Game Strategy and the greater focus it places on recreational football demand and participation; The FA football training model has since been revised. It is now considered that one full sized 3G pitch can service 38 teams, rather than the previously applied 42 teams.
- The FA has identified nationally a driver for large multi-team clubs to be linked with new 3G pitch developments as partner club anchor users, particularly those with existing demand equivalent to capacity of a full size 3G pitch (38 or more teams). In Trafford there are four clubs which meet or can grow in the short-term to meet this level of demand:
  - Sale United FC – 46 teams
  - AFC Urmston Meadowside – 41 teams
  - Altrincham Juniors FC – 41 teams
  - Broadheath Central FC – 37 teams

### Supply and demand

- Due to Trafford Council's involvement in the Parklife process, partnership investment into 3G pitches for football was put on hold since the initial PPS assessment. Consequently, there has been no change in supply of 3G pitches across the Borough.
- Due to concerns over and public opposition to the potential development of new 3G pitches on publicly accessible open space or playing field land, the Council is instead now pursuing greater exploration of opportunities to develop new pitches at sites with existing operational infrastructure in the first case, such as schools or sports/leisure centres.

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Table 1.2: Comparison of initial and current 3G pitch shortfalls for football team training given update of methodology and demand figures

Analysis area	Current teams	Current full sized 3G pitch requirement	Current supply	Current shortfall (by analysis area)
<b>2016/17 season (based on 1:42 teams)</b>				
North	50	1	1	0
Central	106	2	-	2
South	132	3	1	2
West	178	4	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2018/19 season (based on 1:38 teams)</b>				
North	47	1.2 - 1	1	0
Central	138	3.6 - 4	-	4
South	150	3.9 - 4	1	3
West	146	3.8 - 4	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

- ◀ There has been modest overall growth of 15 teams net since 206/17 season, though there has been growth of activity in the Central and West areas, either through growth in team numbers or teams utilising sites in these areas more. This growth along with the change in methodology calculation has seen the shortfall rise from two to four pitches in the Central area and from two to three pitches in the South area.
- ◀ Whilst team demand based in the West area has been reduced, this has been offset by the change in methodology calculation and thus the shortfall of three full size pitches remains.
- ◀ Overall, when re-calculated on the same analysis area basis, there shortfall in Trafford increases from seven to ten full size 3G pitches required.
- ◀ The aligns with the approximate calculation when taking the number of teams as a whole Borough ( $481 \div 38 = 12.7$ ), evidencing need for 13 full size 3G pitches across Trafford, of which there are three accessible at present.
- ◀ There remains sufficient demand to warrant the development of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Trafford, though it is now unlikely that this will be exclusively through RFU investment. Instead this would need to be as part of a partnership approach or self-funded by the site operator.
- ◀ In December 2017 The Grammar (Altrincham Grammar School for Boys) was granted planning permission for the development of a full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch to senior rugby union dimensions including new floodlighting. The pitch would be for rugby union and football use between the hours of 7am-7pm weekdays and between, 10am-5pm on Saturdays, though not available on Sundays or Bank Holidays. The plans would see the loss of playing field provision adjacent to the existing AGP, including the non-turf cricket wicket and long jump facility.
- ◀ In May 2018 Sale FC was granted planning permission for the development of a full size World Rugby compliant 3G at Sale Sharks Training Ground in Carrington which it shares use of with professional club Sale Sharks FC. The proposal also includes development of associated hard landscaping, fencing, ancillary storage container, dugouts and floodlighting. This would see the loss of a natural grass rugby union pitch nearest the clubhouse building, to be replaced by the 3G provision.

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## Scenario

- Should the Timperley & District Junior Football League lose all access to the former Powerleague site, there would be a need to relocate 70 mini soccer teams (35 match equivalent sessions). Based on the FA scenario model for increasing use of 3G pitches for competitive match play with two kick off times on Saturday mornings, this demand would require three (rounded up from 2.2) full size 3G pitches to accommodate in full, also allowing some room for growth.
- Proposed reduction in the number of indoor pitches at the former Powerleague site from 13 to seven would mean that up to 28 teams could be retained onsite indoors based on two kick offs on Saturday mornings. In order to accommodate the remaining teams on full size 3G pitches there would be a need for two (rounded up from 1.3) full size 3G pitches.

## 1.3: Cricket

- Lancashire Cricket Foundation (LCF) is linked to Lancashire Cricket Board but now serves as the dedicated organisation through which development of cricket in the County is now driven.
- Changes were made by the ECB in 2018 to the way in which it determines capacity of natural turf cricket pitches, with a new carrying capacity of four match equivalent sessions per season established for standard quality pitches rather than the previous five. New capacity guidance is as follows:

Sport	Pitch type	Number of matches per week		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	Unusable (unsafe)
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	Unusable (unsafe)

## Supply and demand

- The Cheshire Cricket Alliance (CCA) no longer exists and has now merged with the former Cheshire Cricket League to form the new Cheshire County Cricket League.
- There is a grass cricket square with six senior wickets at Urmston Grammar Academy used by Urmston CC third team. The site was previously identified as having a non-turf pitch but not a grass cricket square. Pitch quality has been assumed as standard.
- Sale Sports Club was granted planning permission in February 2018 for the demolition of both the previous cricket pavilion and main sports club building, to be replaced by development of a new clubhouse and pavilion building. The proposal also included the relocation of the fixed bay net training facility to elsewhere onsite, both of which were completed in 2018.
- The same application also includes the development of an indoor tennis centre with associated facilities, new accessways and the construction of 14 new dwellings. Careful attention must be paid to ballstrike from the adjacent cricket pitch and the proposal includes the installation of maximum 12 metre high demountable/retractable protective ball stop netting.

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Table 1.3: Current cricket team demand using pitches in Trafford (2018/19 season)

Club name	Analysis area	Number of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Ashton All Stars CC	North	1	-	-	-
Ashton on Mersey CC	Central	3	1	7	1
Bowdon CC	South	4	-	9	-
Bowdon Vale CC	South	3	-	2	-
Brooklands CC	Central	5	-	7	-
Flixton CC	West	2	-	3	-
Hale Barns CC	South	3	-	4	-
In Time CC	Central	1	-	-	-
North West Rockers CC	North	1	-	-	-
Old Trafford CC	North	1	-	-	-
Sale CC	Central	5	-	9	1
Stretford CC	North	4	-	7	-
Timperley CC	South	5	-	6	-
Trafford MV CC	Central	3	-	2	-
Urmston CC	West	5	-	7	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4</b>

- ◀ The number of cricket teams based in Trafford overall has reduced from 117 to 114. Decline has been at the senior and junior boys age groups. There remains just one women's team at Ashton on Mersey CC, however there are now double the number of girls teams. Despite Flixton CC no longer having any junior teams, three other clubs have started girls teams.
- ◀ In 2017 LCF established a series of 12 women's softball cricket festivals which then increased to 40 in 2018. Festivals run from early May to September and games are six-a-side, using a soft ball with under arm bowling and rules specifically designed to make games fun, fast and easy to pick up.
- ◀ There was not a festival held in Trafford in 2018, however this heightened focus on developing women's participation creates a need for consideration of both temporal capacity at cricket clubs to host women's softball cricket on Sunday afternoons, as well as suitability of ancillary provision and social space.
- ◀ The table below applies revised ECB capacity guidance relating to quality and also the breakdown of site capacity for both junior and senior cricket, rather than the overall square capacity used for the initial 2017 PPS.
- ◀ Breakdown of junior/senior wickets on the square at each site has been identified through consultation with both LCF and Cheshire Cricket Board.
- ◀ Application of new ECB capacity guidance and update of 2018 season demand data now evidences seven sites with incidences of overplay:
  - ◀ **Ashton on Mersey Cricket Club** – breakdown of wickets now shows minor overuse at senior level. Minimal and can be sustained in present form.
  - ◀ **Bowden Cricket, Hockey & Squash Club** - level of overplay reduced due to level of recorded matches being played and breakdown of wicket type. Insufficient natural turf capacity for senior cricket.
  - ◀ **Hale Barns Cricket Club** – relatively low level of overplay on senior wickets, however pitch quality is rated as standard and improvement to good quality can create sufficient capacity to eliminate overuse.
  - ◀ **Sale Sports Ground** – lack of natural turf capacity for both senior and junior cricket.

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- ◀ **St Bride's Park** - Now also used by Ashton All Stars CC which was not playing in Trafford in 2016, the site is now deemed by ECB guidance to be unsuitable/unsafe for match play and thus is significantly overplayed due to its new null capacity rating.
- ◀ **Trafford Metrovicks RFC** - breakdown of wickets now shows minor overuse at senior level. Minimal and can be sustained in present form.
- ◀ **Urmston Sports Club** – breakdown of wickets now shows overuse at senior and junior level. Overplayed due to a combination of both reduction in natural grass capacity onsite through application of new ECB capacity guidance and growth in levels of demand for junior and girls cricket.

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Table 1.4: Reviewed capacity balance of natural grass cricket squares in use by community clubs in Trafford

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Security of tenure	Teams/groups accommodated	Quality rating	No. of pitches	No. of natural turf wickets	Match equivalent sessions per season		
								Actual play	Capacity	Capacity balance
8	Ashton on Mersey Cricket Club	Central	Secured	Ashton on Mersey CC	Good	1	9 senior	46	45	1
							4 junior	18	20	2
14	Bowdon Cricket, Hockey & Squash Club	South	Secured	Bowdon CC	Good	1	9 senior	60	45	15
							6 junior	26	30	4
16	Bowdon Vale Cricket Club	South	Secured	Bowdon Vale CC	Standard	1	10 senior	31	40	9
							5 junior	10	20	10
20	Brooklands Sports Club	Central	Secured	Brooklands CC	Good	2	12 senior	59	60	1
							7 junior	24	35	11
29	Crossford Bridge	Central	Secured	North West Rockers CC	Standard	1	7 senior	9	28	19
36	Flixton Cricket Club	West	Secured	Flixton CC Wibbersley & Thorne Society	Good	1	10 senior	28	50	22
							4 junior	8	20	12
42	Hale Barns Cricket Club	South	Secured	Hale Barns CC	Standard	1 <sup>3</sup>	9 senior	42	36	6
							3 junior	10	12	2
89	Sale Sports Ground	Central	Secured	Sale CC	Good	1	9 senior	54	45	9
							4 junior	28	20	8
97	St Bride's Park	North	Secured	Old Trafford CC Ashton All Stars CC	Poor	1	5 senior	16	-	16
102	Stretford Cricket Club	North	Secured	Stretford CC	Standard	1	16 senior	54	64	10
105	Timperley Cricket Hockey and Lacrosse Club	South	Secured	Timperley CC In Time CC	Good	2	18 senior	89	90	1
							9 junior	24	45	21
112	Trafford Metrovicks RFC	Central	Secured	Trafford MV CC	Standard	1	6 senior	27	24	3
							2 junior	3	8	5

<sup>3</sup> The square also has two grass practice wickets not used for match play

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Security of tenure	Teams/groups accommodated	Quality rating	No. of pitches	No. of natural turf wickets	Match equivalent sessions per season		
								Actual play	Capacity	Capacity balance
115	Urmston Grammar Academy	West	<b>Unsecured</b>	Urmston CC (3 <sup>rd</sup> team)	Standard	1	6 senior	13	24	11
116	Urmston Sports Club	West	Secured	Urmston CC	Standard	1	12 senior	57	48	9
							4 junior	24	16	8

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## 1.4: Rugby union

- ◀ The number of rugby union pitches available and accessible for community club use has remained static.
- ◀ Bowdon Country Club and Spa is now known as Hale Country Club and Spa. It continues to allow Bowdon RUFC to use the senior pitch at the rear of the site in return for the Club maintaining it itself.
- ◀ Incorrectly identified as owned by Bowdon RUFC in the initial PPS assessment, the northernmost senior pitch at Bowdon Rugby Union Football Club has since been sold from what was in fact private ownership to another private owner which operates the adjacent Hale Country Club and Spa site. The pitch continues to be used by Bowdon RUFC under the same agreement as the Hale Country Club and Spa pitch, however use of both pitches remains unsecure with no formal agreement in place.
- ◀ Altrincham Kersal RFC was in September 2018 granted planning permission for the erection of a single storey extension to its existing building to form a new entrance and club Shop, as well erection of new changing room.
- ◀ Development of a new clubhouse and changing facilities at Sale Sports Club has benefitted Manchester Village Spartans RFC which is a member section and regular site user, accessing pitches on the adjacent Clarendon Crescent.

Table 1.5: Current rugby union team demand using pitches in Trafford (2018/19 season)

Team play	Number of rugby union teams			
	Senior		Juniors	Mini
	Male	Female		
Altrincham Kersal RFC	4	1	6	6
Ashton on Mersey RFC	1	-	1	6
Bowdon RUFC	3	-	6	6
Carrington RFC	2	-		-
Manchester Village Spartans RFC	3	-		-
Sale Rugby FC	2	-	6	6
Sale Sharks RFC	2	-		-
Trafford MV RFCC	3	-	5	6
University of Salford	2	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>

- ◀ There has been a growth of five teams overall; two junior teams and three mini rugby teams. Demand at senior level has remained static, including for women's teams of which there are still two at Altrincham Kersal RFC and University of Salford.

## 1.5: Rugby league

- ◀ The only rugby league club identified as being based in Trafford, South Trafford Raiders, is believed to have folded.
- ◀ Consequently, there is no now club based activity generated from within Trafford, with only Swinton Lions RLFC still playing in the Borough, importing demand from Salford in order to meet RFL league requirements at Sale Football Club.
- ◀ This has meant a reduction in the number of teams playing rugby league in Trafford from six to just one, which itself is imported demand.
- ◀ It is assumed that pitches at both Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College and Wellacre Academy still exist for school use.

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

## 1.6: Hockey

### Supply and demand

- There has been no change in supply of full size AGPs for hockey use in Trafford.
- A new full size AGP for hockey was however developed at The Manchester Grammar School (Manchester) in December 2018 which is accessible to Trafford based teams. The pitch is available for community use and is used on an ad hoc basis when required as an overspill facility by Brooklands MU HC, which is based between Brooklands Sports Club and the Armitage Centre, the latter located opposite The Manchester Grammar School.
- Sale HC continues to displace demand for both matches and training into Manchester.
- There are now seven clubs based in Trafford (inclusive of displaced Sale HC), as the University of Salford HC now uses the AGP at Timperley Cricket, Hockey & Lacrosse Club for matches. However, this has no impact on peak time capacity as matches are played on Wednesday afternoons, whilst midweek training continues to take place at Albion Academy in Salford in the evenings.

Table 1.6: Current membership participation figures for hockey in Trafford (2018/19 season)

Name of club	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Total members		Trend
					2018/19	2016/17	
Bowdon HC	161	252	102	51	566	620	-8.8%
Brooklands MU HC	333	0	113	0	446	373	+20%
Brooklands Poynton HC	0	66	0	96	162	206	-21.4%
Sale HC <sup>4</sup>	50	43	78	68	239	206	+16%
Timperley HC	99	111	153	115	478	417	+15%
University of Salford HC	0	0	22	22	44	N/A	N/A
Urmston HC	0	0	47	18	65	161	-60%
<b>Totals</b>	161	252	102	51	2,000	1,983	-1% <sup>5</sup>

Table 1.7: Current hockey team demand using AGPs in Trafford (2018/19 season)

Name of club	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Bowdon HC	8	7	3	3
Brooklands MU HC	7	-	-	-
Brooklands Poynton HC	-	4	-	-
Timperley HC	8	8	10	8
University of Salford HC	1	1	-	-
Urmston HC	3	3	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>

- The number of senior teams requiring AGPs on Saturdays has increased overall from 47 to 50 and no additional capacity has been created, whilst Sale HCC remains displaced.

## 1.7: Other sports

<sup>4</sup> Teams continue to be displaced into Manchester due to a lack of available capacity for hockey matches and training in Trafford.

<sup>5</sup> Total participation trend excludes University of Salford HC which did not previously play in Trafford.

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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## **Softball**

- ◀ The loss of facilities would at the former Powerleague site will also have a sizable impact on the Manchester Indoor Softball League which makes use of the site as a winter play offer, again as a central venue.
- ◀ The aforementioned proposed changes to the Powerleague site (see 1.1: Football) would result in a loss of pitches used by the Manchester Indoor Softball League. The league uses five pitches (of which three are proposed for loss) on Tuesday evenings between 7-9pm.
- ◀ The league runs throughout the winter season and has 16 teams playing in two divisions of eight. It also operates single sex leagues on Saturdays from 3-5.30pm for women (four teams) and men (three teams) making use of two pitches.
- ◀ The league is the biggest indoor softball league in the north west and as well as the regular fixtures hosts occasional competition events at weekends using the same facility.

## **Lacrosse**

- ◀ There have been no significant identified changes to lacrosse provision in Trafford.

## **1.8: Tennis**

- ◀ Tennis For Free, a national charity, is now engaged in Trafford in partnership with the Council.
- ◀ Coaches run sessions at John Leigh Park in Altrincham, Ashton Park in Sale, Stamford Park in Hale and Davyhulme Park in Urmston. Participants can access courts and coaching for free, with all equipment provided.
- ◀ The Council is presently working in partnership with the LTA to explore opportunities to develop the municipal tennis offer in parks in the Borough through the LTA Transforming British Tennis Together<sup>6</sup> capital investment programme.
- ◀ Core principles of the programme and successful capital bids include plans to increase both the number of covered or floodlit courts and plans to implement online booking and a simple court access system in the venue network.
- ◀ Sale Sports Club was successful in achieving planning permission in 2018 for the development of an indoor tennis centre at Sale Sports Club including associated facilities. This is linked to the already completed replacement of the previous clubhouse with a new building.

## **1.9: Bowling greens**

- ◀ There have been no significant identified changes to bowling green provision in Trafford.

## **1.10: Athletics tracks**

- ◀ The Council has now identified 2022 as the point to which it is working to remove all local authority subsidy of athletics track facilities across the Borough. The three tracks continue to be managed and maintained by the resident clubs.
- ◀ Altrincham & District AC is working with the Council to develop a case to take on full management responsibility for the track at Timperley Recreation Ground through license agreement.

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<sup>6</sup>[www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/venue/tbtt/transforming-british-tennis-together-funding-guidelines.pdf](http://www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/venue/tbtt/transforming-british-tennis-together-funding-guidelines.pdf)

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

## PART 2: CONCLUSIONS

- ◀ The indicative positions identified for each sport within the Trafford PPS (2017) remain true.
- ◀ There has been no notable capital or partnership investment into facilities since. Developments or improvements have been to ancillary provision at club sites and have been club driven; either self-funded or through enabling development.
- ◀ There has been no identified change to local authority maintenance regimes or withdrawal of local authority (Trafford Leisure) managed supply for formal outdoor sport.
- ◀ There has been a change strategic direction in the case of some sports, particularly football, with greater focus now being paid to opportunities at education rather than open playing field sites with regards to development of 3G pitch provision.
- ◀ Identified demand across the sports has remained approximately static, notwithstanding increase/decrease at some individual clubs/age groups.

*Table 1.8: Sport by sport conclusion of updated position*

Sport/pitch type	Capacity shortfall	Concluding/reviewed position
Football (grass)	<b>Yes</b>	No notable changes to supply or quality. No Football Foundation investment into Trafford since. Steps have been taken at some club sites to establish plans for maintenance/qualitative improvement but not yet undertaken. Demand remains strong for football.
Football (3G pitches)	<b>Yes</b>	No changes to supply or quality. No Football Foundation investment into Trafford since. New methodology for calculating 3G pitch requirement has increased the shortfall to critical level relative to level of football demand. Full size 3G pitch shortfalls may be exacerbated in the short-term by anticipated loss of heavily used indoor small sided 3G pitches.
Rugby Union	<b>Yes</b>	No notable changes to supply or quality. Clubs progression schemes for self-driven improvements to ancillary provision. Quality issues and need for increased maintenance and floodlighting remain. Less pitches with security of tenure than previously. Sufficient demand still exists for dedicated World Rugby 3G pitch provision.
Rugby League		Demand can now be met – demand declined, now only semi-professional level activity in the Borough able to be sustained.
Cricket	<b>Yes</b>	Shortfalls increased due to deeper level of analysis. Some reduction in capacity due to change in capacity guidance applicable to some sites. Some club funded improvement to clubhouse/pavilion provision has been made, New strategic priorities around women's and girls cricket and softball festival to consider with regards to facility suitability.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	<b>Yes</b>	No notable changes to supply or quality. Requirement remains for additional pitch provision to reaccomodate displaced demand Competition with football training for training capacity still a key issue influenced by lack of 3G pitches in the Borough.
Lacrosse		No change from 2017 position – demand can be met

## TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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<b>Sport/pitch type</b>	<b>Capacity shortfall</b>	<b>Concluding/reviewed position</b>
Gaelic sports		No change from 2017 position – demand can be met
Bowling		No change from 2017 position – demand can be met
Tennis		No change from 2017 position – club demand can be met but opportunities exist to grow municipal participation in open spaces and parks.
Athletics		No change from 2017 position – demand can be met quantitatively but there is still need for qualitative improvements.

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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## PART 3: STRATEGIC CONTEXT (2019)

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

### National context

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

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

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀
- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

### ***Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)***

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period. The Strategy is presently in draft and is due for publication in 2018.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

## *Local Football Facility Plans*

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

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

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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## ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

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

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.

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

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

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

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

### ***Grow and nurture the core***

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

### ***Inspire through elite teams***

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

### ***Make cricket accessible***

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

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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## ***Engage children and young people***

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

## ***Transform women's and girls' cricket***

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

## ***Support our communities***

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

## ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7's offering

## ***The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy***

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

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

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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The RFL Facilities Trust website [www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk) provides further information on:

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

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

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

## ***Rugby League World Cup ‘Inspired by 2021’ Legacy Programme***

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021’s ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

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

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

## ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters 2013***

The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation’s pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation
2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

## *Club participation*

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

## ***England Hockey Strategy***

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

**Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

**Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

## 1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

## 2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

## 3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

### ***British Tennis Strategy 2019***

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

**Vision:** tennis opened up

**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 from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
  - ◀ The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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## 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.

## ***British Crown Green Bowling Association***

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://bcgba.org.uk/index.html>

## ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond***

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

## ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

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

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

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

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

## ***UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)***

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future "running" facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and

# TRAFFORD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY - REVIEW

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Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

**Key outcomes:**

- ◀ Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- ◀ Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- ◀ Increased talent pool
- ◀ Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- ◀ Securing the long term future of existing facilities
- ◀ More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- ◀ Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- ◀ Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

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## PART 4: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIO

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2026 (in line with the emerging Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator (NDC) 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 (TGRs) 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.

Experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created, though Trafford Council adopted policy requires provision from residential developments of 300 or more for outdoor sport. For large scale developments, it is likely that demand will be potentially generated for larger sports such as football and/or cricket. Consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and carparking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long-term sustainable provision for pitch sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The PPS Action Plan, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenario below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of 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.

The indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.4<sup>7</sup> per dwelling. The indicative figures will be applied a scenario projecting demand to 2037, based on the population figures contained within the draft Greater Manchester Strategic Framework (GMSF) as follows:

### ◀ **Scenario: Proposed draft GMSF housing requirement of 19,280 forecasted to 2037.**

Please note that the scenario can be updated as required over the Local Plan period throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections and projections, changes in the housing requirement and change in the average household size.

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<sup>7</sup> Based on information from the 2011 Census

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The number of pitches required in the following tables has been rounded up or down accordingly, however, capital and revenue costs are based on indicative pitch costs, proportionate to the total match equivalent sessions required rather than just whole pitches required. Though increases in match sessions for some sports are not sufficient to warrant the creation of new pitches, the associated costs have been incorporated and investment into alternative sites could instead be considered to increase capacity to accommodate this new demand.

### **Scenario: Proposed draft GMSF housing requirement of 19,280 forecasted to 2037**

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2018-2037 is 46,272 (based on 19,280 dwellings being delivered). This population increase equates to 52.06 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 7.03 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 197.48 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 93.86 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 19.15 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 5.76 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

*Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from GMSF housing growth (2018 – 2037)*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2037)	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>8</sup>	Training demand <sup>9</sup>
Adult football	8.98	93.86 hours
Youth football	21.08	
Mini soccer	16.88	
Rugby union	5.02	5.76 MES per week
Rugby league	0.1	0.1 MES per week
Adult hockey	4.68	14.05 hours
Junior & mixed U10 hockey	2.34	5.1 hours
Cricket	197.48 per season	-

<sup>8</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>9</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (2019 – 2037)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches		
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>10</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>11</sup>
Adult football	9	£824,034	£173,871
Youth football	21	£1,612,240	£338,570
Mini soccer	17	£430,428	£90,390
Rugby union	5	£691,920	£148,071
Rugby league	0	£10,947	£2,419
Cricket	4	£1,227,734	£248,002
<b>Natural grass pitches total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>£4,797,304</b>	<b>£1,001,324</b>
Sand based AGP	1	£1,138,189	£90,021
3G pitch	2	£2,481,661	£35,284
<b>Artificial Grass Pitches total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>£3,619,850</b>	<b>£125,305</b>

Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide 67.6 additional changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of additional changing provision is £11,290,173.

<sup>10</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>11</sup> 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)