



MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN AUGUST 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
BE	Bowls England
EBF	English Bowling Federation
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GMA	Grounds Management Association
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team Generation Rates
U	Under
WR	World Rugby

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Melton Borough Council. Building upon the preceding updated Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. It delivers:

- ◀ A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritise and can address key issues.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance¹ (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG)² for other outdoor sports.

Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly kept up to date.

Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises.

Context

The PPOSS replaces the previous study for Melton, which was published in 2014 and used as an evidence base during the production of the Melton Local Plan, which was adopted in October 2018.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 98 requiring "Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate."

¹[Link to PPS Guidance](#)

²[Link to ANOG](#)

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Paragraph 99 sets three criterion that ensures “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) 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
- c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Paragraphs 101, 102, and 103 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

The Local Plan

Melton’s Local Plan is for the whole of the Borough and sets out the development strategy, policies and proposals, including site allocations, which will guide land use and development of the Borough up to 2036. Thanks to this vision, there will be provision for play areas and the development will contribute to the delivery of sports pitches. This provision should be informed by an up-to-date Playing Pitch Strategy which has led to the commission of an updated Strategy. This new PPS will be sufficiently robust to be used alongside the current Local Plan as a 'material consideration' so that identified needs can be met over the course of the plan period.

Sections 7.13 (Sports Pitches and Playing Fields) and 7.14 (Indoor Sport and Recreation) provide the specific background context for policy EN7.

Policy EN7 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation establishes that: Where there are identified local deficiencies in the quantity, accessibility and/or quality of open space, sports and recreational facilities, new residential development of 10 dwellings or more will be required to contribute towards their provision and/or enhancement, subject to viability considerations.

New development proposals will be supported where they protect sports facilities and strategically important sites and key centres as identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy.

The strategic open space, sport and recreation needs of the Borough up to 2036 will be met by working in partnership with Parish Councils through the development of Neighbourhood Plans, and with other partners, to deliver:

- ◀ New allotment space as part of new development in Melton Mowbray, Bottesford and Waltham on the Wolds.
- ◀ Enhancement of the following natural greenspaces: Stathern Road Local Nature Reserve; Wymondham Rough SSSI; Cribbs Meadow SSSI and National Nature Reserve; and River Meadow (Lake Terrace) and Dieppe Way/Nottingham Road.
- ◀ 7.5ha of amenity greenspace in central Melton and 0.25ha of space in west Melton.
- ◀ 2.59ha of parks/gardens in central Melton.
- ◀ 0.44ha of facilities for children and young people in central Melton, 0.1ha of provision in north Melton and 0.38ha of provision in west Melton.
- ◀ New teenage facilities to a minimum of 0.04ha in Buckminster and 0.04ha in Burton & Dalby.
- ◀ Redevelopment of King Edward VII community sports centre to the Melton Sports and Leisure Village, a multi-sports hub, in accordance with the Melton Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2016-2021.

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Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities have been agreed for inclusion in the Assessment Report and Strategy:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Golf courses
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey and the ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

Study area

The study area comprises the whole of the Melton Borough Council's administrative area. Moreover, for the purposes of this project, Melton has been divided into four analysis areas. These are based on grouping wards together and reflect how sport is played in the Borough as well as the travel patterns of users, as agreed by the Steering Group. They allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch surplus and deficiencies at a local level and allow local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

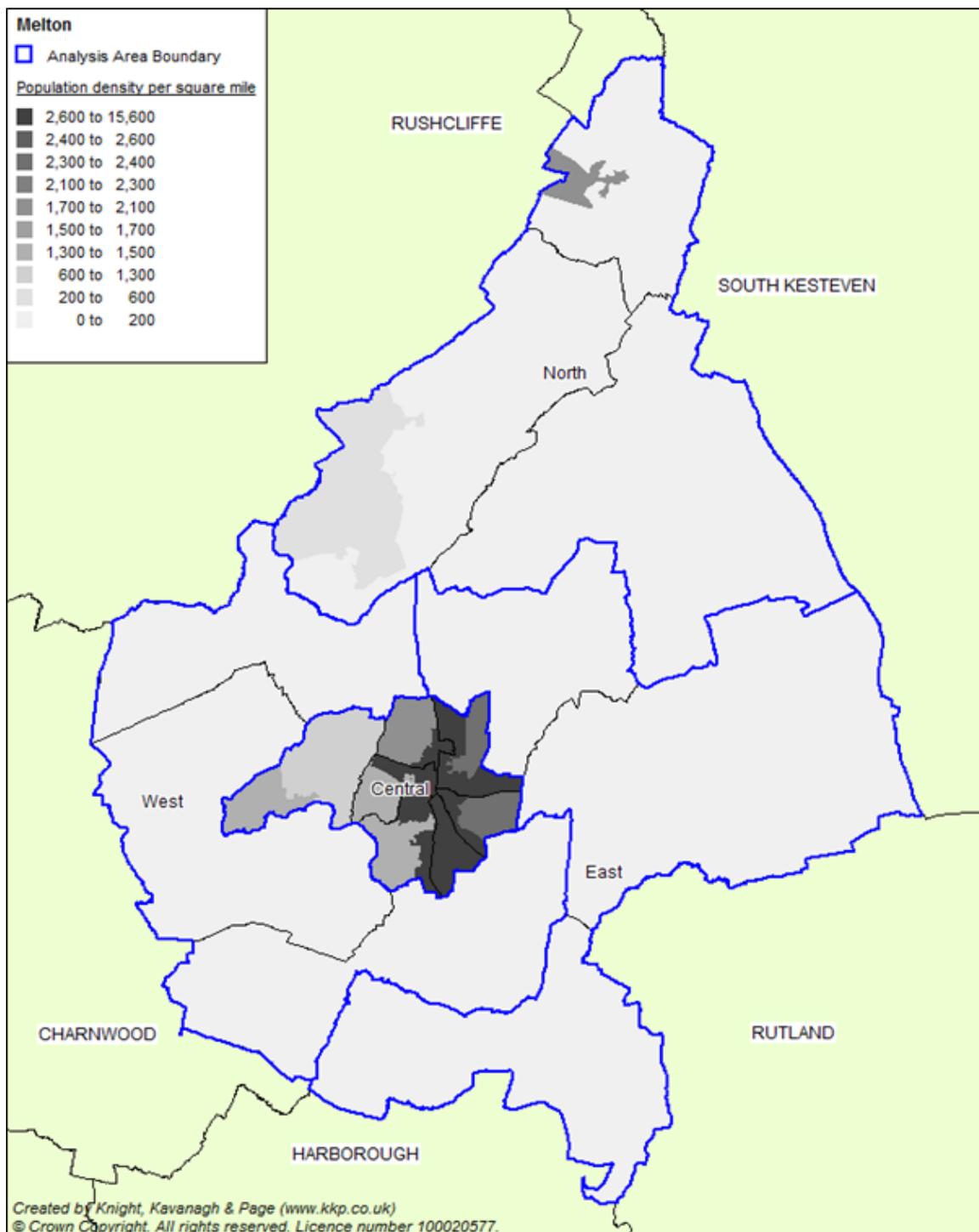
- ◀ Central Melton
- ◀ East Melton
- ◀ North Melton
- ◀ West Melton

Cross boundary issues are also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries. Neighbouring authorities include Rushcliffe, Charnwood, Rutland and South Kesteven.

For a map showing the analysis areas, please see overleaf.

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Figure 1.1: Study area



Quantitative headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

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Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The PPOSS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

For artificial surfaces, how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, hours in the peak period is used as the comparable unit. For the other non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, bowls etc) capacity is in accordance with Paragraph B13 of Sport England's ANOG guidance.

The table below shows the current supply and demand balance from the preceding Assessment Report. It also identifies the future supply and demand balance which takes into consideration future population growth. It should be noted that future demand is not in addition to the current balance, however, supersedes it.

For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance
Football – grass pitches			
Central	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	
	Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions	
	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	
East	Adult	Played to capacity	
	Youth 11v11	Played to capacity	
	Youth 9v9	Played to capacity	
	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	
	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	
North	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 match sessions	
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1 match session	
	Youth 9v9	Played to capacity	
	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	
	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance
West	Adult	Played to capacity	
	Youth 11v11	Played to capacity	
	Youth 9v9	Played to capacity	
	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	
	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	
Melton	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session	Played to capacity
	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session
Football – 3G pitches			
Central	Full size	Played to capacity	
East	Full size	Played to capacity	
North	Full size	Shortfall of 1 pitch	
West	Full size	Played to capacity	
Melton	Full size	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 1 pitch
Cricket			
Central	Senior (Saturday)	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 10 matches	Actual spare capacity of 10 matches
	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 54 matches	Actual spare capacity of 54 matches
East	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 12 matches	Actual spare capacity of 12 matches
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 20 matches	Actual spare capacity of 20 matches
	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 30 matches	Actual spare capacity of 30 matches
North	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 36 matches	Actual spare capacity of 24 matches
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 60 matches	Actual spare capacity of 60 matches
	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 102 matches	Actual spare capacity of 102 matches
West	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 22 matches	Actual spare capacity of 22 matches
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 38 matches	Actual spare capacity of 38 matches
	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 70 matches	Actual spare capacity of 70 matches
Melton	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 70 matches	Actual spare capacity of 58 matches
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches
	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance
Rugby union			
Central	Senior	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2.25 match sessions
East	Senior	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
North	Senior	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
West	Senior	Shortfall of 3 match sessions	Shortfall of 3 match sessions
Melton	Senior	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Hockey			
Melton	Full size	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.

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

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

Sport	Supply/demand balance
Bowls	Supply is sufficient to meet demand although demand at clubs with high demand, i.e. Bottesford BC and Holwell Sports BC should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient. Conversely, clubs with relatively low membership (Belvoir Vale and Melton Mowbray Town bowls clubs) should be monitored to ensure each club remains feasible.
Tennis	For club-based tennis, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet demand where known. Away from clubs, although no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the large amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in Melton.
Golf	With two traditional 18-hole courses and one Par 3 18-hole course in Melton, as well as two equipped driving ranges, there is seemingly a good range of provision servicing the Borough. However, with the two driving ranges only accommodating 19 driving bays collectively, it can also be said that there is an under-supply for this type of provision based on the high levels of demand that are evident.

Conclusion

From a quantitative position, the existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, and indicates there is no manoeuvre to accommodate changes or unexpected growth. Where there is current spare capacity on grass pitches, this is either turned into a shortfall, lost or reduced when accounting for future demand.

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As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing playing pitch and outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with national planning policy.

In addition, there is also a need for improved quality, this could relate to pitches needing enhanced maintenance regimes, drainage systems installed or refurbishment of 3G pitches or sand-based AGPs.

The shortfalls identified for grass football, rugby union and cricket pitches can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, pitch re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites.

There is also a current and future shortfall of one full size 3G pitch that can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G pitches could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

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PART 2: VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

The vision for this PPOSS is as follows:

'To have an accessible range of outdoor sports facilities which offer opportunities for the local community to participate in sport, contributing to a higher quality of life for everyone in the Borough of Melton.'

Objectives

To achieve this vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives:

- ◀ Working collectively with partners to create opportunity for everyone to participate.
- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport.
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place and available at the right time to meet current and projected future demand.
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.

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PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 3.1 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all relevant stakeholders.

AIM 1

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

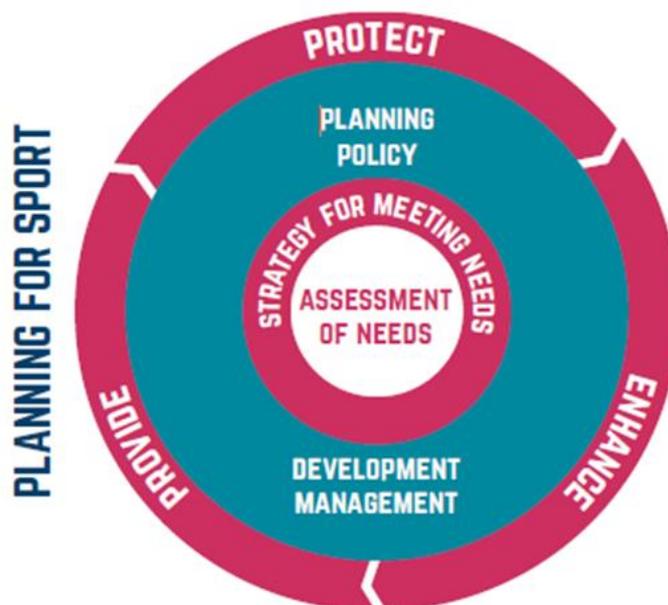
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



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

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PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

For site-specific and more localised recommendations, please refer to the Action Plan in Part 6 of the report.

Football – grass pitches

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is currently spare capacity across all pitch types in Melton amounting to eight match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ When considering future demand spare capacity amounts to six match equivalent sessions although spare capacity of youth 11v11 pitches will be lost.

Supply summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 53 football pitches across 19 sites in Melton. Of these, 46 pitches are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 15 sites.
- ◀ The Central Analysis Area provides the most community available pitches with 27, followed by the North Analysis Area with 15 pitches. The remaining four pitches are provided in the East Analysis Area. No pitches which are available for community use are provided in the West Analysis Area.
- ◀ Tenure of sites in Melton is generally secure, i.e. through freehold, long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years through formal rent agreement.
- ◀ Most pitches are assessed as good, with 21 being rated as such. There are then 18 community available pitches assessed as standard quality and seven assessed as poor.
- ◀ A total of four sites are identified as being serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.
- ◀ Holwell Sports FC requires new sports lights to continue competing at Step 6 of the football pyramid.

Demand summary

- ◀ A total of 105 teams across 12 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Melton. This consists of 17 senior men's, two senior women's, 41 youth boys', 10 youth girls' and 35 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ The Central Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 70, whilst the East Analysis Area has the fewest with only one adult team. The North Analysis Area accommodates 31 teams, with the remaining three teams provided in the West Analysis Area.
- ◀ No imported or exported demand has been identified in Melton.
- ◀ Asfordby Amateurs LG&I, Asfordby, Bottesford and Melton Town football clubs all express some level of latent demand.
- ◀ Only two clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of eight teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict an increase amounting to one adult, one youth 11v11 team, one youth 9v9 team, one mini 7v7 team and one mini 5v5 teams.
- ◀ In total, 11 pitches display some level of actual spare capacity across seven sites, equating to 10.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Three pitches are overplayed across three sites by a total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

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Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

In total, there are three pitches in Melton across three sites that are overplayed by a combined total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Improving quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls in the Borough.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that half of existing overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

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

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
8	Bottesford FC	Youth (11v11)	1	Good	1	1
28	Long Field Academy	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
35	Mowbray Rangers FC	Adult	1	Standard	1	-

As seen, in the table above, overplay at Long Field Academy and Mowbray Rangers FC would be alleviated by improving pitch quality to good whilst the pitch at Bottesford FC is already assessed as good quality and so would not benefit from further quality improvements. To help reduce overplay, a small level of play at Bottesford FC for older youth teams (youth 11v11) should be played on the adult pitches on site which have spare capacity (teams U17 and upwards).

Reducing overplay through quality improvements would further increase the actual spare capacity of adult pitches in Melton. This shown in the table below.

Table 4.2: Impact on supply and demand if quality improved to good across Melton

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 4.5 match sessions
Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions
Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session

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When considering future demand, actual spare capacity would remain across all pitch types with a slight increase in actual spare capacity on adult pitches.

Table 4.3: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved to good across Melton

Pitch/facility type	Future supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 4 match sessions
Youth 11v11	Played to capacity	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions
Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions
Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions
Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions

Providing security of tenure

Currently, 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches across Melton. If these pitches were to fall out of use, shortfalls would become evident on youth 11v11 pitches whilst spare capacity of youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches would be lost. Actual spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches would also be reduced.

Table 4.4: Current supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions
Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 2 match sessions
Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Played to capacity
Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Played to capacity

All unsecure community use is currently accommodated at Long Field Academy and derived from Asfordby Amateurs LG&I FC. The Club has an annual rental agreement for its home sites although believes it has good relationships with the facility providers and is not concerned regarding its security of tenure. Despite this, it should be supported to work towards having a longer-term usage agreement in place to ensure access to the site is not withdrawn.

At school sites, whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements (CUAs) between providers and users would ensure that users continue to be provided for in the longer-term.

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Where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB or Sport England, there are potential opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking changes to provision that requires planning permission as, via planning consent, the Council can mandate the implementation of a CUA as part of the planning stipulations and as seen following recent development at John Ferneley College.

In addition, there are two match equivalent sessions of potential actual spare capacity discounted due to the unsecure tenure agreement at Long Field Academy. Gaining secured access to these sites would increase actual spare capacity of mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.5: Impact on current supply/demand through securing access to unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions
Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions
Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions

Future capacity of both mini pitch formats would also increase by gaining secured access to Long Field Academy.

Table 4.6: Impact on future supply/demand through securing access to unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Future supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
Youth 11v11	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions
Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 match sessions
Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions

Undertaking all scenarios

This scenario considers the impact improving the pitch quality of overplayed pitches in combination with securing tenure agreements at unsecure sites would have on the supply and demand balance in Melton. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.7: Impact on current supply and demand through actioning all scenarios

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 4.5 match sessions
Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions

When factoring in future demand, actual spare capacity would be created on youth 11v11 pitches whilst adult and mini pitches would experience an increase in actual spare capacity.

Table 4.8: Impact on future supply and demand through actioning all scenarios

Pitch/facility type	Future supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 4 match sessions
Youth 11v11	Played to capacity	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions
Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions
Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 match sessions
Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions

Impact of participation increases

Of responding clubs, only two report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of eight teams, as seen below.

Table 4.9: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ³
Asfordby FC	Central	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
		Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1
Melton Town FC	Central	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
		Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
		Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
		Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1
Totals			8	-	4

The following scenario shows the impact that these team increases would have on the supply and demand balance of football pitches in Melton.

Table 4.10: Impact on current supply and demand from potential participation increases

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions

³ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions
Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions
Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Shortfall of 1 match session

As seen in the table above, if these aspirations are realised shortfalls would be generated on youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches whilst actual spare capacity of adult pitches would be reduced. After considering future demand, shortfalls of youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches would be exacerbated whilst youth 11v11 pitches would also be played to capacity.

Table 4.11: Impact on future supply and demand from potential participation increases

Pitch/facility type	Future supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 match sessions
Youth 11v11	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 1 match session
Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions
Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided in line with national planning policy).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment to improve quality.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity (or 3G provision).
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Support clubs to access Football Foundation funding to improve grass pitches where presently maintaining them and to take on greater maintenance (and management) of the pitch stock where possible.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for Asfordby Amateurs LG&I FC at Long Field Academy through community use agreements.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, particularly where a large quantity of pitches are provided.
- ◀ Work to accommodate exported, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, focusing on multi-pitch sites and key sites for adult and female participation.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, secure contributions to improve existing sites within the locality in reference to needs within the PPOSS Action Plan.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Third generation turf (3G) pitches

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ In Melton, there is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future training demand with a current shortfall of 1.5 pitches and a future shortfall of two pitches identified, due to the pitch at Brooksby Melton College being unavailable for midweek usage and the pitch at Melton Town FC has a FIFA Pro Quality pitch which associated low levels of use (maximum 20 hours).
- ◀ The pitch at Brooksby Melton College is approaching the end of its lifespan and will need resurfacing in the near future.
- ◀ The pitch at Melton Town FC is poor quality and requires resurfacing and re-testing to ensure its long term usability.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are three full size 3G pitches in Melton, all of which are available to the community and sports lit.
- ◀ Of the pitches, two are located in the Central Analysis Area and one in the West Analysis Area.
- ◀ In addition, there are two smaller size 3G pitches across two sites.
- ◀ The two smaller size pitches listed above in Melton are too small to accommodate any format of play.
- ◀ In Melton, the full size 3G pitches at Brooksby Melton College and John Ferneley College are approved for FA affiliated football until May 2026. Melton Town Football Club has a FIFA Pro Quality pitch and requires testing every year. Accreditation expired in May 2023 and the pitch needs to be retested to host FA affiliated football.
- ◀ The smaller sized pitches located at Asfordby Acres and Wilton Park not FA approved and therefore can't be used for matches.
- ◀ In Melton, none of the 3G pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ In Melton, the full size pitch located at John Ferneley College assessed as good quality. The pitch have all been installed in recent years and has no significant issues.
- ◀ The pitch located at Melton Town Football Club is assessed as poor quality, due to the pitch failing the FIFA test and must be relayed. The pitch has recently been installed and the Club is currently working through legal procedures with its contractors to get the pitch relayed.
- ◀ The 3G pitch located at Brooksby Melton College is assessed as standard quality due to some flooding issues. The pitch was installed in 2014 and is approaching the end of its recommended lifespan.
- ◀ The smaller size pitches at Ashfordby Acres and Wilton Park have exceeded their recommended lifespans although Asfordby FC has plans to resurface the pitch at Asfordby Acres.
- ◀ All midweek availability is currently at capacity or close to capacity, with only some spare capacity for midweek usage. The remainder spare capacity can be found existing at weekends.

Demand summary

- ◀ With 105 teams based in Melton, there is a calculated need for three full size 3G pitches. Whilst three pitches are provided, Brooksby Melton College cannot be accessed during the week, and the pitch at Melton Town FC has a FIFA Pro Quality pitch which associated low levels of use (maximum 20 hours) leading to a shortfall of 1.5 full size 3G pitch.
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional five teams (based on future demand expressed by clubs), there is an increased shortfall of two pitches.
- ◀ If every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in there is a shortfall of one full size 3G pitch in the North Analysis Area.
- ◀ In Melton, currently two (three adult and four youth) affiliated teams are registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play which is deemed to be a low number based on three pitches being approved for competitive match demand.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ There is no demand identified for World Rugby complaint provision in Melton.
- ◀ No other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Melton (outside of some school activity).

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

If all teams were to utilise 3G pitches to accommodate their training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for three full size 3G pitches in Melton, based on 105 teams being affiliated to the Borough.

Three pitches are currently provided, however, the pitch at Brooksby Melton and Melton Town are discounted from supply figures; this is on the basis neither pitch fully allows for a full programme of community use. The pitch at Brooksby Melton College is unavailable midweek and the pitch at Melton Town FC has a FIFA Pro Quality pitch which has associated low levels of use (maximum 20 hours).

The Melton Town FC pitch exclusively accommodates for the 13 teams across Melton Town FC and Melton Town Foxes FC and provides little to no wider community benefit outside of this use. Therefore, these 13 teams have also been discounted from the current number of teams figure below.

Based on the above, there is a current shortfall of 1.5 full size pitch equivalents currently in Melton as shown below.

Table 4.12: Current demand for 3G pitches in Melton (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G pitch requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Current shortfall
92	2.4 – 2.5	3	-2	1.5

When considering future demand for an additional five teams (based on population growth), the shortfall of 1.5 pitches increases to 1.6 but has been rounded up to two full size pitch equivalents to account for growth in recreational and women's and girls' activity.

Table 4.13: Future demand for 3G pitches in Melton (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams ⁴	3G pitch requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Future shortfall
97	2.5 – 2.6	3	-2	2

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

In Melton, the full size 3G pitches at Brooksby Melton College, John Ferneley College and Melton Town Football Club are all FA/FIFA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches⁵. Currently, seven affiliated teams are registered as utilising 3G pitches for regular match play.

⁴ Future number of teams is higher than what is referenced within the Part 2: Football as it includes club aspirational future demand for mini teams. This is due to the fact that although mini teams are likely to play competitive fixtures at central venues (on 3G) and therefore have no impact on grass pitches they will still require provision to train.

⁵ [Football Foundation | 3G Pitch Register](#)

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. The number of teams currently utilising council provision is summarised below, based on peak time usage.

The FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to consider the transfer of all mini football to 3G provision, which can maximise the usage of pitches due to the number of matches that can be played at one time and on one day. As such, the table below tests a scenario to enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.14: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

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

Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for two full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 2.13) to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 17 teams playing mini 5v5 football and 18 teams playing mini 7v7 football. As such, it is considered that the current supply of pitches could accommodate all existing demand.

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

Table 4.15: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

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

This demand could also be accommodated on the existing number of pitches as it equates to the need for one full size 3G pitch (rounded down from 1.33) based on 16 teams currently playing this format within Melton. However, this would require youth 9v9 football taking place on Saturday and all mini football being retained on a Sunday (or vice versa). Therefore, it is feasible that all current demand for mini and youth 9v9 football could be accommodated on the existing 3G pitch stock.

Another solution being considered by Leicestershire and Rutland County FA and the Football Foundation is the move of all mini 5v5 demand in Melton to 3G pitches to allow the conversion of grass mini 5v5 pitches to mini 7v7 pitches. As shown above, there is already sufficient supply of 3G pitches in Melton to cater for mini 5v5 football playing in a central venue format.

The table below highlights the current supply and demand balance of mini pitches in Melton.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.16: Mini football supply and demand

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Mini 7v7	2	-	2	0.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	1	-	1	0.5	0.5

As seen in the table above, there is current spare capacity of both pitch formats and no analysis area shortfalls have been identified. The table overleaf demonstrates the impact of the supply and demand balance if mini 5v5 pitches were to be converted to mini 7v7 pitches.

Table 4.17: Supply and demand if all mini 5v5 pitches converted to mini 7v7 pitches

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Mini 7v7	3	-	3	0.5	2.5

As shown, actual spare capacity would increase on mini 7v7 pitches and future demand would have less of an impact on the grass pitch stock as mini 5v5 demand would instead take place on 3G pitches.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

No World Rugby compliant 3G pitches have been identified in Melton and given only minor grass rugby union pitch shortfalls are identified, on this basis there is no significant need to provide this pitch type at shortfalls can be resolved via pitch improvements (as discussed in the rugby union part of this report).

Melton Sports Village

Melton Sports Village has a poor-quality hockey suitable AGP. The hockey club which accesses the pitch; Melton HC has three senior teams and a growing junior section. On this basis, the pitch requires protection from development to a 3G surface type as to safeguard hockey within the Borough (unless alternate provision is developed and is becomes accessible). There are 53 football teams within the Melton Central Analysis Area (when discounting demand associated with Melton Town and Melton Foxes Juniors) and as such demand is high for 3G provision.

Based on the above, alternate sites in the surrounding area should be explored for the development of 3G pitches. This site should be retained as a site suitable for hockey and due to the scale of existing use for hockey, other, multisport opportunities to increase use and revenue opportunities. A Gen2 pitch ([Link to Gen2 pitch information](#)) could theoretically provide the most suitable outcome for this site.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Ensure England Hockey is consulted with regarding any proposals for development of new 3G artificial grass pitches or proposed conversion to 3G of existing hockey AGPs, to ensure the sustainability and sufficient supply of existing AGPs for hockey.
- ◀ Consider opportunities for an uptake in football activity (training, recreational and informal activities) at Melton Sports Village on the existing hockey suitable AGP.

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- ◀ Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy multi-sport demand or explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and RFL/RFU appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure that new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFL/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria, dependent on need and aspirations based on discussions with relevant NGBs.
- ◀ Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible, particularly for mini and youth 9v9 football.
- ◀ Options to deter the future conversion of AGPs to 3G should also be explored, including, but not limited to, the removal of permitted development rights at each site.

Cricket pitches

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ There are 12 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets; however, only four of these have actual spare capacity for senior demand on Saturday's, whilst nine have actual spare capacity on Sunday's and 11 have actual spare capacity midweek.
- ◀ Ashby Carington CC is the only site identified in Melton as being overplayed. The site is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists currently for Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket; when considering future demand spare capacity still exists.

Supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 13 grass wicket cricket squares in Melton, provided across 12 sites. All 13 cricket squares are available for community use.
- ◀ There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying two grass wickets squares in Melton. These are found at Bottesford Cricket and Social Club and Egerton Park Sports Ground.
- ◀ Where known, six clubs have secure tenure at their home venues whilst Great Dalby CC has an unsecure tenure agreement.
- ◀ The squares at All England Sports Ground, Belvoir CC, Croxton Sports and Social Club, Egerton Park Sports Ground and Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club are all assessed as good quality, whilst the remainder are assessed as standard.
- ◀ The audit of standalone NTPs in Melton found both to be standard quality.
- ◀ All clubs in Melton have access to changing room facilities at their home ground, with only Buckminster & Barrowby CC, Wartnaby Cricket Field and Ashby Carington CC identified as being serviced by poor quality provision.

Demand summary

- ◀ There are 12 affiliated cricket clubs in Melton which collectively provide 36 cricket teams, equating to 30 senior men's and six junior boys. No women's or dedicated girls' teams are identified.
- ◀ Egerton Park CC and Thorpe Arnold CC offer the greatest number of teams, with both accommodating six and five teams respectively.
- ◀ Where known, only Bottesford CC runs All Stars and Dynamos sessions.
- ◀ One additional men's team is expected to be generated by population growth. Although no women, girls' or boys' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone.
- ◀ Of the responding clubs, only two (Buckminster & Barrowby CC and Egerton Park CC) quantifies aspirations to increase levels of participation through the creation of a new teams. This equates to a total aspirational growth of one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior teams.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenarios

Accommodating overplay

In Melton, existing overplay is only identified at Ashby Carington CC by a total of two matches per season. The square has seven wicket and is of standard quality. Improving the square to good quality would subsequently alleviate existing overplay on site and leave five match sessions of additional capacity. Therefore, the Club should be supported to improve square quality on site.

Impact of participation increases

Of the responding clubs, only two quantified their aspirations to increase levels of participation through the creation of new teams. This equates to a total aspirational growth of one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior teams as shown below.

Table 4.18: Future demand aspirations expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Buckminster & Barrowby CC	East	-	-	1
Egerton Park CC	Central	1	1	1

The following scenario shows the impact that these increases would have on the supply and demand balance of cricket squares in Melton.

For Egerton Park CC, the existing square at Egerton Park Sports Ground only has capacity on Sundays and midweek. Therefore, whilst the women's and junior teams could be accommodated on site, the senior men's team would have to be hosted elsewhere. Currently, there is no actual spare capacity in the Central Analysis Area for Saturday cricket and therefore this would have to be hosted elsewhere within the Borough, such as at Wartnaby Cricket Field in the West Analysis Area as the square is currently unused.

For Buckminster & Barrowby CC, the square at the site of the same name has capacity during midweek and so an additional junior team could be adequately accommodated.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Ensure quality is sustained at existing cricket squares to maintain capacity.
- ◀ Improve square quality at Ashby Carington CC through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.
- ◀ Support clubs to improve ancillary facilities where required, such as at Belvoir CC and Egerton Park Sports Ground.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing or new cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Rugby union pitches

Supply and demand summary

- There is a current overall shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with future demand exacerbating this to 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Supply summary

- There are nine rugby union pitches identified across three sites, of which eight pitches are available for community use across two sites.
- Melton Mowbray RFC aspires to have its own facilities and notes Leicestershire County Council has sectioned off some land for the Club which it would like to relocate to.
- Melton Mowbray RFC has a lease agreement with the Council for the use of Melton Sports Village whilst Leicester Tigers owns and manages two pitches at Brooksby Melton College. The remaining pitches are managed by their respective education providers.
- Of the rugby union pitches in Melton, there are five good quality, two standard quality and two poor quality pitches. All poor quality pitches are identified at education sites whilst Melton Sports Village accommodates the good quality pitches.
- At Melton Sports Village, the communal changing facilities are said to be in poor condition, with the facilities often becoming unfit for purpose before maintenance and refurbishment is undertaken. Parking is also insufficient on site due to extensive multi-sport use.

Demand summary

- One rugby club is considered to be based in Melton; Melton Mowbray RFC, providing a total of 16 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of two senior men's, five junior boys', three junior girls' and six mini teams.
- The Club's training demand is accommodated on a sports lit grass training area at Melton Sports Village.
- Melton Mowbray RFC indicates it will continue to bring through a U7 team every year although notes it is approaching capacity for junior membership.
- Of the four pitches identified as having potential spare capacity, three are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in senior rugby totalling 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- There are two senior pitches at Brooksby Melton College that are overplayed by a total of three match equivalent sessions per week.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay

Currently, the two rugby union pitches at Brooksby Melton College are the only overplayed pitches in Melton. The pitches accommodate demand from Leicester Tigers ACE programme and are currently assessed as standard (M1/D1) quality. With seven match equivalent sessions of demand currently taking place on site per week, only pitch improvements to the highest possible level (M2/D3) would be sufficient to alleviate overplay on site. This would leave the pitches as being played to capacity.

Alternatively, options could be explored to make the 3G pitch on site World Rugby compliant which would enable a large portion of demand to be transferred away from the grass pitches on site and alleviate overplay. However, the strategic need for this is low.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- Improve pitch quality at Brooksby Melton College to reduce shortfalls.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

Hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ Although there is currently a sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Melton, the quality of the only AGP in Melton is poor.
- ◀ Imminent resurfacing is required as soon as feasibly possible at Melton Sports Village in order to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand within the Borough.
- ◀ Priority must also be placed on attracting additional usage to the AGP at Melton Sports Village to ensure it remains financially viable.

Supply summary

- ◀ There is one full size, sports lit hockey suitable pitches in Melton, located at Melton Sports Village. The pitch is sand filled and available for community use.
- ◀ Melton HC currently has a rental agreement in place with Everyone Active, the Council's sports and leisure operator although with Everyone Active's contract with the Council coming to an end, a new agreement should be secured with the new operator when known to secure the Club's usage.
- ◀ The AGP at Melton Sports Village is considered to be readily available to the community, with the pitch only unavailable from 09:00 – 10:00 on Sunday mornings within the peak period.
- ◀ Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, the pitch at Melton Sports Village is in need of refurbishment as it has not been resurfaced since 2007.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities at Melton Sports Village are in poor condition, with an insufficient number of changing rooms said to be available at peak times.

Demand summary

- ◀ There is currently one community hockey club; Melton HC, playing in Melton. It currently fields two senior men's and one senior women's team.
- ◀ Melton HC aspires to reinstate a third senior men's team.
- ◀ There is no known exported or imported hockey demand in Melton.
- ◀ No latent or unmet demand has been identified in Melton, with Melton HC reporting current demand is being met.
- ◀ There is minimal usage of the AGP at Melton Sports Village despite accommodating all hockey demand within the Borough. The pitch was previously heavily used for football training demand although this has all subsequently relocated to the neighbouring 3G pitch at Melton Town Football Club.

Scenarios

Accommodating future demand

As a reminder one full size floodlit AGP is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' pitch).

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

On the basis that there is one full size AGP available which can accommodate hockey matches in Melton, this provides an opportunity to accommodate up to eight hockey teams across the Borough. With just three teams currently playing in Melton and future demand of four teams, there is ample spare capacity to accommodate demand.

However, the pitch at Melton Sports Village was last resurfaced in 2007. Whilst agreeing with the poor quality, Melton HC notes the playing surface is currently in a playable condition following a deep clean that was undertaken after the pandemic in 2022. Before this, the pitch had become dangerous to use. It should be noted that a deep clean will only temporarily improve quality, meaning imminent resurfacing is still required as soon as feasibly possible.

However, the Council's sports and leisure provider, Everyone Active, notes all football lettings have since relocated to the neighbouring 3G pitch at Melton Town Football Club. It notes that the AGP is no longer deemed to be feasible through existing hockey lettings alone. In response to this, the FA states it is keen to support England Hockey to retain a multi-sport offer at Melton Sports Village through the continued provision of an AGP.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

As there is only one AGP located in Melton at Melton Sports Village and the pitch continues to be used for hockey, it should not be considered for 3G pitch conversion unless a replacement pitch in a suitable location is provided. As such, the pitch should be protected for future hockey usage and attempts should be made for this to be ensured through planning policy e.g., through having permitted development rights removed (meaning planning permission would be required for a surface change). If the pitch was to be lost to an alternate surface type, it is likely that hockey would cease to be played in the Borough.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure that the full size hockey suitable AGP at Melton Sports Village is protected for continued hockey use and is resurfaced as soon as feasibly possible to continue to safely accommodate hockey in Melton.
- ◀ Support England Hockey and the Council/Everyone Active to ensure the AGP at Melton Sports Village remains financially viable.
- ◀ Encourage participation growth in the sport where feasible to do so in both competitive and recreational formats.

Bowling greens

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ All clubs are willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Melton that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence. This means there is enough supply of greens within the Authority.
- ◀ As there is no evidence to suggest a need for new bowling greens in Melton the priority should be based on supporting existing clubs improve their facilities.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are six bowling greens in Melton provided across five sites, all of which, are available for community use.
- ◀ In Melton, three greens are assessed as good quality whilst the remaining three are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ All greens and clubs in Melton are serviced by some form of ancillary provision. Three sites are serviced by good quality provision and two sites are serviced by standard quality provision.
- ◀ In Melton, no greens are serviced by sports lighting.

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Demand summary

- ◀ There are five clubs using bowling greens in Melton. Of the four clubs that have responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 164 members, equating to 110 senior men, 54 senior women. Neither club accommodated junior members.
- ◀ The largest club is Bottlesford BC with 63 members, followed by Holwell Sports BC with 57 members. Melton Mowbray and Belvoir Vale bowls clubs both have 22 playing members.
- ◀ From consultation, the four responsive clubs express and quantify some level of future demand equating to future demand for 60 senior members and 20 junior members, with Bottlesford BC expressing the largest amount (20 seniors and 10 juniors).
- ◀ Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 96 people who would like to participate in the sport within Melton, which represents approximately 0.02% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 0.16%.
- ◀ Both Bottlesford BC and Holwell Sports BC are operating close to, or over, 60 members and therefore should be consulted with regularly to ensure their provision is suitable for their level of demand.
- ◀ As Belvoir Vale and Melton Mowbray Town bowls clubs are operating close to the minimum recommended level (20 members) membership should be monitored to ensure each club remains feasible.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all existing in-use greens and maintain green quality.
- ◀ Seek to improve ancillary facility quality where it is deemed to be necessary e.g. at Holwell Sports Club and Bottesford Cricket and Social Club.
- ◀ Support Bowls England to implement new products to increase participation within Melton; Bowls Bash⁶ (a shortened format) and Play Bowls⁷ (to assist clubs to attract more casual, pay and play, participants).
- ◀ Ensure all clubs have security of tenure at their respective home sites.
- ◀ Support clubs operating with a low membership, such as Belvoir Vale and Melton Mowbray Town bowls clubs, to ensure that they remain sustainable and grow membership further.
- ◀ Monitor clubs operating with a high membership, such as Bottesford BC and Holwell Sports BC, to ensure their facilities remain suitable to accommodate demand.

Tennis courts

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ For club-based tennis, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet demand where known.
- ◀ Away from clubs, although no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the large amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in Melton.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are 35 tennis courts identified in Melton across 11 sites. Of these, 27 courts across nine sites are available for community use.
- ◀ The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the Central Analysis Area, with this containing 23 courts and 18 that are available.

⁶ <https://www.bowlsengland.com/bowlsbash/>

⁷ <https://play-bowls.com/>

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- ◀ The majority of tennis courts are operated by sports clubs. Eleven courts are managed by education sites however, eight courts are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Most outdoor tennis courts in Melton have a macadam surface, with 28 being of this type and 20 of these being available for community use.
- ◀ In Melton, 15 of the tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 43% of the provision. Of these, all 15 courts are considered to be available for community use.
- ◀ Of the courts in Melton, 18 are assessed as good quality, 15 as standard quality and two as poor quality. A total of 15 of the good quality courts are available for community use, whilst only ten standard and two poor quality courts are.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities servicing Belvoir Vale TC, Hamilton LTC, Melton Mowbray TC and Holwell Sports TC are assessed as good quality, with no issues identified, particularly the ancillary facilities located at Melton Sports Village as the clubhouse facilities are new.

Demand summary

- ◀ There are four tennis clubs in Melton.
- ◀ Only one club responded to consultation requests in Melton, Hamilton LTC, which has a total of 115 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 100 senior and 15 junior members.
- ◀ Three clubs in Melton; Belvoir Vale TC, Hamilton LTC and Melton Mowbray TC, use ClubSpark whilst the LTA has had previous discussions with the Melton Mowbray Town Estate regarding the installation of Clubspark and an online booking system at Wilton Park.
- ◀ Currently in Melton, there are no park tennis leagues, no LTA Red sessions and no Tennis for Free sessions.
- ◀ There are currently no padel tennis courts in Melton.

Scenarios

Increasing recreational tennis demand

Increasing recreational tennis demand is currently a priority for the LTA, with twice as many people playing casually rather than at clubs. To enable this, it has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

In Melton, only Twyford Recreation Ground and Wilton Park have public park tennis courts and therefore are likely to be considered in line with this investment fund. Improvements typically include court resurfacing, fencing improvements and/or the installation of gate access technology.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via further utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Sustain court quality of community available courts, particularly those used by clubs.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of opening education sites for community use and look to install sports lighting to facilitate this usage.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing courts where demand is, or could be, high.

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Golf courses

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ With two traditional 18-hole courses and one Par 3 18-hole course in Melton, as well as two equipped driving ranges, there is seemingly a good range of provision servicing the Borough.
- ◀ It is clear that each facility is meeting a need, with further pressure following the loss of provision at Stapleford Park Golf Club, meaning that all remaining sites require protection.
- ◀ There is also a shortfall of driving range bays.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are currently three golf facilities in Melton.
- ◀ Two golf sites within Melton provide one standard hole course (Melton Mowbray Golf Club and Six Hills Golf Club), with both accommodating 18-hole courses.
- ◀ It should be noted that the golf facility located at Stapleford Park Golf Club recently closed (October 2020), due declining membership and visitor numbers.
- ◀ An 18-hole Par 3 course is provided at Sysonby Acres Golf Course.
- ◀ Two golf courses within Melton are supported by a driving range, located at Melton Mowbray Golf Club and Six Hills Golf Club. Melton Mowbray Golf Club provides a 7-bay driving range and Six Hills Golf Club provides a 12-bay driving range. Both facilities are accommodated with sports lighting and are available for anyone to use on a pay and play basis all-year round.
- ◀ In Melton, Melton Mowbray Golf Club is a members' club, whereas Six Hills Golf Club is a proprietary facility.
- ◀ England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901. In Melton, Membership at Melton Mowbray Golf Club (£987) is considered slightly above this figure.
- ◀ In terms of the quality of the golf facilities, it is relatively good across Melton with no significant issues identified.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities are also good across Melton, particularly at Melton Mowbray Golf Club where they clubhouse caters for a wide variety.

Demand summary

- ◀ Membership since 2015 has increased significantly.
- ◀ Unmet demand in Melton is minimal, with all of the sites offering a membership scheme actively looking for new members.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 660 people within Melton, equating to 0.13% of the Borough's population.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain all existing, in use golf provision in accordance with NPPF paragraph 99.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide informal golf opportunities within Melton such as additional driving range bays and pitch and putt courses.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Recommendations:

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

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

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes disused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

NPPF paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Should facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g., council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by a review of the PPOSS or a separate needs assessment), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

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Development Management

The PPOSS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities. All applications should be assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of sports facilities and will use the PPOSS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of provision if a PPOSS shows a clear excess in quantity both presently and in the future across all relevant sports facilities. This means that, even if there is a surplus of provision for a particular sport, provision for that sport cannot be deemed surplus to requirements and developed upon as the area could be used to reduce shortfalls for another sport through re-configuration/re-purposing.

Policy Exception E1:

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Given the presence of shortfalls in Melton, particularly for football, exception E1 cannot currently be met for any proposals. Where a PPOSS cannot demonstrate that a site, or part of a site, is surplus to requirements, then replacement will instead be required in order for an application to be supported. This would comply with Sport England policy exception E4.

Policy Exception E4:

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ▶ of equivalent or better quality and
- ▶ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ▶ in a suitable location and;
- ▶ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.'

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

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Melton for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of such facilities has been classified as secure; however, it is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use such as Long Field Academy.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local planning authority and local education authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Given current budgetary pressures, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds for the acquisition and development of sites, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position manage assets and to apply for external funding for site improvements. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be enhanced and sites developed.

Local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets should be supported by partners including the Council or NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop business and sports development plans to show how facilities can be sustainable and to maximise income generation.

Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁸. They should also be signposted to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain so that extensions can be secured, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site development. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into).

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of council sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/NGBs accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers. Strong business plans could also be created by the clubs to illustrate this.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation E) for new clubs (i.e., not those with a Borough-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of an accreditation award).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards the improvement of the site.</p>

⁸ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Furthermore, the Council could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example, outcomes may include:

- ◀ Increasing participation, particularly in target areas such as women's and girls' activity.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the sites remain available for other purposes and for other users.

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

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools and higher/further education establishments is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Melton, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision is also an issue, especially at academies.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the venues and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

As a priority, Melton Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council as the Local Education Authority should work together to explore community use options at large education sites, such as Belvoir High School. Securing access to such sites would provide further spare capacity throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local education authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive investment in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Where new schools are provided, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as courts that can accommodate for sports such as tennis.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

- d) Improve quality
- e) Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f) Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- g) Secure developer contributions through Section 106.

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given the number of councils' facing reduced budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g., the largest, well used sites that are overplayed and/or poor quality). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement.

With pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

Quality in Melton is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard quality with the exception of rugby union pitches which are mostly assessed as poor quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality pitches is also essential.

Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that quality can vary year on year dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues). Where this occurs, it is vital that the improvements are advertised and marketed towards potential users as their perception of the provision may need altering.

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer (although other provision can be key for income generation) and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

For rugby union, the RFU is now also utilising Pitch Power, with reports also being produced similar to those for football.

For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the GMA. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England Wales.

Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

For the improvement/replacement of 3G and hockey provision, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Where pitches are provided, sinking funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required.

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock, it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey and weekly for football and rugby union).

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The FA, RFU, ECB and EH all recommend a maximum number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 5.1: Carrying capacity of pitches

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

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 0 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality, where possible, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For cricket, an increase in NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ with existing squares.

For rugby union and tennis, additional sports lighting can reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread demand across a greater number of pitches/courts or unmarked areas, where the space exists. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting is an alternative.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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

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

Partners, in collaboration with the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPOSS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the wider Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

In order to address the needs of the community, as well as to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a co-ordinated approach to the strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners as well as through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector.

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing developments.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for contributions to put towards improvements to increase the capacity of existing provision, or if new provision is required (or a combination of both). Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.
- ◀ Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused.

The preference from Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings (see Part 8 for further information).

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Recommendations:

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

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

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g., converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure.
- ◀ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- ◀ Establishing additional sports lighting.
- ◀ Installing artificial surfaces (e.g., NTPs).

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome, typically through pitch quality improvements to increase the carrying capacity of pitches, securing community use agreements for sites that do not provide security of tenure to ensure spare capacity can be fully utilised, and gaining access to unavailable sites to increase the pitch stock available to the community.

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

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

Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for rugby union and for 3G pitches, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

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For rugby union and cricket, it is imperative that any new provision that is established will be accessed by the relevant clubs. Typically, rugby union/cricket demand can be very club-orientated, which can make the use of secondary venues unlikely. Failure to provide pitches in the right location could therefore lead to the provision becoming unused and unsustainable.

Large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the School as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

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

Site hierarchy

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide context. As such, this, for example, takes into account the level of demand accommodated and the potential impact the recommended actions will have on addressing the identified shortfalls/issues. The proposed site-hierarchy is summarised in the following table.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

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

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Hub sites are of Borough-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. Actions at these sites are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the issues identified in the PPOSS.

Key centres are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports.

For local authority local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities, and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council-operated venues).

Priority

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

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

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

Costs

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

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

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at: <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/facility-cost-guidance>

Timescales

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

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

Aim

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

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2036)
Football – grass pitches			
Central	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	
Central	Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions	
Central	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	
Central	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	
Central	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	
Melton	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
Melton	Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session	Played to capacity
Melton	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
Melton	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions
Melton	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session
Football – 3G pitches			
Central	Full size	Shortfall of 0.5 pitches	
Melton	Full size	Shortfall of 1.5 pitches	Shortfall of 2 pitches
Cricket			
Central	Senior (Saturday)	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Central	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 10 matches	Actual spare capacity of 10 matches
Central	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 54 matches	Actual spare capacity of 54 matches
Melton	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 70 matches	Actual spare capacity of 58 matches
Melton	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches
Melton	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches
Rugby union			
Central	Senior	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2.25 match sessions
Melton	Senior	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Hockey			
Melton	Full size	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Bowls	Supply is sufficient to meet demand in the Central Analysis Area with one green provided at Holwell Sports Club and two greens provided at Melton Mowbray Bowls Club. Holwell Sports Club should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient. Conversely, Melton Mowbray Bowls Town Club should be monitored to ensure it remains feasible.
Tennis	With 18 community available courts provided in the Central Analysis Area for club-based tennis, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet demand with 13 court available at club sites. Away from clubs, although the remaining five community available courts are identified as not having capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the large amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in Melton.
Golf	Sysonby Acres is the only golf facility in the Central Analysis Area, the facility provides a Par 3 18-hole course with a yardage of 1,800 yards. No driving ranges are provided in the Central Analysis Area.

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	All England Sports Ground	LE13 1BP	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass cricket square with 14 wickets. The square has actual spare capacity midweek. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. Issues surrounding ball strikes have been identified which will affect the level of cricket that can be played at this site.	Sustain square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to find a solution to help with the ball strike issues.	Sports Club ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
2	Asfordby Acres	LE14 3TL	Football	Sports Club	One adult, two youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitches, all of good quality. One youth 11v11 pitch which is of standard quality. All pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime, to continue to accommodate demand.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
2	Asfordby Acres	LE14 3TL	3G	Sports Club	One small sided (38m x 32m) 3G pitch which is available for community use but not provided with sports lighting. The pitch has exceeded the recommended lifespan, although, Asfordby FC has plans to resurface the pitch at Asfordby Acres.	Work with Asfordby FC to ensure the pitch is resurfaced as soon as feasibly possible to continue to safely accommodate football.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	LE13 0RW	Football	Commercial	One poor quality adult pitch which has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime, to allow the pitch capacity to be utilised to reduce/alleviate overplay from other sites.	Commercial FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	LE13 0RW	Cricket	Commercial	One good quality grass cricket square with 12 wickets and one NTP. The square has actual spare capacity Sundays and midweek. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Commercial ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
22	Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club	LE13 0RB	Tennis	Sports Club	Three good quality macadam courts and three good quality artificial courts which are all sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
23	Holwell Sports Club	LE14 3RD	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch and one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch, of which both are played to capacity.	Improve the youth 11v11 pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime, to continue to accommodate demand. Sustain pitch quality on the good quality youth 11v11 pitch through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
23	Holwell Sports Club	LE14 3RD	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green. It is home to Holwell Sports BC which has 57 members. The green is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Membership should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
23	Holwell Sports Club	LE14 3RD	Tennis	Sports Club	Two standard quality macadam courts and one poor quality macadam court which are available for community use. No courts are serviced with sports lighting.	Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look into possible funding opportunities for installation of sports lighting.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	John Ferneley College	LE13 1LH	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of standard quality. Pitches have two MES of actual spare capacity for community use collectively.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Ensure pitch capacity is fully utilised to reduce/alleviate overplay from other sites.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
25	John Ferneley College	LE13 1LH	3G	Education	One good quality, full size 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use. The pitch is FA approved to host competitive matches.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Education FA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect
25	John Ferneley College	LE13 1LH	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not provided with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through enhanced maintenance regime for curricular demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
28	Long Field Academy	LE13 0BN	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality. Two youth 11v11 pitches are over played by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, and the youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity. Spare capacity can be found on the mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, however, capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to formalise a community use agreement to provide users with security of tenure.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
28	Long Field Academy	LE13 0BN	Cricket	Education	One standalone standard quality NTP.	Improve wicket quality for curricular demand through enhanced maintenance regime.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
28	Long Field Academy	LE13 0BN	Tennis	Education	Five standard quality macadam courts which are not available for community use and are not provided with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through enhanced maintenance regime for curricular demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
29	Mars Sports Ground	LE13 1BP	Football	Commercial	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of standard quality. All pitches have actual spare capacity amounting to 3 MES collectively.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Ensure pitch capacity is fully utilised to reduce/alleviate overplay from other sites. Improve and refurb ancillary facilities which support the grass pitches.	Commercial FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
32	Melton Mowbray Bowls Club	LE13 0LR	Bowls	Sports Club	Two standard quality flat bowling greens. Whilst there are two greens on site, only one is used for the Club's demand (the green to the West) with the second green only kept looking tidy. The Site is home to Melton Mowbray Town BC which has 22 members. The green is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. A new building to house a disabled toilet and additional changing room was planned in 2022. This had to be scaled down due to finances (Disabled toilet in place). The Club does have full planning permission to finish the whole project.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Membership should be monitored at Melton Mowbray BC to ensure the Club remains feasible. Look to complete the project when funds have been found.	Sports Club BE	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
34	Melton Sports Village	LE13 1DN	Rugby Union	Council	Four senior pitches and one mini pitch, all of good quality but not provided with sports lighting. Senior pitches have 2.5 MES actual spare capacity. The mini pitch is played to capacity. There are two grass areas North East of Melton Sports Village which are owned by the council and opportunities could be explored to convert these areas to dedicated playing pitches.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Add a sports lighting solution onto a full size, posted pitches to accommodate demand. Look to add additional pitches onto the spare land to accommodate demand (if demand increases warranting a need for this development).	Council RFU	Local	S	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
34	Melton Sports Village	LE13 1DN	Hockey	Council	One full size hockey suitable AGP that is of poor quality and sports lit. The pitch was installed in 2007 and significantly exceeds its recommended lifespan. Melton HC notes the playing surface is currently in a	Resurface as soon as feasibly possible to continue to safely accommodate demand on site.	Council EH	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					playable condition following a deep clean undertaken after the pandemic.							
34	Melton Sports Village	LE13 1DN	Tennis	Council	Four good quality clay courts which are sports lit and available for community use. Its home to Melton Mowbray Tennis Club.	Sustain court quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
35	Mowbray Rangers FC	LE14 3QU	Football	Sports Club	One adult. One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. Adult pitch is overplayed by one MES and youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Actual spare capacity can be found on the mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch amounting to 2 MES collectively.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Ensure pitch capacity is fully utilised on mini pitches to reduce/alleviate over play from other sites.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
40	St Mary's Church of England Primary School	LE13 0NA	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches which are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to formalise a community use agreement to provide users with security of tenure.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
42	Sysonby Acres	LE13 0HW	Golf	Commercial	An 18-hole course.	Ensure quality is appropriate for levels of demand accessing the site. Retain as current use.	Commercial EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
49	Wilton Park	LE13 0PP	Tennis	Other ⁹	Two standard quality macadam courts which are sports lit and are available for community use.	Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Other LTA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
49	Wilton Park	LE13 0PP	3G	Other	One small sided (33m x 17m) 3G pitch which is available for community use and is provided with sports lighting. The pitch has exceeded the recommended lifespan.	Resurface as soon as feasibly possible to continue to safely accommodate demand on site.	Other FA FF	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
58	Melton Mowbray Cricket Club	LE13 1BP	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch which has actual spare capacity of one MES at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Ensure pitch capacity is fully utilised to reduce/alleviate overplay from other sites.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
59	Melton Town Football Club	LE13 1DN	3G	Sports Club	One poor quality, full size 3G pitch that is sports lit. The pitch failed its FIFA test and must be relayed. The Club is currently working through legal proceedings with contractors to get the pitch relayed. Accreditation at Melton Town Football Club is currently set to expire in May 2023 and whilst the pitch was retested in January 2023, it is said to have failed this test.	The Club need to continue to work with contractors to get the pitch relayed as soon as possible. Due to the accreditation expiring in May 2023, the pitch needs to be retested to continue to accommodate FA affiliated football. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	H	H	H	Protect Enhance

⁹ Site is owned by Melton Mowbray Town Estate

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

EAST ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2036)
Football – grass pitches			
East	Adult	Played to capacity	
East	Youth 11v11	Played to capacity	
East	Youth 9v9	Played to capacity	
East	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	
East	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	
Melton	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
Melton	Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session	Played to capacity
Melton	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
Melton	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions
Melton	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session
Football – 3G pitches			
East	Full size	Played to capacity	
Melton	Full size	Shortfall of 1.5 pitches	Shortfall of 2 pitches
Cricket			
East	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 12 matches	Actual spare capacity of 12 matches
East	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 20 matches	Actual spare capacity of 20 matches
East	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 30 matches	Actual spare capacity of 30 matches
Melton	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 70 matches	Actual spare capacity of 58 matches
Melton	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches
Melton	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches
Rugby union			
East	Senior	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Melton	Senior	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Hockey			
Melton	Full size	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Bowls	No bowls provision is provided within the East Analysis Area. All provision is based in the North and Central analysis areas, with six bowling greens provided in Melton, supply is sufficient to meet demand.
Tennis	Stapleford Lifestyle Club and Twyford Recreation Ground offer the only community accessible provision in the East Analysis Area. Collectively the sites offer four macadam courts which are not serviced with sports lighting.
Golf	Melton Mowbray Golf Club is the only golf facility provided in the East Analysis Area. The facility is a traditional 18-hole golf course which provides the longest offering in Melton. The course is supported by a driving range which provided 7-bays and is serviced with sports lighting.

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
10	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	NG33 5RY	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass cricket square with 10 wickets. The square has actual spare capacity Saturdays, Sundays and midweek. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Buckminster Playing Field	NG33 5SF	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is available for community use. Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to allow the pitch capacity to be utilised to reduce/alleviate overplay from other sites.	Council FA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Stapleford Lifestyle Club	LE14 2EF	Tennis	Commercial	Three standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not provided with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Commercial LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
44	Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club	LE14 4SE	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass cricket square with eight wickets. The site has no spare capacity. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality through enhance maintenance regime to continue to accommodate current demand.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
46	Twyford Recreation Ground	LE14 2HT	Football	Council	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use. Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to allow the pitch capacity to be utilised to reduce/alleviate overplay from other sites.	Council FA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
46	Twyford Recreation Ground	LE14 2HT	Tennis	Council	One poor quality macadam court which is available for community use but not provided with sports lighting.	Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
47	Waltham Playing Fields	LE14 4AG	Football	Parish/Town Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch and one poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which both are available for community use. Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to allow the pitches capacity to be utilised to reduce/alleviate overplay from other sites.	Parish/Town Council FA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
52	Melton Mowbray Golf Club	LE14 4SD	Golf	Members	An 18-hole course and a 7-bay driving range which is provided with sports lighting and is available for Pay and Play.	Ensure quality is appropriate for levels of demand accessing the site. Retain as current use.	Members EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
54	Staplesford Park Golf Club	LE14 2EF	Golf (Disused)	Commercial	An 18-hole course which recently closed in October 2020, due to declining membership and visitor numbers. Its future is currently unknown.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Commercial EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2036)
Football – grass pitches			
North	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 match sessions	
North	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1 match session	
North	Youth 9v9	Played to capacity	
North	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	
North	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	
Melton	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
Melton	Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session	Played to capacity
Melton	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
Melton	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions
Melton	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session
Football – 3G pitches			
North	Full size	Shortfall of 1 pitch	
Melton	Full size	Shortfall of 1.5 pitches	Shortfall of 2 pitches
Cricket			
North	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 36 matches	Actual spare capacity of 24 matches
North	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 60 matches	Actual spare capacity of 60 matches
North	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 102 matches	Actual spare capacity of 102 matches
Melton	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 70 matches	Actual spare capacity of 58 matches
Melton	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches
Melton	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches
Rugby union			
North	Senior	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Melton	Senior	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Hockey			
Melton	Full size	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Bowls	Supply is sufficient to meet demand in the North Analysis Area with one green provided at Bottlesford Cricket and Social Club, one green at Finns Lane Bowling Club and one green provided at Hose Village Hall. Bottlesford BC should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient. Conversely, Belvoir Vale BC should be monitored to ensure it remains feasible.
Tennis	Hose Village Hall offer the only community accessible provision in the North Analysis Area. The site offers three good quality macadam courts which are serviced with sports lighting. The courts are used by Belvoir Vale Tennis Club.
Golf	No provision is provided within the North Analysis Area. All provision is based in Central, East and West analysis areas. With three golf facilities in Melton, supply is good for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses and driving ranges both supplied.

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
4	Belvoir CC	NG32 1RE	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality cricket square with 10 wickets and one good quality cricket square with eight wickets. The first square has actual spare capacity Sundays and midweek, the second square has spare capacity Saturdays, Sundays and midweek. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. Belvoir CC has planning permission for a new pavilion to be provided on site, consisting of three indoor nets, four changing rooms, a bar and a kitchen.	Sustain square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Move forward with plans for a new pavilion, which is key to increasing participation for women, girls', and junior cricket,	Sports Club ECB	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
6	Belvoir High School	NG13 0AX	Football	Education	Two adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of standard quality. Pitches are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime for curricular use. Look to open pitches for community use to alleviate overplay at other sites.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
6	Belvoir High School	NG13 0AX	Cricket	Education	One standalone standard quality NTP which is not available for community use.	Sustain quality through enhanced maintenance regime for curricular use.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
6	Belvoir High School	NG13 0AX	Rugby Union	Education	One poor (M0/D1) quality junior pitch which is not available for community use and is not provided with sports lighting.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime for curricular use.	Education RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
6	Belvoir High School	NG13 0AX	Tennis	Education	Three good quality macadam courts which are not available for community use and not provided with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through enhanced maintenance regime for curricular use.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	NG13 0BG	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch which has actual spare capacity at peak time amounting to one MES.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Ensure pitch capacity is fully utilised to reduce /alleviate overplay from other sites.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	NG13 0BG	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with 10 wickets. The square has actual spare capacity Sundays and midweek. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	NG13 0BG	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green which is serviced with good quality ancillary facilities. Its home to Bottlesford BC with 63 members.	Sustain green quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Membership should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient.	Sports Club EBF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
8	Bottesford FC	NG13 0AP	Football	Sports Club	Three adult, one youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, 2 mini 7v7 and 4 mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are good quality. Overplay can be found on the youth 11v11 pitches amounting to one MES. The remaining pitches have no spare capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to continue to accommodate current demand.	Sports Club FA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
13	Croxton Sports and Social Club	NG32 1QP	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality cricket square with six wickets. The square has actual spare capacity Saturdays, Sundays and midweek. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
16	Finns Lane Bowling Green	NG32 1RL	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green which is serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities. Its home to Knipton BC.	Sustain green quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club EBF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
24	Hose Village Hall	LE14 4JR	Football	Parish/Town Council	One standard quality adult pitch which has actual spare capacity amounting to one MES.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Ensure pitch capacity is fully utilised to reduce/alleviate overplay from other sites.	Parish/Town Council FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
24	Hose Village Hall	LE14 4JR	Bowls	Parish/Town Council	One standard quality flat bowling green which is serviced with good quality ancillary facilities. Its home to Belvoir Vale BC with 22 members. Current plans are to be carried out at the club which will include install automatic sprinkler system, install timber edging to all sides, replace the buffers, add cladding to remaining side and gable end of clubhouse and replace the windows where the seals have broken down.	Sustain green quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Carry out planned work to the site to improve overall quality.	Parish/Town Council BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
24	Hose Village Hall	LE14 4JR	Tennis	Parish/Town Council	Three good quality macadam courts which are available for community use and are provided with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
51	Woodlane Football Ground	NG13 0HT	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch which has actual spare capacity at peak time amounting to one MES.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Ensure pitch capacity is fully utilised to reduce/alleviate overplay from other sites.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

WEST ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2036)
Football – grass pitches			
West	Adult	Played to capacity	
West	Youth 11v11	Played to capacity	
West	Youth 9v9	Played to capacity	
West	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	
West	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	
Melton	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
Melton	Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session	Played to capacity
Melton	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session
Melton	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions
Melton	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 1 match session	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match session
Football – 3G pitches			
West	Full size	Played to capacity	
Melton	Full size	Shortfall of 1.5 pitches	Shortfall of 2 pitches
Cricket			
West	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 22 matches	Actual spare capacity of 22 matches
West	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 38 matches	Actual spare capacity of 38 matches
West	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 70 matches	Actual spare capacity of 70 matches
Melton	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 70 matches	Actual spare capacity of 58 matches
Melton	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches	Actual spare capacity of 128 matches
Melton	Junior (Midweek)	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches	Actual spare capacity of 256 matches
Rugby union			
West	Senior	Shortfall of 3 match sessions	Shortfall of 3 match sessions
Melton	Senior	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Hockey			
Melton	Full size	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.	Demand is being met although imminent resurfacing is recommended at Melton Sports Village to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand on site.

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Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Bowls	No bowls provision is provided within the West Analysis Area. All provision is based in the North and Central analysis areas, with six bowling greens provided in Melton, supply is sufficient to meet demand.
Tennis	Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa offer the only community available provision in the West Analysis Area. The Sites offers two good quality macadam courts which are not serviced with sports lighting.
Golf	Six Hills Golf Club is the only golf facility provided in the West Analysis Area. The facility is a traditional 18-hole golf course which is also supported by a driving range which provides 12-bays and is serviced by sports lighting.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
9	Brooksby Melton College	LE14 2LJ	3G	Education	One standard quality, full size 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use. The pitch is FA approved to host competitive matches. After being installed in 2014, the pitch will reach its recommended lifespan next year (2024).	Resurface as soon as feasibly possible to continue to safely accommodate demand on site. Explore options to make the 3G pitch World Rugby compliant to accommodate rugby demand and alleviate overplay.	Education FA FF	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
9	Brooksby Melton College	LE14 2LJ	Rugby Union	Education	Two standard (M1/D1) quality and one poor (M0/D0) quality senior rugby pitch, which are not provided with sports lighting. The standard quality pitches are overplayed by three MES due to demand from Leicester Tigers ACE.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Education RFU	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
17	Frisby Church of England Primary School	LE14 2NH	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
18	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	LE14 2NP	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with eight wickets. The square has actual spare capacity Sundays and midweek. The pitch is serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
20	Great Dalby CC	LE14 2HA	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with six wickets. The square has actual spare capacity midweek. The pitch is serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
21	Great Dalby Primary School	LE14 2HA	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
36	Old Dalby Cricket Club	LE14 3LP	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with eight wickets. The square has actual spare capacity Sundays and midweek. The pitch is serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities. Old Dalby CC is reportedly due to vacate its site, ahead of the 2023 season.	Sustain square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
48	Wartnaby Cricket Field	LE14 3HY	Cricket	Commercial	One standard quality cricket square with 11 wickets. The square has actual spare capacity Saturdays, Sundays and midweek. The pitch is serviced with poor quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to upgrading the ancillary facilities to attract new teams.	Commercial ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
53	Six Hills Golf Club	LE14 3PR	Golf	Proprietary	An 18-hole course and a 12-bay driving range which is provided with sports lighting and is available for Pay and Play.	Ensure quality is appropriate for levels of demand accessing the site. Retain as current use.	Proprietary EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
55	Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa	LE14 3PB	Tennis	Commercial	Two good quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not provided with sports lighting.	Sustain courts quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Commercial LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
57	Ashby Carington CC	LE14 2TE	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with seven wickets. The square is overplayed by two sessions per season. The pitch is serviced with poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club ECB	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2036 (in line with the Melton Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenario below is provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Melton, thus showing how the calculator works and what it provides. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches (rugby).

- ◀ **Scenario One** – additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth covering the Local Plan period. Total an additional population of 1,525.

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Scenario One – Demand arising from an additional population of 1,525.

The anticipated population increase over the Local Plan period equates to 1.7 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports and 10.31 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 3.11 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from a population increase of 1,525

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week ¹⁰	Training demand ¹¹
Adult football	0.28	3.11 hours
Youth football	0.76	As above
Mini soccer	0.52	As above
Rugby union	0.17	0.19 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.00	0.00 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.00	0.00 hours
Cricket	10.31	-

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

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ¹²	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ¹³	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.28	£30,432	£6,421	0.56	£109,410
Youth football	0.76	£66,109	£13,883	1.04	£201,513
Mini soccer	0.52	£16,013	£3,363	0	£0
Rugby union	0.17	£28,063	£6,005	0.34	£66,211
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.25	£84,134	£16,995	0.50	£96,244
Sand based AGPs	0.00	£0	£0	0	£0
3G	0.08	£90,603	£3,225	0.16	£31,817
Total	2.06	£315,355	£49,892	2.60	£505,195

Overall, an additional 2.06 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from a population increase of 1,525. This would require an expected capital cost of £505,195 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £49,892.

¹⁰ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

¹¹ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

¹² Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

¹³ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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Conclusion

For the example scenario above, the tables show, that through housing growth some demand will be generated for football, rugby union, hockey and cricket. In addition, the tables indicates that, over the course of the Local Plan period, housing growth will result in increased demand equating to the potential need for one youth football pitch.

The PPOSS shows that there is only existing capacity for youth football pitches in the North Analysis Area. On this basis, there is scope for the development of a new youth football pitch to be provided, however, this should only be on as part of an extension to existing football sites. A stand-alone football pitch will likely provide a low sporting offer and may not have a high utilisation rate compared to one provided at an existing site, with existing infrastructure.

However, a decision of this nature should be considered in consultation with Sport England and NGBs. Contributions to improving existing sites and increasing the capacity of this provision may also provide a more suitable sporting outcome. The PPS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).

To provide the greatest impact, contributions from housing developments could be pooled together to improve key sites. The action plan identifies high priority sites which would likely provide the most benefit from investment.

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

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

Delivery

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Melton. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

The creation of this document should be regarded as part of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

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

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

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

It is agreed that the Council is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up to date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

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As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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

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

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

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

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

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Checklist

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

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

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APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tackling inequalities

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

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

National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2021)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture

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- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

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

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

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

Grow and nurture the core

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

Inspire through elite teams

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

Make cricket accessible

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

Engage children and young people

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

Transform women's and girls' cricket

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

Support our communities

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

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The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives:

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

England Hockey Strategy

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

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

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

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

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

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

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

Rugby Football League Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021

The RFL's most recent strategy aims to establish rugby league as "a growing sport, available throughout the country, that is recognised as providing positive experience for all participants and spectators, in environments that are welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, safe and comfortable - encouraging people to return again and again, featuring:

- ◀ Financially viable and sustainable professional clubs creating stable employment opportunities, showcasing local, national and international playing talent, and leading the sport's development - and making a difference - in their own communities;
- ◀ Welcoming community clubs, putting players first, offering recreational enjoyment for children and adults alike in a safe and inclusive environment;
- ◀ A central organisation that stands out for excellence, innovation, mutual respect, integrity and inclusion that understands its role in servicing the wider sport;
- ◀ A sports that lives its values in all its decisions and actions.

This vision is underpinned by 13 core principles, including:

- ◀ **An integrated whole sport.** Each constituent part of the sport will have a responsibility to ensure the good health of the entire game;
- ◀ **Return on investment.** Investment will be targeted to ensure the sustainability of member clubs, and growth in the number and quality of players thus seeking an effective return for the game;
- ◀ **Financial parameters.** Financial distributions will be undertaken to ensure the whole of the game will move forward together;
- ◀ **Geographic expansion.** Geographic expansion of the sport should be carried out in a proportionate and sustainable manner.

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme

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

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

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

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Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

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

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

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

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

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

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

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

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- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers