

**CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY &
ACTION PLAN**

STAGE E REPORT

JANUARY 2022

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
HEADLINE FINDINGS FROM THE ASSESSMENT (2018)	2
OVERARCHING CHANGES SINCE THE 2018 PPS	5
SPORT BY SPORT UPDATES.....	7
STRATEGIC CONTEXT UPDATED	24
DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE	35

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Stage E Review for the three Central Lancashire authorities of Chorley, Preston and South Ribble and its partners.

This report serves to identify key changes that have occurred, and actions undertaken, including any consequent change in strategic position, since the adoption of the Strategy & Action Plan in 2018.

The evidence base for the Strategy was initially produced through the Assessment Report dated 2018 and was produced 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 major demand changes, as well as known changes to quantity or quality of pitch supply, it does not represent a renewed capacity analysis.

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steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.'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.'

As outlined within Stage E, this review seeks to identify the following:

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

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

HEADLINE FINDINGS FROM THE ASSESSMENT (2018)

The following table highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all sports included in the PPS Assessment Report 2018. For pitch sports both spare capacity and shortfalls are quantified in match equivalent sessions (MES) per week (or per season for cricket).

Central Lancashire

Sport	Local authority	Current picture (MES ¹)	Future picture (2036 ²)
Football (grass pitches)	Chorley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Adult pitches have spare capacity of 2 MES per week ◀ Youth 11v11 pitches overplayed by 2 MES per week ◀ Youth 9v9 pitches have spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week ◀ Mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity of 1.5 MES per week ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity of 2 MES per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Adult pitches have spare capacity of 1 MES per week ◀ Youth 11v11 pitches overplayed by 12 MES per week ◀ Youth 9v9 pitches overplayed by 1 MES per week ◀ Mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week
	Preston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Adult pitches are overplayed by 6.5 MES per week ◀ Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 1 MES per week ◀ Youth 9v9 pitches at capacity ◀ Mini 7v7 pitches are overplayed by 1 MES per week ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Adult pitches are overplayed by 6.5 MES per week ◀ Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 2 MES per week ◀ Youth 9v9 pitches at capacity ◀ Mini 7v7 pitches are overplayed by 1 MES per week ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are overplayed by 5 MES per week
	South Ribble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Adult pitches have spare capacity of 2 MES per week ◀ Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 6 MES per week ◀ Youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 MES per week ◀ Mini 7v7 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 MES per week ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Adult pitches have spare capacity of 1MES per week ◀ Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 10 MES per week ◀ Youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 6.5 MES per week ◀ Mini 7v7 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 MES per week ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are overplayed by 8.5 MES per week
	Central Lancashire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Adult pitches are overplayed by 1.5 MES per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Adult pitches are overplayed by 3.5 MES per week

¹ Match equivalent sessions

² Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Sport	Local authority	Current picture (MES ¹)	Future picture (2036 ²)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 8 MES per week ◀ Youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 1 MES per week ◀ Mini 7v7 pitches are overplayed by 1 MES per week ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity of 1 MES per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 23 MES per week ◀ Youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 7.5 MES per week ◀ Mini 7v7 pitches are overplayed by 2 MES per week ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are overplayed by 15 MES per week
Football (3G pitches) ³	Chorley	◀ Shortfall of 4 full sized 3G pitches for team training	◀ Shortfall of 5 full sized 3G pitches for team training
	Preston	◀ Shortfall of 2 full sized 3G pitches for team training	◀ Shortfall of 2 full sized 3G pitches for team training
	South Ribble	◀ Shortfall of 1 full sized 3G pitches for team training	◀ Shortfall of 2 full sized 3G pitches for team training
	Central Lancashire	◀ Shortfall of 7 full sized 3G pitches for team training	◀ Shortfall of 9 full sized 3G pitches for team training
Rugby union (senior pitches)	Chorley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches at capacity ◀ Mini pitches at capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches at capacity ◀ Mini pitches at capacity
	Preston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are at capacity ◀ Mini pitches have spare capacity of 1 MES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are at capacity ◀ Mini pitches have spare capacity of 1 MES
	South Ribble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES ◀ Mini pitches are at capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by 1.5 MES ◀ Mini pitches are at capacity
	Central Lancashire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES ◀ Mini pitches have spare capacity of 1 MES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES ◀ Mini pitches have spare capacity of 1 MES
Rugby league (senior pitches)	Chorley	◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by 4.5 MES	◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by five MES
	Preston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches at capacity ◀ Junior pitches at capacity ◀ Mini pitches at capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches at capacity ◀ Junior pitches at capacity ◀ Mini pitches at capacity
	South Ribble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by 3 MES ◀ Junior pitches are at capacity ◀ Spare capacity of 1 MES on mini pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by 2.5 MES ◀ Junior pitches are at capacity ◀ Spare capacity of 0.75 MES on mini pitches
	Central Lancashire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by 3 MES ◀ Junior pitches are at capacity ◀ Mini pitches have spare capacity of 1 MES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Senior pitches are overplayed by 7.5 MES ◀ Junior pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES ◀ Mini pitches have spare capacity of 0.25 MES
Cricket	Chorley	◀ Spare capacity of 44 match equivalent sessions per season	◀ Spare capacity of 26 match equivalent sessions per season

³ Based on accommodating 38 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Sport	Local authority	Current picture (MES ¹)	Future picture (2036 ²)
	Preston	◀ Shortfall of 62 match equivalent sessions per season	◀ Shortfall of 72 match equivalent sessions per season
	South Ribble	◀ Shortfall of 64 match equivalent sessions per season	◀ Shortfall of 64 match equivalent sessions per season
	Central Lancashire	◀ Shortfall of 82 match equivalent sessions per season	◀ Shortfall of 110 match equivalent sessions per season
Hockey	Chorley	◀ Sufficient capacity to accommodate current level of demand. There is a need to resurface poor quality pitches meaning that other pitches should be retained as hockey suitable surfaces in the meantime.	◀ Sufficient capacity to accommodate current level of demand. There is a need to resurface poor quality pitches meaning that other pitches should be retained as hockey suitable surfaces in the meantime.
	Preston	◀ There is capacity in Preston to accommodate current demand; however, the pitch at Preston Sports Club does need resurfacing meaning that all hockey suitable AGPs should be retained.	◀ Demand can be met by current provision; particularly with Garstang HC relocating to Wyre District, increasing the amount of available capacity.
	South Ribble	◀ There is sufficient level of supply across South Ribble	◀ There are sufficient level of supply across South Ribble
	Central Lancashire	◀ There is sufficient levels of supply across Central Lancashire; however, there is a need to improve both quality and accessibility.	◀ There is sufficient levels of supply across Central Lancashire; however, there is a need to improve both quality and accessibility.
Tennis courts	Central Lancashire	◀ Although there are a sufficient supply of courts at all sites across Central Lancashire; there is a need to utilise the spare capacity on non-club community available courts to actualise substantial amounts of latent demand.	◀ Although there are a sufficient supply of courts at all sites across Central Lancashire; there is a need to utilise the spare capacity on non-club community available courts to actualise substantial amounts of latent demand.
Bowling greens	Central Lancashire	◀ Demand can be met with retained level of access	◀ Demand can be met with retained level of access
Athletics	Central Lancashire	◀ Demand can be met in Preston and South Ribble with retained access; however, there is insufficient provision for levels of demand within Chorley	◀ Demand can be met in Preston and South Ribble with retained access; however, there is insufficient provision for levels of demand within Chorley
Cycling	Central Lancashire	◀ Demand can be met with retained level of access	◀ Demand can be met with retained level of access
Golf	Central Lancashire	◀ Demand can be met with retained level of access	◀ Demand can be met with retained level of access

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

OVERARCHING CHANGES SINCE THE 2018 PPS

Since the production to the PPS, in addition to alterations for specific sites and sports, there has been overarching changes for each Authority which are referenced below.

Chorley

The most significant changes in Chorley since the production of the PPS is the development of West Way Playing Fields. The site is near completion and is planned to be officially opened in Summer 2021 and will consist of one adult and two 9v9 football pitches, one full size floodlit FA compliant 3G pitch, a compact 100m athletics track with pits and relevant carparking and ancillary provision.

There has also been investment by the Council in pitch enhancement at Kem Mill Lane and at Whittle, Brinscall, Croston and Euxton including specialist equipment, supported by the LFA and FF.

Preston

Preston City Council, following the completion of the PPS, commissioned a detailed Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. This is going through the final stages and is anticipated to be adopted in 2021. The document outlines the Council's vision to provide high quality, sustainable green spaces which are safe, enjoyable and accessible for all. It also lists a series of objectives designed to improve all sites, underpinned by a vision and a list of ambitions, which the City Council will aim to deliver over the next ten years. The eight strategic sites referenced are:

- ◀ Ashton Park
- ◀ Avenham and Miller Park
- ◀ Grange Park and Grange Valley
- ◀ Haslam Park and Local Nature Valley Reserve
- ◀ London Road Recreation Ground and Fishwick Local Nature Reserve
- ◀ Moor Park
- ◀ Ribbleton (Waverley) Park
- ◀ Winckley Square Gardens

This Stage E document, and the Central Lancashire PPS, should work in cohesion with the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and Local Football Facilities Plan (referenced below) to deliver the recommendations made at the eight strategic sites. Primarily for playing pitches and outdoor sporting facilities this refers to Ashton Park, Haslam Park, London Road Recreation Ground, Moor Park and Ribbleton Park. There have also been investment secured for grass pitch improvements in several sites across Preston in conjunction with the LFA, FF and Council.

South Ribble

In general, most provision within South Ribble has remained the same since the completion of the PPS. The most significant change occurred in early 2021 with planning permission granted for the development of the Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre. This included the creation of two full size floodlit 3G pitches. The completion of this development is anticipated to be mid to late 2021 with them hopefully being open for the start of the Spring 2022 football season.

Local Football Facilities Plan

Since the completion of the PPS in 2018 the Football Association has produced a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for each local authority area.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy (NGS), the FA completed a nationwide consultancy project. Over the course of the two years to spring 2020, a LFFP was produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation. These are being led on pro-actively by the Lancashire FA and partners will be involved in updates.

Each 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, Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

The LFFPs for Central Lancashire built upon PPS findings regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors).

LFFPs identified 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. A link to each authority's LFFP can be found below:

Link to Chorley LFFP: <https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/chorley/chorley-local-football-facility-plan/>

Link to Preston LFFP: <https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/preston/preston-local-football-facility-plan/>

Link to South Ribble LFFP: <https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/south-ribble/south-ribble-local-football-facility-plan/>

It should be noted that each LFFP should be updated (in the future) based on the findings of this document.

COVID-19 Pandemic

It should be noted that throughout 2020 and 2021 there has been a global pandemic due to the spread of Covid-19. This resulted in England entering into unprecedented restrictions that have fluctuated over the course of the last 12/18-months. At various points in time, grassroots sports have been halted, leading to truncated seasons and changes to way leagues have operated. This has had direct consequence on the supply of and demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities with limited changes occurring since the completion of the Central Lancashire PPS. This being said any alterations are referenced in the document below.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

SPORT BY SPORT UPDATES

Following consultation with each of the NGBs and each Council, this section serves to evidence any significant changes to the supply and demand position for each sport and to highlight any new opportunities and the need for updated recommendations/actions for the Strategy.

Football – grass pitches

2018 position

The table below summarises the supply and demand analysis of grass football pitches across Central Lancashire as a whole.

Table 1.1: Summary of supply and demand for football pitches across Central Lancashire (2018)

Central Lancashire	Actual spare capacity ⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Adult	15.5	18	-2.5	2	-4.5
Youth 11v11	3	12	-9	15	-24
Youth 9v9	5.5	6.5	-1	6.5	-7.5
Mini 7v7	7	8	-1	1	-2
Mini 5v5	2	-	2	16	-14

In 2018 there was an overall shortfall on all pitch types across Central Lancashire apart from on the mini 5v5 pitch type. When accounting for future demand from both TGRs and club aspirational demand shortfalls became evident on all pitch types, as well as worsening on the above-mentioned overplay.

Stage E

Chorley

Since production of the Strategy a handful of improvements have been made to football pitches in Chorley including the enhancement of pitch quality at Holy Cross High School and Twin Lakes, Croston which will enhance the overall capacity for the Authority. Therefore, the pitch improvements referenced against these in the Strategy are complete.

As mentioned above, there will also be an adult pitch and two 9v9 pitches established at the West Way development which will go to further increase the playing capacity within Chorley. Brinscall Village JFC is also in the process of acquiring a lease for an adjacent field in order to create a youth 11v11 pitch and will be putting in a funding bid once tenure has been secured. Assistance should be given to each of these developments where applicable.

Further to this Chorley FC has recently expressed aspirations to the Council and plans to convert its main grass pitch to a hybrid pitch in order for it to withstand more capacity. It should be noted, however, this ambition is still in its infancy. CFA reports there have been no further development or progress on Hybrid options within Lancashire.

⁴ In match equivalent sessions per week

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Most of the remaining sites that have grass football pitches in Chorley are considered to have remained the same or had little change, apart from the aforementioned sites which have been invested in, therefore the recommendations made in the Central Lancashire PPS Strategy & Action Plan are still up to date.

Preston

Unlike Chorley, which has had an increase in capacity, the overall capacity for Preston has significantly decreased due to issues situated at Preston Sports Arena (UCLAN) and Ashton Park.

Since the completion of the PPS in 2018 the grass football pitches at Preston Sports Arena (UCLAN) have changed from available for community use to not available for community use.

In total six adult pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch will be unavailable for community use from the start of the 2021 season. This will result in a total of 28.5 match equivalent sessions per week of demand needing to find suitable alternative provision.

Further to this, the total number of pitches at Ashton Park has reduced from four youth 11v11 and four youth 9v9 pitches to just three youth 9v9 pitches. The Council has stopped maintaining four youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch for a couple of seasons resulting in them becoming disused. It has done this as the area land, where pitches were located, was historically used for agricultural purposes. Further to this there is no drainage on the site which results in the land becoming waterlogged. This has resulted in attempts to sustain pitches to be extremely difficult and expensive.

It should be noted the Council plans to improve the quality of pitch provision on the site, including the reinstatement of the pitches. This is based on relevant funding being secured for the overall implementation of the Ashton Park Masterplan.

The loss pitch provision at UCLAN and Ashton Park has significantly increased the overall shortfall of pitch provision in Preston with the Council currently trying to partly address this issue with the following improvements.

Sherwood Park is currently undergoing drainage improvements for the start of the 2021 season which will see the pitch quality for one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches improve from poor to good quality. ***(As of October 2021 this is now operational).***

South Drive, which was in the process of establishing pitches in the PPS, will now accommodate a new youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch for the start of the 2021 season. This is linked to the mitigation of tennis provision at Moor Park and will be referenced in greater detail later in the document. ***(These pitches are establishing at present after construction).***

One of the main clubs to be displaced by the stopping of community use at UCLAN, Sir Tom Finney FC, is working with the Council to reinstate pitch provision at King George V Playing Field, Broughton. The site is being drained and will be usable for the 2021 season with Club offering an initial one year rolling lease on the site with the potential for a longer term agreement. ***(This has now been achieved and the site and club have been successful in securing funding support from the Football Foundation, towards the maintenance of the site.)***

Although the Council is actively trying to alleviate the identified shortfalls of grass football provision in the City, due to the removal of supply at UCLAN and Ashton Park, there is a clear need for further developments in order to establish additional capacity.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Therefore, assistance should be given to the Council in order to develop/reinstate pitch provision to reduce shortfalls further. Focus should be aimed at the sites identified in the PPS and Park and Green Spaces Strategy and LFFP including Ashton Park, London Road Recreation Ground and Ribbleton Park.

South Ribble

There has been an overall increase in capacity for South Ribble since the previous PPS. The main reason behind this has been the reinstatement of pitches at Penwortham Holme and the improvement of quality of pitches at Worden Park through drainage works.

Central Lancashire conclusion

There has been an increase in capacity for grass football pitches in both Chorley and South Ribble, however, there has been a substantial reduction in capacity in Preston due to the change in availability of pitches for community use at UCLAN and Ashton Park. There is a clear need to address this issue of capacity within Preston. Where possible assistance should be given to Preston City Council to create further capacity through the creation of new provision or by improving the quality of current provision. Any such developments should take under consideration the strategic sites referenced in the Councils other strategic document such as its Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and LFFP.

Several sites in both Chorley and South Ribble, operated by the local authorities are yet to re-engage/update with the FA Pitch Improvement Programme. Lancashire FA would encourage those key sites to engage via the Pitch Power process, so regular reports and monitoring can be actioned, aiming to enhance the quality and maintain the ability to accommodate match play. This will also assist greatly grassroots clubs to consider partnerships on those sites.

Given the above, there have been some changes in the recommendations from the Central Lancashire PPS Strategy & Action Plan. Any changes are highlighted in bold text.

Recommendations

- ◀ **Assist Preston City Council to alleviate newly identified shortfalls due to the loss of access to provision at UCLAN and Ashton Park which could be through the creation of new provision, improvement of current provision and/or creation of 3G pitches. Ensure this aligns with the Councils overarching strategies within the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and LFFP.**
- ◀ **Assist Chorley Council in completion of the West Way development.**
- ◀ **Lancashire FA would encourage those key sites to engage via the Pitch Power process, so regular reports and monitoring can be actioned, aiming to enhance the quality and maintain the ability to accommodate match play. This will also assist greatly grassroots clubs to consider partnerships on those sites.**
- ◀ Existing quantity of football pitches to be protected, except for where low value/single pitch sites are considered suitable to be rationalised on the condition that re-provision of playing field land elsewhere represents a preferable and greater benefit to sport (any loss of sites would need to be replaced in accordance with the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and rated as standard or poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. This to be done in liaison and partnership with the Lancashire FA via the FA Pitch Improvement Programme.
- ◀ Look to utilise actual spare capacity expressed on sites in order to cater for current and future demand. This may require improvements to pitch quality and is explored on a site by site basis within the accompanying action plan.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

- ◀ With future development of new full sized 3G pitches, secure and maximise community use for match play in order to accommodate future shortfalls.
- ◀ Improve, provide and increase access to changing facilities which serve football pitches and ensure any works are suitable for female and disability.
- ◀ Consider potential and feasibility for asset transfer, long-term leasehold or licence agreements to clubs which express interest and are considered realistically able to sustain and maintain sporting provision as required, allowing for greater opportunities to access external funding streams for facility development.
- ◀ Explore the creation of a dedicated bank of maintenance equipment which can be utilised by all three local authorities to assist in the improvement of Council pitches. If created, allow for the equipment to be hired by clubs at a reduced cost.⁵
- ◀ **Assist in development plans at Croston Sports Club where appropriate.**
- ◀ **Explore the feasibility of converting Chorley FC grass pitch to a hybrid pitch in order to increase capacity.**
- ◀ **Work with the FA/FF and other partners to ensure that the LFFP for each Council area is updated following the sign off of the Stage E document.**

Football – 3G pitches

2018 position

The tables below considered where the additional 3G pitches were required, based on the FA training demand modelling using **2017/18 affiliation data**.

Table 1.2: Current demand for 3G pitches by local authority (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ⁶	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Chorley	195	5.13 - 5	1	4
Preston	210	5.52 - 6	4	2
South Ribble	244	6.42 - 6	5	1

The greatest shortfall was in Chorley, amounting to four full size 3G pitches; however, there were also shortfalls, of two, in Preston and one in South Ribble. When considering future demand in the table below, the shortfall increased by two, one each in Chorley and South Ribble.

Table 1.3: Future demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Future number of teams	3G requirement ⁷	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Chorley	230	6.05 - 6	1	5
Preston	222	5.84 - 6	4	2
South Ribble	264	6.94 - 7	5	2

Since the completion of the PPS there have been several new factors to consider.

⁵ This area needs further discussion as to the practicalities and logistics. The geographical reach may be problematic and would suggest that if such a partnership is to take place then developmental feasibility takes place with all key partners. (CFA, LA, FA, FF)

⁶ Rounded to the nearest whole number

⁷ Rounded to the nearest whole number

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Stage E

It should be noted that the below is based on above mentioned shortfalls of 3G pitches using 2017/18 affiliation data. **Lancashire FA reports that current levels of demand across each of the three authorities are similar enough to make the following recommendations.**

The LFA reports that teams who are traditionally based in each of these authorities are migrating between each of the areas to access suitable pitch space and quality. This further stressed by sites that are not FA/FF 3G registered although the CFA are playing a proactive role in getting those sites supported, to be tested and have specifically targeted those across all three areas.

Chorley

Since the PPS it has been confirmed that one full size floodlit 3G will be created as part of the West Way development. With increases in demand there is now a shortfall of five 3G pitches in Chorley.

The current focus from the Council is for any new 3G provision to be located at educational sites to better cater for curricular, extracurricular and community demand including but not limited to Albany Science College and Holy Cross High School (possible conversion from AGPs dependent upon clarifying its need for hockey albeit Chorley FC already has extensive use of Albany Science College for training).

Chorley Council has explored the feasibility of a 3G pitch at King George V in Adlington and concluded that it is not viable. Therefore, the LFFP should be updated with the following possible sites for further investigation:

- ◀ Westway
- ◀ Jim Fowlers – Euxton Villa
- ◀ Chinsnall Rugby (Chorley Panthers)

Preston

Preston has seen an increase in the overall shortfall of full size 3G pitches from two to three. This is due to UCLAN ceasing community access to its football provision (both grass and 3G pitches). ***It should be noted the University has also converted one of its full size AGPS to a 3G. The only community users of this pitch are Sir Tom Finney FC and Preston North End Women's Juniors and it is therefore not considered widely available for community use.***

There has been the construction of one smaller size 3G pitch (9v9 / 79m x 52m) at Christ the King School (planning permission granted 5/7/2019 ref 06/2019/0196, however, this is not considered towards the shortfall because the provision generally could not adequately accommodate purposeful training activity and would not be encouraged by the FA.

Alternative sites and those that are listed within the LFFP May require review. There are several sites in the district which will need to be maintained to stay on the 3G register/ replaced in line with those sits plans.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

South Ribble

South Ribble has seen the most significant change in 3G provision since the completion of the PPS. Planning permission has recently been granted to create two full size 3G pitches at Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre (planning permission granted 15/1/2021 ref P07/2020/00881/FUL). These are anticipated to come online in 2021 and will alleviate the identified shortfall of 3G pitches in the Authority.

Given the above, there have been some changes in the recommendations from the Central Lancashire PPS Strategy & Action Plan. Any changes are highlighted in bold text.

Recommendations

- ◀ **Develop full sized 3G pitch equivalents with floodlighting to reduce evidenced shortfalls in Chorley with focus on education/club sites.**
- ◀ **Explore opportunities to create multi-pitch football hub sites where 3G provision is able to support grass pitches as a sustainable community offer within Preston inline with the Councils other strategic documents.**
- ◀ **Ensure pitches at Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre are built in order to fully alleviate 3G shortfalls in South Ribble.**
- ◀ Ensure new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommendations, so to maximise opportunities for use for all formats of competitive play.
- ◀ Certify and register all future 3G pitches and ensure they are maintained regularly as required to ensure they are of sufficient quality to meet performance standard testing for FA certification.
- ◀ With future development of new 3G pitches, secure and maximise community use for match play in order to accommodate future shortfalls. For example, as a condition of partnership investment or planning conditions.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have a mechanism in place which ensures the long-term sustainability of provision, such as an adequate sinking fund for repairs or resurfacing.
- ◀ Through the creation of new 3G pitches, consider options to deliver a wide variety of opportunities, for example, central venue, midweek flexi and vets leagues, as well as walking football and female development centres.

Cricket pitches

2018 position

There was an overall shortfall for senior cricket on grass wicket squares in Central Lancashire amounting to 82 match equivalent sessions per season which increases to 110 match equivalent sessions per season when accounting for future demand from both TGRs and club aspirational demand. See table overleaf.

There have been some changes at sites across Central Lancashire particularly regarding the number of wickets specific sites accommodated. The creation of additional wickets will in turn create additional capacity which will in turn alleviate overplay. It is recommended that a detailed re-examination of the supply and demand analysis will identify the exact impact this would have.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Table 1.4: Summary of supply and demand for senior cricket across Central Lancashire (2018)

Local authority	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Chorley	86	42	44	18	26
Preston	-	62	-62	10	-72
South Ribble	-	64	-64	-	-64
Central Lancashire	86	168	-82	28	-110

Stage E

The following changes referenced below are based on consultation with representatives from Lancashire Cricket Board (LCB). If not mentioned below, the findings from the PPS remain up to date.

Chorley

Quality of the square at Chorley Cricket Club has increased from standard to good.

Croston Sports Club has additional senior and junior wickets.

Brinscall Village Junior Football Club (Brinscall CC) is having in depth drainage report carried out. Furthermore, its practice facilities need improving.

Hoghton CC has received some advice on improvements required for its practice facilities.

Whittle and Clayton-le-Wood CC is in the process of securing a new lease with Primrose Developments for the use of Whittle and Clayton-le-Wood Cricket Club. Once tenure has been secured the Club will look for S106 monies to make improvements to outfield drainage and poor quality ancillary provision.

Bretherton Cricket Club has additional senior wickets.

Eccleston Cricket Club has additional senior wickets and is looking to increase levels of women's and girls' demand. This may include improvements to outfield drainage and ancillary provision.

Euxton CC is looking at potentially selling a parcel of land near its ground in order to develop ancillary provision. The site, Euxton Cricket Club, is currently undergoing a ball strike assessment.

Mawdesley Cricket Club practice facilities have been improved since the PPS and there are also additional senior wickets.

Preston

Fulwood & Broughton CC has bought land near to Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club in order to development provision. Its priority is creating additional training facilities, developing car parking, enhancing clubhouse provision and finally creating a second square.

Grimsargh Green has additional senior wickets.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Ingol CC has stopped using provision at Preston Grasshoppers RFC after merging with Freckleton CC in the neighbouring authority of Fylde. The grass wickets will no longer be maintained, however, the onsite NTP will still be used for midweek cricket. Due to nearby housing development a ball strike assessment may be needed in the future.

LCB reports Harris Park, which is in private ownership, should have cricket reinstated on the site to cater for future and imported demand. The site has not had cricket maintained since 2013.

The landowner is now proposing a 50-dwelling development on the site which has been opposed. The Park has a Conservation Order on it with the cricket field currently unusable but with investment could be brought back. LCB indicates there is a need for cricket in that part of Preston where there is still the “stable block” which has a changing room and bar, but again will need investment.

BAC/EE has issues with security of tenure as its current lease has run out. LCB reports there is an agreement on the site that as long as sport is still being played it will remain on the site. Preston City Council plans to protect community use on the site moving forward.

South Ribble

There have been significant developments surrounding Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club. The site has been divided in three parcels of land and sold by Bovis Holmes to two companies: Trafford Housing and Lane Ends. The former owns two of the three parcels of land which encompass the onsite factory whereas the latter owns the sporting facilities on the site including the fishing lake, cricket square, clubhouse and football pitches.

Lane Ends is now in conversations with South Ribble Borough Council to gift them the land. Once ownership has transferred, the Council reports it plans to invest in the site improving both ancillary and pitch provision. Also, the community clubs on the site, including Vernon Carus CC, are seeking security tenure but this is not yet formalised.

It should be noted that the area of land owned by Trafford Housing is planned to be developed for housing and a supermarket. This, to date, is planned to have no impact on the sporting provision.

There are ongoing plans for the landowner of Gregson Lane to sell parts of the site for housing and use some of the monies to invest in the Community Centre which accommodates the ancillary provision used by Gregson Lane CC. However, these plans have stalled with the landowner putting up temporary facilities whilst plans continue to evolve.

Walton-le-Dale CC recently reports aspirations to create a new ground.

Provision at Penwortham Sports and Social Club has improved from standard to good quality in addition to getting new practice facilities.

Training facilities at New Longton Sports & Social Club have been improved.

Fox Lane has additional senior and junior wickets. NGBs for all the sports on the site are also all working collectively to develop onsite ancillary provision to better cater for all types of demand such as women and girls.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Central Lancashire conclusion

There has been an increase in capacity for cricket within each of the three local authority due to quality improvements and/or creation of additional wickets at the following sites:

Chorley

- ◀ Chorley Cricket Club
- ◀ Croston Sports Club
- ◀ Bretherton Cricket Club
- ◀ Eccleston Cricket Club
- ◀ Mawdesley Cricket Club

Preston

- ◀ Grimsargh Green

South Ribble

- ◀ Penwortham Sports and Social Club
- ◀ Fox Lane

There have also been significant changes at Brinscall Village Junior Football Club, Whittle and Clayton-le-Wood CC, Eccleston Cricket Club, Euxton Cricket Club, Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club, BAC/EE, Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club and Fox Lane. Given the above, there have been some changes in the recommendations from the Central Lancashire PPS Strategy & Action Plan. Any changes are highlighted in bold text.

Recommendations

- ◀ Existing quantity of cricket pitches to be protected or be fully mitigated to meet National Planning Policy.
- ◀ **Explore the feasibility of reinstating cricket provision and accompanying ancillary facilities at Harris Park in order to cater for future and imported demand.**
- ◀ **Ensure the sporting facilities at Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club remain in use with ownership transferred to South Ribble Borough Council. Once ownership has been transferred ensure community clubs on site have long term security of tenure and clubhouse and pitch provision enhanced.**
- ◀ **Assist Fulwood & Broughton CC in the development of its site at Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club (Preston – North East) including the creation of an additional square and accompanying ancillary facilities.**
- ◀ **Assist in development plans at Croston Sports Club where appropriate.**
- ◀ Work in partnership with clubs in each local authority to secure long-term use of their respective sites.
- ◀ Encourage clubs to seek opportunities for funding to improving poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Examine the feasibility of installing an NTP in order to alleviate overplay on a site by site basis.
- ◀ Any new cricket provision created should have a ball strike assessment carried out as a matter of course. Where new housing or building developments are submitted for planning permission consideration should be given to the proximity of existing sports facilities or pitches. A ball strike risk assessment should be undertaken by the applicant and provided with the planning application submission, and if any mitigation is required it should be factored into the planning application, secured through either a planning

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

condition or section 106 agreement and be provided by the developer at the developers expense.

- ✦ Maintain and improve pitch quality through rigorous and regular maintenance, remedial and preparatory work, ensuring that clubs have sufficient access to the required equipment in order to do so.
- ✦ Deliver the All Stars Cricket and women & girls programmes and seek to increase junior and female participation as a result.

Rugby union pitches

2018 position

The presence of the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Preston Grasshoppers RFC to accommodate some match and training demand, alongside Leyland Warriors RFC and Chorley RFC not training on match pitches means that overplay in all three local authorities is minimal, with the only overplayed pitch located in South Ribble. The overleaf tables identify the overall supply and demand analysis for rugby union provision in Central Lancashire in 2018.

Table 1.5: Summary of supply and demand for senior pitches across Central Lancashire (2018)

Local authority	Actual spare capacity ⁸	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Chorley	-	-	-	-	-
Preston	-	-	-	-	-
South Ribble	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
Central Lancashire	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5

Overall, the shortfall of senior rugby union pitches in Central Lancashire totalled 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 1.6: Summary of supply and demand for mini pitches across Central Lancashire (2018)

Local authority	Actual spare capacity ⁹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Chorley	-	-	-	-	-
Preston	1	-	1	-	1
South Ribble	-	-	-	-	-
Central Lancashire	1	-	1	-	1

There is a sufficient supply of mini pitches in Central Lancashire, with one match equivalent session per week of actual spare capacity available during the peak period.

Stage E

The overall position for rugby union remains unchanged to that identified in the Strategy. Several projects were identified in the PPS, however, due to Covid-19, little of this has progressed.

⁸ In match equivalent sessions

⁹ In match equivalent sessions per week

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Recommendations

- ◀ Existing quantity of rugby union pitches to be protected or be fully mitigated to meet National Planning Policy.
- ◀ Assist Leyland Warriors RUFC in improving the maintenance regime on the pitches at Moss Side Recreation Ground in order to alleviate levels of identified overplay.
- ◀ Further to this, explore ways of improving security to reduce public access and anti social behaviour.
- ◀ In the longer term, install formal drainage on the rugby union pitch at Moss Side Recreation Ground (South Ribble) to prevent future shortfalls in supply.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights on either the pitch or a training area at Moss Side Recreation Ground to support Leyland Warriors RUFC training demand which is currently taking place on a medium pile 3G pitch at Runshaw College which is not WR compliant.
- ◀ Encourage use of the WR compliant 3G pitch at Preston Grasshoppers RFC by Leyland Warriors RUFC for training demand.
- ◀ Clarify the terms of the lease agreement that Chorley RUFC has at its home venue, Chancery Road, with The Chorley Community Trust.
- ◀ Further feasibility required to determine the need for creation of a WR compliant 3G pitch at Chancery Road or Chinsnall Rugby (Chorley Panthers).
- ◀ Support Preston Grasshoppers RFC to increase the number of changing rooms on site; and improve the quality of the existing provision ensuring that each changing room has ensuite facilities to support the continued growth of mini, junior, girls' and women's rugby union teams.
- ◀ Assist Leyland Warriors RUFC and Preston Grasshoppers RFC in the development of their respective women and girls' participation.
- ◀ Continue to develop strong relationships between rugby clubs and schools through curricular and extracurricular programmes in order to increase levels of mini and junior participation.
- ◀ Ensure all partners to collectively work together to ascertain the timescale for the redevelopment of Chorley RUFC sites and ensure that the facility is fit for purpose and that the rugby club have secure access.

Rugby league pitches

2018 position

The supply of senior, junior and primary grass rugby league pitches was insufficient to cater for the level of demand expressed in Chorley and South Ribble (which is reflective of where most provision and demand is located). However, supply in Preston met both current and future demand.

Stage E

The overall position for rugby league pitch provision remains unchanged to that identified in the Strategy. However, due to investment linked to the Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme and a future increase in access to 3G pitches in the Central Lancashire, there is likely to be reduced overplay on grass pitches with teams training and, in some instances, playing on 3G pitches. Transfer of training demand from match pitches was a key focus of the 2019 Strategy.

One significant change off the pitch is that Chorley Panthers RLFC obtained planning permission in 2019 to demolish its current clubhouse and erect a replacement facility.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect quality of existing rugby league pitch provision in Chorley, whilst improving the quality of those in South Ribble, particularly at Moss Side Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Encourage use of the rugby league pitch at Withy Grove Park (South Ribble) given that the pitch is no longer used now that Bamber Bridge ARLFC has now folded.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of creating a RFL Community Standard 3G pitch in Chorley at Chisnall Lane, which Chorley Panthers RLFC could manage and have a community use agreement.
- ◀ Support both Leyland Warriors RFC and Chorley Panthers RLFC in regard to membership retention and potential growth.
- ◀ **Assist where required with the construction of a new clubhouse for Chorley Panthers RLFC.**

Hockey suitable AGPs

2018 position

The 2018 PPS identified that the current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time, with an ability to meet current and future midweek (including for training) requirements across Central Lancashire. However, there was a need to address the quality of surfaces at Preston Sports Club, Buckshaw Village Community Association and Parklands high School.

Stage E

Since the production of the original Strategy & Action Plan there have been several changes for hockey across Central Lancashire.

The first of these is that the poor quality hockey suitable AGP at Preston Sports Club has now been refurbished and is good quality. Consultation with England Hockey indicates that the users of the site, Preston HC, is beginning to see levels of growth due to the refurbishment and may need to access a secondary venue in the near future to accommodate this demand.

Previous identified imported demand from Fylde HC and Garstang FC has now returned to the original authority creating additional capacity at UCLAN. Fylde HC has returned to Fylde Borough Council and is now playing at Fylde Sports & Education Centre, whereas, Garstang HC has returned to Wyre Council using provision at Garstang Community Academy.

The University has also converted one of its two full size hockey suitable AGPs to a 3G surface. Further, given that the University has ceased community use of its football pitches there could be a risk with long term security tenure being achieved at the site.

The hockey suitable pitch at Buckshaw Village Community Association, which is used by Leyland & Chorley HC, is still poor quality and in need of refurbishment.

Further to the above there has also been an increase in hockey demand, particularly within Chorley, with the creation of a new club; Chorley Pheonix HC. The Club identifies clear capacity and accessibility issues with most of the hockey suitable AGPs within Chorley and South Ribble and as a result reports it does not have any secure usage provision. Ideally the Club wants to play in Chorley but is open to playing outside of the area until relevant facilities are available. Issues with these pitches are outlined below:

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

- ◀ Buckshaw Village Community Association (Chorley) – at capacity (used by Leyland & Chorley HC) and poor quality
- ◀ Holy Cross High School (Chorley) – accessibility and capacity issues
- ◀ Parklands High School (Chorley) – poor quality due to issues during initial build
- ◀ St Mary's Catholic High School & College (South Ribble) – accessibility and capacity issues
- ◀ Walton-le-Dale Arts College and High School (South Ribble) – accessibility issues

Discussions with the Club, England Hockey, Chorley Council and South Ribble Borough Council indicates, in the first instance, a need to assist the Club in securing access to a pitch. The full size hockey suitable AGP at Walton-le-Dale Arts College and High School (South Ribble) is suggested as the best solution as it is good quality and has capacity, however, access issues need to be overcome with the School struggling with relevant staffing.

If access can be provided at Walton-le-Dale Arts College and High School in the short term this will provide time to address issues within the stock of hockey suitable AGPs within Chorley particularly at Holy Cross High School and Parklands High School. The long term objective is to provide the Club with a venue within Chorley which would mean the refurbishment of the pitch at Parklands High School or securing relevant access at Holy Cross High School. Both options are currently being investigated to see which is more feasible.

Given the above, there have been some changes in the recommendations from the Central Lancashire PPS Strategy & Action Plan. Any changes are highlighted in bold text.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the full sized hockey suitable AGPs currently used by community clubs in Central Lancashire as a hockey suitable surfaces.
- ◀ **Also look to protect the full size hockey suitable AGP at Broughton Business Enterprise College & High School for hockey and look to increase hockey demand on the site.**
- ◀ **If future demand warrants, look to secure community use for Preston HC at UCLAN as a secondary venue.**
- ◀ Explore funding opportunities to resurface the AGPs at Buckshaw Village Community Association as a key priority, in order for these to be retained as a hockey suitable surfaces of appropriate quality.
- ◀ **Short term - Assist in securing access to the hockey suitable AGP at Walton-le-Dale Arts College and High School for Chorley Pheonix HC.**
- ◀ **Long term – address identified quality, capacity and accessibility issues at either Parklands High School or Holy Cross High School in order to provide Chorley Pheonix HC with a suitable venue within Chorley.**
- ◀ Maximise use of capacity freed up from anticipated transfer of football training demand to anticipated new 3G pitches in order to grow hockey participation.
- ◀ Increase participation driven through community clubs and schools.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for sustainability such as a sinking fund, (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface repair or replacement when required) in place to maintain AGP pitch quality in the long-term.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Tennis courts

2018 position

The 2018 PPS identified that there is a sufficient supply of courts at all club sites across Central Lancashire; there is a need to utilise the spare capacity on non-club community available courts to actualise substantial amounts of latent demand. Therefore, the focus should be on improving court quality as well as providing a smoother booking system for potential users which can be achieved through programmes such as Clubspark.

Stage E

The overall position for tennis remains generally unchanged to that identified in the Strategy. The main change is seen within Preston based on additional works carried out by the City Council and the LTA.

The piece of work regards the disposal of four poor quality courts at Moor Park Avenue and reinvesting in tennis provision across the City. Pre the loss of courts at Moor Park Avenue there has already been investment into provision at Haslam Park, Ashton Park, Frenchwood Park and Moor Park (Blackpool Road) as partial mitigation.

Post the loss of the courts further investment will be made into tennis with improvement to Ashton Park and Moor Park. Other mitigation post the loss of provision includes investment into drainage at South Drive and Archbishop School for football.

It should be noted that the abovementioned mitigation pre the loss of provision at Moor Park Avenue has already taken place. The post mitigation is yet to take place as the agreement to develop the courts has fallen through during the Pandemic.

Given the above, there have been some changes in the recommendations from the Central Lancashire PPS Strategy & Action Plan. Any changes are highlighted in bold text.

Recommendations

- ◀ **Assist Preston City Council where possible in the disposal of the tennis courts at Moor Park and complete planned levels of mitigation.**
- ◀ **Assist in development plans at Croston Sports Club where appropriate.**
- ◀ Pursue the strategic development of tennis facilities and participation in each local authority through a holistic approach including tennis clubs, the LTA's Facilities Investment Strategy funding initiative and individual Councils.
- ◀ Develop a network of sustainable, fit for purpose and accessible community courts across each local authority, utilising the LTA's gate access and online technology systems.
- ◀ Seek to sustain the good quality courts in the authority, whilst concurrently seeking to increase the quality of standard and poor courts via improved maintenance and/or resurfacing.
- ◀ Seek to improve accessibility to Council courts through strategic investment into floodlighting and implementation of the LTA Clubspark system.
- ◀ Support tennis clubs in the development of ancillary facilities in each local authority.
- ◀ Assist community clubs in the refurbishment of courts once they begin to deteriorate in quality.
- ◀ Work with tennis clubs to maximise the usage of their facilities through pay and play.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Athletics

2018 position

The 2018 PPS identified there was suitable athletics provision in Preston and South Ribble to cater for demand, although there is a need to address quality issues on the athletics track at UCLAN. In comparison there was a strategic need to develop athletics provision in Chorley to cater for current and latent demand from Chorley Athletics and Triathlon Club.

Stage E

There have been two changes for athletics across Central Lancashire since the production of the PPS. The first one is the track at UCLAN dropping from standard to poor quality. This is something that was anticipated in the PPS, however, the recommendation for a refurbishment is now more significant.

The second change is the creation of compact athletics provision at the West Way development in Chorley. The site, which is set to open in 2021, will have a 100 metre sprint, long jump pit, storage containers, ancillary provision and floodlighting and will be the main home site for Chorley Athletics and Triathlon Club.

England Athletics reports this is a positive step forward for athletics in Central Lancashire with future plans to create further provision at West Way including a dedicated endurance loop around the site.

The following recommendations have been slightly updated to reflect the above changes with the relevant alterations highlighted in bold text.

Recommendations

- ◀ **As a priority look to refurbish the track at UCLAN to support the current and future growth of Preston Harriers. Furthermore, check the quality of surrounding ancillary provision, including floodlighting, and improve as required.**
- ◀ **Assist in the creation of dedicated athletics provision at West Ways in addition to providing long term tenure for Chorley Athletics and Triathlon Club on the site.**
- ◀ **Ensure enough suitable land is retained at the West Ways development to establish a dedicated endurance loop. This can be created as part of phased approach once the initial development is completed.**
- ◀ Support Preston Harriers and Chorley Athletics and Triathlon with plans to increase membership and community engagement.
- ◀ Assist Preston Harriers in accessing relevant winter training facilities.
- ◀ Support the running clubs and running events taking place as well as exploring the implementation of initiatives not currently serviced to increase participation in recreational running.

Golf

2018 position

It is considered that the current supply of facilities can meet current and future demand. Emphasis should therefore be placed on ensuring sites are able to retain current members and users as well as assisting them in capitalising on any untapped demand and future demand generated from housing growth and population increases.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Stage E

The overall position for Golf across Central Lancashire has generally remained the same with the exception of the closure of Fishwick Hall Golf Club. Consultation with England Golf suggests that this is unlikely to have a substantial impact on golf participation as the course has closed due to reduced levels of demand. It reports any previous users of the site are likely to be absorbed by other clubs in its locality.

The following recommendations have been slightly updated to reflect the above changes with the relevant alterations highlighted in bold text.

Recommendations

- ◀ **Look to establish a dedicated needs assessment for Fishwick Hall Golf Club to understand its future purpose.**
- ◀ Retain all current golf courses and associated facilities.
- ◀ Sustain course quality and seek improvements where necessary through implementation of appropriate maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth.
- ◀ Encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for existing and new players.

Bowling greens

2018 position

There is sufficient capacity in Chorley and South Ribble to accommodate bowls demand, however, there is a shortfall of supply in Preston which is exacerbated once future demand is considered.

Stage E

The overall position for bowls generally remains unchanged to that identified in the Strategy. This being said in 2020, due to Covid-19 restrictions, many clubs chose not to open with them only starting to operate as normal in the summer of 2021.

Chorley Council is in the process of building a new ancillary facility at Tatton Rec and the green will also be fenced off for security. Euxton Parish Council also completed a new bowling green on Greeside in Euxton in early 2019.

Although the following recommendations remain valid, there is also a need to review the supply and demand balance for bowls and review the impact of Covid-19 on the sport.

Recommendations

- ◀ Consider the viability of retaining two greens at Astley Park given the low level of demand at the site.
- ◀ Retain some greens to accommodate recreational and pay-and-play demand.
- ◀ Improve standard and poor quality greens with increased maintenance and improved security.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Determine the future use of greens at Leyland Sports Association now that the clubs has been proceed out of the site.
- ◀ Look to re-provide at least one of the disused bowling greens in Preston to eliminate current shortfalls.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Cycling

2018 position

High demand for cycling is identified within Central Lancashire, however, it is considered that the majority of this demand does not require dedicated facilities as participants predominately utilise roads and cycle paths. As such, there is no clear evidence to suggest that new cycling provision is required within Central Lancashire.

Stage E

The overall position for cycling generally remains unchanged to that identified in the Strategy. Although the following recommendations remain valid, they should be revisited once restrictions from the Covid 19 Pandemic are fully lifted.

Recommendations

- ◀ Seek to improve track quality at Fishwick Recreation Ground (Preston) in conjunction with developing onsite ancillary facilities for Preston Pirates BMX Club.
- ◀ Ensure any future housing developments incorporate Sport England's Active Design.
- ◀ Ensure any formal cycling activity can be accommodated within each local authority.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

STRATEGIC CONTEXT UPDATED

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: Uniting the Movement 2021

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.

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.

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

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:

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

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.

Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

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.

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.

Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

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.

National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2021)

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.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

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 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"*

£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 commissioned a national project. Over the two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) was produced for every local authority area across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

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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.

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

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'.

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

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
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

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:

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

- ◀ **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

- ◀ **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 (2021)

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](#).

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.
- ◀ **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.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

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.

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.

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.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 2022' Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2022 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.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

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.

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.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

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

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.

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

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

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

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

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

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.

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>

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”.

The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

- ◀ 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
- ◀ 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
- ◀ Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
- ◀ Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
- ◀ Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
- ◀ Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all.

The objectives are:

- ◀ Being customer focussed
- ◀ Stronger counties and club
- ◀ Excellent governance
- ◀ Improve image
- ◀ More members and players
- ◀ Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- ◀ Winning golfers

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.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

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".

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Central Lancashire. 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 Central Lancashire can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring and updating

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

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

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings. The NGBs will also be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

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

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

Checklist

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

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?		