CABINET

DATE	11th November 2026
REPORT OF	Councillor Bob Callison, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Tourism and Culture
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Mark Barrow (Interim) Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2026
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 11/26/03

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

North East Lincolnshire Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2026 (PPOSS) contributes to the ambition for a Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities by supporting residents to have access to quality sports facilities. Access to outdoor sport facilities supports the health and wellbeing of our residents through increasing opportunities for physical activity, particularly among children and young people. Through site assessments, community and stakeholder engagement, and future demand modelling the strategy provides a robust evidence base of existing playing pitch provision and future requirements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the work undertaken to develop a new PPOSS which is compliant with Sport England guidance and provides a robust evidence base of the supply, quality, and demand for outdoor sports facilities across the borough. The PPOSS sets out recommendations to protect, provide and enhance provision to meet future demand. The strategy provides a framework to ensure that future facilities are fit for purpose, support participation growth, and maximise the impact of available resources, enabling the Council and its partners to meet the needs of residents and contribute to wider strategic priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Agrees and adopts the North East Lincolnshire Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2026 as set out in Appendix 1.

2. Delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Tourism and Culture to promote and implement and administer the strategy.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Adoption of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) will provide North East Lincolnshire with a robust, up-to-date and nationally recognised evidence base for outdoor sports provision across the borough. The current Playing Pitch Strategy is based on evidence gathered in 2020 and is now considered out of date. The PPOSS has been developed using current supply and demand data and will ensure that future planning policy, investment decisions, facility management and the provision of playing pitches are informed by a strategic framework that reflects current and future needs.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Strategic context and role of the strategy

1.1 The Council commissioned Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to prepare a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) and associated Action Plan covering the period to 2032, aligning with the timeframe of the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan.

1.2 The PPOSS builds upon a comprehensive assessment of existing provision and future demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across the borough. Developed in accordance with Sport England guidance, it provides a robust evidence base to inform future planning, investment and decision-making relating to outdoor sports infrastructure.

1.3 The Strategy considers provision across all sectors, irrespective of ownership or management arrangements, and includes football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, tennis, athletics, golf and artificial grass pitches (3G) within its scope.

1.4 Developing and maintaining an up-to-date PPOSS supports the Council in meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and provides the evidence necessary to guide planning decisions, investment priorities and the protection of playing fields. The PPOSS establishes:

- A long-term vision for outdoor sports provision across North East Lincolnshire
- Strategic recommendations for the protection, enhancement and development of facilities
- Sport specific priorities based upon identified needs and future demand
- A prioritised Action Plan identifying site-specific projects and investment opportunities

1.5 The PPOSS (see Appendix 1) sets out the following vision for playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in North East Lincolnshire: *"To develop a sustainable approach that is evidence based to local playing pitch and outdoor sports provision supported by appropriate facilities through the development of sites and the protection, provision and enhancement of key community assets.".* The vision is supported by a series of strategic recommendations and a prioritised action plan which together provide the framework for future investment, planning and partnership working across the borough.

1.6 The development of the PPOSS has followed the stages set out within Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy methodology:

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

1.7 These stages have included extensive engagement with local sports clubs and organisations, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), facility operators, education providers, playing pitch owners and a range of Council services. This stakeholder engagement was undertaken to establish current and future demand, identify key issues affecting provision and explore opportunities for future investment and development.

1.8 The Strategy provides a key evidence base for the Council and its partners and will support planning policy, infrastructure planning, investment prioritisation, funding applications and the future delivery of sports development objectives.

Headline findings

1.9 The assessment identifies a range of opportunities and challenges relating to the quality, accessibility, capacity and long-term sustainability of existing playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities. Key themes include the need to protect existing provision, improve the quality of facilities, respond to changing participation patterns and ensure that sufficient provision is available to meet future demand.

- **Protection of existing provision:** The assessment identifies that, across most outdoor sports, current provision is either meeting existing demand or there is an identified shortfall in capacity, quality and/or accessibility. For the majority of sports played on natural turf pitches, existing provision is operating at, or close to, available capacity and therefore requires protection. Where demand is currently being met, this should not be interpreted as indicating a surplus of provision, as existing spare capacity provides resilience within the network, helps accommodate future growth and assists in addressing deficiencies elsewhere. The protection of existing playing pitches and associated facilities therefore remains a key strategic priority. Where redevelopment or alternative use of playing pitch land is proposed, replacement provision of equivalent or improved quantity and quality should be secured in accordance with national planning policy and Sport England guidance.

- **Improving quality and capacity:** The assessment concludes that many of the identified grass pitch shortfalls can be addressed through targeted improvements to existing provision rather than through significant new facility development. Potential solutions include improving pitch quality and drainage, enhancing ancillary facilities such

as changing accommodation, providing additional sports lighting, increasing the use of artificial grass pitches where appropriate and securing greater community access to existing facilities, including education sites where availability is currently limited.

- **Future demand and participation trends:** Future demand will require ongoing monitoring throughout the life of the Strategy. Participation trends, particularly within football, indicate that future growth may exceed projections based solely on population increases. The Council and its partners will therefore need to keep provision under review and, where necessary, identify opportunities to maximise the use of existing facilities and bring underutilised facilities back into use.

- **Artificial grass pitch (3G) provision:** The assessment identifies a specific and quantified shortfall in artificial grass pitch (3G) provision to meet football training demand across North East Lincolnshire. Unlike many of the issues affecting natural turf provision, this shortfall cannot be addressed solely through improvements to existing facilities and will require the development of additional 3G pitch capacity. Increased provision of 3G facilities would support identified training demand, provide additional capacity for match play where appropriate and help alleviate pressure on natural turf pitches, improving the overall quality, sustainability and carrying capacity of the borough's playing pitch network.

Strategic recommendations

1.10 The PPOSS identifies a number of strategic recommendations developed through stakeholder consultation, site assessment work and analysis of current and future supply and demand. These recommendations provide the overarching framework for the protection, improvement and future development of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across North East Lincolnshire.

1.11 The key strategic recommendations are to:

- Protect outdoor sports facilities through the application of planning policy
- Secure long-term access to and tenure of sites through partnership arrangements where appropriate
- Maximise community use of education facilities
- Maintain and improve the quality of existing facilities
- Adopt a hierarchy-based approach to investment and facility improvements
- Work with partners to secure external funding opportunities
- Secure developer contributions towards sports infrastructure
- Address identified shortfalls through better use and enhancement of existing facilities
- Identify opportunities for additional provision where required to meet current and future demand

1.12 Collectively, these recommendations seek to protect existing assets, improve the quality and capacity of provision and ensure that facilities are available to support current and future participation across the borough.

Action plan, delivery and partnership working

1.13 The PPOSS is supported by a detailed Action Plan (See Appendix 1, Part 6) which translates the strategic recommendations into site-specific projects and interventions.

1.14 The Action Plan identifies opportunities to protect, enhance or provide facilities based on current levels of use, facility quality, accessibility, capacity and future demand. It provides a framework for future investment decisions and will support funding applications, partnership working and the delivery of sports development objectives.

1.15 Sites have been categorised according to their strategic importance and contribution to meeting identified need, enabling investment and resources to be prioritised where they will have the greatest impact. The Action Plan also identifies delivery partners, indicative priorities, costs and timescales to support implementation.

1.16 The Action Plan will be monitored and reviewed periodically throughout the life of the Strategy to ensure that it remains responsive to changing participation trends, investment opportunities and emerging needs.

1.17 The successful delivery of the PPOSS will require a coordinated approach involving the Council, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport, education providers, sports clubs, facility operators, developers and other key stakeholders. The accompanying Action Plan identifies the priorities, projects and partnerships required to address identified needs and secure investment in playing pitch and outdoor sports provision across the borough.

Adoption of the strategy

1.18 The PPOSS has been prepared in consultation with Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport and local stakeholders and represents the most up-to-date assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sports facility needs across North East Lincolnshire.

1.19 Adoption of the PPOSS will provide North East Lincolnshire with an up-to-date strategic framework for outdoor sports provision and ensure that future planning, investment and facility management decisions are informed by a robust and nationally recognised evidence base. It will enable the Council and its partners to protect, enhance and develop sports facilities in a coordinated manner and support the delivery of wider health, wellbeing and community objectives across the borough.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

2.1. Adoption of the PPOSS will provide the Council with a robust and up-to-date evidence base to inform planning policy, infrastructure planning, investment decisions and funding applications relating to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across North East Lincolnshire

2.2. If the PPOSS is not adopted it would limit the Council's ability to effectively plan for future demand, protect existing provision, respond to identified facility shortfalls and secure external funding and developer contributions towards sports infrastructure.

2.3. The PPOSS presents opportunities to protect and enhance existing sports facilities, improve accessibility and participation opportunities, maximise community use of existing assets and support wider health and wellbeing outcomes across the borough.

2.4. While the PPOSS provides the strategic framework for future investment, delivery of actions identified within the accompanying Action Plan will be dependent upon the availability of funding, external investment and partnership working. Any future financial commitments will be subject to separate approval processes.

2.5. If the council were not to adopt the strategy, then there could be a reputational risk as the authority could come under scrutiny from several key partners and stakeholders, particularly when the council needs to make investment or disposal decisions without a robust evidence, potential to miss funding opportunities due to lack of evidence, failure to protect playing field land and not demonstrating strategic planning for sport and physical activity.

2.6. The PPOSS seeks to support access to sporting and physical activity opportunities for all sections of the community and no adverse equality impacts have been identified from adoption of the Strategy.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There is the option to not adopt the PPOSS. However, this would leave North East Lincolnshire Council reliant on the previous 2020 Playing Pitch Strategy, which is now out of date. Without an updated strategy that is recognised by Sport England, the Council’s evidence base for planning decisions that impact playing fields would be heavily weakened and opportunities to secure external investment and partnership funding would be reduced.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. There are potential reputational benefits for the council by adopting the new PPOSS. Adoption will show the Council’s commitment to strategically planning for protecting and improving playing pitch provision across North East Lincolnshire. This proactive approach to supporting physical activity, health and wellbeing ensure residents have access to outdoor sports facilities both now and in the future. A robust up to date strategy strengthens the council’s reliability with partners and national governing bodies through

providing an evidence base supporting future investment and partnership opportunities.

4.2. There is a potential risk that stakeholders may perceive the adoption of the PPOSS as a commitment to immediate investment or delivery of identified improvements. This risk will be mitigated through clear and consistent communications that the Strategy provides the Council with an evidence-based framework to inform future planning, investment prioritisation and external funding opportunities in support of sport and physical activity across North East Lincolnshire.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1. The development of the PPOSS has been funded through investment secured from Sport England. It was a commitment of the funding that a new PPOSS would be developed, and the funding has enabled the development of the strategy at no direct cost to the council.

5.2. The PPOSS improves the Council's ability to secure external investment by providing the strategic evidence required to support funding applications. The strategy will now support bids to Sport England, the Football Foundation, NGBs for sport and other external funding sources helping to reduce reliance on council resources and maximise inward investment.

5.3. The PPOSS will assist the council and its partners in prioritising investment and targeting resources where there is most need. This will ensure a co-ordinated and efficient approach to the provision, maintenance and any development of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities. The strategy does inform the allocation of Section 106 contributions and future capital investment decisions, supporting value for money and reducing the risk of uncoordinated expenditure of council resources.

5.4. There is no direct financial commitment arising from adopting the PPOSS. Responsibility of delivering the strategy's recommendations and action plan will be of the Council and partners (i.e. NGB's, Education, Sports Clubs, Facility Operators etc.). Delivery will be subject to separate funding decisions and business case development on a case-by-case basis as opportunities arise. Future funding of projects may be sourced from:

- Council resources
- Developer Contributions
- Grant funding applications
- Other external funding opportunities as they become available

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The PPOSS sets out several recommendations for each sport, supported by a site-by-site action plan. An overarching recommendation of the strategy is to strengthen the relationships within the education sector by formalising Community Use Agreements (CUA) for existing and future Sports facilities and exploring partnership investment opportunities to improved facilities available for both schools and the wider community. The protection and

enhancement of facilities for children and young people is fundamental to create opportunities for them to play outdoors, be physically active and adopt healthy lifestyles from a young age, helping them have the best start in life. Improving access to quality facilities will support participation, personal development, social interaction and positive wellbeing outcomes, creating a sustainable pathway for lifelong sports and physical activity participation.

6.2. Adoption of the PPOSS strengthens the protection of playing fields, support long term planning for local sport and strengthen opportunities for securing external investment. This will help to ensure high-quality, accessible facilities are available for children, young people, and wider communities. Sustaining, improving and providing sports facilities will create more opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity and encourage lifelong involvement in healthy and active lifestyles.

6.3. The PPOSS has no direct adverse implications for children looked after or care leavers. The strategy supports the protection, enhancement, and development of accessible outdoor sports and physical activity facilities across North East Lincolnshire which can contribute positively to the health, wellbeing, social inclusion and personal development of all children and young people, including those that the council has corporate parenting responsibilities for.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Through prioritising investment in existing facilities an open space, the strategy supports the efficient use of resources and recognises the social health benefits of high-quality environment. The adoption of the PPOSS has no direct adverse environment impacts; however, individual projects arising from the strategy will need to consider and mitigate any climate change, nature recover and environmental implications as part of their development and delivery.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT PRINCIPLES

8.1. The PPOSS supports the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities and aligns closely with Marmot Principles, particularly giver every child the best start in life (principle 1), ensuring healthy standard of living for all (principle 4), creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities (principle 5) and preventing ill health through strengthening g prevention (principle 8). The strategy identifies a range of sports specific recommendations that if implemented, will better reflect the needs of local clubs and communities across North East Lincolnshire.

8.2. By prioritising investment in sites and facilities where need is greatest, the PPOSS will improve access to better quality playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, helping to create healthier, more sustainable, communities and reducing inequalities in opportunities to be physically active. Enhance provision will support children and young people to establish lifelong behaviours, contribute to residents physical, mental, and social wellbeing and help remove barriers to participation. Through increasing opportunities for

sport and physical activity and supporting early intervention and preventative approaches, the PPOSS will play an important role in preventing ill health and enabling residents to lead healthier, more active lives.

9. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

Consultation took place with Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny on 8th October 2026.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1. Adoption of the PPOSS has no direct financial implications or funding commitment for the Council. The strategy has been developed using external Sport England funding and provides an evidence base to support future investment decisions, external funding bids and the prioritisation of sports infrastructure projects.

10.2. Any future capital or revenue commitments arising from the strategy will be subject to separate business cases, identification of funding and approval through the Council's normal decision-making processes.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy will provide an up-to-date evidence base to inform the Council's planning, asset management and investment decisions, consistent with national planning policy and Sport England guidance. The Strategy does not itself grant planning permission, authorise expenditure or commit the Council to deliver any individual project. Proposals arising from the Strategy will be subject to the applicable statutory, procurement, property, equality and environmental requirements, together with separate financial and constitutional approval where required.

12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

13. WARD IMPLICATIONS

The strategy covers all wards across North East Lincolnshire.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

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KNIGHT, KAVANAGH & PAGE

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL: PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN REPORT AUGUST 2026

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDRL	Learning Disability Rugby League
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
MES	Match equivalent sessions
MUGA	Multi use games area
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NELC	North East Lincolnshire Council
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NLS	National League System
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PDRL	Physical Disability Rugby League
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFC	Rugby Football Club
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RFL	Rugby Football League
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
U	Under
WNLS	Women’s National League System
WR	World Rugby

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been appointed by North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) to deliver a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) covering playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the Authority to assist it to strategically plan for the future.

Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, this Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2032 (in line with the Local Plan). It has been developed to provide:

- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- A series of strategic recommendations which provide a framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

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

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

A PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:

- Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
- Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, highlighting particular local demand issues.
- Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
- Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.
- Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
- Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
- Supporting funding applications.
- Providing realistic aspirations that can be considered within the local authority's and partners budgetary position and procurement regime.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects relating to sports provision which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement all aspects, potential partners and possible sources of external funding will need to be explored throughout the strategy period.

Partner organisations in North East Lincolnshire have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), sports organisations and education establishments. In some instances, the Council will not be the organisation which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not solely just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:

- Football.
- Rugby union.
- Rugby league.
- Hockey.
- Cricket.
- Tennis.
- Athletics.
- Golf.

In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league).

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

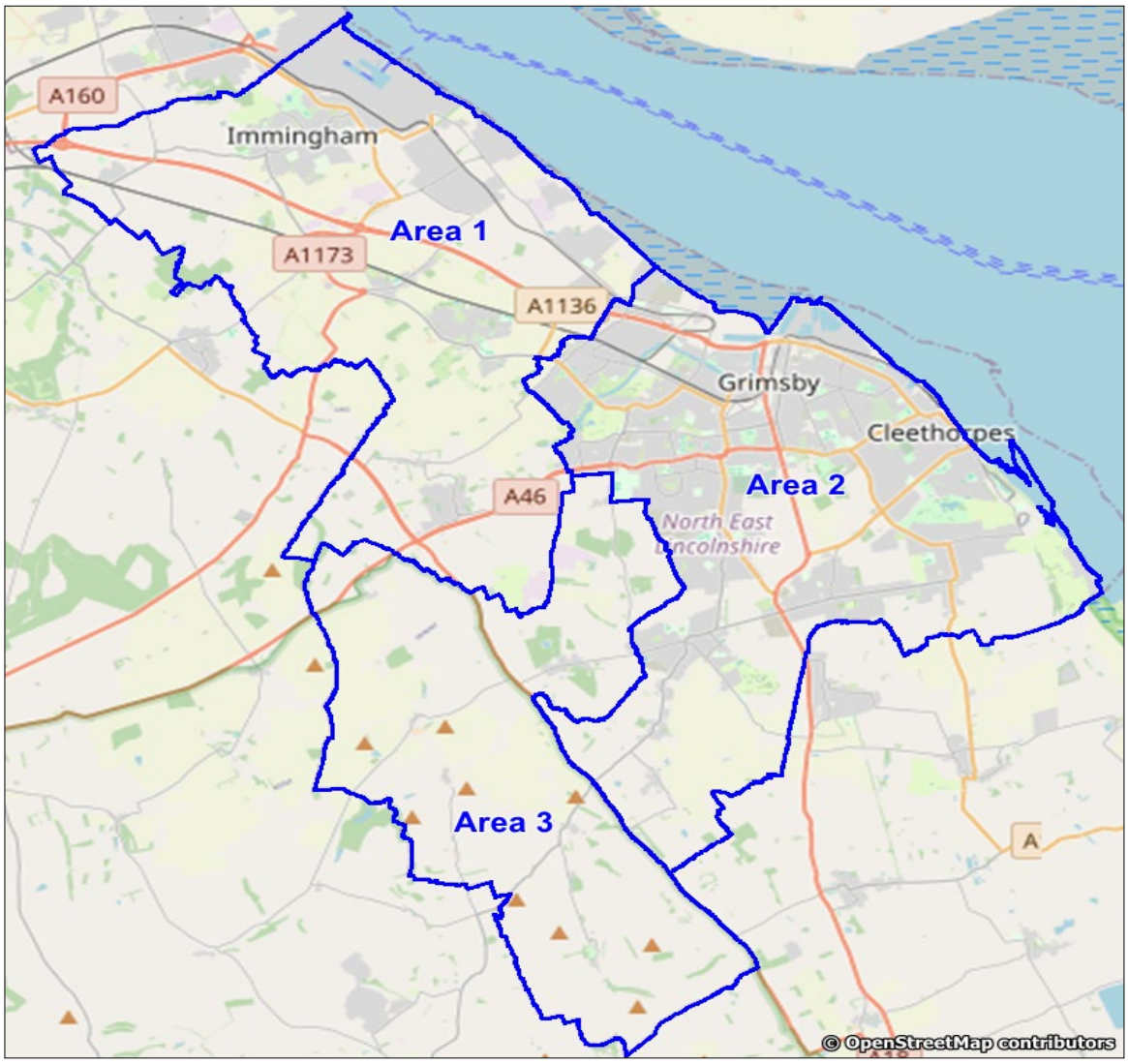
Study area

The study area comprises the NELC administrative area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for the Authority as a whole. These are separated into the following areas:

- **Area 1:** Immingham, Healing, Laceby, Keelby (Cross Boundary).
- **Area 2:** Grimsby Cleethorpes, Humberston, Waltham, New Waltham, Holton Clay (Cross Boundary) and Tetney (Cross Boundary).
- **Area 3:** Wolds.

The analysis areas are shown in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Map of North East Lincolnshire with analysis areas



Cross-boundary aspects are also recognised with regard to neighbouring local authorities to understand levels of imported and exported demand into and from North East Lincolnshire as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines. This therefore includes consideration of authorities such as West Lindsey, East Lindsey, North Lincolnshire, Kingston upon Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire.

Context

The below information has been provided for by NELC as part of the initial commission of the PPOSS.

The Authority adopted the Playing Pitch Strategy in 2020. The nature of the supply and in particular demand for playing pitches is likely to have changed since the Playing Pitch Strategy was written. Therefore, a new Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy is required to ensure that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

A new PPOSS will be able to be used to inform the determination of planning applications concerning playing fields and outdoor sports facilities.

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The 'Local Plan' is currently being reviewed, which will be for the period 2025 to 2043, developing a new PPOSS will help support the implementation of policies within the Local Plan. It is the basis of demonstrating that the long-term growth expectations (as set out within Local Plan) have been considered and factored into short term decisions. With regards to sport, the occupiers of new development, especially residential, will generate demand for sporting provision. The existing provision within an area may not be able to accommodate this increased demand without exacerbating existing and/or predicted future deficiencies. Therefore, new developments should contribute towards meeting the demand that they generate through the provision of on-site sports facilities and/or providing additional capacity off-site. The PPOSS should assist in determining the level and nature of any outdoor sports provision.

The PPOSS will also provide information to underpin Local Plan policies in the protection, enhancement and improvement of the existing playing fields, and improvements in community access to educational and non-local authority sites.

The new PPOSS will be developed to support objectives identified in North East Lincolnshire Councils' Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2023) 'Uniting movement across North East Lincolnshire'. There are four key overarching objectives:

- Active Economy - Develop a sport and leisure sector that attracts people to our area
- Active Communities – Support Local delivery of Physical Activity facilities and services in communities which will provide most benefit.
- Active Health and Wellbeing – Support Physical Activity opportunities throughout people's lives, so everyone in North East Lincolnshire enjoys more healthy lives
- Active Climate and Environment – Develop a more active environment which supports people to enjoy being active across our open spaces

A new PPOSS will provide the Authority with up-to-date information needed when making decisions as to where it is best to direct investment locally, to provide greatest benefit to local communities' health and well-being.

The Authority has achieved some of the action plan set in the previous PPS however much of the work and recommendations which are incomplete are still relevant. The new PPOSS will achieve; highlight successes since the 2020 strategy, review the quantity and quality of pitches in the authority, identify current, latent and future demand from all users, and a new action plan which will build on key actions/recommendations made in the 2020 strategy.

More broadly, the PPOSS will ensure that North East Lincolnshire conforms to requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of this is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 16 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, states its objective is to "promote the creation of healthy and inclusive places and support the provision of appropriate public services, by enabling development which can support this aim and seeking to retain, improve and deliver new facilities which are important for community wellbeing and minimising inequalities''.

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
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Policy HC7 (Development affecting existing recreational land and facilities) states development proposals should not result in the loss of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, other formal and informal play space and allotments, unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a location which offers comparable or improved accessibility for the community it serves; or
- The development is for public service infrastructure, and the resulting loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and/or quality; or
- The development is for alternative open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the PPOSS:

> *'To develop a sustainable approach that is evidence based to local playing pitch and outdoor sports provision, supported by appropriate facilities, through the development of sites and the protection, provision and enhancement of key community assets.'*

To achieve this vision, the PPOSS will deliver the following objectives:

- Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport.
- Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England planning objectives. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPOSS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

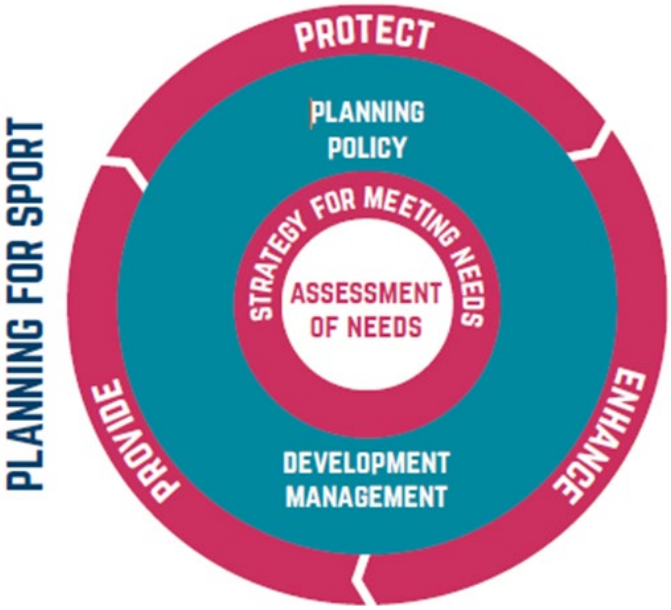
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 2.1: Sport England planning objectives



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (April 2024)

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PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

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

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

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

The Sport England PPS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed.

For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan (contained in a separate document).

For artificial surfaces (AGPs/3G pitches), how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e., athletics and tennis etc) where it is not as easy to determine carrying capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

Future demand in the Assessment report has been determined by using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator which looks at population change over a predetermined period. For North East Lincolnshire this has been set to forecasted population rates in 2032 in line with the Local Plan. It should be noted that it is expected that the growth of football teams will exceed what is projected through population growth. Evidence of this can be found in Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios.

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES)[1]
Football	Adult	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Football	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Football	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
Football	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3.5

[1] It should be noted that this future demand figure is at an authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES)[1]
Football	3G 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5 pitches	Shortfall of 3.5 pitches
-	-	-	-
Cricket	Saturday	Shortfall of 51	Shortfall of 63
Cricket	Sunday	Shortfall of 43	Shortfall of 51
Cricket	Midweek	Shortfall of 51	Shortfall of 63
-	-	-	-
Rugby union	Senior (Midweek)	Shortfall of 9.5	Shortfall of 9.5
Rugby union	Senior (Weekend)	Spare capacity of 4.1	Spare capacity of 4.1
Rugby union	Senior (Overall)	Shortfall of 5.4	Shortfall of 5.4
-	-	-	-
Rugby league	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
-	-	-	-
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Table 3.2: Headline findings (remaining sports)

Sport	Headline findings
Golf	There is a sufficient quantity of golfing facilities in North East Lincolnshire that offer a good variety of provision to ensure that all golfers can be catered for. However, demand is also very high, given that average per club membership equates to 515, which means that existing provision should be protected.
Tennis (Padel)	In conclusion, where known through consultation, both Grimsby Tennis Centre and St James Tennis Club have sufficient capacity to facilitate club demand both now and in the future. For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues there is a need to address quality at specific sites. In North East Lincolnshire, this identifies a demand for up to 13 Padel courts.
Athletics	As King George V Stadium is used by two prominent athletics clubs there is a need to protect athletics provision and ensure that the quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received. With this being said there is a need to explore options to address the quality issues with the ancillary provision in addition to resurfacing the track before the end of 2028.

Former disused school provision

Sport England notes that planning permission ref: DM/1032/21/FUL – Hybrid planning application consisting of full planning permission for the site access and roads within the site, and outline planning permission for up to 58 residential units and an extra care facility and associated infrastructure and landscaping at Former Matthew Humberston Playing Field, Davenport Drive, Cleethorpes has expired. This permission approved residential development on the area of playing field comprising of 2.79 hectares (application form) to be accessed off Davenport Drive. An area of playing field for Bursar Primary Academy was shown on the submitted plans with its use to remain as playing field.

The site granted permission under ref: DM/1032/21/FUL is included in a list of playing pitch re-provision sites as site HOU141A (site area of 2.81 hectares) whereby the sites should be replaced if the playing pitch strategy identifies a shortfall in the geographical location of the allocated housing sites.

The Council has submitted to Sport England a paper on the Playing Field Reprovision for the former Matthew Humberston Playing Fields (part). This includes information from the 2020 PPS and the 2020 Cabinet Meeting. The preferred option from the Feasibility Study was to progress detailed development plans and seek approval for the site at Clee Fields. Revenue for part of this development work was agreed to be sought from the disposal of three sites:

- Site ID 115 – Former Western School (DN34 5TA)[2].
- Site ID 116 – Former Lindsey Lower School (DN35 8AF).
- Site ID 117 – Former Matthew Humberston School (DN35 9HU).

Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator was used to calculate the required amounts to compensate for the loss of each of the sites.

Condition 7 attached to permission ref: DM/1032/21/FUL was a pre-commencement condition which required that:

"Prior to development commencing on any dwelling, a plan for the relocation of existing sports provision must be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority (after consultation with Sport England). Thereafter the plan should be implemented in accordance with the approved details and the replacement sports facilities made available for use prior to occupation of the 48th dwelling of the development hereby permitted.

Reason – To ensure appropriate playing pitch re-provision in a timely manner in accordance with Policies 5 and 43 of the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2013-2032 (adopted 2018)."

The Council's Paper confirms that the re-provision at Clee Fields has planning approval and that this has been implemented on site:

- DM/0014/22/FUL – Erection of new detached changing room facility, 2 no new enclosed 3G pitches with fencing and lighting, improvements/extension to existing main car park – approved 6.6.22.
- DM/0688/22/FUL – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of DM/0014/22/FUL – approved 6.9.22.
- DM/0635/23/FUL – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of DM/0688/22/FUL – approved 30.8.24.

Whilst there is no Section 106 Agreement which legally ties the redevelopment of the Matthew Humberston Playing Fields (part) to the re-provision at Clee Fields and planning permission ref: DM/1032/21/FUL with condition 7 attached has now lapsed, Sport England agreed that the redevelopment at Clee Fields which included: new detached changing room building; 2 x 3G pitches; storage container; improvements to car parking and drainage improvements was partly funded by the loss of the lapsed playing field comprising of 2.81 hectares of land at the former Matthew Humberston School Site. Therefore, Sport England agreed that the loss of this playing field site has already been mitigated.

Conclusions

The existing position for all outdoor sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. For most sports played on natural turf grass pitches there are identified shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing playing pitch provision so that all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

[2] Site has already been developed for housing

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision. Instead, any spare capacity should be considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls.

All current identified grass pitch shortfalls can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, increasing match play on 3G pitches, and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. However, future demand needs to be monitored as the need for new provision or need to bring disused provision back into use may be greater given the growth of football is expected to exceed what is projected through population growth.

Notwithstanding the above, in regard to artificial pitches, there is a clear quantified shortfall of 3G pitches for football training that can only be rectified through the installation of new facilities. The development of 3G pitches could also help to alleviate identified grass pitch shortfalls via the transfer of play.

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

4.1: Football – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- **Having considered the supply and demand position for each football pitch type, it is evident that there is a sufficient supply of grass football pitches for certain pitch types and insufficient provision for others, across North East Lincolnshire.**
- **There are only shortfalls on one pitch type within North East Lincolnshire. Currently adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches have actual spare capacity whilst shortfalls are present for youth 11v11 pitches.**

Supply summary

- In total, there are 171 pitches across 66 unique sites in North East Lincolnshire, of which 143 across 45 sites are available for community use. All pitches that are not available for community use are either located at an education site, or the professional sport club Grimsby Town FC.
- Of the community available pitches, Area 2 provides the most provision with 117 pitches provided (82%), the remaining pitches are provided in Area 1 with 25 pitches (18%).
- There are three sites in North East Lincolnshire that have been identified as previously providing football pitches that have become disused over time. In addition, there are several sites that are still in use recreationally that previously provided formal football pitches but no longer do so.
- The Council indicates it is in the process of disposing of three former school sites all of which have been disused for several years and are in Area 2 which have all been comprehensively mitigated for at Clee Fields in 2024.
- Of the 143 community accessible pitches in North East Lincolnshire, 51 are managed by education providers (37%). A further 40 pitches are managed by the Council or parish/town councils (28%), while 25 pitches are managed by the leisure operator, Lincs Inspire, on behalf of the Council (17%).
- In total there are 24 good, 74 standard and 45 poor quality community available pitches.
- Ancillary facility quality at several sites is poor with many locations having communal provision not suitable for different user groups (including women and girls, as well as junior and senior players).

Demand summary

- In total, there are 385 teams across 65 clubs which currently play within North East Lincolnshire. This is made up of 125 men's, 10 women's, 80 youth 11v11 boys', 14 youth 11v11 girls', 52 youth 9v9 boys', 11 youth 9v9 girls', 59 mini 7v7 and 34 mini 5v5 teams.
- Most demand in North East Lincolnshire takes place on grass pitches, with 101 (26%) teams playing on a 3G surface. However, it's important to note, that 92 teams (91%) of the demand taking place on 3G surfaces is from affiliated disability, walking, and futsal teams, participating in leagues within North East Lincolnshire.
- Two clubs play within the NLS, this is in addition to professional club, Grimsby Town FC, which plays within the EFL League Two.
- There are currently 10 women's teams and 25 dedicated girls' teams playing football in North East Lincolnshire representing 9% of all demand in the Authority.
- Of responding clubs, 15 report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide within the next three seasons, totalling a predicted growth of 56 teams

Scenarios

Future demand

This scenario evaluates the impact of future demand based on club ambitions, as identified through consultations with clubs across the Authority. The Assessment Report accounts only for demand linked to population projections, which suggests no football growth due to declining ONS population figures, this is considered unrealistic given previous trends. By incorporating club-led aspirations for growth, this analysis provides a more accurate reflection of future capacity requirements.

Table 4.1: Summary of club aspirational growth by analysis area

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Totals
Area 1	0.5	2	1	1	2.5	**7**
Area 2	4.5	3	4	3	6.5	**21**
North East Lincolnshire	**5**	**5**	**5**	**4**	**9**	**28**

Of responding clubs, 15 report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide within the next three seasons, totalling a predicted growth of 56 teams. The below shows the potential impact on the supply/demand balance by analysis area.

Table 4.2: Impact of future demand from clubs

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
ONS	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	5.5	4	1.5	-	**1.5**
Youth 11v11	0	4.5	4.5	-	**4.5**
Youth 9v9	2.5	2	0.5	-	**0.5**
Mini 7v7	3	0	3	-	**3**
Mini 5v5	3.5	0	3.5	-	**3.5**
Club aspirations	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	5.5	4	1.5	5	**3.5**
Youth 11v11	0	4.5	4.5	5	**9.5**
Youth 9v9	2.5	2	0.5	5	**4.5**
Mini 7v7	3	0	3	4	**1**
Mini 5v5	3.5	0	3.5	9	**5.5**

If achieved, future demand from clubs will exacerbate shortfalls on youth 11v11 in addition to creating shortfalls on all remaining pitch types.

Although this provides are more reflective future supply and demand analysis for grass pitch shortfalls in North East Lincolnshire, it should be noted that it is anticipated that some of this demand will be accommodated on 3G pitches as opposed to grass pitches as shown above. This being said the below scenarios identify options on how current and future shortfalls (based on club aspirations) can be addressed.

Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality

In total there are eight pitches overplayed in North East Lincolnshire across six sites, equating to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of these pitches (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and consequently reduce both current and future shortfalls.

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To illustrate the above, Table 4.3 highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved by one increment at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating as detailed in the table below:

Adult pitch quality	Adult matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Youth matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Mini matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

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Table 4.3: Overplay if all pitches were improved by one increment (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Improved quality (by one increment)	Capacity rating (MES)
52	King George V Playing Field (Cleethorpes)	Area 2	Poor	Youth 11v11	2	4	Standard	2
61	Mount Pleasant Playing Field	Area 2	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
61	Mount Pleasant Playing Field	Area 2	Poor	Youth 9v9	1	1	Standard	
76	Roval Drive Playing Field	Area 1	Poor	Youth 11v11	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
79	Sidney Park	Area 2	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
86	Stallingborough Playing Fields	Area 1	Poor	Youth 9v9	1	1	Standard	
92	The Linden Club	Area 2	Standard	Adult	1	3	Good	2

The impact of improving overplayed pitches by one increment is shown in the table above. In the main, overplay would be alleviated across four sites providing five pitches, leaving three pitches across two sites overplayed (King George V Playing Field and The Linden Club). Although the quality improvements increase the capacity, no additional peak time spare capacity is created for additional play.

Table 4.4: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand in match equivalent sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand[3]	Total
Adult	5.5	4	1.5	5	**3.5**
Youth 11v11	0	4.5	4.5	5	**9.5**
Youth 9v9	2.5	2	0.5	5	**4.5**
Mini 7v7	3.5	0	3	4	**1**
Mini 5v5	3.5	0	3.5	9	**5.5**
If improvements are made	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	5.5	2	3.5	5	**1.5**
Youth 11v11	0	2	2	5	**3**
Youth 9v9	2.5	-	2.5	5	**2.5**
Mini 7v7	3.5	-	3	4	**1**
Mini 5v5	3.5	-	3.5	9	**5.5**

As seen in the table above, if quality was improved by one increment, overplay would be reduced for youth 11v11 formats with spare capacity increased for all remaining pitch types. Shortfalls would still remain when factoring in future demand however these would be less, particularly on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types.

If all overplayed sites were to be improved to good quality the only shortfalls in North East Lincolnshire would be located at The Linden Club (one match equivalent session). This would also reduce the potential future shortfalls across all pitch types.

Creating capacity for future demand

As improving quality of overplayed sites will generally alleviate current shortfalls, there is a need to understand options regarding creating capacity to accommodate future demand (based on club aspirations).

There are eight sites across North East Lincolnshire which have actual spare capacity discounted due to their quality. If these sites are improved to a minimum standard quality this will allow for their capacity to be utilised. A list of these sites and pitch types currently accommodated is identified below:

- Barretts Recreation Grounds (Area 2) – Youth 11v11 / Mini 5v5.
- Carr Lane Social Club (Area 2) – Adult / Mini 5v5.
- Chapel Lane Playing Fields (Area 1) – Youth 11v11 / Youth 9v9.
- Clee Fields (Area 2) – Youth 11v11.
- Jubilee Park (Area 2) – Mini 7v7.
- Sidney Park (Area 2) – Mini 5v5.
- Sussex Recreation Ground (Area 2) – Adult / Mini 7v7.
- Woodlands Avenue Sports Ground (Area 1) – Adult.

[3] Based on club aspirational growth

The table below outlines if improvements were made to just the poor quality pitches with no overplay, as well as all poor quality pitches including those which are over utilised.

Table 4.5: Impact of improving quality on poor quality pitches (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand[4]	Total
Adult	5.5	4	1.5	5	3.5
Youth 11v11	0	4.5	4.5	5	9.5
Youth 9v9	2.5	2	0.5	5	4.5
Mini 7v7	3.5	0	3	4	1
Mini 5v5	3.5	0	3.5	9	5.5
If improvements are made to poor quality pitches (excluding overplayed)	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	8	4	4	5	1
Youth 11v11	3	4.5	1.5	5	6.5
Youth 9v9	3.5	2	1.5	5	3.5
Mini 7v7	5	0	5	4	1
Mini 5v5	5.5	0	5.5	9	3.5
If improvements are made to all poor quality pitches (including overplayed)	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	8	2	6	5	1
Youth 11v11	3	2	1	5	4
Youth 9v9	3.5	-	3.5	5	1.5
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	4	1
Mini 5v5	5.5	-	5.5	9	3.5

As seen in the table above, improving all poor quality pitches, whether they are overplayed or not, would assist in alleviating shortfalls as well as providing additional future capacity for growth. This being said, it would not fully eradicate future shortfalls when considered future demand based on club aspirational growth.

Unsecure tenure (education sites)

There are 70 teams accessing 15 sites with unsecure tenure all of which all are located at education sites.

Table 4.6: Demand taking place on grass pitches at unsecure education sites

Site ID	Site	Number of teams	Pitch type
3	Beacon Academy	1	11v11
20	Coomb Briggs Primary Academy	1	5v5
20	Coomb Briggs Primary Academy	1	7v7
25	Fairfield Academy	1	11v11
26	Franklin College	1	Adult
26	Franklin College	1	9v9
45	Healing School	1	Adult
46	Humberston Academy	3	Adult

[4] Based on club aspirational growth

Site ID	Site	Number of teams	Pitch type
46	Humberston Academy	1	11v11
49	John Whitgift Academy	8	11v11
49	John Whitgift Academy	3	9v9
49	John Whitgift Academy	6	7v7
49	John Whitgift Academy	2	5v5
56	Macauley Primary School	2	5v5
65	Oasis Academy Immingham	2	9v9
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	8	11v11
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	6	9v9
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	3	7v7
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	1	5v5
83	St James School Playing Field	4	11v11
83	St James School Playing Field	2	9v9
85	Stallingborough C E Primary School	1	7v7
90	The Academy Grimsby	1	Adult
90	The Academy Grimsby	1	11v11
95	Thrunscoe Primary Academy	1	5v5
96	Tollbar Academy	5	11v11
96	Tollbar Academy	1	9v9
96	Tollbar Academy	2	7v7

The impact on removal of 19 sites for community access is highlighted in the table below.

Table 4.7: Current supply and demand balance without unsecure education sites

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	1.5	1.5
Youth 11v11	4.5	19
Youth 9v9	0.5	7
Mini 7v7	3	3
Mini 5v5	3.5	0

As can be seen, if all access to unsecure sites was to be lost, shortfalls are either created or increased across all pitch types apart from mini 5v5 which would be played to capacity.

Maintaining community access to grass pitches at unsecure sites is vital given the current level of reliance on them. Furthermore, schools should be supported in formalising long-term leases with clubs. Maximising community use agreements with education providers will increase security and reduce risk for these users.

It should also be noted that if tenure can be secured at education sites, and if provision is a minimum of standard quality, there is a potential to access additional spare capacity that could alleviate shortfalls as well as create capacity for future demand. The total amount of currently discounted spare capacity at education sites is outlined below.

- Adult – 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- Youth 11v11 – 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- Youth 9v9 – 7 match equivalent sessions per week.
- Mini 7v7 – 7 match equivalent sessions per week.
- Mini 5v5 – 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

If some of this could be utilised in addition to the carrying out aforementioned scenarios, there would be sufficient demand in the Authority to address current and future demand. Partners including the FF and Lincolnshire FA should therefore strategically work with the main educational providers, such as Franklin College, Healing School, Humberston Academy, John Whitgift Academy, Oasis Academy Immingham/Wintringham and Tollbar Academy, to encourage security of tenure for community users and explore options for increasing pitch quality.

FA FutureFit - Grassroots Football Format Changes[5]

From the 2026-27 season, the FA will be introducing the following changes and will shortly deliver a series of comprehensive workshops and tools to support all coaches, clubs and leagues across the Country to further understand the changes that will be implemented:

- A new 3v3 entry format for the youngest players in the pathway at U7s level, fielding three players on each side, to maximise engagement and provide the best introduction to football.
- Each format will be played one year later as players transition through the pathway, including 11v11 which will move from U13s to U14s level.
- Greater alignment with schools with children playing smaller formats with simplified rules throughout primary school, before progressing to 9v9 and more complex rules at secondary school.
- Evolved Laws of the Game that are age-appropriate and best support the overall development of the young player. For example, amendments have already been made to game restarts for U7s-U9s to increase ball in play time.

At the time of writing, the exact details on how the new 3v3 format will be provided for is unknown. Various methods are being considered such as formally marked pitches, cone marked pitches, overmarking on larger pitches, or play on 3G pitches. This and its impact on PPOSS findings should therefore be monitored as part of the Stage E process.

Recommendations

- Protect the existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision meets NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- Explore the feasibility of offering specific strategic sites, such as education sites, for long term lease or CUA if agreeable with relevant stakeholders such as Football Foundation and the relevant County FA.
- Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity.
- Work to alleviate identified overplay on grass football pitches, particularly those at youth 11v11 pitch format through improvement of pitch quality.
- Protect all remaining disused provision in accordance with NPPF and Sport England guidelines.
- Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, prioritising club-led sites, multi-pitch sites and sites which play key strategic roles for adult football and women and girls' participation.

[5]https://www.englandfootball.com/articles/2025/Feb/21/Future-Fit-grassroots-youth-football-england-update-20252102

- Given the substantial number of teams accessing sites with unsecure tenure where appropriate, help to formalise long term usage agreements with clubs to further secure long-term access especially at education sites.
- Monitor future growth levels to determine when and where new grass pitches may be required.
- Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.
- Explore the feasibility of creating new onsite football provision, as part of large scale housing developments.
- Work proactively with clubs currently competing within the Regional Feeder League to Step 6, around facility developments when required to meet league requirements.

4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

3G – supply and demand summary

- **In conclusion, there is insufficient supply of 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet current and any future football training demand in North East Lincolnshire.**
- **With current demand in North East Lincolnshire totalling 385 teams, it is feasible that 8.5 11v11 size 3G pitches could be required (rounded down to the nearest 0.25 from 8.55). This means that there is an existing theoretical shortfall of 3.5 pitches**

3G - supply summary

- There are five 11v11 3G pitches in North East Lincolnshire across as four sites. All five pitches are sports lit and available for community use.
- In addition, there are also seven smaller size 3G pitches within the Authority, with one located in Area 1 and the rest in Area 2. Only one small sided 3G is not available for community use (Sevenhills Academy).
- In North East Lincolnshire all 11v11 size pitches are FIFA certified and are approved until 31/05/2027 and one approved until 31/05/2029.
- One of the two 3G artificial grass pitches at Clee Fields is compliant with World Rugby (WR) standards; however, there is currently no recorded rugby union usage at the site.
- Healing School has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Football Foundation develop a 11v11 3G pitch on site.
- Franklin College has been successful in securing grant funding from the Football Foundation and North East Lincolnshire Council to develop an 11v11 3G pitch on site.
- Grimsby Institute, Bradley Football Development centre, Tollbar Academy and Cleethorpes Town FC all report aspirations for 3G development.
- Of the 11v11 3G pitches across North East Lincolnshire, four pitches are good quality (80%) and one is of standard quality (20%).
- showers and toilets as well as an official's changing room with the same facilities.

3G - demand summary

- The 3G pitch stock currently servicing North East Lincolnshire is operating at or close to capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months for training demand.
- Of the responsive football clubs in North East Lincolnshire, 16 report that they do not have sufficient access to a 3G pitch for midweek training requirements.
- Across the four sites (five 11v11 3G pitches), a total of 84 out of 90 available peak-time hours are utilised (93%). In addition, 72 out of the 77 peak-time hours available at weekends are utilised (94%).

Scenarios

Football training demand

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

In North East Lincolnshire current demand equates to 385 teams. However, it should be noted that this figure includes Lincolnshire FA affiliated recreational clubs accessing 3G provision to support recreational football and increase social participation within North East Lincolnshire. As of the 2025/26 season, there are 60 affiliated recreational teams. Whilst this demand is included within the overall number of teams in the Authority, these teams do not typically require access to grass pitches or consistent use of 11v11 3G pitches during peak periods. Therefore, these teams have not been accounted for in the 1:38 model and in the tables below. Resulting in a total of 325 teams.

Table 4.8: Current shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
325	8.5	5	3.5

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that it plays in. This not only identifies where the potential needs exist across North East Lincolnshire, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 4.9: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Area 1	44	1	0	1
Area 2	281	7.5	5	2.5
North East Lincolnshire	**325**	**8.5**	**5**	**3.5**

As identified within the proceeding Assessment Report there are identified ambitions to create new 3G pitches across the Authority. Some of these are more progressed than others with Franklin College (Area 2) being successful in a recent grant application and a planning application has been submitted (DM/0237/22/FUL). While Healing School (Area 1) is in the process of securing funding from the Football Foundation and the Council.

Table 4.10: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch) with Healing School and Franklin College

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Area 1	44	1	1	0
Area 2	281	7.5	6	1.5
North East Lincolnshire	**325**	**8.5**	**7**	**1.5**

The table above examines what the 3G shortfall would be if proposed projects at Healing School and Franklin College are completed based on the same levels of affiliated demand. If developed the shortfall in Area 1 would be fully alleviated with the shortfall in Area 2 reducing from 2.5 to 1.5 pitches.

Lincolnshire FA Recreational Club

It should be noted that the initial analysis for 3G discounted a total of 60 teams in Area 2 from Lincolnshire FA Recreation Club. These teams vary in playing formats and demographics and include recreational, training and mini and youth formats. As a result, they often do not need to access 3G provision within the designated peak time slots often required for grassroots training. The table below examines what the 3G shortfall would be if they were added to the FA training demand model.

Table 4.11: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch) without recreational demand

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Area 1	44	1	0	1
Area 2	281	7.5	5	2.5
North East Lincolnshire	**325**	**8.5**	**5**	**3.5**
Including LFA demand	-	-	-	-
Area 1	44	1	0	1
Area 2	341	9	5	4
North East Lincolnshire	**385**	**10**	**5**	**5**

As shown, adding this demand would increase the shortfall in Area 2 from 2.5 11v11 size 3G pitches to four equivalents.

If proposed projects at Healing School and Franklin College are completed based on the same levels of affiliated demand, the shortfall in Area 1 would be fully alleviated with the shortfall in Area 2 reducing from four to three pitches.

World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches

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 union. Additionally, pitches of this nature can be tested to support rugby league activity.

The RFU generally support the development of 3G pitches which support rugby union where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

In North East Lincolnshire, one of the two 3G artificial grass pitches at Clee Fields is compliant with WR standards; however, there is currently no recorded rugby union usage at the site. The pitch was developed to the appropriate specification to accommodate identified demand from Grimsby RUFC and Cleethorpes RUFC.

Outlined in greater detail below (4.3: Rugby union – grass pitches), there is a clear need to utilise the WR compliant pitch at Clee Fields, for both clubs, in order to alleviate grass pitch rugby union shortfalls. Utilising the 3G pitch at Clee Fields would also provide a superior experience for both clubs through high-quality playing surfaces and ancillary facilities. Specifically, this could encourage growth in the women's, girls', and mini rugby formats.

It is recommended that consultation continues to take place between the relevant stakeholders (Grimsby RUFC, Cleethorpes RUFC, RFU, Council, YMCA Humber) to agree a programme of usage. With the above being said, there is a need to understand what potential impact relocating rugby union training demand would have on the overall shortfall of 3G provision in North East Lincolnshire, in particular surrounding football training demand.

The below table examines what impact allocating approximately 10 to 15 hours of rugby union training demand to 3G, specifically to Clee Fields in Area 2, would have on the football training demand shortfalls. For reference, the availability of one of the two pitches at Clee Fields has been reduced from one 11v11 pitch equivalent to 0.25.

Table 4.12: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch) factoring in transferal of rugby union demand

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Area 1	44	1	0	1
Area 2	281	7.5	5	2.5
North East Lincolnshire	**325**	**8.5**	**5**	**3.5**
Accommodating RFU demand				
Area 1	44	1	0	1
Area 2	281	7.5	4.25	3.25
North East Lincolnshire	**325**	**8.5**	**4.25**	**4.25**

The relocation of rugby union training demand would increase the shortfall in Area 2 by 0.75 11v11 equivalents.

This is the preferred method of alleviating the grass pitch shortfall for rugby union due to a number of factors. These include, but are not limited to, the fact that the shortfall cannot be addressed solely through pitch improvements. The cost of providing additional sports lighting, alongside pitch enhancements and potentially the creation of new pitches, would be significantly greater than utilising the already established dedicated WR22 3G at Clee Fields.

It should be noted that if rugby union training demand is relocated, in addition to including demand from Lincolnshire FA Recreational Club the anticipated shortfall would equate to 4.75 11v11 equivalents in Area 2.

Future developments

Although not as progressed as the above projects, Healing School and Franklin College, there are also aspirations for the development of 3G provision at the Grimsby Institute and Bradley Football Development Centre both of which located in Area 2.

Grimsby Institute is exploring options on improving the quality of its full size sports lit AGP (sand filled) with its preferred option a conversion to a 3G surface. Outlined in greater detail below (in 4.5: Hockey pitches) there is no strategic need to keep the surface as hockey suitable and therefore the feasibility of converting it to 3G surface could be explored further in order to alleviate remaining shortfalls.

Bradley Football Development Centre has aspirations to develop an additional 3G pitch. As the site is already operating as a prominent football hub site in North East Lincolnshire, the viability for establishing a second pitch on the site could be explored further. It is recommended that enhancing existing ancillary provision should be explored to meet anticipated increases in demand.

If both aspirational developments at Grimsby Institute and Bradley Football Development Centre were to be progressed, then this would reduce the overall shortfall in Area 2.

Grimsby Town Football club is exploring opportunities to develop a new training ground in Area 1. The club expresses aspirations to develop a 3G pitch that could include community use as part of this development. Therefore, it is recommended that future 3G pitch development at this site should be supported if the facility supports wider community use of 3G pitches across North East Lincolnshire.

Following club engagement there are also known aspirations at the following sites for 3G development; Tollbar Academy (Area 2), Cleethorpes Town FC / The Linden Club (Area 2) and Immingham Town / Woodlands Avenue Sports Ground (Area 1).

The feasibility of any further developments of 3G provision, above those at Healing School and Franklin College projects, need to be examined by the FF, Lincolnshire FA, and other NGB's where sports can be catered for by 3G pitch provision.

Recommendations

- Protect current stock of 3G pitches, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches in the Authority to cater for demand.
- Explore formalising community rugby union training demand at Clee Fields.
- Work with partners such as the FA, FF, RFU, Sport England and other NGBs as applicable to identify the most suitable locations to build new 3G pitches to alleviate known shortfalls using the findings from the PPOSS.
- Aim that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place through engagement with operators of pitches and the Council with assistance provided by relevant NGBs as required.
- Aim that all 11v11 and small size pitches of substantial area are on the FA register where they meet criteria and are re-tested when required to sustain certification, through engagement with operators of pitches not currently registered and when existing certification is nearing expiry.
- Ensure that all current and future providers have in place a pitch replacement fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Aim that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA quality performance standards.
- Engage with 3G providers to replace halogen sports lighting to LED systems to improve energy efficiency, reduce costs and reduce light spill.
- Explore opportunities for multi-sport use and cross sport compliancy of 3G pitches where new are required / in need of refurbishment to help meet shortfalls for rugby league, rugby union and other pitch sports where present.

4.3: Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- **In conclusion, there is a clear and evident shortfall of grass rugby union provision within North East Lincolnshire, with this equating to 5.4 match equivalent sessions or 8.1 hours of usage.**
- **There is an overall shortfall of midweek training capacity within North East Lincolnshire totalling 9.5 match equivalent sessions. This is primarily due to a lack of sports lit pitches at both Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club and Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club.**

Rugby union – supply summary

- The audit identifies a total eight rugby pitches located across six sites, of which seven are available for community use. The only pitch that is not available for community use is located at Healing School (Area 1).
- In addition to the marked pitches, it should be noted that there are also two junior pitches located at Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club.
- The following sites were previously marked for rugby union, including Beacon Academy (Cleethorpes), Franklin College, King George V Playing Field (Cleethorpes), and Oasis Academy Wintringham.
- Of the community available pitches in North East Lincolnshire, three are unclassified, two basic and two are good quality.
- Grimsby RUFC indicate changing rooms at Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club to be poor quality with plans to develop an additional building.

Rugby union – demand summary

- There are two clubs within North East Lincolnshire generating a total of 23 teams across the Authority. Broken down, this equates to four senior men's, one senior women's, seven age grade boy's and girl's teams and nine mixed aged grade teams.
- Grimsby RUFC states that it wishes to increase its level of participation but is focusing on sustaining current team numbers particularly regarding its women's team. In comparison Cleethorpes RUFC aspire for a women's team and for general growth of within its Age Grade teams.
- Overall, across North East Lincolnshire, there is considered to be an insufficient supply of rugby union pitches to accommodate current levels of demand, with a combined total of 5.4 match equivalent session of deficits identified. This equates to 8.1 hours of usage.

Scenarios

Alleviating rugby union shortfalls

The table below is taken from the proceeding Assessment Report and identifies where grass pitch rugby union shortfalls across North East Lincolnshire. As shown the deficit arises Midweek at both rugby union club sites due to a lack of suitable sports lit provision.

Table 4.13: Summary of overall site capacity of rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sports lit Pitches	Total pitches	Midweek capacity position	Weekend capacity position	Overall site capacity
19	Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club	Area 2	-	2	2.5	3.9	**1.4**
35	Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club	Area 2	-	2	7	0.2	**6.8**
-	-	**Total**	-	**4**	**9.5**	**4.1**	**5.4**

Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club has most of the shortfall amounting to seven match equivalent sessions per week whereas Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club has 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

There are multiple options to consider on how these shortfalls can be addressed which are explored below.

World Rugby (WR) 3G pitches

One of the two 3G artificial grass pitches at Clee Fields is compliant with WR standards; however, there is currently no recorded rugby union usage at the site. The pitch was developed to the appropriate specification to accommodate identified demand from Grimsby RUFC and Cleethorpes RUFC.

Based on the midweek shortfalls there would be a total need to access the 3G provision for approximately 15 hours (four for Cleethorpes RUFC and 11 for Grimsby RUFC). As shown below, if all the training demand from the clubs relocated to Clee Fields it would fully alleviate overplay.

Table 4.14: Summary of overall site capacity of rugby union pitches with transferal of training demand

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sports lit Pitches	Total pitches	Midweek capacity position	Weekend capacity position	Overall site capacity
19	Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club	Area 2	-	2	-	3.9	**3.9**
35	Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club	Area 2	-	2	-	0.2	**0.2**
-	-	**Total**	**-**	**4**	**-**	**4.1**	**4.1**

Utilising the 3G pitch at Clee Fields would not only address grass pitch shortfalls but also provide a superior experience for both clubs through high-quality playing surfaces and ancillary facilities. Specifically, this could encourage growth in the women's, girls', and mini rugby formats.

While this should be prioritised as the most effective option for reducing shortfalls, the nature of rugby union suggests that clubs may be reluctant to relocate all activity away from their home sites due to revenue generation. Consequently, additional options should be explored alongside the increased use of Clee Fields.

Onsite pitch enhancements and sports lighting

Both Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club and Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club possess one good and one basic quality senior pitch, none of which currently have sports lighting. To increase capacity for current and future growth, it is recommended that the basic pitches be prioritised for improvements. Additionally, the installation of sports lighting should be explored for one pitch at each site.

Ancillary provision

As well as creating capacity on the pitch there is a requirement to also ensure that current and future levels of demand can be accommodated off the pitch, more specifically regarding ancillary provision and changing rooms.

As outlined in the Assessment Report, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities.

Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls', disability and junior/mini demand.

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. Specifically, in North East Lincolnshire, demand for the following clubs maybe affected due to the poor quality of their changing provision:

- Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club.
- Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club.

Without improvements to facilities these clubs could struggle to attract new participants and teams, particularly women and girls, and may even have issues retaining current levels of demand.

Recommendations

- Protect the existing quantity of rugby union pitches including those used for curricular and extra-curricular demand, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- Support clubs in taking part in the GMA pitch advisory service to explore technical requirements to improve pitch quality to address overplay.
- Explore options in establishing sports lighting at Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club and Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club.
- Explore options to improve accompanying ancillary facilities to better accommodate all demographics including women and girls, particularly at Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club and Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club.
- Explore the feasibility of formalising the use of the WR complaint 3G pitch at Clee Fields for midweek training.
- Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.4: Rugby league – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- **Overall, as there is no rugby league there is a need to monitor potential future levels for the sport to understand if there is a need to establish dedicated pitch provision.**

Supply summary

- Before Immingham Wasps Junior RLFC folded it used pitch provision at Eastfield Primary Academy (Area 1) for training. There are no known rugby league pitches in the Authority.

Demand summary

- Immingham Wasps Junior RLFC had a girls' section as well as dedicated teams at U7s, U9s, U11s, U13s and U14s. Since it folded anecdotal evidence indicates the demand has dissipated with partial amounts exported to neighbouring authorities, however, this cannot be quantified at the time of writing.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Monitor potential future levels for the sport to understand if there is a need to establish dedicated pitch provision.

4.5: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- **There is currently a sufficient supply of full-size hockey suitable AGPs across North East Lincolnshire to cater for demand, even when discounting the poor quality pitch at the Grimsby Institute.**
- **In fact, the pitch at Ormiston Maritime Academy has sufficient capacity to cater for both current and future levels of demand. Therefore, it is integral to secure this pitch long term as a hockey suitable service and provide Grimsby HC long term security of tenure.**

Supply summary

- In North East Lincolnshire there are two full size AGPs, one each at the Grimsby Institute and Ormiston Maritime Academy, both of which are located Area 2.
- Until 2023, there were four full-size AGPs within the Authority, with Oasis Academy Wintringham and Clee Fields each accommodating one pitch. Both of these pitches have since been lost to 3G development: the former through conversion, and the latter through complete demolition to facilitate the construction of two 11v11-sized 3G pitches.
- Additionally, there are ten smaller size AGPs in North East Lincolnshire all of which are located in Area 2. Only three of these pitches, across two sites, are available for community use and are sports lit
- In addition to the above there is a small size AGP located at the disused site known as Former Novartis Site now Humber Industrials Ltd c/o International Process Plants (Europe) Ltd.
- The Grimsby Institute is exploring options on improving the quality of its full size sports lit AGP with its preferred option a conversion to a 3G surface.
- The pitch at Ormiston Maritime Academy has recently been resurfaced with no quality issues raised during site assessment or consultation. In comparison the pitch at Grimsby Institute is poor quality with the surface being approximately 13 years old.
- Grimsby HC report that it does have access to changing rooms at Ormiston Maritime Academy; however, access can be problematic, particularly when the facilities are also being used by students.

Demand summary

- Across North East Lincolnshire there is a total of four dedicated hockey teams across one community club (Grimsby HC) which has two men's and two women's teams.
- In addition to the above the Club state accommodating a Veterans team in addition to three U10s and two U13s squads which include both girl's and boy's demand.
- Grimsby HC plan to increase its number of teams however it does not quantify this with a specific number of teams. ONS population projections do not indicate any future growth for hockey across North East Lincolnshire.
- Grimsby HC is involved with Veterans Hockey which does encourage Back to Hockey sessions. These sessions take place for all over 35s Thursday evening 18:00 to 19:00.

Scenarios

Meeting demand for hockey suitable AGPs

The PPS Guidance suggests that a pitch with sports lighting can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday. With teams playing on a home and away format, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are currently two full size hockey suitable pitches in North East Lincolnshire, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 16 senior teams at peak time across the Authority. However, the provision at Grimsby Institute is discounted resulting in an actual capacity of just eight teams. The pitch is extremely poor quality with some fixtures postponed particularly in periods of bad weather.

Table 4.15: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for peak time match play (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity in teams	Actual capacity in teams	Number of hockey teams using the provision at peak time	Capacity balance
33	Grimsby Institute	Area 2	1	8	-	-	-
69	Ormiston Maritime Academy	Area 2	1	8	8	4	4
-	**-**	**Total**	**2**	**16**	**8**	**4**	**4**

Based on the above, the supply of hockey suitable provision within North East Lincolnshire is considered sufficient to accommodate current demand. There is also enough spare capacity to support the future growth plans of Grimsby HC. However, there is a need to formally secure long term tenure for the Club at Ormiston Maritime Academy and assist in developing accompanying ancillary provision.

The proposed conversion of the AGP at Grimsby Institute to a 3G pitch can be explored, as there is no requirement to protect it for hockey usage. This approach has been confirmed with England Hockey.

Recommendations

- Protect the AGP at Ormiston Maritime Academy for continued hockey use.
- Assist in formalising long term security of tenure for Grimsby HC at Ormiston Maritime Academy and look to explore options for ancillary development plans.

- Look to assist Grimsby HC with the development of player pathway from Ormiston Maritime Academy.
- Explore options for the conversion of the AGP at Grimsby Institute to a 3G pitch given there is not identified strategic need to retain for hockey in partnership with relevant stakeholders such as FF, LFA and EH.
- Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.6: Cricket

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- **Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at an Authority wide level across all peak times.**
- **When accounting for future demand for senior and junior cricket shortfalls are exacerbated.**

Supply summary

- In total, there are four grass wicket cricket squares in North East Lincolnshire, provided across four sites, all of which are available for community use.
- Most of the provision (75%) is located in Area 2 with the remaining provision (one square or 25%) in Area 1. There are no squares located in Area 3.
- In total there are two cricket sites that are completely disused (Former Novartis Site now Humber Industrials Ltd c/o International Process Plants (Europe) Ltd and Former Tioxide Land now ABP) and seven sites that are actively used for other sports that formerly had cricket provision.
- A total of 12 non-turf pitches (NTPs) are identified in North East Lincolnshire. Of these, four are available for community use with the remaining located at educational sites. All provision is standalone with no NTPs attached to a grass square.
- Within North East Lincolnshire, the two larger clubs, Cleethorpes CC and Grimsby Town CC, have secure tenure at their home sites through freehold. Conversely both clubs rent the use of Blossom Way Sports and Social Club to accommodate their third Saturday men's teams. These teams are considered to have unsecure tenure. Clee Town Laportes CC has an informal agreement to use the provision at The Linden Club midweek meaning it does not have secure tenure.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in North East Lincolnshire found two (50%) to be standard quality and one good and one poor quality square.
- The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in North East Lincolnshire determines that four squares (83%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and one standalone NTP (17%) has poor quality ancillary
- The audit of training facilities in North East Lincolnshire found both Cleethorpes Cricket Club and Grimsby Town Cricket Club to provide good quality provision, while the remaining sites provide no training facilities.

Demand summary

- In North East Lincolnshire, there are three clubs and a prominent midweek league, generating a total of 33 teams based at sites in the Authority. When broken down it equates to 22 senior men's, two senior women's, seven junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- In North East Lincolnshire, there are two junior girls' dedicated teams. These clubs are at Cleethorpes CC and Grimsby Town CC. However, the clubs do have some other level of girls participating within their junior teams, although specific numbers where not provided.
- Total current population in North East Lincolnshire is 159,951 and is anticipated to minimal decrease to 158,985 by 2032. This means that based on calculations there will not be any growth in cricket teams in the Authority.
- Of the responding clubs based in North East Lincolnshire there is total future demand equating to seven teams. This equates to two senior men's, two senior women's, one junior boys and two junior girls' team.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality of cricket squares over time.

In North East Lincolnshire, overplay is identified on two squares at two sites. The scenario below looks at the impacts of quality improvements as a solution to reducing or alleviating overplay. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play. As a reminder, the square at Grimsby Town Cricket Club is rated as poor due to continued issues regarding a burst water pipe on the outfield.

The impact of improving quality to good, where each wicket has a theoretical capacity of five match equivalent sessions per season is considered in the table below.

Table 4.16: Impact on overplay if all overplayed squares were improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (matches per season)	Potential position (matches per season)
37	Grimsby Town Cricket Club	Grimsby Town CC GMCL	1	Poor	16	49	31
92	The Linden Club	Clee Town Laportes CC GMCL	1	Standard	6	2	4

As seen in the table overplay would be fully alleviated across North East Lincolnshire if provision at Grimsby Town Cricket Club and The Linden Club improved to a good quality. In particular the issue regarding the water pipe at the former site needs to be effectively addressed to stop any form of reoccurrence.

Accommodating future demand

In North East Lincolnshire, three clubs expressed aspirations to increase teams at specific ages. As seen in the table below.

Table 4.17: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Clee Town Laportes CC	Area 2	1	-	-	-
Cleethorpes CC	Area 2	-	1	-	1
Grimsby Town CC	Area 2	1	1	1	1
-	**Total**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**2**

For reference, and as identified in the Assessment Report, the average number of matches for senior men's cricket (Saturday) is 12 match equivalent sessions per season, for senior women's cricket (Sunday) it is eight match equivalent sessions per season and for junior cricket (Midweek) it is six match equivalent sessions per season.

Only future demand reported by Cleethorpes CC can be accommodated as its home ground has spare capacity at the relevant peak time.

If the quality of provision of the square at The Linden Club is improved to good, in addition to formalising security of tenure for Clee Town Laportes CC, this would create sufficient capacity to accommodate its aspirations for an additional men's team.

As seen in the previous scenario, if the quality is improved at Grimsby Town Cricket Club this would create enough capacity to accommodate its future demand aspirations of an additional junior team, as well as alleviating overplay. However, as the site is already played to capacity at the peak times of Saturday and Sunday it still would not be able to accommodate and addition senior men's or women's teams.

Therefore, alternative options to increase capacity should also be explored such as installation / utilisation of NTP or additional grass square provision. Within Lincolnshire Premier Cricket League, Saturday leagues, senior teams in Division Two and below can play on NTPs, whereas Division One and above fixtures must take place on grass squares.

While introducing a NTP provision could help reduce pressure on existing grass provision, it would not allow additional senior matches to be accommodated on the square during peak periods, as the site is already played to capacity on Saturdays and Sundays. Therefore, any future growth in senior demand is likely to require the provision of additional NTPs or a new grass square, depending on league requirements.

However, if the Club's aspirations for additional senior teams were to be delivered through midweek play, an NTP located adjacent to the square could help accommodate this demand, while also reducing pressure on the existing grass square. This is because, if the grass square was improved to good quality, it would generate sufficient spare capacity to accommodate midweek demand.

Non Turf Pitches (NTPs)

Cricket squares can be accompanied by non-turf pitches (NTPs), made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on natural turf wickets (grass wickets). By the nature of its design, an NTP can accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares.
The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance[6] 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 via the use of mobile nets. Typically, however, play would be more suited to junior teams as senior leagues typically stipulate the use of natural turf wickets.

Only one active cricket site in North East Lincolnshire, British Legion Sports & Social Club, has an NTP onsite. In order to provide additional capacity for future growth, in addition to alleviating demand off grass squares, options to install NTPs at Blossom Way Sports and Social Club, The Linden Club, Cleethorpes Cricket Club and Grimsby Town Cricket Club should be explored.

[6] http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-ts6-final-328.pdf

As an example, if an NTP were to be installed at The Linden Club, in addition to tenure being secured for community users, this theoretically could create capacity for a club such as Grimsby Town CC to accommodate additional senior men's or women's demand. However, it's important to note, due to league requirements, NTP provision will only provide additional demand for senior cricket during peak periods and midweek peak periods. It should be noted that the in situ demand from the Grimsby Midweek Cricket League would need to relocate from the grass wickets to the NTP to provide the availability for growth.

Another potential option to create additional capacity to accommodate future growth as well as improving pitch quality and providing NTP adjacent to current squares, would be to reinstate the area of land at Princess of Wales Hospital (Area 2 - DN33 2BA) which has previously accommodated cricket provision in the form of an NTP.

Sport England has recently been involved (November 2025) in a planning application consultation for housing development adjacent to this former NTP. The application does include cricket ball stop netting and supports between 9-15 metres high to allow the site to be used for cricket (DM/0245/22/FUL). However, a separate feasibility study would need to be undertaken to understand what provision would be viable and who would use the provision to ensure its longevity.

It's important to note, within Lincolnshire Premier Cricket League, Saturday leagues, senior teams in Division Two and below can play on NTPs, whereas Division One and above fixtures must take place on grass squares. Therefore, to create additional capacity for Saturday cricket, there may be a need for additional grass square provision.

Ancillary provision

As well as creating capacity on the pitch there is a requirement to also ensure that current and future levels of demand can be accommodated off the pitch, more specifically regarding ancillary provision and changing rooms.

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket.

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open plan changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. Specifically, in North East Lincolnshire, demand for the following clubs maybe affected due to the poor quality of their changing provision:

- British Legion Sports & Social Club.
- Grimsby Town Cricket Club.

Without improvements to facilities these clubs could struggle to attract new participants and teams, particularly women and girls, and may even have issues retaining current levels of demand. It should be noted that if there is an increase in specific demand, such as women and girls, there also maybe a need to improve Cleethorpes Cricket Club and The Linden Club.

Grimsby Midweek Cricket League

The Grimsby Midweek Cricket League is a local amateur cricket competition based around the town of Grimsby and nearby areas in Lincolnshire. It currently utilises provision at Blossom Way Sports and Social Club, British Legion Sports & Social Club, Cleethorpes Cricket Club, Grimsby Town Cricket Club and The Linden Club.

At the time of writing, the League accommodates 13 teams in North East Lincolnshire and is looking to increase this within the next few seasons. Options should therefore be explored to provide the League with additional capacity when required. Anecdotal evidence suggests that Bradley Football Development Centre has aspirations to reinstate two of its disused NTPs to provide capacity for the League to grow its demand.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- Improve quality at sites assessed as poor (Grimsby Town Cricket Club) and standard quality (The Linden Club) and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good.
- Ensure quality issues, surrounding a burst water pipe, are fully resolved at Grimsby Town Cricket Club.
- Look to install additional NTPs to accompany grass wicket squares (where space allows), in order to provide capacity for growth.
- Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place, particularly those engaging in lease renewals.
- Improve the changing and ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so.
- If an increased demand in women and girls at Cleethorpes Cricket Club is identified, then ancillary facilities should be assessed and improvements explored to accommodate new demand.
- Explore the feasibility of reinstating disused provision or creating new provision to assist in alleviating overplay and creating future capacity for growth in both club and midweek cricket (Grimsby Midweek Cricket League).
- Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities to support the growth of demand especially women & girls.
- Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.
- Explore the viability of reinstating cricket provision at Princess of Wales Hospital based on current and future demand.

4.7: Golf

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- **There is enough golfing facilities in North East Lincolnshire that offer a good variety of facilities to ensure that all golfers can be catered for. However, demand is also above the national average of 407, given that average membership in North East Lincolnshire equates to 515, which means that existing provision needs to be protected.**

Supply summary

- Within North East Lincolnshire, there are four 18-hole and one 9-hole standard golf courses. The hole 9-hole course is located at Humberston Golf Club **(Since the production of the Assessment Report this site has now permanently closed as of March 2026).**
- There is one 9-hole Par 3 course located at Haven Cleethorpes Beach Holiday Park (Area 2 – DN35 0PW).
- In addition, there is one closed 18 hole course at Immingham Golf Club (DN40 2EU) which closed in 2018 due to declining membership. The site has remained closed with its current future unknown at the time of writing. It should be noted that site has a restrictive covenant which restricts the use to that of a golf course, playing field, open park or recreation ground for athletics and sports games.
- There are also 18 dedicated driving range bays in North East Lincolnshire located at Grimsby Golf Centre.
- Laceby Manor Resort, Waltham Windmill Golf Club and Humberston Golf Club are Proprietary sites. The remaining two sites (Cleethorpes Golf Club and Grimsby Golf Club) are members only.

Demand summary

- Individual club membership is unavailable, however, where known, current membership across the Authority equates to 515 in 2025 which is a 3% increase from the 2022 figure of 498. Historical data provided by England Golf indicates a steady increase in golf participation in North East Lincolnshire since 2015 which had 296 members.
- The index rating for the catchment area (76) is well below the national benchmark (100). This therefore indicates the authority does provide enough facilities to meet the demand of those in the authority who play golf regularly.
- With seven golfing sites in North East Lincolnshire including a mixture of 18-hole courses, 9-hole courses, Par 3 course and driving range, the Authority is well placed to meet demand.

Scenarios

Demand

Based on information provided by England Golf the most recent available average membership for clubs in England is 407. While individual club membership data was unavailable for North East Lincolnshire, the known membership across the Authority was 515 in 2025, a 3% increase from 498 in 2022. Historical data from England Golf indicates a steady increase in participation since 2015, when there were 296 members. Since the closure of Immingham Golf Club in 2018, average membership across North East Lincolnshire rose 57% (from 318 to 498 in 2022). With demand being higher than the national average, it is identified that the current stock of provision requires protection.

Disused provision

In 2018, the 18-hole course at Immingham Golf Club (DN40 2EU) closed due to declining membership. The site has remained closed since then, and its future remains uncertain at the time of writing. Notably, the site is subject to a restrictive covenant that limits its use to a golf course, playing field, open park, or recreation ground for athletics and sports games.

In addition to Immingham Golf Club, since the collation of the initial Assessment Report data, Humberston Golf Club officially closed (March 2026) following flooding in late 2025. Subsequently, Vistry East Yorkshire submitted a planning application (DM/0229/26/FUL) to develop the site for 234 homes. The site is currently allocated for housing in the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan (HOU139).

Immingham Golf Club

Information gathered during Stage B of the PPOSS development indicates that a sports club is currently in the process of purchasing and developing the site. The goal is to provide a single hub for all its teams, expansion of its women's section, and a community accessible pitch/hub. As this is in the initial stages, progress should be monitored to ensure it complies with existing restrictions and to determine if it will offer community access.

Although demand in North East Lincolnshire is above the national average there is not identified need to bring this back into use for golf as former users have been successful absorbed by surrounding 18 hole facilities. Therefore, it should be protected for sports use in line with the covenant for either playing fields, open space or recreation demand.

Humberston Golf Club

Since the collation of the Assessment Report data, Humberston Golf Club has officially closed (March 2026). Since then, Vistry East Yorkshire has submitted a planning application (DM/0229/26/FUL) to develop the site for a proposed 234 homes. It should be noted that the site is allocated for housing in the current North East Lincolnshire Local Plan (HOU139).

Due to it being the only dedicated nine hole course within North East Lincolnshire, offering an alternative shorter format for the golfing demographic in comparison to the remaining 18 hole courses in the Authority, it is recommended to be retained to meet demand. It requires protection in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and Policy HC7 of the NPPF. However, it must be noted that site is privately owned and that it is not under any legal obligation to re-open, with this meaning that there is a need to establish a pragmatic approach. With this in mind, the Local Planning Authority would need to consider this aspect in the balance of considerations. It should be noted that there is another 9 hole course which remains an option for public use, though accepting its part of a wider holiday park (Haven) development.

All remaining active golf provision in North East Lincolnshire should be protected long-term to meet substantial demand. If Humberston Golf Club is developed, the Authority should seek S106/mitigation funding to improve and support surrounding sporting facilities.

Recommendations

- Protect all sites currently used for continued golf activity in line with national (i.e. the NPPF) and local planning policy. This should also involve Sport England as a non-statutory consultee.
- Monitor discussions regarding the future of Humberston Golf Club and Immingham Golf Club with engagement with England Golf before any alterations.
- Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and support improvements where necessary.
- Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.

- Ensure that any developments nearby to existing golf sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues). Additionally ensure that any developments on existing golf sites do not prejudice neighbouring playing field provision.

4.8: Tennis courts

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- **In conclusion, where known through consultation, both Grimsby Tennis Centre and St James Tennis Club have sufficient capacity to facilitate club demand both now and in the future.**
- **For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues there is a need to address quality at specific sites.**

Supply summary

- There are 76 tennis courts identified in the North East Lincolnshire across 18 sites. Of these, 40 courts are available for community use across nine sites. All the unavailable courts are located on educational sites.
- There are 21 disused courts in North East Lincolnshire across six sites.
- St James TC plans to refurbish its two disused clay courts with a hard surface for junior coaching. It also wants to install sports lighting on all its courts, however, is struggling with funding.
- Most tennis courts are either operated by sports clubs or the Council. There are 44 (58%) tennis courts which are managed by education providers, which the majority are unavailable for community use.
- Most outdoor tennis courts in North East Lincolnshire have a macadam surface, with 62 out of 76 being of this type.
- In North East Lincolnshire, 18 of the community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 23% of the provision.
- Of the courts in North East Lincolnshire, 26 (34%) are assessed as good quality, 32 (42%) as standard quality and 18 (24%) as poor quality. Of the good quality tennis courts, all 26 are available for community use.

Demand summary

- Both clubs in North East Lincolnshire have similar demand levels, with St James TC being minimally larger with a total of 147 members compared to Grimsby TC with 115 members.
- Grimsby TC report recently introducing Pickleball at its home site. This has only started within the last month, at the time of writing, meaning specific details are limited.
- Even when accommodating for future demand expressed by Grimsby TC (60 members) and St James TC (40 members) there is still considered sufficient provision to meet the anticipated demand.
- In North East Lincolnshire, he LTA has established, by authority, the number of padel courts that can be sustained based on population density and padel demand, this identifies a need for up to 13 padel courts.

Scenarios

Improving the recreational tennis offer

Increasing recreational tennis demand is currently a priority for the LTA, with twice as many people playing casually rather than at clubs. To enable this, it has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.
In North East Lincolnshire, there has been recent investment in community available tennis provision at Barretts Recreation Grounds (Area 2), Haverstoe Park (Area 2), and Sussex Recreation Ground (Area 2).

Levels of demand should be monitored to identify if there is a need for further improvements within this Analysis Area as well as consideration given to enhancing poor quality provision

within Area 1 such as Butt Lane Playing Fields, Chapel Lane Playing Fields and Healing Village Hall.

Stakeholders also identified opportunities for the disused courts on the site of Grimsby Leisure Centre that may be considered for future development subject to future demand levels.

Padel

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, whereas there were 350 at the end of 2023 and 129,000 identified participants, with this illustrating significant growth. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will continue to increase substantially in the next five years, with the LTA identifying an aim to grow the number of courts to 1,000 and the number of players to 400,000.

To assist local authorities in strategically planning padel provision, the LTA has established, by authority, the number of padel courts that can be sustained based on population density and padel demand. In North East Lincolnshire, this identifies a potential need for up to 13 courts, which is based on 20% of the population being interested in padel (taken from a YouGov survey), penetration levels of 8%, and one court being able to accommodate up to 200 players.

There are currently no padel tennis courts in North East Lincolnshire, however, there are plans in progress to develop provision.

Planning was approved (DM/0125/25/FUL) in late 2025 for the creation of two indoor padel courts at Laceby Manor Resort, however, as of the time of writing (April 2026) they have not been developed.

Planning was approved (DM/0113/26/FUL) and construction has begun at The Jungle Zoo (DN35 0AG) for the installation for five outdoor padel courts with rain canopy and associated enclosures, erection of two containers to accommodate pay station and facilities, installation of sports lights, and new entrance gates.

The Linden Club (Area 2 - DN32 8QL) has recently submitted a planning application (DM/0240/26/FUL) to create four outdoor padel courts to include the installation of canopy, erection of container to provide changing facilities, installation of sports lights and flag poles to include perimeter fencing, gates, pathways and landscaping with associated works. The proposed development is located on a scrubland area behind the football pitch.

Both Grimsby and St James tennis clubs indicate aspirations to create and introduce padel provision at their sites, however, no detailed plans have been established. It should be noted that any development of padel at either site should not come to the detriment of established tennis courts.

Based on the above, to help alleviate identified shortfalls, and if plans meet relevant planning requirements and do not prejudice any in situ onsite sporting provision (including tennis courts), it is recommended that they be progressed. If all are developed, there would still be a need for two additional padel courts. It should be noted that management structures should

be examined, where possible, to ensure that not all provision is operated commercially, thereby allowing for wider community use.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) prioritises community accessibility for all new Padel tennis developments within North East Lincolnshire. While commercial providers play a role in increasing court usage, the primary strategy for the Authority is to secure dedicated community access. Future facilities must implement affordable pricing policies to ensure the sport remains inclusive, accessible, and sustainable for all local residents.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- Support development aspirations, where appropriate, from Grimsby TC and St James TC to sustain and grow levels of participation.
- Explore opportunities for the redevelopment of disused courts at Grimsby Leisure Centre.
- Support the development of padel courts within North East Lincolnshire, if plans do not impede on other sporting provision (including tennis courts).
- Linked to the above, if there is demand explore opportunities to improve the park courts highlighted as part of the LTA Parks Investment Strategy as a priority to create a year-round recreational tennis offer to meet local demand.
- Ensure pickleball demand is met appropriately.
- Aim to put sinking funds in place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- North East Lincolnshire is identified by the LTA as a target location for indoor community tennis and padel projects. Any indoor tennis developments should be monitored, as they may provide additional capacity for both club use and recreational tennis demand.

4.9: Athletics

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- **As King George V Stadium is used by two prominent athletics clubs there is a need to protect the facility (track and field provision) and ensure that quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received. With this being said there is a need to explore options to address the quality issues with the ancillary provision in addition to resurfacing the track before the end of 2028.**

Supply summary

- There is one formal athletics track in North East Lincolnshire located at King George V Stadium, which is an eight lane, synthetic 400 metre track.
- The track at King George V Stadium is operated by Lincs Inspire which is a non-profit organisation which manages the elements of the Councils sporting provision.
- The track and accompanying track and field facilities at King George V Stadium are poor quality with standard quality accompanying ancillary facility. It has been identified that there is a short to medium term need to resurface the provision due to its age and qualitative issues.

Demand summary

- Between the two athletics club in North East Lincolnshire there are a total of 107 male, 83 female and 179 junior members.
- None of the clubs that were consulted with indicate a waiting list and are will to accept new members.
- Both Cleethorpes AC and Grimsby Harriers & Athletics Club state immediate aspirations for growth.

Scenarios

Improving quality at King George V Stadium

It is considered that for an athletics track to be considered sustainable based on participation, a club membership of circa 200 is required. This is based on figures and consultation provided by England Athletics. Cleethorpes AC and Grimsby Harriers & Athletics Club, both of which currently use the track at King George V Stadium, have a combined 369 members which is significantly over the recommended figure.

If the track fell out of use due to its quality, neither club would have sufficient supply to meet demand. There is no other provision within North East Lincolnshire, meaning that if the facility became unusable, demand would either decrease or be displaced to a neighbouring authority such as Quibell Park Stadium based in North Lincolnshire Council (approximately 30 miles / 46-minute drive time). Based on current quality, there is an identified need to refurbish the track within the short-to-medium term to ensure it retains its TrackMark accreditation.

As outlined in the Track Mark Unit One report by Labosport dated 17 March 2025, the track surface is approaching the end of its lifespan. Investment will be required to achieve TrackMark accreditation in 2028, ensuring the continuation of licensed competition, safe training, and wider community access.

In addition to the above, there is a need to ensure appropriate ancillary provision is available for users. There are some basic requirements needed to ensure TrackMark accreditation remains which are outlined in greater detail in Unit 3[7], however, broadly there is a need for changing rooms, toilets, carparking and storage.

Consideration should also be given to wider users such as local schools and educational establishments to ensure appropriate ancillary services are provided. With this being said there is a need to explore options to address the quality issues with the ancillary provision in addition to resurfacing the track before the end of 2028.

Recommendations

- Protect athletic facilities.
- Explore options to redevelop King George V Stadium to improve sustainability of the site a protect athletics provision.
- Explore options to resurface the track at King George V Stadium before 2028 and once refurbished look to retest its TrackMark accreditation.
- Ensure the track at King George V Stadium includes access to relevant ancillary facilities which meet TrackMark accreditation and the need of the users.
- Continue to increase participation within affiliated clubs and the wider running market, building on the success of Parkrun and looking to increase other initiatives not currently operating in North East Lincolnshire.
- Monitor ParkRun at Cleethorpes Country Park, as England Athletics reports due to current demand, the route is becoming more worn, with only one ParkRun currently in the Authority.
- Explore increase the number of ParkRun events, including junior events, based on levels of demand across North East Lincolnshire.
- Consider the need to include ActiveTracks (walk/jog/run/cycle loops) within parks and open spaces or as part of future housing developments.

[7] https://www.uka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/TrackMark-Unit-3-Ancillary-guidance-notes-v3.pdf

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

AIM 1

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

Recommendations:

a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.

c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

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

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

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF policy HC7 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a location which offers comparable or improved accessibility for the community it serves; or
- The development is for public service infrastructure, and the resulting loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and/or quality; or
- The development is for alternative open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors.

In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years. They will use the PPS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

Policy Exception E1:

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

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

Policy Exception E3

'The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

Policy Exception E5

'The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused playing fields are included within this Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one or two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger and better quality venues (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed, could be developed for other uses. It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

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

Much like some authorities nationally, there is reliance on the education sector to provide for most of the demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in North East Lincolnshire. However, where this is the case, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenue for clubs is explored and progressed where possible. The following schools provide community use to clubs.

Table 5.1: Known use of education sites

Site ID	Site	Number of teams	Pitch type
3	Beacon Academy	1	11v11
20	Coomb Briggs Primary Academy	1	5v5
20	Coomb Briggs Primary Academy	1	7v7
25	Fairfield Academy	1	11v11
26	Franklin College	1	Adult
26	Franklin College	1	9v9
45	Healing School	1	Adult
46	Humberston Academy	3	Adult
46	Humberston Academy	Football training	3G
46	Humberston Academy	1	11v11
49	John Whitgift Academy	8	11v11
49	John Whitgift Academy	3	9v9
49	John Whitgift Academy	6	7v7
49	John Whitgift Academy	2	5v5
56	Macauley Primary School	2	5v5
65	Oasis Academy Immingham	2	9v9
65	Oasis Academy Immingham	Football training	3G
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	Football training	3G
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	8	11v11
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	6	9v9
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	3	7v7
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	1	5v5
69	Ormiston Maritime Academy	4	Hockey suitable AGP
83	St James School Playing Field	4	11v11
83	St James School Playing Field	2	9v9
85	Stallingborough C E Primary School	1	7v7
90	The Academy Grimsby	1	Adult
90	The Academy Grimsby	1	11v11
95	Thrunscoe Primary Academy	1	5v5
96	Tollbar Academy	5	11v11
96	Tollbar Academy	1	9v9
96	Tollbar Academy	2	7v7

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time.

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

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

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council (where relevant), parish and town councils and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported, and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

Alternative management models

The Council could explore possible alternative options for the future management of some sites within its playing field portfolio, including leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT). Potential benefits of this include reducing costs which may allow for the retention and possible improvement of other retained sites within the portfolio, as well as potentially opening up new routes to improvement of sites and access to external funding opportunities through club-led management models.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and National Governing Bodies to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)[8]. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

- Increasing participation.
- Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- Commitment to quality standards.
- Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

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

[8] Link to CASC benefits

Community Asset Transfer

Another way of ensuring tenure long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- Help local authorities meet policy objectives.
- Make better use of underused assets.
- Open and increase opportunities for clubs/organisations to access grant funding for which local authorities cannot apply (e.g. Football Foundation Grass Maintenance Fund).
- Improve assets through increased time and resource (both financial and volunteer) than what the local authority may be able to contribute.
- Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability and help transition clubs away from being funding dependent. Opens opportunities to revenue generation and greater self-dependence.
- Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces. Reducing costs to the local authority and protection against further budgetary cuts.
- Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit.
- Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers.
- Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here: Link to Sport England Community assets and rights

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

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

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

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

The following schools do not allow community access to some or all of their facilities:

- Cleethorpes Academy.
- Eastfield Primary Academy.
- Edward Heneage Primary Academy.
- Enfield Academy of New Waltham.
- Great Cotes Primary School.
- Healing Primary School.
- Healing School.
- Lisle Marsden C of E Primary Academy.
- Littlecoates Primary Academy.
- Macaulay Primary Academy.
- Middlethorpe Primary Academy.
- Old Clee Primary Academy.
- Ormiston South Parade Primary Academy.
- Pilgrim Academy.
- Reynolds Academy.
- Sevenhills Academy.
- Springfield Primary Academy.
- St Josephs Catholic Primary Academy.
- Waltham Leas Primary Academy.
- Weelsby Academy.
- Welholme Academy.
- Western Primary School.
- Willows Academy.
- Wybers Wood Academy.

Gaining access to some, or all of these sites, could have a significant impact in alleviating shortfalls for a variety of sports. It should be noted this may also include qualitative improvements.

The Council, with assistance from NGBs and SE, needs to work towards gaining secured access to more educational sites in order to provide additional capacity for community sports. This should include relevant policies are contained within strategic documents such as the emerging local plan.

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

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

Sport England's Use our School[9] campaign provides guidance on how the Council could obtain access to educational sites including providing relevant information surrounding potential operating models, legal and governance / finance / marketing and operating information.

Where new schools are provided, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 / youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as courts that can accommodate for sports such as tennis.

AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities through improving the quality and management of sites.

Recommendations:

d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary

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

f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

g. Secure developer contributions

Recommendation (d) – Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary

There are several ways in which it is possible to improve pitch quality, and these are explored below.

Available support programmes

Ground Management Association (GMA) Pitch Advisory Service

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

[9] https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/use-our-school

Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower (PP) app. In August 2022, PitchPower was re-launched, with enhanced capability to support use beyond football pitches and is now accessible for the assessment of natural turf pitches for cricket, rugby league and rugby union. It should be noted that with cricket in particular, more PitchPower assessments are planned to be carried out, therefore, there is a need to review quality as part of the Stage E process of this PPOSS

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS assessment assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the Ground Management Association.

Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, the app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

In North East Lincolnshire the Lincolnshire FA play a proactive role, as County FA supporting clubs, schools and pitch operators, to engage in the pitch power process, monitoring uptake and new potentials to access funding support, from the Football Foundation.

The tool across web app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

In addition to non-technical assessments, clubs and education sites across North East Lincolnshire continue to undertake PitchPower assessments as a means of improving the quality of provision. Consequently, it should be recommended through the PPOSS process for the local authority to support delivering any improvement to new sites that undertake PitchPower assessments.

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as ‘poor’ or ‘basic’ they are then eligible to apply for funding through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund[10], a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to improve and sustain quality.

All applicants must have, as a minimum, landowners permission to accept investment or ideally long term security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, charities, community organisations, education providers and town and parish councils. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have landowners permission as stated above.

[10] https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund

However, the Council, can undertake technical assessment of pitches using the PitchPower app. Opportunities to access the fund to support presently Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT), both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

Addressing overplay

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

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

Table 5.2: Recommended capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches (Good quality)	No. of matches (Standard quality)	No. of matches (Poor quality)
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	All pitch types	3.3 per week (5 hours per week)	2.6 per week (4 hours per week)	2 per week (3 hours per week)
Rugby league	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Rugby league	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	4 per day

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged to transfer to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. Alternatively quality, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels.

Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use, but which may be in the future.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to reducing overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed adjacent to existing squares. However, when considering future demand across Bassetlaw, there would be a shortfall of capacity to cater for all club aspirational demand particularly where existing provision is already significantly overplayed or currently played to capacity in the peak period.

Therefore, consideration needs to be made as to potentially reinstate disused provision or establishing new provision to cater for this future demand.

For rugby union, overplay can be reduced resolved through transfer demand to 3G and the installation of sports lighting to cater for midweek training demand.

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

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in North East Lincolnshire (these are detailed further in the Action Plan), for example, the changing provision at the following sites are poor quality with users stating the need to redevelop the ancillary facilities as the current facilities are outdated.

- Barretts Recreation Grounds.
- British Legion Sports & Social Club.
- Butt Lane Playing Field.
- Carr Lane Social Club.
- Chapel Lane Playing Fields.
- Hardys Recreation Ground.
- Healing School.
- Humberston Academy.
- King George V Playing Field.
- King George V Stadium.
- Mount Pleasant Playing Field.
- Neville Turner Way Playing Fields.
- Roval Drive Playing Field.
- Sidney Park.
- Stallingborough Playing Fields.
- Sussex Recreation Ground.
- Woodlands Avenue Sports Ground.
- Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club.
- Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club.
- Grimsby Town Cricket Club.

As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement such as, multi-sport pitch sites, club managed sites and sites which are strategically important for adult and/or women and girls participation.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan (contained in a separate document) for the proposed hierarchy. Developer contributions, where relevant to the development and appropriate, could be informed by this hierarchy.

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

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

To address community need a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

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

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

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

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator. This works by turning an estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent number of courts which will be needed to meet this. It helps quantify additional demand for new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas, and is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations.

The tool should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- Facility location compared to demand.
- Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- Cross boundary movement of demand.
- Travel networks and topography.
- Attractiveness of facilities.

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

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused.

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

Where new provision is not required but where contributions to existing sites is instead to be sought, the PPOSS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).

Sport England also recommends that a number of objectives which should be implemented to enable best use of the calculators:

- Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site, where the need and demand arises from a development.
- All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

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

Developer contributions - step by step guide

For any application warranting a developer contribution the following processes should be followed in order to help inform the potential needs a new housing development may require and/or should look to consider. In accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance, contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area).

Any obligations sought should be based on a tailored approach to each development, considering the population derived from the development, determining if the demand can be met by existing facilities and identifying the project/s that any required contribution will be used towards. All of this should be carried out using the robust evidence base provided as part of the PPOSS to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met.

Step 1	**Determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from the development**

The main tool for determining this is Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, which is a Sport England tool provided on completion of the Strategy. The calculator will be pre-populated with the current population of the local authority and the current demand data from the PPOSS. Until this requires updating, to determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from a development, all that is required is the input of the new population that will derive from a proposal.

The calculator provides an estimation of the number of new pitches that would be required to meet the match equivalent sessions that will derive from the development. The associated costs for providing these new pitches are also identified (although please note that these are indicative costs only and appropriate local work should be undertaken to determine the true costs involved).

Step 2	**Determine whether new provision is required and whether this should be on or off site**

For large-scale developments that generate high levels of demand, new pitch provision may be required to meet the population growth. This is particularly the case when the calculator identifies a need for multiple pitches and across multiple sports.

When on site provision is required, priority should be placed on the creation of multi-pitch and multi-sport sites with appropriate ancillary facilities such as a clubhouse and adequate car parking, as well as ensuring the provision contributes towards reducing current shortfalls. This will ensure that the provision is sustainable and attractive to potential users. Emphasis should also be on ensuring the site can accommodate an AGP given current sporting trends.

Other useful questions when deciding on new provision include:

- Are there any teams/clubs playing outside of the local area (displaced demand) which could utilise provision at the site?
- Do any local clubs identify existing plans/demand for access to new provision?
- Are there any overplayed sites in the local area where existing demand could be transferred to a new site?

- Do any local clubs identify any latent demand (i.e. if they had access to more pitches they could they field more teams?)

To further help determine the sustainability of establishing new provision, consideration should be given to the potential management opportunities which may be available onsite:

- Is the local authority (or town/parish council) in a position to take on further outdoor sports facilities from a financial point of view?
- Is an education establishment to be provided as part of the development which offers a potential management option of outdoor sports facilities?
- Is there a leisure trust in place which has the capacity to take on the management of outdoor sports facilities?
- Is there an opportunity for a trust based model of management, for example, by formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)?
- Is there an existing sports club that has the capacity to take on the management of another site?

Where the calculator does not create demand for a whole pitch, which is often the case for smaller sized developments, it is recommended to make a contribution to increasing the capacity of an existing site to meet demand generated from the development. When identifying a site for off-site contributions, the proximity and location of existing playing pitch sites should be considered and whether they could help serve the new development – this could be informed by identifying the analysis area in which the development sits and if there are any hub sites or key centres within the locality. Initially, a one-mile radius could be drawn around the site in order to help identify the nearest priority sites, which may require consultation with neighbouring authorities when the development sites are close to the boundary.

The off-site decision should be based on the potential to improve existing facilities within an appropriate catchment of a development to create additional capacity, and how realistic it is given the nature of the local area to provide new provision. For example, there may be some poor quality playing fields that could potentially be improved with additional drainage and long-term maintenance works, along with enhanced changing provision, to enable use to be increased, thereby creating additional capacity to meet the increased demand generated from the development.

Discussions should be held with relevant parties (e.g. NGBs, landowners, facility operators and user groups), and any further necessary evidence gathered (e.g. a feasibility study) to help identify the specific works that are required, and to ensure they will provide the necessary additional capacity to meet the needs. It will also be important to demonstrate that the specific works can be delivered within an appropriate timescale in relation to the occupation of the development site.

Step 3	**Determine the other pitch and non-pitch requirements resulting from the development**

The Sports Facility Calculator now calculates tennis demand so this can therefore be used to inform tennis requirements; however, neither this nor the Playing Pitch Calculator determine needs for any other sports.

That being said, the PPOSS identifies (where relevant) current and future demand requirements and can therefore still be used to determine if contributions are required towards these sports or if new provision is required, in conjunction with NGB discussions.

Where there is no identified shortfall in provision or future demand for new provision within an area relevant to the development (e.g. an analysis area or settlement), consideration should be given to the nearest site to the development containing that type of provision. If this could accommodate the increased demand from the development, no action is required; if it could not accommodate the demand, consider if the site could benefit from a contribution towards increasing capacity to meet likely need. For example, this could include increasing quality and/or addition of ancillary facilities such as floodlighting, changing rooms or car parking. The PPOSS Action Plan should be used as a starting point to identify site by site recommendations.

Where there is an identified shortfall that could not be overcome through contributions, new provision may be required within or nearby to the development as part of a multi-sport development.

Step 4	**Consider design principles for new provision**

The exact nature and location of provision associated with onsite developments should be fully determined in partnership with each relevant NGB. Further to this, each pitch sport NGB provides national guidance in relation to provision of new pitches.

There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

Step 5	**Calculate the financial contribution required**

After using the PPOSS Playing Pitch Calculator and the PPOSS as a starting point, the local cost of provision should be fully determined in order to calculate the financial contributions required.

A clear and transparent methodology for calculating up to date costs for the specific works, including appropriate ancillary provision, should be presented. Where appropriate, depending on how the needs are to be met, the cost of any required land purchase should be included in the financial contribution. If an obligation will be directed to an off-site project it should be ensured the costs are limited to meet the needs of the individual development.

Along with any capital costs for the works, an obligation should ensure an appropriate level of lifecycle costs towards the new or enhanced provision. This is required to cover the day to day maintenance for an agreed long-term period and to help ensure a sinking fund exists for any major replacement work, e.g. the future resurfacing of an artificial grass pitch.

Wherever possible, specific local costs should be used, especially if the works are to improve the existing quality of a site to increase capacity as there may be a number of site specifics to consider. Sport England does provide indicative costs for new provision: https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

For all developments community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term.

AIM 3
To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do

Recommendations:

h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.

i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

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

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

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

- Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e. it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur.

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to redesignate a senior pitch, where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action plan will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

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

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision. Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls for football, cricket, hockey and tennis can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches and the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

However, for rugby union it shows that given the amount of demand, if maximum level quality improvements were to take place, shortfalls would still be present. In this instance, other methods of addressing overplay should be explored such as the installation of additional provision, increased sports lighting or using dedicated sports lit training areas and potentially installing a World Rugby compliant 3G pitches to better support training demand.

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

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

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

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

Site hierarchy

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

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a regional context i.e., they accommodate most of the demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Tiered site criteria

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

Hub sites are of Authority wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

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

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

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

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

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

Partners

The column indicating partners in the Action Plans below refers to the main organisations that the Council (or the relevant provider) would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

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

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

Priority

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

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

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

Costs

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

(L) - Low - less than £150k.
(M) - Medium - £150k-£750k.
(H) - High £750k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs[11].

Timescales

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

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

Aim

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

[11] Facility cost guidance | Sport England

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

AREA 1

Area summary – pitch sports[12]

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2032) [13]
Football (grass)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Area 1	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 2	Actual spare capacity of 2
Area 1	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
Area 1	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
Area 1	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Area 1	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
North East Lincolnshire	**Adult**	**Actual spare capacity of 1.5**	**Actual spare capacity of 1.5**
North East Lincolnshire	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 4.5**	**Shortfall of 4.5**
North East Lincolnshire	**Youth 9v9**	**Actual spare capacity of 0.5**	**Actual spare capacity of 0.5**
North East Lincolnshire	**Mini 7v7**	**Actual spare capacity of 3**	**Actual spare capacity of 3**
North East Lincolnshire	**Mini 5v5**	**Actual spare capacity of 3.5**	**Actual spare capacity of 3.5**
Football (3G)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Area 1	11v11	Shortfall of 1 pitches	Shortfall of 1 pitches
North East Lincolnshire	**11v11**	**Shortfall of 3.5 pitches**	**Shortfall of 3.5 pitches**
Cricket	**-**	-	-
Area 1	Saturday	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Area 1	Sunday	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Area 1	Midweek	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
North East Lincolnshire	**Saturday**	**Shortfall of 51**	**Shortfall of 63**
North East Lincolnshire	**Sunday**	**Shortfall of 43**	**Shortfall of 51**
North East Lincolnshire	**Midweek**	**Shortfall of 51**	**Shortfall of 63**
Rugby union	-	**-**	**-**
Area 1	Senior	No demand on provision	No demand on provision
North East Lincolnshire	**Senior**	**Shortfall of 5.4**	**Shortfall of 5.4**
Rugby league	-	-	-
Area 1	Senior	No demand or provision	No demand or provision
North East Lincolnshire	**Senior**	**No demand or provision**	**No demand or provision**
Hockey	-	-	-
North East Lincolnshire	**Full size, with sports lighting**	**Sufficient supply, is a need to secure a long term lease for Grimsby HC at Ormiston Maritime Academy.**	**-**

[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)
[13] It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Golf	There is a sufficient quantity of golfing facilities in North East Lincolnshire that offer a good variety of facilities to ensure that all golfers can be catered for. However, demand is also very high, given that average membership equates to 515, which means that existing provision needs to be protected.
Tennis	In conclusion, where known through consultation, both Grimsby Tennis Centre and St James Tennis Club have sufficient capacity to facilitate club demand both now and in the future. For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues there is a need to address quality at specific sites. In North East Lincolnshire, this identifies a demand for up to 13 courts Padel courts.
Athletics	As King George V Stadium is used by two prominent athletics clubs there is a need to protect athletics provision and ensure that the quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received. With this being said there is a need to explore options to address the quality issues with the ancillary provision in addition to resurfacing the track before the end of 2028.

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
4	Blossom Way Sports and Social Club	1208269	DN40 1PH	Football	Sport Club	Two adult and one mini 7v7 pitch all of which are of a good quality. There is actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES across the two adult pitches. The site is serviced with standard quality ancillary provision, but the site has been identified within the recent LFFPs as a priority project for a potential site for changing room refurbishment.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. With Immingham Town relocating to Woodlands Avenue Sports Ground for the 2026/27 season, spare capacity should be monitored, as additional availability may emerge. Monitor any improvements of the ancillary provision on site. It's important that any changing room refurbishment at the site is able to cater for multiple sports.	Sports Club, LFA, FF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
4	Blossom Way Sports and Social Club	1208269	DN40 1PH	Cricket	Sport Club	One standard quality cricket square which provides 10 grass wickets and is accessed by Cleethorpes CC, Grimsby Town CC, and GMCL. The squares outfield is of poor quality due to football pitches marked on it. The site is serviced with standard quality ancillary provision, but the site has been identified within the recent LFFPs as a priority project for a potential site for changing room refurbishment.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime, however, explore improving the outfield quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Monitor any improvements of the ancillary provision on site. It's important that any changing room refurbishment at the site is able to cater for multiple sports.	Sports club ECB, LCB	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
6	British Legion Sports & Social Club	6002883	DN41 7RN	Football	Sport Club	One adult, one mini 7v7, and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are of a standard quality. One youth 11v11 pitch of poor quality and played to capacity. There is actual spare capacity of one MES across the adult pitch. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary provision and has been identified within the recent LFFPs as a priority project for a new pavilion development.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to better support community demand. Monitor improvements that are in the process to improve the quality and quantity of changing rooms.	Sports Club, LFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
6	British Legion Sports & Social Club	6002883	DN41 7RN	Cricket	Sport Club	One standalone NTP of standard quality which is available for community use and accommodates demand from GMCL. The NTP's outfield is of poor quality due to football pitches marked on it.	Sustain NTP quality, however, explore improving the outfield quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Monitor improvements that are in the process to improve the quality and quantity of changing rooms.	Sports Club, ECB, LCB	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
8	Butt Lane Playing Field	6002856	DN37 7BA	Football	Parish Council	One adult, and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality. One mini 7v7 of poor quality and played to capacity. There is actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES on the adult pitch and 0.5 MES on the youth 9v9 pitch. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision; however, the changing room provision is of poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to better support community demand. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Parish Council, LFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
8	Butt Lane Playing Field	6002856	DN37 7BA	Cricket	Parish Council	One NTP available for community use.	Protect for community use.	Parish Council, ECB, LCB	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
8	Butt Lane Playing Field	6002856	DN37 7BA	Tennis	Parish Council	One poor quality macadam court that is without sports lighting.	Look to resurface court to improve quality for community use.	Council, LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
12	Chapel Lane Playing Fields	6002855	DN40 3AF	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch both of which are of a poor quality, with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. The sites ancillary provision has been deemed as unsafe to access and is of poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
20	Coomb Briggs Primary Academy	30006432	DN40 2DY	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch both of which are of a poor quality, with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime, alongside providing clubs accessing the site with a secure tenure to create actual spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
22	Eastfield Primary Academy	6002831	DN40 1LD	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality and is not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
44	Healing Primary School	6002910	DN41 7RS	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch of poor quality and is not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
45	Healing School	1201260	DN41 7QD	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all of poor quality. On the two youth 11v11 pitches the actual spare capacity has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure, while the youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity. The ancillary provision is of poor quality, however, is development plans to provide new provision alongside the 3G development supported by the Council.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime, alongside providing clubs accessing the site with a secure tenure to create actual spare capacity. Monitor improvements that are in the process to improve the quality and quantity of changing rooms.	Education, Council, LFA, FF	Key Centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
45	Healing School	1201260	DN41 7QD	3G	Education	The site is currently in the process of securing funding from the Football Foundation to develop a 11v11 3G pitch on site. The ancillary provision is of poor quality, however, is development plans to provide new provision alongside the 3G development supported by the Council.	Monitor the development of the 11v11 3G pitch. Monitor improvements that are in the process to improve the quality and quantity of changing rooms.	Education, Council, LFA, FF	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
45	Healing School	1201260	DN41 7QD	Rugby Union	Education	One unclassified non accessible rugby union pitch.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, RFU	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect
45	Healing School	1201260	DN41 7QD	Cricket	Education	One NTP which is not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, LCB	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect
45	Healing School	1201260	DN41 7QD	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam court that is without sports lighting and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect
55	Laceby Manor Resort	1037678	DN37 7LD	Golf	Commercial Management	One 18-hole golf course	Protect for community use.	Commercial Management, EG	Local	L	S	L	Protect
55	Laceby Manor Resort	1037678	DN37 7LD	Padel	Commercial Management	There is plans to develop two padel courts at the site, as well as build a shop and café with additional car parking (DM/0125/25/FUL).	Monitor development of padel provision to meet current demand.	Commercial Management, LTA	Local	M	M	M	Provide
58	Lydford Road Sports Ground	30010382	DN40 1HA	Football	Council	The site has not provided an adult pitch and a youth 11v11 grass pitch and is now maintained as an open field space behind new housing development.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Council, LFA, FF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
65	Oasis Academy Immingham	1200872	DN40 1JU	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch both of poor quality and played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime, alongside providing clubs accessing the site with a secure tenure to create actual spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
65	Oasis Academy Immingham	1200872	DN40 1JU	3G	Education	One smaller sided 3G pitch of good quality, following a resurface in 2024.	Protect for community and curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
71	Pilgrim Academy	6002906	DN40 2HP	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch of poor quality and is not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
76	Roval Drive Playing Field	6002886	DN40 2DY	Football	Council	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, and one mini 5v5 pitches all of poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary provision and has been identified within the recent LFFPs as a priority project for a new pavilion development.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Immingham Town Council, LFA, FF	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
85	Stallingborough C E Primary School	6002866	DN41 8AP	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime, alongside providing clubs accessing the site with a secure tenure to create actual spare capacity.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
86	Stallingborough Playing Fields	6002885	DN41 8TG	Football	Parish Council	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch both of poor quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one MES. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Parish Council, LFA, FF	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
86	Stallingborough Playing Fields	6002885	DN41 8TG	Cricket	Parish Council	One NTP available for community use.	Protect for community use.	Parish Council, ECB, LCB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
105	Woodlands Avenue Sports Ground	6002880	DN40 2JG	Football	Sport Club	One adult pitch of poor quality, serviced by poor quality ancillary provision. Immingham Town are relocating to the site for the 2026/27 season. The Club aspires to improve the pitch quality, develop a purpose built ancillary provision, alongside a 3G pitch.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Monitor developments at the site and ensure relocation takes place with no issues.	Sports Club, LFA, FF	Local	M	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
110	Healing Village Hall	-	DN41 7SR	Tennis	Parish Council	Two poor quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Look to resurface courts to improve quality for community use.	Parish Council, LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
111	Former Tioxide Land now ABP	-	DN31 2AN	Cricket	Commercial management	Former four wicket grass square based at a commercial company sports and social club that has not been utilised for a number of years.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Commercial management ECB, LCB, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect

AREA 2

Area summary – pitch sports[14]

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2032) [15]
Football (grass)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Area 2	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
Area 2	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 4
Area 2	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 1	Actual spare capacity of 1
Area 2	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 3	Actual spare capacity of 3
Area 2	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 3.5	Actual spare capacity of 3.5
North East Lincolnshire	**Adult**	**Actual spare capacity of 1.5**	**Actual spare capacity of 1.5**
North East Lincolnshire	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 4.5**	**Shortfall of 4.5**
North East Lincolnshire	**Youth 9v9**	**Actual spare capacity of 0.5**	**Actual spare capacity of 0.5**
North East Lincolnshire	**Mini 7v7**	**Actual spare capacity of 3**	**Actual spare capacity of 3**
North East Lincolnshire	**Mini 5v5**	**Actual spare capacity of 3.5**	**Actual spare capacity of 3.5**
Football (3G)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Area 2	11v11	Shortfall of 2.5 pitches	Shortfall of 2.5 pitches
North East Lincolnshire	**11v11**	**Shortfall of 3.5 pitches**	**Shortfall of 3.5 pitches**
Cricket	**-**	-	-
Area 2	Saturday	Shortfall of 51	Shortfall of 63
Area 2	Sunday	Shortfall of 43	Shortfall of 51
Area 2	Midweek	Shortfall of 51	Shortfall of 63
North East Lincolnshire	**Saturday**	**Shortfall of 51**	**Shortfall of 63**
North East Lincolnshire	**Sunday**	**Shortfall of 43**	**Shortfall of 51**
North East Lincolnshire	**Midweek**	**Shortfall of 51**	**Shortfall of 63**
Rugby union	-	**-**	**-**
Area 2	Senior	Shortfall of 5.4	Shortfall of 5.4
North East Lincolnshire	**Senior**	**Shortfall of 5.4**	**Shortfall of 5.4**
Rugby league	-	-	-
Area 1	Senior	No demand or provision	No demand or provision
North East Lincolnshire	**Senior**	**No demand or provision**	**No demand or provision**
Hockey	-	-	**-**
North East Lincolnshire	**Full size, with sports lighting**	**Sufficient supply, is a need to secure a long term lease for Grimsby HC at Ormiston Maritime Academy.**	**-**

[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)
[15] It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Golf	There is a sufficient quantity of golfing facilities in North East Lincolnshire that offer a good variety of facilities to ensure that all golfers can be catered for. However, demand is also very high, given that average membership equates to 515, which means that existing provision needs to be protected.
Tennis	In conclusion, where known through consultation, both Grimsby Tennis Centre and St James Tennis Club have sufficient capacity to facilitate club demand both now and in the future. For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues there is a need to address quality at specific sites. In North East Lincolnshire, this identifies a demand for up to 13 courts Padel courts.
Athletics	As King George V Stadium is used by two prominent athletics clubs there is a need to protect athletics provision and ensure that the quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received. With this being said there is a need to explore options to address the quality issues with the ancillary provision in addition to resurfacing the track before the end of 2028.

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Bannatyne Health Club	1000866	DN36 4SX	Tennis	Commercial	Five standard quality macadam courts, which all are sport lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through a continuation of the current maintenance regime.	Private, LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
2	Barretts Recreation Grounds	6002890	DN32 0BX	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch both of poor quality. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary provision and has been identified within the recent LFFPs as a priority project for a new pavilion development.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site. Monitor Grimsby United aspiration to access the site and potentially reconfigure the pitch layout.	Council, LFA, FF	Key Centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
2	Barretts Recreation Grounds	6002890	DN32 0BX	Cricket	Council	One disused and one poor quality NTP.	Explore feasibility of improving one of the NTP's quality if required to support community or club demand.	Council, ECB, LCB	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
2	Barretts Recreation Grounds	6002890	DN32 0BX	Tennis	Council	Four good quality courts and four poor quality unused courts. None of the courts are sport lit. The good quality courts were recently refurbishment and is plans to install sport lighting.	Sustain the good courts quality through a continuation of the current maintenance regime, while consider resurfacing the poor quality courts at the site during the lifespan of the PPOSS to improve quality. Monitor the installation of sport lighting on the good quality courts. Continue providing LTA initiatives at the site.	Council, LTA	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
3	Beacon Academy (Cleethorpes)	1200464	DN35 9NF	Football	Education	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7, and one mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality.	Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
3	Beacon Academy (Cleethorpes)	1200464	DN35 9NF	Cricket	Education	Two disused NTPs not currently utilised. Wider site is used for football. There were previously three NTPs onsite however one was lost due to football developments.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Education, ECB, LCB, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
5	Bradley Football Development Centre	6002889	DN37 0AG	Football	Lincs Inspire	11 adult, three youth 11v11, four youth 9v9, three mini 7v7, three mini 5v5 pitches. Of the pitches, 50% are of good quality and 50% are of standard quality. Across the pitch types there is eight MES of actual spare capacity. The site is serviced by standard quality changing rooms, while the overall building is good quality, due to the changing room provision only provides communal shower provision.	Sustain or improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance programme. Explore providing self-contained showers within the changing rooms. Utilise spare capacity.	Council, Lincs Inspire, LFA, FF	Hub	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Bradley Football Development Centre	6002889	DN37 0AG	3G	Lincs Inspire	The site provides one 11v11 3G pitch of standard quality. The pitch is on the FA Register and will expire 31.05.27. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision, but the changing rooms are assessed as standard quality due to only providing communal showers. The site operator reports the car park is not suitable for the level of demand taking place at the site with limited spaces. The site operators have aspirations to add another 11v11 3G surface subject to sufficient funding.	Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place. Monitor pitch quality until pitches are replaced and ensure pitches remain on the FA Register. Monitor 11v11 3G pitch development and need for additional car parking provision to accommodate demand. Explore providing self-contained showers within the changing rooms.	Council, Lincs Inspire, LFA, FF	Hub	H	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
5	Bradley Football Development Centre	6002889	DN37 0AG	Cricket	Lincs Inspire	The site provides three disused NTP's, however the site operators report it would like to reintroduce one or two NTP's on site to provide additional provision during the summer months.	Monitor reintroduction of NTP provision and explore potential use from GMCL.	Council, Lincs Inspire, ECB, LCB	Hub	H	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
9	Cambridge Park Academy	1201237	DN34 5EB	AGP	Education	One small sided 3G pitch which is not available for community use or sport lit.	Protect for circular use.	Education, EH	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
10	Carr Lane Social Club	30009589	DN32 8JP	Football	Community Organisation	One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch both of poor quality. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision; however, the changing rooms are of poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Community Organisation, LFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect
11	Centre4	30002709	DN33 1HE	Football	Community Organisation	The site previously provided a mini 7v7 grass pitch.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Community Organisation, LFA, FF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
13	Clee Fields	1040109	DN32 9SW	Football	Charity (YMCA)	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. The site operator reports that, although the pitches were marked out for 2025/26, they were not fully used. For 2026/27, they will be offered to existing partner clubs. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Monitor usage for the 2026/27 season to ensure pitches are utilised.	Charity (YMCA), Council, LFA, FF	Hub	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
13	Clee Fields	1040109	DN32 9SW	3G	Charity (YMCA)	Two 11v11 3G pitches of good quality. Both pitches are on the FA Register and will expire 31.05.27.	Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place.	Charity (YMCA), Council, LFA, FF, RFU	Hub	H	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						One of the pitches are WR22 compliant but are currently not utilised by any rugby union clubs.	Monitor pitch quality until pitches are replaced and ensure pitches remain on the FA Register. Opportunities should be explored to formalise usage and agreement with the two rugby clubs in order to better utilise the WR22 pitch and support training demand for both clubs. If rugby clubs agree usage at the site, ensure football clubs are still able to access peak period slots.						
15	Cleethorpes Academy	1201242	DN35 9NX	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, all poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
15	Cleethorpes Academy	1201242	DN35 9NX	Cricket	Education	Two standalone NTP's which are not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, LCB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
15	Cleethorpes Academy	1201242	DN35 9NX	Tennis	Education	Three poor quality macadam courts. The courts are not available for community use or sport lit.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
16	Cleethorpes Cricket Club	20002202	DN35 0HZ	Football	Sport Club	One mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality with 0,5 MES of actual spare capacity. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality through a continuation of the current maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity.	Sport Club, LFA, FF	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect
16	Cleethorpes Cricket Club	20002202	DN35 0HZ	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality grass cricket square, serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. It has 20 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. Square has capacity to accommodate an additional team on Sunday.	Sustain square quality through a continuation of the current maintenance regime. Utilise spare capacity. Explore improving the ancillary provision at the site to increase suitability for women's and girls' demand.	Sport Club, ECB, LCB	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect
17	Cleethorpes Golf Club	1101549	DN35 0PN	Golf	Sports Club	One 18-hole golf course	Protect for community use.	Sports Club, EG	Local site	L	S	L	Protect
19	Cleethorpes Rugby Union Football Club	6002877	DN36 4AW	Rugby Union	Sports club	Two senior rugby union pitches, one is of good quality while the other is assessed as basic. Neither pitch are serviced by sport lighting, however, the Club has aspiration to install them. The pitches are overplayed by 2.5 MES for midweek training and has 3.9 MES of spare capacity for weekend match play and overall has spare capacity of 1.4 MES. Cleethorpes RUFC has a 30-year lease from a private landowner at the site which it has 25 years remaining as of 2026.	Sustain or improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance programme. Explore improving the ancillary provision, including sports lighting, at the site to increase suitability for women's and girls' rugby union. Monitor the Club's potential usage at Clee Fields 11v11 3G which is WR22 compliant to reduce demand on pitches.	Sport Club, RFU	Local	H	L	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The pitches are accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision with poor changing rooms as well as communal showers.							
21	Dunlop Oil and Marine Ltd	6002891	DN31 2SY	Football	Commercial Management	The site previously provided grass pitches and is now an open area maintained by an industrial site.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Commercial Management, LFA, FF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
23	Edward Heneage Primary Academy	30004132	DN32 9HL	AGP	Education	One small sided AGP pitch which is not available for community use or sport lit.	Protect for circular use.	Education, EH	Local	L	S	L	Protect
24	Enfield Academy of New Waltham	6002909	DN36 4RB	Football	Education	One poor quality min 5v5 which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
24	Enfield Academy of New Waltham	6002909	DN36 4RB	AGP	Education	One small sided AGP pitch which is not available for community use or sport lit.	Protect for circular use.	Education, EH	Local	L	S	L	Protect
25	Fairfield Academy	6002913	DN33 3AE	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime, alongside providing clubs accessing the site with a secure tenure to create actual spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
26	Franklin College	1200469	DN34 5BY	Football	Education	Two adult pitches of good quality, and one youth 9v9 of standard quality.	Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
26	Franklin College	1200469	DN34 5BY	3G	Education	The site has successfully secured funding to develop an 11v11 3G pitch.	Monitor the development of the 11v11 3G pitch. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place. Monitor pitch quality until pitch is replaced and ensure pitches remain on the FA Register.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	H	S	H	Provide
28	Grant Thorold Park	30010614	DN32 8BX	Football	Council	The site previously provided a mini 7v7 grass pitch and is now a recreational area.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
29	Great Coates Primary School	6002916	DN37 9EN	Football	Education	One poor quality min 7v7 which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
30	Greenlands Recreation Field	1040094	DN36 4GU	Football	Parish Council	One adult, two youth 9v9, and one mini 7v7 pitch, all standard quality, serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. One of the youth 9v9 and the mini 7v7 pitch both provide actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES per pitch.	Sustain or improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance programme. Utilise spare capacity.	Parish Council, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
31	Grimsby Golf Club	1101550	DN34 4LU	Golf	Sports Club	One 18-hole golf course	Protect for community use.	Sports Club, EG	Local site	L	S	L	Protect
33	Grimsby Institute	1010273	DN34 5BQ	AGP	Education	One poor quality full size hockey suitable AGP with sport lighting. The pitch has same surface since it was installed in 2013. Grimsby HC previously accessed the site, however all demand is accommodated at Ormiston Maritime Academy, and the AGP pitch is only utilised for football demand. The site operators have aspirations to convert the pitch to a 3G surface, with no hockey demand taking place at the site.	Look to resurface the pitch during the lifespan of the PPOSS. Monitor feasibility of converting the pitch to an 3G surface, following no hockey demand taking place at the site.	Education, EH, LFA, FF	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
34	Grimsby Leisure Centre	1005587	DN31 2BH	Tennis	Lincs Inspire	Four unused macadam courts with no sport lighting.	Consider resurfacing the unused courts at the site during the lifespan of the PPOSS to improve quality.	Lincs Inspire, LTA	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
35	Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club	1040118	DN33 3JF	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is available for community use.	Sustain or improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance programme.	Sports club, LFA, FF	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect
35	Grimsby Rugby Union Football Club	1040118	DN33 3JF	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Two senior rugby union pitches, one is of good quality while the other is assessed as basic. Neither pitch are serviced by sport lighting, however the Club has aspiration to install them. The pitches are overplayed by seven MES for midweek training and has 0.2 MES of spare capacity for weekend match play and overall has spare capacity of 6.8 MES. The site also provides two junior pitches. The pitches are accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision with poor changing rooms as well as communal baths. The Club has aspiration and development plans to improve these facilities.	Sustain or improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance programme. Explore improving the ancillary provision, including sports lighting, at the site to increase suitability for women's and girls' rugby union. Monitor the club's potential usage at Clee Fields 11v11 3G which is WR22 compliant to reduce demand on pitches.	Sport Club, RFU	Key Centre	H	L	M	Protect Enhance
36	Grimsby Tennis Centre	1036507	DN32 0AH	Tennis	Sports Club	Two good quality acrylic courts and four good quality artificial courts, all serviced by sport lighting. Home to Grimsby TC which currently has sufficient capacity to accommodate current and future demand. Site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The Club has aspiration too develop padel provision at the site.	Sustain court quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Monitor padel developments at the site or by the Club.	Sports Club, LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
37	Grimsby Town Cricket Club	1208286	DN34 4TX	Cricket	Sports Club	One poor quality grass cricket square, serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. However changing rooms are not suitable for women and girls' demand. The pitch is overplayed by 49 MES, due to the square's poor quality. The square is of poor quality due toa a burst water pipe of the outfield, the Club are in the process of resolving the issue with Anglian Water.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime, alongside monitor the burst pipe issue to ensure the Club is able to accommodate games at the site and improve the square and outfield quality. Explore improving the ancillary provision at the site to increase suitability for women's and girls' demand.	Sport Club, ECB, LCB	Key Centre	H	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
38	Grimsby Town FC (Blundell Park)	6002881	DN35 7PY	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch accessed by professional football club, Grimsby Town.	Protect for professional football club use.	Sports Club, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
39	Grimsby Town FC (Cheapside Training Ground)	6019693	DN37 0HX	Football	Sports Club	Two good quality adult pitch accessed by professional football club Grimsby Town.	Protect for professional football club use. Monitor sites usage following Grimsby Town aspiration to develop a new training ground.	Sports Club, LFA, FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect
40	Hardys Recreation Ground	6002853	DN32 8DN	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
41	Havelock Academy	1201266	DN32 8JH	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
41	Havelock Academy	1201266	DN32 8JH	3G	Education	The School has aspirations to convert one of the grass pitches to a 11v11 3G surface subject to sufficient funding.	Monitor potential 11v11 3G development at the site.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	M	L	H	Provide
41	Havelock Academy	1201266	DN32 8JH	Cricket	Education	A disused NTP not actively used with the wider site still accessed for football.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Education, ECB, LCB, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
41	Havelock Academy	1201266	DN32 8JH	Tennis	Education	Four macadam courts of good quality with sport lighting and four macadam non sport lit courts of poor quality.	Sustain the good courts quality through a continuation of the current maintenance regime, while consider resurfacing the poor quality courts at the site during the lifespan of the PPOSS to improve quality.	Education, LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
42	Haven Cleethorpes Beach Holiday Park	1040117	DN35 0PW	Golf	Commercial Management	Provides one nine hole Par 3 course.	Protect for holiday park usage.	Commercial Management, EG	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
43	Haverstoe Park	1022280	DN35 0DP	Football	Council	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
43	Haverstoe Park	1022280	DN35 0DP	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts, however, are not sport lit.	Sustain the good courts quality through a continuation of the current maintenance regime. Monitor if demand is required to install sport lighting to improve usability during winter months and evenings of the courts.	Council, LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
46	Humberston Academy	1200870	DN36 4TF	Football	Education	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 all of standard quality. Spare capacity has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary provision and has been identified within the recent LFFPs as a priority project for a new pavilion development.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
46	Humberston Academy	1200870	DN36 4TF	3G	Education	One 11v11 3G pitch of good quality. The pitch is on the FA Register and will expire 31.05.27. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary provision and has been identified within the recent LFFPs as a priority project for a new pavilion development.	Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place. Monitor pitch quality until pitches are replaced and ensure pitches remain on the FA Register. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
46	Humberston Academy	1200870	DN36 4TF	Rugby Union	Education	Two rugby union pitches, which accommodates no demand and does not have a secure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Monitor rugby club demand and prioritise access to available pitches where shortfalls are identified.	Education, RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect
46	Humberston Academy	1200870	DN36 4TF	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, LCB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
46	Humberston Academy	1200870	DN36 4TF	Tennis	Education	Six standard quality courts which are not sport lit or available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
47	Humberston Cloverfields Academy	6002895	DN36 4HS	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 both of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
49	John Whitgift Academy	1201251	DN37 9EH	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7, and one mini 5v5 pitches, all standard quality. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity.						
49	John Whitgift Academy	1201251	DN37 9EH	Rugby Union	Education	One rugby union pitch, which accommodates no demand and does not have a secure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Monitor rugby club demand and prioritise access to available pitches where shortfalls are identified.	Education, RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect
49	John Whitgift Academy	1201251	DN37 9EH	Cricket	Education	A disused NTP not actively used with the wider site still accessed for football.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Education, ECB, LCB, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
49	John Whitgift Academy	1201251	DN37 9EH	Tennis	Education	Provides a large macadam area which used to accommodate 12 courts (two rows of six), however, only six are now poorly marked. The courts are not sport lit or available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
50	Jubilee Park (St Christophers)	6002851	DN36 4EA	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth 9v9 pitches both of standard quality, and one mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain or improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
51	Kent Street Muga	30007621	DN32 7DH	AGP	Charity (YMCA)	Two sports lit small sided AGP PlayZones.	Protect for community use.	Charity (YMCA), Council, LFA, FF, RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect
52	King George V Playing Field (Cleethorpes)	6002837	DN35 0LN	Football	Council	Two youth 11v11 pitches of poor quality, three youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitches all standard quality. There is actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES on each of the mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. While the two youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 4 MES. Ancillary provision is of poor quality. It has been identified within the recent LFFPs as a priority project for a new pavilion development.	Sustain or improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity and reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council, LFA, FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
52	King George V Playing Field (Cleethorpes)	6002837	DN35 0LN	Cricket	Council	NTP in state of disrepair based on satellite imaginary. Also previously had four grass wickets.	Protect site within line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Council, ECB, LCB, SE	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
53	King George V Stadium	1008741	DN32 9RU	Football	Lincs Inspire	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision located adjacent to the athletics track.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity.	Council, Lincs Inspire, LFA, FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
53	King George V Stadium	1008741	DN32 9RU	3G	Lincs Inspire	Two small sided 3G pitches serviced by sport lighting. The pitches are of poor quality and was last resurfaced in 2013.	It should be considered to resurface these pitches during the period of the PPOSS. Ensure a future pitch replacement fund is in place for a pitch replacement when required.	Council, Lincs Inspire, LFA, FF	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
53	King George V Stadium	1008741	DN32 9RU	Athletics	Lincs Inspire	One standard quality 400m synthetic track which is provided with sport lighting and used by Cleethorpes AC and Grimsby Harriers & Athletics Club. The track is TrackMark accredited till 2028. The stand adjacent to the track cannot be accessed due to being closed, while access to toilets and changing rooms is still possible.	Plan for potential resurfacing of track in 2028. Ensure is retested as required to sustain TrackMark accreditation For the ancillary provision and stand, monitor what is required to improve and enhance the facilities from an indoor perspective.	Council, Lincs Inspire, EA	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
56	Lisle Marsden C of E Primary Academy	6002829	DN32 0DF	AGP	Education	One small sided AGP pitch which is not available for community use or sport lit.	Protect for circular use.	Education, EH	Local	L	S	L	Protect
57	Littlecoates Primary Academy	6002839	DN31 2QX	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
57	Littlecoates Primary Academy	6002839	DN31 2QX	Cricket	Education	NTP in state of disrepair.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Education, ECB, LCB, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
59	Macaulay Primary Academy	6002840	DN31 2ES	Football	Education	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7, and one mini 5v5 pitches of standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
59	Macaulay Primary Academy	6002840	DN31 2ES	AGP	Education	One small sided AGP pitch which is not available for community use or sport lit.	Protect for circular use.	Education, EH	Local	L	S	L	Protect
60	Middlethorpe Primary Academy	6019813	DN35 9PY	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
61	Mount Pleasant Playing Field	6002833	DN37 0LZ	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 pitches of poor quality, and serviced by poor quality ancillary provision. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES, while the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one MES.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance

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61	Mount Pleasant Playing Field	6002833	DN37 0LZ	Tennis	Council	Two unused courts of poor quality and no sport lighting.	If demand is identified for club or non-club tennis, consider resurfacing the poor quality courts at the site during the lifespan of the PPOSS to improve quality.	Council, LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
62	Neville Turner Way Playing Fields	1040108	DN37 0YJ	Football	Council	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality and serviced with poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
63	New Waltham Primary School	6002899	DN36 4NH	Football	Education	The site previously provides a maintained grass area with portable goals but has no line markings which the site previously provided.	Protect site within line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Education, LFA, FF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
64	Former Novartis Site now Humber Industrials Ltd c/o International Process Plants (Europe) Ltd	6003000	DN31 2AN	Football	Commercial Management	Former commercial company sports and social club that has not been used for a number of years with a disused pavilion grass pitches and a small sided AGP. Grimsby United and Grimsby Borough Juniors have both enquired about this site being reintroduced and a potential home ground to the Club.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Commercial Management, LFA, FF	Key centre	M	L	M	Protect
64	Former Novartis Site now Humber Industrials Ltd c/o International Process Plants (Europe) Ltd	6003000	DN31 2AN	AGP	Commercial Management	Former commercial company sports and social club that has not been used for a number of years with a disused pavilion grass pitches and a small-sided AGP.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Commercial Management, EH	Key centre	M	L	M	Protect
64	Former Novartis Site now Humber Industrials Ltd c/o International Process Plants (Europe) Ltd	6003000	DN31 2AN	Cricket	Commercial Management	Former commercial company sports and social club that has not been utilised for a number of years previously provided cricket provision.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Commercial Management, ECB, LCB	Key centre	M	L	M	Protect
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	1201246	DN32 0AZ	Football	Education	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, and one mini 7v7 pitches of standard quality. The pitches are serviced with standard quality ancillary provision, however, the changing rooms are poor and provide no shower provision.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Education, LFA, FF	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	1201246	DN32 0AZ	3G	Education	One 11v11 3G pitch of good quality. The pitch is on the FA Register and will expire 31.05.27.	Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place.	Education, LFA, FF	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The site is serviced with standard quality ancillary provision, however, the changing rooms are poor and provide no shower provision.	Monitor pitch quality until pitches are replaced and ensure pitches remain on the FA Register. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.						
66	Oasis Academy Wintringham	1201246	DN32 0AZ	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, LCB	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect
68	Old Clee Primary Academy	6002830	DN32 8EN	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitches both of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
69	Ormiston Maritime Academy	1010276	DN34 5AH	Football	Education	One poor quality adult pitch serviced with standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime.	Education, LFA, FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
69	Ormiston Maritime Academy	1010276	DN34 5AH	AGP	Education	One good quality full size hockey suitable AGP, following a resurface in 2025. Pitch is used by Grimsby HC. The pitch is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision, however the Club report it has no social area or anywhere to offer food or drink. The pitch has sufficient capacity to cater for both current and future levels of demand.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime Ensure a sink fund is in place to resurface the pitch when required. It is integral to secure this pitch long term as a hockey suitable service and provide Grimsby HC long term security of tenure through a community use agreement. Explore installing a social area where the Club can access and provide food and drink services. Utilise spare capacity.	Education, EH	Key centre	H	M	L	Protect Enhance
69	Ormiston Maritime Academy	1010276	DN34 5AH	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, LCB	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect
69	Ormiston Maritime Academy	1010276	DN34 5AH	Tennis	Education	Seven standard quality courts which are not sport lit or available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect
70	Ormiston South Parade Primary Academy	6002843	DN31 1TX	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
72	Quantock Road Open Space	6002892	DN33 3AU	Football	Council	The site previously provided grass pitches and is now maintained as a recreational area.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Council, LFA, FF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
74	Reynolds Academy	30005168	DN35 7LJ	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
75	Ross Sports Ground	30009533	DN32 9FB	Football	Sports Club	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7, and two mini 5v5 pitches all of good quality. The pitches are serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime.	Sports Club, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
77	Scartho Top	1040116	DN33 1LL	Football	Council	The site previously provided grass pitches and is now maintained as a recreational area.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Council, LFA, FF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
78	Sevenhills Academy	30009971	DN33 1NU	3G	Education	One small sided sport lit 3G pitch which is not available for community use.	Protect for circular use. Explore providing community use to support clubs training demand is feasible.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect
79	Sidney Park	6002834	DN35 7RG	Football	Council	One adult, one mini 7v7, and one mini 5v5 pitches all of poor quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES. Poor ancillary provision and Grimsby United report is not suitable for women and girls' demand.	Sustain or improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity and reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
80	Signhills Academy	6002915	DN35 0DN	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 of poor quality and available for community use.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
80	Signhills Academy	6002915	DN35 0DN	AGP	Education	One small sided sport lit sport pitch which is available for community use.	Protect for circular and community use.	Education, EH	Local	L	S	L	Protect
81	Springfield Primary Academy	6002844	DN33 3HG	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
81	Springfield Primary Academy	6002844	DN33 3HG	AGP	Education	One small sided AGP pitch which is not sport lit or available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
83	St James School Playing Field	30009237	DN34 4UA	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitches both of standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
88	Sussex Recreation Ground	6002835	DN35 8AA	Football	Council	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitches both of poor quality. Serviced by poor ancillary provision, which is currently out of use.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity and reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council, LFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
88	Sussex Recreation Ground	6002835	DN35 8AA	Tennis	Council	Three tennis courts that have not been actively used for a number of years. These previously formed seven courts, however, four have recently been refurbished and are now good quality.	Sustain the good courts quality through a continuation of the current maintenance regime, while consider resurfacing the poor quality courts at the site during the lifespan of the PPOSS to improve quality. Consider installing sport lighting to the good quality courts. Continue providing LTA initiatives at the site.	Council, LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
89	Sutcliffe Avenue Playing Fields	6002836	DN33 1EZ	Football	Council	The site previously provided permanent goals for an adult pitch but is now maintained as open playing field space and the goals have been removed.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Council, LFA, FF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
90	The Academy Grimsby	30010813	DN34 5AQ	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch which is open to community use.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
92	The Linden Club	1208348	DN32 8QL	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one mini 7v7, and one mini 5v5. One of the adult pitches is of standard quality, while all remaining pitch types are of good quality. The good quality adult pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity, whereas the standard quality adult pitch is overplayed by three MES. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision, however the Club report aspirations to improve the ancillary provision to be more suitable for Step 3 football demand.	Sustain or improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity and reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site to improve offering for Step 3 football demand. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Sports Club, LFA, FF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
92	The Linden Club	1208348	DN32 8QL	3G	Sports Club	Cleethorpes Town FC has aspirations to develop a 11v11 3G pitch subject to sufficient funding.	Monitor development plans and ensure the proposed pitch is available for community use.	Sports Club, LFA, FF	Key Centre	M	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
92	The Linden Club	1208348	DN32 8QL	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass cricket square with poor quality outfield and is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. The square is overplayed by 2 MES. Clee Town Laportes CC access the square but do not have a formal lease or agreement in place.	Improve square and outfield quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity and reduce overplay. Explore providing Clee Town Laportes CC with a secure lease agreement to access the site.	Sports Club, ECB, LCB	Key Centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
92	The Linden Club	1208348	DN32 8QL	Padel	Sports Club	There is plans to create four outdoor padel courts with canopy roofs, with sport lighting and containers with changing facilities (DM/0240/26/FUL). It's important this development does not come at the loss of any grass football pitches or affect the grass cricket square outfield on the site.	Monitor development of padel provision to meet current demand.	Sports Club, LTA	Local	M	M	M	Provide
93	The Locate Supplies Ground	30010738	DN35 0LN	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7, and one mini 5v5 pitches all standard quality. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision, with only portable toilets available.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Sports Club, LFA, FF	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
94	The Trin Centre	30009419	DN35 8UN	3G	Community Organisation	One small sided sport lit 3G pitch which is of standard quality and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime Ensure a sink fund is in place to resurface the pitch when required.	Community Organisation, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
95	Thrunscoe Primary Academy	30009421	DN35 8UL	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is open to community use.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity. Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect
96	Tollbar Academy	6002904	DN36 4RZ	Football	Education	Three youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, and one mini 7v7, all of standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to install a community use agreement to enable potential spare capacity.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
96	Tollbar Academy	6002904	DN36 4RZ	3G	Education	The School has aspirations to develop a 11v11 3G pitch subject to sufficient funding.	Monitor development plans and ensure the proposed pitch is available for community use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	M	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
96	Tollbar Academy	6002904	DN36 4RZ	Rugby Union	Education	One rugby union pitch, which accommodates no demand and does not have a secure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Monitor rugby club demand and prioritise access to available pitches where shortfalls are identified.	Education, RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect
96	Tollbar Academy	6002904	DN36 4RZ	Cricket	Education	Two standalone NTP's which are not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, LCB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
96	Tollbar Academy	6002904	DN36 4RZ	Tennis	Education	Eight standard quality macadam courts. The courts are not available for community use or sport lit.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
97	Trinity Open Space	30009422	DN35 9AB	Football	Council	The site previously provided a youth 9v9 grass pitch and is now a disused area.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Council, LFA, FF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
98	Waltham Leas Primary Academy	6002868	DN37 0NU	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
99	Waltham Windmill Golf Club	1101555	DN37 0HT	Golf	Commercial Management	One 18-hole golf course	Protect for community use.	Commercial Management, EG	Local	L	S	L	Protect
100	Weelsby Academy	30003687	DN32 7PF	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
101	Welholme Academy	30003674	DN32 9JD	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
101	Welholme Academy	30003674	DN32 9JD	AGP	Education	One small sided sport lit sport pitch which is available for community use.	Protect for circular and community use.	Education, EH	Local	L	S	L	Protect
102	West Marsh Community Centre	1068616	DN31 2QH	Football	Community Organisation	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use and serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity.	Community Organisation, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
102	West Marsh Community Centre	1068616	DN31 2QH	3G	Community Organisation	One small sided sport lit 3G pitch which is of poor quality and available for community use. It's reported the site is considering accessing the Football Foundation Small-Sided Facility Grant to improve the quality.	Explore resurfacing the pitch surface to improve the quality and community offering. Monitor the site accessing the Small-Sided Facility Grant from the Football Foundation.	Community Organisation, LFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
103	Western Primary School	30005434	DN34 5RS	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
104	Willows Academy	6002861	DN37 9AT	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
107	Wybers Wood Academy	30003975	DN37 9QZ	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 of poor quality and not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
109	St James Tennis Club		DN34 5BL	Tennis	Sports Club	Three macadam courts and three artificial courts both of good quality. Home to St James TC which currently has sufficient capacity to accommodate current and future demand. There are also two disused clay courts of poor quality. The Club has aspiration to install padel provision. The courts are served with standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain court quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. If demand increase, consider reintroducing the disused courts to support demand. Monitor padel provision aspirations.	Sports Club, LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
111	Former Tioxide Land now ABP	-	DN31 2AN	Football	Commercial management	The site previously provided cricket and football grass pitches and is now a disused area.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Commercial management, LFA, FF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
112	Former Blue Star Fibres site now Humber Gate land	-	DN31 2TT	Cricket	Commercial management	Two disused NTPs not currently utilised.	Protect site in line with Sport England guidance and planning policy. Monitor sites level of usage and potential need to reinstate pitches.	Commercial management, ECB, LCB, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect
113	Humberston Golf Club	-	DN36 4SX	Golf (Disused)	Commercial management	One nine hole golf course. Which closed in March 2026. The only nine hole course is allocated for housing in the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan (HOU139). It would be recommended that the current ownership works in partnership with England Golf to run a 'Golf Needs Assessment' to determine the closures impact on demand. Should the demand create a shortfall in wider golf format provision then the site should be afforded protection inline NPPF policy HC7 while recognising private ownership requires a pragmatic approach. All remaining provision should be safeguarded and any Humberston Golf Club redevelopment secure S106 contributions to support wider facilities.	Protect for community use. Monitor ongoing situation at the site and potential housing development and if lost ensure contributions are secured to support wider sporting facilities.	Commercial Management, Council, EG, SE	Local	H	S	L	Protect
114	Grimsby Golf Centre	-	DN31 2BH	Golf	Commercial management	18 dedicated driving range bays.	Protect for community use.	Commercial Management, EG	Local site	L	S	L	Protect
119	Horizon Youth Zone	-	DN31 1RP	3G	Community Organisation	One small sided sport lit 3G pitch which is of good quality and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Protect for community use.	Community Organisation, LFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
-	Princess of Wales Hospital	-	DN33 2BA	Cricket	-	The site previously accommodated cricket provision in the form of an NTP. Anecdotal evidence suggests the provision has not been used for several years since the folding of an unaffiliated hospital based team. The land is allocated as a cricket pitch under planning permission and theoretically can be brought back into use subject to funding.	Monitor any potential developments relating to the NTP and explore the feasibility of reinstating it if sufficient demand is identified. Ensure that ancillary provision is also provided should the NTP be reinstated.	Council, SE, ECB, LCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						Sport England has recently been involved (November 2025) in a planning application consultation for housing development adjacent to this former NTP. The application does include cricket ball stop netting and supports between 9-15 metres high to allow the site to be used for cricket (DM/0245/22/FUL).	A separate feasibility study would need to be undertaken to understand what provision would be viable and who would use the provision to ensure its longevity.						

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2032 (in line with the Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that housing sites with 1,000 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)[16]. The SFC is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas. The model has no spatial qualities or dimension and can only be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations.

The SFC uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area.

The SFC then turns this estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent amount of facility which is needed to meet these visits.

As detailed above, the SFC includes tennis courts, however, it does not calculate a need for tennis, golf and athletics which are also covered in the scope of the PPOSS. Recommendations on need for this type of provision is provided using the evidence base collated within the PPOSS.

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

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in North East Lincolnshire, thus showing how the calculator works and data it provides. The occupancy rate of 2.4 is in line with the national average (2021 Census data for England and Wales), however an occupancy rate of 2.2 has been used in this instance in line with North East Lincolnshire Council Local Plan methodology.

[16] https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/sports-facility-calculator

7.1: Scenario One – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 1,000 dwellings (2,200 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,000 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.2 people per household (based on a NELC methodology) is 2,200 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 2.76 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.03 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 4.29 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 5.3 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 0.13 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and 0.1 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 2,200 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week[17]	Training demand[18]
Adult football	0.93	5.3 hours
Youth football	1.08	As above
Mini soccer	0.64	As above
Rugby union	0.11	0.13 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0	0 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.03	0.08 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0	0.02 hours
Cricket	4.29	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost[19]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[20]	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	1.01	£95,037	£18,722	1.86	£340,893
Youth football	1.18	£91,383	£18,459	1.29	£237,684
Mini soccer	0.7	£17,088	£3,383	0	£0
Rugby union	0.12	£17,414	£3,222	0.22	£41,047
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	0.11	£32,120	£5,910	0.2	£36,804
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£6,124	£159	0.01	£2,526
3G pitches	0.15	£148,922	£5,020	0.28	£51,192
Tennis courts	0.28	£29,005	-	-	-
Total	**3.29**	**£437,092**	**£54,876**	**3.87**	**£710,046**

[17] As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.
[18] Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP
[19] Link to Sport England cost guidance
[20] Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

Overall, an additional 3.29 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 2,200 people living in North East Lincolnshire. This consists of 2.86 grass pitches, 0.15 of access to artificial pitches and 0.28 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £437,092 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £54,876. To facilitate the increased provision, 3.87 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £710,046.

7.2: Scenario Two – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 2,000 dwellings (4,400 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2,000 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.2 people per household (based on a NELC methodology) is 4,400 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 6.12 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.06 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 8.59 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 10.6 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 0.25 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and 0.21 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 4,400 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week[21]	Training demand[22]
Adult football	1.86	10.6 hours
Youth football	2.16	As above
Mini soccer	1.28	As above
Rugby union	0.22	0.25 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0	0 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.06	0.17 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0	0.04 hours
Cricket	8.59	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost[23]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[24]	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	1.86	£190,081	£37,446	3.71	£681,811
Youth football	2.16	£182,081	£36,921	2.59	£475,180
Mini soccer	1.28	£33,177	£6,767	0	£0
Rugby union	0.22	£34,828	£6,443	0.45	£82,095
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	0.2	£64,242	£11,820	0.4	£73,610
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£12,248	£318	0.03	£5,052
3G pitches	0.28	£297,859	£10,040	0.56	£102,389

[21] As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.
[22] Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP
[23] Link to Sport England cost guidance
[24] Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost[23]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[24]	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Tennis courts	0.57	£58,009	-	-	-
Total	**6.59**	**£874,221**	**£109,756**	**7.74**	**£1,420,137**

Overall, an additional 5.19 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 4,400 people living in North East Lincolnshire. This consist of 5.72 grass pitches, 0.29 of access to artificial pitches and 0.57 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £874,221, and a lifecycle cost per annum of £109,756. To facilitate the increased provision, 7.74 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £1,420,137.

7.3: Scenario Three – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 3,000 dwellings (6,600 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 3,000 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.2 people per household (based on a NELC methodology) is 6,600 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 8.29 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.08 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 12.88 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 15.9 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 0.38 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and 0.31 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 6,600 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week[25]	Training demand[26]
Adult football	2.79	15.9 hours
Youth football	3.24	As above
Mini soccer	1.92	As above
Rugby union	0.34	0.38 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0	0 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.08	0.25 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0	0.06 hours
Cricket	12.88	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

[25] As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.
[26] Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost[27]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[28]	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	2.79	£285,120	£56,169	5.57	£1,022,712
Youth football	3.24	£274,153	£55,379	3.88	£712,716
Mini soccer	1.92	£51,266	£10,151	0	£0
Rugby union	0.34	£52,241	£9,665	0.67	£123,140
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	0.3	£96,363	£17,731	0.6	£110,416
Sand based AGPs	0.02	£18,372	£478	0.04	£7,578
3G pitches	0.42	£446,778	£15,060	0.84	£153,580
Tennis courts	0.85	£87,014	-	-	-
Total	**9.87**	**£1,311,306**	**£164,631**	**11.6**	**£2,130,142**

Overall, an additional 9.87 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 6,600 people living in North East Lincolnshire. This consists of 8.58 grass pitches, 0.44 of access to artificial pitches and 0.85 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £1,311,306 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £164,631. To facilitate the increased provision, 11.6 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £2,130,142.

The most appropriate way to meet the estimated demand

It is important that the above results are looked at alongside the findings of the Assessment Report, and the recommendations and actions of the Strategy. By doing so, the most appropriate way of meeting the estimated needs can be determined and any resulting proposals justified. This should include:

- Using the Assessment Report and related Strategy to understand the nature of the playing pitch sites within an appropriate catchment of the new population along with issues, recommendations and actions relevant to that area.
- Looking at the different ways in which the needs could be met, including for example:
  - Enhancing existing provision to increase capacity, supported by suitable management and maintenance arrangements to ensure the greater capacity is maintained over the longer term;
  - Undertaking works, and ensuring long term maintenance and access arrangements, to secure new or greater community use of existing provision;
  - Providing new pitches as an extension on current sites.
  - Providing new (natural and/or artificial grass pitches).

If the decision is taken to provide new pitches, then the calculator takes the estimated needs for matches and training activity and converts this into an estimate of the likely pitch provision required to meet the needs of population projections. Indicative costs are also provided to provide this level of pitch provision in addition to costing for associated changing room provision.

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

In regard to changing room provision, a pragmatic approach is required, as the theoretical level of demand generated by the development is unlikely to translate directly into a need for an equivalent number of new changing rooms on site. Evidence within the PPOSS indicates that future demand arising from rugby union, cricket and hockey can be accommodated through existing provision, subject to appropriate qualitative improvements. As such, contributions towards these sports are likely to be secured through off-site investment rather than the provision of new on-site facilities.

Using Scenario Three as an example, the principal requirement is for additional football pitch provision, with off-site contributions supporting the needs of other pitch sports. Based on the Playing Pitch Calculator outputs, demand generated by adult, youth and mini football is equivalent to approximately 10.3 team changing rooms. However, this represents a theoretical requirement and does not necessarily equate to the delivery of 10 new changing rooms. Given the strategic emphasis on youth football provision, together with the opportunity to alleviate some adult football shortfalls through off-site improvements and the sharing of facilities across different match periods, an initial estimate of four to six changing rooms may be appropriate. Nevertheless, a more detailed assessment of pitch layouts, programming, peak-time demand and ancillary facility requirements would be required as part of any detailed site master planning exercise.

Conclusion

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created in their own right. For example, Scenarios two and three indicate enough growth in demand to require onsite provision. This is primarily for youth and mini football pitches.

Where new pitches are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to offer long-term sustainability. As such, if numerous developments in an area warrant new pitch provision, consideration should be given to pooling resources to create one larger site, rather than numerous smaller sites.

Regarding 3G pitches, there is not sufficient evidence to support the development of provision with several other options already identified as priority above in Part 4: Sport specific issues scenarios and recommendations.

As for the remaining sports, as there is marginal demand identified then off sites contributions should be sort for hockey, tennis, cricket and rugby union to improve nearby facilities.

It should be noted that based on these scenarios, using current supply and demand data, any future development between 1,500 to 2,000 dwellings and above should be examined for potential onsite provision using relevant evidence within the PPOSS. This approach would need to be regularly examined with updated data throughout the Stage E process.

For developments around 1,000 dwellings or below, the tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. However, it is unlikely there will be a requirement for new provision. Instead, as the demand generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPOSS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g. to select suitable sites).

Please note that the PPC only includes the main pitch sports and tennis but there may also be a requirement to improve facilities for other pitch and non-pitch sports such as other sports, netball, bowls and athletics, for example. Therefore, securing developer contributions to deliver improvements/new provision should be guided by this Strategy and in particular the site-by-site Action Plan and in consultation with the relevant NGB through the PPOSS Steering Group.

The figures in Appendix 2 identify all the playing pitch locations within the North East Lincolnshire with an overlay of the abovementioned housing sites. This assists in identifying which sites maybe be better suited from off site contributions from specific developments.

An alternative approach to obtaining contributions for each individual housing development and allocating them to improving localised sporting sites identified for improvement within the PPOSS, is to pool them together. This would allow for greater levels of investment into sites, where needed, for more expensive enhancements such drainage or ancillary expansions or even the creation of artificial pitches. Additionally, this would allow for the collating of contributions from smaller developments, below 300 dwellings, to maximise the benefit they can provide to sporting sites across the North East Lincolnshire.

Pooling of contributions should be done strategically and ought to be localised to the analysis area, and even potentially key settlements, of the housing growth to ensure S106 monies are spent on improving the sporting infrastructure for the new population.
It is strongly recommended the Council work with Sport England, and NGBs where relevant, to develop a process and guidance to calculate and secure developer contributions which may include onsite, offsite and pooling of contributions.

Despite the above, ONS statistics project a decline in population. Therefore, the scenarios outlined above should be reviewed as additional information becomes available to ensure they remain appropriate and aligned with wider strategic documents, such as the Local Plan. Additionally, regular reviews should be undertaken to ensure that the level and type of sporting provision reflects actual population trends and is aligned with observed changes in demand.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the recommendations within the report are based on the current supply and demand evidence available for 2025/26. As North East Lincolnshire develops over the plan period to 2032 (and potentially to 2043 following adoption of the new Local Plan), updated supply and demand evidence will need to be considered in line with Sport England guidance, which recommends reviewing evidence every five years. This may influence the recommendations set out below.

In addition, ongoing consultation with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Sport England may identify changing priorities, enabling more bespoke recommendations to be developed over time.

As a result, it is recommended that both the housing growth scenarios and accompanying sport and physical activity recommendations are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain robust and reflect changes in supply, demand and strategic priorities across North East Lincolnshire.

In the first instance, further exploration of supply and demand requirements should be undertaken for the initial phase of housing delivery to provide a clearer understanding of what provision may be required. This should be considered alongside a longer-term vision for future facility needs. The Local Plan review, supported by an updated PPOSS, will provide a more accurate assessment of need and inform the level and type of provision required at that stage.

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

The section below sets out a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up-to-date. However, as agreed by Sport England, a more tailored approach should be considered (see Appendix 3).

Delivery

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across North East Lincolnshire. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Authority can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and recommends how best to resolve this in the future. This document should be regarded as part of the planning process as a material consideration.

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

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

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are needed to improve the situation and meet future demand.

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

Monitoring and updating

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

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

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

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

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

Once the PPOSS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

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

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

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

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

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Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy has been prepared which indicates where a step has been completed or if further action may be required.

Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy	**Tick ✓**	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan 1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?	✓	
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?	✓	
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?	✓	
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?	✓	
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?	✓	
6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?	✓	
7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?	✓	
8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?	✓	
9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?	✓	
10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?	✓	
11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?	✓	
12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?	✓	
13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?	✓	
14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?	✓	
15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?	✓	
16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?	✓	
17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?	✓	
18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?	✓	
Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy 1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?	✓	

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2.	Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?		✓
3.	Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4.	Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5.	Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6.	Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?		✓

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

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy 1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date 1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up-to-date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

APPENDIX ONE: 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 Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

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

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

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

- **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
  - Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
  - Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
  - Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active

- **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
  - Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
  - Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector

- **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
  - Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
  - Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

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

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

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

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

Tackling inequalities

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

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

National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026)

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 16 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, states its objective is to "promote the creation of healthy and inclusive places and support the provision of appropriate public services, by enabling development which can support this aim and seeking to retain, improve and deliver new facilities which are important for community wellbeing and minimising inequalities''.

In particular, policy HC7 (Development affecting existing recreational land and facilities) states development proposals should not result in the loss of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, other formal and informal play space and allotments, unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a location which offers comparable or improved accessibility for the community it serves; or
- The development is for public service infrastructure, and the resulting loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and/or quality; or
- The development is for alternative open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

The NPPF also supports the designation and protection of Local Green Spaces where they are demonstrably special to local communities, including where they have recreational or sporting value. Policy HC8 (Development affecting Local Green Space) provides protection for existing open space, sports and recreational land and facilities, including playing fields. It states that Development proposals for land which has been designated as Local Green Space should be determined in a manner consistent with the relevant national decision-making policies for land in the Green Belt, excluding provisions relating to grey belt and previously developed land.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)[29]

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to 'take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed'.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four 'Game Changer' objectives and four 'Drivers' objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA's plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:

- Win tournaments
  - Develop pathways
  - Support elite players
  - Enhance environments
  - Collaborate and influence
- A game free from discrimination
  - Boost representation
  - Drive more inclusion
  - Tackle discrimination
- Equal opportunities for women & girls
  - Increase school participation
  - Increase club participation
  - Enhance women's competitions
  - Support female coaches and referees
- Transform the pitch landscape
  - Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
  - Deliver new 3G pitches
  - Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities
- Drivers:
- Thriving community clubs
  - Develop club opportunities
  - Support the current and future generation of club leaders
  - Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
- World-class FA cups
  - Broaden commercial appeal
  - Evolve the Adobe Women's FA Cup format
- Participant led
  - Place participants at the centre of decision making
  - Create flexible models to meet participants needs
  - Provide digital tools to improve experiences
- Progressive governance
  - Support integration of women's and girls' football
  - Support governance of the NLS
  - Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)[30]

The FA's 2020-2024 strategy, 'Inspiring Positive Change', coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.

This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

[29] FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association
[30] The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game**: Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament**: Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition**: Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play**: Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28)[1]

In October 2024 the ECB released its updated strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'Cricket is a game for me' through its vision:

- To become the most inclusive team sport
- To grow and unite the game
- Lead the game through global transformation

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives

- Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- Transform Women's and Girl's cricket
- Connect communities through play
- Inspire through winning England teams
- Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game
- Win the battle for attention

[1] https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7b-f49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf

Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket's Core Values.

The Rugby Football Union Strategy Plan (2026-2030) [31]

In January 2026, the RFU launched its new Strategy for the next four years- Plan 2030: More than a Game - setting out a clear, ambitious and realistic plan to grow the game, enrich lives and ensure rugby continues to thrive at every level across the country.

The strategy recognises that while rugby remains one of England's most popular sports, the world around it is changing fast, and presents a plan focused on making sure the game continues to thrive for future generations.

Built around four connected goals – Play, Perform, Follow and Fund – the strategy reflects rugby's unique values, its deep community roots and world in which the sport now operates.

The four big goals are:

- **Play**: getting more people playing rugby, for longer.
- **Perform**: consistently winning senior international competitions.
- **Follow**: building a new generation of passionate fans.
- **Fund**: investing sustainably in the whole game

Delivering these goals will require change. The strategy identifies four critical areas of focus where England Rugby will do things differently:

- Making it easier for clubs and volunteers to run the game, reducing complexity and supporting those who give their time to rugby.
- Breaking new ground as global leaders in the women and girls' game, on and off the field, from performance and welfare to governance and innovation. A standalone women and girls' strategy was launched in 2025.
- Ensuring rugby remains relevant to young people, reflecting how they live, play and engage with sport today.
- Relentlessly pursuing the safest possible version of the game, protecting rugby's physical identity while constantly learning and improving.

The strategy is rooted in the belief that rugby is more than just a sport. It is a force for good, a source of belonging and a game that connects people and communities across England.

England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found here.

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3rd October. The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

[31] https://rfu.widen.net/s/pxxrjxrvps/rfu-plan-2030-more-than-a-game

1. Lead Positive Change: to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. Meaningful Growth: to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. Drive Visible Impact: to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. Responsible Leadership: to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. Inspirational International Success: inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them
- **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

LTA – Tennis Opened Up 2024-2026

The LTA's vision for 2024-2026, is Tennis Opened Up. Its mission is to transform communities through tennis, by making it by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring. The objectives of the LTA are:

- Put tennis at the heart of communities.
- Grow and diversity our audience of fans and players.
- Attract and engage the tennis workforce for the next generation.
- Be one of the most respected nations in the world for player development.
- Secure a sustainable future for tennis in Britain.

These objectives will be delivered through six strategies: Invest, Grow, Engage, Perform, Diversity and Lead. The LTA will implement a facilities strategy with a focus on parks, covered courts, Community Indoor Tennis Centres and Padel.

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 Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023) and Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031). 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”.

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

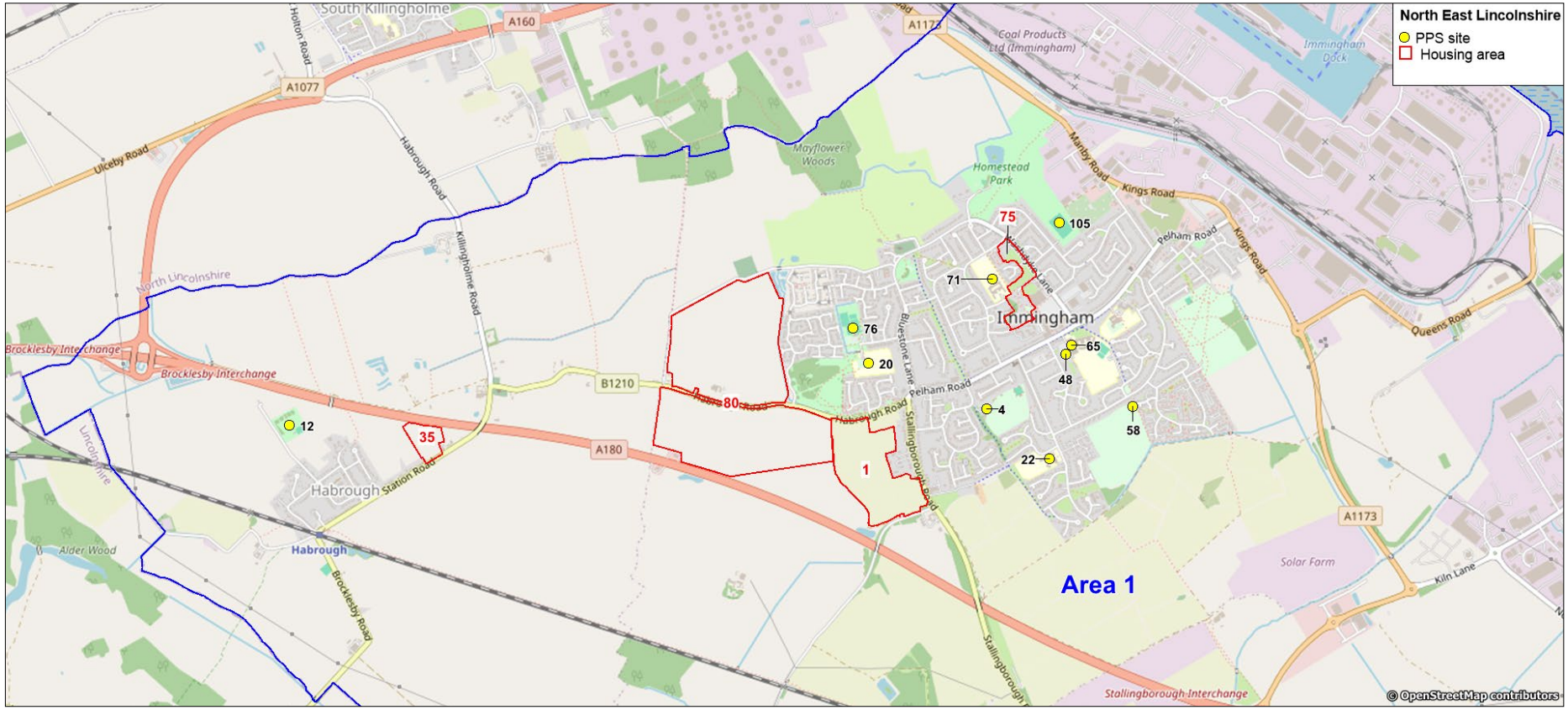
England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

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

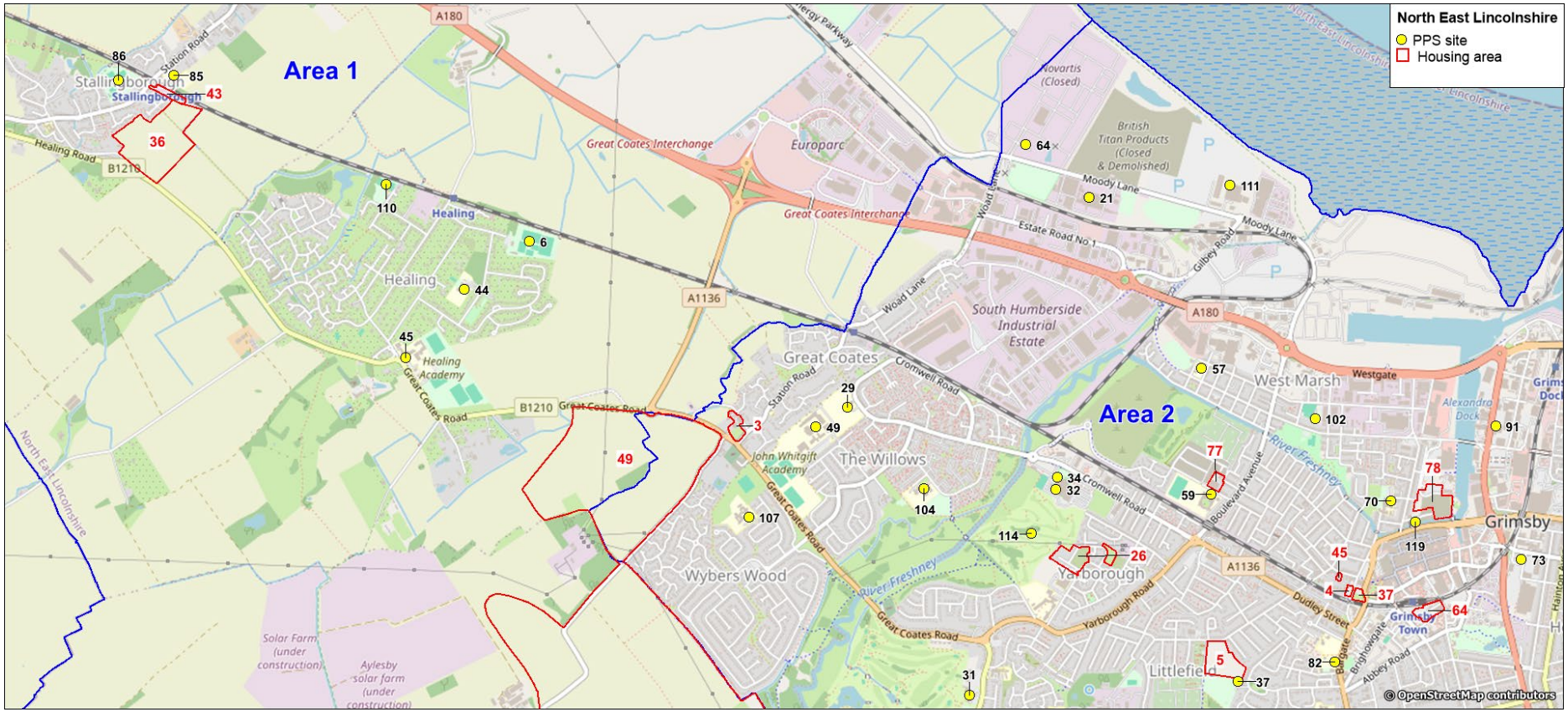
https://www.englandgolf.org/englandgolfstrategy/

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

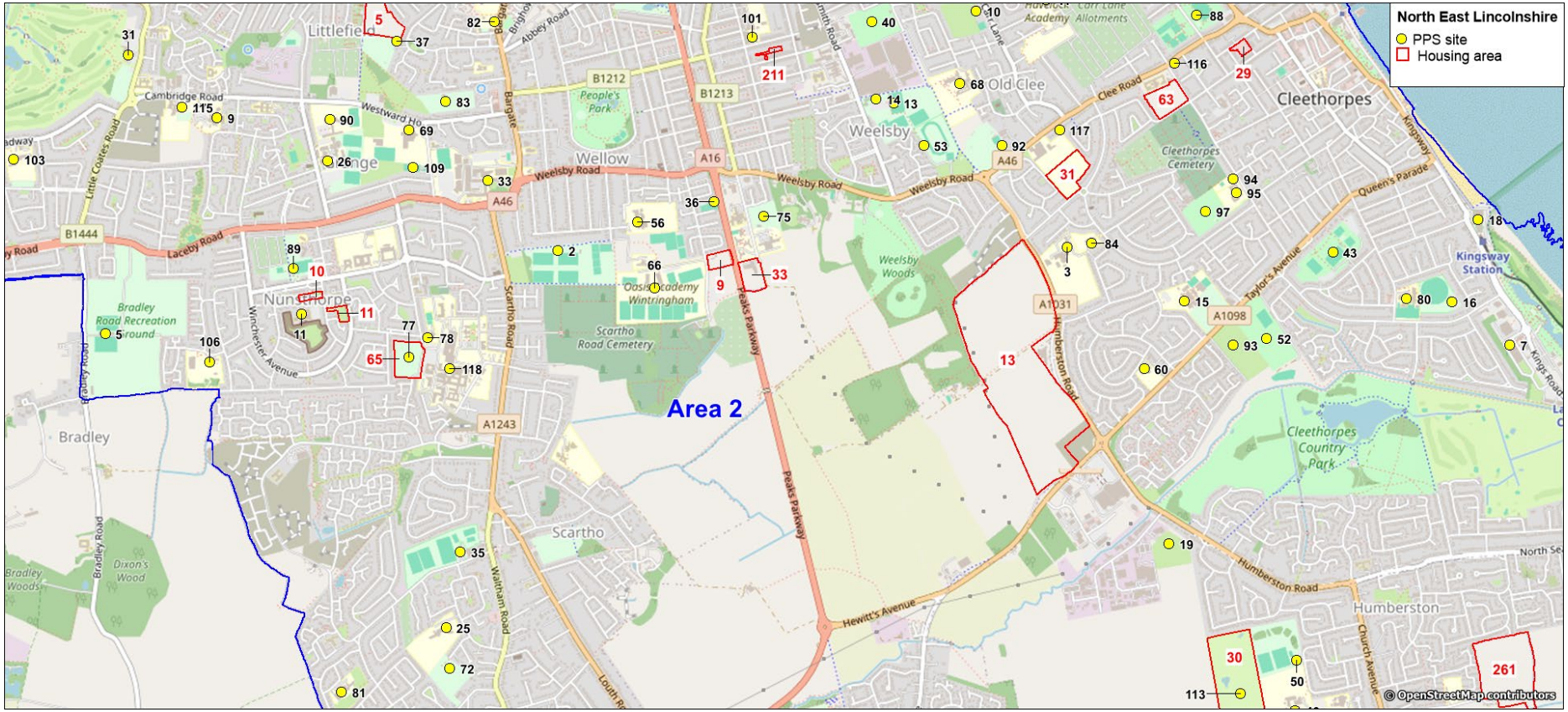
APPENDIX TWO: HOUSING SCENARIO MAPS



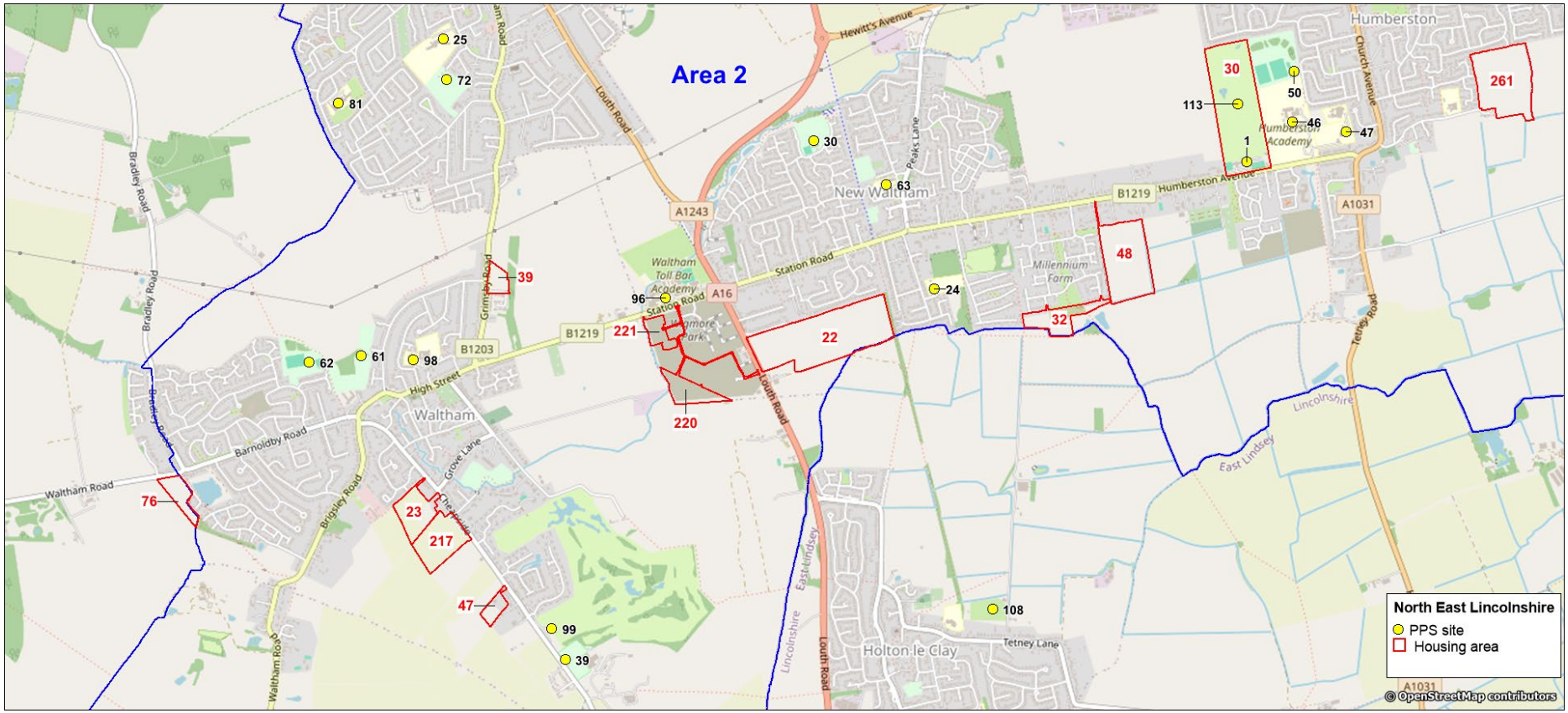
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ID	Ref	Location	Settlement	Area
0	HOU042	Former Clifton Bingo, Grant Street		
1	HOU005	Land to the west of Stallingborough Road	Immingham	Estuary Zone
3	HOU021A	Land west of Great Coates (Church Farm)	Grimsby	Urban Area
4	HOU037	Land to west of Cartergate	Grimsby	Urban Area
5	HOU045	Land at cricket field and Littlefield Lane	Grimsby	Urban Area
9	HOU061A	Weelsby Road Deport, Weelsby Road	Grimsby	Urban Area
10	HOU063A	Land north of Wootton Road	Grimsby	Urban Area
11	HOU064A	Burwell Drive/Winchester Road	Grimsby	Urban Area
12	HOU068B	Land off Butt Lane	Laceby	W & S Arc
13	HOU074B	Land north and west of Pennels Garden Centre, Weelsby Hall Farm, Humberston Road	Cleethorpes	Urban Area
22	HOU104	Land at Louth Road	New Waltham	W & S Arc
23	HOU110	Land at Cheapside	Waltham	W & S Arc
26	HOU118	Central Parade - Yarborough Estate - Freshney Green	Grimsby	Urban Area
29	HOU381	Bursar Primary School, corner Bursar Street and Frederick Street	Cleethorpes	Urban Area
30	HOU139	Land to the North of Humberston Avenue (Country Club)	Humberston	W & S Arc
31	HOU141A	Former Matthew Humberston C of E School (Lower) Playing Fields	Cleethorpes	Urban Area
32	HOU146A	Land south of Millennium Park, Humberston Avenue	Humberston	W & S Arc
33	HOU154	YMCA, Peakes Lane	Grimsby	Urban Area
35	HOU180A	Land north west of Station Road	Habrough	Rural Area
36	HOU190A	Land east of Ayscough Avenue and north of Healing Road	Stallingborough	Rural Area
37	HOU272A	Land at Cartergate	Grimsby	Urban Area
39	HOU287A	Land north of Woodland Way, (east of Grimsby Road)	Waltham	W & S Arc
43	HOU294	Land off Station Road adjacent to railway station, Stallingborough	Stallingborough	Rural Area
45	HOU303	29 - 31 Chantry Lane	Grimsby	Urban Area
47	HOU338	The Old Nurseries, Cheapside	Waltham	W & S Arc
48	HOU340	Land south of 68-90 Humberston Avenue	Humberston	W & S Arc
49	HOU342	Grimsby West Urban Extension Land west of Great Coates (North parcel)	Grimsby	W & S Arc
60	HOU351A	Land at Caistor Road	Laceby	W & S Arc
61	HOU351	Land at Caistor Road	Laceby	W & S Arc
63	HOU353	Lindsey Lower School Playing fields, Beacon Ave/Bentley Street	Cleethorpes	Urban Area

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ID	Ref	Location	Settlement	Area
64	HOU354A	Duchess Street car park	Grimsby	Urban Area
65	HOU355	Scartho Top Playing Field, Heimdal Road	Grimsby	Urban Area
75	HOU373	Land of former tower blocks Washdyke Lane	Immingham	Estuary Zone
76	HOU374	Land off Waltham Road	Barnoldby le Beck	Rural Area
77	HOU375	260 Macaulay Lane	Grimsby	Urban Area
78	HOU380	Garth Lane (Alexander Docks)	Grimsby	Urban Area
80	HOU394	Habrough Road	Immingham	Estuary Zone
209	HOU388	Eleanor House, 19 Eleanor Street	Grimsby	Urban Area
211	HOU386	R/o 73 to 105 Granville Street (Garages)	Grimsby	Urban Area
217	HOU129	Land to the west of Cheapside, Waltham	Waltham	W & S Arc
220	HOU105B	Land west of Louth Road and opposite Toll Bar School (SW corner)	New Waltham	W & S Arc
221	HOU105A	Land west of Louth Road and opposite Toll Bar School (NW corner)	New Waltham	W & S Arc
261	HOU084A	Land South of Humberston	Humberston	W & S Arc

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

APPENDIX THREE: TAILORED APPROACH FOR STAGE E

What?	Who?	When?
1. Internal Steering Group Meeting Meeting between council officers internal Steering Group members to discuss and log key changes in provision, covering: ◂ New pitch provision. ◂ Pitch improvements. ◂ Pitch re-configuration. ◂ Pitch loss/threat. ◂ Community access agreements (e.g. education/private sites). ◂ Plans for future provision. The outcomes from the meeting and updates to documents should be recorded.	NEL Council	Bi-Annually
2. Sport England and NGB Update Meetings The Council to hold series of update meetings with individual sports NGBs to discuss and log: ◂ Any changes in club and team details. ◂ Any changes in sport format. ◂ Any site specific updates. ◂ Changes to supply and demand data. ◂ The application and use of the PPOSS e.g. in delivery of new or improved provision, funding opportunities, programmes and initiatives. ◂ Any new issues and opportunities.	NEL Council NGBs Sport England	Annually for each sport, to fit with affiliation process (generally October for winter sports and June for summer sports)

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

What?	Who?	When?
3. Prepare Annual PPS Progress Paper Based on the outcome of actions above, a short Annual PPOSS Progress and Update paper should be produced, highlighting: ◂ The delivery of PPOSS recommendations and any changes in priority; ◂ Changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area and other supply and demand information with implications for PPOSS's key findings; ◂ Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format; ◂ Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities; ◂ Any issues with the application of the PPOSS and lessons learnt; ◂ Actions needed to keep the PPOSS 'live' and up to date. Based on the above, the Annual Progress Paper will also consider if a partial or full update of the PPS is required. Alternatively, both the Assessment Report and the Strategy can be updated to take into account and referencing all of the above.	PPOSS Steering Group	Annually
4. Circulation and Agreement Circulate the Annual Progress Paper or updated PPOSS document to the Steering Group for comment and agreement with opportunity to hold a further meeting to discuss findings and issues.	PPOSS Steering Group	Annually
5. Publish Paper Make Annual Progress paper or updated documents available online; report any significant findings to appropriate committee if considered necessary.	NEL Council	Annually – following completion of all of the above