



SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT UPDATED DECEMBER 2018

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FE	Further Education
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106
STC	South Tyneside Council
TGR	Team Generation Rate

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for South Tyneside Council (STC) and its partners. It updates the previous 2015 South Tyneside Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Assessment Report.

In agreement with Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), the report presents an updated supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's 2013 Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy'. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1)
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (Steps 2 & 3)
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Steps 4, 5 & 6)
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (Steps 7 & 8)
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (Steps 9 & 10)

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the PPS is being developed

The main drivers for updating the 2015 Playing Pitch Strategy is to provide a robust and up-to-date evidence base to support new planning policies and land use allocations within the emerging South Tyneside Local Plan and to assist in the determination of planning applications. It will also contribute to the effective management and enhancement of sport and recreational provision within the Borough.

The vision for the Playing Pitch Strategy is:

'To provide a range of high quality facilities for the provision of playing pitch sport to encourage participation and enable South Tyneside to meet its current and future needs.'

The key objectives for the Playing Pitch Strategy are:

- ◀ Provide a clear understanding of current and anticipated sport participation and playing pitch provision in South Tyneside.
- ◀ Provide a framework and action plan to support growth in participation in sport in line with National Governing Bodies objectives.
- ◀ Establish an up to date understanding of the demand for playing pitches and playing pitch sports (Football, Rugby Union, Cricket and Hockey), and an understanding of cross boundary participation of sports teams.
- ◀ Outline current and future demand for playing pitches and sports up to 2036 (Local Plan) and identify deficiencies or surpluses in provision and options for addressing these.
- ◀ Update strategic recommendations relating to the management of sites and potential enhancement of existing sites.

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The Local Plan

South Tyneside Council is currently in the process of preparing a new Local Plan. The Local Plan will look ahead to 2036 and will set out strategic and detailed policies, including allocations for development and designations for other uses. As required by the recently released National Planning Policy Framework (2018), the Council will follow the new standardised methodology for determining the number of future homes required in the Borough.

The Council is working towards a Pre-publication draft in July 2019; followed by a Publication Draft in February 2020 and Submission in July 2020.

The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) has identified those sites in Table 1.1 as being potentially suitable for housing development which are identified as playing field land.

To help inform this, the Council is reviewing and updating its evidence base to inform the appropriate policies and support the selection of sites for development (including where necessary, the potential for on/ off site mitigation and any supporting infrastructure). In part, this Assessment forms part of the evidence base to help inform future decisions on the sites to be allocated for housing within the emerging Local Plan alongside the future playing pitch demands arising from the growth proposed.

Table 1.1: Potential playing field sites for housing allocations

Site name	Site address	Settlement	Current status
The Clock Playing Field	Victoria Road East	Hebburn	Used 2018/19 season
South Shields and Westoe Sports Club and Playing Fields	Dean Road	South Shields	Used 2018/19 season
SouthTyneside College - South Shields Campus (playing fields)	Grosvenor Road	South Shields	Not used in 2018 due to poor quality
Brinkburn CA (lower playing fields)	McAnany Avenue	South Shields	Used 2018/19 season
Land at Chuter Ede Education Centre (excluding Brydon Court)	Galsworthy Road	South Shields	Unknown
Playing Fields at Chuter Ede	Glasworthy Road	South Shields	Used 2018/19 season

Please note that the above sites will be included within the Strategy (Stage D) to assess the impact of these being developed for housing together with possible conclusions/mitigation required.

Management arrangements

A Project Team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time and to the required quality standard to meet Sport England methodology.

Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Sport England and NGBs.

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It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

Scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the Steering Group for inclusion in the Assessment and Strategy:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Hockey/artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Athletics tracks

Study area

The local authority boundary of South Tyneside will provide the geographic scope of the PPS. South Tyneside Borough is considered to be the most appropriate functional area to conduct the review, with consideration given to Temple Park, Monkton Stadium and Chuter Ede in particular being strategic sporting hub locations that serve a borough-wide area.

Further to this, sub areas, or analysis areas, have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch surpluses and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. South Tyneside is divided into three analysis areas:

- ◀ Hebburn & Jarrow
- ◀ Inner & Outer South Shields
- ◀ South

Please note whilst the assessment may identify shortages in one sub-area, capacity may exist in the other sub-areas to meet this need and will be explored further within the Strategy.

Table 1.2: Summary of analysis areas by ward

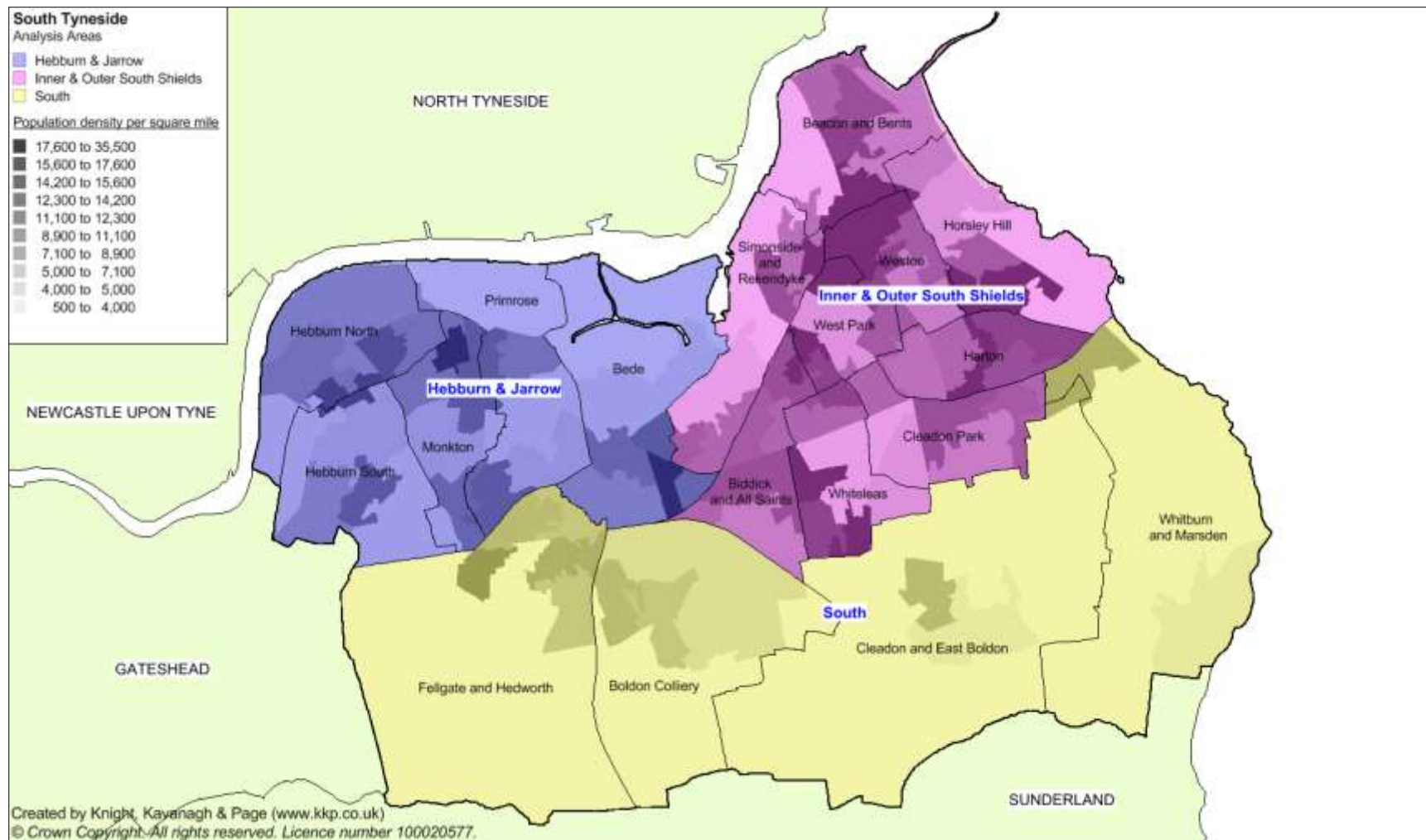
Analysis area	Ward
Hebburn & Jarrow	Bede
	Hebburn North
	Hebburn South
	Monkton
	Primrose
Inner & Outer South Shields	Beacon and Bents
	Biddick and All Saints
	Cleadon Park

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Analysis area	Ward
	Harton
	Horsley Hill
	Simonside and Rekendyke
	West Park
	Westoe
	Whiteleas
South	Boldon Colliery
	Cleadon and East Boldon
	Fellgate and Hedworth
	Whitburn and Marsden

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

It is essential that a PPS is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available for the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides details about how this information has been gathered in South Tyneside.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2010 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹

- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ **Playing field** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs). The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

Quantity

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of pitches.

Accessibility

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of playing pitches also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Available for community use and used** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or use by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team.

¹ www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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- ◀ **Disused** – pitches that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.

Quality

The capacity of pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people’s enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a pitch being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

It is not just the quality of the pitch itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in South Tyneside tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play.

Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

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A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using ONS population projections, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group) in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport by sport basis.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand, especially for non-pitch sports (where team generation rates are not applicable) include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ◀ Feedback from clubs on their plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

Population growth

The current resident population in South Tyneside is recorded as 149,555 (based on ONS Mid-2017 Population Estimates). By 2035 (in line with the Local Plan), the Borough's population is projected to increase to 154,660 (ONS 2014-based projections 2014-2039²) an increase of 5,105 or 3.4%.

As ONS figures are available by individual age brackets (to reflect team growth) this is considered the most accurate data set to apply to team generation rates (as identified above) to calculate likely future demand within the Assessment Report. Further to this, the Council has used the 2014 ONS figures to inform the Local Plan and as such this is also generally reflective of housing growth levels.

² To reflect figures used in the Local Plan

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Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in South Tyneside. It focused on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in South Tyneside. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in South Tyneside. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plan (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Durham County FA is the primary organisation responsible for development (and some elements of administration) of football in South Tyneside. It is also responsible for the administration (governance), in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 6 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred AGP (artificial grass pitch) surface type for football. In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy (NGS), the FA has commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. Over the course of the next two years to spring 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League, DCMS and the Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The South Tyneside LFFP is being completed in conjunction with this PPS, with completion set for early 2019.

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Consultation

It was agreed to send an electronic survey to all clubs playing in South Tyneside in the 2018/19 season to fully update the information from 2015. Contact details were provided by Durham County FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email to all youth and senior clubs (both boys and girls, men's and women's). Non-responses were chased via email and telephone. In addition; clubs with more than ten teams were also consulted face to face to cover both the PPS and LFFP.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 119 grass football pitches within South Tyneside across 53 sites. Of these, 97 are available, at some level, for community use (presented in Table 2.1). The total number of pitches in South Tyneside has increased by 13 (since 2015), whilst the number available for community use has increased by 10.

Please note whilst there has been an overall increase in the number of pitches provided, some sites have been reconfigured and may now provide less pitches to meet local demand. For example, Temple Park previously provided five adult pitches in 2015 but now provides two youth 11v11 pitches.

Eight of the pitches unavailable for community use are located at the Academy of Light, accommodating training demand from Sunderland AFC and its associated academy teams. The remaining 14 pitches unavailable for community use are located at education sites, where pitch availability is often driven by school policy. These sites do offer potential capacity/additional pitches if current supply does not meet expressed demand.

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	No. of pitches available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Hebburn & Jarrow	17	4	9	6	-	36
Inner & Outer South Shields	24	6	8	-	-	38
South	14	-	4	5	-	23
South Tyneside	55	10	21	11	-	97

There are a large number of adult pitches when compared to other pitch sizes. A lack of youth 11v11 pitches results in youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches; in South Tyneside many adult pitches double up as youth 11v11 pitches. In total, 36 youth 11v11 teams currently use adult pitches for home matches, which is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

Please note that the audit only assesses dedicated, line marked pitches and it is likely that younger age groups will play across senior pitches or on informal pitches marked out with cones.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres.

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Please refer to the table below for more detail:

Table 2.2: FA recommended grass/3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

There are also five full sized 3G pitches suitable for football matches in South Tyneside, four of which, are FA certified pitches (for competitive use); Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School), Harton Academy, Mariners Park and Temple Park Centre. A fifth 3G pitch is located at Mortimer Comprehensive School, however, it is not FA certified.

It should be noted that the full size 3G pitch at Mariners Park measures 91x55 metres; and therefore, is youth 11v11 sized.

As FA certified 3G pitches can host competitive matches, demand that would otherwise be supplied on grass pitches can be accommodated; in total, three adult teams from within South Tyneside use 3G pitches for home matches.

Although the 3G pitch at Monkton Stadium is unable to accommodate adult and youth football (due to its size) it does host competitive mini football; this is despite the pitch not being on the FA register. Therefore, the low number of grass mini pitches in South Tyneside is due to mini football being played at centralised venues, the majority of which are on 3G pitches. Central venues used within South Tyneside are Monkton Stadium and Temple Park Centre.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across South Tyneside has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they are able to accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality.

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Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, 12 pitches are assessed as good quality, 71 as standard quality and 14 are deemed to be poor quality.

Previously there were 17 good quality pitches, 55 standard and 15 poor. This means that the number of good quality pitches available for community use has decreased by five, but the number of poor quality pitches has also reduced (by one).

Table 2.3: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Analysis area	Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Hebburn & Jarrow	5	10	2	1	8	4	-	4	2
Inner & Outer South Shields	2	20	2	2	11	1	-	-	-
South	2	11	1	-	3	1	-	3	2
Total	9	41	5	3	23	5	-	7	4

Sites containing poor quality pitches are as follows:

- ✦ Chuter Ede Community Association
- ✦ Luke's Lane Playing Fields
- ✦ Oakleigh Gardens
- ✦ St Joseph's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School
- ✦ Valley View Primary School

In general, user consultation indicate that pitch quality has either remained the same or worsened when compared to the previous season. Whilst 8% of clubs indicate that pitch quality has improved, 21% state that quality has reduced, which is attributed to a mixture of exceptionally wet winters that impacts on the frequency of maintenance regimes. The South Shields Sunday League also reports deterioration in pitch quality, with limited/poor maintenance cited as the main reason.

Generally, clubs across South Tyneside acknowledge that the quality of pitches has declined in recent seasons due to a reduction in the maintenance programme undertaken by the Council. Despite this, many note that some sites with drainage problems have these issues due to basic maintenance.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) generally offer better quality facilities than local authority sites and school pitches. Such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. Unofficial use of public sites can further exacerbate quality issues, with dog fouling and littering common.

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FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the Country. This has resulted in the creation of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). As part of the PIP, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) and a maintenance programme is established to improve the quality of the pitches in the longer term, encouraging continued participation.

Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table overleaf. The comments are a combination of club and league feedback and site assessment information. Please note this does not include all sites but only those raised by responding clubs.

Table 2.4: Site specific comments

Site	2018 club comments
Bents Recreation Ground	Poor changing facilities that are becoming too dangerous for use. Car park is too small. Drainage is the best in the area. Identified in the LFFP as part of the FA PIP.
Boldon School	Pitches run alongside school tennis courts, which are kept locked. Therefore, when a football goes over the fencing it cannot be retrieved.
Brinkburn Recreation Ground	Poorly maintained. Grass cuttings left on pitches.
Chuter Ede Community Association	Poor drainage and poor ancillary facilities. Football tournaments are played on the site every two months, as organised by the Community Association.
Cleadon Recreation Ground	High levels of dog fouling due to sites open nature. Poor maintenance results in infrequent grass cutting.
Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	Split management of the site between the School and the Community Association results in overuse, pitch hire complications and poor maintenance. Identified in the LFFP as part of the FA PIP.
Gypsies Green Stadium	Shared with an athletics club, who partake in field events such as shot-put and javelin on the football pitch.
Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare	One of the pitches is prone to flooding. Identified as part of the FA PIP.
Hebburn Riverside Park	Thorn bushes nearby to pitch are dangerous and constantly result in the loss and/or destruction of footballs.
Hedworthfield Community Association	Infrequent grass cutting and line marking. Open nature of site results in high levels of dog fouling. Part of the FA PIP; the pitches have been improved since becoming a CIO, with a new maintenance regime being put in place.
Jack Clark Park	Pitch cannot be used at the start and end of each season due to over marked cricket outfield, which has priority when the seasons overlap. Dated changing facilities.
Keelman's Way Special School	New pitches with new drainage installed. Considered the best quality site in use by the South Tyneside Sunday League.
King George V Playing Fields – Jarrow	Pitches are poorly maintained. High levels of unofficial use and dog fouling. Top pitch is considered better quality. Identified in the LFFP as part of the FA PIP.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site	2018 club comments
Luke Lane Playing Fields	Open site meaning unofficial use and dog fouling is common. Football teams cannot access ancillary provision which is owned by rugby club. Drainage is poor; however, a nearby housing development is expected to result in an improvement to the current system. The South Shields Sunday League states that pitches are the worst that it accesses. Durham FA has contacted Jarrovians RFC and Hebburn Involve Youth (current user) to become part of the FA PIP.
Oakleigh Gardens	Poor maintenance and drainage. No longer used by the South Shields Sunday League due to poor quality. The pitches are used by local youth and mini teams.
South Shields Community School	Poor quality goalposts result in difficulty fixing nets. Limited changing facilities do not provide enough rooms for the number of teams on site at one time.
St Wilfrid's RC College	Poor drainage. No access to changing facilities, which is preventing Harton & Westoe JFC from creating a ladies team.
The Shack Field	Infrequent grass cuttings and a lack of repair work results in worsening pitch quality. Many games postponed due to waterlogging.

FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). As part of the PIP, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini or youth pitches may be marked onto adult pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

There are also some football pitches in South Tyneside that are marked onto or overlapping cricket outfield. This can create availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing, and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played.

School sites and sites accessed by mini and junior teams are often over marked to meet user requirements, in the case of the former this can mean a change of sport. When community football clubs do access provision for mini and junior teams they often mark pitches with cones as opposed to formal line markings. Although this can eliminate confusion generated from various pitches permanently being marked out; it does not remove the impact of a pitch being used with increased frequency. This has been factored in when considering current play on many pitches throughout the Borough.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Ancillary facilities

Changing facilities are generally viewed as being adequate by clubs with 38% rating provision as good and a further 46% rating provision as standard. However, 16% of clubs deem changing accommodation to be poor and a further eight clubs report not having access to changing facilities at all.

Most facilities described as poor by users have dated facilities that are small and do not provide enough rooms in relation to the number of pitches on site. Facilities receiving a poor rating from clubs are as follows:

- ◀ Bents Park Recreation Ground
- ◀ Chuter Ede Community Association
- ◀ Cleadon Recreation Ground
- ◀ Gypsies Green Stadium
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields (Jarrow)
- ◀ Luke's Lane Playing Fields

Focus should be placed on the ancillary provision at Bents Park Recreation Ground, as six clubs highlight a problem with the changing rooms during consultation. Complaints have been made recently from teams and referees accessing the site that the facilities have become too dangerous for use. As a result, the South Shields Sunday League is advising its teams to find an alternative venue for home matches. This site has been identified within the LFFP for improvements.

In addition, some sites do not provide changing provision and as a result the pitches are not accessible to teams that require certain facilities to comply with league rules.

Furthermore, consultation identifies that although changing rooms exist at some sites, they are not available to football teams, including at Luke's Lane Playing Fields and St Wilfrid's RC College.

FA's Safeguarding Operating Standards

Durham FA is now required to comply with FA safeguarding operating standards. As part of this, DFA recognises and advocates all football pitches require, as a minimum, access to toilet facilities for players for safeguarding and health & safety purposes. Furthermore, it is expected that pitch providers work in partnership with site users to ensure that the associated changing room and toilet requirements are accessible. Though DFA strives to obtain this as a minimum requirement across its administrative areas, it is key to acknowledge that it does not have ownership or influence over all sites used for affiliated football and whilst it is able to influence and support site provision through partnership working (especially with local authorities), it is not directly able to do so at all sites such as those which may be privately operated.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in South Tyneside is generally secure. There are numerous sites operated by community associations, whilst local authority sites such as Bents Park Recreation Ground and Cleadon Recreation Ground are reserved for community use.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Through consultation it is apparent that numerous clubs are interested in acquiring their own land through a lease agreement, however, previous attempts to make this happen have been unsuccessful. Transferring local authority pitches to sports clubs could help relieve financial pressure and time constraints placed on the Council, as well as helping clubs acquire funding for pitch and ancillary provision improvement.

Whiteleas JFC is interested in leasing land attached to the closed Temple Park Junior School. The pitches are currently used by the Club for training purposes via an agreement with the Council, although match use is not permitted. Having its own dedicated site will allow the Club to move teams off local authority pitches and consolidate usage onto one site.

Similarly, Whitburn & Cleadon FC is looking to acquire Cleadon Lane Playing Fields on a long term lease. The Club currently has sole use of the pitches, which were previously part of Whitburn Academy. A previous lease agreement was refused but it is now understood that the School no longer use or has a need for the land.

South Shields FC and Boldon Colts FC are also both exploring opportunities to lease sites, with Brinkburn Recreation Ground and land attached to the closed South Shields Community School both mentioned as possible locations.

Tenure of some sites does remain unsecure, notably at schools and academies which state their own policies regarding community use. This is the case at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Academy and Harton Academy, for example.

Lapsed sites

Croft Terrace was previously marked out with football pitches. However, there has been no reported use since 2010. Similarly, The Charlie Hurley Centre has been unused since Sunderland AFC relocated to The Academy of Light. The land is still owned by the Club although it is understood to be in talks about selling the land to a housing developer subject to planning permission.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 284 teams were identified as playing or training within South Tyneside during the 2018/19 season; an increase of 57 teams since the previous study in 2015.

Table 2.5: Summary of teams currently playing or training in South Tyneside

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Hebburn & Jarrow	18	26	20	26	13	103
Inner & Outer South Shields	17	16	19	48	34	134
South	10	22	2	5	8	47
South Tyneside	45	64	41	79	55	284

Since 2015, the number of adult teams utilising provision in South Tyneside has decreased by 31%. However, the number of youth teams has increased by 7%; whilst the number of mini teams has more than doubled, increasing by 109%.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

It would be expected that an increase in mini and youth teams would translate into more adult teams in the long term. However, the South Shields Sunday League previously reported that its league contained 60 adult teams ten years ago; this season there are 33 teams.

A decrease in adult teams coincides with a national trend of 11 aside adult men's teams decreasing due to many players opting to play small sided versions of the game instead. The way in which people, especially adult men, want to play football is changing. People want to be able to fit it into busy lifestyles and the small sided formats and shorter games allow players to do this without giving up their weekends. If this trend continues there is likely to be demand for more access to 3G pitches.

Whilst it would be expected that the decrease in adult teams would subsequently result in less need for adult pitches, it is important to safeguard the future of unused pitches in case of an increase in adult teams in the future. In the event of adult pitches being changed to suit other formats of the game, flexibility should be retained.

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision. Latent demand is teams that could be created if additional pitch provision was available in the local area. No clubs in South Tyneside report any unmet or latent demand.

Displaced demand

Displaced demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for their home fixtures outside of the area in which they are registered.

Much of the mini football in South Tyneside is played within the Russell Foster Youth league at centralised venues across the North East, meaning that many South Tyneside teams are required to play outside of the area as per league requirements. Mini teams from within South Tyneside clubs currently play outside of the area at venues in Sunderland and Durham.

Similarly, the use of centralised venues for mini football results in imported demand into South Tyneside. Both Monkton Stadium and Temple Park Centre are used as venues for mini football, meaning teams from outside the South Tyneside area are required to play within South Tyneside as per league requirements.

In total, there is imported demand equating to 25 teams at 5v5 format; 39 at 7v7 format and nine at 9v9 format.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Population increases

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2035) based on population growth. When applied to the Borough as a whole, it is predicted that there will be an increase of one senior men's team, four youth 11v11 boys' teams; and one youth 9v9 boys' team. However, applying team generation rates to specific analysis areas provides a more accurate reflection on forecasted growth.

Table 2.6: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-45)	25,870	53	1:488	26,384	54	1
Senior Women (16-45)	26,806	3	1:8935	26,296	3	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	3,176	47	1:68	3,496	51	4
Youth Girls (12-15)	3,027	6	1:505	3,358	6	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,658	37	1:45	1,705	38	1
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,636	4	1:409	1,633	4	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	3,451	79	1:44	3,284	75	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	3,440	55	1:63	3,253	52	0

2.7: Team generation rates (by analysis area)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)			
	Hebburn & Jarrow	Inner & Outer South Shields	South	Total
Senior Men (16-45)	0	0	0	0
Senior Women (16-45)	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	1	1	1	3
Youth Girls (12-15)	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	0	0	0	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	0	0	0	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	0	0	0	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	1	3

When applied by analysis area, TGRs forecast the creation of three youth 11v11 boys' teams, with one new team to be established in each analysis area.

Population increases are likely to result in additional teams in South Tyneside; however, when TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges. It is considered that although this figure may be lower than when applied Borough wide, it provides a more accurate depiction of future teams, with some participation growth being insufficient to establish new teams and therefore being assimilated in to existing playing squads.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that team generation rates are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within South Tyneside and nationally which, as mentioned previously, is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future and therefore increase demand for pitches.

SSE Wildcats Centres

SSE Wildcats Centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, which provide opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. There are already 200 established centres which delivered the SSE Wildcats pilot in 2017, with a further 800 centres to be in place for 2018. As part of the expansion process, organisations extending beyond affiliated clubs to include other providers or community groups were invited to apply in late 2017 to become one of the new centres. All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation.

In light of FA aspirations to double female participation in football through its Game Changer strategy and the establishment and foreseen future effect of the SSE Wildcats programme, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through TGRs, however at present to what extent is not quantifiable.

There are currently two SSE Wildcats Centres in South Tyneside providing opportunities for girls to participate in football, away from competitive matches. These sessions are located at:

- ◀ Harton Academy – Foundation of Light SSE Wildcats
- ◀ Mariners Park – South Shields FC SSE Wildcats

Participation increases

A number of clubs report plans to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the clubs which quantify their potential increase, there is a predicted growth of 33 teams equating to a demand for four adult, 7.5 youth and five mini match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.8: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Future demand (teams)	Analysis area ³	Pitch requirement	
			Number ⁴	Type
Harton Bulldogs FC	Mini x 1	Inner & Outer South Shields	0.5	Mini
Harton & Westoe JFC	Adult x 4	Inner & Outer South Shields	2	Adult
	Youth x 4	Inner & Outer South Shields	2	Youth
	Mini x 1	Inner & Outer South Shields	0.5	Mini

³ It has been considered that future, additional mini teams will be U7 age and, therefore, will be based at Temple Park Centre (Inner & Outer South Shields) for match demand.

⁴ 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.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	Future	Analysis area ³	Pitch requirement	
Hebburn Town JFC	Adult x 1	Hebburn & Jarrow	0.5	Adult
	Youth x 3	Hebburn & Jarrow	1.5	Youth
Jarrow FC	Adult x 2	Hebburn & Jarrow	1	Adult
	Youth x 3	Hebburn & Jarrow	1.5	Youth
	Mini x 2	Inner & Outer South Shields	1	Mini
South Shields FC	Youth x 2	Inner & Outer South Shields	1	Youth
	Mini x 2	Inner & Outer South Shields	1	Mini
South Tyneside Youth FC	Adult x 1	Inner & Outer South Shields	0.5	Adult
	Youth x 1	Inner & Outer South Shields	0.5	Youth
	Mini x 2	Inner & Outer South Shields	1	Mini
Whiteleas JFC	Youth x 2	Inner & Outer South Shields	1	Youth
	Mini x 2	Inner & Outer South Shields	1	Mini
Totals			4	Adult
			7.5	Youth
			5	Mini

For the purposes of calculating future demand, population changes and participation demand has been added together to provide total predicted future demand within the conclusion tables.

Football pyramid demand

The National League System is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs. There are six clubs in South Tyneside that play within the football pyramid:

- ◀ South Shields FC – Step 3
- ◀ Hebburn Town FC – Step 5
- ◀ Jarrow FC – Step 6
- ◀ Boldon CA FC – Step 7
- ◀ Harton & Westoe CW FC – Step 7
- ◀ Hebburn Town FC Reserves – Step 7

Although all clubs in South Tyneside currently meet the requirements of their league, the majority would need to make ground improvements, or potentially move sites in order to progress through the football pyramid.

Jarrow Roofing BCA FC previously competed at Step 5 of the football pyramid but folded at the conclusion of the 2017/18 season.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

A requirement for security of tenure may impact the progression of some clubs through the pyramid, with this needed at each stage. Tenure can be secured either through long term lease agreements, site ownership or long term community use agreements.

A common issue for clubs entering the pyramid is changing facilities. For Step 7, existing dressing room dimensions will be in order, provided that they are of a minimum of 12 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. However, clubs wishing to progress should be aware of the need to increase to a minimum of 18 square metres. Where clubs are planning to build new changing rooms, these must be planned to be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 7 (as they must meet requirements immediately).

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's which provide structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 (FA Women's Super League) to Tier 7 (Durham County Women's League, Premier Division) with each step requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Although women's clubs still require to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Step 3 and four of the men's National League System, however, not exactly the same.

The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

In the 2018/19 football season a total of two teams in South Tyneside are playing within the women's national league system:

- ◀ South Shields Ladies FC (Tier 5)
- ◀ South Shields Ladies FC Reserves (Tier 7)

2.5: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used across the Borough:

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 2.9 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that use additional to recorded community use will need to be factored into the total current weekly usage. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The extent of use added is typically dependent on the level of play, the number of pitches onsite and whether there is access to an AGP elsewhere onsite allowing rotation and protection of impact on grass pitches.

Table 2.9 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed as a result of community use, school sites are considered to have limited spare capacity to accommodate further community use based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity beyond the level of community use shown in Table 2.9. School sites which are available for community use but currently do not have any external use have been accredited one match equivalent session per week, per pitch, to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to being completely unused.

Tenure at school sites is generally considered to be unsecure given the nature of rental unless a formal community use or service level agreement (SLA) exists.

Informal use

A number of football pitches in the area are on open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.9: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ⁵	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Pitch capacity (MES)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period
1	Bents Park Recreation Ground (The Dragon)	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	4	2.5	10	-7.5	4
		Yes-unused							1				
1	Bents Park Recreation Ground (The Dragon)	Yes-unused	Secure	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2	1
2	Biddick Hall Junior School	No	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	2	8	-6	2
4	Boldon School	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation/ Education	South	Adult		Standard	4	8	8	-	-
5	Brinkburn CIO	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	2	1	4	-3	2
5	Brinkburn CIO	Yes-unused	Secure	Community Organisation	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	0	4	-4	2
6	Chuter Ede Community Association	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Poor	2	1	2	-1	1
6	Chuter Ede Community Association	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5	0.5
7	Cleaddon Recreation Ground	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	2	2	6	-4	2.5
		Yes-unused							1				
8	Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation/ Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Standard	3	6.5	6	0.5	-
8	Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation/ Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	3	4	-1	1
10	Gypsies Green Stadium	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	2	4	-2	1
11	Harton And Westoe Miners Welfare	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Good	2	4.5	6	-1.5	1
12	Harton Academy	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	2	2	4	-2	2
13	Hebburn Riverside Park (Findus)	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Good	1	1	3	-2	1
14	Hebburn Sports And Social Club	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Good	2	2.5	6	-3.5	1
15	Hedworthfield Community Association	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	South	Adult		Standard	3	7	6	1	-
15	Hedworthfield Community Association	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	South	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4	1
15	Hedworthfield Community Association	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	South	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	0.5
16	Jack Clark Park	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	1
17	Jarrow School	Yes	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	-	-
17	Jarrow School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	1	2	-1	1

⁵ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in LA, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ⁵	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Pitch capacity (MES)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period
19	King George V Playing Fields - Jarrow	Yes-unused	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Standard	3	0	6	-6	3
19	King George V Playing Fields - Jarrow	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	0.5
20	King George V Playing Fields - Hebburn	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Standard	1	0	2	-2	1
24	Lukes Lane Playing Fields	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Poor	2	2	2	-	-
24	Lukes Lane Playing Fields	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	1	2	-1	0.5
24	Lukes Lane Playing Fields	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0	1	-1	1
25	Monkton Stadium	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	4	5	16	-11	1
25	Monkton Stadium	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	3.5	2	1.5	-
26	Mortimer Comprehensive School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	-1	1
27	Oakleigh Gardens	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	South	Adult		Poor	1	2	1	1	-
27	Oakleigh Gardens	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	South	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0	1	-1	1
28	Perth Green Community Association	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	-1	0.5
30	South Shields Community School	Yes	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	1	2.25	2	0.5	-
30	South Shields Community School	Yes	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	1.25	2	-1	1
30	South Shields Community School	Yes	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	0.5
32	Mariners Park	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Good	1	2.5	3	-0.5	0.5
33	South Tyneside College	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	-1	1
34	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Academy	Yes	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	7	2	5	-
34	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Academy	Yes	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	5.5	1	4.5	-
35	St Matthews RC Primary School	No	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	2	-	-
36	St Wilfrids RC College	Yes	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	2	5.5	4	-1.5	0.5
36	St Wilfrids RC College	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	2	-	-
37	Temple Memorial Park	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	1.5	4	-2.5	1.5
39	The Clock Playing Field	Yes-unused	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Standard	1	0	2	-2	1
39	The Clock Playing Field	Yes-unused	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	0	2	-2	1
40	The Dell (Quarry)	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Standard	2	0.5	4	-3.5	2
41	The Shack Field	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	South	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	1

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Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ⁵	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Pitch capacity (MES)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period
43	West Boldon Primary School	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	South	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	1	2	-1	1
44	Whitburn C of E Academy	Yes	Unsecure	Education	South	Adult		Standard	1	6	2	4	-
45	Cleadon Lane Sports Ground	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	South	Adult		Standard	2	0	4	-4	2
45	Cleadon Lane Sports Ground	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	South	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	0	8	-8	2
45	Cleadon Lane Sports Ground	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	South	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2	1
54	Carr Ellison Park	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	0	4	-4	2
55	Boldon Community Association The Villa FC	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	South	Adult		Good	1	0.5	3	-2.5	1
56	Boldon Community Association (Formerly Jarrow Roofing FC)	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	South	Adult		Good	1	0.5	3	-2.5	1
59	Keelman's Way Special School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Good	1	1	3	-2	1
59	Keelman's Way Special School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	1	4	-3	1
61	Sea View Primary	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	1	2	-1	1
62	Temple Park Junior School (Closed)	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	1	4	-3	1
63	Hebburn Lakes Primary School	No	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	-	-
64	Westoe Crown Primary School	No	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	2	4	-2	-
65	Valley View Primary School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	2	2	-	1
66	St Bedes RC School	No	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	2	6	-4	-
69	Marine Park Primary	No	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult		Poor	1	1	1	-	-
69	Marine Park Primary	No	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	2	2	-	-
69	Marine Park Primary	No	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	1	-	-
70	St Aloysius RC VA Junior School	No	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	2	4	-2	-
71	Hedworth Lane Primary School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	South	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	2	4	4	-	1
72	Hedworthfield Primary School	No	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	2	4	-	-
72	Hedworthfield Primary School	No	Unsecure	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2	2	-	-
74	St Oswald's RC VA Primary School	No	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	2	2	-	-
75	Whitburn Village Primary School	No	Unsecure	Education	South	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	-	-
76	Hadrian Primary School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	1	4	-3	1
77	Academy of Light	No	Secure	Sports Club	South	Adult		Good	7	21	21	-	-
77	Academy of Light	No	Secure	Sports Club	South	Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	4	4	-	-

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2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

There are 133.5 match equivalent sessions per week of potential capacity in South Tyneside. However, not all of this will be available during peak periods or located at sites that are secure and available for community use. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use; at a secure site and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criteria has been discounted.

Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type.

Table 2.10: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Hebburn & Jarrow	8	1	3.5	1	-
Inner & Outer South Shields	12.5	3.5	3	-	-
South	5	-	2.5	3	-
South Tyneside	25.5	4.5	9	4	-

There is a total of 43 match sessions of actual spare capacity. Most of this (25.5) is on adult pitches. Previously there was 23 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, 2.5 of which, was on adult pitches.

Previously there was no actual spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches in South Tyneside; now there is a total of four match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period.

A total of four match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity has been discounted from the available total, mentioned above, due to poor quality; one match equivalent session on adult pitches, 2.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and 0.5 on mini 7v7 pitches.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). In South Tyneside, there are 13 community use pitches currently overplayed across seven sites. This is two pitches and one site more than in 2015. Nine of the overplayed pitches are adult size.

Most overplayed pitches (nine pitches) are assessed as standard quality; with the remaining four considered poor. Whilst overplay can be relatively sustainable with improvements made to pitch quality, consideration should be given to the transfer of play at overplayed sites to pitches with actual spare capacity.

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Table 2.11: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
8	Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	Hebburn & Jarrow	Adult	3	0.5
15	Hedworthfield Community Association	South	Adult	3	1
25	Monkton Stadium	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
27	Oakleigh Gardens	South	Adult	1	1
30	South Shields Community School	Inner & Outer South Shields	Adult	1	0.5
34	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth 11v11	2	5
34	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School	Hebburn & Jarrow	Youth 9v9	1	4.5
44	Whitburn C of E Academy	South	Adult	1	4
Total				13	18

Overplay totals 18 match equivalent sessions per week; 11 match equivalent sessions of which is on youth pitches (4.5 MES on youth 9v9 and 6.5 MES on youth 11v11).

2.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch type of grass pitches, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on Team Generation Rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases as well as club development plans.

For the purposes of analysis, it is understood that displaced demand, both in to and out of South Tyneside, will remain consistent year on year given that this displacement is due to the locations of central venue leagues; therefore, it is not considered in the following tables.

Future youth team demand has been divided between youth 9v9 and 11v11 formats; with a third being allocated to the former and the remaining of youth 11v11 teams. For mini teams, it is recognised that the most likely creation of additional teams will be at U7 age (5v5 format).

Table 2.12: Spare capacity/ overplay of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Hebburn & Jarrow	8	0.5	7.5	1.5	6
Inner & Outer South Shields	12.5	0.5	12	2.5	9.5
South	5	5	-	-	-
South Tyneside	25.5	6	19.5	4	15.5

⁶ In match equivalent sessions

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Overall in South Tyneside there is spare capacity to accommodate adult teams both now and, in the future, with 19.5, match equivalent sessions of capacity. When future demand is considered this capacity reduces to 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The South Analysis Area is currently at capacity; and this is retained when future demand is considered.

In 2015, there was 7.5 match equivalent sessions of capacity that was to be retained when future demand was considered.

Table 2.13: Spare capacity/ overplay of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁷	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Hebburn & Jarrow	1	6.5	5.5	2.5	8
Inner & Outer South Shields	3.5	-	3.5	3.5	-
South	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
South Tyneside	4.5	6.5	2	6.5	8.5

There is currently a shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches, totalling two match equivalent sessions per week. However, there is spare capacity of provision in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. Previously, there was a shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions of this pitch type. When future demand is considered the current shortfall is exacerbated, increasing to 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week, the majority of which will be in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area.

Table 2.14: Spare capacity/ overplay of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁸	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Hebburn & Jarrow	3.5	4.5	1	1	2
Inner & Outer South Shields	3	-	3	1.5	1.5
South	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
South Tyneside	9	4.5	4.5	2.5	2

Although there is a current shortfall of youth 9v9 provision in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area; overall there is capacity of 4.5 match equivalent session; with both the Inner & Outer South Shields and South analysis areas having spare capacity. When future demand is considered this spare capacity is retained, although reduced to two match equivalent session per week. The shortfall in Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area being exacerbated.

Mini football

⁷ In match equivalent sessions

⁸ In match equivalent sessions

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The conclusions and future development of mini football in South Tyneside should be considered in the context of the Russell Foster Youth League and its central venue format both in and outside of South Tyneside.

Mini 7v7 football is played at Monkton Stadium, which has four grass 7v7 pitches and a half size AGP that contains an additional 7v7 pitch. Based on there being four pitches available (the 3G pitch not being certified to accommodate match play) and the current setup of four separate kick off times (9am/10am/11am/noon), it is considered that 32 teams can be accommodated over the course of one Saturday.

Mini 5v5 football is played at Temple Park Centre, where six matches can be played at any one time. There are eight separate kick off times, with each team playing two fixtures each Saturday. It is considered, therefore, that Temple Park Centre can accommodate 48 mini 5v5 teams.

Consideration could be given to using the spare capacity at Monkton Stadium. By changing one of the 7v7 pitches to a 5v5 pitch, an increase in demand for 5v5 football could be accommodated within South Tyneside, whilst 7v7 football would not be affected.

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Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 119 grass football pitches within South Tyneside across 53 sites. Of these, 97 are available, at some level, for community use. The total number of pitches in South Tyneside has increased by 13 (since 2015), whilst the number available for community use has increased by 10.
- ◀ In South Tyneside many adult pitches double up as youth 11v11 pitches.
- ◀ Of the pitches available for community use, 12 are assessed as good quality, 71 as standard and 14 are deemed to be poor.
- ◀ Numerous clubs express a desire to lease land on a long term basis.
- ◀ Changing facilities are generally viewed as being adequate by clubs with 38% rating provision as good and a further 46% rating provision as standard. However, 16% of clubs deem changing accommodation to be poor and a further eight clubs report not having access to changing facilities at all.
- ◀ Bents Park Recreation Ground is specifically highlighted by users as having a problem with the changing rooms. Complaints have been made that the facilities have become too dangerous for use.
- ◀ A total of 284 teams were identified as playing or training within South Tyneside during the 2018/19 season; an increase of 57 teams since the previous study in 2015.
- ◀ Since 2015, the number of adult teams utilising provision in South Tyneside has decreased by 31%. However, the number of youth teams has increased by 7%; whilst the number of mini teams has more than doubled, increasing by 109%.
- ◀ Future population growth forecasts the creation of three youth 11v11 boys' teams, with one new team to be established in each analysis area. Further to this, clubs also predict growth of 33 teams.
- ◀ There are 133.5 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity in South Tyneside. However, only 43 match sessions are available within the peak period with most of this being on adult pitches.
- ◀ There are 13 community use pitches currently overplayed across seven sites, totalling 18 match equivalent sessions per week. Nine of the overplayed pitches are adult size.
- ◀ Most overplayed pitches (nine pitches) are assessed as standard quality; with the remaining four considered poor. Whilst overplay can be relatively sustainable with improvements made to pitch quality, consideration should be given to the transfer of play at overplayed sites to pitches with actual spare capacity.
- ◀ Overall there is spare capacity to accommodate adult teams both now and, in the future, with 19.5, match equivalent sessions of capacity. When future demand is considered this capacity reduces to 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is currently a shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches which is exacerbated when future demand is considered; however, there is sufficient capacity of youth 9v9 pitches which is retained when future demand is considered. There are specific shortfalls in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area for both pitch types.
- ◀ The conclusions and future development of mini football in South Tyneside should be considered in the context of the Russell Foster Youth League and its central venue format both in and outside of South Tyneside.

PART 3: CRICKET

3.1: Introduction

The Durham Cricket Board is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including South Tyneside. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

Senior cricket is typically played on Saturdays, however; there is some play both on Sundays and midweek when teams typically play in short format competitions. There are also a few cricket leagues which service teams in South Tyneside. Some of the main leagues include:

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- ◀ Durham Cricket League (DCL)
- ◀ Hetton Lyons League (HLL)
- ◀ North East Durham Cricket League (NEDCL)
- ◀ North East Premier League (NEPL)

The youth league structure in South Tyneside tends to be club based matches which are played midweek or on Sunday mornings dependant on age group. There is usually no conflict with access to squares and any midweek matches are usually played on different nights, whilst Sunday morning matches are played before senior pitches in the afternoon. The main league for junior cricket is the Durham Cricket Board Junior Leagues (DCBJL)

Consultation

Following consultation with England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Durham Cricket Board representatives it was agreed that an online survey would be distributed to all clubs in South Tyneside to provide updated demand information for 2018. Six of the seven cricket clubs in the Borough completed the online survey, resulting in a 86% response rate. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

3.2: Supply

In total, there are seven senior grass cricket pitches in South Tyneside, all of which, are available for community use. There was previously a grass square at Hebburn Sports and Social Club but it has ceased to be maintained and is, therefore, currently disused.

Table 3.1: Summary of pitches

Analysis area	Available for community use (used)
Hebburn & Jarrow	-
Inner & Outer South Shields	3
South	4
South Tyneside	7

Two of the three analysis areas have grass cricket provision; with the disused pitch at Hebburn Sports and Social Club meaning there are no grass squares in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area. Most provision is found in the South Analysis Area with four cricket grounds; and the Inner & Outer South Shields has three.

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Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility.

The ECB Get the Game On campaign⁹ is focused on increasing participation and reducing the number of matches cancelled in order to keep people interested and playing. During the campaign's inaugural year in 2015 there were 6% more games played nationally with 5% less matches cancelled. Use of NTPs for league cricket may present a way forward to fulfilling more fixtures and use of NTPs for league cricket may increase in future.

In total, there are five non-turf pitches (NTPs) in South Tyneside. All, of which, are available for community use and standalone. In addition, there are two, disused, standalone NTPs at St Wilfrid's RC College and Temple Park Junior School.

Table 3.2: Summary of NTPs in South Tyneside

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of NTPs	Position
4	Boldon School	South	1	Standalone
8	Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	Hebburn & Jarrow	1	Standalone
26	Mortimer Comprehensive School	Inner & Outer South Shields	1	Standalone
30	South Shields Community School	Inner & Outer South Shields	1	Standalone
44	Whitburn C of E Academy	South	1	Standalone

All NTPs are located at education sites and are available for community use. Despite this, none are currently used by community clubs for either match or training demand; with the pitches servicing only curricular and extra-curricular activity. There are no senior leagues servicing South Tyneside that presently permit the use of NTPs for match play.

⁹ <http://getthegameon.co.uk/>

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Pitch quality

As part of the PPS guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous.

For this update, previous pitch scores (determined using PQS assessments) were used as a base and updated using club survey responses.

Table 3.3: Pitch quality of all pitches

Good	Standard	Poor
5	2	-

In 2015 all pitches were considered to be standard quality; however, club consultation suggests that pitch quality has improved at five of the sites; through improved maintenance and reduced overplay meaning that the majority of grass squares (71%) in South Tyneside are good quality.

Improved maintenance can aid an increase in pitch quality, with three of the responding clubs note that the quality of the pitches at respective home venues, have improved since last season. In all cases, this has been associated with improved maintenance and groundskeeper knowledge. No clubs report that pitch quality has declined.

Of the responding clubs only one, Boldon CA CC, reports vandalism to either the pitch or ancillary facilities. The Club reports that covers and fences have been broken and that material has been stolen from the site. The Club is also the only responding club to note evidence of unofficial use, resulting in damage to the surface.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wickets and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment to determine whether a cricket square meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship.

There are three categories of measurement that relate to the overall quality of the square: structural quality, presentational quality and playing quality. Once a square has been assessed it is given a quality rating as shown in the table below.

Table 3.4: Performance Quality Standard Ratings

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as Local Authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

Clubs can contact the DCB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete a range of different reports (comprehensive/mini/verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report

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includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in South Tyneside have access to changing room facilities at their respective home ground.

Whitburn CC reports that its ancillary facilities are poor quality, with the site also having inadequate car parking. South Shields CC also describes its changing rooms as poor. Similarly, Simonside CC and Marsden CC also report that the quality of ancillary facilities is poor with improvements required.

South Shields CC reports that its ancillary facilities require modernisation; and that it expects new provision to be of a good quality if/when the Club relocates to Temple Park as part of whole club relocating to the site.

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Security of tenure

All grass cricket pitch sites in South Tyneside are currently considered to be secured i.e. pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. In addition, security of tenure is generally not an issue for clubs. The two clubs that may have issues with the lease length, which may need extending are Boldon CC (up to 25 years in order to secure funding, if needed) and Simonside CC, which has an open-ended lease agreement.

Table 3.5: Tenure of cricket clubs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Tenure
3	Boldon Cricket and Squash Club	South	Boldon CC has 20 years remaining on a lease from the Church.
11	Harton And Westoe Miners Welfare	Inner & Outer South Shields	Whiteleas & Harton Welfare CC rent the ground from CISWO.
16	Jack Clark Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	Marsden CC has a long (86 years) lease from the Council.
27	Oakleigh Gardens	South	Simonside CC lease (open ended) the ground from the Council free of charge.
29	South Shields and Westoe Club	Inner & Outer South Shields	The Club owns the site.
47	Whitburn Cricket Club	South	The Club owns the site.
60	Boldon CA Cricket Club	South	The Club leases the ground from CISWO, the agreement has 98 years remaining.

South Shields CC is seeking to secure a lease agreement for land on Temple Park, as part of the potential for South Shields and Westoe Club relocating to the site. It is understood that the Club's aspiration is to create two squares and accompanying ancillary facilities.

Hebburn CC previously rented the square at Hebburn Sports & Social Club from the overarching club; which in turn, leased the land from the Council. The terms of the agreement with the Council do not distinguish which sports should be provided on site; and as such the cricket pitch has ceased to be maintained. This should be examined further if latent demand in the analysis area is to be met either by re-establishing Hebburn CC or by creating a satellite club in the Analysis Area to support the growth of a current club.

Training

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. None of the clubs have access to indoor nets on site and therefore must travel off site to access practice facilities in the winter. Whitburn CC is access training provision in Sunderland throughout the winter, as these are the closest available indoor nets.

All responding clubs report a need for additional summer training facilities. Whitburn CC highlights a need fixed bay cricket nets and an NTP. At present the Club is utilising a roll on net on the grass wickets, contributing to use of the wickets.

Boldon CC and Boldon CA CC aspire to have a NTP, either alongside the current squares or as fixed-bay nets. Marsden CC note that the Club's development plan includes aspirations to establish an NTP and two additional grass wickets alongside the current square to accommodate training demand.

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Simonside CC notes that it requires additional training facilities but does not specify in what form these should be.

3.3: Demand

All clubs in South Tyneside have at least two adult teams, with five also having at least one junior team; Boldon CA CC and Simonside CC both being exceptions. Demand for cricket is high with a total of seven clubs generating 48 teams. There is a total of 23 senior and 25 junior teams.

The number of clubs has decreased by one since 2015, with Hebburn CC folding; and the number of teams produced by clubs has reduced by two. The number of junior teams has remained static, suggesting that the folding of Hebburn CC has contributed to a reduction in adult participation.

The split of senior teams playing across South Tyneside is heavily focused on Saturday cricket with 61% of teams playing on this day, 30% play on Sundays and 9% (two teams) play midweek (evening league) cricket.

The leagues dictate the day on which junior fixtures are played across the four age groups and this is Sundays for U11, Wednesday for U13, Monday for U15 and Tuesday for U18. In South Tyneside therefore 75% of junior teams play midweek and 25% play on Sundays.

Table 3.6: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Hebburn & Jarrow	-	-	-
Inner & Outer South Shields	10	-	14
South	13	-	11
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Women's and girls' cricket

The ECB's refreshed strategy called "Inspire Generations" was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position than it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women's and girls' cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◀ Investing in girls' county age group cricket.
- ◀ Delivering a girls' secondary school programme.

There will be a structured pathway for women and girls in both softball and hardball cricket. At the time of writing the pathways and clubs involved in Bradford are still in the planning stages.

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Short format cricket

Last man stands (LMS)

Last Man Stands (LMS) is a short format of cricket operated on a franchise basis but affiliated to the ECB, where matches are typically played midweek on NTPs.

League winners progress on to a National knock-out competition leading to a Last Man Stands final. The winners of the final then go on to compete in the World Championship against national champions from across the world.

There is not currently a LMS league operating within South Tyneside or surrounding local authorities.

Unmet demand

None of the clubs report current unmet demand for pitches, that is, no clubs report that teams were unable to play due to a lack of pitches.

Latent demand

Hebburn CC was previously based at Hebburn Sports & Social Club. In 2015, the Club had two senior men's and a junior team. Combined the teams provided 23 match equivalent sessions per season. When the Club folded, and the pitch ceased to be maintained, latent demand in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area has been created.

It is understood that some of the Club members have joined other clubs, both in and out of South Tyneside; and that a number of participants have ceased cricket activity. From discussions with the ECB and Durham Cricket Board it is understood that the level of demand previously demonstrated by the Club should be considered latent demand; suggesting that if the Club was to reform, then the same number of teams could be supported.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2035).

Table 3.7: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	35,012	23	1:1522	33,708	22	0
Senior Women's (18-55)	36,676	0	0	34,421	0.0	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	9,849	25	1:394	10,285	26	1
Junior Girls (7-18)	9,584	0	0	9,922	0.0	0

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

It should be noted that population increases, when applied to analysis areas, are not sufficient to lead to the creation of additional teams at any age group. It is important to note that TGRs are based exclusively on population figures and do not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or NGB aims as part of the Whole Sport Plan.

It is assumed that any increase in memberships based on population increases will be assimilated within existing playing squads.

Participation increases

In addition to potential increases from population growth a number of clubs stated that they wish to increase the number of teams they currently have.

Table 3.8: Club growth aspirations

Club	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Boldon CA CC	South	-	-	2	-
Marsden CC	Inner & Outer South Shields	-	1	-	-
South Shields CC	Inner & Outer South Shields	-	1	-	1
Whitburn CC	South	-	1	-	1
Total		-	3	2	2

Four clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams. Boldon CA CC aspires to establish two new junior boys' teams; whilst Marsden CC, South Shields CC and Whitburn CC hope to create senior women's teams.

Marsden CC and South Shields CC also aspire to create junior girls' teams in the future.

Half of future demand will be in the South Analysis Area, with both Boldon CA CC and Whitburn CC based in the Area. The Inner & Outer South Shields Area will accommodate the remaining half, with both Marsden CC and South Shields CC based in the Area.

In neighbouring authority, Sunderland; on average women's teams play eight home matches each season. Therefore, it is assumed that the number of matches would be similar for a newly created senior women's team in South Tyneside. Three senior women's teams equate to a requirement for 24 additional adult match sessions per season.

Junior teams play an average of six home matches per season representing a further requirement for 24 junior match sessions per season to accommodate proposed new teams. Junior cricket takes place midweek and can therefore take place over a number of evenings.

All Stars Cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs in South Tyneside can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre in 2018. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
- ◀ Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game

At present, five clubs in South Tyneside host All Stars programmes with varying levels of participation.

- ◀ Boldon CC (41 participants)
- ◀ Marsden CC (27)
- ◀ South Shields CC (15)
- ◀ Whitburn CC (42)
- ◀ Whiteleas & Harton Welfare CC (22)

Displaced demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to South Tyneside based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, it also refers to demand imported from other local authorities based on the same reasoning. At present, there are no teams displaced in or out of South Tyneside to access supply.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturdays, with 61% of teams playing on this day. There is, however, a level of demand for Sunday cricket (30%); and midweek cricket, two teams (9%) playing on this day.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is considered to be midweek (75%), although U11 teams do play on a Sunday. It should therefore be noted that midweek cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days Monday to Friday (though some time will be required for square preparation/repair and training) and as a result squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand providing the pitches are not overplayed.

3.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

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As a guide, The ECB has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	5
Standard	4
Poor	0

To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality natural turf senior wicket should be able to take five matches per season per natural turf wicket (adults). This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.9: Cricket pitch capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Clubs playing at the site	No. of pitches	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
3	Boldon Cricket and Squash Club	South	Boldon CC	1	Good	15	67	75	-8
11	Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare	Inner & Outer South Shields	Whiteleas & Harton Welfare CC	1	Standard	12	38	48	-10
16	Jack Clark Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	Marsden CC	1	Good	14	78	70	8
27	Oakleigh Gardens	South	Simonside CC	1	Standard	10	20	40	-20
29	South Shields and Westoe Club	Inner & Outer South Shields	South Shields CC	1	Good	10	72	50	22
47	Whitburn Cricket Club	South	Whitburn CC	1	Good	16	85	80	5
60	Boldon CA Cricket Club	South	Boldon CA CC	1	Good	8	37	40	-3

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

There are four sites that show potential spare capacity, totalling 41 match equivalent sessions per season. Previously, there were five sites that showed potential spare capacity totalling 112 match equivalent sessions per season. One reason for the reduction in potential spare capacity is that the ECB has introduced a new capacity scoring system which now links to quality.

The extent to which sites are available at peak time (Saturdays) is highlighted below:

Table 3.10: Actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Spare capacity (sessions per season)	Pitches available in peak period (Saturday)	Comments
3	Boldon Cricket and Squash Club	South	1	-8	0	No spare capacity at peak time
11	Harton And Westoe Miners Welfare	Inner & Outer South Shields	1	-10	0	No spare capacity at peak time
27	Oakleigh Gardens	South	1	-20	0	No spare capacity at peak time
60	Boldon CA Cricket Club	South	1	-3	0	No spare capacity at peak time

The table above shows that none of the pitches within South Tyneside have spare capacity at peak time, this suggests that there is an opportunity for further play on the squares but that the play must take place midweek or Sundays. This lends itself to junior cricket which allows clubs to grow these sections if demand exists in the future.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when more play is accommodated at a site than it is able to sustain. Three sites are considered to be overplayed beyond capacity by an accumulative 35 match equivalent sessions per season. When sites are well maintained they are able to accommodate a certain amount of over play, however, continued over play will have a detrimental effect on pitches.

Previously the same three sites were overplayed by a combined 61 match equivalent sessions per season. This means there has been a decrease in overplay, potentially due to a reduced number of matches taking place on the three squares.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.11: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating	Comments
16	Jack Clark Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	8	Large amount of overplay
29	South Shields and Westoe Club	Inner & Outer South Shields	22	Large amount of overplay
47	Whitburn Cricket Club	South	5	Large amount of overplay

The majority of the overplay is located in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area, totalling 30 match equivalent sessions per season (86%). The remaining five match equivalent sessions per season are located in the South Analysis Area, with Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area not having any overplay, reflecting that there are no grass squares.

3.5: Supply and demand analysis

The table below explores total available spare capacity over the season, considered against total overplay; and future and latent demand identified and quantified through consultation and TGRs are considered for future totals.

Match equivalent sessions per season for future demand has been calculated using the average number of matches played per season by the respective team type (eight for senior women and six for juniors). As previously mentioned, junior teams generally play midweek across a variety of days; consequently, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future and should be judged on a site by site basis where clubs have particular aspiration to increase the number of junior teams.

Table 3.12: Capacity of cricket pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (matches)	Demand (matches)				
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Latent demand	Future total
Hebburn & Jarrow	-	-	-	-	23	23
Inner & Outer South Shields	-	30	30	28	-	58
South	-	5	5	20	-	25
SOUTH TYNESIDE	-	35	35	48	23	106

Overall there is a current shortfall of 35 match equivalent sessions per season across South Tyneside; which is exacerbated when future and latent demand are considered, increasing to a shortfall of 106 match equivalent sessions per season.

Analysis suggests there is currently insufficient capacity in both the Inner & Outer South Shields and South analysis areas, with the former having a shortfall of 30 match equivalent sessions per season. The Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area is currently at capacity, reflective of no teams being based in the area; and no grass squares available.

Given that community clubs are based in two of the three analysis areas, it is expected that any new teams will continue to access squares in those locations. As such, the shortfall in the South Analysis Area is expected to increase from five match equivalent sessions per season to 25 match equivalent sessions. The shortfall in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area will also increase, by 28 match equivalent sessions per season; resulting in a future shortfall of 58 match equivalent sessions per season.

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The latent demand in Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area, created as a result of Hebburn CC folding, means that there is a future shortfall of capacity in that area, to the total of 23 match equivalent sessions per season.

3.6: Conclusion

In conclusion, the existing supply of outdoor cricket facilities is insufficient to cater for levels of both current and anticipated future demand for week and midweek cricket. All of the overplayed sites in the Borough are of a good quality; therefore continual monitoring of pitch quality should take place to ensure that prolonged overplay does not adversely affect quality.

Additionally, training requirements of clubs should be accommodated through the installation and establishment of NTPs alongside grass squares; and fixed-bay nets. Both of these would allow training demand to be removed from grass wickets, therefore, creating potential capacity.

If NTPs are installed at club sites, particularly those that are overplayed; then leagues should be encouraged to allow greater utilisation of these pitches for match demand, specifically to accommodate junior and shorter format demand.

Focus should also be to continue to drive participation growth, especially through the All Stars Cricket programme and to ensure that facilities are able to sufficiently cater for this junior development activity, especially the quality of ancillary facilities and toilets required to support junior delivery including for females. Addressing latent demand from Hebburn CC would also significantly address future shortfalls.

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Cricket summary

- ◀ There are seven senior grass cricket pitches in South Tyneside, all of which, are available for community use. There was previously a grass square at Hebburn Sports and Social Club, but it has ceased to be maintained and is, therefore, currently disused.
- ◀ In addition, there are five non-turf pitches (NTPs) in South Tyneside. All, of which, are available for community use and standalone. In addition, there are two, disused, standalone NTPs at St Wilfrid's RC College and Temple Park Junior School.
- ◀ Club consultation suggests that pitch quality has improved at five of the sites; through improved maintenance and reduced overplay, meaning that the majority of grass squares (five) are good quality.
- ◀ Whitburn CC, South Shields CC, Simonside CC and Marsden CC all report that the quality of ancillary facilities is poor with improvements required.
- ◀ Two clubs have issues with the lease length of its pitches: Boldon CC and Simonside CC.
- ◀ South Shields CC is seeking to relocate to Temple Park, as part of the whole South Shields and Westoe Club relocating to the site with an aspiration of having two squares to increase capacity.
- ◀ All clubs in South Tyneside have at least two adult teams, with five also having at least one junior team; Boldon CA CC and Simonside CC both being exceptions. Demand for cricket is high with a total of seven clubs generating 48 teams. There is a total of 23 senior and 25 junior teams. There are no female teams.
- ◀ There is no LMS league operating within South Tyneside or surrounding local authorities.
- ◀ Hebburn CC was previously based at Hebburn Sports & Social Club. In 2015, the Club had two senior men's and a junior team. Combined the teams provided 23 match equivalent sessions per season. The Club ceased to operate and maintain the pitch with latent demand in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area being created.
- ◀ Four clubs report aspiration to increase the number of teams. Boldon CA CC aspires to establish two new junior boys' teams; whilst Marsden CC, South Shields CC and Whitburn CC hope to create senior women's teams. Marsden CC & South Shields CC also aspire to establish junior girls' teams in the future.
- ◀ There are four sites that show potential spare capacity, totalling 41 match equivalent sessions per season. Previously, there were five sites that showed potential spare capacity totalling 112 match equivalent sessions per season. One reason for the reduction in potential spare capacity is that the ECB has introduced a new capacity scoring system which now links to quality.
- ◀ Three sites are considered to be overplayed beyond capacity by an accumulative 35 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ◀ Overall there is a current shortfall of 35 match equivalent sessions per season across South Tyneside; which is exacerbated when future and latent demand are considered, increasing to a shortfall of 106 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ◀ In conclusion, the existing supply of outdoor cricket facilities is insufficient to cater for levels of both current and anticipated future demand for weekend and midweek cricket. All of the overplayed sites in the Borough are of a good quality.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions, South Tyneside falls into Area 6. A full-time development officer is responsible for the Borough (as part of the wider region) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

It's variety of programmes, which includes 15 aside, 10 aside, 7 aside, Tag and the O2 Touch programme, all aim to increase and retain participation within the game. In order to sustain and increase participation in the game facilities need to be appropriate, affordable and accessible.

Demand for rugby union has been fully updated to the 2018/19 season and has been collated with data from the RFU. It was agreed to contact the three community clubs via telephone to update supply and demand information.

Consultation

As in 2015, there are three rugby union clubs based in South Tyneside. Previously all clubs were met with face to face, with the information updated in 2018 via telephone consultation with clubs and with the RFU. A response rate of 100% was therefore achieved. The three clubs based in South Tyneside are:

- ◀ Jarrovians RFC
- ◀ South Shields RFC (formerly South Tyneside College RFC)
- ◀ South Shields Westoe RFC

4.2: Supply

Within South Tyneside, there are now 12 rugby union pitches across ten sites, all of which, are senior size. Previously there were ten pitches located across eight sites. A senior pitch has been established at Brinkburn CIO which is used by South Shields RFC. All are available for community use, except for at Harton Academy (one pitch) and South Shields Community School (two pitches).

The grass pitch at Harton Academy is unavailable due to needing to preserve the quality of the pitches for school use. At South Shields Community School the rugby pitches are also unavailable in order to preserve quality. Boldon School, Mortimer College and Whitburn C of E Academy all have pitches available but are currently unused due to no demand existing.

In addition to the grass rugby union pitches, there is a World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitch located at Harton Academy. The pitch is full sized, floodlit and available for community use.

Table 4.1: Supply of rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Available for community use	Unavailable for community use
Hebburn & Jarrow	2	-
Inner & Outer South Shields	5	3
South	2	-
SOUTH TYNESIDE	9	3

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Traditionally, mini and junior rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches and this is the case across South Tyneside as there are no dedicated mini or junior pitches.

The Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area has the largest supply with 66% (eight pitches) of the total supply. The higher percentage of pitches in this Analysis Area may be as a result of two of the three rugby union clubs being based in South Shields.

Both the Hebburn & Jarrow and South analysis areas have 17% of the supply (two pitches) each.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table below.

Table 4.2: Pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ¹⁰
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	44 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 34
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ¹¹

Future supply

Through previous consultation, it was identified that rugby posts had been paid for and provided at Oakleigh Gardens. However, during the original audit assessment, the posts were not in place and no pitch markings were present.

South Shields Westoe RFC is continuing talks with South Tyneside Council over the potential to move to Temple Park which could potentially allow for the provision of more pitches and better-quality ancillary facilities.

Security of tenure

South Shields Westoe RFC is considered to have secure tenure at its home venue, South Shields & Westoe Club. The site is owned by the overarching sports club, of which South Shields Westoe RFC is a member. The Club's security of tenure would need to be considered should it relocate to Temple Park.

South Shields RFC previously had a rolling agreement with South Tyneside College for access to the rugby union pitch on site. However, when the Club changed its name from South Tyneside College RFC to South Shields RFC; the College acknowledged that a link between the two parties was not obvious; and commenced charging the Club to access its provision.

¹⁰ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

¹¹ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

This, coupled with the quality of the pitch, led to South Shields RFC relocating its match and training demand to alternative venues. At present it rents the WR compliant 3G pitch from Harton Academy on a weekly basis; whilst also renting a grass senior pitch at Brinkburn CIO on a weekly basis from the Community Centre. Both of the current agreements mean that the Club does not have security of tenure at either venue.

The Club reports that it would, ideally, wish to relocate to a site with a long term lease agreement, enabling club development. Cleadon Recreation Ground was noted as a possible venue; although there is not currently a rugby union pitch on site. The Club noted that there could be an opportunity to take on the lease agreement for the bowls club; providing the Club with a social space for pre and post match activities, whilst also establishing a pitch at the site that would accommodate the Club's match demand.

Although South Shields RFC's preference is to relocate to Cleadon Recreation Ground; an alternative option may be considered lapsed currently. Potential sites should be considered prior allocations for housing.

Jarrovia RFC currently rent the pitches at Luke's Lane Playing Fields from the Council. However, the Club is in the process of securing the site on a 40 year lease for the site; encompassing the rugby union pitches, the football pitches and the community centre. Should this proceed as expected, the Club has intentions to improve the maintenance and quality of the pitches as well as looking long term to improve the clubhouse. It is expected that the agreement will be signed in April 2019.

Pitch quality

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.

The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

Table 4.3: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

Table 4.4: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.5: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 4m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Of the community available pitches in South Tyneside, one is assessed as good quality, four are standard quality and four are poor quality. The good quality pitch is located at South Shields & Westoe Club and is accessed by South Shields Westoe RFC.

Two of the poor quality pitches available for community use are at Luke's Lane Playing Fields, the home venue of Jarrowians RFC. There are reported issues with the drainage of the site which contributes to the poor quality. The Club does report that maintenance improvements have reduced the adverse impact of the poor drainage; but this remains an ongoing issue for the Club.

The poor quality pitches available for community use is at South Tyneside College and Temple Memorial Park. There are issues with both the maintenance and drainage of the former; with the poor quality being a contributing factor for South Shields RFC relocating away from the site.

44% of the pitches available for community use are standard quality; with three of these located at education sites.

Table 4.6: Quality of rugby union pitches by local authority (community use only)

Analysis area	Pitch quality			Total
	Good	Standard	Poor	
Hebburn & Jarrow	-	-	2	2
Inner & Outer South Shields	1	2	2	5
South	-	2	-	2
South Tyneside	1	4	4	9

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.7: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Floodlit?	Pitch type	Non tech score	Quality rating	Comments
4	Boldon School	South	Yes- unused	1	No	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	A standard quality senior pitch which has adequate natural drainage. The pitch is available for community use but is currently only subject to curricular demand.
5	Brinkburn CIO	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	1	No	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	A standard quality senior pitch which has adequate natural drainage. The pitch is occasionally used by South Shields RFC; although it is understood from the RFU that the frequency of this use will increase.
12	Harton Academy	Inner & Outer South Shields	No	1	No	Senior	M1 / D0	Poor	A poor quality senior pitch which has natural indadequate drainage. The pitch is only subject to curricular demand.
24	Lukes Lane Playing Fields	Hebburn & Jarrow	Yes	2	No	Senior	M1 / D0	Poor	Two poor quality senior pitches which have indadequate natural drainage. The site is the home venue of Jarrowians RFC.
26	Mortimer Comprehensive School	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	1	No	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	A standard quality senior pitch which has adequate natural drainage. The pitch is available for community use but is currently only subject to curricular demand. The pitch is infrequently used by South Shields RFC when other pitches in the Borough are unavailable.
29	South Shields and Westoe Club	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	1	Yes	Senior	M2 / D2	Good	A good quality senior pitch, with pipe drainage. The site is the current home venue of South Shields Westoe RFC.
30	South Shields Community School	Inner & Outer South Shields	No	2	No	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	Two standard quality senior pitches which have adequate natural drainage. The pitches are only subject to curricular demand.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Floodlit?	Pitch type	Non tech score	Quality rating	Comments
33	South Tyneside College	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes- unused	1	No	Senior	M0 / D0	Poor	A poor quality senior pitches which has inadequate antural drainage and poor maintenancne. The pitch was formerly used by South Shields RFC, prior to the Club's change of name.
37	Temple Memorial Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	1	No	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	A poor quality senior pitch which is currently unused by community rugby union clubs.
44	Whitburn C of E Academy	South	Yes- unused	1	No	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	A standard quality senior pitch which has adequate natural drainage. The pitch is available for community use but is currently only subject to curricular demand.

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Ancillary facilities

All clubs in South Tyneside have access to changing room provision for games at their home ground.

Luke's Lane Playing Fields has old and dated changing rooms. The changing rooms are adequate in size (eight rooms and a referee's room) but the showers are communal and dated. Jarrovians RFC would like to refurbish the changing rooms if a lease was taken on. Car parking is inadequate and is shared with the community centre. As a result, cars park on the grass when there are two teams at home.

South Shields & Westoe Club currently has three changing rooms with communal showers and toilets and an additional two rooms in the pavilion. Rooms are old and worn and therefore require updating.

South Shields RFC access changing provision at Harton Academy for match demand; but does not require access midweek for training. The changing provision on site is considered standard quality and of appropriate size to accommodate users. Changing provision at Brinkburn CIO is considered standard quality; with the rooms of an appropriate size to accommodate senior teams.

The Club hosts post match activities at a local public house offsite. This is considered adequate but ideally the Club aspires to have its own clubhouse facility, from which funds could be generated to aid the Club's development. As mentioned previously the Club would be interested in taking on the bowling club facility at Cleadon Recreation Ground; however, despite the facility having changing rooms there is no shower provision and funds are needed for this.

4.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in South Tyneside tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive play

Three rugby union clubs play within South Tyneside, consisting of six senior teams, none of which are women's teams; a colts' team; six junior boys' teams; and eight mini squads.

Previously there were eight senior teams, none of which were women's teams; nine junior teams and four mini squads. One of the junior teams was a junior girls' team representing Jarrovians RFC.

Table 4.8: Summary of club demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams			
		Senior (19+)	Colts (18-19)	Junior (13-17)	Mini (6-12)
Jarrovians RFC	Hebburn & Jarrow	2	1	1	2
South Shields RFC	Inner & Outer South Shields	2	-	-	-
South Shields Westoe RFC	Inner & Outer South Shields	2	-	5	6
Total		6	1	6	8

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.9: Summary of overall demand

Team play	No. of rugby union teams		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Club leagues	5	1	-
Club friendlies/infrequent	1	6	8
University leagues	-	-	-
Total	6	7	8

Training demand

South Shields RFC predominantly trains on the WR compliant 3G pitch at Harton Academy throughout the winter months. However, when daylight allows the Club continues to utilise the grass pitch at South Tyneside College; this is so that the Club can save funds to rent the WR compliant 3G during the middle of the season.

There is a floodlit area at the College, which is used for the training; South Shields RFC also utilises this site for its burgeoning senior women's training sessions.

Previously, Jarrovians RFC had portable floodlighting, which meant that training took place away from the match pitches on a separate, unmarked area of land. Since 2015, fixed floodlights have been installed on the site, providing a dedicated training area, measuring 60x40 metres, which accommodates all of the Club's midweek training demand.

South Shields Westoe RFC has floodlights on the match pitch for training but, as the pitch cannot accommodate all demand, the Club also trains on AGPs at Harton Academy AGP (World Rugby compliant) and Mortimer School. The Club, however, reports that the pitches are expensive to hire and capacity at the former has recently reduced due to a new commercial football arrangement that the College recently acquired.

Touch rugby

To actively encourage participation in rugby union, clubs may provide alternative offers to traditional club competition. Touch rugby is one possible format which clubs can use; touch rugby is non-contact rugby sessions, during which participants compete in teams to score tries, following similar laws to traditional rugby union formats. Clubs, schools or community organisation can establish their own touch rugby sessions or can become hosts of O2 touch rugby sessions.

O2 touch rugby are 90 minutes long and combine music, fitness and rugby skills. Sessions are mixed in terms of gender, ability and age and is based on touch rugby being a social activity. There are no O2 touch sessions currently running in South Tyneside; with the nearest located at Sunderland RFC (Sunderland) and Newcastle University Sports Centre (Newcastle) on Mondays and Fridays, respectively. Sessions at the former cost participants £1 per session but are free at the former.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Walking rugby

Walking rugby is a slower game of touch rugby that is accessible for disability groups and older participants, generally aged 44 years and above. The game is less physical than traditional rugby, but the general aim remains the same, with passing and scoring laws applying; and tackling involves a two-handed touch to the waist or below. Sessions for over 44's are an opportunity for participants to become physically active and for others to re-engage with rugby at a less strenuous pace. At present there are no formal walking rugby sessions provided by rugby union clubs in South Tyneside.

Use of artificial pitches

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 6: Third Generation Artificial Pitches.

In December 2014, the RFU announced plans to increase the supply of available World Rugby (WR) certified pitches across the country as part of its Investment Strategy. This is to be made up of 60 pitches on rugby club sites, with a further 40 pitches on other community-based sites with usage agreements securing capacity for use by local rugby clubs and groups. The RFU believes increased investment into 3G pitches will allow it to sustain and grow participation in the game given increasing pressure on grass pitches, changing player expectations, competition from other sports investing in artificial pitches and changing weather conditions.

As mentioned earlier, there is currently a WR compliant 3G pitch located at Harton Academy which is accessed by the South Shields RFC for both match and training demand. The pitch is also available for use by other local rugby clubs, however, none report accessing the site consistently.

Exported/imported demand

Exported demand refers to existing demand which is transferred outside of the study area; whilst imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within South Tyneside due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. No clubs in South Tyneside report any exported demand nor is there any imported rugby union demand.

Once Sunderland Parklife is operational, the site at Northern Area Playing Fields will have a full size, WR compliant 3G pitch on site. The site is close to the boundary of South Tyneside and may lead to some exported rugby union demand in the future.

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. None of the rugby union clubs in South Tyneside note any unmet or latent demand.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

Participation increases

Jarrovians RFC reports ambitions to add a mini squad next season; in addition to retaining all current squads. The Club acknowledges that establishing new mini teams each season will provide longer term sustainability, but that this is subject to the appropriate volunteer coaches being available.

The Club also recognises that in order to attract new players then the ancillary provision requires improving, particularly the changing rooms. Previously, the Club had a youth girls' team but this team folded as squad numbers declined. The Club remains open to re-establishing dedicated youth girls' teams; and would work in conjunction with other clubs; but does not currently have the demand for this section of the Club.

Future demand for South Shields RFC is dependent on the Club obtaining a dedicated home venue. The Club has aspirations to start a mini section; but this will come to fruition once the Club has a home venue. The Club is in the process of trying to establish a senior women's team; this group currently only trains with the target that a fixture will be arranged before the end of the season.

Future demand at South Shields Westoe RFC remains the same as in 2015, with aspiration to establish two new teams, one junior and a senior team. It is felt that this will be obtained once the Club's pitch capacity increases.

The RFU's priority for the Borough is two grow female participation resulting in at least three girls' junior teams within the Local Authority that are sustainable. Longer term, the aspiration is for one senior women's team to be fully established in the Area, competing regularly and providing opportunities for junior girls to progress once of appropriate age.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2035).

Table 4.10: Team generation rates (2035) (South Tyneside wide)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2035)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	23,725	6	1:3954	22,995	5.8	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	24,527	0	1:0	23,504	0.0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	4,767	7	1:681	5,257	7.7	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	4,698	0	1:0	5,057	0.0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	9,884	8	1:1236	9,503	7.7	0

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Then TGRs are applied to South Tyneside as a whole, the forecasted growth in demand is not considered sufficient to lead to the creation of an additional teams with any increase in participation being assimilated into existing playing squads.

It is important to note that TGRs are based exclusively on population figures and do not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as CRC coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or NGB aims as part of the Whole Sport Plan.

The RFU is focused on actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late junior years and senior rugby with a specific focus on growing the senior game with the addition of adult teams (both men's and women's). This area has a strategic focus from the RFU and is being facilitated by encouraging casual play and midweek senior matches, along with O2 touch and cross pitch 7s. The RFU recognises the traditional reduction in participation numbers at this time and it is hoped that by addressing the decrease and offering alternative match times then clubs may be able to retain a larger number of players.

This is not the sole focus of the RFU, which is developing junior participation within South Tyneside, based on a model of coaching sessions delivered in schools and local communities. Intentions are to form junior teams from these training groups which are linked to local schools and will use pitches at school sites, in some cases also linking to existing clubs to provide a performance pathway.

RFU priorities

The RFU actively works with all affiliated clubs to support growth and development of both participation and facilities. Within South Tyneside, all clubs are supported by an area RDO. The table below clarifies RFU priorities for each club based in South Tyneside.

Table 4.11: RFU priorities for South Tyneside based clubs

Club	RFU priority
South Shields RFC	Support the retention the two senior men's teams and the women's team which is just establishing during the 2018/19 season Facility priority: security of tenure on a minimum of 1 pitch – Longer term ancillary facilities including a club house
South Shields Westoe RFC	Support the retention and growth of girls' rugby, targeting the club having 3 fully established girls' teams by 2021. Potential to develop girl's rugby, however further work with Club needed. Facility priority: Increasing capacity; Club relocation
Jarrovians RUFC	Retain senior playing numbers, support the club in its on-going development of its junior boys' teams. Potential to develop girl's rugby, however further work with club needed. Facility priority: Pitch maintenance guidance and longer term to agree facility prioritises with the Club linked to participation once the new lease is in place.

In all instances where support for mini, junior and colts' rugby union teams is identified, the RFU and the respective clubs are exploring options to provide sessions and fixtures within local schools and community organisations to further aid development.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Infrequent play

The RFU has plans to encourage participants which have previously played rugby union to re-engage through participation as part of a more casual sporting offer. The league will provide opportunities for teams and players which are unable to play weekly or frequently for various reasons and will operate on an occasional basis. The league will also act as an entry point for newly created clubs and provide competitive opportunities.

Education

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools; however, the RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. This aims to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU rugby development officers (RDOs) which deliver coaching sessions and offer support to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

Rugby union activity takes place at all secondary schools in South Tyneside; however, the volume of this activity varies, with few supporting competitive school teams. Links with the three local clubs will support activity levels, whilst also aiding each club's development within specific analysis areas.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior men's teams play at this time, with senior women's teams generally playing on Sundays.

Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

Additional usage

Luke's Lane Playing Fields (home of Jarrowians RFC) is an open access site and so there is additional casual and recreational use of the pitches. The Club also reports that dog fouling is an issue at the site. The additional usage will have an impact on the quality of the pitches.

At South Shields & Westoe Club (South Shields Westoe RFC) the rugby pitch overmarks the cricket outfield and so the Rugby Club must relocate as the cricket season starts. The Club uses the WR compliant 3G at Harton Academy which incurs additional expense.

4.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session, unless school activity levels are known.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 14 v14 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch.
- ◀ For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.4 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.24 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby (training and matches) generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby (training and matches) generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, set out below.

Table 4.12: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.13. Capacity table for rugby union pitches in South Tyneside

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
4	Boldon School	South	Yes- unused	Unsecure	1	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	-1	One MES of potential capacity. The pitch is only subject to school demand.
5	Brinkburn CIO	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	Secure	1	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No	0.25	2	1.75	1.75 MES of potential capacity. The level of demand match demand from South Shields RFC, which occasionally takes place at the site.
12	Harton Academy	Inner & Outer South Shields	No	Unsecure	1	Senior	M1 / D0	Poor	No	1	1.5	-0.5	0.5 MES of potential capacity. The pitch is only subject to school demand.
24	Luke's Lane Playing Fields	Hebburn & Jarrow	Yes	Secure	2	Senior	M1 / D0	Poor	No	2.25	3	-0.75	Potential capacity of 0.75 MES. The two pitches are used by Jarrowians RFC for match demand only.
26	Mortimer Comprehensive School	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes- unused	Unsecure	1	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	-1	One MES of potential capacity. The pitch is only subject to school demand.
29	South Shields and Westoe Club	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	Secure	1	Senior	M2 / D2	Good	Yes	8.5	3.25	5.25	The pitch is overplayed by 5.25 MES. The pitch is subject to both match and training demand from South Shields Westoe RFC.
30	South Shields Community School	Inner & Outer South Shields	No	Unsecure	2	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	4	-2	Two MES of potential capacity. The pitches are only subject to school demand.
33	South Tyneside College	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes- unused	Unsecure	1	Senior	M0 / D0	Poor	No	0.5	0.5	-	A senior pitch which is at capacity solely from education demand.
37	Temple Memorial Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes- unused	Secure	1	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	No	0	1.5	-1.5	A senior pitch with 1.5 MES of potential capacity.
44	Whitburn C of E Academy	South	Yes- unused	Unsecure	1	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	-1	One MES of potential capacity. The pitch is only subject to school demand.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior rugby union matches is Saturday afternoons and is considered such within the local authorities, although junior and mini teams play on senior pitches on Sunday mornings.

Actual spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches located at education and unsecure sites which are available for community use but are currently unused are not considered to have actual spare capacity as security of use cannot be formally evidenced as guaranteed.

With this in mind; there is a total of 2.75 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Both Brinkburn CIO and Temple Memorial Park have one match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period for senior play. Lukes Lane Playing Field also has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity during the peak period, however, site capacity reduces this to 0.75 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.

Previously there was no recorded actual spare capacity available during the peak period for senior play.

Overplay

Previously, only South Shields and Westoe Club was overplayed, by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This was due to the amount of training being accommodated on site.

The same site remains the only pitch in the Borough to be overplayed; however, updated information shows that the site is now overplayed by 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week; four match equivalent sessions of which are from training demand.

4.5 Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand is based on both team generation rates which are driven by population increases, as well as reported club development plans.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.14: Summary of supply and demand balance on rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand ¹³	Future total
Hebburn & Jarrow	0.75	-	0.75	0.25	0.5
Inner & Outer South Shields	2	5.25	3.25	1.25	4.5
South	-	-	-	-	-
South Tyneside	2.75	5.25	2.5	1.5	4

There is currently an overall shortfall of senior rugby union pitches in South Tyneside totalling 2.5 match equivalent sessions. There is considered to be sufficient supply in both the South Analysis Area; and the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area which actually has 0.75 match equivalent sessions of capacity.

There is a shortfall of secure provision in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area, with the overplay at South Shields and Westoe Club countering the actual spare capacity available at Brinkburn CIO and Temple Memorial Park.

When future supply is considered the sufficient supply in Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area is reduced to 0.5 match equivalent sessions; with Jarrovians RFC's future, additional, demand of a mini team totalling 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The South Analysis Area remains at capacity, with no community club or secure pitches in the Area.

Shortfalls in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area are exacerbated when future demand is considered, increasing from 3.25 match equivalent sessions to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand in this Analysis Area considers future demand reported by both South Shields Westoe RFC and South Shields RFC; whilst the senior women's team representing the latter has allocated a match session, with the team currently only training midweek due to having initially started in September 2018.

As there are no mini or junior pitches in the Borough, demand from these teams has been allocated to senior pitches accordingly; whilst future demand has also been considered at club current home venues.

4.6: Conclusions

Overall in South Tyneside there is a shortfall of rugby union provision available for community use on secure, long term agreements. Although the current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions is mainly located in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area, this reflects the presence of two of the three community rugby clubs operating in the Borough.

Each club has particular issues that require addressing if rugby union participation is to continue to grow and clubs are to develop.

¹² In match equivalent sessions

¹³ Future demand in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area includes future match demand from South Shields RFC's senior women's team, which currently only trains.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Jarroviens RFC

There is minimal actual spare capacity on the site during the peak period for senior play. This is aided by the match pitches not being utilised for midweek training demand. The Club's installation of permanent floodlighting on site; and the establishment of a dedicated training area positively contribute to the two, poor quality, pitches not being overplayed.

The Club is looking to take on a long term lease of the site; and although this would secure the Club's tenure at Luke's Lane, an agreement should be struck that is financially sustainable in the long term. If the Club was to take on management and maintenance of the whole site; there is a financial requirement for a tenant football club on the site to ensure that Jarroviens RFC is financially capable for continuing to maintain the pitches.

The ancillary facilities on site require significant improvement and securing a lease will enable the Club to apply for funding to make improvements to this, in addition to the pitches. The Club aspires to develop its rugby offering and acknowledges a requirement to improve its off-field provision in order to attract new participants to the Club at all levels.

South Shields Westoe RFC

The single rugby union pitch at South Shields and Westoe Club was previously overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This has since increased to 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week, with the Club training demand increasing in recent seasons. The Club does occasionally utilise the WR compliant 3G pitch at Harton Academy for match and training demand; particularly at the start and ends of the season; when the dual-use of the site with cricket can cause a conflict.

There is a recognition that the Club requires additional pitch provision in order to sustain and grow its current membership; and with this the Club is exploring the possibility of securing a lease agreement for part of Temple Park; with the subsequent creation of new rugby union, cricket and tennis provision to at least replace that located at the current site.

Increasing the Club's provision should reduce current levels of overplay; and will support the Club's continued development.

South Shields RFC (formerly South Tyneside College RFC)

Previously based at South Tyneside College, the Club has sought to relocate away from the education site due to issues with both quality and cost. At present, the Club rents the WR compliant 3G pitch at Harton Academy on a weekly basis for both matches and training. The Club also occasionally access the grass rugby union pitch at Brinkburn CIO; however, this is not the Club's preferred location.

The Club has ambitions to grow and has started a senior women's team this season. Although the team does not currently play matches it does train regularly on a dedicated floodlit training area at South Tyneside College. Ideally the Club aspires to be based at Cleadon Recreation Ground; acquiring a lease agreement for the bowls club, including clubhouse, which will provide the Club an opportunity to generate a secondary income; whilst also establishing a senior rugby union pitch on the site.

Although the current changing facilities attached to the bowls clubhouse would require modification and extension to accommodate rugby union use; it is felt that once the Club has a home venue then this will help attract and retain rugby union participants, particularly mini and junior members.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Rugby union summary

- ◀ There are now 12 rugby union pitches across ten sites, all of which, are senior size. Previously there were ten pitches located across eight sites. A senior pitch has been established at Brinkburn CIO which is used by South Shields RFC. All are available for community use, except for at Harton Academy (one pitch) and South Shields Community School (two pitches).
- ◀ In addition to the grass rugby union pitches, there is a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch located at Harton Academy. The pitch is full sized, floodlit and available for community use.
- ◀ As per the previous PPS, South Shields Westoe RFC remains in talks with South Tyneside Council over an agreement to lease land at Temple Park that would see the Club relocate from South Shields & Westoe Club to Temple Park.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches in South Tyneside, one is assessed as good quality, four are standard quality and four are poor quality.
- ◀ Two of the poor quality pitches available for community use are at Luke's Lane Playing Fields, the home venue of Jarrovians RFC. The other poor quality pitches are at South Tyneside College and Temple Memorial Park; which was a contributing factor for South Shields RFC relocating away from the former site.
- ◀ Although all clubs have access to changing provision, users report that provision at Luke's Lane Playing Fields, South Shields & Westoe Club and South Tyneside College are old and dated and in need of refurbishment.
- ◀ Three rugby union clubs play within South Tyneside, consisting of six senior teams, one of which is a women's team; a colts' team; seven junior boys' teams; and eight mini squads.
- ◀ Although population increases are unlikely to generate any teams, all three clubs report demand for future teams.
- ◀ There is a total of 2.75 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Both Brinkburn CIO and Temple Memorial Park have one match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period for senior play. Luke's Lane Playing Field also has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity, however, site capacity reduces this to 0.75 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.
- ◀ Only South Shields and Westoe Club is overplayed; by 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week; four match equivalent sessions of which are from training demand.
- ◀ Overall in South Tyneside there is a shortfall of rugby union provision available for community use on secure, long term agreements.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 5: HOCKEY

5.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the North Hockey Association.

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing level	Playing level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	Essential International Hockey - Training and matches	Desirable Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	Desirable All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	Essential None	Desirable Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

For senior teams, a full sized pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 73 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate up to four hockey matches on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

Information in this section of the report has been updated based on internet research.

Club consultation

There is one club within South Tyneside, South Shields Hockey Club which was previously met with face to face (2015). There have been no changes to the supply and demand since the previous study was completed.

5.2: Supply

Boldon School provides the only full size AGP within South Tyneside suitable for hockey. An AGP at Whitburn Academy is considered too narrow to host competitive senior matches and is not floodlit. Both AGPs are located within South Analysis Area.

Table 5.2: Sand AGPs by location

Site	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Floodlit?	Size (yards)	Surface
Boldon School	South	Yes	Yes	100x60	Sand dressed
Whitburn C of E Academy	South	Yes	No	100x55	Sand dressed

There are also smaller facilities that, although not big enough for competitive matches, could potentially be used for hockey training. These are located at the following the sites:

- ◀ Hebburn Sports and Social Club (Hebburn & Jarrow)
- ◀ Hedworthfield Community Association (South)
- ◀ Lord Blyton Primary School (Inner & Outer South Shields)

Quality

Through an audit assessment of the AGPs, both Boldon School and Whitburn Academy were assessed as standard quality.

The surface of Boldon School AGP is 12 years old and therefore will soon be in need of resurfacing; however, no funding is in place. It is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately 10 years (depending on levels of use).

Although Whitburn Academy is only seven years old, users deem the surface to have a poor grip underfoot making it especially unusable during inclement weather. As well as this, the AGP is not floodlit, meaning it cannot be fully utilised during winter months for community use.

Ancillary provision is accessible at both sites and considered to be adequate quality.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Conversion to 3G surfaces

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way to replace a worn sand or water based carpet and generate increased revenue from hiring out a 3G pitch to football and rugby clubs and commercial football providers. This has often come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams consequently displaced from their preferred local authority.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

Ownership/management

Both full sized hockey suitable AGPs are owned by education establishments; with management of those pitches either internal or managed by an external company. Whitburn Academy is managed by the School; whilst the pitch at Boldon School operates as part of Boldon Community Association; which manages lets for the pitch outside of school hours.

5.3: Demand

South Shields Hockey Club is the only hockey club within South Tyneside. The Club consists of one senior ladies team, which plays its matches at Boldon School and trains at Lord Blyton Primary School.

The Club would prefer to play its home matches closer to Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area; however, no appropriate facility exists.

EH Player Pathway

The Player Pathway (PP) is the junior talent development pathway. It encompasses the whole of the hockey landscape which includes club and school activity as well as the PP Development Centres (DCs). The purpose of the PP is to provide development opportunities for young people, which is fair, equitable and consistent. It is to ensure that a suitable level of coaching and competition is offered for people at the appropriate stage of their development and to maximise the chance they have of fulfilling their potential whether that potential is as a club or International player, coach or official. The PP can be accessed by playing at school, a local club or attending one of the local centres. There is one entry point into the PP centres which is at DC level. The first time a player accesses the player pathway they must enter at DC level.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Development Centres (DCs) and Academy Centres (ACs)

DCs and ACs are local training centres for the U13 to U17 age groups. DCs are open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach, with ACs open to any player who has been nominated by a DC coach. After attending a DC, an AC is the next step on the player pathway. Included in the DCs/ACs are Goalkeeper (GK) Academies, which provide specific coaching sessions for goalkeepers. The nearest to Sunderland is the DC, AC and GK Academy based in Durham.

Performance Centre (PC)

A PC is a training centre for the U15 and U17 age groups. The PC is one of only 14 in England and is now based in Durham.

Future demand

No increased demand is predicted by application of population growth due to the low number of teams currently in existence.

South Shields Hockey Club previously fielded a senior men's team, however, it folded due to a combination of players increasing in age and no younger players joining. Despite this, the Club has a desire to re-establish the team in the near future.

Priority focus, however, is on the creation of youth teams. The Club is working closely with England Hockey in order to put the foundations for this in place, although it is not known how many teams will be created.

It is anticipated by the Club that all future teams will be accommodated at Boldon School.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. South Shields HC does not explicitly identified any latent demand in the South Tyneside.

School hockey

There is limited development of hockey in secondary schools in South Tyneside which means that there is a lack of players feeding into the club teams in the Borough. The School Games Programme offers "Quicksticks" and In2Hockey which is popular in primary schools, however there is a large drop off at secondary school level. The School Games Programme has introduced In2Hockey at secondary school level from 2013.

Back to Hockey

Back to hockey sessions are fun, social and informal hockey sessions, which are specifically aimed at people who have either never played hockey before or have not played for a number of years. Coaches at each session will provide guidance to all participants, with an emphasis on making sessions fun and friendly.

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Hosting or running sessions can be a useful way for clubs to increase membership, with a number of clubs seeing an increase in regular participants at club training sessions. Providing the sessions can also help to promote clubs to the wider community, with a potential influx of new members and interest.

At present, there are no Back to Hockey sessions occurring in South Tyneside.

Usage

The following table summarises the availability of full size AGPs for community use in South Tyneside. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00)

Table 5.3: Community opening times of full size sand AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Opening times	Hours in the peak period ¹⁴	Comments
4	Boldon School	Mon-Fri: 18:30-22:00 Sat-Sun: 12:30-22:00	19 ½	Used by South Shields Hockey Club for matches. Training occurs elsewhere due to a half size AGP existing within Inner & Outer South Shields. Weekday availability is taken up football teams however spare capacity exists on each day. Spare capacity also exists on weekends for increased match usage.
44	Whitburn C of E Academy	Mon-Fri: 17:30 – 21:30 Sat-Sun: 10:00-14:00	23 ½	Opening times cannot be fully utilised due a lack of floodlighting. As such, the AGP receives very little community use, despite being available.

5.4 Supply and demand analysis

A full size floodlit hockey AGP is able to accommodate up to four hockey matches at peak time (Saturday). Given that there is only one senior team currently playing in South Tyneside, one pitch is adequate to accommodate current demand. Existing supply (and spare capacity expressed) is also deemed sufficient enough to meet potential future demand expressed by the Club.

Focus should be placed on protecting Boldon School AGP as a hockey surface and ensuring its quality is sustained.

¹⁴ Based on data from Sport England's Active Places

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Hockey summary

- ◀ Boldon School provides the only full size artificial pitch within South Tyneside suitable for hockey. An additional pitch at Whitburn C of E Academy is considered too narrow to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Through an audit assessment, both Boldon School and Whitburn C of E Academy were assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ The surface of Boldon School is 12 years old and therefore will soon be in need of resurfacing. Whitburn C of E Academy is deemed by users to have poor grip underfoot.
- ◀ There is one hockey club in South Tyneside containing one ladies team. The team plays matches at Boldon School and trains at Lord Blyton Primary School.
- ◀ Focus is on creating youth teams within the Club and re-establishing a senior men's team. It is anticipated that all future teams will be accommodated at Boldon School.
- ◀ Based on one senior team there is a requirement for one full size AGP. Therefore, supply is deemed sufficient enough to meet demand, and spare capacity for growth is considered available.
- ◀ Focus should be placed on ensuring the quality is maintained at Boldon School, and that funds are in place for the future resurfacing of the carpet.

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PART 6: THIRD GENERATION ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (3G PITCHES)

6.1 Introduction

There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (also known as third generation turf or 3G), sand based (filled or dressed) and water based.

Table 6.1: AGP type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football.
Sand	Sand Filled	Competitive hockey and football training.
Sand	Sand Dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training.
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

England Hockey's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini soccer and youth level. The recommended FA dimensions for a full sized 3G pitch are 100x64 metres with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. Minimum playing area dimensions to meet performance standard criteria for competitive football are 90x45 metres (or 100x64 metres for FIFA sanctioned international matches), with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. FIFA 3G pitch certification is required to host competitive adult match play at Step 3 and below, whilst for teams playing at Steps 1 or 2 pitches are required to have FIFA Pro standard certification, further information on which is included later in the section. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

World Rugby (WR) produced the 'Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place. All full sized World Rugby compliant 3G pitches feature on the RFU register, including expiry dates of certification¹⁵. Upon registration, World Rugby compliancy is valid for two years before renewal and retesting is required.

¹⁵<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

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Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the RFL to meet its Performance Standard for Synthetic Turf Pitches. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, consequently World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements and are deemed suitable for rugby league use subject to passing an additional exclusive RFL performance standard test.

Many test contractors are able to offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.

6.2 Supply

Within this PPS, full sized 3G pitches are defined as those which meet FA minimum dimension criteria for adult football (90x45 metres). It should be noted that within other external documentation the FA typically refers to 3G pitches as 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs).

There are five full sized 3G pitches in South Tyneside, all of which, have floodlighting and are available for community use (to some extent). There are a further four small sized 3G pitches, three, of which, are available for community use; notably, none of these are located at education sites.

The spread of full sized 3G pitch provision in South Tyneside is not evenly distributed across analysis areas, with the South Analysis Area not having any full size 3G pitches; the Inner & Outer South Shields Area having three; and two located in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area.

Four of the full sized 3G pitches are currently certified for competitive football use and listed on the FA 3G Football Turf Pitch Register, representing 80% of the supply. One full sized 3G pitch presently features on the RFU Register¹⁶ of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches, located at Harton Academy (Inner & Outer South Shields). The pitch is due for renewal of certification in February 2019.

Table 6.2 provides a list of the current supply of full size 3G pitches identified in South Tyneside.

¹⁶<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

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Table 6.2: Full size 3Gs in South Tyneside

Site ID	Site name	Ownership/ Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Size (metres) ¹⁷	Certification	Certification renewal date (where known)
8	Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	Education / Community Association	Hebburn & Jarrow	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	100 x 65	FA	-
12	Harton Academy	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Long Pile 3G	Yes	100 x 60	WR FA	20/2/2019
26	Mortimer Comprehensive School	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	92 x 55	-	-
32	Mariners Park	Sports Club	Hebburn & Jarrow	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	91 x 55	FIFA	-
38	Temple Park Centre	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	100 x 65	FIFA	-

¹⁷ Excluding run-offs.

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Additional provision

In addition to the supply of full size 3G pitches in South Tyneside there are a variety of smaller sized pitches that can help to accommodate some demand.

Table 6.3: Additional supply of small sized 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	Ownership/ Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
11	Harton And Westoe Miners Welfare	Sports Club	Inner & Outer South Shields	Short Pile 3G	Yes	40 x 20
11	Harton And Westoe Miners Welfare	Sports Club	Inner & Outer South Shields	Short Pile 3G	Yes	40 x 20
25	Monkton Stadium	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	55 x 35
77	Academy of Light	Sports Club	South	Medium Pile 3G	No	87 x 45

Future plans for provision

Though full sized 3G pitches are considered those which meet FA minimum pitch dimensions, it is recommended that any new 3G pitches built in future should meet FA recommended pitch dimensions so to ensure suitability for all formats of football and maximise opportunities for use.

Table 6.4: FA recommended 3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

Full sized pitches

It is understood that there would be the potential for a new full sized, WR compliant, 3G pitch at Temple Park should South Shields Westoe RFC relocated to the site. Alternatively, the current 3G pitch could be extended and upgraded to meet WR dimensions and compliance. If this is not an option, then there is potential for a second 3G pitch to be installed at Harton Academy, creating a double hub site.

It is understood that a new 3G pitch, with accompanying changing provision is to be established at Perth Green Community Association. The pitch would replace a former redgra pitch and be accessed by Jarrow FC and other local clubs, especially within the South Analysis Area where there is currently no full size 3G provision. There is a potential partnership with a local rugby club for training and matches, however, this would be subject to the pitch being WR compliant.

Conversion to 3G surfaces

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Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way to replace a worn sand or water based carpet and generate increased revenue from hiring out a 3G pitch to football and rugby clubs and commercial football providers. This has often come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams consequently displaced from their preferred local authority.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

6.3: Quality

Only one of the full sized 3G pitches in South Tyneside is considered to be poor quality (Mortimer Comprehensive School). Two full sized 3G pitches are of good quality; and the remaining two are rated as standard.

The carpet of a 3G pitch is considered to have a surface life of approximately 10 years with assumed maintenance of the required standard, though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor.

All pitches are currently within the recommended surface lifespan; however, two pitches, at Harton Academy and Mortimer Comprehensive School are within three years of requiring resurfacing; and will therefore require resurfacing in the near future.

The pitch at Mariners Park is the newest pitch to be established, however, it is only considered standard quality, which suggests that improved maintenance is required.

There is a reported issue at Temple Park Centre regarding the surrounding fencing. It is reported that it is too low resulting in unofficial use of the pitch, with bicycles being ridden across the pitch during organised sessions. It is considered that the level of unofficial use is having an adverse impact on use by the wider community.

Table 6.5: Summary of quality (community use)

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Quality
8	Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	1	Medium Pile 3G	2011	Good
12	Harton Academy	1	Long Pile 3G	2010	Good
26	Mortimer Comprehensive School	1	Medium Pile 3G	2010	Poor

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Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Quality
32	Mariners Park	1	Medium Pile 3G	2016	Standard
38	Temple Park Centre	1	Medium Pile 3G	2014	Standard

Issues were previously raised regarding the lack of a sinking fund at Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School). As mentioned above, the School believe involvement from the Community Association is limiting the amount of the time that the AGP can be let out, thus limiting profitability. According to the School, this has resulted in no money being put aside for the AGPs eventual resurfacing.

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FA or FIFA tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Durham>

Pitches can also undergo FIFA testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories. The changes are part of FIFA's continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new performance criteria.

The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggest that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements.

Clubs playing in the football pyramid on 3G pitches meeting FIFA One Star or Two Star guidelines will still be required to certify their pitches annually, however, if any pitch replacement takes place the Club will need to meet the new FIFA performance criteria of FIFA Quality or Quality Pro. To stay on the FA register, pitches below the national league pyramid require FA testing every three years.

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Availability and usage

The following table summarises the availability of full size AGPs for community use in South Tyneside. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 6.6: Summary of 3G availability and usage (during the peak period)

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Floodlit?	Quality ¹⁸	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Capacity rating	Usage comments
8	Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 16 hours Weekend: 11 hours Total: 27 hours		A partnership with Hebburn Town JFC sees the pitch used to capacity. The Club uses the pitch every weekday for training and also for matches on weekends. The school would like to extend the opening hours of the facility in order to increase capacity, however the Community Association are unwilling to provide staff beyond 3pm on Saturday or Sunday.
12	Harton Academy	Long Pile 3G	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekend: 16 hours Total: 29 hours		The pitch is used by South Shields Westoe RFC and South Shields RFC for matches as well as all training. Also used for training by various football teams. Limited spare capacity is deemed to exist on Mondays and Fridays. It is understood that available capacity has reduced to a new commercial football offering acquired by the College recently.
26	Mortimer	Medium Pile	Yes	Poor	Weekdays: 16 hours		Mainly used for training by football teams as

¹⁸ Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

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Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Floodlit?	Quality ¹⁸	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Capacity rating	Usage comments
	Comprehensive School	3G			Weekend: 8 hours Total: 24 hours		the pitch is not FA certified to host competitive matches. Small sided leagues are run on weekdays. Limited spare capacity exists on Mondays and Fridays.
32	Mariners Park	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours		Accommodating both match and training demand, the pitch is most frequently used by teams associated with South Shields FC, which owns the site. There is considered to be capacity on the pitch for additional training demand midweek.
38	Temple Park Centre	Medium Pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours		Used for mini football matches every Saturday and Sunday. Senior teams also access the pitch for matches at weekends. The site is the most popular, used by football teams for training and by social adult groups. Spare capacity exists but generally out of peak time due to the facilities extensive opening hours.

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In the main, availability of provision in the peak period is good. However, as three pitches are provided on education sites, community use can be limited on weekdays. Hebburn Comprehensive School would like to extend the opening hours of its 3G pitch, however, cannot do so due to involvement from community associations.

As things stand at Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School), the School manage the lettings on the pitch, however, site management and maintenance is managed by the Community Association. As such, the Community Association is unwilling to staff the pitch beyond 3pm on weekends, meaning no bookings can be taken beyond this point, despite demand existing.

The School would prefer to manage and maintain the pitch themselves, without involvement from the Community Association.

Demand

Football

There are 128 teams which play competitive club football on 3G pitches in South Tyneside, representing 45% of teams playing matches. Many teams play on 3G pitches as part of the Russell Foster Youth League, with Temple Park Centre and Monkton Stadium both operating as central venues. All FA/FIFA certified pitches are used for match play in some capacity.

Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is a key issue for most clubs in South Tyneside, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. Access to affordable 3G provision is also a priority for the FA as many multi team junior clubs have various teams training across various venues in the Area and neighbouring authorities. Many pitches both full sized and small sized operate commercial small sided football leagues which limit availability for club training.

Rugby union

Present use of 3G pitches for rugby union mainly extends to South Shields RFC utilising the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Harton Academy for both match and training demand; and South Shields Westoe RFC accessing the same pitch for matches when there are fixture and seasonal clashes with South Shields CC, at South Shields and Westoe Club. The full sized 3G pitch features on the RFU register¹⁹ of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches, with certification requiring renewal in February next year (2019). The pitch was installed as part of the Rugby365 RugbyShare programme.

Imported/exported demand

Given that neighbouring Sunderland is in the process of establishing the FA's Parklife programme, with a total of ten new full sized 3G pitches being installed; it is likely that some of these pitches will become more accessible to clubs based in South Tyneside. It is understood that one of the sites, Community North Sports Complex (Downhill), will become a central venue for the Russell Foster Youth League, which may result in demand relocating away from Monkton Stadium due to a preference for 3G pitches. This will be further tested as a scenario in the Strategy document.

¹⁹<http://www.englishrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

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Key trends and changes in demand for pitches

Football

Demand from football for 3G pitches has increased in recent years due to demand from clubs for training but also due to a growing acceptance by local leagues of use for competitive matches, where play on 3G pitches is now included within the FA Standard Code of Rules. This considered, the general condition of local authority pitches and increasingly limited budget for regular and adequate maintenance may lead more teams to consider AGPs as a possible alternative should it be financially viable.

A number of leagues around the country now use 3G pitches as central venues where all play takes place. Mini soccer leagues especially are increasingly adopting this approach either for whole seasons or a number of months throughout the winter because they can continually offer a high quality playing experience, in many cases beyond that of grass pitches which are generally of comparatively poorer quality. It also allows leagues to continue to run throughout the winter, largely unaffected by poor weather which has disrupted the football season over recent years, causing it to run into summer and clash more often with summer sports. This trend is likely to increase in the future and more mini soccer, flexi and vets leagues could be played exclusively on 3G pitches.

Rugby union

Given the inclement weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where floodlights are in place or one pitch designated for all training in particular, unless there is a separate floodlight grass training area. It often results in deterioration in pitch quality coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

The recent RFU Investment Strategy for 3G pitches both at club and community based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally. Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

FA training scenario

The FA considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The FA can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full sized AGP can service 38 teams.

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It is considered that there are 273²⁰ teams which require access to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface in South Tyneside. When applied on an analysis area level, this equates to the need for seven full sized 3G pitches to service this level of training demand.

At present, there are five full sized 3G pitches which are considered to be available for community use to service training demand across South Tyneside.

On this basis, there is a shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches to meet training demand for football. The establishment of two new full size 3G pitches at Perth Green Community Association and either Temple Park Centre or Harton Academy would eliminate the shortfall across South Tyneside; although these would not necessarily address shortfalls in specific analysis areas (South). Previously, there was a reported shortfall of one full sized 3G pitch, specifically in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area, but this has been addressed by the establishment of a 3G pitch at Mariners Park.

The table below considers the number of full sized 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. For this, please note that the 3G requirement is rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Table 6.7: Current demand for 3G pitches for football training

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of available 3G pitches	Current shortfall	Future number of teams ²¹	Future shortfall
Hebburn & Jarrow	103	2.71 - 2	2	-	104	-
Inner & Outer South Shields	129	3.39 - 3	3	-	130	-
South	41	1.08 - 1	-	1	42	1
Total	273	7	5	2	276	2

Please note that the total current requirement considers South Tyneside as whole rather than a sum of its analysis areas.

The model also assumes that all pitches are fully available for club use at peak time when in practice a number of pitches operate commercial small sided leagues which reduce capacity available. It also projects all football teams as training on full sized 3G pitches when in practice a proportion of football training demand should be retained on sand based AGPs in order to maintain financial and commercial sustainability of these pitches.

There are also two smaller sized pitches at Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare that are available for community use and floodlit, which could help accommodate demand, for example, from mini teams and for training. Whilst sand based AGPs will also accommodate some midweek training demand, even though the surface is not preferred. In some cases, the business model for full sized sand based AGPs may rely on football demand to establish sustainability.

²⁰ The number of teams requiring access to a 3G pitch for training demand excludes those representing Sunderland AFC and Sunderland AFC Academy given that these teams will access provision at either the Academy of Light or the Beacon of Light (Sunderland)

²¹ Based on increased demand forecasted from team generation rates, by analysis area, only

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6.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand based on the FA training model for football in South Tyneside. However, capacity at sites throughout the Borough could be used to accommodate increased levels of demand than at present. Furthermore, there is competition for access to 3G pitches from other sports for both training and match play, particularly rugby union, which may exacerbate the forecasted requirement for two additional full sized 3G pitches. Though Table 6.6 identifies spare capacity at some level on all pitches, in practice there is very little midweek capacity which is the peak time for use, with most capacity midweek present in 5-6pm timeslots which are undesirable as many club volunteers are commuting from work.

The presently identified shortfalls using the FA training model would be eliminated through creation of a new full sized 3G pitches at Perth Green Community Association and one at either Temple Park Centre or Harton Academy. However, despite the establishment of these pitches covering the current shortfalls South Tyneside wide, they will not address the shortfall displayed in the South Analysis Area.

There are also two, floodlit, small sized 3G pitches; and two, full sized sand based AGPs that help meet current shortfalls.

3G summary

- ◀ There are five full size 3G pitches; Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School, Harton Academy, Mortimer Comprehensive School, Mariners Park and Temple Park Centre.
- ◀ Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School), Harton Academy, Mariners Park and Temple Park Centre are FA approved to host competitive matches, whilst Harton Academy is also World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ In the main, availability of provision in the peak period is good. However, as three pitches are provided on education sites, community use can be limited on weekdays.
- ◀ Two of the 3G pitches area assessed as good quality; two are standard quality; and one, at Mortimer Comprehensive School is deemed poor.
- ◀ 36% of football clubs expressed a need for access to more training facilities, with 79% of those highlighting more 3G pitches as a requirement.
- ◀ On the basis there are 273 teams playing football within South Tyneside, there is a recommended need for at least seven full size 3G pitches to accommodate midweek training demand. If each team was to stay within their analysis area, there is a potential need for six.
- ◀ Limited spare capacity exists on the current stock of 3G pitches, meaning an increase in 3G provision is required. Using the FA model, there is a shortfall of one pitch in the South Analysis Area, but a shortfall of two throughout the Borough.
- ◀ Current and future shortfalls across South Tyneside would be met by the establishment of full sized 3G pitches at Perth Green Community Association and, one of, Harton Academy or Temple Park Centre.
- ◀ Community North Sports Complex (Downhill) in Sunderland is set to become a central venue for the Russell Foster Youth League, which may result in demand relocating away from Monkton Stadium due to a preference for 3G pitches. This will be further tested as a scenario in the Strategy document.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 7: TENNIS

7.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across South Tyneside. The LTA has recently restructured its strategic approach to target a number of national focus areas, enabling close partnership working with club, community and education venues and partners in order to grow participation.

Consultation

In 2015, the two tennis clubs playing in South Tyneside were sent an online survey. South Shields Tennis Club completed the survey, resulting in a 50% response rate.

7.2: Supply

There is a total of 72 tennis courts identified in South Tyneside located across 19 sites including sports clubs, parks and schools. An increase of two courts from 2015, with two new courts having been established at Carr Ellison Park. Of the courts, 63 (88%) are categorised as being available for community use across 16 sites (84%).

The courts unavailable for community use are located at Mortimer Comprehensive School and Whitburn C of E Academy. This is the case at Mortimer Comprehensive School due to the poor quality of the courts, with issues surrounding worn line markings and poor grip underfoot cited. Whitburn C of E Academy, on the other hand, is unavailable due to the building of a new sixth form, which has resulted in two courts being lost. When work is complete, community use aspects will be revisited on the remaining courts.

Please note that for the purposes of this report, being available for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs.

Table 7.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Courts (sites) available for community use	Courts (sites) unavailable for community use
Hebburn & Jarrow	16 (5)	4 (1)
Inner & Outer South Shields	33 (7)	3 (1)
South	14 (4)	2 (1)
South Tyneside	63 (16)	9 (3)

An additional court was previously available at West Park (Jarrow). However, it was taken out of use. Nevertheless, there is demand from Friends of Jarrow West Park to have the court re-provided. It is also understood that the installation of a multi-use games area (MUGA) at Cornthwaite Park will free up a tennis court which is currently used for recreational football.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.2: Tennis courts in South Tyneside

ID	Site name	Ownership	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality ²²
4	Boldon School	Education / Community Association	South	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
7	Cleadon Recreation Ground	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
8	Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	Community Association / Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Yes	5	No	Macadam	Standard
12	Harton Academy	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	6	No	Tarmac	Standard
14	Hebburn Sports & Social Club	Club	Hebburn & Jarrow	Yes	3	Yes	Artificial	Good
17	Jarrow School	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	Yes	3	No	Tarmac	Good
26	Mortimer Comprehensive School	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	No	3	Yes	Tarmac	Poor
29	South Shields and Westoe Club	Club	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	3	Yes	Artificial	Poor
				No	4	No	Macadam	
30	South Shields Community School	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	4	No	Tarmac	Good
34	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School	Education	Hebburn & Jarrow	No	4	No	Tarmac	Standard
36	St Wilfrid's RC College	Education	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	5	No	Tarmac	Standard
44	Whitburn C of E Academy	Education	South	No	2	No	Tarmac	Standard
48	West Park (South Shields)	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	7	No	Macadam	Good
49	Springwell Park	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor

²² Assessed using a non technical site assessment proforma and also takes account of user comments.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Ownership	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality ²²
54	Carr Ellison Park	Local Authority	Hebburn & Jarrow	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
57	Coulthard Park	Local Authority	South	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
58	Cornthwaite Park	Local Authority	South	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
67	Robert Readhead Park	Local Authority	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	3	No	Tarmac	Poor
68	Baldon Lawn Tennis Club	Club	South	Yes	3	Yes	Artificial	Good
					3	No		

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Quality

Of provision that is available for community use, 29 courts (46%) are assessed as good quality, 16 (25%) are deemed standard and 18 are rated as poor (29%). The number of good courts has increased with the creation of two additional, good quality, courts at Carr Ellison Park.

Table 7.3: Quality of community available courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Hebburn & Jarrow	6	5	3
Inner & Outer South Shields	13	11	11
South	10	-	4
South Tyneside	29	16	18

The courts assessed as poor quality are all located at the following sites:

- ◀ Cleadon Recreation Ground
- ◀ Cornthwaite Park
- ◀ Coulthard Park
- ◀ South Shields and Westoe Club
- ◀ Springwell Park
- ◀ Robert Readhead Park

The LTA recommends that the need to refurbish tennis courts is based typically on its current quality. Good quality courts typically need resurfacing in eight (plus) years, standard quality courts between four and seven years and poor quality courts within the next three years.

The majority of the poor quality courts available for community use are located at Council managed sites, with no regular maintenance programme in place. Issues surrounding the courts include poor grip underfoot, worn line markings, loose gravel and holes or rips in the surface. As well as this, all courts rated as poor are without floodlighting and changing accommodation.

It is understood that the courts at West Park (South Shields) and Springwell Park both have poor quality boundary fences which mean that the courts are frequently subject to anti-social behaviour. To counteract this activity, the Council has installed metal, anti-vandal tennis nets at Springwell Park and Cleadon Recreation Ground.

Three all-weather floodlit courts at South Shields Tennis Club are poor quality but usable, whilst the four tarmac courts on the site are unplayable for a significant part of the year as they are also used for car parking.

Boldon Tennis Club has six all weather courts assessed as good quality.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Transforming British Tennis Together (TBTT)

In 2017 the LTA introduced its largest funding initiative, Transforming British Tennis Together, to make courts across the country more usable and accessible to everyone in the next ten years. It has committed £125 million to improve community facilities and plans to unlock a further £125 million through match funding. The funding will focus on addressing identified barriers to play such as bad light or inclement weather through floodlighting and covers. Access systems and online booking (linked to Clubspark) will address outdated and unclear customer journeys to court. Investment from the TBTT will transform facilities by working with clubs, parks, community venues and education sites.

The initiative is expected to change slightly moving forwards. It will focus on increasing the number of indoor courts, whilst protecting the current stock of provision. It will also look to deliver community hubs in targeted locations to be identified centrally by the LTA.

Ownership/management

Most tennis courts available for community use are owned/managed by education sites (27 courts or 43%); with Council owned/managed sites providing 32% (20 courts) of the provision available for community use. The least amount of provision (25%) is owned/managed by sports clubs.

Table 7.4: Courts available for community use by ownership/type

Analysis area	No. of club courts	No. of parks courts	No. of educational courts
Hebburn & Jarrow	3	3	8
Inner & Outer South Shields	7	13	15
South	6	4	4
South Tyneside	16	20	27

Security of tenure

It is understood that both Boldon TC and Westoe TC are considered to have security of tenure at current home venues. The former owns its site freehold; whilst the latter is a partner members of South Shields and Westoe Club and as such, is secure at the site.

South Shields and Westoe Club is in discussion with the Council regarding the possible relocation to Temple Park; with each individual sports club have secure lease agreements at the site.

Floodlighting

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly key for club development. There are 12 floodlit courts in South Tyneside, nine (75%) of which are available for community use. Floodlit courts are found at the following sites:

- ◀ Boldon Lawn Tennis Club
- ◀ Heburn Sports & Social Club
- ◀ Mortimer Comprehensive School
- ◀ South Shields & Westoe Club

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Court type

The majority of community available courts across South Tyneside have a macadam surface (48%). The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs). In comparison it indicates an approximate sinking fund of £1,800 needed to refurbish an artificial court surface or one floodlit macadam court.

The remaining courts are either tarmac (21 courts or 33%) or artificial grass (12 courts or 19%). In regard to artificial provision, the surface type generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

Ancillary provision

Both Westoe TC and Boldon Lawn TC have access to adequate ancillary provision.

For non-club courts, the ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Some offer changing facilities but are of a poor quality, whilst other sites either do not provide changing facilities or provide them too far away from courts to be used. Most often, the facilities service football and cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users. Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest and sustain suitable ancillary amenities.

7.4: Demand

Competitive tennis

South Shields TC has two men's, one male vets' and one male over 55's team. The Club had 30 senior members and three juniors, in 2015. Note that Hebburn TC merged with Westoe TC in, approximately, 2013 to form South Shields TC.

Number of current competitive teams is unknown for Boldon Tennis Club.

Overall there are 332 tennis members of the two clubs combined²³, as shown in the table below. It should be noted that membership at South Shields TC has increased since 2015.

Table 7.5: Summary of club membership

Name of club	Number of members		Total
	Seniors	Juniors	
Boldon LTC	161	117	278
South Shields TC	38	16	54
Total			332

²³ Membership numbers provided by the LTA

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Informal tennis

Pay and play is available at Boldon Tennis Club but is not currently available at South Shields Tennis Club. The Club would like to be able to offer this in the future but needs to put the infrastructure in place to allow this to happen.

Park courts managed by the Council are available free of charge at all times. However, as the courts are not supervised, community use is difficult to quantify, although Robert Readhead Park is said to be particularly popular. The site receives high levels of casual use and is also used for various coaching sessions and activities, which are run by the Council.

Following events such as Wimbledon, demand is likely to increase for recreational pay and play. Although the LTA reports that it is hard to measure casual use as courts are available for free, courts are notably busier throughout the summer months in South Tyneside.

It is recognised by the LTA that non-club members prefer to play at park sites; increasing the requirement for floodlights on park provision to meet informal demand.

LTA Clubspark

The LTA has recently developed a venue management system called Clubspark in order to improve the customer journey for people wanting to get on court at a club, community and education sites.

Instead of providing open access, an online booking system (Clubspark) allows members and pay and play users (where relevant) access through the use of a fob or access code system via electronic gates. Not only does this deter misuse use of courts but it also allows genuine tennis participation to be more effectively tracked and monitored, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed and used. This online booking system sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings.

Nationally, the LTA reports that over 2,000 hours of court time were booked in 2016 by a database of over 2,000 people held on Clubspark. Another advantage of securing access is to make tennis courts revenue generating rather than open access, with the income generation forming a sinking fund for the repair and eventual resurfacing of the courts at each site, thus making courts more sustainable in the long-term.

Latent demand

As mentioned previously, demand exists for additional courts to be re-provided at West Park (Jarrow) in Hebburn and Jarrow Analysis Area.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis within South Tyneside but are not currently doing so. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,957 people, 290 (14.8%) of which are within the segment 'Jamie – sports team lad'.

The amount of latent demand reported by Sport England's Segmentation Tool has reduced since 2015, which suggested a total of 2,521 adults that would like to play tennis in South Tyneside but didn't at the time. Also, the dominant segment has changed, with 'Paula – Stretched single mums' wishing to participate, totalling 297 (12% from the previous total).

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Tennis for Kids²⁴

Tennis for Kids is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, children get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing. To date nearly 25,000 children have participated in the Tennis for Kids programme this year.

Tennis for Free²⁵

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that work in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low income areas. Tennis for Free offer a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', to unlock the large number of two court community venues that could benefit from the offer.

Through its offer it aims to:

- ◀ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
- ◀ Make tennis a sport for all
- ◀ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
- ◀ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis.

Great British Tennis Weekend²⁶

The Great British Tennis Weekend (GBTW) is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs have the ability to sign up to host a GBTW open day, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts two dedicated GBTWs a year which are the UK's biggest public tennis event. Venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running a GBTW Open Day are asked to promote a follow on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

Parks Tennis Leagues

Parks Tennis Leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. They are run by local tennis leagues which affiliate to the LTA and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with admin and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and park court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to use of park sites which are typically more easily available.

²⁴ <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids>

²⁵ <https://www.tennisforfree.com/index.php>

²⁶ www.lta.org.uk/gbtw.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There is capacity to develop a Park Tennis Leagues within South Tyneside; however, this would need to coincide with the development of an online booking system to ensure players can reserve their courts to ensure fixtures can regularly occur.

Serves

SERVES is a community-based programme designed by the Tennis Foundation to tackle some of the issues faced by people in disadvantaged communities, such as high levels of unemployment, poor health prospects, physical inactivity and low self-esteem. It does this by bringing tennis into the heart of these communities, giving young people the chance to develop valuable life skills, both on and off the tennis court, which in turn builds their confidence, health and employment prospects. After a successful three year pilot, the programme is now being scaled up across the Country.

The programme is specifically targeting sessions to be delivered in a range of settings including faith centres, community centres and youth centres.

At present there are no SERVES programmes operating within the Borough.

Supply and demand analysis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. For air domed courts, membership of 100 is considered applicable and permanent indoor courts can accommodate 200 members. It should be noted that the abovementioned figures relate to LTA viability guidelines for clubs and are not the maximum capacity. The figure relates to what most clubs, based on the level of provision, would find sustainable.

Using these figures, the table below analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs are sufficient to meet both current and future demand. Club membership, where known and club home site capacity is summarised in the table below.

Table 7.6: Summary of supply and demand

Site ID	Club name (site)	Analysis area	Current demand (members)	Recommended site capacity (members)	Capacity rating (members)
29	South Shields and Westoe Club	Inner & Outer South Shields	54	180	126
68	Boldon Lawn Tennis Club	South	278	300	32

Despite South Shields TC previously reporting that it was near capacity for the number of teams it had. Supply and demand analysis suggests that there is sufficient capacity at South Shields and Westoe Club to accommodate, at least, 126 additional members on the artificial courts alone; which are available year round.

It should be noted, however, that the courts are poor quality, which may adversely impact capacity. The Club believes that there is latent demand from juniors in the area and that the Club would grow if it had more, or better quality courts; and the ability to improve the tennis programme during the evenings, as well as being able to offer social tennis.

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There is some capacity for additional demand (32 members) at Boldon Lawn Tennis Club; with potential to increase this further by providing floodlighting on the three non-floodlit courts.

On the whole it is believed that the current level of provision can accommodate current demand other than at West Park Jarrow where anecdotal evidence suggests that there is unmet demand in the area.

Park courts are available for casual users, and numerous courts at secondary schools could be made available to the community if excess demand existed. Priority, therefore, should be focused on improving current facilities; ensuring Westoe TC are provided with sufficient provision at Temple Park; and increasing the number of tennis programmes at both club and park sites.

Tennis summary

- ◀ There is a total of 72 tennis courts identified in South Tyneside located across 19 sites including sports clubs, parks and schools. An increase of two courts from 2015, with two new courts having been established at Carr Ellison Park.
- ◀ There are 12 floodlit courts in South Tyneside, nine (75%) of which are available for community use.
- ◀ South Shields Tennis Club has two men's, one male vets' and one male over 55's team. The Club had 54 members. Membership at Boldon Tennis Club is larger with the Club having 278 registered members.
- ◀ Most tennis courts available for community use are owned/managed by education sites (27 courts or 43%); with Council owned/managed sites providing 32% (20 courts) of the provision available for community use. The least amount of provision (25%) is owned/managed by sports clubs.
- ◀ There are two tennis clubs playing in South Tyneside; Boldon Tennis Club and South Shields Tennis Club.
- ◀ There is reported demand from Friends of Jarrow West Park to have courts re-provided in the Park.
- ◀ Of provision that is available for community use, 29 courts (46%) are assessed as good quality, 16 (25%) are deemed standard and 18 are rated as poor (29%). The number of good courts has increased with the creation of two additional, good quality, courts at Carr Ellison Park.
- ◀ Poor quality courts can be found at, Cleadon Recreation Ground, Springwell Park, Coulthard Park, Cornthwaite Park and South Shields Tennis Club.
- ◀ Three all-weather floodlit courts at South Shields Tennis Club are poor quality but usable. There are a further four tarmac courts that are unplayable.
- ◀ South Shields Tennis Club reports latent demand for additional court access. However, the courts appear to have spare capacity and it is poor quality which is currently inhibiting growth.
- ◀ South Shields and Westoe Club (South Shields Tennis Club) is seeking to relocate provision to Temple Park.
- ◀ On the whole it is believed that the current level of provision can accommodate current demand other than at West Park Jarrow where anecdotal evidence suggests that there is unmet demand in the area.

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 8: BOWLING GREENS

8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in South Tyneside are flat greens. Bowls England is the National Governing Body for flat green bowls with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls. The bowling season runs from May to September.

Bowls is strong in the Borough, and in part this can be attributed to the low costs of the sport in South Tyneside. Other than at private sites, players only have to pay to compete (i.e. club fees) as all green maintenance at council sites is subsidised by the local authority.

The South Tyneside Bowling Association is responsible for competitions in South Tyneside and monthly forums are held between the Association, the clubs and the Council to discuss any issues highlighted for bowls in the Area. In the main this relates to quality issues on council maintained greens. Issues are discussed and any actions coming forward are then recorded. The Bowling Association reports that it can take a long time for site issues to be resolved but recognises the limited resources available.

Consultation

The secretary of the South Tyneside Bowling Association was consulted as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy in 2015; and it was agreed with the Steering Group that club surveys would not be required as the association holds all of the relevant information. Minutes from previous monthly forums were also provided.

8.2: Supply

There are 17 flat green bowling greens in South Tyneside provided across 10 sites; a decrease of two greens since 2015. These two greens are now disused and are located at Coulthard Park and Cleadon Recreation Ground. The former was considered disused in 2015; whilst the latter has become disused in April 2018. It is understood that Coulthard Park is now used by a local croquet league.

Table 8.1: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens (sites)
Hebburn & Jarrow	8 (4)
Inner & Outer South Shields	7 (5)
South	2 (1)
South Tyneside	19 (12)

Table 8.2: Bowling green location

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Ownership/ management	Number of greens	Quality
11	Harton & Westoe Miners Welfare	Inner & Outer South Shields	Club	1	Good
14	Hebburn Sports & Social Club	Hebburn & Jarrow	Club	1	Good
16	Jack Clark Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	Local Authority	2	Good
48	West Park (South Shields)	Inner & Outer South Shields	Local Authority	2	Good

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Ownership/management	Number of greens	Quality
52	North Marine Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	Local Authority	3	Good
53	West Park (Jarrow)	Hebburn & Jarrow	Local Authority	2	Good
54	Carr Ellison Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	Local Authority	2	Good
58	Cornthwaite Park	South	Local Authority	2	Good
67	Robert Readhead Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	Local Authority	1	Good
73	Sutton Trust	Inner & Outer South Shields	Trust	1	Good

Quality

The quality of the greens within South Tyneside is considered to be good. The Bowling Association reported that quality decreased on the Council maintained greens over the previous years, however, it is recognised that less resource is available for maintenance due to budget cuts and with this in mind the greens are considered fit for purpose and good quality.

The main concerns for the Bowling Association are at sites where issues need resolving due to potential health and safety problems, particularly for example where boards are coming away from the greens. The table below highlights the current issues:

Table 8.3: Current site issues

Site ID	Site	Issue to be resolved
58	Cornthwaite Park	Flooding issue in car park.
52	North Marine Park	Leaking tap on middle green. Window cracked in pavilion.
53	West Park Jarrow	Inner boards on green coming away. Pavilion has leaking canopy roof.
54	Carr Ellison Park	Backboards need repairing.

8.3: Demand

Current demand

It is understood that there are now (2018) 28 clubs using bowling greens in South Tyneside. This is a decrease of one club, with it assumed that Cleadon Park Vets BC has folded resulting in the green on site becoming disused. The majority of clubs access council greens to compete. Almost all sites have more than one club using the greens.

Table 8.4: Green location and resident clubs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Ownership/management	Number of greens	Clubs
11	Harton & Westoe Miners Welfare	Inner & Outer South Shields	Club	1	Harton & Westoe BC, Simonside BC
14	Hebburn Sports & Social Club	Hebburn & Jarrow	Club	1	Hebburn Sports BC
16	Jack Clark Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	Local Authority	2	Readhead WP, Ashley BC, Municipal BC

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Ownership/ management	Number of greens	Clubs
48	West Park (South Shields)	Inner & Outer South Shields	Local Authority	2	Brinkburn BC, Catholic Club Westoe BC, West Park Vets, West End Ladies.
52	North Marine Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	Local Authority	3	Beacon BC, Marine Park Vets, South Shields Ladies
53	West Park (Jarrow)	Hebburn & Jarrow	Local Authority	2	Jarrow Boro BC, Jarrow BC, Jarrow Vets
54	Carr Ellison Park (Hebburn Park)	Hebburn & Jarrow	Local Authority	2	Elmfield BC, Leslies BC, Palmers BC, Hebburn Vets, Hebburn Ladies
58	Cornthwaite Park	South	Local Authority	2	Whitburn BC, Whitburn Ladies
67	Robert Readhead Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	Local Authority	1	Readhead Vets, St Stephens BC
69	Sutton Trust	Inner & Outer South Shields	Trust	1	Sutton BC

Nationally the sport has experienced an overall decline in participation which may be due to access to facilities in some cases; however, most clubs acknowledge a lack of interest in the sport amongst the local community, with few new bowlers taking up the sport. This adds to which is a generally an aged player base and in most cases the fall in numbers has been attributed to aging players, with a lack of younger or newer players coming into the sport to sustain demand.

Despite this bowls remains strong in South Tyneside, as well as low participation costs, as previously highlighted; this is also due to the input from the South Tyneside Bowling Association which is a key organisation for bowls in the Borough.

In summer the greens are used every night throughout the week Monday to Friday for competitions. There is no demand for additional greens as the current number is able to accommodate demand.

Latent demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,209 people who would like to participate in the sport within South Tyneside. The most dominant segment is 'Elsie & Arnold' – Retirement home singles (33% or 399 people).

SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

As seen in the table below, this is the lowest amount of latent demand for the sport when compared to South Tyneside's neighbouring local authorities.

Table 8.5: Comparison of neighbouring local authorities latent demand

Neighboring local authorities	Latent demand of adults like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so
South Tyneside	1,209
Gateshead	1,659
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	1,921
North Tyneside	1,657
Sunderland	2,358

8.4 Supply and demand analysis

Capacity is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially.

Bowls England supports that a green accommodating less than 60 playing members is considered to have spare capacity for further play and those accommodating more than 60 could be considered to be overplayed. Consideration should also be given to the sustainability of greens which operate with a playing membership of less than 20.

Generally, it is considered that most bowling clubs are able to accept additional members should demand increase. The current numbers of greens are well used as demand for bowls is still strong in the North East. It is, however, unlikely that demand would increase such that additional greens will be needed, any investment instead should be focussed on improving existing greens and associated ancillary facilities. To that end it is unlikely that the disused greens at Coulthard Park and Cleadon Recreation Ground will be required in the future.

Bowls summary

- ◀ There are 17 flat green bowling greens in South Tyneside provided across 10 sites; a decrease of two greens since 2015. These are now disused and located at Coulthard Park and Cleadon Recreation Ground.
- ◀ The quality of the greens within South Tyneside is considered to be good. The Bowling Association reports that quality has decreased on the Council maintained greens over the last three years.
- ◀ Quality issues at the following sites are highlighted as being a priority to address, Cornthwaite Park, North Marine Park, West Park Jarrow, Cleadon Recreation Ground and Carr Ellison Park.
- ◀ There are now (2018) 28 clubs using bowling greens in South Tyneside. This is a decrease of one club, with it assumed that Cleadon Park Vets BC has folded resulting in the green on site becoming disused.
- ◀ The majority of clubs access council greens to compete. Almost all sites have more than one club using the greens.
- ◀ Despite a national trend of declining membership bowls remains strong in South Tyneside. However, there is no demand for additional greens as the current number is able to accommodate current and future demand.

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PART 9: ATHLETICS

9.1: Introduction

Athletics is administered across the United Kingdom by UK Athletics (UKA), including responsibility for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, anti-doping protocol, health and safety, facilities and welfare, training and coach education and permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is currently governed through England Athletics (EA) and many of the functions EA delivers to support clubs locally is through the Club Support Manager (CSM) network. The role of the CSM is to work strategically to provide high-quality support and guidance to a number of affiliated clubs and groups in the area. This work is to support clubs in building long-term sustainable structures and high-quality environments for current and new members and the wider local community.

There are 12 CSMs, each responsible for a large geographical area that contains around 150 clubs. The CSM for South Tyneside covers the regions of Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, County Durham, Tees Valley, Merseyside and Cheshire.

Club consultation

There are two clubs within South Tyneside; Jarrow & Hebburn Athletics Club and South Shields Harriers. Both clubs received surveys; one return was received from South Shields Harriers AC. In addition, the CSM for the Borough was consulted with to provide an overview of athletics in South Tyneside; as well as the quantity of EA registered members that each club has.

9.2: Supply

There is one formal athletics track in South Tyneside, located at Monkton Stadium in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area. The track is an eight lane, 400m synthetic track, with floodlights and field event provision. The quality of the track was previously considered to be good quality; although there were issues highlighted by club consultation with the markings and evenness of the surface.

Since 2015, the quality of the track is reported to have declined with age; and there is an acknowledgement that resurfacing will be required in the near future. Improvements are required for the throwing cage on the site, with UKA developing new cage safety guidance. The location of the cage on the site and the number of competitions hosted has meant that the site is listed as a priority 2 track, setting a deadline of April 2020 for these to take place. It is reported by the NGB that the track operator's are keen to resolve this by April 2019.

The track caters for all disciplines of athletics and is a major athletics venue that hosts both regional and national events. It has been reported by competition providers that the layout of the facility contributes to the scheduled event taking longer than expected. The long jump pit being placed inside the track means that long and triple jump events cannot take place whilst track events are ongoing.

It is recommended by EA that the track is subject to a professional survey; or that the facility operator completes UKA's TrackMark accreditation scheme. Either of these will provide the operator with a report and a better understanding of the track's condition.

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There is also a four lane, 60m, indoor sprint track facility available at Monkton Stadium. Although not suitable for competition, the facility does service winter training demand for sprint athletes; whilst also providing opportunities for casual participants.

Informal facilities

In addition to the formal track facility, there are three recreational tracks in the Borough. These are located at Gypsies Green, Binkburn CIO and Monkton Stadium. Although none of these are able to accommodate competitive athletics activity, nor are they considered eligible for facility funding; there is a recognition from EA that they serve a purpose for potential athletes, providing recreational opportunities for the population.

The track at Gypsies Green is smaller-sized (310m) with disused cycle track, both of which are used by South Shields Harriers. Both tracks are considered poor quality and not fit for purpose as a running track.

A further (redgra) track at Brinkburn CA has no regular official use recorded. However, it is used by casual runners. As is the recreational track at Monkton Stadium.

Ownership/management

The track at Monkton Stadium is owned and managed by the Council. Individuals are able to purchase memberships as part of the Council's wider leisure offering. Alternatively, access to the track can be purchased on an ad-hoc basis. Access to the indoor track facility, as well as the outdoor, 400m, track is available.

9.3 Demand

There are two track and field clubs in South Tyneside, namely Jarrow & Hebburn AC and South Shields Harriers AC. Combined there are over 400 registered EA athletes participating in the Borough; with both clubs also having non-registered juniors.

Jarrow & Hebburn AC

In 2015 Jarrow & Hebburn AC has 182 EA registered members. This has since reduced by 29% to 129 registered members; but it is understood that there are a number of unregistered juniors and club members that attend club sessions. The Club is the 32nd largest club in the North East with a thriving junior section. There was previously an increase in demand across both adults and juniors with further plans to increase this by around 30 members.

The Club is based at Monkton Stadium for both training and competition activity.

South Shields Harriers AC

South Shields Harriers AC is the ninth (9th) largest track and field club in the North East of England. There are currently 290 registered EA members; in addition to non-registered junior and club members. The number of registered members has increased 40% since 2015, increasing from 129 to the current figure.

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The Club reports that there are currently 361 club members, 80 of which are juniors. Membership numbers have reportedly increased in both the senior and junior sections of the Club; leading to a waiting list being created. It should be noted that there are aspirations to increase member numbers further; however, the Club requires an increased volume of coaches in order to support any increase.

The Club is nominally based at Gypsies Green, despite it being deemed unfit for purpose, as there is changing provision on site. In the winter months the track is used as a starting point for long distance runs around the Borough; with the Club relocating competitive track and field activity in the summer to Birtley Athletics Club (Gateshead), as the two clubs are partners.

Although this is outside of South Tyneside, South Shields Harriers is able to compete by joining with Birtley and so a venue of its own within South Tyneside would not be sustainable. The Club also runs its own competition, the Sherman Cup/Davidson Cup at Temple Park once a year.

Running clubs

In addition to the athletics clubs there are several separate RunTogether groups (running groups) as well as satellite athletics clubs in South Tyneside and the surrounding local authorities. These groups feed members into South Shields Harriers AC, Jarrow & Hebburn AC and others; but also provide a 'participation' platform, without the need of membership or immediate competition.

Parkrun

Parkrun is a series of weekly five kilometre (k) runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of parks and open space across 850 locations in 12 countries including the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Parkrun events are all ability runs open to all aged 14 years and older, whilst there are shorter 2k Junior Parkrun events available on Sunday mornings for runners aged four to fourteen years old. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to receive a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

Parkrun actively promotes local clubs as part of its weekly events in order to advertise them to runners who may potentially be interested in joining a club, whilst approximately 10% of current Parkrun participants are already associated to running clubs. It is common for local clubs to also support Parkrun events through volunteering.

At present, there is one adult Parkrun event in South Tyneside, located at The Leas, South Shields. There are also Parkrun events in neighbouring local authorities which may service some Borough demand, at Silksworth Sports Complex (Sunderland), Windy Nook (Gateshead) and Saltwell Park (Gateshead).

There are no Junior Parkrun events in South Tyneside, with the nearest two events located in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and Whitley Bay.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

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The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Future demand

England Athletics reports that there is generally a current growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running.

It is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun events and The Great North Run events, as well as demand for RunTogether groups, will increase in the future following national trends.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool²⁷ enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics within South Tyneside but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies demand of 3,074 people, of which the largest amount, 443 (14.4%), within the segment is 'Kev – Pub League Team mates'.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is strong demand for athletics as demonstrated through Jarrow & Hebburn AC and South Shields Harriers. There is a future need to improve the track surface at Monkton Stadium and as such maintaining the quality of the track should be a priority in order to sustain predicted growth at the Club.

Using Gypsies Green appears to be a good base in the winter for South Shields Harriers. However, the recreational tracks are not fit for formal activity. A compact facility may be an option at Gypsies Green, to accommodate growing demand from South Shields Harriers AC.

The level of participation in the Borough suggests that there is a need for only one full size, 400m track; therefore, the facility at Monkton Stadium should be protected and improved. As a priority Monkton Stadium should complete a survey and/or the facility operator should complete UKA's TrackMark accreditation scheme. Either of these will provide the operator with a report and a better understanding of the track's condition.

²⁷ See Appendix 2

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Athletics summary

- ◀ There is one athletics stadium within South Tyneside; Monkton Stadium. The track is synthetic and hosts regional and national events.
- ◀ The quality of the track was previously considered to be good quality; although there were issues highlighted by club consultation with the markings and evenness of the surface.
- ◀ Since 2015, the quality of the track is reported to have declined with age; and there is an acknowledgement that resurfacing will be required in the near future. Improvements are required for the throwing cage on the site.
- ◀ South Shields Harriers uses a smaller track (220m) and a disused cycle track at Gypsies Green. Both tracks are considered poor quality and not fit for purpose as a running track.
- ◀ There are two track and field clubs in South Tyneside, namely Jarrow & Hebburn AC and South Shields Harriers AC. Combined there are over 400 registered EA athletes participating in the Borough; with both clubs also having non-registered juniors.
- ◀ England Athletics reports that there is generally a current growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running. It is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun events and The Great North Run events, as well as demand for RunTogether groups, will increase in the future following national trends.
- ◀ There is a future need to improve the track surface at Monkton Stadium and as such maintaining the quality of the track should be a priority in order to sustain predicted growth at the Club.

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PART 10: RUGBY LEAGUE

10.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the Championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game structure in the UK. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Rugby League is now, predominantly, played throughout the summer season (from February to October), although some senior teams continue to play throughout the winter months (September to April). In the Region, senior play mostly takes place in the North East Rugby League (NEML) and National Conference League (NCL), whilst all junior and primary level rugby takes place as part of the North East Counties (NEC) junior and youth leagues. Rugby League is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is required throughout the winter months.

10.2: Supply

The audit identifies one grass rugby league pitch, located at Monkton Stadium. The pitch is of senior size and is available for community use but it is not floodlit. The site is owned and managed by South Tyneside Council, with Jarrow Vikings ARLFC renting the pitch on a seasonal basis for both match and training demand.

The pitch is considered to be standard quality, particularly due to it being used throughout the summer months when rainfall is generally less than in the winter. Although the pitch is overmarked with a youth 11v11 football pitch; the use of this pitch throughout the winter does not adversely affect quality.

The pitch is accompanied by changing provision at Monkton Stadium; with these facilities considered to be good quality for the amount of use they receive.

10.3: Demand

Demand for rugby league pitches in South Tyneside falls within the categories of organised play and organised training.

There is one rugby league club based in the Borough, Jarrow Vikings ARLFC. The Club has one senior men's team that competes in the North East Rugby League against other clubs in the Region. Matches take place during the summer on Saturday afternoons.

Training demand from the Club takes place on both the match pitch and other sites in the Borough; on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Training demand totals three match equivalent sessions per week, with half of this taking place on the match pitch.

10.4 Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing. In

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extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

As a guide, The RFL has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity):

Pitch quality	Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week
Good	3
Standard	2
Poor	1

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away). For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 MES per week for each match played across half of one senior pitch, based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.

With this in mind the one rugby league pitch in South Tyneside is considered to be at capacity from current levels of demand. As such, although there is availability during the peak period to accommodate additional match demand; it could not be adequately met by potential capacity.

10.5: Conclusions

Rugby league is a minority sport in South Tyneside. As such it is considered that the current amount of supply is sufficient to meet current and future demand. Should Jarrow Vikings ARLFC increase the number of teams representing the Club in the future then there will be a requirement to increase the quality or quantity of provision.

Rugby league summary

- ◀ There is one rugby league pitch in South Tyneside. It is senior size and available for community use, but it is not floodlit. The pitch is standard quality and is marked in the winter months with a youth 11v11 sized football pitch.
- ◀ Jarrow Vikings ARLFC is the only rugby league club based in the Borough. The Club has one, senior men's, team which competes in the North East Rugby League.
- ◀ The pitch, at Monkton Stadium, is considered to be at capacity, with half of the Club's training demand taking place elsewhere in the Borough.
- ◀ It is considered that there is currently sufficient supply to meet the rugby league demand in South Tyneside; however, any future demand could not be met.
- ◀ Alternatively, providing Jarrow Vikings ARLFC with a dedicated training area, preferably at Monkton Stadium, would create additional capacity in the Borough to accommodate any additional demand.

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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: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

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

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

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

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

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National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Football Facility Plans

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

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

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

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

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The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

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

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan (2016-2021)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*
 - *Communities*
 - *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*
 - *New audiences*
 - *Global stage*
 - *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*
 - *Community programmes*
 - *Our environments*

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- *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

Inspire Generations

The ECB’s refreshed strategy called “Inspire Generations” was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women’s and girls’ cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◀ Investing in girls’ county age group cricket.
- ◀ Delivering a girls’ secondary school programme.

There will be a structured pathway for women and girls in both softball and hardball cricket. At the time of writing the pathways and clubs involved in Bradford are still in the planning stages.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

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

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

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

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

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

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

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

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

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme

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

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

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

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

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

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

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and

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we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

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

The core objectives are as follows:

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

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Club participation

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

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

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

England Hockey Strategy

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

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

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

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

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

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

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

British Tennis Strategy 2019

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

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

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

The LTA's new 5 year strategy "Tennis Opened up" will take effect from January 2019. Following extensive research and collaboration with a wide range of partners, and stakeholders the insight informing the strategy points to many challenges for tennis.

There is a perception that tennis is costly, difficult to access, and difficult to play, with too many people thinking that tennis starts and finishes with Wimbledon. As with many traditional sports that are struggling to compete with people's time and attention, there is a concern that tennis is losing its relevance.

In order to address these challenges, the stated mission of the strategy is to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. There are 3 key objectives:

1. Increasing the number of fans engaging with tennis.
2. Grow participation by increasing the number of adults and juniors playing tennis.

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3. Enabling new players to break into the world top 100.

Key elements connected to growing participation include:

- ◀ Widening the appeal of tennis through inclusion of flexible formats of the game
- ◀ Improving the customer journey by making it easier to find a court, book it, and find somebody to play with
- ◀ Develop more relevant and enjoyable competitions at grass roots level for all abilities and ages
- ◀ Support community facilities & schools to provide more opportunities to play
- ◀ Help clubs grow & retain members
- ◀ Create more opportunities for children to play at school
- ◀ Facilitate partnerships to further increase rate of participation in parks
- ◀ Support venues to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience
- ◀ Increase awareness of affordability

LTA Insight

The LTA has conducted some wide-ranging research to understand what the wider public feel about tennis and primarily the main barriers they see to access the sport. The research has been split into the club, community and education sectors. The relevant headlines from the parks and community sections area highlighted below:

- ◀ Around 5m pick up a racket once a year and play – majority of this in parks.
- ◀ In London 46% of tennis played by those aged 14+ is on parks (21% Clubs and 10% Schools).
- ◀ For those that don't play tennis but would like to 80% would see a park court as their first option.
- ◀ For people who want to play tennis in parks, they are most dissatisfied with state and condition of courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.
- ◀ Demand for tennis is amongst those who stopped playing in the last 5 years – but the age profile is wide ranging – from 14+ upwards demand for parks tennis is strong.
- ◀ Although there is demand amongst C2DE demographic classification the highest latent demand is for ABC 1 demographic classification.

The Sport England Active People Survey confirms the seasonal participation peaks in the summer. This is particularly pronounced amongst non-club and occasional players. It is key to note that the correlation between the lack of 'community' tennis in the non-summer months is likely to be heavily influenced by the lack of floodlighting, which is often a characteristic of local authority owned courts.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase the conversion of latent demand.

Technology development is evolving, and it is now possible for an access gate to be connected to the internet via 3G / Wi-Fi. The key pad can be used to open the gate with a code, automatically generated by the LTA online booking system 'Clubspark'. Courts can be booked via mobile phone tablets and laptop / desktop. The booking system manages payments for the courts alongside a number of other customer relationship features.

It is hoped that increasing the awareness, the ease of bookings and the security of facilities from petty crime and vandalism will increase the conversion of latent demand to actual demand across the country. The LTA are therefore keen to work with local authorities,

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especially those in areas of high population, to deliver fit-for-purpose projects at sites with community access.

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Although the Plan is currently being updated, this version remains the most up to date available. Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

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

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

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

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

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

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- ◀ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

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

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

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

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

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

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

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

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