

**TELFORD AND WREKIN**

**DRAFT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016**



# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## CONTENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION, METHODOLOGY AND KEY FINDINGS.....	4
PART 2: SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS .....	9
PART 3: FINDINGS/ FEEDBACK .....	11
PART 4: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES.....	16
PART 5: SPORT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES.....	30
PART 6: ACTION PLAN .....	34
PART 7: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY .....	52
APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT.....	55
APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN.....	61

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Telford and Wrekin Council; it replaces the former Telford & Wrekin Playing Pitch Strategy, February 2012. Its purpose is to:

**Provide a clear, robust assessment of the extent to which playing pitch provision within the borough is able to satisfy current, latent and future demand including provision for:**

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby Union pitches
- ◀ Rugby League pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches
- ◀ Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

**Provide a clear evidence based assessment and recommendations to inform future decision making in respect of playing pitches, it will:**

- ◀ Provide robust evidenced based information to inform future planning decisions, obligations, and mitigation;
- ◀ Provide robust evidence of need to support external funding bids;
- ◀ Provide the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sports provision.

**Identify and recommend key priorities relating to the provision, protection, maintenance and improvement of outdoor sports pitches and associated ancillary facilities in order to increase participation.**

- ◀ Provide a strategic framework for the provision, future management and maintenance of pitches, identifying priority sites and establishing quality standards.

The PPS covers all outdoor sports pitches within the Borough and not those just owned by Telford & Wrekin Council. Building partnerships with stakeholders such as the respective National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners will be critical to the delivery of the Vision and Aims of this Strategy.

The PPS provides a strategic framework to allow all stakeholders to recognise and contribute toward addressing those issues that they are best placed to influence. Not all priorities will be immediately deliverable and some will require further evaluation and identification of resources and sustainable models of delivery.

The delivery of this strategy is intrinsically linked to securing provision and enhancements to meet anticipated population growth in the area. The strategy provides the detail to support the emerging Telford & Wrekin Local Plan which aims to meet community needs generated

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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from proposed development. This will support the delivery and secure provision / enhancements where the opportunity arises.

## The Vision

The vision for this strategy reflects national, regional, county and local policies. In particular, it is consistent with aspirations to improve health and well-being by increasing the number of people who are physically active and will help to transform sport. In keeping with the key priorities of Telford & Wrekin Council and its partners, the vision for the Telford & Wrekin Playing Pitch Strategy is:

*“To ensure that there will be a range of outdoor sports provision to benefit all residents in Telford and Wrekin, resulting in an increase in participation in sport and physical activity both now and in the future.”*

## Methodology

The Strategy has been developed using Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance. A full review and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage has been undertaken across Telford and Wrekin to:

- ◀ Assess provision and the extent to which it meets current, latent and future demand.
- ◀ Understand and highlight the key issues/barriers which are or may affect playing pitch provision.
- ◀ Develop a vision and action plan for playing pitches including ancillary facilities across the borough.
- ◀ Identify and recommend priorities relating to the provision, improvement, maintenance, development and if appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
- ◀ Identify sport specific objectives and priorities to evidence and support funding bids and investment.
- ◀ Identify an area-by-area action plan.

## Local Context

### ***Telford & Wrekin draft Local Plan***

The Telford & Wrekin Local Plan (2011 – 2031) will replace the existing Core Strategy, the Central Telford Area Action Plan, the Wrekin Local Plan and the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Minerals Local Plan and Structure Plan. Its purpose is to provide a framework for new development in the borough until 2031. The aim of the Local Plan is to sustain and enhance the borough and the quality of life of the people who live, work in and visit it.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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The Local Plan includes a green guarantee that commits the Council to establishing 100 green spaces as part of the overall protection and enhancement of open space provision. The green guarantee will formally recognise and consolidate areas of open space for leisure, recreation and biodiversity including the designation of additional parks and Local Nature Reserves.

The key challenge for the borough in coming years will be to provide a balance of appropriate land for a growing population and associated employment. The draft Local Plan contains a housing growth target over the plan period of 15,555 new homes and an associated amount of employment land of at least 110 hectares by 2031. Approximately 80% of this housing already has planning permission. The draft Local Plan directs new investment to sites and locations that make best use of existing infrastructure without harming the borough's substantial heritage and environmental assets. In apportioning where new development should go there are three distinct parts of the borough. These are: Telford; Newport; and the rural area. The draft Local Plan identifies sufficient land to provide the delivery of approximately 13,400 new homes in Telford, 1,200 in Newport and 900 in the rural area.

### ***Telford & Wrekin Demographics***

The 2011 Census recorded a borough population of approximately 167,000 with 86% of all households living in Telford, around 8% in Newport and 6% in the rural area of the borough. The borough has a large working age population with a relatively high proportion under the age of 16. In 2011 a relatively small proportion of the borough's population was over the age of 65, but this is projected to change significantly over the plan period as the borough follows the national trend of an ageing population. *By 2031, the Telford & Wrekin population is expected to grow to approximately 198,000 people.*

### ***Building Schools for the Future***

The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in Telford and Wrekin is nearing completion. Telford & Wrekin Council's Leisure Services has worked closely with the BSF team and Sport England to bring together secondary schools, primary schools and a range of community facilities including outdoor sports provision for the benefit of the whole community.

The BSF programme has delivered improved quality of pitches, new provision, increased community access and has planned to mitigate any loss of playing pitch provision.

### ***Sport England Active People Survey***

The nationally accepted measure of adult participation in sport is the Sport England Active People Survey (APS). The first survey was conducted between October 2005 and October 2006. Since then the APS has been updated on the same basis each year. Recently Sport England has provided results update in quarter 2 (Q2). The latest results, APS 9 Q2 which are taken from April 2014 to April 2015 indicate that

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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26.4% of the Telford and Wrekin 16+ population participated in sport and active recreation, three (or more) times a week.

This is a significant change in people's participation in sport and active recreation since APS1 where 20.80% of the Telford and Wrekin 16+ population participated in sport and active recreation, three (or more) times a week. Telford and Wrekin compared extremely favourably for this indicator and recorded higher participation than both the regional 21.30% and national percentage 23.1% for the APS 9 Q2.

With regards to Telford & Wrekin's sports participation - at least once a week, a similar trend is seen. Results recorded in APS 9 Q2 show that 34.9% of the Telford and Wrekin 16+ Population participated in sport at least once a week for at least 30 minutes. Compared to results recorded in APS1 (33%) this shows a slight increase. Telford and Wrekin APS9 Q2 results were higher when compared against the regional ave (33.2%) and just slightly less than the national average (35.5%).

There is clear correlation between deprivation and low participation rates. Telford and Wrekin is in the top 30% most deprived local authorities in the West Midlands, and in the top 40% most deprived nationally. Across Telford and Wrekin there are pockets of nationally significant deprivation. There are 14 Telford and Wrekin SOAs (out of a total 108) ranked within the top 10% most deprived nationally (areas of Woodside, Malinslee, Cuckoo Oak, Brookside, Hadley & Leegomery, Dawley Magna, College and Donnington) an increase from six SOAs in the 10% most deprived in 2007. The most deprived wards are Woodside and Malinslee. All of Woodside's five SOAs rank in the 20% most deprived nationally as do three of the four SOAs in Malinslee. The more deprived areas are typically concentrated in the urban areas of the Borough, often around the new town estates. The PPS needs to take consideration of this fact. A focus on low socio economic groups is highlighted in the Governments new Sports Strategy: Sporting Future – A new Strategy for an Active Nation.

### ***Sport England Market Segmentation***

The Sport England Market Segmentation tool enables Telford & Wrekin Council and its partners to assess their population in terms of socio-demographics to allow for more targeted profiling for sport. The segmentation separates the population into 19 core segments with key characteristics identified against each group. The below diagram identifies those segments most dominant in Telford & Wrekin:

- ◀ Segment 11: Philip - comfortable mid-life males (aged 36-65)
- ◀ Segment 19: Elsie & Arnold - retirement home singles (aged 66+)
- ◀ Segment 9: Kevin - pub league team mates (aged 26-45)
- ◀ Segment 6: Tim - settling down males (aged 26-45)

Further analysis of the dominant segments within Telford & Wrekin also indicates a high percentage of Segment 14: Brenda (middle aged women working to make ends meet aged 46-65) within the borough.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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For each individual sport the Sport England Market Segmentation tool provides an understanding which segments play a particular sport and the segments which would like to play a particular sport more. The following are the main segments that play or want to play the following pitch sports: Football, Cricket, Rugby Union or Rugby League (for each sport the most dominant segment can change):

- ◀ Segment 1: Ben - competitive male urbanites (aged 18-25)
- ◀ Segment 2: Jamie - sport team drinkers (aged 18-25)
- ◀ Segment 6: Tim - settling down males (aged 26-45)
- ◀ Segment 9: Kevin - pub league team mates (aged 26-45)
- ◀ Segment 11: Philip - comfortable mid-life males (aged 36-65)

With regards to hockey, the Segment 3: Chloe – fitness class friends (aged 18-25) replaces Segment 9: Kev in terms of the main segments which play hockey. There is a significant shift to female dominance however when considering the segments which want to play hockey. In addition to Chloe the segments which want to play hockey are:

- ◀ Segment 4: Leanne – supportive singles (aged 18-25)
- ◀ Segment 7: Alison – stay at home mums (aged 36-45)
- ◀ Segment 8: Jackie – middle England mums (aged 36-45)
- ◀ Segment 10: Paula – stretched single mums (aged 26-45)

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PART 2: SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

### Football

- ◀ Future pitch deficiencies for mini soccer and junior/youth football.
- ◀ Future demand expected in areas of housing growth in Newport, North and Central Telford with adjoining areas of Wellington.
- ◀ Improved quality standards of pitches are required to accommodate current and future use.
- ◀ Maintenance is an issue and needs to be increased/improved in order to raise the quality of pitch provision. However, there is limited maintenance resource in order to carry this ambition out, in particular on Council owned pitches.
- ◀ Some spare capacity should be retained in order to protect quality and accommodate latent and future demand.
- ◀ Area analysis of pitches with secured community use (during the peak period) highlights limited capacity in:
  - Newport - Senior, Youth and Mini.
  - South Telford - Senior, Youth and Mini. NB No mini pitches in South Telford
  - North Telford - Youth
  - Wellington – Mini
- ◀ The majority of junior clubs currently play across a number of sites, sometimes in three or more geographical sub areas.
- ◀ Lack of ancillary provision inhibits development of the game i.e. toilets for girls football – requirement of the league.
- ◀ Community facilities would support retention of teams.
- ◀ A number of clubs have expressed an interest in taking on the management of provision in the future. The Community Club Asset Transfer Policy provides a framework for doing so. However, consideration needs to be given to both the club and community with regards to protecting the asset i.e. fencing this off, as clubs feel that without this it would be extremely difficult to maintain a pitch to a high quality standard due to dog fouling and vandalism issues to name but a few.

### Cricket

- ◀ There is not enough capacity to meet current and future demand. Additional wickets/pitches required to accommodate need.
- ◀ There is no community cricket provision in Central Telford where future population growth is projected. There is limited provision in South Telford.
- ◀ 50% of the cricket provision is deemed to be overused. Some of this occurs in two areas where this is the only cricket provision, Madeley CC in South Telford and St Georges in North Telford.
- ◀ The majority of clubs rate the condition of their pavilion/clubhouse as acceptable. However, three clubs have identified the condition of their facilities as unacceptable – Allscott, Tibberton, and Madeley.
- ◀ Future demand expected in areas of housing growth Newport, North and Central Telford (with adjoining areas of Wellington).

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Clarification on which schools identified cricket as a specialism as part of the BSF proposals is required.

## Rugby Union

- ◀ There is no spare capacity and significant overuse on all rugby union grass pitches (Newport Salop RFC, Telford Hornets and Harper Adams University), with the exception of one pitch with 1.5 match equivalent sessions spare capacity at Harper Adams.
- ◀ There is potential spare capacity at Abraham Darby Academy (pitches were originally identified for football but the Academy has determined use for Rugby Union. A Community Use Agreement is in place but as yet no community rugby has been played on the site as access has not yet been determined.
- ◀ Spare capacity currently exists on AGPs but pitches are currently not World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant, therefore cannot accommodate Rugby Union training and competitive play.

## Rugby League

- ◀ Some spare capacity exists on the AGP pitch at Phoenix Sports and Leisure Centre. The club have expressed the need for grass pitch provision and spectator seating in order to develop and grow the club.

## Hockey

- ◀ There is adequate AGP provision in Telford and Wrekin to accommodate competitive hockey.

## Artificial Grass Pitches

- ◀ There is a balance of AGP provision in Telford and Wrekin with the exception of a stadia pitch.
- ◀ There is significant capacity across all types of AGP surface i.e. sand filled/dressed and 3G; however this is typically late evenings (9-10pm) and weekends when teams are competing.
- ◀ The Football Associations long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface. Based on the number of football teams in Telford and Wrekin, at the time of writing the strategy, the need for one additional 3G pitch has been identified.
- ◀ There is a lack of community access to 3G provision in South Telford.
- ◀ All 3G pitches need to be approved and registered for training and competitive football use. Only one 3G has been approved and registered at the time of writing the strategy. There is reluctance from some senior teams to play on 3G for competitive matches preferring the traditional grass pitch. In addition to this some 3G pitches cannot accommodate all formats of the game as no line markings have

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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been provided on the pitch. Also League rules currently enable away teams to refuse to play on a 3G surface.

## **PART 3: FINDINGS / FEEDBACK**

From the assessment report and consultation with stakeholders a number of issues have been identified for each sport. These issues provide the context for the development of the aims and objectives outlined in Section 3 of the PPS.

### **3.1 Football Pitches**

#### **Current Supply & Demand**

- ◀ There are 188 football pitches of differing type: Adult/Senior, Youth/Junior and Mini across Telford and Wrekin. These are very similar in number.
- ◀ There are 207 teams from Telford and Wrekin. The majority of teams are male and the highest proportion of teams is male youth/junior closely followed by adult/senior male.
- ◀ The Telford and Wrekin Council community pitches are generally classed as being of Poor or Standard quality. Pitches located mainly on educational sites are identified as being of Standard or Good quality.
- ◀ The majority of Council owned pavilions are rated as poor. There is limited parking. The strategy identifies a lack of ancillary provision (with social facilities).
- ◀ Limited or basic pitch maintenance programmes and resources.
- ◀ When considering all community provision both secure (formal agreements in place) and unsecure there is significant capacity for additional play, in particular, mini football. However, capacity is greatly reduced when unsecure provision is taken out of the equation. Unsecure use is predominantly on educational sites.
- ◀ When considering capacity by sub analysis area at peak times there is no capacity in South Telford or Newport for additional mini soccer, youth/junior and senior/adult football. Provision for additional junior/youth football is severely limited in North Telford and mini football in Wellington.
- ◀ There is capacity to accommodate current demand but this is limited on youth/junior and mini pitches. Both types of provision could accommodate an additional four match equivalent sessions which equates to the accommodation of eight additional teams per pitch type.
- ◀ Some adult pitch sites are currently overplayed.

#### **Future Supply & Demand**

- ◀ Based on population projections and team generation rates there will be insufficient provision to meet the need for mini soccer by 2019 and junior/youth provision by 2026.
- ◀ North Telford has both the highest supply and demand, but is the sub analysis area with the lowest percentage of pitches with secured community use. North Telford is also identified as one of the biggest growth areas in the future.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Capacity for future growth is not possible in Newport and South Telford based on the current quality or quantity of pitches.
- ◀ Majority of priority junior clubs (clubs with high number of teams) are forced to play across numerous sites, sometimes three or more sub analysis areas to accommodate demand.
- ◀ Council owned ancillary provision is currently rated as poor. Clubs/Leagues are concerned with the quality and lack of ancillary provision (in particular for girls and women's football) and lack of provision for spectators.
- ◀ There is a lack of step 7 facilities across Telford and Wrekin which creates issues accommodating teams progressing up the league. At each 'step' of the National League System football provision/facilities are required to meet a certain ground grading. Step 7 is the Minimum Ground Grading in the National League System.
- ◀ Conflict of use – a number of Telford & Wrekin Council owned sites are also designated public open spaces (allow for dog walking and recreational play and community events). This impacts on the quality of provision for football teams i.e. dog fouling, damage caused by motorised vehicles etc. Clubs want to protect pitches by fencing them off.
- ◀ Demand on a Sunday morning is high as this is the peak time for Senior Sunday League teams which forms the highest percentage of adult teams, along with Junior and Mini league matches.
- ◀ There is significant spare capacity across AGPs – predominantly at weekends. 3G is the only form AGP that can be used for competitive football matches, but there is a resistance from teams to use this surface for competitive matches.
- ◀ Competition is only allowed on FA approved and registered 3G pitches. Currently TCAT is the only 3G pitch recognised on this register.
- ◀ There is no, or limited community use on some educational sites.

### 3.2 Cricket Pitches

#### Current Supply & Demand

- ◀ There are 18 cricket pitches across Telford and Wrekin. There are no pitches in Central Telford, only one pitch in South Telford and two pitches in North Telford. The sub analysis area of Wellington has the most pitches closely followed by Newport.
- ◀ There are 51 cricket teams playing in Telford and Wrekin. Approximately two thirds of these being adult and the remaining third are junior. Only 6% of these are women and girls.
- ◀ Changing pavilions are generally assessed as an acceptable quality. However there are three clubs that rate the condition of their clubhouse/pavilion as unacceptable. These are Allscott, Tibberton and Madeley. Tibberton ancillary facilities are one of the oldest Council ancillary facilities. Clubs have reported issues with ageing facilities inhibiting growth and progression.
- ◀ There are 12 sites in total that provide cricket pitches: Adams Grammar, Allscott CC, Bowring, Edgmond, Harper Adams, Lilleshall CC, Madeley CC, St Georges Sports & Social, Tibberton, Wellington CC and Wrekin College. There is no community use at Adams Grammar. Six of the sites are deemed to be overused,

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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two of which are in areas where this is the only cricket provision, Madeley CC in South Telford and St Georges in North Telford.

- ◀ The majority of spare capacity exists in the Wellington area in particular Allscott CC with 30 sessions per season available, followed by Newport with 18 sessions per season. Five clubs report latent demand for a combined total of 3.5 pitches.

### **Future Supply & Demand**

- ◀ There is not enough capacity to meet current and future demand.

### **3.3 Rugby Union Pitches**

#### **Current Supply & Demand**

- ◀ There are 11 rugby union pitches across Telford and Wrekin. These are a similar proportion of senior, youth and mini/midi.
- ◀ There are 8 senior community club pitches which accommodate all of the youth (12) and mini/midi (15) pitches.
- ◀ There are two community rugby union clubs: Telford Hornets and Newport Salop. In addition to this there are also teams playing that represent Harper Adams University.
- ◀ In total there are 45 rugby teams with 47% of teams being mini/midi followed by and equal percentage of senior and youth.
- ◀ 55% of pitches are rated as standard quality. The remaining are rated as poor. This is linked to limited maintenance with the exception of Harper Adams for which minor maintenance has been identified to improve the quality of pitches.
- ◀ All pitches/sites are overplayed with the exception of one pitch at Harper Adams. This is predominately due to the number of teams clubs are generating but also as a result of training on match and/or floodlit pitches.
- ◀ Length of lease an issue for both clubs in applying for external funding to improve provision. Current lease arrangements for Telford Hornets restrictive. Club unable to accommodate current and future demand.

#### **Future Supply & Demand**

- ◀ No capacity to accommodate current or future demand.
- ◀ Whilst there is capacity for rugby on 3G pitches none currently meet World Rugby Regulation 22, therefore no Rugby Union training and competition should be permitted. If there was a need for Rugby to use the 3G pitches then an assessment would need to be undertaken at a cost of £2000 every 2 years and then registered for training and competitive use.

### **3.4 Rugby League Pitches**

#### **Current Supply & Demand**

- ◀ There is one club, Telford Raiders servicing Telford and Wrekin
- ◀ There is one 3G pitch in Telford and Wrekin that accommodates competitive and rugby league training, located at Phoenix Sports and Leisure Centre.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Telford Raiders reported that the only problems with the current facilities were the fencing behind the goal post is not high enough to stop balls being lost and there is poor provision for spectators. Better access to food and drink (preferably licensed) for players/supporters would also be of benefit. The grass pitches at Phoenix Sports and Leisure Centre are predominantly used for football and therefore are rested and maintained during the Rugby League season.
- ◀ In terms of pitch quality Telford Raiders have commented that the current maintenance regime is limited and have concerns over the pitch deteriorating in the future if this is not rectified. (Maintenance of the pitch is the responsibility of the Academy).
- ◀ There is currently spare capacity of 33 hours per week to accommodate rugby league.

### **Current Supply & Demand**

- ◀ Allowing for future demand spare capacity reduces to a total 7 hours per week.
- ◀ The Club indicated that if there were more grass rugby league pitches available at their ground they would have more teams as it would enable the club to schedule more than one game at a time and host festival activity. However, more volunteers would need to be identified.

## **3.5 Hockey**

### **Current Supply & Demand**

- ◀ There are five full sized AGPs appropriate for hockey. However, Community Use is restricted at Madeley Academy and Thomas Telford (AGP sand dressed pitch built in November 2014). There are two additional full sized AGPs which situated at Lilleshall National Sports Centre which lies just outside of Telford & Wrekin in Shropshire.
- ◀ There is one hockey club within the Borough, Telford and Wrekin Hockey Club, who play at St Georges Sports and Social Club. The carpet at St Georges will need replacing in 18 – 24 months and remedial works are required on the seams to improve pitch quality.
- ◀ There is 44.5 hours of spare capacity a week across sites this excludes 13.5 hours available at Lilleshall National Sports Centre. However this is not deemed accessible (apart from 4hours at St Georges Sports and Social Club) by Telford and Wrekin Hockey Club either because of cost, distance (Lilleshall) or condition of the pitch (Wrekin College).

### **Future Supply & Demand**

- ◀ Significant latent and future demand totalling 34hours per week has been identified, however, even allowing for a strategic reserve this demand can be accommodated across the existing sites.
- ◀ Market Segmentation shows that current participation is male dominated however this significantly changes when considering future demand which is dominated by females. This is the only pitch sport where this occurs.

## 3.6 AGPs

### Current Supply & Demand

- ◀ There are 10 sites with a total of 12 AGPs across Telford and Wrekin. There are four full size 3Gs (there is no community access at Thomas Telford), five full size sand filled astro turf pitches (there is no community access at Thomas Telford, Madeley Academy and Harper Adams), and three smaller AGP/3G pitches/provisions in Telford and Wrekin. There is one full sized sand filled and one water based astro turf pitch situated at Lilleshall National Sports Centre which lies just outside of Telford & Wrekin in Shropshire.
- ◀ There is a mix of 3G provision with the exception of a stadium pitch. Stadium provision meets Step 7 requirements and has the scope to meet Step 6, therefore filling the current gap identified within the National League System.
- ◀ A number of AGP/3G pitches are not accessible to the community and include Thomas Telford, Madeley Academy and Harper Adams.
- ◀ Only the 3G pitch at TCAT is on the FA approved register and is therefore the only one that can be used for competitive fixtures.
- ◀ There is significant capacity across the AGPs in Telford and Wrekin with the exception of the TCAT Dome. However, there will be some times that teams and clubs would prefer not to train (9-10pm slots) or compete (traditional kick off times). None of the pitches are being overused. In addition to this pitches can only be used for training and therefore cannot be counted as having capacity for match play for the purpose of football as TCAT is the only facility on the FA approved register.
- ◀ There are no 3G pitches that comply with World Rugby Regulation 22 standard.
- ◀ It is estimated that one full size AGP can service 56 football teams for training. On the basis there are 207 teams playing competitive football in Telford and Wrekin, there is a recommended need for 3.7 full size 3G pitches. Currently there are four 3G pitches, one with no community access and only one facility on the FA approved register.
- ◀ Through consultation some teams expressed that some facilities were costly and therefore prohibitive to participation.
- ◀ Telford and Wrekin Council have honoured the same hire charge for adult 3G pitches as they do for adult grass pitches in their control. The pricing policy is reviewed on an annual basis. In particular mini and junior 3G hire should be considered.
- ◀ Some teams expressed that they weren't prepared to use 3G pitches for competitive matches as they prefer to keep their traditional league kick off time, i.e. Sunday League only play on a Sunday morning this results in significant capacity issues at peak times.

### Future Supply & Demand

- ◀ Based on current and taking into consideration latent demand there is sufficient evidence to warrant an additional 3G pitch.

## PART 4: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the Strategy have been developed through information gathered during the compilation of the assessment report i.e. consultation, site visits and analysis. The objectives reflect the key areas to be addressed during the life of the Strategy.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports provision where it can be shown that provision is needed to meet current, latent or future demand.

### Objectives

- a. Strengthen local policies to protect outdoor sports provision (such as through the Green Guarantee).
- b. Increase and secure community use and access to sites for well established, organised and sustainable clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.

### Objective (a) – Strengthen local policies to protect outdoor sports provision (such as through the Green Guarantee)

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

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

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

NPPF paragraph 74 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 need for which clearly outweighs the loss.

Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect playing field land. It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England.

- E1.** A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- E2.** The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use.
- E3.** The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site.
- E4.** The playing field or playing fields, which would be lost as a result of the proposed development, would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development.
- E5.** The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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*N.B. All unused playing fields / sports & recreation facilities that have remained unused for more than 5 years will also need to be considered by this policy. This is required as many facilities are closed and left dormant until the 5 years and then they can be developed.*

The assessment report justifies the protection of the majority of provision. Local plan policies should protect provision and the scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community e.g. through the Fields in Trust programme ([www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)). However in exceptional circumstances there may be scope for rationalisation rather than protection i.e. dispose of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value - one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites. Prior to making any decision to dispose of pitch provision consideration should be given to the following:

- ◀ Is the provision surplus to requirements (now and in the future)?
- ◀ Could the provision be used for another sport for which there is a deficit?
- ◀ Is sufficient mitigation provided to enable other sites to accommodate additional use relocated from the current facility?
- ◀ Can current users be sufficiently accommodated at another site taking into consideration access, cost and locality?
- ◀ Consideration as to the quality of the provision (including ancillary facilities).
- ◀ The long term sustainability of the provision.
- ◀ The level of current use and the impact on the spatial distribution of provision across Telford and Wrekin of closing a facility.
- ◀ If a school site becomes redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy, consideration should be given to it becoming community provision.

The following should be considered when assessing the suitability of conversion of former school playing fields for community use:

- ◀ Location
- ◀ Appropriateness of LA/club/other party to take on ownership/lease /maintenance
- ◀ Size
- ◀ Quality
- ◀ Physical accessibility
- ◀ History of community access
- ◀ Availability of ancillary facilities

**Objective (b) – Increase and secure community use and access to sites for well established, organised and sustainable clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements**

Essentially there are two key components to increasing and securing community access:

- Ensuring community access to educational sites through the continued development and adoption and enforcement of appropriate Community Use Agreements.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- Enabling local clubs and other stakeholders to take on direct responsibility for the management, maintenance and development of playing pitches where this is considered appropriate.

### Community Use Agreements

A significant proportion of sporting provision is located on education sites. Making these available and accessible to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. The Council has, through its BSF programme, improved both the number of education facilities that are available for community use and the quality of those facilities.

However, the education system continues to undergo significant change with greater autonomy passing to schools through, for example, the academies programme. As this looks set to continue key partners including NGBs and the County Sports Partnership (CSP) can help to negotiate and engage with academies and broker arrangements for community use by clubs.

It is recommended that the Telford & Wrekin Playing Pitch Improvement Group (TWPPIG) made up of Sport England, National Governing Bodies; energize STW and Telford & Wrekin Council play a pivotal role in establishing and implementing the strategic direction in relation to the increased/better use of school facilities. The TWPPIG should:

- ◀ Better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ◀ Ensure community use agreements are upheld and adhered to i.e. Community Use Agreements to include reparation (if required) should the agreement be terminated as a result in school/owner policy.
- ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ◀ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- ◀ Ensure that pitch provision at schools is sufficient in quality and quantity to be able to deliver its curriculum. Once this has been achieved provision could contribute to overcoming deficiencies in the area.

Sport England has produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/>

The new Government strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation advocates maximising use of existing assets which includes making use of school facilities.

### Community Club Asset Transfer Policy

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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The PPS recognises the benefits of supporting local voluntary sports clubs, or other organisations to take greater control of and responsibility for their own future through the transfer of playing pitches and associated facilities into their direct management where appropriate. The Community Club Asset Transfer Policy (CCATP) seeks to establish a fair, consistent, transparent framework and methodology for considering requests from community clubs wishing to manage such facilities whereby it is considered benefit to the club, the sport and the wider community.

Assets in relation to the CCATP are defined as a playing pitch in open space (not a school, leisure centre or formal park) and associated facilities that are currently utilised or have the potential to be utilised for the purposes of grassroots football or other recognised sport.

There are a number of potential transfer options e.g. freehold, a long lease, a shorter lease or a licence to occupy however to ensure sustainability the length of tenure will need to be long enough to help the club secure external investment. As such a lease of up to 25 years is likely to be the most appropriate option in most cases.

Requests for a community asset transfer are made via an initial Expression of Interest form. Successful applicants are then invited to work with officers to develop a business case in order to demonstrate:

- ◀ That the transfer of management/ownership of land will promote community benefit .
- ◀ Sufficient organisational capacity and structure to be in a position to manage the transfer and provision.
- ◀ The organisation is in a position to access resources to maintain or improve the facility to a 'good' standard as recognised in the Telford and Wrekin Playing Pitch Strategy.
- ◀ Demonstrate the ability to support the key objectives outlined in the Community Club Asset Transfer Policy.

A business case and any objections received are then evaluated by an appropriate panel including representatives from the Council's Leisure, Legal, Property and Environmental Services and the Football Association (or alternative respective governing body) who will make a recommendation to the respective Assistant Directors and Cabinet Members to consider the transfer under previously delegated authority.

Whilst no two club's needs or circumstances will be exactly the same it is intended that the following core principles form the basis of all agreements for the transfer of any Council owned asset under this policy and that the appropriate conditions be built into any agreement or lease and that they be monitored.

- ◀ Increase participation across the whole community
- ◀ Encourage healthy and active lifestyles
- ◀ Provide good quality, accessible facilities.
- ◀ Ensure pitch and facilities are well designed, fit for purpose, energy efficient and sustainable
- ◀ Maximise external investment

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Improve the game, players, coaches and volunteers
- ◀ Improve safety and safeguarding.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit also provides guidance for local clubs and organisations considering asset transfer. The Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process: [http://www.sportengland.org/support\\_\\_advice/asset\\_transfer.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/support__advice/asset_transfer.aspx)

### **AIM 2**

To **enhance** outdoor sports provision and ensure their sustainability through improved quality and a range of management models.

#### **Objectives:**

- c. Maximise community use of outdoor sports provision where there is an identified need.
- d. Improve the quality of facilities taking into consideration resource implications
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to inform management and investment decisions
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure external funding.
- g. Establish an approach to securing developer contributions.

#### **Objective (c) – Maximise community use of outdoor sports provision where there is an identified need.**

The main ways in which the use of community outdoor sports provision can be maximised is predominately through improving the quality of provision (this is addressed in objective d), competitive pricing and coordinated programming. Through the assessment report spare capacity has been identified on a number of sites therefore work needs to be undertaken with the clubs and leagues to ensure the most strategic accommodation of teams.

The FA's ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface. Presently there are only a handful of clubs utilising 3G surfaces for training purposes. There is a high level of unauthorised training use on Council grass pitches which the PPS has been unable to quantify. This has a detrimental affect on the quality of pitches due to additional usage which has not been accounted for. This is more prevalent during pre-season and earlier parts of the season predominantly when essential renovation works have been undertaken. Pricing is often cited as a barrier to the

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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use of 3G pitches. It is recommended that Telford and Wrekin Council review the policy and pricing for competitive matches on 3G pitches to encourage use of spare capacity at weekends and reduce the pressure on grass pitches.

In addition to training, the FA in line with their guidelines and Code of Conduct also support and endorse the use of 3Gs for competitive use. Third generation pitches play an essential role in development and accommodating future demand of the game. Whilst there is some resistance from teams to play competitive matches on a 3G surface as there is a preference to play on 'traditional' grass pitches at established kick off times i.e. Sunday morning it should be considered a priority to work with leagues to endorse the use of 3Gs for competitive matches. To enable the use of 3Gs for competitive play facilities must be listed on the FA approved register. This is the same for both Rugby League and Rugby Union where there are technical specifications that the facility must meet for approved training and competitive use.

A number of AGPs and 3Gs are located on educational sites. Key partners including the Local Authority, County Sports Partnership and particularly NGBs should work with these establishments to encourage this provision to be accessible by the community.

There are a number of multi pitch sites with 3G facilities particularly around joint use provision, the majority in Council ownership. It is recommended that these are developed as priority area hubs. The PPS envisages that these sites would provide a better mix, quality and access of provision, along with improved booking and allocation.

### **Objective (d) – Improve the quality of provision taking into consideration resource implications**

The capacity of a pitch to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over the season is significantly influenced by its quality. In extreme circumstances pitch quality can limit the extent to which matches can be played. Another important factor is perception of pitch quality as this affects which pitches teams are willing to play on. Lack of or poor maintenance and over use of pitches has a detrimental effect on pitch quality.

Pitch quality was ascertained through professional or non technical assessments and considered alongside user's views. Pitch capacity ratings were then derived from NGB guidance providing a suggested carry capacity as match equivalent sessions per week or per season for cricket. A comparison was then made between the amount of play a pitch could accommodate and how much play was taking place to provide an understanding of how much spare capacity or not exists.

### ***Addressing overuse***

Priority in the short term should be given to addressing overplayed, poor quality (strategic) sites. There are a number of popular sites (requested by teams as there preferred site) that are identified as being overused (play exceeds the level a site can sustain). It is anticipated

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

that a number of these sites will have drainage issues which cannot be addressed through maintenance alone. However, it is likely that some of the overused sites just require additional maintenance and renovation works which would enable teams to still be accommodated. It may be required though to rest some pitches and undertake necessary works. Resources are limited and unless additional external funding can be found further pitch prioritisation would need to be undertaken to work within the allocated maintenance budget. It should be noted that maintenance budgets are highly likely to continue to be reduced over time. Therefore, consideration needs to be given to identify the likely impact upon quality and identifying methods of addressing this ongoing issue. It is essential that teams respect the need for pitches to be maintained, renovated or rested and not to be used for unofficial matches or training. A way to alleviate this is to request that training times / locations are placed on the application forms for pitch allocations and look to potentially charge for this. This would help in monitoring and managing usage and provide a small contribution towards the depleting maintenance budget.

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitch stock; it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not used beyond a recommended weekly carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Each NGB recommends a number of matches that a pitch of good quality pitch can accommodate:

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week
Rugby union*	Pipe and Slit Drained and a good level of maintenance (D3/M2)	3.5 per week
	Pipe drained and a good level of maintenance (D2/M2)	3.25 per week
	Natural (adequate) drainage and a good level of maintenance (D1/M2)	3 per week
Rugby league	Senior	3 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season

\* Please note that the RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme afforded to a site.

### ***Increasing/Improving pitch maintenance***

The assessment report detailed that the majority of pitches in Telford and Wrekin were rated as poor or standard by the independent consultant, Maxwell Amenity Limited. It was identified that lack of maintenance was the key contributing factor to standard or poor grass pitch quality as opposed to poor drainage.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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A priority in the short term (due to limited resources and reducing budgets) is to review existing grounds maintenance arrangements on Council managed sites. It is proposed that the Council should determine a list of priority sites and develop/implement a Gold, Silver and Bronze maintenance and renovation package in line with reducing budgets. This work should be undertaken in conjunction with the rationalisation of sites (including the asset transfer of existing pitch stock to voluntary/community clubs and organisations) and coordinated programming of teams onto 3Gs. This work should inform the tender specification when the maintenance contract is up for renewal in 2019.

As in objective 1(b) we would look to work with the voluntary sports sector to look at how clubs can assist with the maintenance of pitches. This links with the Pitch advisor scheme. It is recommended that particularly for football pitches Telford and Wrekin Council seek the advice and guidance of the Pitch Advisor. The Pitch Advisor Scheme has recently been introduced by The FA. The FA have been working in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a Grass Pitch Maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots football clubs with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the club's playing surface.

In relation to cricket, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards that are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. PQS assessments are also available for other sports.

For pitches on educational sites it is advised that there is a standard maintenance schedule that is adopted for all establishments providing community use now and in the future.

In most instances where external funding has been provided e.g. NGB, Sport England or developer contributions to implement new or enhance existing facilities a more robust maintenance regime would be required. Each NGB can provide guidance and assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes. Linking with Objective (f) it is imperative that it is not just capital funding which is secured. Revenue funding must be gained to provide the necessary maintenance to maintain quality. Revenue is clearly an issue for council managed and maintained facilities. How this is addressed needs to be reviewed going forward however, examples such as partnership working with clubs to provide some management for a reduced charge per season and / or requests to prioritise additional spending on sports pitches by the council need to be considered. Other suggestions include charging teams that utilise pitches for training and seeking a contribution from the income generated from pitch hire to go towards increasing the maintenance.

### **Objective (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to inform management and investment decisions**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 7: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

### **Objective (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure external funding**

Stakeholders should develop a coordinated and strategic plan to secure both capital and revenue funding for the enhancement of outdoor sports pitch provision. This will require prioritisation of sites for investment, level of funding required to undertake improvements and detail of current/future funding opportunities. Please refer to Appendix 2 for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs. In delivering this objective the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the Telford and Wrekin Playing Pitch Improvement Group.

It is anticipated that the majority of investment for new and improved provision will be identified through external funding. External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance. All partners are appropriately placed to have an understanding of appropriate funding opportunities and therefore should seek to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to this.

### **Objective (g) – Establish an approach to securing developer contributions**

It is important that this strategy informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing outdoor sports provision through new housing development. The actions below should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and its subsequent maintenance. Planning conditions and/or Section 106 contributions or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which has not yet been confirmed, could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the existing pitches in order to increase capacity to accommodate more matches.

A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ The council will seek both through its own programmes and through negotiation with developers to meet the needs arising from new housing growth. For larger residential developments (considered to 250 dwellings or more) additional provision is anticipated to meet this need through suitable onsite provision. In cases where onsite provision is not practical, the council may consider a contribution of equivalent / greater value to an alternative nearby location.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Smaller developments of less than 250 dwellings will also generate need arising from the development. Therefore, a contribution to meet this need will be sought to contribute towards maximising the use of existing facilities.
- ◀ This strategy is based upon the current approved site allocations for housing. Subsequent changes to population numbers through Windfall sites outside the current allocated numbers have not been taken into consideration. Leisure Services will recommend refusal of any windfall site where additional sporting needs arising from the proposal not accounted for in this strategy are not adequately met.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed. In exceptional circumstances the council may consider an alternative to an offsite contribution whereby the developer agrees to carry out agreed works to improve outdoor sports facilities that would have been carried out by the council.
- ◀ Some contributions may need to be ring fenced for use according to the particular terms of the Planning Obligation, where there is opportunity to improve the appropriate pitches within the local vicinity.
- ◀ The council will seek a planning condition for a long term management plan to secure contribution towards the long term maintenance of new and offsite outdoors sports provision. The management plan will identify the principles of public access, protection of the facility, how the management is to be financed and what long term maintenance is proposed. The council may be willing to adopt the new facilities with a suitable agreed commuted sum for maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved playing pitches on school sites should be subject to community use agreements. On large developments where schools are also being provided consideration should be made to ensure that there is provision and open access for the community to the outdoor sports provision. For further guidance please refer to Sport England:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/community-use-agreements/>

- ◀ Establish a formula for collating developer contributions for playing pitches which is demand based.

Sport England reports that housing growth often leads to an increase in school places. S106 contributions are then secured to pay for these places which usually result in an extension to a school, sometimes on playing field. If applicable, this should be identified early in the process and embraced in policy that any replacement of playing fields i.e. compensatory provision, due to school expansion should be negotiated directly with the relevant developer.

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## AIM 3

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

### Objectives:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock where there is a need to do so.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both current and future demand where required.

### **Objective (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock where there is a need to do so**

The Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific objectives (Part 2) outline a number identified shortfalls. The Playing Pitch Strategy Improvement Group and key stakeholders should work to rectify identified inadequacies.

The current level of grass pitch provision must be protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the future demand for provision identified in Telford and Wrekin can be met through the delivery of all the proposed BSF pitches to a 'good' quality standard and ensuring there is full Community Use. This can also be achieved through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality which in turn increases pitch capacity
- ◀ Utilising AGPs for training and competitive matches
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches for sport types with a deficit i.e. mini/junior football
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites

There are exceptions where maximising the use of existing pitches does not offer scope to address the quantitative deficiencies. For example in the sport of cricket, new or additional cricket squares on public or private fields, as well as improving existing wickets is required to meet the levels of demand identified for cricket both now and in the future.

There is a requirement to protect senior football pitches as this provides the flexibility to provide senior, junior or mini pitches and accommodate future deficiencies in mini and junior football through re designating them. However, the re-designation of adult pitches that are not currently used may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

The PPS Stakeholder Group should regularly review changes in a sport, an area or population from which the Strategy has been based as this will affect demand and need for outdoor sports provision. For example national initiatives, trends and development of sport can all have an impact on participation levels. Through the Local Plan the Strategy has taken into consideration proposed areas of housing growth. At the time of writing the

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Strategy the high growth areas have been identified through the Local Plan in the following sub analysis areas - North and Central Telford with adjoining areas of Wellington. Finally, population projections will need to be refreshed. When writing the Strategy Telford and Wrekin Council did not have a population projections model and are awaiting the agreement on the rate of housing growth in the borough via the Local Plan. Therefore for the purposes of the strategy national population rates (ONS sub-national population estimates 2013) have been used. The projections have been calculated by rolling forward the population 5 years (so the boys aged 7-10 now will be 12-15 in 5 years from now). This should take into account changes in birth rate but will not take into account any housing-related growth in Telford and Wrekin.

The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on provision. However, it is important to note that these may be subject to change. A general trend across all sports and one which will impact on future provision is the impact of Local Government cuts. Telford and Wrekin Council subsidise the cost of maintaining community football pitches, opening/closing, cleaning of changing provision, coordinating the booking and allocation of pitches and also the management, maintenance and repair of all community (council) pavilions. Like most Local Authorities, Telford and Wrekin Council will have to consider where potential savings can be made.

### *Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Following the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review there will be an increased use of small-sided games for all age groups up to U12. The new format of the 9v9 game became mandatory from the 2013/14 season for U11s and from the 2014/15 season for U11s and U12. This will allow children to progress gradually through age-appropriate formats. The entry point for U7s and U8s is the 5v5 game. U9s and U10s will then step up to 7v7, followed by 9v9 level for U11s and U12s. As a result, pitch demands will change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Work with clubs who are Charter Standard with a large number of teams to ascertain pitch demands and prioritise for allocation of provision.  Following review of pitches look at redesignation but taking into consideration younger payers moving up the age groups and need for adult pitches  Work with Leagues to accommodate mini and junior football on 3G pitches

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
	<p>Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained or decrease. Decreases due to issues around spare time, cost of hiring provision, bad weather and poor pitches/ facilities.</p>	<p>Use strategy to secure external funding to improve pitches and facilities to a good quality standard.</p> <p>Provide more sports development opportunities such as FA initiatives - Just Play or Football Mash up which have been developed in response to peoples limited spare time to encourage people to get into football without a formal or long-term commitment.</p> <p>Review Council's pricing policy of 3G provision and consider offer of these facilities at the same price as grass pitches.</p>
	<p>An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment over the next two years (2014-2016) from Sport England to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions.</p>	<p>Access external funding to provide improved, segregated ancillary facilities.</p> <p>Partners (Shropshire FA, TWC etc) to work with local clubs to develop the girls and women's game</p>
Cricket	<p>Local trend increase in current and future demand for cricket pitches. Overuse in particular areas of the borough.</p>	<p>Secure access to additional cricket pitches</p> <p>Consider alternatives to grass wickets</p>
	<p>Decrease in participation. Key factors affecting participation include match end time, travel distance to matches, playing format, length of game and club/school links.</p>	<p>Shropshire ECB to work with leagues and clubs to address key issues</p>
	<p>Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.</p>	<p>Partners to work with local clubs to encourage growth of Women's and Girls cricket. Helping to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches which will support growth.</p>
Rugby Union	<p>The Rugby World Cup (2015) and introduction of new initiatives such as touch rugby is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision.</p> <p>Strong junior sections</p>	<p>Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to significantly improve and increase current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.</p>
Rugby League	<p>Retention of current levels of participation.</p>	<p>Sustain current pitch stock.</p>

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
AGPs	Demand for AGPs growing. The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface. 3G pitches could service demand for competitive football, particularly mini and youth. Provision of 3G pitches which are World Rugby compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches. Pricing still remains an issue for clubs. Adequate provision for hockey but improvements required on Telford Hockey Club pitch. Secure access on educational sites.	Ensure that access to provision is maximised where demand requires and that community use agreements are in place. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf">http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf</a>

### **Objective (i) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both current and future demand where required**

The Council should use, and regularly update, the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields should be considered for community use to help address any unmet community demand.

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PART 5: SPORT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Based on the Assessment Report there are a number of recommended sport specific objectives which are outlined below. Specific site actions falling out of the sport by sport objectives have been detailed within the action plan.

### FOOTBALL OBJECTIVES

- Maximise use of sites (both grass and 3G)
- Improve quality of provision
- Focus future investment around multi-pitch and hub sites.

### *Football Recommendations - Grass Pitches*

- ◀ Where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality, review maintenance regimes and secure sufficient revenue to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Prioritise sites for the FA pitch advisory scheme. This is part of The Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme which is funded by national governing bodies of sports including The FA, Sport England and The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) and will raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices.
- ◀ Transfer play on sites which are played to capacity or overplayed to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand especially all types of provision in South Telford and Newport. Also future (housing) growth areas North and Central Telford with adjoining areas of Wellington.
- ◀ Consider reconfiguring pitches to mini and youth pitches in order to meet future demand.
- ◀ Work with identified educational establishments to maximise and secure community access utilising Sport England tools to maximise community use and support education-club links.
- ◀ Prioritise improvement around multi pitch and strategic hub sites i.e. leisure centres. Consider the future value of one/two pitch sites which are considered of low value to football and where appropriate, reinvest into the development of central venue sites and hub sites.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development (as detailed in the management objectives).
- ◀ Accommodate training and competitive play on 3G pitches.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision (linked to increase in participation in the game)
- ◀ Seek to access and encourage partners to seek to access external funding to increase and improve facility provision in line with the above objectives.

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## **Recommendations - 3G Pitches**

- ◀ Support full utilisation of existing Council owned 3G pitches and encourage other 3G pitch owners to make their facilities available for community use at peak times, including weekends.
- ◀ Ensure that financial provision is made to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term and to undertake technical checks every 3 years.
- ◀ Further investigate the proposal for an additional 3G pitch in South Telford. Consideration should be given to accommodating Stadium 3G to support lack of national league standard provision.
- ◀ Work with leagues to endorse the use of 3Gs for competitive matches (which will require the adoption of flexible KO times) in line with FA guidelines and Code of Conduct.
- ◀ To register all 3G facilities especially those in Council ownership on the FA approved register to enable competitive play.
- ◀ To test some of the AGPs (TCAT / Phoenix) that have been built with a shock pad to see if they can become World Rugby 22 compliant. This may be a starting point to alleviate some of the training demand.
- ◀ Review current pricing policy on Council owned 3G pitches to offer pitches for matches at the same rate as grass pitches.

### **CRICKET OBJECTIVES**

- Increase the number of new pitches
- Increase/secure access to existing educational provision
- Endorse the use of artificial turf wickets for competitive matches

### **Cricket Recommendations**

- ◀ Prioritise sites where there is overuse to ensure support is received to accommodate demand.
- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and seek to provide new fine turf or artificial pitches to meet unmet demand.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.
- ◀ Protect dedicated artificial wickets to service formal and informal cricket on public sites
- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed support opportunities for women's and girl's competitive cricket.
- ◀ Support clubs to develop and improve 'off pitch' practice facilities.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision (linked to increase in participation in the game)

## **RUGBY UNION OBJECTIVE**

- Improve the quality of pitches, pavilions, floodlighting and parking
- Increase/secure access to existing educational provision
- Increase the number of new pitches

### ***Rugby Union Recommendations***

- ◀ Improve the quality of pitches (through improved drainage and better maintenance) and ancillary facilities in order to address overplay of pitches at club sites.
- ◀ Support clubs in accessing/purchasing own maintenance equipment and undertaking necessary training to ensure a robust maintenance schedule is undertaken and implemented.
- ◀ To increase the number of floodlit pitches that teams have access to. This will increase capacity for mid-week training and matches, spreading usage, thereby conserving the quality of the existing floodlit pitches which are heavily overused.
- ◀ Work with clubs to ensure long term leases (minimum 25 years) are in place.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs have access to training areas which are either dedicated floodlit grassed areas or through the provision of a World Rugby compliant AGP.
- ◀ Work with education providers to maximise access to secondary school and academy facilities to address current and future demand and to develop school-club links.

## **RUGBY LEAGUE OBJECTIVE**

- Maintain access to existing provision
- Work towards increasing provision (grass) to increase participation.

### ***Rugby League Recommendations***

- ◀ Work with the Rugby Football League to ensure priority rugby league sites are protected and their quality is sustained/improved.
- ◀ Ensure that financial provision is made to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term and to undertake technical checks every 3 years ensuring facilities are compliant for both training and competitive matches.
- ◀ Work with the club to help identifying funds to further improve facilities on the Phoenix site for ball stop fencing and spectator provision.
- ◀ Identify new or existing outdoor grass sports provision which could be utilised for Rugby League.

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## HOCKEY OBJECTIVE

- Maximise access to existing provision particularly increasing/securing access to existing educational provision
- Improve the quality of existing provision.

### ***Hockey Recommendations***

- ◀ Work with England Hockey to ensure priority hockey sites are protected and their quality is sustained/improved.
- ◀ Ensure that financial provision is made to maintain sand filled/dressed AGP quality in the long term and to undertake technical checks every 2 years ensuring facilities are compliant for both training and competitive matches.
- ◀ Work with education providers to maximise access to secondary school and academy facilities to address current and future demand and to develop school-club links.

## PART 6: ACTION PLAN

### 6.1 Introduction

The site-by-site action plan list seeks to address key issues identified in the accompanying Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

The Council and its partners should review the plan to prioritise actions of significant importance or impact in line with available existing resources (both staff and financial) and also future funding opportunities.

### 6.2 Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites

A tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities is proposed to help support and adopt a strategic approach to facility development. The strategic hub sites and key community sites identified will require additional funding to be maintained to this standard. Therefore, additional revenue will need to be secured in order to deliver this obligation.

#### *Proposed tiered site criteria*

Strategic hub sites	Key community sites	Club or education sites	Reserve sites
Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Located to meet local community needs.	Located to meet local community needs.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Strategic hub sites	Key community sites	Club or education sites	Reserve sites
Accommodates three or more grass pitches. Including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more grass pitches.	Likely to be single-pitch site.
Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Supports informal demand, strategic reserve and/ or training etc.
Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or is education owned. Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site.	Management control remains with the Council or existing management body.
Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.	Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting and line marking as required.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Access to changing provision should be provided if senior pitch(es) required.	No requirement for access to changing or accommodation.

### 6.3 Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with The FA.

## 6.4 Action plan

### *Timescales*

The action plan has been created to be delivered over the period 2015 to 2026. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based.

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

### *Partners*

The column indicating Partners refers to the main organisation that the Council will work with in order to deliver the actions. The next stage in the development of the action plan will be to agree a Lead Partner to help deliver the actions.

Many actions are subject to securing funding and if these are not forthcoming then the aforementioned actions will be unable to be delivered.

**TELFORD AND WREKIN  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**Central Area Action Plan**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Doseley Road - TF4 3AB	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used - secured. 1 adult pitch poor quality. This pitch has no capacity and is overused (by 4 match equivalent sessions per week). Changing significantly improved in 2014 to bring the provision up Step 7. Parking available. Dug outs built by local club. This is currently classed as a county pitch.	Improve pitch quality through increased maintenance. Review drainage. Address issue of poor goal mouths. Possible CAT site but consideration as whilst identified a club site a number of clubs utilise this provision and also it is the only facility meeting Step 7 requirements in the borough. It is also classed as a joint use site with the local primary school Dawley CoE and there are a number of community events held on this site i.e. Dawley Day	Council Shropshire FA Clubs CSP	Key community site	Short	b, c, d, f & h
	Grange Park Primary School - TF3 1YQ	Football	School	Available for community use unused but secured. 2 mini pitches good quality. Pitch capacity 12 match equivalent sessions per week but need to factor in school use.	Increase community use. Implement formal CUA.	Council School Shropshire FA Club	Education	Medium - long	b, c, h
	Elms Playing Field – TF4 3SZ	Football	Council owned	Available for community use - unused but secured. 1 mini pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 2 match equivalent sessions per week. 2 youth/junior pitches poor quality. Pitch capacity 2 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improvement to pitch quality. Priority CAT site for club. There is no changing provision at this site therefore in its current capacity it can only accommodate junior or mini. Provision of changing should be considered	Council School Shropshire FA Club	Reserve site?	Short	B, c, d, f, h
	Hollinswood playing field – TF3 2ER	Football	Council owned	Available for community used and secured. 1 adult pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 youth/junior pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 1 match equivalent sessions per week 7. Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council can provide changing provision and have recently received a grant through the PRIDE community fund to improve the provision There is a junior pitch adjacent to this site located on the primary school fields.	Improve drainage and pitch maintenance to improve capacity. Priority CAT site for Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council. Impending lease agreed to enable PRIDE funding to be allocated.	Council Parish Council Shropshire FA Club	Club site	short	B, c, d, f, h
	Lawley Primary School - TF4 2PR	Football	School	Available for community use - used but unsecured. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Increase community use. Implement formal CUA.	Council School Shropshire FA Club	Education	Medium - long	b, c, h

**TELFORD AND WREKIN  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Malinslee playing fields – TF4 2NS	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used - secured. 3 adult pitches poor quality. Pitch capacity 3 match equivalent sessions per week. These pitches currently not used. 2 youth/junior pitches poor quality. These are used but poor drainage in certain areas. These pitches are overused by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. No changing provision. Car parking is limited potential to link with Church car park or come to arrangement with pub.	Improve drainage and pitch maintenance to improve capacity. Possible CAT site – consideration though as number of community events and protected Fields in Trust site. Potential for changing provision but no (council) funding is available to achieve this	Council Parish Council Shropshire FA Club	Key community site	short	B, c, d, f, h
	Oak Tree Centre - TF4 3EG	Football	Trust	Available for community use - used and secured. 1 adult pitch standard quality. This pitch is overused by 1 match equivalent sessions per week	Improve pitch quality	Trust Shropshire FA Club	Club	medium	b, c, d, f, h
	Newdale - TF1 5HW	Football	Council owned	Currently not yet built. Whilst the Council own the site the future management has yet to be determined. Available Capital to level, design and develop the site has yet to be determined. Additional funding may be required.	New development provided through S106 monies. However further funding is required to deliver the whole project. Plan to deliver 2 snr, 1 jnr, 2 mini, changing and parking. Maintenance regime should align with NGB guidelines but has yet tbc Contribution from allocated Housing ref H17 The draft Local Plan	Council Parish Council Club The FA	TBC	short	b, c, d, f, h
	Phoenix Sports and Leisure Centre (new) TF4 3JS	Football	owned and maintained by Academy, community use managed by Council	Pitches managed through Joint Available for community use - used and secured. 2 adult pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 4 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 youth/junior pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 2 match equivalent sessions per week. The Maintenance regime should align with NGB guidelines. Car parking and changing	Access to more changing rooms to accommodate more matches at one time. Drainage issues on bottom pitch – drains not linked up. Improve pitch quality. Ensure Academy adhering to the appropriate maintenance schedule – Sport England specification	Council Shropshire FA School	Strategic hub site	short	c, d, & i
		AGP		Available for community use and used – secure. 1 full size 3G with floodlights. Pitch has 18 hours spare capacity. Used for Rugby league training and competitive matches. Rugby League has priority use of this pitch as it has been identified as a priority sport. Competitive football matches are also played on AGP. Joint use site. Car parking and changing	Acquire moveable goals to be able to accommodate junior and mini training and matches. Undertake technical assessment every 2 years and register 3G on FA approved list. Identify if 3G required by rugby union – if so technical assessment to be undertaken to achieve World Rugby Regulation 22 compliance. Increase access to floodlit provision for Rugby Union. Rugby League would like ball stop fencing.	Council Shropshire FA Shropshire RFU Rugby League School	Strategic hub site	short	c

**TELFORD AND WREKIN  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Phoenix Sports Centre (old) – TF4 3DZ	Football	Council owned	Available for community use – used and secured. 1 senior pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 1 match equivalent session per week. 1 youth/junior pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 1 match equivalent session per week. 1 mini pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 0.5 match equivalent session per week.	Provide changing provision with community room. Improve pitch quality. Changing, car parking and maintenance to be provided through BSF as a result of loss of facility provision and sale of associated land for housing. Investigate potential of bringing Captain Webb pitch in to community use as part of this hub site.	Council Shropshire FA	Strategic hub site	medium	c, d, f, g & i
	Southall School - TF4 3PX	Football	School	Available for community use unused but secured. 1 youth/junior pitch good quality. Pitch capacity 4 match equivalent session per week.	Improve community access through formal CUA	Council Shropshire FA CSP	Education	Medium	b, c & i
	Stirchley Recreation Centre – TF3 1ET	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used - secured. 3 adult pitches 1 poor and 2 good quality. Pitch capacity 1 match equivalent session per week. 3 youth/junior pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 0.5 match equivalent session per week. 4 mini pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 8 match equivalent session per week. Car parking and changing. Due to BSF school and Leisure Centre moving storage has become an issue	To improve drainage and maintenance on all pitches. Look into storage	Council Shropshire FA CSP	Strategic hub site	short	c, d, h & i
	Telford Hornets - TF4 3NZ	Rugby Union	Club	Available for community use - used and secure. 4 senior pitches. 3 Pitches poor quality and 1 pitch standard quality. All pitches overused pitch 1 by 4.75, pitch 2 by 11, pitch 3 by 4 and pitch 4 by 4 match equivalent sessions per week. Car parking and changing provided	Lease issues need to be addressed asap. Pitches significantly overused + 23.75. Significant improvements to maintenance and a pipe drainage system (M0/D0) required on 3 pitches. The remaining pitch at Telford Hornets RFC was assessed as M0/D2 therefore significant improvements to maintenance and slit drainage are required. Additional improvements to ancillary provision required.	Council Shropshire RFU CSP	Club site	short	b, c, d, f, h & i
	Thomas Telford School - TF3 4NW	Football	School	Not available for community use - unsecured. 1 adult pitch standard quality. 1 Junior/Youth pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity rated as 0 as there is no community use.	Explore opportunities for community access through formal CUA	Council England Hockey CSP	Education	long	b, c & i
		AGP		1 sand filled and 1 3G pitch – currently no community use	Explore opportunities for community access through formal CUA – priority for hockey	Council Shropshire FA England Hockey CSP	Education	short	b, c & i

**TELFORD AND WREKIN  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**Newport Area Action Plan**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Adams Grammar - TF10 7BD	Football	School	NOT Available for community use – not used and not secure. 1 adult pitch good quality.	Explore opportunities for community access through formal CUA	Council Shropshire FA CSP	Education	tbc	b, c & i
		Cricket		NOT available for community use - unused & unsecure. 2 pitches good quality with a total of 14 wickets. This could accommodate 70 cricket matches per season. However, school use would need to be factored into this.	Explore opportunities for community access through formal CUA – to accommodate some of the overuse at other Newport cricket sites.	Council Shropshire ECB Clubs	Education	short	b, c & i
	The Burton Borough School - TF10 7DS	Football	School	Available for community use - used and secured. 1 adult pitch standard quality. The pitch has spare capacity for 2 match equivalent sessions. There are 2 youth/junior pitches of standard quality. These pitches are overused by 1.25 match equivalent sessions.	New adult pitch to be provided through BSF with Community access. Recommend improvement to existing school pitches to become good to increase capacity for community clubs. Formal CUA to be adopted.	School. Newport Football Clubs	Education	Short	b, c, d, f, h, & i
	Edgmond Playing Field – TF10 8HT	Football	Council owned	Available for community use - used and secured. 1 adult pitch standard quality. This pitch is overused by 0.75 match equivalent sessions. . Poor changing provision	To improve pitch quality as currently overused and standard condition. Improve ancillary facilities. Assess if additional pitches can be configured. Potential CAT site.	Council Clubs	Key community site	medium	b, d & f
		Cricket		Available for community use and used - secured. 1 pitch good quality. This cricket pitch is overplayed by 18 matches per season.	Need for new pitch/wickets. Improve ancillary facilities. Potential CAT site.	Council Shropshire ECB Club	Key community site	short	b, d, e, f, h & i
	Harper Adams University College – TF10 8NB	Football	University	Available for community use - used but unsecured. 2 adult pitches good quality. Pitch capacity 5.5 match equivalent sessions per season.	Explore opportunities for securing Community access to site	University Shropshire FA CSP Club	Education	Short/medium	b, c, d, f & h
		Cricket		Available for community use and used – unsecure. 1 pitch, 5 grass wickets. Pitch quality good. The pitch has spare capacity for an additional 21 matches per season.	Explore opportunities for securing community access	University Shropshire ECB CSP Club	Education	Short	b, c & h
		Rugby Union		Available for community use used but unsecure. 3 pitches. Pitch quality standard. Pitch Capacity 1 <sup>st</sup> pitch spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, 2 <sup>nd</sup> pitch and 3 <sup>rd</sup> pitch are overused by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Minor pitch maintenance is required and reviewing pitch drainage is recommended. Pipe drainage was laid in the 1970s and is deemed to be working. Quality could be further improved with slit drainage and potentially renewed pipe drainage. All 3 pitches were assessed as being M1/D2 i.e. minor improvements to maintenance, and a slit drainage system is required. Additional set of floodlights required for training purposes. Explore opportunities for securing community access	University Shropshire RFU CSP	Education	Short	b, c, d, f, h,

**TELFORD AND WREKIN  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Lilleshall Cricket Club -TF10 9HE	Cricket	Club	Available for community use – used and secure. 1 Pitch, 10 grass wickets. Pitch quality standard. This pitch is overused by 25 matches per season.	Improve pitch quality. Need for new pitch/wickets. Improve ancillary facilities	Council Shropshire ECB CSP Club	Club	Short	d, f, h & i
	Newport Cricket Club - NP19 4PT	Cricket	Club	Available for community use - used and secure. 1 pitch, 1 artificial wicket and 13 grass wickets. Pitch quality good. The grass pitch is overused by 3 matches per season. 60 adult matches could be accommodated on a good quality non turf wicket but competitive play is not endorsed on this surface by the NGB.	Need for new pitch/wickets. Improve ancillary facilities. Potential CAT site.	Council Shropshire ECB Club	Key community site	short	b, d, e, f, h & i
	Newport Salop - TF10 8BU	Rugby Union	Club	Available for community use and used provision secured. All 4 pitches overused: Pitch 1 by 3.75, Pitch 2 by 12, Pitch 3 by 4.25 and Pitch 4 by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve pitch quality – better maintenance and drainage required. Two pitches were M0/D0 i.e. significant improvements to maintenance, and pipe drainage system is required on the pitch. The remaining two pitches at Newport Salop RFC were M0/D2 i.e. significant improvements to maintenance and slit drainage is required on the pitch. Additional set of floodlights required for training purposes.	Council Club Shropshire RFU CSP	Club	Short	b, d, f, h, i
	Norbroom Park – TF10 7SZ	Football	Council owned	Available for community use - unused but secured. Designated as a 1 adult pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 1 match equivalent session per week. Significant issues with moles. No changing provision	Review feasibility - either improve pitch quality through increased maintenance. Review drainage. Address mole hills issue. Recommend junior/mini usage. Explore feasibility of ancillary facilities (not TWC). Potential CAT site. Or keep as reserve site	Council Shropshire FA Clubs CSP	Key community site	Short	b, c, d, f & h

**TELFORD AND WREKIN  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Shukers Field – TF10 7NS	Football	Club	Available for community use and used – secured. 2 adult pitch standard quality. These pitches are overplayed by 3.25 match equivalent sessions per week. 3 youth/junior pitches 1 good 2 standard quality. These pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 1 match equivalent session per week.	Improve pitch quality initially through new drainage. Improvements to changing provision and new storage required. Some funding identified through developer/council contributions but not enough to complete full package of works.	Council Shropshire FA Clubs CSP	Key community site	short	b, c, d, f, g, h, i
	Tibberton – TF10 8NN	Football	Council owned	Available for community use - used and secured. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 3 match equivalent sessions per week. 2 youth/junior pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 3.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Used by the local primary school – joint use.	To improve ancillary facilities. Improve pitch quality. As joint use with local primary school need to understand implications of putting Tibberton forward as a potential CAT site. Also multi-sport site.	Council Shropshire FA Clubs CSP	Key community site	medium	B, c, d, f, h
		Cricket		Available for community use - used and secured. 1 pitch Good quality. 1 artificial wicket, 7 grass wickets. This pitch is overused by 5 matches per season.	Need for new pitch/wickets. Improve ancillary facilities. See points above re Potential CAT site.	Council Shropshire ECB Club	Key community site	short	b, d, e, f, h & i

**TELFORD AND WREKIN  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**North Area Action Plan**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Broad Oaks Playing Fields – TF2 8AH	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 2 adult pitches poor/standard quality. Pitch capacity 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week. 2 youth/junior pitches standard quality. These pitches are overused by 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week.	To improve renovation after large events. Improve pitch quality. Potential CAT site but implications: Key events site – Donnington Bonfire Whilst pitches have previously been designated as adult there is no changing provision on site. Consider feasibility of ancillary facilities (no cost to TWC).	Council Shropshire FA Clubs	Key community site – but no changing provision	medium	b, c, d, f, g, h & i
	Donnington Recreation Ground – TF2 8HU	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 2 youth/junior pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 3.25 match equivalent sessions per week. There are issues with the mini pitch surface which is very undulating.	Improve pitch quality. Potential CAT site.	Council Shropshire FA Clubs	Key community site – but no changing provision	medium	b, c, d, f, g, h & i
	Hadley Learning Community - TF1 5NU	Football	PFI	Available for community use used and secured. 2 adult pitches poor quality. Pitch capacity 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week. 2 youth/junior pitches poor quality. Pitch capacity 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. 2 mini pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 8 match equivalent sessions per week. Car park and changing	Increase community access through formal CUA. Improve pitch quality	PFI Shropshire FA CSP	Strategic hub site	medium	b, c, d, f, g, h & i
	Hadley Park Road TF1 6JZ	Football	Council	Currently no pitches on site	Identified as possible sites to mitigate if there is a BSF Shortfall	Council	tbc	long	
	Hartshill Park – TF2 6AR	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 2 mini pitches poor quality. Pitch capacity 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Small car park.	Improve pitch quality. Possible CAT site. Improve renovation after events.	Council Shropshire FA Friends of Hartshill Park	Community site	medium	B,c, d, f, h, i
	Ketley Bank – TF2 0DH	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 2 adult pitches standard quality. These pitches are overused by 2 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 youth/junior pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Car parkin and changing. Designated County Pitch	Improve pitch quality and ancillary provision. Aspirations for this to become a Step 7 provision.	Council Shropshire FA	Key community site	short	c, d, f, h, i

**TELFORD AND WREKIN  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Ketley Recreation Ground – TF1 5BA	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 1 youth/junior pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 1 match equivalent sessions per week. Car parking issues	Improve pitch quality. Potential CAT site	Council Shropshire FA Clubs Parish Council	Reserve site	long	b, c, d, f, h & i
	Leegomery – TF1 6UJ	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 2 adult pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity is 0 which means that the site is at capacity accommodating match play the level the site can sustain. 1 youth/junior pitch standard quality. This pitch is overplayed by 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Car parking and changing	To improve drainage and maintenance on all pitches. Improve ancillary provision	Council Shropshire FA Clubs	Key community site	short	b, c, d, f, h & i
	Muxton Primary School - TF2 8SA	Football	School	Available for community use and used – unsecured. 2 mini pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve community access through formal CUA	Council Shropshire FA School	Education	long	B, c, d, h & i
	Muxton - TF2 8LR	Football	tbc	Currently no pitch provision	See reference in draft T&W Local; Plan Anticipated 2 adult pitches and changing, parking tbc as part of the onsite development – condition of housing allocation. Commuted sum needs to be secured for maintenance.	Council	Community site	medium	b, c, h & i
	Oakengates Leisure Centre – TF2 7AB	Football	Council owned	Available for community use but unused – secured. 3 adult pitches 1 poor 2 standard quality. Pitch capacity 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 4 match equivalent sessions per week. Capacity reduced through BSF to 3 x senior 1 x mini, 1 x 3G Car park and changing provision	To improve drainage and maintenance on all pitches. Remove container off mini pitch. Investigate opportunity of maximising use of pitch inside athletics track as stadium and floodlighting but need to consider access over track as causes damage if not protected	Council Shropshire FA	Strategic hub site		
		Football	Council owned	3G has spare capacity for an additional 25 hours per week – this is mainly weekends. New parking specifically for 3G	Acquire moveable goals to be able to accommodate junior and mini training and matches. Undertake technical assessment every 2 years and register 3G on FA approved list. Identify if 3G required by rugby union – if so technical assessment to be undertaken to achieve World Rugby Regulation 22 compliance	Council Shropshire FA Shropshire RFU Rugby League School	Strategic hub site	short	c

**TELFORD AND WREKIN  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Priorslee – TF2 9SQ	Football/ Cricket	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 1 adult pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	New joint use site through BSF. 2 community adult pitches available. Pitches and maintenance SE spec. Access to changing provision required. Community cricket wicket to be provided.	Council Shropshire FA Academy	Community site	short	b, c, h & i
	Priorslee East - TF2 9UW	Football	Bourneville Village Trust	Currently no pitch provision	New pitches provided through S106 monies? 2 senior pitches, changing room and car park. 5years + off.	Council Shropshire FA	Key community site	long	b, c, f, h & i
	St Georges C of E School - TF2 9LJ	Football	School	Available for community use and used – unsecured. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 3 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 youth/junior pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve community access through formal CUA	Council Shropshire FA School	Education	long	B, c, d, h & i
	St Georges Sports and Social Club - TF2 9LU	Football	club	Available for community use and used – secured. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 youth/junior pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Changing and car parking	Improve pitch quality. Adopt formal CUA. Improve ancillary provision	Club Council Shropshire FA CSP	Strategic hub site	medium	c, d, h & i
Cricket		Available for community use and used – secure. 2 pitches (15 and 7 grass wickets). Pitch quality good. These pitches are overused by 9 and 15 matches per season.		Need for new pitch/wickets. Potential use of AGP.	Club Council Shropshire ECB CSP	short		c, d, h & i	
Hockey		There are 11hrs spare capacity on the AGP. This is mainly sun am, fri pm and 9-10pm slots		Immediate work to seams required. Replace carpet. Continue with maintenance schedule. Appoint a specialist maintenance contractor to carry out a minimum of 2 specialist external visits per year	Club Council Hockey England CSP	short		c, d, h & i	
	The Sutherland School – TF2 7JR	Football	School	Available for community use but not used and secured. 2 adult pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 4 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 youth/junior pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 2 match equivalent sessions per week.	Site retained through BSF. 3 x Mini, 1 x Junior pitches available for community use Sept 15. Car parking needs to be confirmed. Commuted sum for maintenance needs to be secured	Council Shropshire FA Academy	Community site	short	b, c, h & i

**TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy	Timescales	Objective link
	Sinclair Social Club - TF1 5HP	Football	Club	Available for community use - used and secured. 1 adult pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. 2 mini pitches poor quality. Pitch capacity 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve pitch quality	Council Shropshire FA Club	Club site	short	b, c, d, f, h & i
	Trench Playing Field - TF2 7JP	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 1 mini pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 youth/junior pitch poor quality. This pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve quality of pitches to accommodate capacity. Possible CAT site but need to consider use by school and also play area.	Council Shropshire FA	Community site	short	b, c, d, f, h & i
	Wombridge Playing Field – TF2 7AB	Football	Club	Available for community use and used – unsecured. 1 adult pitch poor quality. This pitch is overused by 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve quality of pitches and ancillary provision	Council, Shropshire FA CSP	Club	short	b, c, d, f, h & i
	Wickes Stadium Wellington Amateurs FC – TF2 6BQ	Football	Club	Available for community use - used and secured. This pitch is leased from TWC to wellington Amateurs currently playing in West 1 adult floodlit pitch standard quality. This pitch is overused by 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. There is a stadium and changing	Improve quality of pitches and ancillary provision.	Council, Shropshire FA CSP Club	Club	short	b, c, d, f, h & i
	Wrockwardine Wood Junior School - TF2 7AH	Football	School	Available for community use - used but unsecured. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 youth/junior pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve community access through formal CUA	Council Shropshire FA School	Education	long	B, c, d, h & i

**TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**  
**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**South Area Action Plan**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Abraham Darby - TF7 5HX	Rugby	school	Available for community use - unused but secured through CUA. Need to ascertain nos of rugby pitches. Proposal for football was - 2 x senior, 2 x junior and 1 x S/S but school have changed this to rugby. Monitor maintenance	Need to ensure and endorse community access through formal CUA. Access to changing provision required. Ascertain nos of rugby pitches. Proposal for football was - 2 x senior, 2 x junior and 1 x S/S. Monitor maintenance	Council School Shropshire RFU	Education but should be identified as Key site	short	b, c, & i
	The Hem - TF11 9PP	Football	TBC	Currently no pitch provision in the Nedge	Ref H10 in draft Local Plan. Onsite provision to be provided through developer obligations. 2 adult pitches plus changing. To be maintained by developer	Council	Community site	medium	b, d, e, f, h & i
	Hills Lane – TF7 4BY	Football	Council	1 x decommissioned senior pitch of standard quality. Capacity not counted in PPS	Potential CAT site. Currently working with Madeley Boxing Club with regards to the pavilion. Opportunity to bring pitches back into use.	Council Shropshire FA	Club	medium	b, c, d, f, h & i
	John Randal Primary School - TF7 4DR	football	School	Available for community use but unused – unsecured. 1 junior/youth pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 2 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Pitch capacity 4 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve community access through formal CUA. Improve quality	Council Shropshire FA School	Education	long	b, c, d, h & i
	Madeley Academy - TF7 5FB	Football	school	NOT available for community use - unused but secured through CUA. 1 adult pitch good quality. 2 youth pitches good quality. 1 full size sand dressed AGP. No community use of pitches.	Clubs to seek community access/use directly with Academy if need identified.	Academy Shropshire FA Club	Education	short	b, c, & i
	Madeley Cricket Club - TF7 5TS	Cricket	Club	Available for community use and used – secure. 1 pitch, 13 grass wickets. Pitch Quality standard. Pitch is overused by 5 matches per season.	Need for new pitch/wickets. Improve ancillary facilities.	Council Shrophire ECB Club	Club	short	b, d, e, f, h & i
	Madeley Ski Slope – TF7 5DZ	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 2 adult pitches poor quality. Pitch capacity 2 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 youth pitch poor quality. This pitch is overused by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week	To improve drainage on all pitches. To build changing rooms to accommodate adult fixtures. Identified site for potential 3G to accommodate need in South Telford and across the borough	Council Shropshire FA CSP	Community site	short	b, d, e, f, h & i

**TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**  
**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Regatta – TF8 7DN	football	Club	Available for community use and used – secured. Annual rolling licence from TWC to Madeley United. 1 adult pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 0.25 match equivalent sessions. 1 junior/youth pitch poor quality. This pitch is overused by 1.25 match equivalent sessions.	To improve drainage and maintenance on all pitches.	Council Shropshire FA Club	Club	short	b, d, e, f, h & i
	Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School - TF7 4HG	Football	School	Available for community use but used – unsecured. 2 mini pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 8 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve community access through formal CUA. Improve quality	Council Shropshire FA School	Education	long	b, c, d, h & i
	Sutton Hill Playing Fields – TF7 4DH	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used – secured. 1 junior/youth pitch standard quality. This pitch is overused by 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 2 adult pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity - 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week.	To improve drainage issues and conditions of goal mouths. Improve maintenance. Improve ancillary provision.	Council Shropshire FA CSP	Community site	short	b, d, e, f, h & i
	South Telford – site tbc	Football	Council owned	Currently no 3G provision	Identified need for an additional 3G within South Telford. Site tbc along with funding to resource this.	Council		medium	

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### Wellington Area Action Plan

Site ID	site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Admaston (New Site) – TF5	Football	Council	Currently no pitches on site	Identified as possible sites to mitigate if there is a BSF Shortfall	Council	tbc	long	
	Allscott cricket ground - TF6 5EQ	Football	Club	Available for community use and used – secure 2 Adult pitches Good quality. Site capacity 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week. 2 Junior/Youth pitches Good quality. Site capacity 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Current community use. Car park and pavilion	Secure funding through developer contributions towards maintenance costs, potential design and development of new pitches and ancillary provision	Club Shropshire FA CSP Council	Club	short	b, c, f, h & i
		Cricket		Available for community use and used – secure. 2 pitches 13 and 5 grass wickets. Pitch quality 1 Good and 1 Standard. Pitch capacity 15 and 10 match equivalent sessions per season.	Improve quality of standard pitch. Increase community use of pitches. Secure developer contributions to help develop club site.	Club Shropshire ECB CSP Council	Club	short	b, c, d, f, h & i
	Apley wood primary school - TF1 6FQ	Football	School	Available for community use and used – secure. 2 mini pitches - Good/Standard capacity 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 Youth Football good quality spare capacity of 4 match equivalent sessions per week.	Look at getting community use for other clubs to fully utilise the provision. Investigate why there are drainage issues (when these are new pitches). Ensure SE maintenance schedule is being adhered to.	School Shropshire FA Council CSP	Education	short	b, c, d, h & i
	Blessed Robert Johnson catholic college - TF1 3DY		School	Available for community use and used – secure. 1 Adult pitch standard quality. Site capacity peak 2 match equivalent sessions per week. 3 Junior/Youth pitches standard quality. Site capacity peak 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	To become new Charlton School Jan 16. 5 x Junior pitches to be provided to SE specification. Maintenance to be undertaken in accordance with this spec. Ensure community access through formal CUA	School Shropshire FA Council CSP	Education	short	b, c, h & i
	Bowring park – TF1 2BN	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used. 1 Adult pitch standard quality. Site capacity peak 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 Junior/Youth pitches standard quality. Pitch overused by 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Changing provision but limited parking	Adult pitch on the minimum end of the scale size wise. Look at switching around with 9X9 pitch to accommodate a recommended size adult pitch. Need higher fencing at back of residential housing. Improve pitch quality and ancillary provision.	Shropshire FA Council	Community site	Short	b, c, d, f, h, i
		Cricket		Available for community use and used – secure. 1 pitch - 7 grass wickets and 1 artificial wicket. Pitch quality good. Grass pitch capacity 5 match equivalent sessions per season. 60 adult matches could be accommodated on a good quality non turf wicket but competitive play is not endorsed on this surface by the NGB.	Increase community use	Council Shropshire ECB	Community site	short	b, c, h & i

**TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**  
**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Crescent road – TF1 3DN	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used. 1 Adult pitches standard quality. Site capacity peak 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 Junior/Youth pitches standard quality. Pitch overused 1 match equivalent session per week Changing provision. Limited parking	Improve pitch quality and ancillary provision. Priority CAT site.	Council Shropshire FA club	Community site	short	b,c, d, f, h & i
	Charlton school - TF1 3LE	Football	School	Available for community use and used - secured. 1 Adult pitch standard quality. Site capacity 2 match equivalent sessions per week. 3 Junior/Youth pitches standard quality. Pitch capacity 6 match equivalent sessions per week.	No provision as of Jan 16 site demolished as part of BSF	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Dothill – TF1 3JB	Football		Available for community use and used - secured. 1 mini pitch standard quality. Site capacity peak 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 Junior/Youth pitch standard quality. Pitch is overused by 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Joint use with primary school.	To pitch quality, address issues around dog fouling. Priority CAT site but need to understand if there are any joint use implications with the school	Council Shropshire FA Club	Community site	short	b,c, d, f, h & i
	Ercall Wood Technology College - TF1 2DT	Football	School	Available for community use but unused - secured. 5 Adult pitches good quality. pitch capacity 14.25 match equivalent sessions per week	Increase community use. Ensure formal CUA adopted	School Shropshire FA Council	Education	short	b, c, h & i
		Cricket		A cricket pitch has been provided as part of the BSF programme. The pitch is currently unavailable as the pitch is still being established.	Increase community use. Ensure formal CUA adopted	School Shropshire ECB Council	Education	short	b, c, h & i
	OD Murphy/ Orleton Lane – TF1 2AE	Football	Council owned	Available for community use but unused - secured. 1 Junior/Youth pitches poor quality. Pitch capacity 1 match equivalent sessions per week.	Site to be developed. Some funding from developer contributions. To provide 3 x Senior 1 x Mini plus changing provision. Mole issue to be addressed. Expected autumn 17. Commuted sum for maintenance required.	Council Shropshire FA CSP	Key community site	medium	c, f, h & i
	High Ercall village hall - TF6 6NP	Football	Community Group	Available for community use and used - secured. 1 adult pitch poor quality. Pitch capacity 1 match equivalent sessions per week	Improve pitch quality	Community Group Shropshire FA Council	Reserve site	long	c, d, f, h & i
	Ringers Lane/ Admaston – TF5 0BP	Football	Council owned	Available for community use and used - secured. 3 Junior/Youth pitches poor quality. Spare capacity of 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 mini pitch poor quality. This pitch is overused by 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve pitch quality and maintenance. Look at drainage issues.	Council Shropshire FA CSP	Key Community site	short	c, d, f, h & i

**TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
	Roddington playing fields – SY4 4QX	Football	Council owned	Available for community use, used and secured. 1 adult pitch - standard quality. Spare capacity of 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. 1 mini pitch - poor quality. Spare pitch capacity 2 match equivalent sessions per week. No changing provision	No parking for football pitches. Need to check lease to parish as village hall is council owned. Look at alternative parking options. Improve pitch quality. Potential site for CAT	Council Shropshire FA Club	Community site	medium	b, c, d, f, h & i
	TCAT – TF1 2NP	AGP	College	3G has spare capacity for an additional 14 hours per week.	Identify if 3G required by rugby union – if so technical assessment to be undertaken to achieve World Rugby Regulation 22 compliance. Increase access to floodlit provision for Rugby Union.	College Shropshire RFU	Education	short	c
	Wrekin view primary school - TF1 3ES	Football	School	Available for community use but unused - unsecured. 1 mini pitch good quality. Pitch has spare capacity for 6 match equivalent sessions per week.	Increase community use. Ensure formal CUA adopted	School Shropshire FA Council	Education	short	b, c, h & i
	Wrekin college - TF1 3BH	Football	School	Not available for community use – unsecure. 1 junior pitch. Pitch quality standard.	Increase community use. Ensure formal CUA adopted	School Shropshire FA Council	Education	long	b, c, h & i
Cricket		Available for community use and used but unsecure. 3 pitches, 13, 8, and 8 grass wickets. Pitch quality good. Pitch Capacity 65, 40 and 40 match equivalent sessions per season.		Increase community use and secure use through formal CUA	Council Shropshire ECB CSP	Education	short	b, c, h & i	
AGP		Available for community use and used but not secure. This is a sand dressed full size AGP which has 22hours spare capacity. Pitch is old.		Should be used as a reserve site for football training and hockey	College	Education	long	c, h & i	
	Wellington cricket club - TF1 2DB	Cricket	Club	Available for community use and used – secure. 2 pitches (18 grass wickets and 10 grass wickets along with 1 artificial wicket.) Pitch quality good on both pitches. Spare pitch capacity of 11 (on the 18 grass wicket pitch) and 60 (artificial turf wicket) match equivalent sessions. However the 10 wicket pitch is overused by 10 match equivalent sessions per week.	Need for new pitch/wickets. Improve ancillary facilities. Potential CAT site.	Council Shropshire ECB Club	Club site	short	b, d, e, f, h & i

## **PART 8: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY**

### ***Delivery***

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide the evidence base for Telford & Wrekin Council and its partners to guide future decision making with regards to future of outdoor sports pitch provision in the Borough. The Strategy will be fundamental in respect of informing the impact and opportunities arising from the physical development, accessing future external funding and enhancing maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Telford and Wrekin up to 2026. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting needs of Telford and Wrekin can be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

Delivery of the Strategy and associated Action Plan should be undertaken in partnership with key stakeholders. Engagement of key officers from Planning, Public Realm, Sport Leisure & Recreation, Health, Facilities Management and Education has been important from the start of the process. It is essential that these officers continue to take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. It is proposed that an internal steering group be formalised to help ensure the PPS is well used and regarded as the key document for the borough guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The Steering Group will be instrumental in updating the Telford and Wrekin Playing Pitch Improvement Group which will consist of NGBs, County Sports Partnership and Telford & Wrekin Council responsible for strategically driving delivery of the PPS.

Regular dialogue will continue in maintaining and building key partnerships between the Borough Council, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners is critical in delivering the PPS and maintaining, improving playing pitch provision.

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Delivery of the Strategy will require pooling of resources, identifying additional capacity and funding.

### ***Monitoring and updating***

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions and changes identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group and Telford and Wrekin Playing Pitch Improvement Group.

The PPS will be reviewed bi annually from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This helps ensure that the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS is maintained and that the original supply and demand information is as up to date as possible to be meaningful.

The bi annual review should document and outline:


- ◀ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes to the priority of actions.
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (and other supply and demand information), which impacts on the key findings and issues
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities
- ◀ Lessons learnt

It is important that the accompanying Playing Pitch Database is kept up to date on a seasonal basis with support from key providers of provision, users (clubs) and local gate keepers i.e. local NGBs.

### **Checklist**

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

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

<b>Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date</b>	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</b>		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust &amp; up to date</b>		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust		

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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and up to date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

## APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

### National context

#### ***Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)***

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

#### ***Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)***

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

#### ***Sport England Youth and Community Strategy 2012 – 2017***

Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics.

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- ◀ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

### ***National Planning Policy Framework***

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

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

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

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

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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. The methodology to undertake such assessments should be informed by best practice including Sport England's Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' and 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'. Despite PPG17 being replaced by the NPPF, the Companion Guide still offers relevant guidance about undertaking a needs assessment.

### ***A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England***

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England'. Protection of playing fields was enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09), which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

### ***The FA National Game Strategy (2015 - 2019)***

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

The four areas where the new strategy will impact are:

- ◀ **Boosting Participation:** Building on the increases in boys and girls participation and growth in disability football, while delivering more varied formats of the game to address the drop in traditional 11v11 weekend football among adult males.
- ◀ **Developing better players:** £4million per year – including an annual £2million investment from the government – will be invested in grassroots coaching. There will be a network of County Coaches – tasked with improving and supporting coaching across grassroots football with club mentoring programmes. The extension of coach bursaries will get more women and people from diverse backgrounds into the profession and there will be a drive to get more top level grassroots coaches into the game.
- ◀ **Better training and facilities:** The FA is committing £48million – directly through its funding of the Football Foundation as well as investment in 100 new turf pitches and improvements to a further 2,000 as part of The FA's Pitch Improvement Plan. Further funds have also been dedicated to building 30 new football hubs across key cities – with a pilot scheme already under way in Sheffield – with the Government committed to providing £8m per year over five years to support The FA's contribution.
- ◀ **Football workforce:** Football will become more representative of the communities it serves through inclusion initiatives. The FA is also rolling out technology to run the game more efficiently and create direct lines of communication with players across all grassroots leagues making football truly integrated.

### ***The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)***

The recently launched National Facilities Strategy sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the National Game. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game. The National Game is defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space. The role of facilities will be crucial in developing the game in England. One of the biggest issues raised from 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' by that of 84% respondents, was 'poor facilities'.

The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

- ◀ Building - Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- ◀ Protecting - Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- ◀ Enhancing - Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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The Strategy commits to delivering in excess of £150m (through Football Foundation) into facility improvements across the National Game in line with identified priorities:

- ◀ Natural grass pitches improved – target: 100
- ◀ A network of new AGPs built – target 100
- ◀ A network of refurbished AGPs – target 150
- ◀ On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets
- ◀ Continue a small grants programme designed to address modest facility needs of clubs
- ◀ Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts

It also commits to:

- ◀ Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities
- ◀ Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted

### ***Champion Counties – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2014-2017)***

'Champion Counties' continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB's previous strategy: Grounds to Play. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
- ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established County Cricket Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
- ◀ To increase the number of volunteers to 80,000 by 2017
- ◀ To provide up to £5 million of interest free loans and to work with schools and facilities in inner city areas to provide greater community use by 2017.
- ◀ To provide funding of £6.15m to the Cricket Foundation to ensure that two million children are introduced to cricket within the school system.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
- ◀ To support clubs in winning a minimum of £5 million in funding grants from the Sport England inspired facilities fund.
- ◀ Increase participation in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% in the period through 2017.
- ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools by introducing one million children to the game. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
- ◀ Successful England teams.

The following actions executed during the duration of 'Grounds to Play' provide a strong base for this plan. Actions include:

- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB focus clubs and County Cricket Boards)
- ◀ Developing women's cricket
- ◀ Attracting volunteers
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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This plan therefore influences 'Grounds to Play' in the areas of facilities and coaches, which is where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

### ***The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)***

The recently launched RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

### ***The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy***

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

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

The RFL Facilities Trust website [www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk) provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

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

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

### **England Hockey (EH)**

*'The right pitches in the right places'<sup>1</sup>*

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ Clubs First accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

### Funding opportunities

In order to deliver much of the Action Plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving sports facilities.

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund <a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a>	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Facilities Fund</li> <li>• Sportsmatch</li> <li>• Small Grants</li> <li>• Protecting Playing Fields</li> <li>• Inspired Facilities</li> <li>• Strategic Facilities Fund</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx">http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx</a> <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/strategic-facilities/">http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/strategic-facilities/</a>	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation <a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/</a>	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Loans Scheme <a href="http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=loans.home">http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=loans.home</a>	The Loans Scheme helps finance projects that contribute to the retention and recruitment of rugby players. Projects eligible for loans include: 1. Club House Facilities: General structural improvements, general refurbishment, storerooms and offices, kitchen facilities, training areas. 2. Grounds (other than pitches): Car parking facilities, ground access improvements, fencing, security measures.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme <a href="http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=groundmatch.home">http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=groundmatch.home</a>	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, and floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
	facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).
EU Life Fund <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a>	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)	The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.
National Hockey Foundation <a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Young people and sport in Milton Keynes. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level. Smaller Charities.

### ***Protecting Playing Fields***

SE launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF ) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over the next three years (2011-2014).

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds (with up to £2 million being awarded to projects in each round). Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

Sport England's 'Inspired Facilities' funding programme will be delivered via five funding rounds and is due to launch in Summer 2011 where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

- ◀ Organisations that haven't previously received a Sport England Lottery grant of over £10k.
- ◀ Projects that are the only public sports facility in the local community.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Projects that offer local opportunities to people who do not currently play sport.

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces

# TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## ***Strategic Facilities Fund***

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term. Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- ◀ A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- ◀ Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- ◀ Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- ◀ A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- ◀ Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- ◀ Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- ◀ Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- ◀ Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

## TELFORD AND WREKIN PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

### Funder's requirements

Below is a list of funding requirements that can typically be expected to be provided as part of a funding bid, some of which will fall directly out of the Playing Pitch Strategy:

- ◀ Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- ◀ Articulate what difference the Project will make.
- ◀ Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- ◀ Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- ◀ Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- ◀ Financial need and project cost.
- ◀ Funding profile (i.e., Who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).
- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- ◀ Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- ◀ Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- ◀ Assessment of risk.

### Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance.aspx)

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2011. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices for 1st Quarter 2010 provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.

New work output is forecast to fall a little in 2011 as the cuts in public sector spending start to make their mark, partly mitigated by private sector output starting to recover more strongly. It is anticipated that there will be a return to sluggish growth in 2012, as public sector cuts deepen. The BCIS forecast is for tender prices to rise by 2.8% in the year to 4th quarter 2011, rising by 3.1% over the following year.