

Final Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan

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1. Introduction

This strategy sets out the key priorities for the future delivery of outdoor sports facilities across Warwick District from 2019 to 2029. It is based on the detailed needs and evidence outlined in the playing pitch assessment report (under separate cover) and includes the sports of football, cricket, rugby, hockey, athletics and tennis. It updates the previous assessment and strategy that was produced in 2013.

Warwick District Council (WDC) has also recently updated its needs and evidence base for Indoor Sports along with a new Strategy and Action Plan. Both pieces of work together provide a coordinated and long-term approach to sports facility provision and planning across Warwick for both indoor and outdoor sport.

Key Drivers

WDC and partners are updating their existing Playing Pitch Strategy for the following reasons;

- to ensure that the strategy remains current and up to date and reflective of local needs and priorities.
- to inform the implementation of the Local Plan. The local plan was adopted in 2017 and policy was informed by the findings of the previous strategy document. The updated strategy document will support the determination of relevant planning applications and will also help identify priorities that can assist the allocation of developer contributions following building developments.
- to ensure that the impact of projected population growth and new development on the demand for sports pitches and the adequacy of the existing pitch stock is fully understood.
- to ensure that resources are maximised and are tailored to meet local need.
- to provide a foundation to increase opportunities for everyone to engage in outdoor sport and recreation.
- to provide an evidence base to support funding bids, from National Sports bodies like Sport England and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport to regional funders, for the delivery of sports and recreational facilities in the District; and
- to continue to provide an understanding of the adequacy of pitch provision to meet both current and projected need.

Methodology and Approach

This assessment and strategy has been produced in line with 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013) and Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; (Sport England 2013). The previous strategy was developed using a hybrid approach between this methodology (released during the strategy development) and the former approved

methodology, Towards a Level Playing Field: A Manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2003).

The priorities update those that were developed in 2013 and have been established through the preparation of a full evidence-based assessment which included extensive consultation and analysis. The Warwick District Playing Pitch Assessment (2018) contains detailed information on how the assessment was carried out, who was consulted and detailed sport and site-specific analysis.

The key phases of the approach included;

- a full audit of teams derived from, playing or wishing to play within the authority boundary.
- identification of all sites containing formal playing fields and quality assessments of all community use pitches in the District.
- a full programme of consultation with local clubs, league secretaries, National Governing Bodies of Sport and external stakeholders; and
- application and interpretation of the supply and demand information in line with the Sport England guidance to;
 - understand the situation at individual sites.
 - develop the current and projected future pictures for each sport; and
 - identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.

Strategy Development

This is the strategy document, which draws upon the issues set out in the assessment report and sets out a strategic framework for the future delivery of playing pitches up to 2029. It takes the same format as the 2013 strategy document but reflects the updated issues identified and the actions that are required to ensure that pitch supply continues to meet demand.

Recommendations and priorities have been developed following extensive scenario testing and in conjunction with the following key stakeholders;

- Warwick District Council (from Planning, Sport and Leisure, Green Spaces and Grounds Maintenance teams).
- The Birmingham Football Association (FA) and Football Foundation (FF)
- The Warwickshire Cricket Board.
- England Hockey.
- The Rugby Football Association (RFU)
- The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)
- Sport England.

The views of these groups have been used to shape this strategy and to finalise the action and implementation plan. The consultation process does not stop here - many of the identified short-term actions involve ongoing discussion with wider groups, ensuring that any priorities implemented are reflective of the needs and aspirations of current pitch users. The key phases of the methodology and the consultation and engagement with key partners is summarised in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach



Structure

The remainder of this strategy document is set out as follows;

- Section 2- Context - Summary of sport specific issues arising from the needs assessment.
- Section 3 – Strategy Framework – Aims and Objectives.
- Section 4 – Action Plan for Delivery – strategic priorities and site by site actions.

2. Context

This section summarises the national and local context for the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Warwick District.

Context and Wider Links

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation is set out in paragraphs 96 and 97 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application. Paragraph 96 indicates that:

'Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate'.

Paragraph 97 states that;

'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

The preparation of this playing pitch assessment and strategy will help to ensure that Warwick DC is able to deliver upon the requirements of this national policy.

The preparation of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy also impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key local documents. Table 1.1 overleaf outlines these documents and illustrates how the aims and objectives of this strategy link with other national and local strategies and priorities.

Table 2.1 – Links between this strategy and other strategic documents

Objectives for the future delivery of Playing Pitches			
	Protect - Ensure the quantity of pitches is sufficient to meet local needs.	Enhance - Ensure the quality of pitches meets current and future need.	Provide - Ensure facilities support increasing participation and promote sustainable club development.
Strategic Documents			
National Planning Framework			
Sport England – Policy on Playing Fields			
Sport England: Towards an Active Nation			
The Football Association - National Game Strategy (2018 – 2021)			
Cricket Unleashed – Strategic Plan (2016)			
The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021). The RFU National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2017) is also currently being updated			
England Hockey National Facilities Strategy (2017 - 2021)			
Local Documents			
Warwick District Local Plan (September 2017)			
Warwick District Fit for the Future			
Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy			

Context – Adequacy of Provision

The assessment report (under separate cover) summarises in detail the current position for each sport. It evaluates the adequacy of provision to meet current needs, as well as the additional needs that will be generated up to 2029.

The Council has recently prepared its Local Plan to determine where and how much new development should take place in the District. This plan seeks to deliver 10,659 new dwellings by 2029 which will generate a significant increase in population if achieved. The spatial strategy seeks to focus growth within and adjacent to built up area and therefore the main focus of growth will be Warwick, Leamington, Whitnash and Kenilworth as well as the southern edge of Coventry.

To ensure that the potential impact of the successful delivery of this spatial strategy is appropriately analysed, the assessment report therefore evaluates needs in three scenarios;

- Current needs.
- Future needs (including consideration of the successful delivery of the additional 10,659 new dwellings. These needs have been ascertained using the Playing Pitch Calculator developed by Sport England (further detail is provided in the assessment report)
- Future needs taking into account known realistic sports development aspirations.

The final projected total facility requirement takes into account all of the above needs. This strategy therefore seeks to provide facilities to meet these needs.

The context for each sport and the issues that need to be addressed if facilities are to meet both current and projected future demand are therefore summarised in the remainder of this section.

Table 2.2 summarises the headline quantitative findings, while the detailed needs for each sport are summarised individually in the sport specific sections.

Table 2.2 – Headline Quantitative Findings

Sport	Current Picture	Future Picture	Additional Facility Needs
Football	<p>Limited remaining spare capacity and some existing overplay.</p> <p>Considering only sites with secured community use, peak time spare capacity equates to just 4 adult match equivalents, 1 9v9 match equivalents, 8.5 7v7 match equivalents and 2 5v5 match equivalents. There is a deficiency of 6.5 youth match equivalents. Even considering all sites with community use, there remains a shortfall of 1 match equivalent for youth teams.</p>	<p>Housing growth will generate 3 adult match equivalents, 6 youth match equivalents and 7 mini match equivalents.</p> <p>Taking into account only secured community use facilities; the existing facility stock will meet future need as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For adults, provision will remain just sufficient even if club growth aspirations are achieved There will be shortages of youth pitches (11 match equivalents, but up to 22 if club growth aspirations are achieved), 9v9 football (2.5 match equivalents, but up to 13.5 match equivalents if club growth aspirations are achieved) and 5v5 pitches (-2.5 but up to -10 if club growth aspirations are achieved). Club growth aspirations would also lead to insufficient capacity for 7v7 matches (-1.5). 	<p>Existing provision will be insufficient. Capacity for a minimum of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 youth match equivalents 2.5 9v9 match equivalents 2.5 5v5 match equivalents. <p>Club growth aspirations at several key club bases can also not be met and club aspirations require significantly higher levels of additional capacity (22 youth match equivalents, 13.5 9v9).</p> <p>In part, these aspirations can be delivered by securing community use.</p>
Cricket	<p>Scope to accommodate 27 additional teams across the season, but only 0.5 match equivalents spare capacity at peak time. Three teams displaced and a further club displaced in their entirety. There is existing unmet demand requiring at least one additional pitch.</p>	<p>Potential increase of 3.5 match equivalents at peak time (3 pitches). Pitch provision is already insufficient to accommodate existing demand and new provision therefore required to meet additional needs.</p>	<p>Existing capacity insufficient. One additional pitch required as minimum to relocate displaced club.</p> <p>Three further pitches required to meet additional demand generated from population growth.</p>
Rugby	<p>Total spare capacity of 5.75 match equivalents at club bases. Insufficient capacity at Kenilworth RFC (-4.5), Leamington RUFC (-1). All clubs have insufficient training capacity.</p> <p>Some quality issues on key sites.</p>	<p>New population generates further 4 match equivalents. This is likely to be spread across the clubs, but club bases are insufficient to accommodate this additional demand. The relocation of Kenilworth CC will provide an opportunity to address this.</p>	<p>To meet projected future demand, estimated requirements;</p> <p>Kenilworth RFC (soon to relocate) –5 pitches required</p> <p>Additional capacity for Leamington RFC (1 pitch)</p>

Sport	Current Picture	Future Picture	Additional Facility Needs
			Increased training provision at Old Leamingtonians
Hockey	Spare capacity at peak time (8 match equivalents including displaced teams). To accommodate current playing schedules, minimum of four sand-based pitches required meaning that demand is currently met.	3 match equivalent sessions generated through population growth and club aspirations. Demand can be met through existing pitch stock (five pitches required including at least one pitch of national league standard).	Existing stock of facilities may require reconfiguration to better meet club need.
Tennis	Quality issues at key public sites and insufficient courts at key club venues. Leamington Lawn Tennis Club and Warwick Boat Club already over capacity. Overall provision just sufficient to meet demand.	Trends based population growth will see additional 250 players generated. Minimum of 2 courts required in addition to existing stock (i.e. existing stock not fully sufficient to meet demand) Housing growth will see additional 768 players generated. 19 additional courts required to accommodate these new participants.	Access to 21 additional courts
Athletics	The case for the retention of an athletics facility to serve Warwick District is established. Recent investment in Edmondscote by the District Council, has made Edmondscote a fit for purpose club-based level athletics facility. Need for one purpose-built track to serve the District at either Edmondscotte (retention) or Europa Way (replacement).	One fit for purpose floodlit 8-lane track will serve current and future needs of Warwick	Consideration of replacement provision as part of the Leamington Stadium development at Europa way Potential compact facility in Kenilworth to meet school needs

Sport by Sport Context and Key Issues

The context and key issues identified for each sport in the assessment report are summarised below. The recommendations and actions required to address the identified issues are set out in Section 3.

Cricket Context

- 19 sites providing 21 grass pitches, as well as 11 non-turf wickets. Leamington Cricket Club, Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club and Cryfield Pavilion (University of Warwick) are the only sites with more than one grass pitch. There are no cricket pitches owned or managed by Warwick District Council.
- Pitch quality is standard to good, with no poor pitches identified and significant investment has taken place in recent years. There is a range in the scale of facilities provided however and quality concerns, are still evident.
- The availability of outdoor facilities for training is reasonable, but there are some sites where new facilities are required.
- The quality of pavilions is on the whole good, although improvements are required at some sites.
- 46 formal senior teams and an additional 8 senior midweek teams. The vast majority of these teams are male teams, with just three senior ladies teams (at University of Warwick, Kenilworth Wardens and Leamington Spa Cricket Club). This represents a decline on the number of teams that were evident in 2013.
- Most teams are accommodated at their home ground, however there is a small amount of displacement both within and outside of the district (three teams displaced and one whole club, Leamington Khalsa CC based in Lighthorne Sports and Social Club).
- At the time of the 2013 strategy, several clubs expressed a view that the facility infrastructure was starting to restrict club growth. This viewpoint is still evident
- In total, there is scope to accommodate 27 additional teams across the season. Almost all sites can sustain a small amount of further play, although the amount of additional play possible varies significantly. Pitches at Kenilworth CC, Alvis Sports and Social and Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Clubs are already overplayed. Spare capacity is highest at Warwick University, Rowington Cricket Club, Leek Wootton Cricket Club and Leamington Cricket Club;
- There is just 0.5 match equivalents available on a peak time (Saturday PM) meaning supply and demand are closely balanced. One additional pitch is however required as a minimum to meet current demand – to accommodate Leamington Khalsa CC. additional capacity is also needed for the clubs that are already experiencing overplay.
- Taking into account projected growth in demand arising from population increases, three further pitches will be required to ensure that future needs will be accommodated.

Cricket – Summary of Key Issues to Be Addressed

- There is a need to protect (and / or replace) existing sites - all pitches are well used and are required to sustain demand.
- Although facilities are fit for purpose in qualitative terms, there is a need to maintain and improve the quality of existing grounds to address site specific issues, as well as improve maintenance. Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground, Kenilworth Wardens, Kenilworth CC, Nelson Memorial Cricket Ground, Norton Lindsey Recreation Ground, Stoneleigh Cricket Club, Warwick Cricket Club, Rowington Cricket Club, Offchurch Cricket Club would also benefit from maintenance / pitch improvement works.
- the availability of outdoor facilities for training is reasonable, but there are some sites where new facilities are required. Alvis Sports and Social Club, Offchurch Cricket Club and Stoneleigh Cricket Club have no training facilities at all.
- The quality of pavilions is on the whole good, although improvements are required to ancillary facilities at Stoneleigh CC, Lapworth CC, Norton Lindsey CC and Leamington CC.
- While most teams are accommodated at their home ground, there is a degree of displacement with at least one team from Kenilworth CC, Kenilworth Wardens CC, Norton Lindsey CC and Warwick CC travelling to other venues and Leamington Khalsa CC are displaced completely outside the district but are looking to play back within Warwick. With almost no spare capacity at peak time (0.5 match equivalents) – at least one additional pitch will be required to meet current demand. Kenilworth Wardens CC are soon to relocate and to address the issues currently experienced, a minimum of two grounds (ideally 3) will be required for this club.
- With projected growth generating at least another 3 peak time match equivalents further capacity will be required (3 pitches).

Hockey Context

- 5 existing AGPs are sand based and suitable for hockey. Spatially, sand-based pitches are concentrated in the settlements of Warwick and Leamington Spa.
- facilities are of standard quality, but the age of the stock is starting to show, with issues starting to emerge and quality starting to approach poor. This issue was also evident in the 2013 PPS, but only pitches at Warwick School have since been refurbished. The pitch at St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre is in particular need of refurbishment in the next two years.
- there has been a slight increase in the number of teams that are playing in the district since the 2013 strategy. Both Leamington Hockey Club and Warwick Hockey Club continue to run junior sections, offering progression through from a young age to senior hockey.
- Clubs raise issues with the quality and quantity of facilities, particularly in Leamington, where Leamington HC wish to see facilities of improved quality, and Khalsa HC are looking to provide their own pitch on the site of their clubhouse.
- Warwick School is used as an important venue for Academy Centres and regional hockey activity. This site is therefore strategically important to hockey in the district and regionally due to the location of two pitches side by side.
- Similar to 2013, there is sufficient capacity overall to meet demand, but concerns relating to the quality of facilities.
- Demand at peak time amounts to 11 match equivalents (3 pitches). Taking into account the requirements of displaced teams (Leamington HC) demand however rises to 12 match equivalents. To maintain existing scheduling need therefore increases to 4 pitches. This however means that the amount of pitches currently available is sufficient.
- Teams from Leamington HC are currently travelling to Westwood Campus to access facilities of appropriate quality for the league in which they participate. Changes to the England Hockey national league structure may see both Leamington HC and Khalsa HC become members in the short term, which would see stringent facility requirements and a need for either a new (or improved) facility in the district, or long term use of Westwood Campus. To address this, Khalsa HC are looking to develop their own ground to increase the number of teams run and to ensure that quality standards are met.
- Some clubs believe that there is latent demand and that the facility infrastructure is inhibiting club growth
- The England Hockey Facilities Strategy (2017) provides a perspective on the facilities that the Governing Body perceive to be required for hockey. The vision of the document is for every club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players. The strategy seeks to protect the required number of facilities, ensuring that provision is of the right quality and in the right location to meet with club.
- England Hockey are seeking to build participation in the sport, with a focus placed upon retention of existing players as well as an increase in the number of players aged 14+. By 2022, England Hockey aspire to double the number of players playing the sport through a 7% growth year on year. A 7% year on year growth in the number of adult hockey teams would generate a further 10 teams by 2022. Clubs in Warwick District share the aspirations of England Hockey, with Leamington HC seeking to create an additional female team and Khalsa HC targeting the establishment of a youth section. This would create an additional 0.5 match equivalent at peak time (Saturday) as well as circa 2 match equivalents on a Sunday morning. Growth in line with England Hockey targets may see a requirement for circa 4 – 5 match equivalents. This means

that a minimum of 4 hockey pitches are required to sustain activity. Added to the population growth that will be generated from new development (3 match equivalents), demand will increase to 5 pitches. This means that the current number of sand based pitches will remain adequate to meet demand;

The key club by club requirements for hockey are summarised in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 – Club by Club Requirements for hockey

Club	Current Facilities and Issues	Requirement and location	Overall Requirement
Warwick Hockey Club	Warwick - 11 teams at peak time – 5.5 match equivalents – 2 pitches. Club also use overspill venue currently in order to schedule fixtures between 11 and 3pm. Poor changing facilities and no on-site clubhouse.	Warwick - 11 teams at peak time – 5.5 match equivalents – 2 pitches. Club also use overspill venue currently in order to schedule fixtures between 11 and 3pm.	Warwick (Warwick HC) – 5.5 match equivalents at peak time (2 pitches). Club currently have access to 3 rd pitch for overspill at peak time but all fixtures could be accommodated within 2 pitches. Leamington (Leamington HC and Khalsa HC) – 2 pitches (6 match equivalents total at peak time) of which 2 may be at National League level in future years. Potential for clubs to travel to Westwood Campus for pitch to meet national league requirements if decision is taken not to provide this in Leamington. Scope for further growth of hockey in Leamington, with both clubs having aspirations for additional teams.
Khalsa HC	St Nicholas Park. Pitch quality insufficient if club is promoted. No on-site clubhouse	Currently based in Warwick with clubhouse in Leamington - 2 match equivalents at peak time. Aspirations for growth of a youth section (outside of peak time)	
Leamington HC	North Leamington High School (clubhouse at Leamington Rugby Club). Senior teams travel to Westwood Campus, Warwick University	8 teams at peak time – 4 match equivalents. Club also have youth section – require facilities on Sunday.	Growth of up to 3 match equivalents at peak time from trends based population and new housing development potentially sees requirement for further AGP
Shipston HC	St Nicholas Park – club seeking to relocate back to Stratford upon Avon District	0.5 match equivalents (but not necessarily required in Warwick)	
TOTAL	25 senior teams	12 match equivalents at peak time – 4 pitches minimum when taking into account growth aspiration of clubs	Current and projected future demand – at least 5 pitches taking into account impact of trends based population growth, proposed housing development England Hockey growth aspirations

Hockey – Summary of Key Issues to be Addressed

- Five sand-based pitches are required of appropriate quality and in the right location. Four pitches are required to meet current and short-term demand, while demand for a further pitch will be generated from new development. The amount of pitches currently available therefore meets both current and projected future demand, subject to an appropriate surface being provided to meet national league quality standards.
- Two clubs are likely to have teams requiring a facility meeting national league standards in the short term. Khalsa HC are keen to build their own facility to address this requirement, Westwood Campus also provides a potential solution to this facility requirement.
- Alongside this, the quality of existing pitches is deteriorating and there is an immediate requirement to refurbish the pitch at St Nicholas Park if this is to continue being used for play. Other facilities, including Aylesford School and North Leamington School are also reaching the end of their lifespan.
- Clubs highlight a requirement for on-site clubhouse facilities.

Rugby Context

- 41 full sized rugby pitches – there have been several changes since 2013 specifically; the loss of Warwickians Sports Ground, the loss of the pitch at Police HQ and an overall reduction in school pitches available for community use. In addition, there is a World Rugby Compliant 3g pitch at Cryfield Pavilion, University of Warwick. Since the production of the assessment report, a World Rugby compliant 3g AGP has also been developed at Warwick School.
- 18 pitches are managed by local clubs, the largest site being Old Leamingtonians. The 2 club sites of Kenilworth RFC and Trinity Guild RFC are subject to relocation due to allocation within the Warwick District Local Plan.
- There are only 5.5 pitches in total that contain floodlights, meaning training opportunities are limited and pressures on these pitches are high.
- Overall maintenance has improved since 2013. First team pitches are well maintained however the lower level pitches receive much less attention. Pitches at most clubs show high levels of compaction suggesting heavy usage which may lead to drainage issues. Drainage and waterlogging are the primary reason for match cancellations.
- In 2013 there were six rugby clubs (including University of Warwick) within the Warwick District area. Warwickians Rugby Club have since folded. Despite losing one club, participation has remained fairly static in terms of overall numbers and all clubs now offer progression from youth to adult teams.
- All training takes place at club bases, mainly on floodlit grass pitches. University of Warwick teams train primarily on the 3g pitch. The use of grass pitches at the club base for training has a significant impact on the overall capacity of pitches for match play and training is highlighted by clubs as the greatest pressure that they face.
- There are capacity issues at several club bases, in particular at Kenilworth RFC and Leamington RFC, with both clubs experiencing pressures when considering training.

Floodlit pitches are in particular heavily overplayed and there is the belief that facilities are restricting club growth.

- there are 4 rugby pitches available at school sites but not used and a further 14 pitches that are not currently available (with 12 at Warwick School). In total at school sites, there is scope to accommodate 4 match equivalents at peak time. On the whole however, the limited maintenance that takes place at these sites restricts opportunities for community use, and lack of floodlights means that these pitches are only able to sustain day time use (and not evening training).
- Population growth will see 4 further match equivalents generated at peak time. This is likely to be spread across the clubs in the district but will place extra pressures on existing facilities, many of which are already insufficient. Added to this, Leamington RFC and Old Leamingtonians in particular are keen for continued growth of their clubs, which will see further pressures on the existing stock of facilities.
- Recent changes to the picture for rugby in Warwick District have seen the club in Warwick collapse, leaving no remaining opportunities to play rugby in the town. In addition to efforts to support the retention of current players and the growth of existing clubs, there are aspirations to explore demand for the reinvigoration of rugby within this area and this may generate facility needs in future years.

Table 2.4 summarises the site-specific issues identified for rugby

Table 2.4 – Site Specific Needs for Rugby

Club	Current Position and Issues	Potential Growth	Issues to Address
Kenilworth RFC	Match play can be accommodated within 2 – 3 pitches. There are a further 8.5 match equivalents for training.	No specific aspirations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement for relocation • 8.5 match equivalents training – at least 3 floodlit pitches. Club considering AGP • Match play requires at least 3 pitches across the week, but would benefit from 4 at peak time to enable scheduling. This represents the baseline level of provision required to meet demand. Additional facilities would enable the growth of the club and future proof • Up to 5 pitches will be required to take account of projected housing growth in Kenilworth
Leamington RFC	Spare capacity match play (senior) although midi pitch heavily used (-1). Sufficient pitches to accommodate peak time demand. Floodlit training facilities heavily used (-1).	1.5 Female senior team, also seeking creation of U13 / U15 and U18 female teams. RFU also seeking to sustain colts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement to maintenance • Overplay of training facilities – additional grass pitch will need to be floodlit • Improvements required to changing accommodation if aspirations for female teams are

Club	Current Position and Issues	Potential Growth	Issues to Address
			to be met
Old Leamingtonians RUFC	Spare capacity on adult and midi Club do not highlight any pitches (8.25 and 4.8) match play growth aspirations, but RFU only. Capacity remains sufficient indicate that one additional when considering training (9.25 adult male team is total). Floodlit pitches overplayed targeted, along with growth (2.4). Capacity sufficient at peak of numbers in other sections. Potential impact – 0.5 match equivalents (competitive play) and 1 match equivalent training.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential population growth arising from new housing development results in demand for further additional pitch for Leamington RUFC. Club also seeking additional capacity for future use to enable club growth. Overplay on training facilities – additional floodlights required Retention of strong drainage on main pitches, scope to improve maintenance and consequently capacity on lower pitches Upgrade to changing accommodation
Trinity Guild RUFC	Spare capacity at peak time and Club looking to develop across the week (2). Training junior section and become capacity limited (0.5 floodlights, multi sports club – significant potential growth (junior section would create 1.5 match equivalents, midi 1.5 match equivalents) plus training requirements.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for relocation of site New site to include enhanced maintenance procedures including compaction.

Rugby – Summary of Key Issues to Address

- There is a need to protect the existing quantity of club-based rugby pitches.
- There are insufficient pitches to meet the needs of Kenilworth RFC and Leamington RFC and a need for additional pitch capacity to be generated. The projected housing growth will see demand increase by the equivalent of 4 pitches. This should be integrated in existing rugby clubs (some new provision required) rather than at development sites.
- Scenario modelling suggests that the following should be prioritised;
 - Kenilworth RFC – relocation to result in at least 6 grass pitches and /or 5 grass pitches alongside an AGP that is approved for rugby use (AGP would take training activity reducing need for grass). Quality of pitches also requires improvement.

- Trinity Guild RFC – replacement facilities to include 2 – 3 grass pitches. Quality of pitches also requires improvement and at least one pitch will need floodlights to meet training needs.
- Old Leamingtonians – existing pitch provision sufficient in quantitative terms although quality improvements are needed and floodlights are required to spread training. Club are considering AGP in partnership with Wasps and modelling suggests that this would have positive implications for the club. Alongside use of this facility for training, Old Leamingtonians would require at least three full sized grass pitches as well as midi pitches if existing match play was to be sustained (but all training activity put on AGP).
- Leamington RFC –access to additional pitches (1 – 2 required) and further set of floodlights. Qualitative improvements also needed (changing accommodation) as well as improvements to pitch maintenance.

Football - Context

- 127 formal grass football pitches currently available for community use - this represents a slight increase on the pitch stock that was available in 2013, (125). The number of larger adult pitches has decreased and the number of smaller sized pitches, targeting younger ages, has increased.
- Compared to 2013, some sites are now packed very tightly with pitches showcasing minimal run off and very little space for further pitches. There are also several schools that previously accommodated community use that now do not. That said, the majority of secondary schools are currently allowing access to their facilities although largely on an unsecured basis.
- There are three 3g pitches - the facilities at both Cryfield Sports Pavilion and Meadow Community Sports Centre are listed on the FA register, and area therefore approved to accommodate competitive play. The facility at John Atkinson Sports Centre has been tested but failed. The pitch at this site is ageing and approaching the end of its lifespan although it remains playable.
- Warwick DC manages more grass pitches than any other provider (just over 30%). 20% of pitches that are available to the community are located on school sites - this represents a significant risk to the pitch stock.
- site visits categorised almost all visits as standard. There is however significant evidence of compaction on many sites, lots of scuffing and skid marks and evidence of weed growth. Pitch quality is perceived to be deteriorating overall and there are particular concerns about the quality of public facilities.
- more clubs are dissatisfied than happy with the facilities provided. The key reasons for dissatisfaction include; the perceived poor quality of pitches, limited access to 3G pitches, poor quality changing accommodation and the overall perception that with growing populations there is a need to invest in the facility stock to improve both quality and quantity of pitches.

- there has been a large reduction in the number of adult teams since the 2013 PPS whilst all other forms of the game have seen increasing levels of demand. This suggests that there are greater pressures on pitches now than in 2013.
- Four mens teams and one ladies team in the district play within the National League System meaning there are specific requirements that must be adhered to in relation to the home ground facilities.
- in addition to the use of 3g pitches, there is extensive use of the sand based pitches at Aylesford School, North Leamington School and St Nicholas Park for football training. Sand is not an approved training surface for football clubs, so the use of these facilities needs to be addressed. This indicates a lack of supply of 3G pitches and this is further evidenced by the fact a number of clubs travel outside the district to access 3G pitches. A significantly greater proportion of clubs are dissatisfied with facilities for training than are satisfied. As well as a lack of 3G pitches, concerns included, the high cost of facilities and the high competition for pitches- all available slots are either too early (before 6) or too late.
- there is a reasonable distribution of play across the weekend with different age groups requiring different time slots. This means that the number of pitches required to meet peak time demand is lower than it may otherwise be, as the number of teams wishing to use the pitch at any one time is reduced due to the spread of play.
- Modelling reveals that there is limited spare capacity across the week with many sites at or approaching capacity and there is evidence of overplay at multiple sites in the district. Most of the spare capacity is at rural sites e.g. Bishops Tachbrook and Bubbenhall. There are 57 pitches (over a third of the districts total pitches) with no remaining capacity at all and it is clear that supply is very tightly balanced with demand.
- there is some spare capacity on the existing adult pitches. Peak time capacity is more restricted, although there remain 17.5 match equivalents available. This indicates that pitch provision for adults is sufficient. Even when excluding unsecured sites (which includes Warwick University), there remain enough pitches to accommodate existing play.
- Supply and demand for youth pitches is much more constrained. When considering all activity, including training, there are insufficient pitches and most sites cannot accommodate more activity. Overplay is evident at sites including; Acre Close, Alvis Sports and Castle Farm Recreation Ground. Added to this, there are eight sites containing unsecured youth pitches, five of which are at capacity at peak time. The already existing low levels of availability mean that this is a particular concern. This suggests there are insufficient facilities for youth teams across Warwick District and the reliance of unsecured facilities means that the pitch stock is even more fragile than may first appear.
- Weekly spare capacity on 9v9 pitches equates to 23.5 match equivalents. At peak time only 8.5 match equivalents are available. There are 5 sites with unsecured pitches for 9v9 and in total these venues account for 6.5 match equivalents of community competitive use. When excluding the unsecured community use venues, availability at peak time equates to only 7.5 match equivalents across the district. There would also be a need to relocate the 6.5 match equivalents currently using unsecured venues,

meaning that there would be almost no remaining further capacity. Supply is therefore tightly balanced with demand.

- there are 62 match equivalents available on 7v7 pitches, and 58 considering all activity (including training). Peak time supply is however much more reduced, with only 10 match equivalents spare capacity and some constraints at peak time on sites where larger clubs are based. Pitch provision is closely matched with demand at peak time if excluding unsecured sites (8.5 match equivalents).
- There is good availability across the week in terms of 5 v 5 pitches, with no overlap evident. Only Baginton Playing Fields, Coventry Sporting, Harbury Lane, Leek Wootton Sports Club, Kingsley School Playing Field and St Georges Field Barford do not have capacity for further play without staggering fixtures. There is enough capacity for play across the week, but capacity is very constrained at peak time, particularly if unsecured venues were lost.
- Population growth will see additional capacity required as existing provision will be insufficient to meet demand. A baseline level of capacity for youth play (11 match equivalents) and 9v9 (2.5 match equivalents) in particular will be needed.
- Clubs also have significant aspirations for growth. Clubs where existing pitches cannot meet these aspirations include Central Ajax (who also accommodate Coventry Sky Blues) Coventry Alvis, Coventry Sky Blues (play across multiple venues and are primarily Coventry based), Leamington Brakes, Khalsa Juniors, Leamington Hibernian, Leek Wootton, Lillington Juniors FC, Racing Club Warwick and Warwick Juniors.

Summary – Site Specific Issues for Football

- Protection of existing grass pitch stock due to lack of appropriate provision.
- There is a need to ensure that the existing quantity of pitches is maintained - This is likely to include securing long-term formal access to grass pitches at school sites – key priorities include North Leamington and Aylesford Schools (key club bases) as well as Myton School and Kenilworth School as part of the site relocations.
- Additional capacity required to sustain current and projected future demand. To meet current training need, 5 additional AGPs are required. Population growth will result in an additional 49 football teams– this will generate demand for one additional AGP for training by 2029
- Projected additional demand arising from population growth at peak time can be met within existing infrastructure. Additional capacity for youth (circa 11 match equivalents) and 9v9 (3 match equivalents) will however be required. Total additional demand for grass pitches depends upon the strategy relating to AGPs (for training use with added benefit of match play or relocating all activity onto AGP).
- Many of the key clubs are at capacity and the facilities that they use are starting to restrict club growth. Spare capacity is not necessarily available in the right places for the clubs that need it;
- quality of pyramid facilities needs to be maintained (and minor issues addressed) to ensure that facilities continue to meet ground grading criteria. Improvements will also be required if clubs gain promotion – Racing Club Warwick, Leamington FC, Leamington Hibernian. Improvements needed to Alvis Sports at end of season to ensure league position can be retained; Quality issues need to be addressed as a minimum to ensure that standard capacity rating is retained and existing capacity is preserved. This should focus in particular on sites accommodating heavy usage where quality is most impacted. Priorities include Acre Close, Ajax Park, Alvis Sports, Castle Farm, North Leamington School, Harbury Lane, Leek Wootton, Newbold Comyn, Racing Club Warwick. There are also several smaller sites which would benefit from improvement. Improvements to site quality may generate increases to capacity longer term

Tennis – Context

- 119 active tennis courts with public /community access located at 23 sites. Of these, fifty courts are floodlit, which is a good proportion.
- 77% of facilities are located at club sites and schools, with remaining provision being at public sites. While overall the number of courts provided at schools is high, community access to these facilities is low.
- most facilities are fit for purpose, but there remains scope for improvement. Club facilities are the highest quality, followed by schools and parks courts. The quality of club courts is particularly good, but despite this, many clubs still believe that quality issues inhibit their ability to meet demand.
- Concern is also raised by several clubs in relation to the more limited public tennis infrastructure and the poor quality of these courts. This is perceived to be the foundation / entry level to tennis and there is a view that tennis development will be restricted if these courts are not improved.
- The number of people playing tennis at club bases within Warwick is high. Despite the loss of two clubs, participation remains static compared with the previous PPS with LTA registration figures indicating that there are 2369 players (compared to 2381 in the 2013 PPS). Several of the very large clubs have expanded further in recent years, while smaller clubs have seen either static membership or a slight decline in the number of people using their site. Both clubs that have folded were also smaller clubs. This may suggest a tendency for members to travel to reach better facilities, which is something that clubs believe to be the case.
- No monitoring takes place of the current usage of the free of charge public tennis courts and total usage cannot be therefore accurately quantified. Warwick District Council are now in discussion with the LTA with regards implementing monitoring systems in order to more accurately understand levels of activity and consequently opportunities for improvement.
- LTA insight (derived from Sport England Market Segmentation) revealed that 2756 people currently participate in tennis however a further 2873 people would like to play. This suggests that there is an overall potential tennis playing population of 5629.
- With club membership of 2593, this would indicate that just 163 players currently play tennis outside of the club base, which represents less than 5% of the overall tennis playing population. LTA research demonstrates that up to 40 – 50% of tennis activity in an area may take place at public venues, and 36% of play in Warwickshire as a county is at public venues. This suggests that there is significant opportunity to increase play at public venues (or that the LTA insight information is under estimating participation in this area).
- Use of LTA parameters (one floodlit court serves 60 members, one non-floodlit court serves 40 members) relating to adequacy of provision concludes that the facilities that are currently available can serve 3640 players. Based upon the number of players at club bases, this suggests that the amount of existing facilities are sufficient. When considering the baseline LTA target (3% participation) and the maximum target including latent demand (5629 players) the current number of courts that are available would however become insufficient. If the number of players that could be

accommodated by public courts was increased to 80 however, the LTA baseline targets (3%) could be accommodated.

- There are no indoor tennis venues within Warwick District and this represents a particular gap in the market. Several clubs highlight the need for indoor facilities and / or covered courts in order to grow their membership and adequately accommodate the needs of the existing user base.
- While most clubs are able to accommodate the current number of members that they have and have scope for new members, the number of people playing at Leamington Lawn Tennis Club and Warwick Boat Club is above the capacity of the courts. There is also only scope for an increase of 55 members at Kenilworth Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, and this club highlight challenges meeting demand at peak time.
- Using LTA parameters that up to 3% of the population may play tennis, the projected trends based increase of 8343 people between 2018 and 2029 will generate a further 250 tennis players. Even if assuming high levels of occupancy on public courts, these additional 250 players could not be accommodated without access to further facilities (a minimum of 2 additional courts would be required).
- Population growth arising from new housing development would see a further 768 players, meaning that provision would become further insufficient and an additional 19 courts would be needed.

Summary - Tennis – Key Issues to address

- Quality is limited at some key public sites and there is a need to improve this if potential users are to be attracted and tennis development initiatives are to be successful.
- Added to this, there are opportunities for improvement at key club bases, including changing facilities and court surfaces.
- Modelling based on actual participation demonstrates that there are enough facilities and scope to increase usage (particularly public venues) to meet current demand. Viability modelling at target level participation of 3% however indicates that more facilities may be required and if higher levels of latent demand were to be realised, additional provision would definitely be necessary. In the short term however, the priority is to maximise the use of the existing network and to ensure that the facility stock is sustainable moving forwards.
- While the amount of courts is currently sufficient, there are not enough courts at some key clubs, and Warwick Boat Club, Kenilworth Squash Club and Leamington Lawn Tennis Club would benefit from additional capacity (new courts / covering of courts). This would also help meet demand in the long term, as the existing infrastructure will not support future demand. There is a potential requirement of 19 more courts resulting from population growth
- To help the delivery of additional capacity, there is an opportunity to increase the community use of school sites. Provision at new school sites may also offer an opportunity to provide additional tennis courts for the local community.
- There are particular opportunities to improve the player journey. There is a lack of understanding of the exact usage patterns of current public facilities. Research indicates

that the introduction of programmes on public sites (such as coaching / introduction to tennis etc) may increase the use of these facilities and support the transition into clubs.

The needs and evidence base therefore suggests that there is a need for some additional provision to meet needs and that some facilities require improvements if they are to remain sustainable.

Section 3 sets out the key aims and objectives of the strategy document and summarises the strategic priorities.

Athletics Context

- The existing track at Edmondscote is well established, having been built in 1964, provided with a synthetic surface in 1987 and refurbished in 2003.
- The District Council capital investment in 2018 of £108,400 across five areas of work has very significantly improved the quality of the track, in field area, floodlighting and reinstated the outdoor toilet block.
- The Track and its environment is 'fit for purpose' as a club level track in the England Athletics track hierarchy.
- The Council through its facility management programme and survey work, has identified the need to (1) modernise the main pavilion changing rooms (2) undertake works to repair lane 8 of the back straight, which has subsided. These improvements are contingent on decisions as to the future for athletics provision in the District, either at the Europa Way option, or retention and further development at Edmondscote. The next stage of decision making on these options will take place in 2019.
- The District Council is committed to the provision of athletics facilities within the District.
- The nearest synthetic athletic tracks to the Edmondscote track are within the 15 – 20 minutes travel band. The Stratford upon Avon School Community Sports Centre track, is a 6 lane floodlight track, with full jumps and throws provision, the track was opened in 2004. The other tracks in the 15 – 20 minute drive time of the Edmondscote track location, are the three tracks located in Coventry Borough. According to the Active Places Power database, only the University of Warwick track which opened in 1971 has been resurfaced, in 2005. The other two tracks are both located on education sites and so do not have full access for club or public pay and train use. The Whitley Academy track opened in 2000 and the Lyng Hall School track in 2006.
- In the view of the local athletic clubs and England Athletics these venues do not provide a viable alternative to Edmondscote. A community club level track is needed in Warwick

District, to serve the increasing participation of the local athletic clubs and meet the needs of local schools participation.

- Demand for athletics in Warwick from the data available is at or around the national average and probably on the rise in line with wider participation trends. It is understood that the local athletics clubs do have increasing memberships at all levels of ability and ages. This is reflected in the extensive programme of use at Edmondscote by clubs and local schools.
- Both the Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club and Leamington Athletics Academy are very supportive of the commitment and investment made by Warwick District in 2018 to improve the quality of the Edmondscote facility. This has helped both clubs to attract and retain membership of the clubs.
- Both the District Council and the clubs recognise further improvements are required at Edmondscote, if it is retained as the District's athletics facility, particularly in the clubhouse accommodation and services for athletes.
- England Athletics classify the Edmondscote facility as meeting the requirements for a club level facility in its 2018 – 2025 Facilities Strategy hierarchy of athletics tracks.
- England Athletics consider retention and further development of Edmondscote is needed to support athletics in Warwick District. The alternative tracks in the 15 – 20 minute drive time catchment of Edmondscote do not provide viable alternatives for club and local schools participation in athletics. The Edmondscote facility is meeting the needs of nearly 1,000 members and providing for local schools participation in athletics.

Summary – Athletics – Key issues to Address

- Overall the case for retention of an athletics facility to serve Warwick District is established. Recent investment in Edmondscote by the District Council, has made Edmondscote a fit for purpose club-based level athletics facility.
- We believe there is only a need for one purpose-built track to serve the District at either Edmondscote or Europa Way.
- The future option to develop a new athletics facility at Europa Way as part of the Lichfield FC Stadium development, must contain all the requirements for a club level athletics facility. Based on the England Athletics track hierarchy for the track and field disciplines and for County standard events.
- Any new athletics track will form part of the overall Stadium masterplan at Europa way, bringing management and wider sports development opportunities. There will also be a range of facilities in the stadium including NHS, physiotherapy and podiatry services, alongside office space for staff and mental health services, conferencing, gym and catering provision.
- If the option to retain Edmondscote as the District's athletics facility is developed, then the priorities for development are to modernise the clubhouse and increase the athlete conditioning services.
- A move from Edmondscote to Europa Way, is less advantageous in terms of current school use. In this context there may be a need to explore the potential for a compact-athletics track in the Kenilworth area to serve local school's needs.
- There may however be issues of long-term sustainability, providing more than one full-size track to serve the district, with little additional community use identified for a second track, to fund operations, maintenance and the necessary sinking fund

3. Strategic Priorities

This strategy seeks to deliver an infrastructure of outdoor sports facilities which provides broad health and activity opportunities for all residents across the district and provides facilities that are fit for purpose. Whilst the Council is a key provider, it is not the only provider and partnership working with others, particularly clubs and the education sector will be increasingly important both to protect and enhance current access levels and to deliver future needs.

This strategy will therefore seek to provide;

- Sufficient facilities for all pitch and court sport participants.
- Modern facilities that are fit for purpose.
- Sustainable provision models.

By ensuring that;

- Valuable facilities are protected.
- There are enough facilities in the right places to meet current and projected demand.
- Facilities are of appropriate quality to meet need.

Reflecting this, the strategy is based on the following principles;

- **Focus will be placed on maximising resources** – the strategy will seek to maximise the capacity and function of facilities and to ensure that provision is adapted to meet with future requirements.
- **The strategy will seek to build relationships between sports through the creation of sporting hubs and multi-sport sites** – recognising the benefits and long term sustainability of sites providing for multiple sports, the strategy will promote the co-location of facilities and links between clubs, as well as build relationships between clubs and schools.
- **Sustainability of provision is central to the success of playing fields in the District** – all recommendations seek to deliver new and improved facilities in a sustainable manner, focusing on large sites that are efficient and effective to maintain, maximising the capacity of sites, supporting well established clubs and promoting good practice.
- **Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision** – the strategy seeks to ensure that Warwick District contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and in the right place. While it promotes protection of current provision, it recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the subsequent investment required.
- **Investment will focus upon interventions that will have the greatest impact** – the strategy seeks to prioritise investment into sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit. It will seek to increase participation in sport and activity in terms of both numbers and standards.

Based on the needs and evidence set out, the strategic objectives for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Warwick District are therefore set out below. These objectives are set out under the following headings;

- Key Overarching objectives.
- Football objectives.
- Cricket objectives.
- Rugby objectives.
- Hockey objectives.
- Tennis objectives.

Section 4 draws upon the objectives and sets out the recommendations for each sport and the justification for these recommendations. It also outlines the strategic site specific priorities and the justification for these priorities. Local priorities (issues that need to be addressed but are not considered to be of strategic priority) are also highlighted.

Objectives

Key Overarching Objectives

For all sports, Warwick District Council and Partners will seek to;

- Safeguard all existing playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in line with Paragraph 96 and 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework, irrespective of ownership and the degree of access and use. This strategy will clearly define any pitches that are not required to meet current or projected future needs.
- Maximise the role that school facilities play in the provision of community facilities through strong partnership working.
- Ensure that the most efficient use is made of available space within existing and new playing field sites.
- Ensure that new developments contribute towards playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in the district. The Sport England New Development calculator should be used on a site by site basis (for strategic sites) to ensure that the impact of each development is fully understood.
- Ensure that the quality of facilities provided is appropriate to the level and standard of play that is sustained and that it promotes participation in pitch and outdoor sport.
- Ensure that pitches / outdoor sports facilities are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. sports lighting and changing provision).
- Ensure that all pitches / outdoor sports facilities are maintained using maintenance regimes appropriate for the level of use that they sustain and the activities that are undertaken to ensure the long-term future of the pitch stock.
- Support clubs in the management and development of facilities.

Building on the overarching strategic objectives, the following sport specific objectives set out the framework into which the site-specific priorities for each sport will fit. They take into account the specific issues raised for each sport as well as the evidence collated.

Football

- **F1:** The current level of provision is to be maintained and protected. Improvements to the overall pitch stock will be supported (including relocation of pitches where they are replaced and conversion of pitches to 3g to increase capacity in line with F2) and multi pitch sites may be created at the expense of single pitches. The strategy recommendations seek to focus on the delivery of a network of important strategic sites.
- **F2:** The identified pressures on junior and mini pitches (and future shortfalls in pitch provision) will be alleviated through the provision of 3g pitches to be used for both matches and training as well as additional grass pitches where current or projected deficiencies are identified. AGPs will be located at sites that are of strategic significance for football in the district.
- **F3:** Secured community access will be sought to strategic sites that contain two or more football pitches and / or are currently valuable to large clubs and / or with potential to increase capacity of the existing community-based pitch stock. It should be ensured through qualitative improvements that these facilities are of appropriate quality to sustain community play (Linked to F4) F4: Qualitative improvements will focus on multi pitch sites and those particularly important in sustaining football in the area. This will include ensuring that they have effective drainage and appropriate pitch surface.
- **F4:** Football in Warwick District will be delivered in the form of high quality hub sites, supported by satellite sites. To achieve this, and to maximise capacity in the playing field stock and to ensure a high quality playing experience, invest in pitch quality improvements to strategic sites.
- **F5:** The strategy will support the requirements of clubs progressing through the football pyramid.

Cricket

- **C1:** The current level of provision is to be maintained and protected.
- **C2:** Additional capacity will be needed to accommodate both existing unmet demand and projected future growth in demand. This will be created through;
 - Provision of new grass pitches
 - Provision of non-turf wickets
 - Improved access to school sites in partnership with the school and club
- **C3:** Support ongoing club development (and ability to accommodate junior play and development activities) as well as capacity issues by maximising off field practice. All sites should have at least a non turf wicket and / or training nets.
- **C4:** Pitch quality improvements will focus on ensuring that all cricket pitches are of a quality suitable for the standard of play that is undertaken and that grounds meet with league regulations. Improvements will also seek to enhance player experience and maintain site capacity. Sites should include full changing and ancillary facilities and be subjected to appropriate maintenance regimes.

Rugby

- **R1:** The current level of provision is to be maintained and protected. Improvements to the overall pitch stock will be supported (including relocation of pitches where they are replaced).
- **R2:** Identified existing and future capacity issues will be addressed to ensure that the infrastructure provided meets the needs of all clubs. This should include ensuring that;
 - There are enough grass pitches to meet peak time and weekly demand
 - There are enough floodlit pitches (and or access to appropriate AGP) to ensure that training facilities are not overplayed
 - Maintenance programmes maximise the capacity of the grass pitches and are appropriate to the level of use that is sustained
- **R3:** Seek to retain existing participation as well as support growth in rugby across the district as a whole. Explore opportunities for the reinvigoration of rugby union in Warwick.

Hockey

- **H1:** At least 5 sand based AGPs are required for hockey usage across the district.
- **H2:** All pitches should be of suitable quality for the level of hockey played and clubs should have access to appropriate ancillary accommodation (changing facilities, clubhouse etc).

Tennis

- **T1:** The existing quantity of tennis courts should be protected and maintained.
- **T2:** It will be ensured that that there are enough facilities to meet current and projected future needs by addressing capacity issues at key club bases and working with schools longer term in order to open access to existing facilities.
- **T3:** The quality of facilities at public sites will be improved to increase the role that they play in meeting demand and invest in solutions to make these facilities more accessible to potential users.
- **T4:** Improvements to club facilities will be supported both in terms of court quality and ancillary facilities, ensuring that the club environment continues to facilitate participation and growth.

Athletics

- **A1:** The existing track at Edmondscote should be protected and maintained unless and until a new replacement track is provided as part of the Lichfield Stadium project, Europa Way
-
- **A2:** The development of a new like for like replacement track at Europa Way will replace the need for Edmodnscote
-
- **A3:** Consideration to be given to the development of a compact track to serve school needs in the Kenilworth area

Section 4 sets out the site-specific priorities relating to these actions for each sport.

4. Priority Sites and Delivery

Section 2 summarised the context for each sport across Warwick District, highlighting the issues that need to be addressed, while Section 3 outlined the strategic objectives both in general terms and on a sport by sport basis.

Table 4.1 overleaf details the priority site specific recommendations that will be proactively undertaken to support the delivery of playing pitches across the district and to create a stock of playing fields that meets current and projected future need. These priorities have been developed in conjunction with the National Governing Bodies of Sport and will require an inter-agency approach to ensure delivery.

Section 5 sets out how the strategy will be implemented and delivered, including the approach that will be taken to monitoring and review.

Table 4.1 – Priority Site Specific Actions

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
Hockey	<p>H1: Provide at least five sand based AGPs across the district. All Facilities should be of appropriate quality and in the right location and clubs should have access to appropriate ancillary accommodation. The following facilities should be retained;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwick School (2) – site of regional strategic importance as well as key local facility for Warwick HC. The school also have aspirations for the development of a 3rd pitch on site. If this was delivered, it would impact on the requirement for other sites. Aylesford School – required as overspill venue for Warwick HC and to absorb longer term growth associated with housing growth. Note that the viability of the pitch at Aylesford School would be questionable if the aspiration for a 3rd pitch at Warwick School was delivered. 	<p>Continue to support Warwick School as a strategic site for hockey in the district. This should include ensuring a sinking fund is in place to enable timely refurbishment of pitches. Investigate opportunities to further support the club by providing on site clubhouse.</p> <p>Khalsa Hockey Club are looking to develop their Bericote Lane site as a community club base and this should be supported through the creation of a new AGP. The club are working towards an ambitious development plan which will see the requirements of the club increase. Potential promotion to the national league would also result in the need for the club to access a facility meeting stringent quality criteria which existing facilities used do not. Leamington HC are in a similar position and any new pitch should therefore be supported on the assumption that the facility could also be used by the elite teams in the Ladies Hockey Club.</p> <p>Continue to support North Leamington School as a site for hockey in the district. This should include refurbishment of the pitch and associated floodlighting. It should be ensured that a sinking fund is in place to enable the long term provision of this facility for hockey</p> <p>Continue to support Aylesford School as a site for hockey in the district. This should include refurbishment of the pitch to ensure that quality is retained. It should be ensured that a sinking fund is in place to enable the long-term provision of this facility for hockey</p>	<p>The identified pitches are sufficient in quantitative terms to meet current need for hockey and projected future demand. The selected sites are located in appropriate locations and offer the opportunity to provide facilities of appropriate quality. Club numbers as well as growth aspirations mean that Warwick HC requires access to two facilities. With this site being the only two pitch venue in the district, its importance at a regional level is also clear. Clubs in Leamington are also growing and facilities to meet national league specification are required. In addition to Khalsa HC, Leamington HC may also require a site compliant with national league regulations and Khalsa should be considered to offer this.</p>	<p>Retention of existing facilities at Warwick School - ongoing Provision of new pitch for Leamington Khalsa CC – Short Term Pitch at St Nicholas Park should be retained until alternative pitch is delivered for Leamington Khalsa Refurbishment of pitch at North Leamington School – medium term Refurbishment of pitch at Aylesford School – refurbishment retaining sand based surface required medium term. If Warwick Schools aspiration to develop a new 3rd pitch was achieved, the viability of the pitch at Aylesford School for hockey would be impacted. This situation should be subject to ongoing review.</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Leamington School – required as second venue in Leamington for Leamington HC <p>New Provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leamington Khalsa HC - access to this pitch should also be sought for higher standard Leamington Ladies HC Access to Westwood Campus required if new pitch for Leamington Khalsa is not secured and / or no access for Leamington Ladies is available. <p>Pitches no longer required for Hockey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Nicholas Park. to be retained until a new facility is provide d to service the needs of Leamington Khalsa. 			
Cricket	<p>C1: The current level of provision is to be maintained and protected</p> <p>C2: Additional capacity will be needed to accommodate both existing displaced demand and</p>	<p>All sites</p> <p>Relocate Kenilworth Wardens to Castle Farm Recreation Ground as part of the development of this site as a sporting hub. Existing provision should be replicated as a</p>	<p>The evidence base demonstrates that all existing club based cricket pitches are required to meet current and projected future growth.</p> <p>The evidence base demonstrates that several clubs are at or approaching</p>	<p>Retention of existing pitches ongoing</p> <p>Short Term – relocation of Kenilworth Wardens Medium Term – Relocation</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
	<p>unmet demand as well as future projected future growth in demand. This will be created through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of new grass pitches • Provision of non-turf wickets • Improved access to school sites in partnership with the school and club 	<p>minimum, but ideally capacity should be increased by one pitch (ideally three cricket grounds with at least 24 strips). An appropriate clubhouse should also be provided.</p> <p>Support Leamington Khalsa CC in their relocation back to Warwick District. There is no spare capacity within the existing infrastructure and a new facility is therefore required</p> <p>Create additional capacity for clubs that are at capacity or where teams are displaced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenilworth Town CC) • Warwick CC, • Leamington CC • Norton Lindsey CC (displaced) <p>Consider new provision (linked with an existing club) at key housing site (one to two pitches) if additional pitches are not created in relation to clubs above. Alternatively, new capacity could be delivered through satellite facility at school site.</p>	<p>capacity. Growth aspirations, as well as the projected impact of new housing development will exacerbate this scenario, meaning that the already constrained network of facilities will be under greater pressure. Assessment report indicates that Kenilworth Town, Warwick CC, Leamington CC and North Leamington CC are at capacity / displaced.</p> <p>Calculations demonstrate that future need is up 3 -4 additional pitches.</p>	<p>of Leamington Khalsa Medium Term – provision of additional capacity for identified clubs</p>
	<p>C3: Support ongoing club development (and ability to accommodate junior play and development activities) as well as capacity issues by maximising off field practice. All sites should have at least a non turf wicket and / or training nets.</p>	<p>Work with all clubs to support the installation of appropriate training facilities. Key priorities include:</p> <p>Facilities Requiring Refurbishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenilworth Wardens CC (linked to relocation) • Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground • Kenilworth Cricket Ground • Leek Wootton CC • Rowington CC <p>Clubs without any existing facilities;</p> <p>Alvis Sports and Social Club, Offchurch Cricket Club</p>	<p>A lack of training facilities can lead to additional use of the grass wicket, or reduce the attractiveness of the site to potential participants. The provision of effective training facilities will maximise the function of the site and the quality of cricket played. With capacity constrained at many sites, the availability of pitches is limited and training facilities and off field opportunities are of greater importance if pitch quality is</p>	<p>Large clubs with junior sections – short to medium term Adult clubs – medium to long term</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
			to be maintained and all age groups and developmental programmes are to be accommodated.	
	<p>C4: Pitch quality improvements will focus on ensuring that all cricket pitches are of a quality suitable for the standard of play that is undertaken and that grounds meet with league regulations. Improvements will also seek to enhance player experience and maintain site capacity. Sites should include full changing and ancillary facilities and be subjected to appropriate maintenance regimes.</p>	<p>Improve pitch maintenance / pitch quality at the following grounds;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground – undulating outfield • Kenilworth Wardens (linked with relocation above) • Kenilworth CC – installation of ball safety netting, new mowers, improvements to parking • Nelson Memorial Cricket Ground, Lapworth – patchy, uneven outfield, issues with weeds. • Norton Lindsey Recreation Ground – drainage, grass coverage • Stoneleigh Cricket Club – undulating outfield • Warwick Cricket Club- water supply to square, grass coverage and outfield • Rowington Cricket Club – patchy grass with weeds and undulations. Requires levelling • Offchurch Cricket Club – wickets lifting and uneven, outfield uneven <p>Invest in ancillary facilities to ensure clubs are supported by adequate infrastructure</p>	<p>Quality of cricket pitches is essential to ensure play can take place particularly where clubs are playing in leagues where pitches have to meet certain criteria. Quality of cricket pitches is also essential for the playing experience.</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stoneleigh CC – requires updating • Lapworth CC – installation of heating, provision of separate facilities for officials • Norton Lindsey CC – pavilion requires extension to address needs of club in relation to accommodating mixed ages and genders • Leamington CC – requires new showers and internal updates • Rowington CC – officials' room • Leek Wootton Sports Club – refurbishment 		
Rugby	<p>R1: Protect existing quantity of rugby pitches. Improvements to the overall pitch stock will be supported (including relocation of pitches where they are replaced)</p> <p>R2: Identified existing and future capacity issues will be addressed to ensure that the infrastructure provided meets the needs of all clubs. This should include ensuring that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are enough grass pitches to meet peak time and weekly demand 	<p>All sites</p> <p>Support Kenilworth RUFC in their relocation to a new site. Pitch provision should as a minimum represent an increase on current levels of provision (6 pitches and or five pitches and an AGP that is approved for rugby use) to ensure that club growth and additional demand from population increases can be accommodated. Pitches should meet with RFU specification, as well as changing and clubhouse accommodation in line with RFU guidance.</p> <p>While an AGP for rugby would be beneficial for this club, this needs to be balanced with the provision of AGPs for</p>	<p>Capacity analysis indicates that the existing quantity of club pitches is required to meet current and projected future demand</p> <p>Capacity issues identified at key existing sites. In some instances, these can be addressed in part by qualitative improvements (and or adjustment to the maintenance regime) which will lead to enhanced capacity.</p> <p>Proposed relocations (as long</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are enough floodlit pitches (and or access to appropriate AGP) to ensure that training facilities are not overplayed Maintenance programmes maximise the capacity of the grass pitches and are appropriate to the level of use that is sustained 	<p>football to ensure viability. This is not an essential facility to meet future need and any decision to provide an AGP should be taken in the context of the strategic priority for delivery of a football AGP at Castle Farm (meaning that any rugby AGP would likely need to be filled by rugby alone). It may be that grass pitches should be provided in the first instance and ongoing demand for AGP reviewed as part of the monitoring process.</p> <p>It should be ensured that adopted maintenance programmes are sufficient to obtain capacity ratings equivalent to M1/D2</p> <p>Support Trinity Guild RUFC in their relocation to a new site. Replacement facilities should include 2 - 3 grass pitches (3 required for future proofing) and at least one pitch should be floodlit to meet training needs. Facilities provided should be equivalent or better to those currently provided and should meet with RFU specifications in terms of both pitch and ancillary provision.</p> <p>Seek opportunities for Leamington RFC to improve capacity (justification for 1 – 2 additional pitches, one of which must be floodlit). Opportunities for the club to use the proposed AGP at Old Leamingtonians (in conjunction with Wasps) should be explored in the short term. This would negate the need for additional pitch provision.</p> <p>In addition, work with Leamington RFC to improve drainage as well as carry out reinstatement and renovation works. There is a need to address compaction issues, as well as to improve the maintenance programme so that pitches can accommodate the required levels of play.</p>	<p>as delivered in accordance with need identified in this strategy) will enable the improvement of existing facilities and ensure that provision is tailored to the needs of existing clubs.</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
		<p>In the absence of access to training facilities, seek to provide access to additional one to two pitches.</p> <p>In addition, further floodlights should be provided (unless access to an AGP is identified) to enable the club to better spread the impact of training.</p> <p>Changing facilities also require improvement if aspirations to develop female teams are to be met.</p> <hr/> <p>Explore opportunities for Old Leamingtonians to partner with Wasps Rugby Club on their site. It should be ensured that if an AGP is provided;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Leamingtonians continue to have access to 3 senior grass pitches and 2 midi pitches as a minimum. Four senior pitches would ensure that the club has opportunities to accommodate future growth in demand; • Old Leamingtonians also have access to the AGP for training needs • Improvements are made to the changing and car parking at the site to ensure that the facilities are able to sustain the increased usage that will be experienced • Opportunities for community use are explored. This should include discussions with Leamington RUFC to facilitate use of the site. 		

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
		<p>The maintenance programme should also be regularly reviewed to ensure that the capacity of grass pitches is maximised and retained and that the strong drainage systems remain effective.</p>		
	<p>R3: Seek to retain existing participation as well as support growth in rugby across the district as a whole. Explore opportunities for the reinvigoration of rugby union in Warwick.</p>	<p>District wide at each key club - work alongside clubs to support the retention of existing players and to facilitate continued growth.</p> <p>Specific target for increased participation - Warwick. Explore potential demand for an o2 touch programme to reinvigorate activity in Warwick. Potential opportunity could exist through the AGP at Myton School, which could be surfaced to include a World Rugby Compliant Shock Pad or through the use of the new 3G AGP (preferred route as this has already been developed) if this pitch is available for community use.</p>		
Football	<p>F1 The current level of provision is to be maintained and protected. Improvements to the overall pitch stock will be supported (including relocation and conversion of pitches to 3G in line with F2)</p>	All sites	<p>Capacity analysis indicates that the existing quantity of pitches is required to meet current and projected future demand and indeed, that future population growth will require existing capacity.</p> <p>Any loss of pitch provision should result in clear and direct replacement in line with Sport England Planning Policy and NPPF guidance.</p>	
	<p>F2: The identified pressures on junior and mini pitches (and future shortfalls in pitch provision)</p>	<p>Provide new 3g AGPs / Retain (and resurface where appropriate) existing AGPs as follows;</p>	<p>Existing provision is insufficient to meet current needs and will become further inadequate</p>	<p>Phasing will need to be fluid and opportunity led but the impact of each new facility</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
	<p>will be alleviated through the provision of 3g pitches to be used for both matches and training as well as additional grass pitches where current or projected deficiencies are identified. AGPs will be located at sites that are of strategic significance for football in the district</p> <p>All AGPs should be fully quality tested to ensure listing on FA register and suitability for both competitive and training uses. 7 facilities with community access are required to meet current need (current provision 2) and a further will be required longer term.</p> <p>Grass pitches should be of appropriate quality to sustain the amount and standard of play that they are subjected to,</p>	<p>Kenilworth;</p> <p>New Kenilworth School (replacing existing Meadows Facility).</p> <p>New 3g AGP at Castle Farm Recreation Ground</p> <p>Retention of Cryfield Pavilion.</p> <p>Leamington</p> <p>Creation of hub at Newbold Comyn – to support existing network of grass pitches and address some issues of overuse. Will also require changing facility improvement</p> <p>AGP for Leamington FC – to be developed as part of community stadium. The site will include a range of facilities including physiotherapy, podiatry as well as office space, conferencing and gym and catering provision. The AGP will offer wider community use, although the level that this club play at means that there are likely to be restrictions on the usage that created by the surface (20 hours usage per week). This facility is now going ahead and will be developed to the north of Gallows Hill to the South of Leamington Spa</p> <p>Warwick</p> <p>Retention or replacement of pitch at Myton School (to be resurfaced shortly)</p> <p>Resurface of pitch from sand to 3g at St Nicholas Park (dependent upon creation of pitch for Khalsa HC)</p> <p>Ffull size pitch at Racing club Warwick. Second pitch could</p>	<p>by 2029, particularly when the likely impact of proposed housing is taken into account.</p> <p>Calculations demonstrate that a minimum of 6 – 7 AGPs are required across the district and demand for a further AGP may be generated by 2029 if aspirations for housing growth are realised.</p> <p>Potential AGP strategy (to provide a minimum of 7 pitches five more AGPs are needed). A further one will be necessary by 2029 to take into account the impact of housing development</p> <p>New grass pitch provision will also be required to meet growing needs as well as to address capacity issues identified in the assessment report (up to 10 youth peak time match equivalents and 6 9v9 match equivalents for 9v9 pitches) if club growth aspirations are to be achieved, even after appropriate community use venues have been secured.</p> <p>This will be negated to an</p>	<p>built should be considered before another is approved.</p> <p>Short term new facilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newbold Comyn • Castle Farm • Racing Club Warwick

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
		<p>be developed at at Myton School (would help to create a hub) if this is not deliverable.</p> <p>Outside main settlements</p> <p>One pitch. Potential location of new AGP on new site Bishops Tachbrook School or Kings Hill. It should also be noted that there are proposals to provide a 3G pitch in conjunction with Alvis Sports (either at the site or at a site that is easily accessible to the club) in the Coventry City LFFP. If this is delivered, the demand for an additional pitch in Warwick (and the long-term sustainability of this pitch) will be impacted.</p> <p>Provide additional capacity to support the following clubs (through either additional grass pitch provision / extensions to existing sites). Some of the issues below will be addressed through F2 – network of AGPs and this is noted where relevant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alvis Sports – club displaced over several venues and capacity for up to 5 additional match equivalents may be required. To be addressed through new provision on Kings Hill as well as new AGP (see comments above in relation to AGP) Lillington Juniors (Leamington) – existing site at capacity for 9v9 and youth (and unsecured). Club have further growth aspirations - seeking new site Racing Club Warwick – club cannot accommodate required growth at peak time and insufficient capacity for youth teams. (AGP would potentially address this issue) Leamington Brakes – overplay on youth pitches and 	<p>extent by the provision of new AGPs but new provision should focus on youth and 9v9 pitches. Circa 6 - 8 youth and 9v9 pitches needed depending upon use of AGPs (but assuming two peak time games on each of these pitches) and successful implementation of pitch improvement programme.</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
		<p>no capacity on 9v9. (Capacity potentially to be delivered through AGP at Newbold Comyn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Ajax (limited scope for youth / 9v9 growth.) • Warwick Juniors – no remaining spare capacity and evidence of overplay. (potentially met through AGP at Racing Club / St Nicholas Park) • Khalsa JFC – to be delivered through new pitches / consolidation of club onto one site. <p>School / club relocations should as a minimum replicate existing provision (with secured CUA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenilworth School • Bishop Tachbrook • Kings Hill • Castle Farm <p>Provide grass pitches at new development site - Kings Hill (potentially through school). This provision should be in addition to baseline school requirements through BB103 and should be secured through a community use agreement with appropriate ancillary accommodation</p> <p>A total of 6 – 8 additional pitches should be provided. This will depend upon progress with delivery of AGP strategy and on the amount of youth football that is relocated to AGP.</p>		
	<p>F3: Secure access to strategic sites that contain two or more football pitches and / or are currently valuable to large clubs</p>	<p>Negotiate secure long-term access to sites that host existing clubs, specifically;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Leamington School • Aylesford School 	<p>These school-based sites offer important community facilities and are currently well used by clubs. As larger sites, they</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
	<p>and / or with potential to increase capacity of the existing community-based pitch stock. It should be ensured through qualitative improvements that these facilities are of appropriate quality to sustain community play (Linked to F4)</p>	<p>Seek to review management contracts for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadows Community Sports Centre • John Atkinson Sports Centre (Myton School) • 	<p>provide an important club base. Securing access and improving quality of these facilities will ensure long term use of these sites.</p> <p>Recommendations for the quantity of new provision assume successful securing of all existing community use venues.</p>	
	<p>F4: Football in Warwick District will be delivered in the form of high-quality hub sites, supported by satellite sites. To achieve this, and to maximise capacity in the playing field stock and to ensure a high-quality playing experience, invest in pitch quality improvements to strategic sites.</p>	<p>Invest in improvements to pitch quality focusing initially upon maintenance enhancement. Specific quality works (levelling / drainage etc) also likely to be required at some sites. The FA Pitch Improvement Programme should be seen as the starting point for all sites where pitch quality enhancements are necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Nicholas Park (linking with 3g hub) • Newbold Comyn (linking with 3g hub) • Castle Farm (linking with 3g Hub) • St Marys Lands (Linking with potential 3g site) • Harbury Lane • Aylesford School • Acre Close Fields • North Leamington School • Ajax Park • Alvis Sports • Leek Wootton Sports Club • Racing Club Warwick • Warwickshire County Council sports club • St Peters Celtic <p>Seek to enhance changing pavilion improvements;</p>	<p>Quality of facilities is a key determinant of capacity and poor-quality pitches have a limited capacity to sustain matches. While AGPs will be provided to add further capacity to the pitch stock, the grass pitch stock will also be key to retaining sufficient capacity across Warwick District to meet current and projected future demand. The strategy seeks to establish a network of high-quality strategic hub sites. All sites identified for improvement are considered strategic hub sites offering a range of facilities.</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racing Club Warwick (new facility is required, opportunity to tailor this provision to ensure it also effectively serves users of potential new AGP) • Newbold Comyn (facility refurbishment required, this provision should also be appropriate to serve users of new AGP if this is delivered), • Castle Farm (facility refurbishment required) • Ajax Park, Refurb and extension • Leek Wootton Sports Club (refurb) • Alvis Sports Club • Leamington FC relocation – Europa Way Stadium will require community changing • Acre Close (improvement to facilities) 		
	<p>F5: As well as supporting community hubs for football, the strategy also seeks to support the needs and development requirements of community football pyramid teams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leamington FC – poor drainage. Club have aspirations for 3g as part of relocation • Alvis Sporting Club (changing room), drainage and perimeter fencing • Racing Warwick 	<p>There are specific requirements in relation to facilities as clubs move through the football pyramid. Progression through the football pyramid is a key component of the development of football in Warwick District and adjustments to facility provision to facilitate this development (and league promotion) will therefore be supported.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Tennis</p>	<p>T1: The existing quantity of tennis courts will be protected and maintained</p>	<p>All sites</p> <p>Work with Whitnash Sports Club and Alvis Sports and Social Club to identify new users for the courts and support the redevelopment of the tennis section. There is a strong tennis set up at the university and this could be used as</p>	<p>Capacity analysis indicates that the existing quantity of tennis courts is required to meet current and projected future demand and indeed</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
		foundations for the reinvigoration of Alvis Sports Club.	additional stock will be required at some clubs (Kenilworth LTC and Warwick Boat Club in the short term). The existing courts that are not being used will be valuable as population grows and facilities should therefore be retained. Longer term population growth will generate a requirement for up to 19 additional courts.	
	T2: Ensure that there are enough facilities to meet current and projected future needs by addressing capacity issues at key club bases and working with schools longer term in order to open access to existing facilities.	<p>Support Warwick Boat Club LTC to develop a partnership with Warwick School to deliver additional courts that will be accessible to both the school and the club. This will result in the creation of covered courts. Community use of these facilities (pay and play) and a balanced community use coaching programme should also be secured to ensure that the new facilities are beneficial to the infrastructure for tennis in the district as a whole.</p> <p>Undertake a feasibility study to investigate the potential to add capacity by covering some tennis courts at the following sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leamington Tennis Club • Kenilworth Squash Club <p>Negotiate community access to school tennis courts in order to increase facility stock and improve the coverage of tennis. Key priorities may include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New school at Kings Hill (links also with Alvis Tennis Club) • Aylesford School (Warwick) – (would require 	Analysis demonstrates that there are capacity issues at key club bases and that additional facilities are required if participation is not to be limited now and in future years. There is also an identified need for an improved network of public facilities.	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
		<p>resurfacing prior to letting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myton Academy • North Leamington School • Kenilworth School • New school sites (eg Bishops Tachbrook) • Working alongside Whitnash Sports and Social Club to establish if the facilities can play a role in meeting public pay and play need following the demise of the club. <p>Access should be linked to coaching programmes with clubs to attract users.</p> <p>Management of courts should also be discussed (linking with T3)</p>		
	<p>T3: Improve the condition of public courts to increase the role that they play in meeting demand and invest in solutions to make these facilities more accessible to potential users to improve the customer journey.</p>	<p>Improve quality of courts;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauchamp Square – focus on court surface (existing courts are undulating and impacted by tree roots) • Abbeyfields – require refurbishment of surface • Victoria Park - refurbishment <p>Linking with the LTA strategy, seek to improve the customer journey at all public facilities by identifying appropriate access and management solutions for the successful delivery of the existing public courts- this should include a review of the technology available to control and monitor usage and to enable online booking. This may include engagement with the Club Spark Initiative to create a joined up programme.</p> <p>Online booking can be linked with access systems ensuring that all fees are collected and that attendants are not</p>	<p>The quality of public tennis courts is lower than that of club bases and in some instance restricts the activity that can take place. Existing participation is skewed towards club membership and there is therefore significant scope to increase the number of people using pay and play facilities in the district. The courts identified are those where quality is thought to be currently restricting usage. LTA research demonstrates that the customer journey is a key barrier to participation and the assessment highlights that many of the key barriers</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
		<p>required to open the courts. These conversations should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sites • Sites managed by Everybody Active • School sites. <p>A consistent approach should be established as far as possible across the board.</p>	exist in Warwick.	
	<p>T4: Invest in improvements to club bases, both in terms of court quality and ancillary facilities, ensuring that the club environment continues to facilitate participation and growth.</p>	<p>Kenilworth LTC – changing facilities are poor Offchurch Tennis Club – courts require refurbishment. Current poor condition is likely to impact on desirability for members Warwick Boat Club – changing facilities require investment and extension longer term</p>	Improved quality of courts is essential both to retain capacity of courts but also to encourage and promote participation in tennis.	
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1: The existing track at Edmondscote should be protected and maintained unless and until a new replacement track is provided as part of the Lichfield Stadium project, Europa Way • • A2: The development of a new like for like replacement track at Europa Way will replace the need for Edmondscote 	<p>Edmondscote</p> <p>Europa Way</p>	<p>Requirement for only one fit for purpose track to serve Warwick.</p> <p>There may however be issues of long-term sustainability, providing more than one full-size track to serve the district, with little additional community use identified for a second track, to fund operations, maintenance and the necessary sinking fund</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Site Specific	Justification	Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A3: Consideration to be given to the development of a compact track to serve school needs in the Kenilworth area 	Kenilworth		

Many of the actions are interrelated by sport and indeed the strategy seeks to co-locate sports and create sporting hubs and strategic sites. For ease of reference, Table 4.2 brings together the recommendations in Table 4.1 and summarises the key priorities on a site-specific basis. This table will be updated twice annually as part of the monitoring process.

Table 4.2 assigns a priority level to actions at each of the sites. Strategic priorities are those featuring in the above proactive action plan and will have large scale impact. Local priorities remain important, but will have more limited impact on site capacity and playability. **Table 4.2: Key Areas for Improvement – all sites available for the community across Warwick District**

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
Kenilworth					
CV8 1BP, Kenilworth	Abbey Fields, Kenilworth	Tennis (5)	Poor quality courts overall that require refurbishment if they are to attract regular usage	Refurbish surface	Strategic
CV8 1EY, Kenilworth	Castle Farm Recreation Centre	Football (and to relocate cricket). Current provision – 2 11v11, 2 youth 11v11, 2 9v9, 2 7v7 and 1 5v5	Limited availability at peak time. Poor drainage and insufficient changing if all pitches are in use. Improvements to goalposts also required Site to become important strategic hub site	New AGP Improved maintenance, quality improvements - Changing / Drainage linking with creation of 3g hub and through pitch improvement	Strategic

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
				<p>programme. Extension to number of football pitches available to replace existing capacity at Kenilworth Wardens and to create additional capacity. To adequately meet existing demand and with some room for growth, 2 adult, 3 – 4 youth, 3 – 4 9v9 pitches are needed as well as smaller pitches for 7v7 and 5v5,</p> <p>Relocation of cricket club – site expansion to include ideally three cricket grounds and at least 24 strips</p>	
CV8 1FE, Kenilworth	Kenilworth Cricket Club	Cricket (1)	Site of good quality through high levels of maintenance, high standard of changing and playing facilities but concerns with impact of adjacent housing development. Site currently being overplayed.	Support improvements to capacity – new artificial wicket (or use of Meadow Community Centre / Kenilworth School). Improvements required to training facilities for cricket. New maintenance equipment needed, alongside installation of ball safety netting and potential improvement to parking	Strategic
CV8 2JS,	Kenilworth	Tennis (9)	Well maintained courts but quality of clubhouse more	Cover courts to provide	

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
Kenilworth	Lawn Tennis and Squash Club		limited. Limited remaining capacity	additional capacity and improve changing accommodation	
CV8 2AJ, Kenilworth	Kenilworth Rugby Club	Rugby (5)	Club currently based on two sites. One site has no permanent changing accommodation. Club have recently had RFU investment into pitch quality.	Relocation of club. Provision of additional floodlights and appropriate changing at new site. Pitch requirements of 6 full size pitches or 5 full size pitches and an AGP	Strategic
CV8 1FG Kenilworth	Kenilworth Town FC	Unused (but to be returned to football use). (1 11v11)	Site closed but recently purchased and to be brought back into use for football	Site to be brought back into use for football	Local
CV8 2AL, Kenilworth	Kenilworth Wardens	Football (1 11v11, 1 9v9, 2 7v7 and 1 5v5) and Cricket (2)	Some limited further capacity but almost no availability at peak time. Pitches compacted. Cricket - Poor subsoil and inadequate drainage causes flooding in severe rain. Pitch and wickets overused meaning no capacity for club growth. Quality of facilities is essential if pitches are to sustain level of activity that the club requires. Site recently had visit under pitch improvement scheme.	Site relocation to Castle Farm which is to become important strategic hub site. Extension to amount of pitches available for both cricket and football. Actions should see to implement guidance from Pitch Improvement Programme. Potential new AGP to support activity of club	Strategic
CV8 2DA, Kenilworth	Meadow Community Sports Centre (kenilworth School) To be	Football Centre (1 youth 11v11, 1 9v9), Rugby 4), tennis (3) and Cricket (1 non turf)	Site to become strategic hub site following relocation Existing facility of limited quality for both football and cricket.	Establish Kenilworth School as new strategic hub site following relocation	Strategic

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
	relocated		Tennis courts require improvement. Limited use	Secure community use and explore potential to increase the number of football pitches that are provided. Replacement AGP required. Potential role for site to provide for cricket	
CV8 1FN	Kenilworth Sixth Form Centre	Football (3 11v11)	1 pitch only usable at current time.	Relocation to see minimum direct replacement of existing facilities. Scope to increase pitch numbers (including full community use).	Strategic
CV32 5RD, Leamington	Beauchamp Square, Leamington	Tennis (3)	Poor courts disturbed by tree roots. Poor surface and undulations. Limited use	Quality improvements	Strategic
CV31 1AP, Leamington	Khalsa Hockey Club	Hockey	Potential for full size AGP to provide facility for Khalsa Hockey Club. Should also meet needs of Leamington HC teams requiring pitch meeting national league specifications	New AGP	Strategic
CV32 5UG, Leamington	Leamington Cricket Club	Cricket (3)	Good quality facilities but non-turf wicket requires improvement. Some capacity for additional play but some additional capacity for juniors would be beneficial.	Secure additional capacity for club and upgrade pavilion	Strategic
CV32 6LZ, Leamington	Leamington Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis (12)	Good court quality, clubhouse undergoing improvements. No remaining spare capacity	Cover courts	Strategic
CV32 6RG, Leamington	Leamington RUFC	Rugby (3)	Site at capacity with little scope for expansion, additional capacity required.	Enhanced maintenance Additional floodlights	Strategic

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
			<p>Poor drainage and grass cover impacts on site capacity and compaction is causing further issues. Improvements to maintenance programme would enhance capacity.</p> <p>Requirement for additional floodlighting to meet midweek demand.</p> <p>Club aspirations to develop female section.</p>	<p>Drainage improvements</p> <p>Potential extension (depending on ability to secure land)</p> <p>Upgraded changing accommodation</p>	
CV34 4EW, Leamington	Newbold Comyn	Football (711v11, 2 youth 11v11, 2 9v9, 1 7v7 and 3 5v5)	Site of strategic importance for football – strategic hub site. Quality compromised in parts due to heavy usage, evidence of poor drainage, scuffing and skid marks. Recently had visit under Pitch Improvement Programme Scheme. Pavilion would benefit from internal refurbishment.	<p>New 3g pitch</p> <p>Maintenance improvements. Drainage / decompaction and changing improvements linking with creation of 3g hub. Actions should see to implement guidance from Pitch Improvement Programme.</p>	Strategic
CV32 6RD, Leamington	North Leamington School	Football (1 11v11, 1 youth 11v11, 2 9v9, 1 7v7, 3 5v5), hockey, rugby (2), none turf cricket wicket, tennis (4)	<p>Unsecured site which is important club base. Overplayed. Pitch quality improvements essential given the importance of the site for football. Poorly marked and suffer from mole damage.</p> <p>Important venue for hockey club</p> <p>Tennis courts overmarked for netball and used for both sports.</p>	<p>Secure access</p> <p>Retain as sand-based hockey pitch. Pitch likely to require refurbishment in the short to medium term</p> <p>Improvements to pitch quality and maintenance programmes.</p> <p>Community use of tennis</p>	Strategic

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
				courts	
CV33 9QB, Leamington	Philips 55 Stadium	Football (11v11, 1 9v9)	Pyramid Club with requirement for additional capacity	Site relocation. New 3g stadium pitch to support club activity (likely to be FIFA Pro pitch due to standard of club play). These pitches have more reduced capacity for community use.	Strategic
CV32 6QT, Leamington	St Peters Celtic FC	Football (1 youth 11v11, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 1 5v5)	Capacity to sustain further play, but requires improvement and updating, in particular maintenance and drainage. Poor ancillary facilities.	Maintenance and changing accommodation	Local
CV31 1SA Leamington	Sydenham Primary School	Football (1 youth 11v11, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 5v5)	Important site for junior football	Secure community use	Local
CV31 3PH, Leamington	Victoria Park	Tennis (10)	Some variation in court quality but facilities are standard to good overall.		
CV32 6QP, Leamington	Old Leamingtonians	Rugby (5)	Opportunity to explore partnership with Wasps to provide additional capacity and opportunities for club, including access to new World Rugby Compliant 3g AGP	Explore opportunities with Wasps, ensuring that Old Leamingtonians retain access to a minimum of 3 grass pitches and 2 midi pitches as well as access to AGP for training. Improvements to car parking and ancillary provision will also be required to support new AGP	Strategic
Rural / Other					
New Development	Kings Hill	Football, Tennis	Minimum 1 adult, 1 football 1 mini football. Consideration of facility for cricket. Tennis courts	New provision	Strategic
CV4 7AL, Rural	University	Football (511v11)/	Good quality facilities but with limited	Retention of AGPs	

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
		Cricket (2) Rugby, tennis	community access.	Potential for community use to support key clubs if other actions are not delivered	
CV3 8AQ, Rural	Baginton Playing Fields	Football (1 youth 11v11, 17v7, 15v5)	Requires pitch surface work, enhanced maintenance and changing and storage is poor. Pressures on pitches at peak time	Pitch and maintenance improvements	Local
CV33 9RY, Rural	Bishops Tachbrook Sports Club	Football (2 7v7) and small sand dressed AGP	Pitches not currently used for formal play but remain important venue for training.	Retain pitch	Local
CV8 3BW, Rural	Bubbenhall Village Playing Field	Football (17v7)	Pitches not currently used for formal play. Retain as green space with potential for reuse as formal playing pitch should demand arise in the village.		Local
CV35 8ES, Rural	Church Lane Playing Fields, Barford	Football (19v9, 1 5v5)	No use. No changing accommodation, poor pitch quality	Retain and reinstate (with pitch improvements) if evidence of demand in village	Local
Cv33 9DY, Rural	Hunningham Cricket Club	Cricket (1)	Wicket slightly uneven but site is potentially able to accommodate more play.	Improvements to wicket	Local
CV35 7QJ, Rural	Leek Wootton Cricket Club	Cricket (1) and Football (111v11, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 1 5v5)	Football – pitches approaching poor quality, pitches require maintenance improvements, pavilion requires investment in changing rooms and kitchen. Cricket – Able to sustain more play. Some improvements required to training facilities.	Improvements required to training facilities for cricket, upgrade to changing facilities. Football – maintenance and pitch quality improvements	Local
B94 6AZ, Rural	Nelson Memorial	Cricket (1)	Scope to accommodate further play. Pitch quality standard, but some issues with drainage	Pitch improvements required – uneven	Local

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
	Cricket Ground, Lapworth		and training facilities and changing facilities would benefit from upgrade.	outfield, issues with weeds. Upgrade to ancillary facilities.	
CV35 8JL, Rural	Norton Lindsey Village Recreation Ground	Cricket (1) and Football (1 Y youth 11v11, 1 7v7)	Football – capacity to sustain further play across the week. Cricket –able to sustain more play but one team displaced. Some on site quality issues (drainage).	Pitch improvements required for cricket – drainage and grass coverage. Extension to cricket pavilion.	Local
CV33 9AF, Rural	Offchurch Cricket Club	Cricket (1)	Outfield uneven in places. No training facilities or artificial wicket	Training facilities and artificial wicket. Pitch quality improvements	Local
CV47 9PD	Offchurch Recreation Ground	Tennis (2)	Tennis courts of limited quality – appear derelict but are used by club	Qualitative improvements	Local
CV31 1UH	Radford Semele Community Centre	Football (111v11)	Capacity to accommodate further play across the week, although no availability at peak time.		Local
CV35 7AH	Rowington Cricket Club	Cricket (1)	Improvements required to outfield which requires levelling. Some uneven parts which hold water. Scope to accommodate more play	Pitch improvements required – maintenance, levelling. Enhanced training facilities and upgrade of changing accommodation.	Local
CV32 7LP	Stonehouse Close, Cubbington	Football (111v11)	Pitch quality improvements – field damp and requires drainage enhancement.	Maintenance and pitch improvements	Local
CV8 2LF	Stoneleigh Cricket Club	Cricket (1)	Potential to sustain additional play, but quality of facilities (pavilion and ground) limited	Pitch improvements – maintenance, undulating outfield. Update to ancillary facilities	
CV8 3DG	Stoneleigh Village Hall	Football (111v11)	Pitch of limited quality, with bare patches and weeds.	Improve maintenance regime	Local

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
	Warwickshire Police HQ	Football (111v11)	Pitch for use by police team only. Police HQ demolished	Retain or replace	
CV3 6EG	Alvis Sports and Social Club	Football (111v11, 1YF, 19v9, 1 7v7) and Cricket (1) , tennis (2)	<p>Evidence of overplay on football pitches. Improvements to maintenance and drainage required. Improvements to changing facilities for officials and home team required to meet league specifications.</p> <p>For cricket, no training facilities and pitch quality limited. High levels of play and site slightly overplayed.</p> <p>Tennis courts and netball courts overmarked. Potential to link tennis courts with new courts on Kings Hill development site.</p>	<p>Pitch maintenance and changing room improvements</p> <p>Provision of training facilities for cricket</p> <p>Explore opportunity for extension of football club facilities and / or 3G AGP</p>	Local
CV8 3AL	Trinity Guild RUFC	Rugby (2)	Club currently seeking relocation due to situation of site within Coventry Gateway Development. Replacement should match as a minimum existing provision but ideally should contain 2 – 3 grass pitches, at least one of which is floodlit.	Relocation of club	Strategic
CV35 7DB	Rowington Tennis Club	Tennis (2)	Well kept, tidy tennis courts	Retain	Local
Warwick					
CV35 8HA Warwick	Ajax Park	Football (1 11v11, 2 youth 11v11, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 1 5v5)	Limited spare capacity, insufficient capacity for growth. Additional facilities are necessary to enable club expansion as well as floodlighting of main pitch if club achieve promotion. Extension required to changing pavilion. Recently had visit under pitch improvement programme.	<p>Extension to changing pavilion</p> <p>Improvement to maintenance. Pitch quality and drainage improvements. Actions should see to implement guidance from Pitch Improvement Programme.</p>	Strategic

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
				Longer term additional capacity may be required.	
CV34 6XR, Warwick	Aylesford School	Football (111v11, 2 youth 11v11, 1 9v9), hockey and cricket (non turf)	Tennis courts in poor condition Important site for football and hockey. Unsecure access	Retain site for current and future hockey usage Pitch improvements for football – improve maintenance, address compaction and weeds Secure long-term community access to site. Refurbish and seek community use of tennis courts	Strategic
CV34 6PJ Warwick	John Atkinson Sports Centre / Myton School	Football (111v11, 1 youth 11v11, 1 9v9)	Site to become strategic hub site No current usage of grass pitches. Location of one of the 3g pitches Average tennis courts	Secure access to grass pitches by reviewing contract. Resurface AGP Potential second 3G AGP longer term (or 3g pitch at Racing Club Warwick) Secure use of tennis courts	Strategic
CV34 6JP Warwick	Racing Club Warwick and St Marys Lands	Football (111V11, 1 youth 11v11, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 1 5v5)	Pyramid Club. No further capacity for junior teams. Poor drainage and uneven pitches. Maintenance improvements also required due to weeds in grass sward. Club have concern	Pitch improvements required, particularly maintenance	Local

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
			over facilities	New AGP (or second AGP at Myton School)	
CV34 4QY, Warwick	St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre	Football (2 11v11), tennis (2)	Site of strategic importance for football Evidence of compaction and requirement for adjustment to maintenance programmes. For public courts, tennis facilities are in good condition and are heavily used	Replacement AGP – resurface from sand to 3g (following relocation of hockey) Improvements to grass pitches linking with creation of strategic hub	Strategic
CV34 4HB, Warwick	Warwick Boat Club	Tennis (11)	Courts and pavilion in excellent condition. No remaining spare capacity. Potential partnership with Warwick School to provide additional facilities	Support creation of additional facilities at Warwick School through partnership approach with club	Strategic
Warwick	Warwick Cricket Club	Cricket (1) and Football (2 7v7)	Cricket - Excellent facilities but improvements required to water supply to square. Able to sustain more play Football - Capacity available for additional play on mini pitch	Support improvements to cricket club capacity. Improved training nets. Pitch improvements – water supply to square, grass coverage and outfield.	Local
CV34 6PP, Warwick	Warwick School	Rugby, Cricket, Tennis and AGP	Rugby, Cricket - Private but high-quality facilities. Not currently available for community use but quality of facilities mean that site offers potential for community use Hockey - important site for Warwick Hockey Club and of regional importance. Potential partnership with Warwick Boat Club for delivery of additional tennis courts	Secured community use Hockey – strategic venue for hockey. Requires on site clubhouse. Delivery of additional tennis courts in partnership with Warwick Boat Club	Strategic
CV34 6HX, Warwick	Warwick Tennis Club	Tennis (6)	Courts in good condition although evidence of subsidence on some courts		

Site Postcode	Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions	Priority Level
CV34 6PS, Warwick	Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	Football (2 9v9, 1 5v5), cricket (1), tennis (2)	Football – Some undulations on pitches and would benefit from drainage improvements. Cricket - Pitch quality limited but able to sustain small amount of additional play. Courts in standard condition but no recent improvements	Improvements required to training facilities for cricket. Pitch improvements – decompaction and levelling	Local
Warwick	Woodloes Primary	Football (1 youth 11v11)	Unsecured for community use.		Local
Whitnash					
Whitnash	Acre Close (Whitnash Town)	Football (1 youth 11v11, 111v11)	Site overplayed and suffers from drainage issues and undulation. Recently had visit under FA Pitch Improvement programme. Aspirations to improve changing provision Work with provider to establish use for tennis courts.	Improvements to maintenance regime. Pitch levelling and drainage. Actions should see to implement guidance from Pitch Improvement Programme.	Strategic
Whitnash	Harbury Lane	Football (311v11, 1 7v7, 1 youth 11v11, 2 9v9, 1 5v5)	Site of strategic importance for football with some limited capacity to sustain further play on larger pitches, smaller sized pitches have limited availability. Issues with weeds and compaction. Recently had visit under pitch improvement scheme and would benefit from enhanced maintenance.	Enhanced maintenance, Pitch quality improvements - Drainage, parking, pitch surface. Actions should see to implement guidance from Pitch Improvement Programme.	Strategic
CV31 2NF, Whitnash	Whitnash Bowling Club and Tennis Club	Tennis (2)	No existing users of site but sports club seeking to reinvigorate use	Reinvigorate tennis activity at site	Local

5. Implementation

Implementation

As well as guiding proactive improvements to sports facilities across Warwick District, this Playing Pitch Strategy and the associated assessment report provides evidence to underpin policies within the Local Plan.

It provides an understanding of the adequacy of provision and provides the evidence required to protect existing valuable playing fields, as well as to source new provision where these are required to meet identified current or projected future demand.

Protection and Disposal of Playing Fields

Analysis set out earlier in this strategy indicates that there are not enough pitches overall in the District and added to this, many of the existing facilities do not meet the quality standards that are required. The action plan recommends a series of activities to address capacity issues and to re-establish an effective network of pitches, including;

- The provision of a network of 3g pitches across the district. These will be provided on sites that also contain several grass pitches and will function as hub sites. They will also include full changing and welfare facilities;
- negotiation of long term secure formal access agreements to school sites;
- improvements to maintenance procedures;
- linking with long term improvements to maintenance, investment to address quality issues to maximise the long-term capacity of key sites;
- creation of new and extended facilities.

As the stock of facilities is already insufficient, all existing playing field sites should be afforded protection. This position will be reviewed as part of the ongoing monitoring of this document as strategy recommendations are delivered.

While all pitch sites are currently valuable and required to meet local need, it should be ensured that policies are flexible and that decisions relating to pitch provision are made in the best interests of both the local community and for sporting activity in the District. This is particularly important when considering the replacement of one or more single pitch sites with a large multi pitch venue and or AGP. Schemes should be considered on their own merit and supported where there will be an overall sporting benefit (for example increased capacity through the provision of an AGP on a grass pitch where there is strong evidence to suggest that the AGP is required).

The loss of any pitches should result in proceeds being reinvested into qualitative improvements and this should be required by policy.

It should also be ensured that the existing recreational amenity of sites is retained and is not compromised by new development. For example, where new development is initiated in close proximity to cricket fields, mitigation should be considered to ensure that the risk of ball

strikes is minimised. New development should also not create issues with noise or lighting for existing sports facilities.

New Facilities

The NPPF advises that specific evidence of the need for facilities should be provided alongside clarity of what provision is required. The most recent Sport England guidance and advice indicates that local authorities should;

1. Develop and maintain a robust and up to date evidence base for sporting provision (this PPS provides a starting point for this).
2. use the evidence base to;
 - estimate the nature and level of needs that may be generated from new development(s) for sporting provision (this should be informed by the New Development Calculator); and
 - establish clear deliverable actions that have the potential to help meet the needs that will be generated from new development in the area.
3. based on the nature of the actions, the level of new development in an area, and the realistic ability to secure investment into sport through CIL or planning obligations, decide how best to use the CIL and planning obligations alongside one another to deliver sporting infrastructure and to support development.
4. where CIL is in place ensure that any sporting provision to be placed on the Reg 123 list is;
 - project specific so it does not unnecessarily restrict the use of planning obligations;
 - focused on high level priority projects of a strategic nature that CIL has potential to deliver rather than a long list of projects that CIL will never be able to fund. This will allow the potential for other projects to be funded by planning obligations; and
 - backed by strong high level officer and political support within the LA so that there is some confidence that CIL funds will be directed to the sporting provision.
5. Where CIL is not in place, or where the wording of a Reg 123 allows for the use of planning obligations, ensure that;
 - any obligations sought are based on a tailored approach to each development, using the robust evidence base to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met;
 - a proactive approach is taken to planning for the use of planning obligations in the context of the current pooling restrictions (i.e. as far as is practical matching contributions to specific projects); and
 - a protocol is devised that ensures S106/CIL contributions are underpinned by evidence relating to potential projects from a playing pitch strategy or sports facility strategy that could help meet the need arising from planned developments in a Local Plan.

6. Further information can be found on CIL and Planning Obligations advice note <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/community-infrastructure-levy-and-planning-obligations-advice-note/>. This will be updated as legislation changes and therefore provides the most up to date guidance that should be adhered to.

Key priorities for the delivery of playing pitches are set out in Tables in section 4. The facilities that are needed and the works that are required to ensure that provision continues to meet current and projected future need are outlined.

To support local authorities, Sport England has developed a draft Playing Pitch Calculator which can be used to indicate how much demand will be created by a proposed development and the cost associated with this. The use of the New Development calculator provides a standardised and transparent approach to the collection of developer contributions nationally.

Planning obligations should be based upon an understanding of;

- the type of facility needs generated by the development - this should be a local judgement depending, in part, on the population profile of the proposed development;
- the quantified need for facility types - Sport England indicate that although the population of a single development (e.g. a small site) may not in itself generate demand for a full facility, it will still generate additional demand which should be quantified and met; and
- whether the need for the identified facility types can be met by existing facilities.

The calculator uses information from the Playing Pitch Strategy to provide an estimate of the demand from the population of new development. It does not take into account the current levels of unmet demand in an area and is therefore used alongside the findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy to determine the impact of the new development.

The action plan included within this strategy document should be used to guide decision making relating to new provision and / or the improvements required to existing facility stock.

In many instances, the amount of participation generated by each new development is likely be insufficient to require complete pitches or to justify the creation of only one or two further pitches. Investment should therefore be directed towards improvements of quality of existing pitches instead (using the strategy as a basis) or towards new provision on key hub sites.

The strategy document identifies where new pitches are required and new developments should be considered as an opportunity to provide these where appropriate. In particular, for football, where large strategic sites are planned and where the cumulative impact of the additional demand is particularly high there may be a need for onsite provision. Section 4 indicates that some on site provision will be required on site in new developments in Warwick.

The calculator also enables the consideration of likely costs associated with any requirements (and can therefore be used as a budgetary guide for developers and / or as a means of determining the level of contribution required where off site provision is necessary).

While this strategy document contains an outline application of the new development calculator and a review of the likely implications on the adequacy of the pitch stock, **it is the intention that the New Development Calculator should be run on a site specific basis for**

strategic sites to ensure that requirements are fully understood and provision requirements are tailored.

The application of this calculator should be supported by the Sport England Planning Manager, who will provide the most up to date version of the calculator and support with the interpretation.

It should be noted that The Sports Facility calculator is reliant on the Team Generation Rates calculated as part of the Playing Pitch Assessment (which identify how many people in each age group it takes to make one team). For ease of reference, these are set out in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Team Generation Rates

Sport and Age Groups	Current TGR
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	567
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	4,723
Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	41
Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	586
Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	39
Football 9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	317
Football Mini 7v7	56
Football Mini 5v5	91
Cricket Open Age Men's (18-55yrs)	720
Cricket Junior Boys (7-17yrs)	12,235
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	1748
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	6556
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	1,380
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	225
Hockey Senior Men (16-55yrs)	2931
Hockey Senior Women (16-55yrs)	3176
Hockey Junior Boys (11-15yrs)	926
Hockey Junior Girls (11-15yrs)	926

The assessment report used the New Development calculator to predict the specific implications of each of the allocated strategic housing developments. This is summarised in Table 5.2. These figures should be treated as indicative only. It should also be noted that the total sum of provision required from the new developments does not equate to the total quantities of provision needed, as not all proposed housing for Warwick District will be provided on strategic development sites.

Table 5.2 – Indicative impact of new development on Demand for Sports Pitches – Strategic Sites

Sport	Europa Way (1200 dwellings)	Land South of Harbury Lane (1605 dwellings)	Gallows Hill (630 dwellings)	Whitnash East (500 dwellings)	The Asps (900 dwellings)	East of Kenilworth Thickthorn (760 dwellings)	East of Kenilworth (policy ds12) 640 dwellings	Kings Hill (1800 dwellings)
	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)
Adult Football	0.34	0.46	0.18	0.14	0.26	0.22	0.18	0.51
Youth	0.69	0.91	0.36	0.28	0.51	0.43	0.36	1.02
Mini Soccer	0.79	1.05	0.41	0.33	0.59	0.50	0.42	1.18
Rugby Union	0.44	0.59	0.23	0.18	0.33	0.28	0.23	0.66
Hockey	0.34	0.45	0.18	0.14	0.25	0.21	0.18	0.50
Cricket	18.12	24.03	9.43	7.49	13.48	11.38	9.58	26.95

Ensuring the Quality of Pitches

In addition to the overarching strategy principles outlined earlier in this section, the following should be considered when providing any new facilities (or new sites to facilitate club relocation).

- Location - When planning new facilities, the existing sporting infrastructure should be taken into account. In particular, club bases for cricket and rugby should be retained and the provision of single pitch sites with limited facilities should be avoided.
- Quality - Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below). The following general criteria must also be met:
 - A high standard of design, construction and maintenance appropriate to the standard of play.
 - Adequate changing facilities that:
 - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes
 - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act
 - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort
 - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines
 - Managed community access.
 - Accessible by public transport and by car.
 - Sufficient car parking.
 - Size of pitches and run offs complies with NGB specification.
 - Security of tenure (at least 25 years) if a club is to be based at the site.

All new and enhanced sports facilities must be designed in accordance with the relevant Sport England and (where applicable) National Governing Body (NGB) design guidance in order to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose and of a suitable quality.

To ensure sustainability, new sites should include a minimum of two pitches. New single pitch sites will not be supported and new provision associated with any development of insufficient size to warrant more than one pitch should be located off site as part of a multi pitch development.

Sport England's web site www.sportengland.org contains a range of current guidance documents which provide detailed specifications and information regarding the design of sporting and ancillary facilities.

This provides a link to the NGB's supported by Sport England, and to the guidance on the respective NGB websites:

<http://www.sportengland.org/our-work/national-work/national-governing-bodies/sports-we-invest-in/>

Funding

Local authority finances are stretched and previous major national funding programmes such as Building Schools for the Future (BSF) are no longer available. However, whilst major national strategic pots of money may no longer be in place there are still significant opportunities. Individual school capital grants have replaced BSF and Sport England now has more clearly defined capital available through its *Protecting Playing Fields fund*.

Using assets innovatively will be a key feature of the next few years and working in partnership on a multi-agency approach will be important. The government is also seeking to ease planning red tape and encourage local communities to realise assets to deliver community benefits. This could mean the sale of surplus land and sites for housing and commercial uses, with receipts being released to fund prioritised community assets, which could include sports provision. The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides opportunities for investment through the Community Infra-structure Levy (CIL).

The main funding delivery mechanisms for Warwick District are likely to be;

- Capital Grant funding: Sport England Funding programmes, National Governing Body funding support;
- Council funding: capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within the council's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets; and
- Education and Further Education sector: while the previous sources of funding have changed and the scale of the education capital programmes have been reduced, the education sector is still likely to be a key funding stream.

Conclusion

The strategy sets out key projects and priorities based on the *needs and evidence*, to deliver now and in the future. Delivery through the planning system and future procurement can help to deliver the priorities set out.

Monitoring and Review

The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust.

Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).

The steering group are therefore committed to keeping the strategy alive through;

- monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action;
- recording changes to the pitch stock and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information;
- assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport;
- using the information collated from the tasks above to re run supply and demand models annually, ensuring that the strategy and action plan continues to reflect the needs of each sport;
- assessing the impact of demographic changes and any changes to forecasted plans for housing growth;
- ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for new or improved facilities in the area;
- analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities;
- reviewing budgetary constraints and opportunities for different delivery models to ensure pitch provision remains sustainable
- reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development; and
- ensuring that the strategy continues to provide an up to date and robust evidence base to underpin CIL / S106 obligations.

The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led by Warwick District Council through establishment of a working group that meets twice annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising.

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