

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLANS  
GREATER NORWICH AREA  
FINAL STRATEGY  
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*Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:  
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9AH*

*A limited company, registered in  
England and Wales no. 6165280*



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# 1. Introduction and Context

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1.1 The aims of the strategy and Action Plan, and the key drivers for the study, are to inform the Greater Norwich authorities on:

- sporting and recreational infrastructure that will be required to serve existing and new development, covering both the demand for and use of existing facilities and identifying priority locations for future provision;
- the likely level of funding available from Sport England and other bodies to assist in the delivery of the strategy and action plan to ensure the area has good quality local and regional/national level sports facilities;
- prioritisation of any funding for sport and recreation from local authority budgets, including from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL);
- measures to promote greater physical activity locally;
- the longer term sustainability of facilities and on-going funding and management; and
- the potential for community use of private and educational establishment playing pitches.

1.2 This document follows on from the completion of the needs assessment and informs the preparation of the strategy document. It aims to;

- Highlight the key findings of each individual sport assessment and set out the main issues to be addressed in the strategy
- Make specific proposals for each sport in turn
- Consider the precise needs of all sites in current and future outdoor sports use
- Outline ways in which the strategic priorities and detailed recommendations can be implemented
- Recommend the best way of monitoring the strategy and keeping the findings up to date.

## Context

1.3 This section briefly provides an overview of the demographics of the Greater Norwich area and the impact of this on demand for pitch sports. This section draws on more detailed information set out in the accompanying playing pitch assessment (paras 3.42 onwards).

1.4 The key demographic and socio economic characteristics of the Greater Norwich area that influence sports participation in the area are as follows:

- The current population of the Greater Norwich area is about 393,000, and projected to increase overall by 9.9% to 2026.

- However, the change in the 'active population' is estimated at only 7.2% overall, as the population is estimated to age gradually. Demand for sport will therefore increase less than the overall increase in population. Despite this slower increase, there is still an actual increase in 'active' numbers of about 16,000.
- There are significant population increases in the age groups from 5-15 which has implications for junior development of each sport and the demand for playing pitches, and also increases among residents aged 60 and above – these residents have a much lower propensity to participate in pitch sports, although they are still active in some outdoor sport, including bowls and tennis, to an extent.
- Other findings suggest that the population is primarily (99%) white (although the proportion is lower in Norwich), while both LAs in the rural areas are in the lowest 20% of deprived LAs in the country, and Norwich is in the highest 20%, with associated implications for sports participation, in terms of physical and financial access to sport, motivation to take part and other factors,
- Average participation rates overall vary between 29% and 36%, compared with the national average of 36%, but have varied considerably since 2006. The broadly downward trend in overall participation in sport once per week (certainly in Norwich and South Norfolk) suggests that there are strong reasons for building participation in sport and active recreation in the area in the future.
- The market segments with the highest participation rates and which are most likely to play pitch sports are aged from 16 – 34 (segments 1-7 in the scale). While these groups are not the most dominant segments within the area, there is some representation in several of the groups, in particular Jamie and Tim, suggesting that a proportion of the population will be keen to play outdoor sports (more details of the Market Segmentation profiles are set out in the accompanying playing pitch assessment, para 3.46, with maps and illustrations contained in Appendix MS1 which accompanies this suite of documents).
- There is a close relationship in much of the Greater Norwich area between levels of inactivity and obesity.

1.5 Overall therefore, evidence suggests that pitch sports can and do play an important role in promoting participation in the Greater Norwich area. The dominance of some market segments that are not interested in pitch sports does however serve to highlight the importance of balancing the provision of playing pitches with the provision of other sporting opportunities, particularly for older people.

#### **Other issues**

1.6 The brief required the strategy to consider the need for outdoor sports facilities at a regional scale of provision, which in effect means the requirements of National Governing Bodies of the outdoor sports for competition, specialist facilities and the development of elite and performance athletes. The Playing Pitch Strategy methodology is however essentially a local assessment of need which seeks to consider demand from local clubs in conjunction with the capacity of local pitches and other facilities. In consultation the NGBs identified no specific regional (or indeed national) facility requirements, and no proposals are therefore made in the strategy for this level of provision.

## 2. Key Findings & Issues for the Strategy

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2.1 The key findings set out below are taken directly from the needs assessment (set out in a separate document).

### FOOTBALL

#### Key findings

2.2 The key findings for football are:

- There are 305 individual formal grass football pitches across the Greater Norwich area on 122 sites.
- Pitch quality varies relatively little although there may well be differences in pitch quality within specific sites as well as across the area. Overall, only 1% of football pitches have been rated as poor from data collected from site inspections, cross referenced with FA data, while 59% are considered good, and 40% standard.
- There are numerous pitches on school sites throughout the area, both high schools and junior schools that are not at present available for wider community use. Few schools that do not already open their facilities indicated interest in doing so. There is limited scope to increase the pitch stock further through community use of school sites, unless current barriers can be addressed, as school pitches are primarily required for school use.
- The study has identified 768 teams playing on grass, comprising 241 senior men's, 169 junior, 97 9v9, 185 mini and 76 women and girls' teams. Based on the FA data on numbers of players required to form teams, it is estimated that this number of teams and clubs yields about 11,500 regular footballers across the whole area, with 4,750 playing for teams in Broadland, 2150 in Norwich and 4000 in South Norfolk (plus 600 'unattached'). Senior men account for about 40% of the total.
- Club responses suggest that there are many plans, aspirations and other comments regarding facility provision and other aspects of development that require consideration in the strategy.
- As a broad overview it is estimated that there is significant current spare capacity of grass football pitches in the Greater Norwich area. A simple assessment of all sites suggests that there is carrying capacity (based on the quantity and quality of pitches) for nearly 1000 matches per week, while actual usage from the 700 or so teams is about 350 (i.e. half assuming home fixtures on alternate weeks). This leaves a theoretical spare capacity of over 600 matches per week. However at the peak times, this reduces to under 100, still a significant number.
- In terms of different types of pitch,
  - for adult football, provision is relatively unconstrained, but there are pockets of overplay and lack of spare capacity in certain locations;
  - for junior play, overall there is an adequate supply of pitches but a potential shortage at the peak;
  - for 9v9 play, overall there is an adequate supply of pitches in the area overall, but a smaller surplus at the peak time; and
  - for mini football provision is very good, and there are few pockets of overplay and lack of spare capacity throughout the whole area;

- The general conclusion is that at present there is no overall need for additional football pitches in the Greater Norwich area, although there are a number of clubs where existing facilities are at or over capacity, some where clubs have to play on multiple sites when they would ideally like to be located at one venue for easier club development and clubs forced to play fixtures away from their preferred ground.
- The implications for pitch demand in the future are that despite the overall spare capacity in the area at present, 20-30 additional football pitches are likely to be required overall up to 2026, particularly at those clubs identified in this study who are already at capacity and the new housing growth areas where identified and local demand cannot be met by existing clubs (some of these additional pitches are already committed as the result of developer agreements on new housing areas). The strategy which follows this assessment will consider actual numbers in more detail, and an assessment of individual club needs will need to be considered, and solutions for future pitch development produced which take into account future circumstances.
- There are a number of non-turf facilities in the Greater Norwich area which complement the overall stock of grass football pitches and are mainly used for training (though have some potential for competitive play).
  - Artificial grass pitches, of which there are 19 facilities at 18 locations. Full size pitches are sand based or 3G, mainly floodlit and used extensively for informal football training and 5 a side leagues. 3G pitches are generally suitable for competitive full sided matches and used as such. Some smaller 3G AGPs are used mainly for football training, 5 a side competitions and casual use. They are not big enough for competitive full sided play.
  - Multi Use Games Areas (usually floodlit) at a number of locations. While these are theoretically available for football, there is no striking evidence of their use for training or other formal football activity.
  - Purpose built commercially run 5/7 a side football centres in the area (26 individual pitches in 3 locations) are used for organised leagues on an intensive a regular basis but also accommodate mid-week training (in the form of 5/7-a-side competitions for some clubs and groups of players).
  - At present there is little spare capacity for additional use for football at existing pitches, and therefore a justification at the present time for additional AGPs. It is reasonable to conclude that at the current time, there is justification for an additional 2 full size AGPs and a range of smaller pitches for training.
  - In the longer term, future need will depend on population change, trends in participation and patterns of play, and this could increase demand by a similar amount to that in grass pitches (say 17%, to be monitored over the duration of the strategy). This would require up to 2 additional artificial football/3G pitches in the wider area and smaller pitches.
  - There are some areas of the Greater Norwich area where full size 3G provision is currently lacking, including Diss and Wymondham and these areas should be considered for future provision, if a local demand is identified.

## Strategy issues

2.3 The key issues for the strategy to address are therefore:

- Some spare capacity for all types of pitches particularly at peak times and the need for additional pitches now and in the future.
- Quality issues at pitches influencing pitch capacity. Overuse (in relation to the quality and capacity of the pitch) is causing further deterioration of pitches.
- Need for investment to bring the quality of pitches up to required standards and consequent programme of maintenance at all pitches to cope with usage levels.
- Complications in some cases of the multi-use of sites for football and cricket.
- Participation, particularly for juniors, is continuing to increase and there are significant aspirations for club development. Several clubs express concerns however about longer term sustainability.
- The need to consider hub sites where junior and senior clubs have the opportunity to develop teams more consistently.
- The implications of changing demand in participation with the introduction of 9v9 pitches as well as the push for the use of 3G pitches for match play.
- The specific needs of especially multi team clubs whose main aim is to develop on single sites with multiple pitches.
- More sustained use of school pitches on a regular basis where appropriate, and their particular value as hub sites.
- Future pitch provision in conjunction with new housing development.
- Several clubs have aspirations to manage their own facilities. The lease of pitches could provide clear benefits to both the clubs and pitch providers.
- Rationalisation of pitches to improve economic viability where appropriate.
- There are several former playing fields sites that are not currently used but could be brought back into use to meet any existing deficiencies.
- The continued need for training facilities particularly hard surfaced and floodlit.
- The relative lack of 3G pitches inhibits the quality of the training that takes place for football and means that there are limited opportunities to use AGPs for match play.
- The need for a co-ordinated approach to the future of AGP surfaces which does not prejudice hockey use is an issue that requires consideration.

## CRICKET

### Key findings

2.4 The key findings for cricket are:

- There are 41 sites containing facilities for cricket in the wider Greater Norwich area, where clubs and teams are currently accommodated, with a total of 45 grass and 11 non turf pitches/wickets.
- In general pitches and ancillary facilities are considered to be in fair or standard condition taking into account all factors – 14 are considered good, 23 fair and just 2 poor from visual inspection. Overall pitch quality was assessed by 60% of clubs as good, standard by 27% and poor by only 13% (4 clubs), and for the most part, clubhouses are well appointed with a full range of facilities. Clubs were almost equally split in their views of the overall quality and quantity of cricket facilities in the Greater Norwich area.
- There are a number of other pitches throughout the wider area, mostly on education sites – UEA, academies and high schools - where cricket can be played, but not (regularly) available for community use by clubs or used by teams, which do remain a possible outlet for any demand that may be identified in the future, subject to availability from the school or institution in question.
- There are estimated to be 39 clubs affiliated to the Norfolk Cricket Board and playing cricket in the Greater Norwich area. These currently comprise 102 adult (18-55 years) men's teams (57% of the total), 3 women's teams (2%) and 74 or more junior teams (41%). There is also a variety of unaffiliated/occasional casual teams.
- It is estimated from teams and club returns that there are between about 2600 and 3600 adults and juniors currently playing cricket in the Greater Norwich area. This is higher than APS data for the region and England, and it is likely therefore that participation in cricket in the area is considerably higher than the average.
- Club responses to a questionnaire suggest that there are many plans, aspirations and other comments regarding facility provision and other aspects of development that require consideration in any strategy.
- Comparing demand with current capacity of pitches and wickets, it is estimated that the pitches available are capable of 1920 senior matches or 2694 junior matches per season, while the most recent season's figures suggest that 1622 matches are played. There is therefore spare capacity overall in the Greater Norwich area for about 300 - 1000 additional matches, depending on whether they are senior or junior. In reality as suggested above the actual figure is less than that, as some pitches are rated only average or poor, and the spare capacity is at times other than the peak demand, but as an overall indication there appears to be enough pitches in the area to meet current demand. This also does not take into account the availability of non-turf pitches, but there is little evidence from clubs that significant numbers of fixtures are fulfilled on this surface except for junior matches, and those affected by weather and other conditions at certain times.
- At present there is no overriding need for additional cricket pitches and wickets overall in the Greater Norwich area, although there are a number of clubs where existing facilities are at or over capacity, and clubs that are forced to play fixtures away from their preferred ground. However, there is very little cricket in Norwich itself and potential cricketers are being denied access to the sport if they are unable to access pitches and clubs outside the city.



- Based on latent demand and future growth, by 2026 it is reasonable to estimate in the first instance that an additional 20 teams might be formed to take into account all these factors, an addition of about 10-11% over current team numbers. This can be monitored over the early years of the strategy to ensure that actual changes are taken into account. A high proportion of these are expected to be junior teams. There is therefore a future requirement for additional pitches or at least additional capacity at existing pitches, and these are required at clubs which are already at capacity, non-turf pitches in Norwich identified by the NCB and the new housing growth areas where identified and local demand cannot be met by existing clubs.
- There are few areas of the Greater Norwich area where cricket provision is non-existent and potential players have to rely on clubs outside the area. These include the Wymondham and Wroxham areas. While it is not suggested that new clubs necessarily be formed here to meet any gaps in provision, outreach by the existing main clubs and closer liaison with schools could help to provide/improve more pitches on school sites, or make available any that are currently only used by the schools themselves.
- Apart from the issue of pitch numbers, there is also a need to ensure that quality facilities are provided and retained. There is significant potential for investment in improved facilities other than pitches is vital to the continued health of the game.

### Strategy issues

2.5 The key issues for the strategy to address are therefore:

- the need to at least maintain the current level of pitch provision at existing grounds to meet current demand;
- the need for qualitative improvements at existing grounds, including upgrades to pitches to ensure that the required amount of games and training can be sustained;
- the need to provide high quality pitches to meet with League requirements;
- qualitative improvements to ancillary facilities, such as pavilions, changing and nets;
- the possible need for LA parks to accommodate pitches for increased casual and informal demand, and providing opportunities for training and junior competition, including the development of artificial wickets (though this might also be achieved through clubs and schools facilitating this demand);
- currently low levels of participation in cricket and the plans of the NCB/ECB to increase participation in cricket (particularly in Norwich) and the potential impact that this will have on the demand for cricket;
- new forms of the game increasing participation;
- accommodating new groups in the community wishing to play cricket in its various forms;
- more female involvement – there is relatively little female participation at present;
- better links with schools leading to increased junior participation;

- the need to consider the provision of additional pitches in the future to meet increase demand arising from population change and participation initiatives, particularly in the housing growth areas;
- the option of securing community use and management/maintenance of existing school pitches to meet future need;
- the practicality of expanding cricket pitch provision into the areas of Greater Norwich where opportunities to play cricket are not currently available;
- the need for new / improved training facilities at club bases at certain locations, including better indoor provision;
- the issue of some cricket pitches also functioning as football pitches and causing issues with the maintenance regime, with limited time for reinstatement, rest and recovery as well as out of season maintenance; and
- possible concerns over long term sustainability of facilities and clubs.

## RUGBY

### Key findings

2.6 The key findings for rugby are:

- There are 32 rugby pitches in the Greater Norwich area on 8 sites, mainly at existing clubs. A larger number of other pitches exist mainly on school sites, but not currently used by community clubs.
- There are 8 clubs playing rugby in the area, comprising an estimated 77 teams.
- Team numbers have remained fairly consistent over the recent past, and there are limited plans to increase them in the future. Sport England participation data suggests that in the region rugby participation may in fact have declined.
- All clubs are playing in their current preferred location though two clubs currently have plans to move, not necessarily for rugby related reasons.
- Quality is as important as quantity and is considered adequate, both in terms of pitches and to a lesser extent ancillary facilities like changing.
- Most clubs are able to fulfil their playing and training obligations on available pitches, albeit that they may use other pitches off site or have to juggle with fixtures.
- Based on current levels of activity, it is calculated that there is a small shortfall of about 6 pitch capacity compared with demand at the present time.
- There is some latent demand at present, and with future population growth and club and NGB initiatives likely to increase demand, there is a need up to 2026 for a further 10 full size pitch equivalents (compared with the present) mostly to serve youth and mini rugby.
- There are some geographical gaps in provision in the area which could be filled, either by new club formation or more likely outreach programmes by existing clubs.

## Strategy issues

2.7 The key issues for the strategy to address are therefore:

- the need to at least maintain the current level of pitch provision at existing grounds (or new locations) to meet current demand;
- the need to accommodate training at existing clubs without detriment to pitch condition – including additional floodlit pitches;
- the need for qualitative improvements at existing grounds, including upgrades to pitches to ensure that the required amount of games/training can be sustained;
- qualitative improvements to ancillary facilities;
- the option of securing community use of school pitches to meet current need;
- the possible role of 3G pitches in reducing demands on grass pitches and providing opportunities for training and mini/midi competition;
- potential to increase participation given the apparent under capacity of pitches;
- the specific requirements of Wymondham and Norwich Rugby Clubs for new sites and the need to ensure that relocation does not impinge on the catchments of other clubs in the area; and
- the practicality of expanding rugby pitch provision into the areas of Greater Norwich where opportunities to play rugby are not currently available.

## HOCKEY

### Key findings

2.8 The key findings for hockey are:

- There are 10 artificial grass pitches in and around Greater Norwich area serving the needs of the area. Three other pitches could meet the criteria for hockey but are not currently in use for such.
- There are 13 clubs playing hockey in the area, comprising an estimated 100+ teams.
- Team numbers have increased in the past three seasons and 2/3 of clubs have plans to increase numbers further in the near future. This is confirmed by England Hockey which anticipates further growth in the coming years.
- Some clubs are forced to play outside their natural catchment because of the lack of suitable pitches nearer.
- Quality is as important as quantity and is considered generally good, both in terms of pitches and to a lesser extent ancillary facilities like changing.
- Based on current activity, it is calculated that there is a broad balance between pitch capacity and demand at the present time.

- There is some displaced and latent demand at present, and with future population growth and club and NGB initiatives likely to increase demand, there is a need up to 2026 for 2-3 additional pitches.
- There are some geographical gaps in provision which could be filled, particularly in view of large new housing areas changing the existing pattern of population distribution, subject to identifying unmet demand here.

### Strategy issues

2.9 The key issues for hockey to be addressed in any strategy are as follows:

- no additional pitches are required for hockey at the present time to meet unmet demand (given that one additional pitch is planned for 2014), but continued access to existing non club pitches on school site and elsewhere is necessary;
- competition with football highlights the importance of maintaining (and potentially increasing in light of participation increases) appropriate access to sand based multi-use AGPs for training and competitive activity for hockey clubs;
- quality of facilities impacts upon the activity that can be undertaken. There is a need to address site specific issues some locations including UEA Sportspark;
- there is an ongoing need to ensure that surfaces are managed and maintained to a high level to ensure that pitches remain fit for purpose and in particular a programme of surface replacements on pitches now nearing the end of their life;
- a better geographical spread of pitches in the future may be desirable, subject to the identification of unmet demand - pitches are currently lacking in the Aylsham, Wymondham and Diss areas;
- the potential for some of the existing sand based AGPs to be converted to 3G should be resisted. The need for a co-ordinated approach to the future of AGP surfaces which does not prejudice hockey use is an issue that requires consideration in conjunction with football and rugby; and
- if new pitches are considered in new locations, it is important that ancillary changing and clubhouse facilities are provided to avoid the need for clubs to travel after matches. The difficulties of achieving this on existing school sites (if this is a preferred location) should be acknowledged.

### BOWLS

#### Key findings

2.10 The key findings for bowls are:

- There are 80 bowls greens distributed across the Greater Norwich area which currently accommodate 83 clubs, a high level of supply. There are 2 additional clubs with a 'local' base playing outside the area.
- Bowls participation in the area is relatively high. Participation is dominated by older people and there is very little junior activity. All clubs wish to attract younger players.

- Hearsay suggests that membership levels have declined over the years.
- Greens and pavilions are generally considered good in quality, though there are improvements required at some locations.
- Despite the vacancies in membership at most clubs, there is considered to be a broad balance between supply and demand at present. If development initiatives and demographic changes occur as anticipated, most existing greens should be retained up to 2026 though there is no identified need for additional greens, with the exception of where a demand is identified for new greens in the growth areas, which cannot be met by nearby clubs and facilities.
- Innovative improvements to facilities and to marketing the sport would be likely to raise participation.

### Strategy issues

2.11 The key issues to be addressed for bowls are therefore;

- the retention of greens to meet the current and future needs of clubs;
- population growth will increase the number of players and place additional demands on existing facilities, but there is no requirement for the creation of more greens, although all current functioning greens are considered valuable resources;
- there is a need to ensure that the quality of greens is maintained through the retention of ongoing maintenance practices and knowledge sharing;
- improvements to ancillary facilities to maintain and enhance their attractiveness to existing and potential new users, including young people, women and the disabled;
- site specific improvements are also required;
- there are significant opportunities to grow the sport of bowls within the Greater Norwich area as elsewhere and to promote opportunities to participate. There is a need to maximise income into bowls clubs to ensure their ongoing sustainability
- improved opportunities for casual pay and play by better access to private clubs and in particular LA sites in Norwich, which are available for public informal use; and
- consideration of the provision of one synthetic surfaced green with floodlights to facilitate year round play might be made, though this needs to take into account the good supply of indoor bowls centres and clubs in the Greater Norwich area.

## TENNIS

### Key findings

2.12 The key findings for tennis are:

- There are 157 tennis courts in community use in the Greater Norwich area on club and public sites, together with at least 116 courts at secondary schools.
- There are 20 affiliated clubs, and several more others, in the area which together with public courts meet the demand for tennis.

- Quality is generally adequate.
- Improvements to courts and ancillary facilities including floodlight provision are needed in certain locations.
- There are a significant number of LA and other 'public' park courts available for casual tennis, though no great evidence of intensive use, although County LTA initiatives are concentrating on this level of activity, particularly in Norwich.
- There are considered to be sufficient courts to meet demand now and in the future, with a potential reserve of school courts available to meet any additional demand. However if the participation targets of the county LTA are to be realised, additional facilities will be required up to 2026, and these might be considered in the new housing growth areas, and in those parts of the area without good access at present to courts.

### Strategy issues

2.13 The strategy should ensure the following:

- the retention of all existing club courts to meet the needs of members clubs;
- the potential use of existing courts on school sites and any qualitative improvements necessary to bring into wider use, including floodlighting and surface renovation;
- improvements to ancillary facilities (club house, parking, etc) where necessary;
- more intensive use of pay and play and free to use courts at public parks and village recreation grounds; and
- areas outside the reasonable catchment of courts are provided with facilities, subject to the identification of actual or potential demand.

### NETBALL

#### Key findings

2.14 The key findings for netball are:

- There are estimated to be 39 outdoor netball courts on 14 sites in the Greater Norwich area, and indoor courts at UEA and 2 academies in Norwich. There are in addition a large number of other courts on school sites.
- Courts are generally considered good in quality at the two main outdoor venues, but improvements are required at some locations.
- Netball participation in the area exceeds the national average, and demand remains fairly buoyant. There is no apparent shortage of venues for matches and training (both indoor and outdoor), and the availability of a large number of other courts on school sites not currently used provides a reservoir of additional potential supply, although many of these are only available if at all in the summer, because of the lack of floodlights. It is concluded therefore that the current demand for netball courts can be met from existing supply.

- There is some latent demand, and future participation is likely to grow as a result of population change within the relevant age groups (an additional 100 players – 12-15 teams), and as the result of development initiatives from the governing bodies, LAs and other groups. Encouragement for juniors to take up the sport and the development of players up to performance levels is likely to find its way through to adult participation.
- On the basis of the existing level of provision, current demand for netball is considered to be met, and there is spare capacity at other school sites throughout the area to accommodate some future and latent demand. However any significant increase in participation above natural growth would require additional provision – this could include more courts at existing venues (e.g. schools where feasible), improvement to capacity by quality improvements (such as floodlighting) and better access to other school sites not currently used for club netball and improvements to their facilities (e.g. floodlighting, changing rooms). The development of new clubs and courts (say in conjunction with new schools in the new housing growth areas) should be considered in any strategy for 2026.

### Strategy issues

2.15 The strategy should ensure the following:

- There is evidence of unmet and latent demand which may require additional outdoor netball facilities in the future. Is incremental improvement the best option, or should the provision of a new purpose built 4 court central facility be considered, and where might this be located?
- There are netball courts at most existing secondary schools. Is the refurbishment and floodlighting of these a better option to consider?
- Are ancillary facilities required now and in the future at existing and new venues to support match play?
- Are additional indoor courts at any new sports halls recommended in the indoor facilities strategy required for netball, which should therefore be designed to accommodate netball including run off?

## 3. Framework for the Future Delivery of Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Provision in the Greater Norwich Area

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- 3.1 This section sets out a strategy for the future delivery of facilities for football, cricket, rugby, hockey and other outdoor sports in the Greater Norwich area.
- 3.2 It seeks to deliver on the aspirations of the local sporting community and to respond to the issues identified through the assessment of local playing pitch and other provision. As such, it is focused around the following principles;
- **Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision** – the strategy seeks to ensure that the Greater Norwich area contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and in the right place. It promotes the protection of existing provision, but also recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the impact that qualitative improvements can have on capacity.
  - **Pitch provision will be delivered in partnership** - the strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community. It may be too late to consider in the current round of local plans, but outdoor sports sites and areas of search can be addressed in planning policies in the future and any neighbourhood plans that will be prepared.
  - **Investment will focus upon interventions that will have the greatest impact** – the strategy seeks to prioritise investment into sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit. It will seek to increase participation in sport and activity in terms of both numbers and standards.
  - **The strategy will seek to maximise sustainability** – it will seek to build relationships between sports, promote good practice and deliver sustainable solutions for sport and recreation across the Greater Norwich area.
- 3.3 This framework for future delivery is summarised in a number of Strategic Objectives – as set out below. These follow the headings of ‘Protect’, ‘Enhance’ and ‘Provide’, as recommended by Sport England, although these categories are not mutually exclusive and some measures will sit comfortably both within for example ‘Enhance’ and ‘Provide.’ However, between them, they encompass all the factors underpinning the development of a sustainable framework. The Action Plans (following) present recommendations by sport and by LA, identifying sites and specific actions where appropriate.

### Summary of Strategic Objectives

- 3.4 The following strategic objectives will be applied to playing pitch provision across the Greater Norwich area. It should be reiterated that in some cases, requirements could be met by more than one strategic objective.

#### Strategic Objective 1 - Protect

- 3.5 The strategy will ensure the need to protect playing pitch provision irrespective of ownership and the degree of community access and use, along with unused sites and land allocated as a playing field in any relevant development plan document. Although the assessment has indicated that there is a good current supply of accessible pitches with secured community use to meet current demand, where there is an apparent surplus, sites should be protected for future need.



3.6 Within this overall strategic objective, the strategy will seek to protect pitches and other outdoor facilities by:

- Enhancing local planning policy and highlighting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 74) and Sport England's statutory consultee role on planning applications affecting playing field land
- Highlighting sites which have a particular special significance for sport and seek to designate them as a local recreational space through the Development Plan process (see NPPF paragraphs 76 and 77)
- Securing the long term protection of land for other forms of recreational use, including children's play areas and informal recreational spaces, where playing pitches are no longer required
- Ensuring the sustainability of pitch sport clubs, particularly in a time of severe financial constraints and reduction in subsidies to the voluntary sector, by promoting partnership working, and sharing of knowledge, expertise and skills in the management and maintenance of pitches. Encouraging clubs to achieve relevant accreditations and to work towards long term robust development plans and providing advice and information,
- Negotiating and ensuring long term security of tenure at specific sites, and supporting clubs with aspirations to manage and maintain their own facilities by negotiating and ensuring long term security of tenure at specific sites
- The adoption of a policy for asset transfer focusing on clubs that are able to demonstrate long-term development plans and have achieved appropriate accreditations.
- Protecting the provision of playing pitches for community use by agreements with clubs that lease facilities
- Developing and securing community use of school pitch sport facilities, supporting improvements which will improve access to existing school pitches and enhance their viability and suitability for community use, and ensuring that facilities on school sites are, from the outset, designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use.

### **Strategic Objective 2 - Enhance**

3.7 The strategy will look to make the best use of existing provision ensuring better quality, access and management. This may help to meet both current and future demand instead of, or alongside, new additional provision.

3.8 Within this overall strategic objective, the strategy will seek to enhance the provision of playing pitches by:

- Improving the quality of the playing surface (e.g. drainage works), by undertaking and supporting improvements and enhancement at sites that do not meet required quality standards, supporting clubs that require improved facilities in order to play at a higher standard, ensuring that usage is in line with site capacity and that play is evenly spread across pitches and implementing a programme of rest and recovery where appropriate.

- Providing enhanced ancillary facilities (e.g. floodlighting and changing provision)
- Securing community use at sites which do not currently provide such use but have indicated that they are willing to do so and are in a suitable location to help meet demand (see above)
- Improving the maintenance arrangements at sites, especially those that are well used but of poor quality, ensuring that all pitches are maintained using regimes appropriate for the level of use that they sustain and the activities that are undertaken. This should include both regular maintenance and out of season reinstatement and capital investment
- Ensuring effective management and programming of sites and booking procedures (where appropriate) and sharing knowledge, skills and expertise in the management and maintenance of pitches, including rotation of pitches, encouragement to casual booking, encouraging leagues to introduce alternative and staggered kick-off times, to make use of off-peak periods, reviewing pricing policies e.g. considering introducing reduced pricing of pitches for less popular days and times and considering the joint management of sites in close proximity to one another (e.g. club and school sites).
- Considering the option of asset transfers for any sites where they will be of clear benefit for the provision of pitches and all parties concerned
- Using sites with spare capacity for additional sporting activity (e.g. additional forms of a traditional pitch sport, trying out a new form of the game and/or providing for new or developing sports).
- Considering the introduction of different pitch sports on an existing site (e.g. junior football pitches on cricket outfields)
- Maintaining an appropriate balance between recreation and formal playing pitch requirements
- Ensuring that clubs have access to sufficient facilities for training as well as for matches
- Directing casual use to other areas of the site to help reduce wear and tear (e.g. removing / repositioning goal posts, protecting the cricket square).
- Considering the identification of a number of hub sites, which will be prioritized in terms of further development, in order to make the most effective use of existing facilities (including grass pitches, artificial grass pitches, courts, multi use games areas and indoor sports facilities) and to benefit from the sharing of facilities, resources and finance, and working with clubs, schools and other providers and users to establish their requirements and identify appropriate venues as hub sites and associated satellite facilities (see below).
- Improving physical and affordable accessibility to pitch sport sites, in order to encourage greater participation by all sectors of the community by means of pricing policy e.g. consideration to be given to the introduction of concessionary rates for e.g. Charter Standard Clubs and more concessionary rates for schools, partnerships with other providers to provide a 'one stop' information centre in the Greater Norwich area on facilities, availability, hire costs etc., supporting improvements and developments which enhance opportunities for participation by

people with disabilities, young people and women, ensuring all changing facilities are DDA compliant and there are disability car parking spaces, ensuring that all main playing field sites are on bus routes and ensuring new playing field sites linked by cycleways, with adequate, safe and secure bike storage options

- Partnership working to enable greater use of existing playing field sites and the sharing of skills, expertise, resources and facilities, by developing pitch sports facilities in association with health agencies/agendas to create environments which provide opportunities for sport and fitness activities to take place easily within people's daily lives and partnerships between LA departments, clubs, parish councils, commercial providers and schools, to expand the range of affordable and accessible opportunities for residents of the Greater Norwich area and to avoid duplication of facilities.
- Ensuring that all new provision and enhancements are carried out in a sustainable manner and that sites have the capacity and ability to be developed to become as effective, well used and viable as possible. Sustainable sites are likely to be those which offer good access, capacity to upgrade, ability to accommodate a range of activities/pitch sizes, at least 2 pitches and ancillary accommodation and are easily accessible on foot and by public transport.

### **Strategic Objective 3 - Provide**

- 3.9 The opportunities for providing new facilities will vary depending on the nature of the study area – in the Greater Norwich area there is considerable growth and new provision may be necessary. The assessment suggests that alongside the enhancement of existing provision, some new natural and/or artificial grass pitches are required to meet current and/or future demand.
- 3.10 Within this overall strategic objective, the strategy will seek to make new provision for playing pitches by
- Providing and maintaining additional pitches on specific existing sites where space allows, ensuring that all facilities are fully available for community use (including those on education sites), that the standard of facilities and ancillary provision is high, to meet increasingly high aspirations and expectations from players.
  - Addressing any deficiencies in junior and mini football by designating adult football pitches to junior and mini sites to ensure that all teams are playing on pitches of the right size, and ensuring that all pitches are appropriately marked to meet with new FA guidelines (adult and junior).
  - Developing new sites in the most appropriate locations (see below) to best meet demand, in accordance with identified demand, arising from increases in population and participation and changes in participation patterns and from individual club aspirations.
  - Providing a required number and type of pitches on-site, or appropriate provision off-site, to meet the specific needs of major development proposals.
  - Addressing the need for artificial grass pitches to meet increasing and changing demand for AGP surfaces for both training and competition in football, hockey and rugby and other pitch sports.

- Establishing targets for development and participation increases, marketing of opportunities and proactive sports development to increase interest and participation in the pitch sports and usage of playing field facilities and improve the health, fitness and well-being of residents in the Greater Norwich area

## 4: Action Plans

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- 4.1 The Action Plans presented in this section build on the Framework for Delivery – Strategic Priorities set out in Section 3. While to date and for clarity, each sport has been considered separately within the assessment and this strategy, recommendations should be implemented strategically, considering opportunities for partnerships between sports. Sustainable clubs and multi sport partnerships provide the foundations for a successful future delivery model and it will be essential to ensure that good practice and knowledge is spread across the Greater Norwich area through sharing of expertise and effective training and guidance.
- 4.2 Table 1: Action Plans by sports sets out action points for all pitches and then for each of the sports in turn, identifying specific sites where appropriate. An indication of the timeframe and the lead responsibility and implementation partners is included – the costs associated with the strategy are broad/budget figures only, and more precise detail will only become available after detailed feasibility, which is considered outside the scope of this strategy.
- 4.3 Table 2: Action Plans by site sets out action points in relation to individual sites in each LA area within Greater Norwich (these are included as separate reports for each LA area).
- 4.4 Prioritisation is based on the collective views of the clubs, governing bodies and other potential providers. These should be considered in more detail in any implementation plan that is developed in conjunction with this strategy, with the immediate priorities being those that are categorised as short term and high priority in the action plans.

# 1. GREATER NORWICH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ACTION PLANS BY SPORTS

## Football

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
					Short 2014 - 16 Med 2017-20 Long 2021-26		
Protect	F1	Protect all current football pitches and incorporate a presumption against their loss in local plans	All existing pitches and sites that have been previously used as playing fields and remain of potential value, particularly where there are 2 pitches or more on site	High	Ongoing	LPA	£0
	F2	Retain all other (former) pitches as green space pending the need for additional pitches in the future, but consider disposal and redevelopment of some sites where there is a single pitch and reinvestment in alternative pitches is in the best interests of football.	Beighton, Cantley, Postwick, Reedham, Barford, Bunwell, Marlingford, Pulham St Mary, Seething and Mundham, Shelfanger, Tivetshall and Wicklewood.  Bayer SG - seek compensatory contribution due to loss of long standing sports site	High  High	Ongoing  Short	LPA  LPA/site owners	£0  £0
	F3	Consider the reinstatement of former playing fields where there is a demand in the area	Retain NELM and Anglian Windows as sites for future football use	High	Short	Site owners/NCFA	£0

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
	F4	Protect the security of tenure of existing clubs where current lease and rental arrangements are scheduled for renegotiation	All relevant clubs	High	Ongoing	Owners/tenants	£0
	F5	Protect the quality of pitches by ensuring that bookings are in line with pitch capacity	All sites particularly those already in heavy use (see site specific policies)	High	Ongoing	Site owners	£0
	F6	Protect the long term retention of threatened pitches through a policy of asset transfer of sites, by setting out the circumstances where this is available and the overall benefit to clubs	All relevant sites	High	Ongoing	Site owners/clubs/NCFA	£0
	F7	Protect current levels of access to school sites and negotiate long term community use agreements	All schools in current use by clubs	High	Ongoing	Schools/academies/clubs/LAs	£0
Enhance	F8	Put in place measures to alleviate the overuse of pitches where the assessment has identified overplay or lack of spare capacity (see site specific policies) by increasing capacity, rescheduling matches, seeking alternative sites and other measures set out below	All sites/pitches identified in assessment with no spare capacity	High	Ongoing	Site owners/clubs/schools/NCF A	variable
	F9	Increase the capacity of existing pitches on sites where identified in the assessment as poor, by improvements	Bure Valley School, Anglian Windows, Woodland View School, Shotesham PF	High	Short	Site owners/schools	£0-10k each

F10	<p>Prioritise improvements to the quality of pitches in order to improve the playing capacity of the existing pitch stock, in accordance with club aspirations. Seek to ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of an appropriate standard in accordance with the level at which they play.</p>	<p><b>Aylsham Rec</b> – improvements to pitch surface, subject to ongoing need for pitches</p>	Low	Medium	PC	£0-10k
		<p><b>Coltishall PF</b> – improvements to pitch levels and maintenance</p>	Medium	Medium	PC	£0-10k
		<p><b>Freethorpe</b> – improvements to pitch maintenance and equipment</p>	Medium	Short	Club	£0-10k
		<p><b>Lavare Park</b> – provision of portable floodlights</p>	High	Short	PC/club/NCFA	£0-10k
		<p><b>Plantation Park</b> – need for irrigation/ sprinkler system and barrier filled in to stop balls escaping.</p>	Low	Medium	Club	£0-10k
		<p><b>Reepham</b> – floodlights for main pitch</p>	Low	Medium	Club/PC	£10-50k
		<p><b>Sprowston S&amp;SC</b> – provision of floodlights on pitch, need for long term security</p>	Low	Medium	Club	£10-50k
		<p><b>Taverham</b> – improvements to pitch surface</p>	Low	Medium	PC/club	£0-10k
	<p><b>Thorpe Rec</b> – provision of brick dugouts, plus mini development. Fencing of pitch, improvement of training area, floodlights for training and matches (subject to TC approval)</p>	Low	Medium	Club/PC	£10-50k	
	<p><b>Wroxham FC</b> – improvements to drainage</p>	Low	Medium	Club	£0-10k	



		<p><b>Eaton Park</b> – improvements to pitch quality</p> <p><b>Recreation Road</b> – provision of storage and portable floodlights</p> <p><b>Sloughbottom Park</b> – improvements to pitch quality</p> <p><b>Brooke</b> – improvements to pitch surface, slope and drainage</p> <p><b>Costessey</b> – improvements to pitch surface and prevention of dog fouling</p> <p><b>Earsham</b> – improvement to pitch and reduction in casual public access</p> <p><b>Harleston</b> – improvement to drainage and prevention of dog fouling</p> <p><b>Hethersett</b> – improvements to maintenance (dog fouling, litter)</p> <p><b>Hilltops</b> – provision of floodlights on main pitch</p> <p><b>Loddon</b> – improvements to surface, provision of training floodlights, and resolution of public access issues,</p> <p><b>Mulbarton</b> – improvement to pitch drainage and surface</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short/medium</p>	<p>LA</p> <p>Club</p> <p>LA/NCFA</p> <p>PC/clubs</p> <p>PC</p> <p>PC</p> <p>PC</p> <p>PC</p> <p>Club</p> <p>PC/club</p>	<p>£10-50k</p> <p>£10-50k</p> <p>£10-50k</p> <p>£0-10k</p> <p>£0-10k</p> <p>£0-10k</p> <p>£0-10k</p> <p>£0-10k</p> <p>£10-50k</p> <p>£10-50k</p>
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			<b>Scole</b> - improvements to drainage	Medium	Short	Club	£0-10k
			<b>Stoke Holy Cross</b> - improvements to pitch levels	Medium	Short	Club/PC	£0-10k
			<b>Wymondham Town FC</b> - improvements to pitch drainage and prevention of dog fouling	Low	Medium	PC	£0-10k
			<b>Wymondham Ketts Park</b> - Improvements to drainage and pitch quality	Medium	Short	Club	£0-10k
				Low	Short	Club/PC	£0-10k
	<b>F11</b>	Ensure that levels of investment in pitches are sufficient to maintain appropriate management regimes and any capital improvements	All pitches	Medium	Ongoing	Clubs/owners/PC/LA	£0
	<b>F12</b>	Carry out necessary improvements to ancillary and changing facilities, to ensure that all sites incorporate segregated changing, good quality showers, minimum standard of toilets and other essential amenities, including disabled access and use	Facilities identified as poor in assessment:  Ballay Field, Buxton Rec, Coltishall PF, Coltishall VH, Frettenham VH, Gt Plumstead PF, Lingwood PF, Salhouse Rec, Britannia Barracks, Eaton Park, Sloughbottom Park, Bressingham PF, Deopham PF, Rectory Rd Ellingham, Hethersett Memorial PF, Norton Athletic, Pulham Market PF, Tacolneston PF, Thurton VH	Medium	Ongoing	Clubs/owners/PC/LA	£10-50k each

		<p><b>Heathlands Community Centre, Blofield Heath</b> – new changing</p>	Medium	Medium	PC/club	£200+
		<p><b>Coltishall</b> – pavilion refurbishment</p>	Medium	Medium	Club	£10-50k
		<p><b>Old Catton Rec</b> - Refurbishment &amp; extension to changing room pavilion to include small social area inc kitchen and also site security fencing</p>	High	Short	PC/club	£50k+
		<p><b>Sprowston Rec</b> - Pavilion refurbishment &amp; extension</p>	High	Short	PC	£50k+
		<p><b>St Andrews FC</b> - Pavilion refurbishment to meet Step 7 Ground Grading</p>	Medium	Medium	PC/club	£50k+
		<p><b>Sloughbottom Park</b> - New changing room/pavilion</p>	High	Short	LA	£685k
		<p><b>NELM</b> - New 4 x changing room /pavilion, if pitches reinstated</p>	Low	Long	NELM	£685k
		<p><b>Recreation Road, Norwich</b> - more storage space at ground</p>	High	Short	Club/schools	£10-50k
		<p><b>Brooke</b> – additional changing if pitch numbers increased</p>	Low	Medium	PC/club	£50k+
		<p><b>Harleston</b> - extend tea hut, provide ref's room</p>	Low	Short	PC/club	£10-50k
		<p><b>Loddon</b> – improved changing</p>				

			<p><b>Long Stratton</b> - new changing at Manor Field</p> <p><b>Poringland Memorial PF</b> - Changing room refurbishment</p> <p><b>Scale</b> - 2 new changing rooms</p> <p><b>Shotesham</b> - low cost modular changing rooms</p> <p><b>Wymondham, Kings Head Meadow</b> - improvements to equipment store, pavilion refurb</p> <p><b>Topcroft CC</b> - improvements to pavilion for cricket and football</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>PC/club</p> <p>PC/club</p> <p>PC</p> <p>PC/club/NCFA</p> <p>PC</p> <p>Club</p> <p>Club/PC</p>	<p>£10-50k</p> <p>£200k+</p> <p>£50k+</p> <p>£100+</p> <p>£100k+</p> <p>£0-10k</p> <p>£50k+</p>
	<b>F13</b>	Seek better use of school sites/pitches where appropriate and in priority locations, by negotiating community use agreements	School sites in areas of high demand – Sprowston, Hellesdon, Thorpe	High	Ongoing	Schools/LAs	£0
	<b>F14</b>	Where necessary, realign existing pitches and remark to meet with FA guidelines ensuring that juniors play on suitable sized pitches. Consider the re-designation of some adult pitches for junior, and 9v9 use	Sites where appropriate	Medium	Ongoing	Pitch owners	£0-10k each

	<b>F15</b>	Where possible, mark out more pitches to ensure improved pitch rotation for rest and recovery	Larger sites where relevant	High	Ongoing	Pitch owners	£0
	<b>F16</b>	Encourage leagues to introduce alternative and staggered kick off times to make better use of off peak periods	All leagues and all areas	Medium	Ongoing	Leagues/NCFA	£0
	<b>F17</b>	Promote a forum of users of all pitches in the area/all 3 LA areas to understand and discuss the main pitch issues	All clubs and leagues	Medium	Short	LAs/NCFA/clubs/LAs	£0
	<b>F18</b>	Where appropriate ensure a strategy for pitch booking that promotes the development of club bases (i.e. all teams playing at one site)	Sites where teams have multi teams and where appropriate e.g. Thorpe St Andrew	High	Ongoing	Pitch owners/LAs	£0
	<b>F19</b>	Consider a review where possible of pricing including a reduction of concessionary rates for Charter Standard clubs to encourage the development of high quality club environments, a key priority of the FA moving forward	Charter standard club sites rented from LA/PC etc	Medium	Ongoing	Pitch owners /LAs/NCFA	£0
	<b>F20</b>	Support the provision of portable training floodlights at pitch sites where training grids can be marked out thus avoiding the use of match pitches	Sites without separate floodlit training areas	Low/medium	Medium	NCFA/LAs/clubs	£5k each
	<b>F21</b>	Work with Norfolk FA to promote the use of 3G pitches for competition for both juniors and adults, to reduce the wear on grass pitches and improve the playing experience	Existing and proposed AGP sites (see below)	Medium	Short	Clubs/leagues/NCFA	£0
	<b>F22</b>	Maintain and improve the quality of AGPs and ensure they remain fit for purpose	All AGPs	High	Ongoing	Pitch owners	£0-10k each

	<b>F23</b>	Build relationships between football and cricket clubs where junior pitches could be accommodated on a cricket outfield	Sprowston CC, Halvergate, Saxlingham, Drayton, Topcroft	Medium	Ongoing	Football and cricket clubs	£0
<b>Provide</b>	<b>F24</b>	Despite the good supply of pitches at present overall, provide additional pitches and facilities in appropriate locations to meet the identified current specific needs of clubs from consultation, particularly junior clubs seeking a location on one site	<p><b>Aylsham</b> - £1m new facility planned, with 4 large changing, 210 pitches (main pitch FL), portables for training on one site</p> <p><b>Acle</b> - need for additional pitch</p> <p><b>Brooke</b> - need for additional pitch</p> <p><b>Freethorpe</b> - acquisition of more land to provide another pitch, and funding for equipment</p> <p><b>Frettenham Village Hall</b> - New Changing Room Pavilion and additional land (12 acres) for new pitches;</p> <p><b>or</b></p> <p><b>Horsford FC</b> - new multi pitch site and facilities in or near village to accommodate multi teams, willing to cooperate with other clubs</p> <p><b>Hellesdon Youth</b> - new venue to accommodate teams displaced from Anglian Windows to allow partnership with senior club</p>	High	Short	Aylsham FC/NCFA	£1000k
				Medium	Medium	PC/club	£80k
				Medium	Medium	PC/clubs	£65k
				High	Short	Club	£100k
				High	Medium	PC/clubs	£500k
				High	Medium	Club	£500k
				High	Short	Club/PC/NCFA	£500k

		<p><b>Hethersett</b> – provision of new multi-use, sports area, as part of housing growth plans to provide central community club with all facilities,</p>	Medium	Medium	LPA/LA/club/NCF A	£500k
		<p><b>Long Stratton FC</b> – identification of additional land for pitches and ancillary facilities to accommodate growing junior club</p>	High	Medium	PC/club	£500k
		<p><b>Sprowston PC</b> – provision of additional land for pitches including changing to meet needs of new housing area, and possibility of accommodating Sprowston FC on one site</p>	Medium	Medium/long	PC/LPA	£500k
		<p><b>Thorpe Rovers</b> – provision of space for expansion of club, possibly at TSA HS</p>	Medium	Medium	Club/PC/school	£50-100k
		<p><b>Wroxham</b> – identification of alternative site for major relocation, in Rackheath growth area, and development of sports hub.</p>	Medium	Medium	Club/LPA/NCFA	£500k
		<p><b>Poringland</b> – development of new Multi Sport Site under the banner of the Poringland Vision to include football pitch</p>	Medium	Medium	PC/clubs	£750k
		<p><b>Scole</b> – provision of additional pitches and improved changing to accommodate juniors</p>	High	Short	PC/clubs	£250k

			<b>Norwich City Community Sports Foundation</b> - identification of a central location to enable it to accommodate all its current and future teams (30-40), and to include a range of all sizes of pitch including a large covered pitch, preferably on the Anglian Windows site	High	Short	NCCSF/Norwich CC/Norfolk CC/NCFA	£2-3000k
	<b>F25</b>	Provide additional pitches in the housing growth areas not covered above (up to the balance of the 20-30 new pitches required), to serve the specific local needs of the increased population in those areas. Provision should be made on a pro rata basis across all new development areas, and based on local demand at the time (some of these new pitches may already be committed through existing planning permissions and agreements).	Broadland growth triangle/Rackheath	High	Long	LPA/PCs	£500k
			Wymondham	High	Long	LPA/PCs	£500k
			Cringleford	High	Long	LPA/PCs	£500k
			Long Stratton	High	Long	LPA/PCs	£500k
	<b>F26</b>	Ensure that any new provision includes at least 2 new pitches and a training area and changing rooms to an agreed specification	All new provision	High	Ongoing	All pitch providers	£0
	<b>F27</b>	Consider the provision of 4 additional 3G pitches for play and training where there is an identified demand	Open Academy	High	Short	Academy/NCFA/clubs	£865k
			Diss area/HS	High	Medium	LA/HS/NCFA	£865k
			Wymondham (possibly in conjunction with RC)	High	Medium	LA/PC/clubs/NCF A	£900k
			Broadland growth triangle	High	Long	LA/PCs/NCFA	£865k



F28	Support the growth and development of clubs by improving access to training facilities, including the provision of additional small 3G AGPs	<b>Aylsham</b> - Aylsham – new 60 x 40m 3G on HS or new site	Medium	Short	Club/NCFA/PC	£400k
		<b>Long Stratton</b> – refurb existing sand based pitch to 3G with FL,	Medium	Medium	PC/club	£100k
		<b>Sprowston S&amp;SC</b> - 3G training area desired (refurb MUGA), subject to ownership	Medium	Medium	Club	£100k
		<b>Freethorpe</b> – resurface existing sand based AGP with 3G	Medium	Medium	Club	£100k
		<b>Hethersett</b> - small 3G as part of new housing	Medium	Medium	PA/LA/club/NCFA	£400k
		<b>Mulbarton PC</b> - refurb MUGA or new small 3G	Medium	Medium	PC/club	£200k
		<b>Poringland</b> – new AGP or refurbished school astro	Medium	Medium	PC/school	£400k

## Cricket

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
Protect	C1	Secure the retention of all pitches in LA, private and club ownership to meet current and future need	All existing pitches and clubs	Med	Long	NCB, LAs, PCs, all owners	£0
	C2	Consider the transfer of management of any pitches on public/school sites (if feasible) to clubs to improve maintenance and revenue costs	School sites and some LA sites in Norwich	Low	Long	NCB, NCC, PCs, other owners, schools	£0-10k
Enhance	C3	Seek to maintain and improve the quality and characteristics of all pitches, and make specific improvements to the wicket and pitch. Support the provision of appropriate machinery and equipment at cricket grounds. Increase the capacity of existing wickets and provide more wickets on club sites where identified in the assessment (see site specific policies)	Bungay CC (wicket), Costessey (pitch maintenance) Cringleford Lodge CC (wicket) Drayton (outfield) Gt Witchingham (outfield) Pilling Park CC (overall maintenance) Reepham & Salle (drainage) Saxlingham CC (outfield) South Walsham CC (outfield/irrigation) Sprowston CC (drainage) St Andrews CC /Dussindale (wicket).	High High High High High High High High High High	Med Med Med Med Med Med Med Med Med Med	NCB, Grounds Association NCB, Grounds Association NCB, Grounds Association NCB, Grounds Association NCB, Grounds Association NCB, Grounds Association NCB, Grounds Association NCB, Grounds Association NCB, Grounds Association NCB, Grounds Association	£0-10k £0-10k £0-10k £0-10k £0-10k £0-10k £0-10k £0-10k £0-10k £0-10k

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
			Pitch sites identified as poor in assessment:  Buxton Ballay Field, Pilling Park  Priority to existing Clubmark clubs	Medium	Med		£0-10k
	<b>C4</b>	Work in partnership with the NCB to support clubs and schools in improving the quality of pitches, and in accessing funding through the ECB Grant Aid and Pitch Advisory Scheme. Any improvements undertaken should seek to ensure that facilities are in line with ECB standards as well as meeting specifications for the local leagues	Schools and appropriate clubs above especially Clubmark clubs	High	Med	NCB, Grounds Association, schools, clubs	£0-10k
	<b>C5</b>	Support clubs and leagues in creating development plans to enable targeted and accurate forecasting and monitoring of additional pitch requirements.	Clubmark clubs and others	High	Short	NCB, Leagues	£0
	<b>C6</b>	Carry out necessary improvements to ancillary pitch facilities to ensure sustainability of use	Bunwell CC/CNS (pitch covers)  Eaton CC/CNS (sight screens)  Brooke CC (better access to ground/new scoreboard)	Med  Med  Med	Short  Short  Short	NCB, Grounds Association, clubs	£0-10k  £0-10k  £0-10k
	<b>C7</b>	Provide where lacking or carry out necessary improvements to pavilions and changing facilities, to ensure that all	CNS (clubhouse)  Reepham & Salle (new clubhouse)	High  High	Med  Med	NCB, clubs	£50k+  £50k+

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
		facilities incorporate segregated changing, good quality showers, and other essential facilities,	Pilling Park (clubhouse) Norwich CC (Postwick) Clubhouse, Felthorpe CC (Clubhouse) Hales & Loddon CC (Clubhouse) Topcroft CC (Clubhouse improvements for cricket and football)	High High High High High	Med Med Med Med Med		£50k+ £50k+ £50k+ £10-50k £10-50k
	<b>C8</b>	Support cricket clubs in the improvement of training facilities to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance. This should include improvements (or provision of) both appropriate training nets and artificial wickets	Costessey CC (nets/non turf pitch) Cringleford Lodge (nets) Diss CC (nets) Drayton CC (nets) Gt Melton CC (nets) Mulbarton CC (non turf wicket) Norwich Bystanders (nets) Sprowston CC (mobile nets) Colney CC (nets) Bunwell/CNS (pitch covers) Mulbarton (changing near pitch),	High High High High High High High High High High High	Med Med Med Med Med Med Med Med Med Med Med	NCB, clubs	£10-50k £10-50k £10-50k £10-50k £10-50k £10-50k £10-50k £10-50k £10-50k £10-50k £10-50k
	<b>C9</b>	Support the sustainable growth of cricket and clubs in the area by promoting communication between all of those involved in	All clubs	Med	Short/ongoing	NCB	£0

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
		cricket through the establishment of a cricket development forum. This enables clubs to share good practice and should support accurate forward planning for all clubs.					
	<b>C10</b>	Further develop school club links and the establishment of a relationship between clubs and schools	Main high schools and main local clubs	High	Med	NCB, SSPs, CSP, LAs	£0
	<b>C11</b>	Increase access to mid week casual cricket at LA sites and others particularly in Norwich, including new non turf pitch provision	Eaton Park, Sloughbottom Park, Sprowston Rec., Britannia Barracks, Pilling Park and UEA/Colney Lane	High	Med	NCB, ECB, Norwich CC, CSP,	£50k+
	<b>C12</b>	Work to promote the availability of opportunities for cricket among groups not currently playing, including women, and particularly in the inner Norwich area	Norwich area and other larger centres e.g. Wymondham, Diss.	Med	Med	NCB, LAs	£0-10k
	<b>C13</b>	Ensure there is access to indoor training facilities (in conjunction with Built Facilities Strategy}	Sports halls and other large spaces throughout the area	Med	Med	NCB, LAs, sports hall operators	£10-50k
	<b>C14</b>	Improve access to non-turf cricket wickets on school sites, and required to support cricket development	High schools in the wider area (see assessment)	Med	Med	NCB, LAs, schools	£0-10k
	<b>C15</b>	Establish and implement minimum facility assessment	Clubmark clubs	Med	Med	NCB	£0

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
		standards for all Clubmark clubs					
	<b>C16</b>	Establish minimum standards for district and county venues	Horsford, Swardeston, Postwick, Gt Witchingham, Halvergate and other main grounds	Low	Med	NCB,	£0
<b>Provide</b>	<b>C17</b>	Consider alternative, more suitable and sustainable locations for clubs currently in unsuitable or temporary locations	Rackheath CC (currently without a ground), Aylsham St Giles, new pitch at new FC site	High Med	Short Med	NCB/clubs Club	£50k+ £50k+
	<b>C18</b>	Seek the provision in the longer term of up to 5 new/additional cricket pitches in areas of current low provision and in particular the new growth areas, Provision should be made on a pro rata basis across all new development areas, and based on local demand at the time. (some of these new pitches may already be committed through existing planning permissions and agreements)	Wymondham, Wroxham area, Broadland growth triangle	High	Long	NCB/LAs, PCs others	£50k+ each
	<b>C19</b>	Provide additional non-turf wickets in the Norwich and fringe area parks, as a base primarily for casual and recreational cricket and support teams requiring a location within the inner Norwich area.	Eaton Park, Sloughbottom Park, Sprowston Rec., Britannia Barracks, Pilling Park and UEA/Colney Lane	High	Med	NCB, NCC, Sprowston PC	£10-50k each

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
	C20	In partnership with the NCB, support clubs in obtaining satellite facilities of appropriate quality when demand exceeds supply at the club base. This may include the improvement of existing school facilities to meet club requirements (as well as negotiation of access arrangements) or the creation of new sites.	Schools and other sites near Acle, Gt Witchingham, Halvergate, Old Catton, Postwick, Sale, South Walsham, Sprowston, Brooke, Diss, Maltings Meadow, Melton Park, Hale and Loddon, Mulbarton, Saxlingham, Topcroft, Britannia Barracks	Med	Med	NCB, Schools	£10-50k

## Rugby

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
Protect	R1	Secure the retention of all pitches in private and club (and school) ownership to meet current and future need.	All existing clubs	High	Ongoing	LAs, RFU	£0
	R2	Ensure that all rugby union clubs have secured access to sufficient pitches and ancillary facilities to meet current and projected requirements.	All existing clubs	High	Ongoing	RFU/clubs	If required
	R3	Where clubs are forced to relocate ensure that there is no net loss of pitches available to them to fulfil their requirements, or preferably additional pitches to meet demand	Norwich RC, Wymondham RC	High	Ongoing	SE, LPAs, RFU	0
Enhance	R4	Secure significant improvements to current pitches in terms of drainage, slope, grass cover etc to enhance capacity (and increase number of games weekly) and player experience	Diss RC – Additional Pitches	Medium	Medium	RFU and other funding bodies, LAs where appropriate	£120k
			Lakenham Hewett RC – Pitch Maintenance	Low	Medium		£10k
			Crusaders RFC – Pitch Drainage and Maintenance	Medium	Short		£120k
			(Wymondham RC if not relocated)- Additional Pitches	High	Short		£100k if not relocated
R5	Support the improvement of all ancillary facilities to a minimum standard	Crusaders RC (redevelop CH)	High	Short	RFU and other funding bodies, LAs where appropriate	£300k	
		Lakenham Hewett (additional changing and officials rooms and committee room/office)	Medium	Medium		£250k	
				Short			



Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
			Wymondham and Norwich RCs if not relocated)  Diss (new hinged posts)	High – relocation priority Medium	Short		Unknown but in excess of £1m each  £1.3k
	R6	Develop better community access to school sites where these exist and where feasible,	School sites in close proximity to existing clubs where pitches may be available as an alternative to new provision - Sprowston HS, Open Academy and Sewell Park Academy, as part of RFU All Schools programme	High	Short	RFU, School Sports Network with Clubs	-
	R7	Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate training facilities , comprising a minimum of 1 floodlit all weather training pitch at each site, within 30 minute drive	All clubs	Medium	Short	RFU, LAs	Est. cost of Full Size IRB Pitch - £650,000
	R8	Develop further opportunities for Touch and tag rugby and '7s', summer rugby	All clubs with junior development	Medium	Short	RFU, Clubs	£1k each
	R9	Encourage that compliance testing on a 2 yearly basis is carried out on the existing Easton College pitch, to maintain certification for IRB & FA regulations.	Easton College	High	Ongoing	RFU/FA/college	£0-10k
Provide	R10	Support in principle proposals by any club to relocate sites where they fit in with overall club development, and there is no overall loss of pitches. Any new site should comprise the required long-term number of pitches, training area, possible	Norwich RC, Wymondham RC	High	Short	RFU/SE	£2,000k

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
		3G training pitch, clubhouse and other ancillary facilities, and be located in a part of the Greater Norwich area nearest to the catchment of potential players (especially juniors) and not impinge on the development of existing clubs.					
	R11	Seek the provision in the longer term of up to 10 new or additional pitches preferably (where feasible ) in conjunction with existing clubs in appropriate locations within the area ( and including additional pitches at Wymondham and Norwich) and in the new growth areas. These may include existing or new school pitches for which there is an established community use agreement	New relocated Wymondham and Norwich clubs, appropriate school sites, areas of low provision (e.g. Aylsham/Reepham area) and new growth areas	High	Long	SE/RFU/LA	£500k total
	R12	Consider the provision/ use of one new IRB22 compliant 3G AGP for rugby training and mini and junior competition, subject to full community use and appropriate business and usage plans (in conjunction with football).	Wymondham	High	Medium	SE, FA, RFU, LAs, club	£1,200k



# Hockey

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/ Areas / Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
Protect	H1	Retain all existing AGPs currently in hockey use	All existing pitches	High	Ongoing	EH, LAs, clubs	£0
	H2	Ensure that there remain sufficient sand based/dressed facilities to fulfil hockey need at both the current time and in the future by retaining sand based facilities that are strategically important for hockey (also see football)	All existing pitches	High	Ongoing	EH, LAs, clubs	£0
	H3	Protect access to sand based pitches for hockey teams through the prioritisation of hockey use on these sites.	All existing pitches	High	Ongoing	EH, clubs, LAs	£0
Enhance	H4	Ensure the ongoing improvement, maintenance and refurbishment of the surface of all pitches (in the short term particularly of those built before 2005).	All existing pitches	High	Short	Clubs, owners	£10-50k each
	H5	Ensure that all existing and new pitches have established a sinking fund to ensure that facilities (particularly carpet) are maintained to a high standard.	All existing pitches	High	ongoing	Clubs, owners	£10k pa each
	H6	Prioritise quality issues identified at existing facilities and work with providers to ensure the	UEA,	High	ongoing	UEA	£50k+

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/ Areas / Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
		timely refurbishment of pitch surfaces					
	H7	Ensure improvements are made to existing clubhouses and ancillary facilities (toilets, changing, showers, club rooms) to ensure club development	Harleston Magpies HC Hornets HC (Hobart HS)	Med Med	Medium Long	Club School, club	£50k+ £50k+
	H8	Work with all clubs to increase participation in hockey across the area and support the implementation of initiatives to increase awareness and play. This may include rush hockey and sports development initiatives to introduce more people to the game.	All clubs and schools	Med	Ongoing	EH, LAs, CSP, clubs	£0
Provide	H9	Secure the provision of the newly planned additional pitch at Norwich Dragons, including changing and clubhouse	Norwich Dragons HC	Med	Short	Club, school, EH	£715k
	H10	Consider the provision of a new water based pitch at UEA (to replace one sand based pitch)	UEA Sports park	Low (water not EH priority)	Long	UEA, EH	£870k
	H11	Secure the provision of an additional 2 to 3 sand dressed pitches in appropriate locations to meet future demand and plug existing gaps	Diss/Aylsham/Wymondham/ Norwich areas/Broadland growth triangle	Low	Long	EH, clubs, LAs,	£715k each

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/ Areas / Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
	H12	Seek the availability of indoor hockey training facilities at appropriate locations at sports halls in the area (in conjunction with the Built Facilities Strategy)	UEA and other large sports halls	Med	Ongoing	EH, UEA, clubs, sports hall providers	£0

## AGPs

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
Protect	AGP1	Retain all existing AGPs currently in use for hockey and football	All existing pitches	High	Ongoing	EH, NCFA, LAs, clubs	£0
	AGP2	Ensure that there remain sufficient sand based/dressed facilities to fulfil hockey need at both the current time and in the future by retaining sand based facilities that are strategically important for hockey (also see football)	All existing pitches	High	Ongoing	EH, LAs, clubs	£0
Enhance	AGP3	Ensure that the quality of AGPs is sufficient to sustain the required level of use by working with providers to ensure timely refurbishment of facilities, installation of clubhouses and that a sinking fund is in place for the refurbishment of existing facilities	All AGPs	High	Ongoing	Clubs, owners	£10k pa each
Provide	AGP4	Wherever possible, provide floodlit artificial grass surfaces in close proximity to playing pitch sites to enable training without wear and tear on the pitches	All new sites	Med	Med	All providers	£0
	AGP5	Ensure new sites can accommodate floodlights, requisite ancillary facilities including changing, toilets, car parking and shelters	All new sites	Med	Ongoing	All providers	£0

## Bowls

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
Protect	B1	Retain the current level and distribution of bowls greens to meet current and future demand within the area.	All existing operational bowls greens	High	Ongoing	NBA, clubs, LAs, CSP	£0
	B2	Protect all existing functioning bowling greens. Former bowls greens that are now redundant are not required to meet current or projected future need.	All existing operational greens in the area, recently closed greens not to be considered for reopening unless feasible and a demand identified	High	Ongoing	NBA, clubs, LAs, CSP	£0
Enhance	B3	Ensure all greens continue to be maintained to a high standard for casual play and competitions.	All operational greens	High	Ongoing	Clubs, NCBA	£0-10k pa each
	B4	Support clubs in the improvement of existing bowls greens where issues have been identified. All bowls greens should include access to appropriate greens, surrounds and pavilions.	Gissing BC, Norfolk CC BC	Medium Medium	Short Short	Clubs, NCBA	£0-10k £0-10k
	B5	Support clubs and others in the improvement of clubhouses to meet current requirements, including disabled access, bar area, kitchen, toilets, showers and other needs	Cantley BC Hingham Rectory BC	Medium Medium	Medium Medium	Clubs, NCBA	£0-10k £0-10k
	B6	Support clubs in the management and maintenance of facilities	All bowls clubs	Medium	Short	NCBA, clubs	£0



Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
		through the establishment of a bowls forum. This should promote good practice and encourage knowledge sharing between bowls clubs.					
	<b>B7</b>	Support clubs to increase proactively participation and membership. To maximise the sustainability of bowls as a sport, efforts should focus on recruitment of junior players as well as adult and veterans. This is important for the sustainability of existing clubs as well as the growth of bowls as a sport	All bowls clubs particularly those with an identified shortage of players	High	Ongoing	NCBA, clubs, LAs, CSP	£0
	<b>B8</b>	Negotiate better casual access at private club sites to widen participation.	Private clubs	Medium	Medium	LAs, clubs, NCBA	£0
	<b>B9</b>	Consider the transfer of the management and maintenance of public greens where clubs and others are in a position to undertake this.	'Public' greens including Eaton Park,	Medium	Medium	LAs, clubs	£0
<b>Provide</b>	<b>B10</b>	Consider the provision of new bowls greens in the main new housing areas if required to meet a <u>local demand</u> in these areas	Broadland growth triangle/ Wymondham/Hethersett/Easton/ Costessey/Cringleford/Long Stratton	Medium	Long	NCBA	£115k each
	<b>B11</b>	Consider the adaptation of an existing green to a synthetic surface, or the provision of a new synthetic green, and floodlit green in the area,	New housing growth area (Broadland growth triangle)	Medium	Long	NCBA, clubs	£100k

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
		potentially on a LA site to ensure year round usage and availability of facilities for outdoor bowls.					

## Tennis

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
Protect	T1	Retain the current level and distribution of tennis courts to meet current and future demand within the area, and enhance provision where appropriate by the provision of floodlighting.	All sites in current use	High	Ongoing	Clubs, LAs, PCs, other providers	£0
Enhance	T2	Maintain and improve where required the quality of all courts.	All sites in current use (incl. Long Stratton HS)	High	Ongoing	Clubs, LAs, PCs, other providers	£0-10k each pa
	T3	Consider the potential use of existing courts on school sites and any qualitative improvements necessary to bring into wider use, including floodlighting and surface renovation.	School and other sites throughout area where there is no current play and where demand is identified	Medium	Medium	Schools	£0-10k each
	T4	Secure improvements to courts, clubhouses and other facilities at some private clubs where required.	Wymondham TC (clubhouse) Reepham TC (floodlights)	Medium Medium	Medium Medium	Clubs, NLTA	£10-50k £10-50k
	T5	Consider the enhancement of tennis courts on 'public' parks to accommodate any future casual or non-club based usage, and promote any larger developments as 'Beacon sites' in conjunction with the LTA to provide free and affordable tennis for the community. Consider alternative forms of management of any new	Sprowston Rec, Aylsham Rec, Dussindale, Thorpe Rec, Browick Rd, Wymondham, Long Stratton, Loddon Jub, Hingham PF	Medium	Medium	NLTA, LAs, PCs	£01-10k each

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
		'public' courts to ensure better participation in tennis by the wider community (e.g. lease to commercial coaches, better promotion).					
<b>Provide</b>	<b>T6</b>	Secure provision of small (3 court) possibly covered facility in the main housing growth area to sustain participation	Broadland growth triangle	Medium	Long	NLTA, LAs, CSP	£200-500k

## Netball

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/ Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Costs
Protect	N1	Retain the level of existing netball courts throughout the area, particularly at UEA and schools/academies, and work with the NGB to continue to promote additional activities.	All sites currently used for competitive netball and training	High	Ongoing	UEA, schools, other providers, NCNA	£0
Enhance	N2	Secure significant improvements to the condition of existing courts at school sites throughout the area, including resurfacing and floodlights where appropriate	School sites where there is currently no competitive netball (e.g. Long Stratton HS)	High	Ongoing	Schools, leagues, NCNA,	£0-10k per school
	N3	Improve school changing facilities particularly female related to use of netball courts	School sites in the area	Medium	Medium	Schools, leagues, NCNA,	£0-10k per school
Provide	N4	Consider the provision of a new facility in the Norwich area to include floodlighting and marking for 4 courts, and changing, possibly in conjunction with the proposed new school site in the growth area.	New school site in Broadland growth triangle or appropriate new location to be agreed with leagues	Medium	Long	NCNA,	£295k
	N5	Provision of additional indoor courts at any new sports halls recommended in the indoor facilities strategy required for netball, which should therefore be designed to accommodate netball including run off.	See BFS, but appropriate location at new school in growth area	Medium	Long	Sports hall providers	£50k+

## MUGAs and OS

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
<b>MUGAs and other casual facilities</b>							
Protect	MUGA 1	Protect all existing MUGAs/skate parks/basketball hoops/BMX in their current use as a facility for casual and recreational play and training	All existing MUGAs/etc	High	Ongoing	LAs, PCs, other owners, schools, clubs	£0
Enhance	MUGA 2	Enhance and maintain all MUGAs/etc where there is a quality issue	All existing MUGAs/etc	High	Ongoing	All owners	£0-10k each
Provide	MUGA 3	Undertake a detailed assessment of the distribution of MUGAs /etc and consider provision where there are strategic gaps and an identified/potential demand, particularly in the main growth areas	Areas with low provision	Medium	Long	LAs, PCs	£120k each
<b>Other Sports</b>							
Provide	OS1	Work with clubs, governing bodies and related organisations to develop facilities at existing parks and other open spaces for additional sports for which a demand may be expressed over the duration of the strategy, to broaden activity levels among the less	All appropriate areas	Low	Ongoing	LAs/NGBs/PCs/clubs/CSP	nk

Category	Recommendation No	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Priority	Timescales	Responsibilities	Cost
		competitive sections of the population.					
	<b>OS2</b>	Consider the needs of American Football and seek the provision or retention of pitches at Jarrolds SG, UEA and Hilltops to meet identified demand	Jarrolds SG, UEA Colney Lane, Hilltops SG	Medium	Medium	NGB, site owners, LAs,	£10-50k each
	<b>OS3</b>	Consider the needs of other minority pitch sports (e.g. rounders) and seek to accommodate these where appropriate and if demands identified.	As appropriate	Low	Medium	NGBs, LAs, site owners, schools	nk

**2. GREATER NORWICH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: ACTION PLANS BY SITE/LA  
SEE SEPARATE REPORTS**

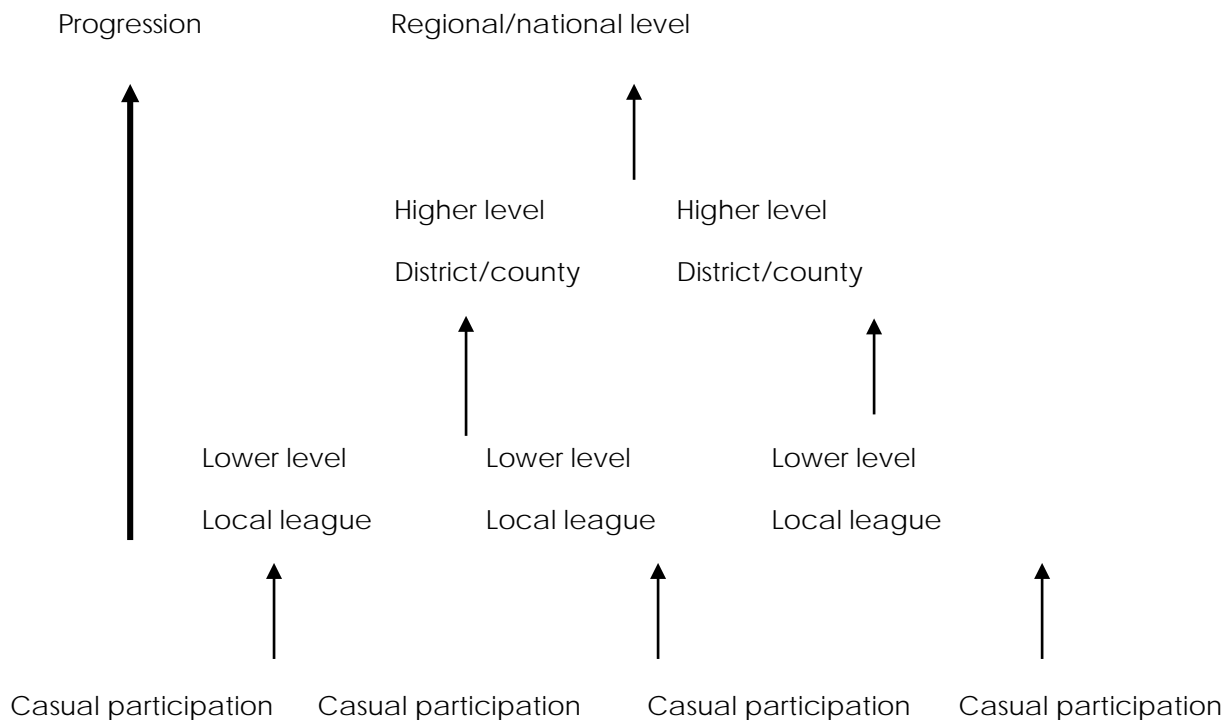


## 5. GENERAL POLICIES

### GENERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

**Policy recommendation G1** – Develop a conceptual hierarchy to guide future investment in pitches and attract funding from other sources.

- 5.1 The study has made it clear that it is not simply the overall capacity of pitches that is critical in meeting demand, but also the quality of both pitches and ancillary facilities. Teams will always prefer, costs permitting, to use good facilities in preference to poorer ones, and may be unable to develop and improve if they are constrained by poor facilities. Many facilities will therefore require considerable enhancement and overhaul.
- 5.2 There may be a benefit in developing a conceptual hierarchy to guide future investment in pitches and attract funding from other sources including Sport England, Football Foundation, regeneration funds and the like. This would also provide the link with overall sports development objectives. This hierarchy could look as follows:



5.3 Within this diagram:

- the casual (foundation) level would include practice areas, kick-about areas, FMGAs and rough pitches for casual play, encouraging initial participation. In Greater Norwich this could comprise small grass areas available within walking distance of all communities, together with a network of FMGAs throughout the area;
- the local league (participation) level would include pitches for regular competitive play, adequately drained with a flat playing surface, and normally including changing accommodation. This would correspond with most of the pitches currently available within the area, but would involve some improvement to pitches and especially changing and other facilities; and

- District/County/Regional (performance/excellence) level, where teams have reached the higher standard of play and require enhanced facilities, would include spectator areas, floodlights and higher standard pitches. At this level clubs and the private sector are likely to be more important in provision. In the Norwich area there are few clubs at this level.

**Policy recommendation G2 – Plan for the cycle of demand and remarking pitches**

- 5.4 Demand for pitches fluctuates over time, and it is imperative that sufficient pitches are available to meet peak demand in the foreseeable future, through the availability of land. Comparative demand for adult and junior pitches, especially football and rugby, will change. Although in practice some junior/youth football teams play on adult pitches with full sized goals this is clearly unacceptable in terms of the development of individual skills and the enjoyment of the young people concerned. The same is true of rugby and other sports. Any future pitch provision should ensure that there is the possibility of flexibility in playing field layout to ensure that junior and adult pitches are interchangeable according to fluctuating demand, and that sites are available for different sports if demand changes.

**Policy recommendation G3 – Consider the implications of any identified over capacity**

- 5.5 Analysis of the current situation regarding pitches has concluded that there are some unused or under-used pitches. A number of policy options are available if over capacity is identified:

- further promotion of individual sports can be undertaken where it is evident that participation rates are low;
- pitches can be kept in reserve to take account of unforeseeable circumstances, to reduce wear and tear or to permit usage while improvements are being made to other sites.
- the number of pitches on sites can be reduced to ease pressure on ancillary facilities such as changing or parking, or permit realignment or increases in pitch size;
- pitches can be converted for some other sports use;
- pitches can be converted to some other type of green infrastructure, to enable different types of recreational activity, or informal outdoor use, such as urban park or nature reserve.

- 5.6 Except in very limited circumstances the disposal of sites currently incorporating playing pitches should be resisted in the short and long term, although there are some small one pitch sites which are considered. Once lost, playing pitches and open space in general are difficult to reinstate, and planning policies that adopt a presumption against the loss of playing pitches are supported.

**Policy recommendation G4 – Ensure that playing surfaces are protected.**

- 5.7 Many of the existing pitches in the Greater Norwich area are in public parks, recreation grounds and village playing fields, and there is some evidence that the quality of some pitches can be affected by unhindered access to public areas, which allows other users, such as cyclists, to adversely affect pitch surfaces, or results in the fouling of pitches by dogs. Suitable solutions can include physical barriers to (wheeled and other) access (by for example the construction of knee-rails), ensuring adequate access around pitches for other

casual activities, different management arrangements ensuring clubs have more say on the use of pitches and the ability to remove posts and other hardware when matches are not in progress. The zoning of parks to exclude unhindered access to sports pitches can also be considered.

**Policy recommendation G5** - Work with all sports clubs and providers to develop 'multi sports hubs'.

5.8 Sports hubs, where these are appropriate, can ensure that there are economies of scale in outdoor sports provision, that clubs benefit from shared and jointly provided and managed facilities, and that facility provision can be coordinated with other associated services such as sports medicine. This recommendation needs to ensure that there is sufficient available space to locate x no of pitches / clubhouse / 3G pitch and other built facilities (see Built Facilities Strategy) to 2026 given that space is at a premium.

5.9 Suggested sports hubs can include the following:

- Thorpe St Andrew – Rec, Dussindale Park, TSA High School
- Sprowston – Rec, Cricket Club, Sports & Social Club, High School
- Hellesdon – Rec, High School
- Costessey – Costessey Centre, Breckland Park, Ormiston Academy
- Eaton Park
- Sloughbottom Park
- Wymondham – Ketts Park, Leisure Centre/High School
- Long Stratton – Manor Road PF, Long Stratton LC/HS
- Drayton/Taverham – King George V PF, Longdale, Hinks Meadow,
- Broadland Growth area - Wroxham FC, Old Catton JFC, Open Academy
- Horsford – Manor Park, Anglian Windows, (new) FC location
- New Broadland housing area
- UEA, Colney Lane
- Diss – High School, Diss Sports Ground

**Policy recommendations G6** – develop new pitches and other facilities to meet the needs of the new housing growth areas.

5.10 Although the major thrust of this strategy lies in protecting existing facilities and enhancing/improving their quality, rather than widespread new facility provision, the larger areas of housing growth in the Greater Norwich area will need facilities within the development to accommodate additional local demand from the new population which cannot be met by existing facilities because of location. It has been calculated in the individual assessments for each sport that the pitch requirements for the increased population of the area by 2026, based on existing team generation rates (TGRs) are as follows (this total provision is included rather than a standards approach which is not recommended in the NPPF and by Sport England):

- Football +25 pitches (5 senior, 16 youth/junior/9v9, 5 mini)
- Cricket +5 pitches (2 adult, 3 junior)
- Rugby +4 pitches (1 adult, 1 junior, 2 mini)
- Hockey +2 pitches
- Plus additional tennis, bowls and netball facilities
- Plus essential changing and ancillary facilities

5.11 Based on the total requirements for the additional estimated population of about 40,000 new residents, the main growth locations (Broadland growth triangle, Wymondham,

Hethersett, Cringleford, Long Stratton and Easton/Costessey) should each seek to provide the appropriate level of provision for its area, depending on the situation at the time that facilities are planned in detail. Because of the complex nature of the area, and the existing spread of facilities, where in many cases there is some spare capacity which might be available for the new residents, it is not considered appropriate to identify precise locations for new facilities and their scale at this stage, but the pitch numbers and ancillary facilities (or their equivalent) should be provided on a pro rata split, based on the proportion of houses provided in each locality compared with the total in the wider area.

- 5.12 Most of the housing growth in South Norfolk is already approved, either in detail or outline, or there is a policy requirement in place for recreational land and sports facilities, and there are already potential developer contributions agreed also in Broadland and (to a lesser extent) Norwich. If implemented therefore, emerging provision will meet the sports requirements of a significant proportion of the total new housing development. The only major developments in the Greater Norwich area where associated sports facility provision has not yet been agreed are Long Stratton, sites in Norwich and much of the Broadland Growth Triangle and Beyond Green.
- 5.13 Larger developments provide particular 'opportunities' – the very large growth locations set out above can accommodate large scale recreation provision, smaller development sites do not provide such opportunities. Some recreational provision that is needed for growth on small sites may need to be provided outside the area or catchment of the development and the means of implementing this (if by developer contribution) is considered below.

### Partnership working

- 6.1 While each sport is considered separately within this strategy, implementation of key recommendations and the delivery of pitches and ancillary facilities across the Greater Norwich area should be looked at strategically, considering opportunities for partnerships between sports, as well as in isolation.
- 6.2 In addition to proactive improvement of pitches, this should also link to the allocation of S106/CIL funding, which should consider the strategic/local need for playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.
- 6.3 Sport England has recently launched a 'Protection of Playing Fields programme' which will fund new, under threat, disused playing fields and pitch improvement schemes. Successful applicants will be required to demonstrate a strategic need, partnership working and positive impacts for sports participation. This scheme may provide opportunities for the further improvement of pitches across the Greater Norwich area.

### Planning issues

- 6.4 Although pitch provision has been assessed as good overall, it is crucial to emphasise the importance of protecting many of the existing areas of playing pitch land and open space in public, private and educational ownership, as playing pitches can be under threat from other, non-sport development, and once lost can never be restored.
- 6.5 Policies should therefore protect all playing fields from development, unless it can be proven that the site is surplus to requirements. Sport England is a statutory consultee on playing field assessments. In 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England: Policy on Planning Applications for Development on Playing Fields' (Sport England, 1997), it is indicated that Sport England will oppose any developments that will result in the loss of playing field space in all but exceptional circumstances, whether the land is in public, private or educational use. The government considers the definition of a playing field to be "the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch". This remains Sport England's overall policy on protecting playing fields.
- 6.6 The exceptional circumstances are:
  - an assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport;
  - the proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use;
  - the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch;
  - lost playing fields would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development; and

- the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.
- 6.7 Guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework is similar but differs slightly in emphasis. Paragraph 74 states that:
- 6.8 Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
  - the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
  - the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- 6.9 Due to the current and future levels of demand and the pressures on pitches to cope with this demand, playing fields sites should therefore be afforded protection within specific planning policies that benefit sport and physical activity in the area, drawing upon the above criteria, and the key recommendations within this strategy for decision making.

#### **Levels of provisions**

- 6.10 The former PPG17 (Government planning guidance for sport and recreation) recommended that local standards should be established which would include:
- quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed);
  - a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for the enhancement of existing facilities); and
  - accessibility criteria (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility).
- 6.11 However the new National Planning Policy Framework now implies a move away from standards in favour of meeting absolute future requirements, and this approach is endorsed by Sport England. The strategy section and recommended policies therefore set out a total requirement for new outdoor sports facility provision up to 2026, rather than a standard of provision, as this new approach takes into account the stock of current facilities. These should however retain an emphasis on quantity, quality and accessibility.

#### **Quantity and location**

- 6.12 The amount of existing and new provision required is set out in the action plans above.

#### **Quality**

- 6.13 When determining the required quality of pitches, it is important to consider
- the standard of play at the site and expectations of users(including league requirements);
  - the demand on the site (the number of games played per week);

- the need to facilitate concurrent usage by young people, women and other;
- target groups through appropriate ancillary facilities; and
- facility specifications from National Governing Body (NGB) strategies.

6.14 There are several factors integral to the successful delivery of a network of high sports facilities, stating that:

*“Quality depends on two things: the needs and expectations of users, on the one hand, and design, management and maintenance on the other”.*

6.15 Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below), in order to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose and of a suitable quality.

6.16 As a minimum, all sites should include:

- a high standard of maintenance, enabling the pitch to be played at least twice per week without detrimental impact;
- adequate changing facilities that:
  - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes;
  - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act;
  - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort; and
  - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines
- managed community access;
- easy accessibility by public transport and by car;
- sufficient car and if necessary coach parking;
- recommended size of pitches and run offs;
- located in a no flood zone;
- security of tenure (at least 20 years) if a club is to be based at the site; and
- for rugby clubs in particular, sites should include floodlit training facilities.

6.17 Additional guidance is available from the websites of Sport England and the relevant pitch sport NGBs. All new sites within the Greater Norwich area and any modifications to existing facilities should be built in line with this guidance.

### **Accessibility**

6.18 Many similar studies set an accessibility standard of a 10 minute walk time to a grass pitch, equivalent to about 800m. This is recommended as the overall accessibility standard for

grass pitches and other local facilities such as MUGAs within the main built up areas, but it is an onerous requirement in the more rural parts of the Greater Norwich area and should be modified accordingly.

- 6.19 Built facilities such as AGPs are more strategic and more likely to be accessed by car, and a desirable accessibility standard is a 20 minute drive.
- 6.20 Consultation undertaken as part of this strategy demonstrates that:
- football pitches are normally expected to be relatively local to the home, particularly for juniors, though because of the distribution of pitches in the area, this may not necessarily be the case;
  - cricket is more club-based, and people travel from slightly further afield;
  - like cricket, rugby is club based and residents travel from further afield; and
  - members of many clubs travel across (and sometimes into) the area to reach the club home ground.
- 6.21 This suggests that when planning new facilities, particularly as part of new developments, while football facilities are required locally, there is a need to ensure that the club base of cricket and rugby grounds is maintained. Any new provision should therefore be located either off site, or in conjunction with the development of a new club, or satellite club to an existing facility.

### **Funding**

- 6.22 The delivery of the future outdoor sports infrastructure across the Greater Norwich area will, to a large extent, be dependent on capital funding. The following proposals and comments form the basis of this funding.
- 6.23 The capital funding picture for municipal leisure facilities is in a state of flux. Local authority finances are under pressure and previous major national funding programmes such as Building Schools for the Future (BSF), Primary Schools Programme and Regional Development Agency funding are no longer available. Some funding opportunities, however, still remain; for example, individual school capital grant programmes have replaced BSF, academies have access to different funds, and Sport England now has more clearly defined capital available through its Places People Play Legacy funding programme. While the education capital funding programmes will continue to change over time, there will still be a need for investment to take place on school sites during the strategy period and opportunities for joint projects may arise.
- 6.24 Using assets innovatively will be a key feature of the next few years, as will working in partnership on a multi-agency approach. The Government is also seeking to ease planning red tape and encourage local communities to realise assets to deliver community benefits. This could mean the sale of surplus land and sites for housing and commercial uses, with receipts being released to fund prioritised community assets, which could include sports provision. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides opportunities for investment through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 6.25 Given the potential level of funding required to refurbish or redevelop the outdoor sports infrastructure across the Greater Norwich area, it is therefore likely that investment will only be achieved through a combination of opportunities.



6.26 The main funding delivery mechanisms for the three local authorities and others in delivering the strategy are:

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 developer contributions: the outdoor sports facilities strategy aims to secure developer contributions in association with new development to provide or improve infrastructure
- Capital Grant funding from local and national agencies such as Sport England, including its Protecting Playing Fields fund programmes. National Governing Body (NGB) support could also be available to develop specific specialist facilities
- Commercial sector funding: limited potential for investment from commercial leisure operators such as those who provide 5 a-side artificial pitch football centres
- Council funding: capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within the council's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets (probably limited in this area).
- Cross funding – through enabling housing or other development
- Education and Further Education sector: while the previous sources of funding have changed and the scale of the education capital programmes have been reduced, the provision of sports facilities on new and improved school sites is still likely to be a key funding stream.

#### **Developers' contributions**

6.27 In preceding years, local authorities have sought and secured developer contributions for local physical and social infrastructure through Section 106 (and other provisions) of the various Planning Acts. Strict regulations have controlled these contributions in order that they are reasonable and proportionate to the development, and in principle are necessary for the development to be acceptable in planning terms.

6.28 In April 2010 a new way of collecting developer contributions to help fund infrastructure projects was introduced. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allows local authorities to charge a tariff, at a locally set rate, on many types of new development. The money can then be used to pay for a wide range of additional infrastructure that is required as a result of development. This can include transport schemes, green infrastructure and community facilities, including indoor and outdoor sport. Charging schedules were produced jointly by Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council, working together with Norfolk County Council as the former Greater Norwich Development Partnership. Each of the district councils is the "Charging Authority" for their area and a separate charging schedule has been produced for each district.

6.29 CIL money does not need to be used for providing infrastructure on the site it is collected from. The relationship between a site's infrastructure requirements and level of contributions made is broken although any infrastructure which is directly required as a result of a development can continue to be sought through Section 106. S106 obligations will therefore remain alongside CIL but will be restricted to that infrastructure required to mitigate directly the impact of a proposal. CIL is for strategic infrastructure, S106 will still apply to onsite provision (such as recreation and sport) and to offsite provision that is to meet the requirements of that development (i.e. non -strategic) subject to the pooling limitations.

6.30 The two elements of provision should be treated as follows:

- Provision of facilities necessary to meet the needs of the new housing, or enhancement of existing facilities nearby (which can be achieved by S106 commuted payments and possibly CIL for larger schemes)
- Provision of significant new facilities (e.g. AGPs, sports hubs) within major new housing developments or standalone strategic schemes or both (CIL).

6.31 In calculating the contribution of developers towards the costs of future needs in connection with this strategy (either by s106 or CIL), it is suggested that the actual needs of the new population in the proposed housing developments be costed in accordance with team generation rates or other indicators of future demand, set out in this study. It is estimated (see the individual sections in the assessment) that, based on TGRs, the population arising from the new housing requirement for 2026 of about an additional 40,000 people would require an additional 37 pitches, across the whole range of sports types (26 football, 5 cricket, 4 rugby and 2 hockey) as well as AGPs required for the additional population, and a small number of additional tennis, bowls and netball facilities (whether or not in reality these are provided, bearing in mind spare capacity at some existing sites). In addition there is a need to make an allowance for changing and other ancillary provision, such as landscaping, parking and other outdoor space. Detailed costings can be calculated at a later stage to ascertain developer contributions by this method, and this will be determined in accordance with the Greater Norwich Investment Plan to be prepared as part of the wider work on implementation.

6.32 CIL will fund only a proportion of strategic infrastructure, and spending will have to balance a number of competing priorities. Other priorities may outweigh sport. CIL will be only one of the ways in which new infrastructure is paid for and other funding streams will need to be sought and considered, under the auspices of the investment plan, which helps to identify any 'funding gap'. The rate of CIL must be based on the evidence of viability.

6.33 While the strategy suggests that there is already a good supply of outdoor sports facilities, some of which will accommodate future demand, this does not mean that developer contributions should not be sought. New development and the associated population growth will place pressures on the existing facility stock and generate new participants in pitch sports and will also mitigate the impact of the ageing population. Increased use of playing pitches places greater importance on the quality and capacity of existing pitches and as a consequence, it is concluded that contributions towards playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities should be required from all new developments, notwithstanding that there is some spare capacity at present which might be used by new residents. Contributions should be made towards the delivery of the strategic objectives of this document and the priority projects set out in the action plan.

## 7. Monitoring and Review

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### Introduction

- 7.1 The recommendations draw out the key priorities for the future delivery of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in the Greater Norwich area.
- 7.2 The principles and findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy can be applied to support a variety of different outcomes, including;
- Sports development planning
  - Informing planning policy and planning applications
  - Supporting funding bids
  - Facilitating decision making relating to facility and asset management
  - Informing capital programmes and related investment
  - Informing the role of playing pitch provision and participation in pitch sports on public health and contributing towards the achievement of wider aims and objectives
- 7.3 Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the strategy is as important as the creation of the initial strategy and is essential if the strategy is to deliver successfully improved playing fields over the longer term. Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).
- 7.4 This 2014 study draws upon participation data collected at a point in time. While this provides a robust basis on which to evaluate current and future issues, it is essential to keep this under review and to monitor changes, and the implications of these changes. Priorities will change over time as new technologies are introduced and patterns of demand alter. Furthermore, it is essential to evaluate the implications of actions taken and the knock on effect on the overall strategy and its associated priorities. While the strategy vision should therefore remain consistent over the defined period, the action plans should be dynamic and responsive to change.

### Monitoring and review strategy

- 7.5 Monitoring and review of this strategy should be undertaken as follows;
- Ongoing monitoring of changes to the pitch stock in the area both qualitative and quantitative, using the tools provided as part of this assessment;
  - Understanding the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / housing growth
  - Reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development.
  - Annual review of participation, with support from National Governing bodies and Sport England APS data, to identify any key changes to participation trends in the area, and the likely implications of these changes for the strategy;

- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action
- Ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for major facilities in the area
- Analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities

7.6 The steering group established to coordinate the preparation of this strategy should be retained to review progress on the strategy delivery as follows:

- Support for the creation of sport specific forums to discuss issues arising and to lead the delivery of the strategy in conjunction with key partners
- Establishment of a smaller working group that meets twice annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising
- Production of an annual progress summary on the delivery of the PPS. This will include all the potential changes highlighted above;
- A full annual steering group meeting, or individual annual meetings with National Governing Bodies of Sport to inform and discuss the annual progress summary and agree next steps
- The amount of funding for pitches or provision of additional pitches and ancillary facilities delivered in association with new development

7.7 The steering group will also be responsible for agreement of the requirement for a full update of this playing pitch assessment, which should be undertaken, in accordance with Sport England advice, within three years of the approval of the current document.

*Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:  
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9AH*

*A limited company, registered in  
England and Wales no. 6165280*