

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

CHORLEY COUNCIL  
PRESTON CITY COUNCIL  
SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

STAGE A REPORT: PREPARE AND TAILOR THE APPROACH  
DECEMBER 2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF  
T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@kcp.co.uk](mailto:mail@kcp.co.uk) [www.kcp.co.uk](http://www.kcp.co.uk)



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

---

## Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been jointly commissioned by Chorley Council, Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council to develop a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for each individual local authority area.

The PPOSS will replace the previous study for Central Lancashire, which was completed in 2018. It should be noted that the PPOSS will follow the same structure as the previous document with the production of a collective Assessment Report and collective Strategy & Action Plan.

## National context

### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)***

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
  - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030.
  - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics.
  - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active.
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
  - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all.
  - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector.
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
  - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment.
  - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector.

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

---

## ***Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)***

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

### *Tackling inequalities*

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

## ***National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2024)***

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.

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

---

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.

## Local context

A new joint Local Plan for the three authorities of Chorley, Preston and South Ribble is currently being prepared to cover the period to 2038. It will provide a robust strategy to attract new investment whilst continuing to protect the unique characteristics of the area, to deliver sustainable development. The new PPOSS will help support the production of the new Local Plan as serving a key evidence base for the protection and development of playing pitches and outdoor sports.

The below outlines previous strategies and plans which will form the basis for the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan.

## Central Lancashire Adopted Core Strategy (2012)<sup>1</sup>

The Central Lancashire Core Strategy has been produced by the Central Lancashire authorities of Preston, South Ribble and Chorley, with assistance from Lancashire County Council.

The Core Strategy is a key document in Central Lancashire’s Local Development Framework. Its purpose is to help co-ordinate development in the area and contribute to boosting investment and employment. Above all it is a strategic policy document and will encourage sustainable managed growth, whilst protecting and enhancing green spaces and access to open countryside, enhancing Central Lancashire’s character as a place with ‘room to breathe’.

The Core Strategy is a clear statement of the positive benefits of joint working in Chorley, South Ribble and Preston. It is a single strategy for Central Lancashire, and the Councils are committed to applying the policies consistently. Joint working makes sense because the three Districts have much in common, including their transport networks, and shared housing, employment and retail markets.

## Chorley Local Plan

The Chorley Local Plan (adopted 2015) identifies the scale of development in each settlement and allocates sites to meet the development needs of Chorley up to the period 2026 in order to achieve the vision for growth as outlined in the Core Strategy. The Local Plan identifies key local issues and provides a set of policies to manage change which will be used by the Council to determine planning applications. The Local Plan is in general conformity with the strategic objectives of the adopted core strategy.

## South Ribble Local Plan

The Local Plan (2012 – 2026) forms part of the statutory Development Plan for South Ribble. It identifies and allocates land required over a 15 year period in order to achieve the vision for growth as outlined in the Central Lancashire Core Strategy. The Local Plan was adopted at Full Council on 22 July 2015.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://centrallocalplan.lancashire.gov.uk/media/1032/central-lancashire-core-strategy-july-2012-v1.pdf>

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

## Preston Local Plan

This Local Plan was adopted by resolution of Full Council on 2 July 2015. It is a Development Plan Document produced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended) 2004. The Preston Local Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Preston. The role of the Plan is twofold:

- ◀ To identify the scale of development and allocate sites to meet the development needs of Preston in order to achieve the vision for growth as outlined in the Central Lancashire Core Strategy.
- ◀ To identify key local issues and provide a set of policies to manage change which will be used by decision makers to determine planning applications. These are known as Development Management (DM) Policies.

The Preston City Centre Plan is an Area Action Plan and sits alongside the Preston Local Plan. It was adopted on 30th June 2016.

## Active Lancashire

Active Lancashire is the strategic lead for Sport and Physical Activity in Lancashire. It connects with like-minded local organisations and individuals to help bring about active lifestyles. Nationally it is one of the many Sport England-led Active Partnerships that drives a sports delivery system across the country.

It believes that sport and physical activity have the power to influence behaviours and develop skills which can have a broader, positive impact on people’s lives. Its work in leading and facilitating effective partnerships across the county from key influential decision makers, through to community grass roots organisations aims to encourage Lancashire residents to engage in sport and physical activity and lead a happy, more prosperous life.

## Sporting context

In addition to the Council key drivers set out above, the main pitch sport National Governing Bodies (NGBs) have sport specific key drives, as set out below:

Table 1.1: NGB strategic drivers

National Governing Body (NGB)	Key drivers
The Football Association (FA) / Football Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Working towards the delivery of its National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28) which identifies six areas of investment priorities:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Improve 20,000 natural turf pitches.</li> <li>◀ Deliver 1,000 3G AGP ‘equivalents’ (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs).</li> <li>◀ Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses.</li> <li>◀ Support access to flexible indoor spaces.</li> <li>◀ Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision.</li> <li>◀ Support testing of technology and innovation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◀ Working towards delivery of its Inspiring Positive Change Through Football - <a href="https://www.thefa.com/about-football-association/what-we-do/fa-strategy-2024-2028">https://www.thefa.com/about-football-association/what-we-do/fa-strategy-2024-2028</a>.</li> </ul>

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

National Governing Body (NGB)	Key drivers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Working towards delivery of Survive.Revive.Thrive, its grassroots football strategy (2020-2024):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Enhanced access to good quality pitches across grassroots football</li> </ul> </li> <li>◀ Working towards delivery of its Women's and Girls' football, Inspiring Positive Change (2020-2024) which encourages early participation from primary school and for 90% of schools in England to become part of the FA Girls' Football School Partnerships network.</li> <li>◀ Aligning the Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs) to the PPOSS evidence base.</li> </ul>
England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28). In October 2024 the ECB released its new strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'Cricket is a game for me' through its vision:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ To become the most inclusive team sport</li> <li>◀ To grow and unite the game</li> <li>◀ Lead the game through global transformation</li> </ul> </li> <li>◀ It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible</li> <li>◀ Transform Women's and Girl's cricket</li> <li>◀ Connect communities through play</li> <li>◀ Inspire through winning England teams</li> <li>◀ Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game</li> <li>◀ Win the battle for attention</li> </ul> </li> <li>◀ Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket's Core Values.</li> </ul>
England Hockey (EH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Working towards EH: A Nation Where Hockey Matters and the England Hockey Facilities Strategy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Ensure there is access to good quality artificial grass pitches (AGPs) and ancillary facilities both now and in the future.</li> <li>◀ Ensure there is enough provision (including accessibility) for predicted growth to support priority clubs.</li> <li>◀ Ensure access to school sites is maintained and secured through the appropriate community use agreements.</li> <li>◀ Ensure any new hockey provision in the study area supports localised hockey demand and any hockey development programmes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Rugby Football Union (RFU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Working towards delivery of the RFU Strategic Plan (2021) which identifies eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these:</li> <li>◀ Game Objectives:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Enjoyment</li> <li>◀ Winning England</li> <li>◀ Welfare</li> <li>◀ Flourishing rugby communities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

National Governing Body (NGB)	Key drivers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Driving Objectives:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Diversity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>◀ Understand</li> <li>◀ Connect</li> <li>◀ Commercial and operational excellence</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Rugby Football League (RFL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ As the game continues to grow, develop, and diversify, what was considered acceptable in the past is becoming unacceptable and less appealing for new generations, particularly women and girls. High quality and accessible community rugby league facilities are sporadic. To ensure future growth, our vision, underpinned by the RFL National Community Rugby League Facilities Strategy and future investment from the Government, is to propel rugby league into the next decade and enable the sport to deal not only with inactivity, but address the very real issues facing modern society. Social isolation, childhood obesity, mental and physical health issues and anti-social behaviour pose a real threat to future generations but are sustainably addressed through sport. Identifying opportunities for investment and facility development through the Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2022' Legacy Programme.</li> <li>◀ The 4 key strategic priorities for the RFL when it comes to facilities are as follows:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Security of Tenure – Clubs are currently unable to plan for the long term due to being in unsecure situations regarding their playing and ancillary facilities. A secure base will ensure the club can be a pillar of its community for years to come.</li> <li>◀ Accessible and Inclusive Facilities - Community rugby league clubs should be welcoming environments for people from all walks of life, particularly those from under-represented groups. Suitable changing rooms, toilets, social spaces and security measures should be installed to support this. Creating safe spaces where not only our participants but the wider community feel safe, welcome and belong.</li> <li>◀ Adequate and appropriate Playing Pitch Provision – A basic expectation should be that the playing pitch is fit for purpose and safe to use. Continuing to invest in improving the quality of grass pitches and upskilling the volunteer workforce to do this is crucial.</li> <li>◀ Sustainable Community Club Infrastructure – Clubs must be supported and educated on how to become and remain a financially sustainable business, whilst also adopting environmentally sustainable practices wherever possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ The LTA's vision for 2024–2026, 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'. Investment will focus on the following four key areas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Creating welcoming environments</li> <li>◀ Encouraging participation growth</li> <li>◀ Building community engagement</li> </ul> </li> <li>◀ Cultivating further investment e.g., via the parks renovation fund.</li> <li>◀ Incorporation of padel tennis.</li> </ul>
British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ To ensure there is sustainable access to provision to satisfy demand.</li> <li>◀ Ensure there is an appropriate maintenance in place.</li> <li>◀ To protect and improve quality of greens and ancillary facilities as current and future demand requires.</li> </ul>

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

National Governing Body (NGB)	Key drivers
England Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018-2025) 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”.</li> </ul>
British Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Since 2018, British Cycling has been working closely with Sport England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to develop dedicated cycling facilities to provide safe, traffic-free environments which meet local demand, making use of a £15 million investment programme called Places to Ride. Nearly 200 different awards and grants have now been issued to a wide range of organisations that cover all the cycling disciplines.</li> </ul>
England Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ England Golf – Strategic Direction (2021-2025) In 2021 England Golf launched its new Strategy to leads, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. Its re-focusing its priorities, energy and passion into the key areas to help widen golf’s appeal, highlighting the sport as a more inclusive and accessible offer.</li> </ul> <p>The objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Lead through strong governance &amp; integrity</li> <li>◀ Energise &amp; support the golf community</li> <li>◀ Deliver a more inclusive &amp; accessible sport</li> <li>◀ Inspire current &amp; future generations</li> <li>◀ <a href="https://www.englandgolf.org/englandgolfstrategy/">https://www.englandgolf.org/englandgolfstrategy/</a></li> </ul>
Archery GB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Archery GBs mission is to rebuild, reimagine and represent archery in the next five years by focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Membership structure – We’re creating an effective and efficient governance and delivery structure for the whole sport, with a member-centric membership offering</li> <li>◀ Empowering workforce – Connections that engage, recruit and support the thousands of people who create opportunities for archery to happen</li> <li>◀ Diversity throughout – A diverse and inclusive organisation that enables everyone to be themselves and develop in a way that works for them</li> <li>◀ Archer recruitment – Rebuilding a revitalised club network in the aftermath of Covid-19. New groups, partnerships, places that increase the breadth of our archery communities</li> <li>◀ Digital first – Putting digital transformation at the heart of what we do, leveraging technology to modernise systems and resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>◀ Pathway and podium – Redefine Archery GB performance archery to become pioneers on the archery world stage</li> </ul>
British American Football Association (BAFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ BAFA has a 10-year vision to professionalise British American football and inspire people to play the game. It wants to develop a dynamic sport and high-performing National Governing Body where everyone can participate in an accessible, inclusive, safe and enjoyable player-focused environment. This includes four key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Participation - ensuring it has an inclusive offer to create a culture of lifelong participation and establishing the best structure for American football to deliver growth in all formats.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

National Governing Body (NGB)	Key drivers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ People - building a strong, skilled, supported and valued volunteer workforce and the aim, in the medium term, to invest in professionalising the sport in all areas – particularly in the vital areas of coaching and refereeing.</li> <li>◀ Places to Play - investing and supporting clubs and teams to build sustainable communities of football, establishing high quality environments to play and perform.</li> <li>▶ Pathway to Performance - Creating a long-term athlete development plan to ensure the right progression from the fundamental skills required to achieving GB selection and podium success.</li> </ul>
England Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.</li> <li>▶ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies that:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).</li> <li>◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.</li> <li>◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary schools so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.</li> <li>◀ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.</li> <li>◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments.</li> </ul>
Water sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Water sports in England are governed by various bodies, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ British Canoeing</li> <li>◀ British Kite Surfing Association</li> <li>◀ British Rowing</li> <li>◀ British Sub-Aqua Club</li> <li>◀ British Swimming</li> <li>◀ British Water Ski</li> <li>◀ Royal Yachting Association</li> <li>◀ Surfing Great Britain</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Each has its own key drivers and strategies which will be detailed in the assessment report.</li> </ul>

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

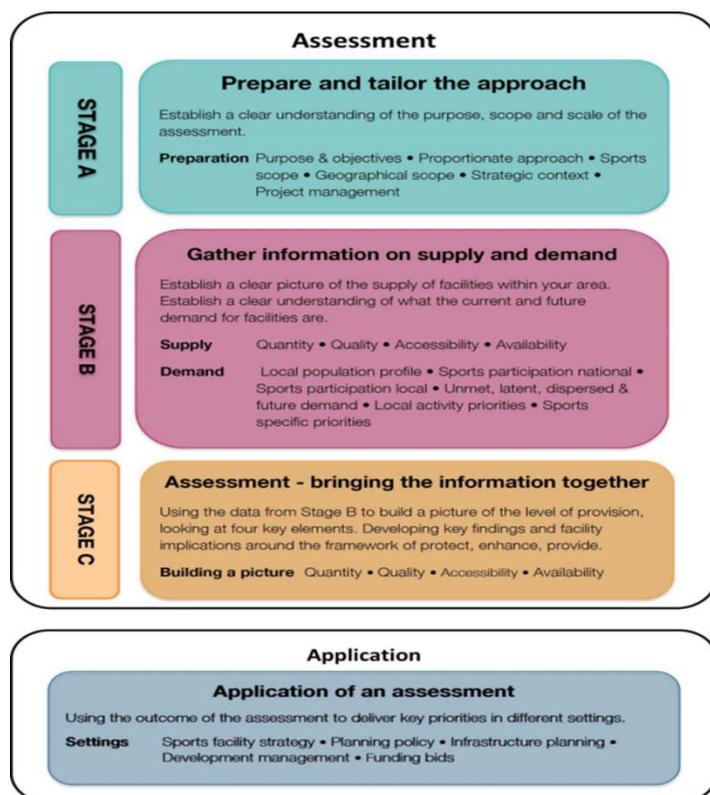
## The approach to developing the Strategy

The PPOSS will be delivered in adherence to Sport England’s PPS guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS (and Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance in terms of non pitch sports). This consists of a stepped approach, as follows:

- ◀ **Section A: Preparation**
  - Step 1: Clarify why the PPS is being developed.
  - Step 2: Set up the management arrangements.
  - Step 3: Tailor the approach.
- ◀ **Section B: Information Gathering**
  - ◀ Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches.
  - ◀ Step 5: Develop a picture of demand.
- ◀ **Section C: Assessment**
  - ◀ Step 6: Understand how each site is being used.
  - ◀ Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision.
  - ◀ Step 8: Carry out scenario testing.
- ◀ **Section D: Key Findings & Issues**
  - ◀ Step 9: Identify key findings & issues.
  - ◀ Step 10: Check and challenge key findings & issues.
- ◀ **Section E: Strategy Development & Implementation**
  - ◀ Step 11: Develop conclusions & recommendations.
  - ◀ Step 12: Develop an action & implementation plan.
  - ◀ Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPS.

The Stage A Guidance checklist has been appended to this report. This provides details of how this PPOSS has been tailored and progress to date. For non-pitch sports (i.e., tennis, bowls, and athletics), the ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide’ (ANOG) is applied. This has a similar staged approach, as seen below.

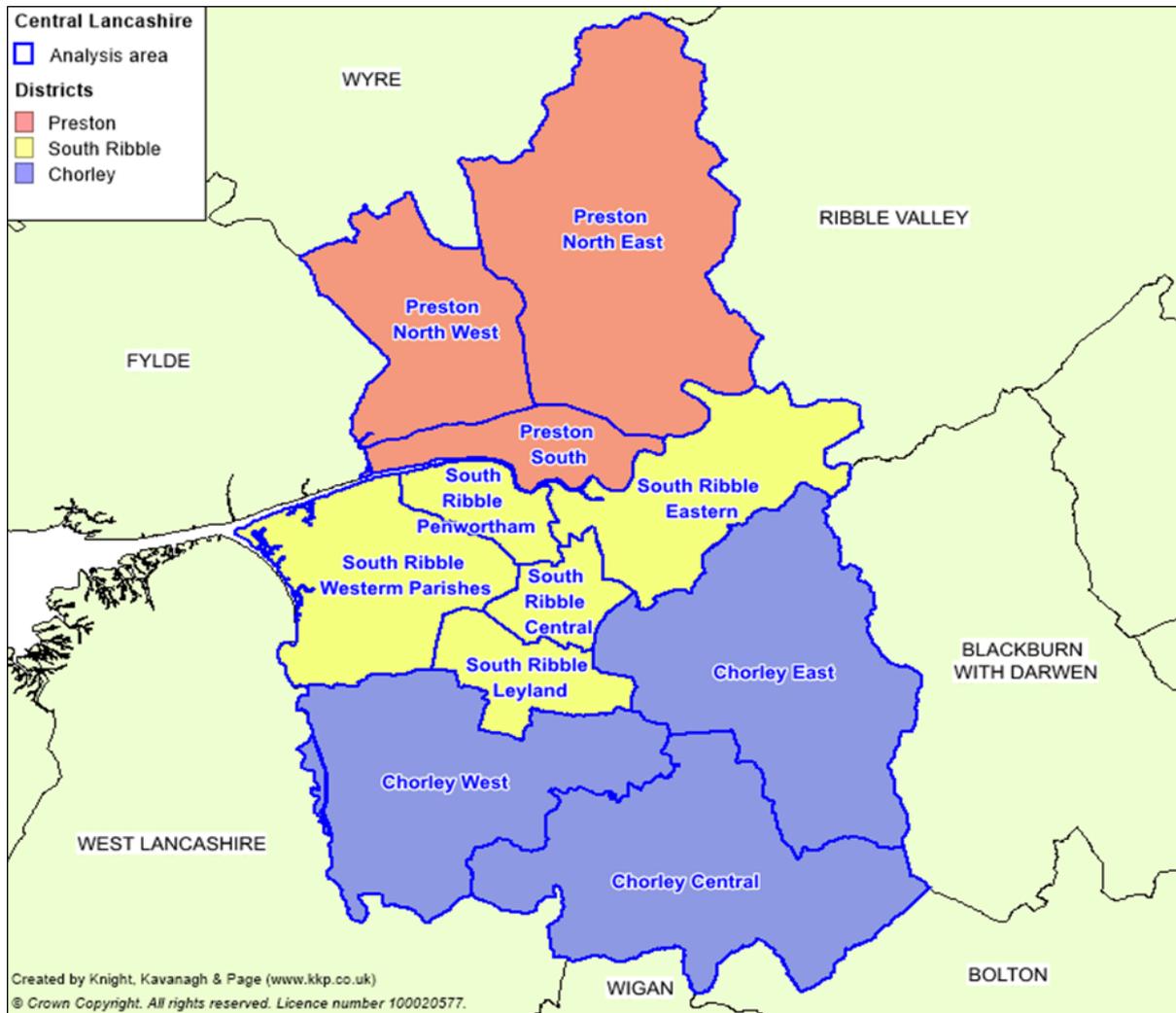
Figure 1: ANOG approach





# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

Figure 3: Central Lancashire analysis area map 2018



# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

---

## VISION AND OBJECTIVES

### The vision

Below is the vision driving the new Central Lancashire PPOSS.

*"To provide an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches and other associated indoor and outdoor sports facilities and open space which provide opportunities for all residents to access good sport, physical activity and recreation facilities."*

### Key objectives

The strategy is expected to address and respond to the following key objectives:

- ◀ To inform emerging planning policy under the review of the Local Plan.
- ◀ To inform the Local Authorities' future sports and health strategies and investment plans;
- ◀ Ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of sports facility provision in response to identified pressures.
- ◀ To provide adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting open space, sport and leisure facilities.
- ◀ Provide the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of open space outdoor sport, physical activity provision and playing pitches.
- ◀ To suggest the locations of new sports facilities to accommodate provision where there is a deficit taking into account the proposed housing allocation sites within the new Central Lancashire Local Plan.

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

---

## MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY

The Project Team will primarily be led by Jonathan Gaukroger, Senior Consultant and supported by Sam Smith, Consultant both of which will be responsible for the management, direction, and day to day development of the PPOSS.

The KKP team will be supported by Lindsey Blackstock (Chorley Council - Open Space Strategy Officer), Robert Larcombe (Preston City Council - Leisure Development Officer) and Greg Clark (Parks & Open Space Programme Manager).

A wider Steering Group will also lead and drive the Strategies forward during its development whilst ensuring the delivery of its recommendations. Membership of the Steering Group will be balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the Strategy. As a minimum, it will comprise of the councils (including officers from planning and education), Sport England, the relevant NGBs (the Football Foundation, Lancashire FA, ECB, Lancashire Cricket Foundation, Rugby Football Union, Rugby Football League, British Crown Green Bowls Association, England Golf, England Athletics, England Hockey and the Lawn Tennis Association) and the Active Lancashire Partnership.

Discussions and sign off of the PPOSS will be welcomed by the Steering Group at the following key stages:

Discussions and sign off will be required by the Steering Group at the following key stages:

- ◀ Initial preparation (stage A)
- ◀ Information gathering update (stage B)
- ◀ Assessment Report (stage C)
- ◀ Strategy development (stage D)
- ◀ Strategy sign-off and implementation (stage E)

The Steering Group will also be involved in the following:

- ◀ Identifying who should be consulted regarding supply and demand information.
- ◀ Helping to achieve club survey response rates.
- ◀ Establishing the approach to collecting quality data and agreeing quality ratings
- ◀ Checking and challenging key findings within the Assessment Report
- ◀ Defining the scenarios that need to be tested.
- ◀ Checking and challenging recommendations and actions within the Strategy
- ◀ Where unforeseen problems occur, deciding how to progress the PPOSS.

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY – STAGE A

---

## Project plan

A 13-month project plan has been developed to cover Stages A-D, with Stage E set to continue into November 2025 and beyond once the PPOSS is complete.

Steering group meetings will be held at each stage of the project to check and challenge on findings and to ensure the information gathered is as accurate and as robust as possible. For Stage B, it is proposed that meetings will be held individually with each NGB representative to ensure that all data can be presented before wider meetings are held for stages C and D to ensure that any cross-sport issues are covered efficiently.

The key dates are as follows:

- ◀ Stage A – December 2024 / January 2025
- ◀ Stage B Winter sports – February / March 2025
- ◀ Stage C Winter sports – April 2025
  
- ◀ Stage B Summer sports - June / July 2025
- ◀ Stage C Summer sports – September 2025
  
- ◀ Stage D – Full report October / November 2025

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGIES – STAGE A

## Project plan

Figure 4: Central Lancashire PPOSS project plan

Project Plan		October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
		Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12	Month 13	Month 14	Month 15	
<b>Stage A - Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1)</b>																	
Identify all drivers, agree the study area and draft the vision and objectives																	
Draft Stage A Report																	
Stage A Steering Group meeting																	
<b>Stage B - Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (Steps 2 &amp; 3)</b>																	
Supply	Identify sources of information including a list of supply consultees (e.g. pitch providers)																
	Gather currently available information (quantity and quality)																
	Undertake quality assessments (non-technical)																
	Further research on supply as required (eg club surveys, NGB's).																
Demand	Develop a list of demand consultees																
	Gather currently available information (e.g. LA, NGB and league information).																
	Gather other demand information and views - consultation, population growth, sports development etc)																
Check and challenge Stage B data - provide key issues paper																	
Steering group meetings (dataset sign off)																	
<b>Stage C - Assess the supply and demand information and views (Steps 4, 5 &amp; 6)</b>																	
Understand the situation at individual sites (capacity analysis)																	
Develop the current picture of provision																	
Develop the future picture of provision																	
Provide Draft Assessment Report (Identify Key Findings and Issues)																	
Steering group meeting																	
Seek comments on the draft assessment from the steering group																	
Finalise the draft Assessment Report																	
<b>Stage D - Develop the strategy (Steps 7 &amp; 8)</b>																	
Carry out scenario testing																	
Provide draft Strategy including recommendations and action plans																	
Seek comments from the steering group and Steering group meeting																	
Finalise strategy																	

# CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGIES – STAGE A

## APPENDIX ONE: STAGE A CHECKLIST

<b>Stage A Checklist: Prepare and tailor the approach</b>	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 1: Prepare and tailor the approach</b>		
1. Is it clear why the PPOSS is being developed (the drivers) and what it seeks to achieve (the benefits)?		
2. Has the level of support Sport England and each of the main pitch sport NGBs can provide to the particular project been agreed?		In progress
3. Has an initial scoping meeting been held including all relevant parties?		TBC
4. Has a steering group been established to lead the work and is it representative of the drivers behind the work and providers and users of pitches in the area?		
5. Has a partnership approach been developed and has it been confirmed what support, advice and/or resources each party can bring to the work?		In progress
6. Has the study area been defined and agreed by all relevant parties and have any known cross boundary issues been highlighted?		
7. Has high level officer and political support been secured and are such relevant individuals part of the steering group?		
8. Has a vision for provision for the study area been developed alongside specific objectives and is there agreement on how far forward the PPOSS should look?		
9. Has a strong project team been established which is supported by adequate resources and has the necessary skills to develop the PPOSS?		
10. Has a realistic project plan been agreed by the steering group and the NGBs which sets out the overall timescale and when elements of the work will be undertaken?		
11. Has some thought been given to how the work will be structured and presented?		
12. Have any features which make the study area different been identified along with the impact they may have on pitch provision and the approach to the PPOSS?		
13. Has an understanding been developed of how the population participates in sport and what this may mean for pitch provision now and in the future?		
14. Alongside the main pitch sports has the inclusion of other pitch sports been considered and is there agreement on which should be included in the PPOSS?		
15. Is it clear how the sports to be included are governed in the area, what the league structure is and how this can help with developing the PPOSS?		
16. Has an indication been provided on the potential nature of any sub areas, do they represent how the sports are played in the study area and will these be reviewed once relevant information is gathered during Stage B?		
17. Has a strong, locally specific and tailored brief been developed which builds in the work undertaken to prepare the approach to developing the PPOSS?		
18. Has an indication been provided on the potential nature of any sub areas, do they represent how the sports Have the project brief and project plan been signed off by the steering group?		
19. If external consultancy support is to be procured is this to be done after Stage A is complete but before work on Stage B commences?	NA	