



# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## STRATEGY REPORT – PART ONE NOVEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation Turf
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
CAT	Community Asset Transfer
CC	Cricket Club
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
GB	Great Britain
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club
M	Metres
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PP	PitchPower
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RMBC	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
SE	Sport England
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S&HFA	Sheffield & Hallamshire Football Association
U	Under
WR	World Rugby
YCF	Yorkshire Cricket Foundation

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Building upon the preceding updated Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. Within this, it includes:

- ◀ A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations.
- ◀ A series of strategic objectives and recommendations.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritises and can address key issues.
- ◀ Guidance as to how the PPS can be delivered.

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

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

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete.

The ANOG has a similar staged approach, as follows:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand.
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together.
- ◀ Application: Application of an assessment.

Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises. The lifespan of a PPS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date.

An up-to-date PPS provides the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements. Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning, local policies and sport development criteria can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. Many of the objectives and actions will therefore need to be delivered and implemented by e.g. sports organisations and education establishments, in addition to the Council. Although some investment will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development.

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## Study area

The study area for the PPS covers the full Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council area. This comprises of a central, densely populated urban core with suburban and less populated wards predominantly located in northern and southern parts.

In addition to the Borough-wide assessment, analysis areas (or sub areas) have also been used to allow for a more localised approach. For this, three areas have been used, with these known as North, Central and South, aligning to the Council's Neighbourhood Team areas and supporting how the Council manages the Borough. It is said that these sub areas also fit well with perceived sporting catchment areas and travel patterns, whilst they also fit with the Council's ward-based plans to support ambitions of the Moving Rotherham and Cultural Partnership boards. Alignment also exists to Police boundaries, the National Health Service and Inclusive Care Board groups.

The three sub-areas can be seen via the table and figure below.

Figure 1.1: Analysis area breakdown



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Table 1.1: Summary of analysis areas

Analysis area	Wards included
North	Dalton and Thrybergh, Hoover ,Kilnhurst and Swinton East, Rawmarsh East, Rawmarsh West, Swinton Rockingham and Wath
Central	Boston Castle, Greasbrough, Keppel, Rotherham East, Rotherham West and Sitwell
South	Anston and Woodsetts, Aston and Todwick, Aughton and Swallownest, Bramley and Ravenfield, Brinsworth, Dinnington, Hellaby and Maltby West, Rothervale, Thurcroft and Wickersley South, Wales and Wickersley North

In addition, cross-boundary aspects are also recognised in regard to neighbouring (and nearby) local authorities, including Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield. This includes reference to imported and exported demand into and from Rotherham as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

### Scope

As standard, the PPS covers the following ‘core’ playing pitch sports, which are:

- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Football
- ◀ Hockey
- ◀ Rugby league
- ◀ Rugby union

Detail appertaining to third generation turf (3G) pitches is also included and separated out due to the number of sports such provision can accommodate. This predominately relates to football but is also relevant to both rugby codes.

In addition, tennis, despite being a ‘non-pitch’ sport, has also been included within the scope of the study. Information relating to outdoor courts (including padel) is also therefore featured within the document.

Sport England’s PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified. ANOG guidance applies to tennis.

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### PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

The vision of the Rotherham PPS is:

'Rotherham's Playing Pitch Strategy aims to facilitate the provision of high-quality places to play sport across the borough. It reviews existing pitch provision, helping to protect key sites and target investment where it's needed most, including supporting local clubs. In turn, this helps more people to get active, more often - fostering good health, wellbeing and community harmony'

To achieve this vision, the PPS also delivers against the following objectives:

- ◀ To provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches.
- ◀ To provide information to assist performance management and asset management.
- ◀ To provide information to underpin the protection, enhancement and improvement of the existing pitch stock and improvements in community access to educational and non-local authority pitches.
- ◀ To enable local standards of provision to be developed to ensure the adequate provision of new pitches in relation to new housing developments.
- ◀ To provide good-quality information and evidence of need for funding bids for new and improved provision.
- ◀ To ensure strong links to all NGB plans and relevant facilities strategies.
- ◀ To provide the context for sports development which aims to develop the range of opportunities available.

In addition, the following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 2.1 below). It is recommended that these are also adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS as well as Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all relevant stakeholders.

#### AIM 1

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

#### AIM 2

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

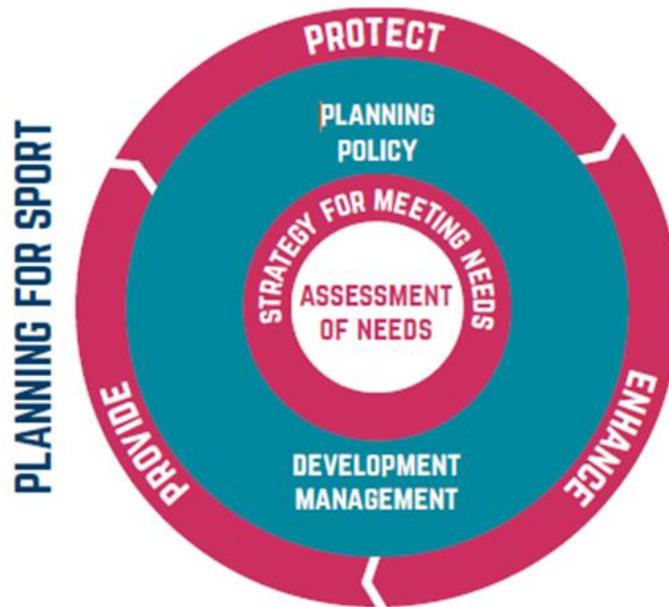
#### AIM 3

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

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Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



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

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### PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

The table below highlights the current quantitative shortfalls for each main pitch sport included within the PPS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Natural turf pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions. The table below therefore uses this for football, rugby union and cricket, converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place (its current use) into the same unit of demand to enable an analysis to be undertaken.

Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session unit for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

For artificial surfaces, the carrying capacity of the provision is much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how usage adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis. This is pertinent to 3G pitches and hockey suitable AGPs (sand/water-based pitches).

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance to 2040 (match equivalent sessions)
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 2.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 3.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 12.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 6.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 4.5
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7.5</b>

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance to 2040 (match equivalent sessions)
Rotherham	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 15.5
Rotherham	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 8
Rotherham	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 4
Rotherham	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 10.5	Spare capacity of 8
<b>3G pitches</b>			
North	11v11	Shortfall of 1.75	N/A
Central	11v11	Shortfall of 1.75	N/A
South	11v11	Shortfall of 5.25	N/A
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.75</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5</b>
<b>Cricket squares</b>			
North	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 28	Shortfall of 28
North	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 28	Shortfall of 28
North	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 24	Shortfall of 26
Central	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 20	Shortfall of 32
Central	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 20	Shortfall of 20
Central	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 16	Shortfall of 18
South	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 189	Shortfall of 213
South	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 189	Shortfall of 189
South	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 182	Shortfall of 190
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Senior (Saturday)</b>	<b>Shortfall of 237</b>	<b>Shortfall of 273</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Senior (Sunday)</b>	<b>Shortfall of 237</b>	<b>Shortfall of 237</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Junior (midweek)</b>	<b>Shortfall of 222</b>	<b>Shortfall of 234</b>
<b>Rugby union – grass pitches</b>			
North	-	Shortfall of 4.75	Shortfall of 5.75
Central	-	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 7.5
South	-	Shortfall of 6.75	Shortfall of 10.25
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Shortfall of 19</b>	<b>Shortfall of 23.5</b>
<b>Rugby league – grass pitches</b>			
North	Senior	No supply or demand	No supply or demand
Central	Senior	No supply or demand	No supply or demand
South	Senior	No supply or demand	No supply or demand
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>No supply or demand</b>	<b>No supply or demand</b>
<b>Hockey pitches</b>			
North	Full size	No supply or demand	No supply or demand
Central	Full size	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
South	Full size	Played to capacity	Played to capacity

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance to 2040 (match equivalent sessions)
Rotherham	Full size	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1

For tennis, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing (match equivalent sessions is not used) and with focus often away from formal activity. The current and future picture is therefore instead summarised in the table below, with including specific reference to padel.

Table 3.2: Headline findings (tennis)

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	For non-club courts, no capacity issues have been identified, meaning all sites are considered to have capacity for additional growth. However, this does not equate to a surplus of courts given the high levels of unmet/latent demand identified. There is a resultant need to improve quality across many sites as well as increasing the level of sports-lit provision. For club-based tennis, the supply of provision is sufficient to meet demand, with current and expected future activity at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club being adequately accommodated. The same is also expected to apply at Ravenfield Tennis Court, although demand levels need to be monitored as and when a club forms at the site to ensure that this is the case.
<b>Padel</b>	There are currently no padel courts located in the Borough, despite LTA methodology identifying a total need for 21. As such, there is a significant shortfall of provision.

### Conclusion

The existing position for the included sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with national planning policy.

For the most part, the shortfalls identified could be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting and bringing disused sites back into use. However, there will likely be a need for some new provision in specific areas to completely alleviate existing and future deficits given the considerable shortfalls identified, especially for cricket and rugby union. This will also be necessary where other methods for eradicating the shortfalls are not possible (e.g., financially), or where major housing growth is proposed.

In addition, there is a clear shortfall of 3G pitches and padel courts that cannot be overcome without the creation of new facilities. Existing playing field sites and areas could, however, be utilised, at least to some extent.

Where spare capacity exists or where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming deficits elsewhere. As such, the specific sites where actual spare capacity exists must still be protected so that they can be utilised for alleviating current and potential future shortfalls (e.g., via the transfer of demand).

### PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, to help develop actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, several scenario questions are tested against the findings evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report. This then informs the sport specific recommendations that are made.

The included scenarios focus on the impact that they will have on the shortfalls and key issues identified and how they can be overcome. However, whilst each can improve the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out some scenarios to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of actions will instead be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.

For some sports, no scenarios are included, although that is not to say that no action is required. Instead, recommendations are clear without the requirement for scenarios to be tested. For site-specific and more localised recommendations, please refer to the Action Plan in Part 6 of this report.

#### 4.1: Football – grass pitches

##### Assessment Report summary

###### Supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity is identified across 66 pitches and totals 47 match equivalent sessions per week, whereas overplay is found on 24 pitches and equates to 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- There are current and future shortfalls of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types, whereas overall spare capacity exists on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- The analysis shows that the level of grass football pitch supply is insufficient to meet demand, although only in relation to youth football.

###### Supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 237 grass football pitches across 81 sites in Rotherham, with 213 pitches across 69 sites identified as being available for community use.
- There are currently 26 pitches across 24 sites which are not currently marked out but have been in the past (disused).
- Of the community available pitches, most are managed by education providers (77), whilst 46 are managed by the Council and 22 by a parish or town council.
- Whilst tenure is generally secure across Rotherham, 15 clubs are accessing unsecure sites, all of which are schools.
- There are 54 good quality community available pitches, 110 standard quality pitches and 49 poor quality pitches.
- A total of 16 sites have received a PitchPower assessment, whilst 16 have received FF investment for quality improvements.
- Ten sites are considered to have poor quality ancillary facilities, whereas many additional sites are without any purposeful provision.

###### Demand summary

- In total there are 556 teams across 117 clubs which are identified as playing within Rotherham, with this equating to 130 adult teams, 151 youth 11v11 teams, 99 youth 9v9 teams, 94 mini 7v7 teams and 82 mini 5v5 teams.

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- ◀ There are currently 39 women's teams and 55 dedicated girls' teams playing football in Rotherham, representing 17% of all demand.
- ◀ Two men's and one women's team play within the NLS.
- ◀ A total of 18 clubs identify latent demand in that they could field additional teams if they had access to more or better quality pitch provision.
- ◀ Three clubs import some level of demand from Sheffield.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, 10 quantify aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 59 teams.
- ◀ Population growth forecasts a growth of 35 teams, with this equating to nine adult, 15 youth and 11 mini teams.

### Scenarios

#### *Improving pitch quality and addressing overplay*

In order to improve the overall quality of grass football pitches, it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (weekly for football), as shown in the preceding Assessment Report.

In total, there are 24 pitches in Rotherham across 16 sites that are currently overplayed by a combined total of 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls across the Borough.

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

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

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
16	Barkers Park	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5	0
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	North	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5	0
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	North	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1	2	0
61	Greenlands Park	South	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5	0
61	Greenlands Park	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5	0

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
75	Kilnhurst Recreation Ground	North	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	0
78	Kiveton Park	South	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	0
80	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	Standard	2	1	-
85	Maltby Lilly Hall Academy	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1	0.5
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	South	Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	1.5	4.5	0
91	Millmoor Juniors Football Club	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Good	1	1	-
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	7.5	4.5	-
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1	0.5
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5	0
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	1	1	0
106	Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club	North	Youth (9v9)	1	Good	1	1	-
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	3	0	-
117	Ruby Cook Recreation Ground	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	0
120	Sitwell Junior School	Central	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1	0
124	St Bernards Catholic High School	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	0
132	Swinton Academy	North	Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	1	3	0
141	Thurcroft Hub	South	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	3.5	0.5	-

As seen, if the quality of overplayed pitches was improved to good, 27 match equivalent sessions per week of potential spare capacity would be created, although five currently overplayed pitches would remain as such even if quality is maximised (two of these are already good quality). This applies to provision at Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground, Millmoor Juniors Football Club, Phoenix Sports & Social Club, Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club and Thurcroft Hub.

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As also seen in the above table, whilst improving pitch quality would provide an overwhelming benefit to reducing overplay and improving the user experience, it would not generate a considerable amount of additional capacity in the peak periods of play (only 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week). This is due to peak time usage already being maximised across the large majority of pitches.

Improving quality as set out will eradicate all existing shortfalls on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches on a Borough-wide basis, with spare capacity increased on adult and mini 7v7 pitches. There would be no change for mini 5v5 pitches. Furthermore, only localised shortfalls would remain for youth 11v11 pitches in the South Analysis Area.

Table 4.2: Supply and demand if quality improved to good (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 6.5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 2
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 2
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 6
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 14</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 3.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 3.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 8</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 10.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 10.5</b>

As shown below, on an authority level, the future shortfall amongst youth 11v11 provision would be reduced significantly, whilst the future shortfall for youth 9v9 pitches would be eradicated. There would be no change for mini 5v5 pitches. Furthermore, future spare capacity would increase across adult and mini 7v7 pitches.

Table 4.3: Future balance if quality improved to good (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 3
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 4
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 0.5

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 1
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 4.5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 4.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Played to capacity
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
Rotherham	Adult	Spare capacity of 7.5	Spare capacity of 9.5
Rotherham	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 15.5	Shortfall of 1
Rotherham	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 8	Spare capacity of 0.5
Rotherham	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 5
Rotherham	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 8	Spare capacity of 8

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality, where possible, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. It is, however, noted that this approach is not always realistic in rural communities as a result of long travel distances.

### *Providing security of tenure*

Currently, 44.5 match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches across Rotherham. If these pitches were to fall out of use, on a Borough-wide level, shortfalls would worsen on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whereas spare capacity of adult and mini 5v5 pitches would diminish. Localised current shortfalls would also increase within each of the analysis areas, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.4: Supply and demand balance without unsecure sites (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 1.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 7.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 6.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 3
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 2
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 12
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 13
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Played to capacity
Rotherham	Adult	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 9

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Rotherham	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 20
Rotherham	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 20.5
Rotherham	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 2.5
Rotherham	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 10.5	Shortfall of 1

As shown below, on an authority level, future shortfalls would exacerbate across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst additional shortfalls would emerge for mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. In addition, future spare capacity would reduce for adult pitches.

Table 4.5: Future balance without unsecure sites (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Shortfall of 2.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Played to capacity
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 8.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 7.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Shortfall of 3.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Played to capacity
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 14.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Shortfall of 15
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 0.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Shortfall of 1.5
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 4.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 15.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 24.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8</b>	<b>Shortfall of 23.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 4</b>	<b>Shortfall of 0.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 8</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>

In addition to unsecured sites that are currently in use, 24 match equivalent sessions per week of potential spare capacity is discounted due to there being no security of tenure for the clubs playing at the site. Gaining secured access to these pitches would reduce current shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst spare capacity on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches would increase. At a localised level, shortfalls would reduce on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches in the Central and South analysis areas.

Table 4.6: Balance after securing access to unsecure sites (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 3
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 5

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 1
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 9.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 3
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 7.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 10
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 14</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 0.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 14</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 10.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 15</b>

The impact of securing tenure to all sites on future demand is shown in the following table. Future shortfalls would reduce on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst at a localised level, they would reduce on 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches in the Central and South analysis areas.

Table 4.7: Future balance with access to unsecure sites (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 3
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 3
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 2
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 1.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 1
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 12
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Shortfall of 5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 8.5
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 9.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 15.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 4</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 11</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 8</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12.5</b>

*Bringing disused pitches back into use*

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

There are currently 26 pitches across 24 sites which are not currently marked out but have been in the past. If the pitches at these sites were to be brought back into community, shortfalls would be eradicated on youth 9v9 pitches and reduced on youth 11v11 pitches. In contrast, the spare capacity of adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches would increase.

Table 4.8: Impact on current supply/demand through bringing back disused pitches

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 7
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 11
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 7
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 2.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 6
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 22</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 8</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 10.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 11.5</b>

The impact this would have on future demand is shown in the following table. Future shortfalls would be reduced on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. In addition, future spare capacity would increase for adult pitches, mini 7v7 pitches and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.9: Impact on future supply and demand through bringing back disused pitches

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 3
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 2.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 1

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 9
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 9.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Shortfall of 4.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 17.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 15.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 4</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 8</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 9</b>

### *Impact of actioning all scenarios*

If pitch quality was improved on overplayed pitches, tenure was secured across all sites and disused pitches were brought back into use, all current shortfalls would eradicate, and spare capacity would be left for each pitch type on a Rotherham-wide basis.

Table 4.10: Impact of actioning all scenarios (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 8.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 12.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 5
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Spare capacity of 5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 0.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 12.5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Spare capacity of 1.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 9.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 10
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 26</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 19.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 13</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 16</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 10.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 16</b>

The impact on future demand is shown in the following table. All future shortfalls would eradicate on a Borough-wide basis, and spare capacity would be left for each pitch type.

Table 4.11: Future impact through actioning all scenarios (in match equivalent sessions)

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 11.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 1.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 1
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 1
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 10.5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 1
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 7.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 8.5
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 21.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 15.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 15</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 10</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 4</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 13</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 8</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 13.5</b>

It should be noted that whilst idealistic, in practise, delivering the above outcomes is not considered to be wholly feasible, with pitch quality improvements unlikely to be achieved at some venues and with not all operators willing to enter community use agreements. Additionally, the FF anticipates that football participation will grow beyond the projections used so far within this process due to ongoing trends. This is further explored in the following scenarios.

### *Accounting for future demand club aspirations*

Future demand has thus far been analysed against population growth (up to 2040); however, the following scenario examines the impact of growth via club ambitions also being achieved. This was detailed in the preceding Assessment Report before being discounted due to being considered more aspirational.

The table below shows that when accounting for future demand via club aspirations, Borough-wide shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 would worsen, whilst spare capacity would diminish for adult and mini 7v7 pitches. Furthermore, spare capacity would be lost entirely for mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.12: Impact of club growth aspirations being realised (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 3.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 5.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Played to capacity

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 3.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 13
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 9.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Played to capacity
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 19.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 16</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 6</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 10.5</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>

### *Continuation of growth trends*

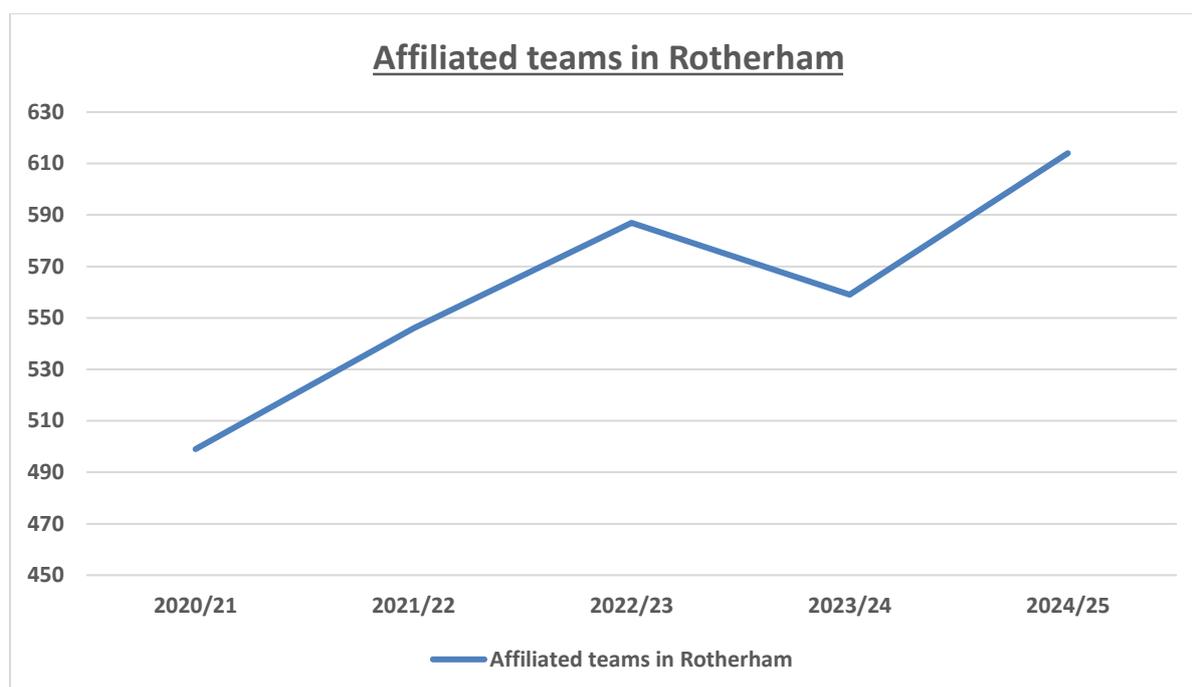
This scenario examines the impact of future demand for pitches based on potential growth from historical FA affiliation data (assuming that recent trends continue). Figure 4.1 below plots forecasted increases, considering the following demand from previous seasons:

- ◀ 2020/21: 499 teams.
- ◀ 2021/22: 546 teams.
- ◀ 2022/23: 587 teams.
- ◀ 2023/24: 559 teams.
- ◀ 2024/25: 614 teams.

With an average yearly increase of 5% in Rotherham between 2021 and 2025, this would result in an additional 170 teams and 85 match equivalent sessions per week over the next five years. On this basis, participation increases reported by clubs during consultation is significantly lower than those identified through forecasting growth via this method (as is growth determined via population growth).

Figure 4.1: Annual growth in football teams across Rotherham (2021-2025)

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY



If the above future demand through forecasted growth was to be realised over the next five years, this would increase or create shortfalls on each type, with this being particularly significant on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.13: Supply and demand based on 5-year trend (in match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	Current capacity	Potential capacity
Adult	Spare capacity of 12	Shortfall of 8
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 34
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 20
Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 7	Shortfall of 7
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 10.5	Shortfall of 2.5

Given the current shortfalls identified for grass football pitches, this further evidences the need to improve pitch quality at overplayed sites, secure unsecured sites and to potentially develop more pitches (which could include 3G pitches) to better support this anticipated growth in demand.

Given the differing levels of future growth identified, actual growth should be further monitored regularly via Stage E updates to fully understand which growth scenario (population forecasts, continuation of growth trends or club aspirations) is likely to be the most accurate.

### *Creation of a central venue league*

Given the scale of 3G pitch shortfalls coupled with the identified grass pitch shortfalls, there is potential evidence to support the development of a multi 3G pitch football hub site<sup>1</sup> in Rotherham. This could then have the ability of hosting a central venue football league, whereby all matches would be held on an 11v11 3G pitch.

<sup>1</sup><https://sapca.org.uk/case-studies/ambitious-development-to-create-football-hub-in-washington-sunderland/>

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Currently, the Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League caters for the largest demand across the Borough, made up of 313 teams across 33 clubs. Of these, 71 teams currently access 3G pitches for match play demand and, as such, these teams have been discounted from the scenario below.

If all match play demand from the League within Rotherham was dispersed onto 3G pitches, all pitch types would be left with significant spare capacity. This is shown further in the following table.

Table 4.14: Impact of a central venue league (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 13
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 9.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3.5
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Spare capacity of 5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 6
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Spare capacity of 9.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 10.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 20.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 25
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 27.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 21.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 33.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 10.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 39.5</b>

The impact this would have on future demand is shown in the following table. Future shortfalls would be alleviated on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, with significant spare capacity produced across all pitch types.

Table 4.15: Future impact of a central venue league (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 11
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 9
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2.5
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Spare capacity of 3

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 5.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 4.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Spare capacity of 7
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Spare capacity of 8.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 18.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 23.5
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 7.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 8</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 15.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 23</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 18.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 4</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 30.5</b>
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 8</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 37</b>

It should be stressed that there have been no direct conversations identifying a potential site for Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League to manage. Furthermore, it is important to caveat that this scenario incorporates assumptions based solely on scale; further engagement is required with the League to fully understand the appetite for a 3G pitch central venue transition, and that other leagues could also be considered within this.

The 3G section within this part of the report also explores how many 3G pitches would be required to support the activity.

### *New grass pitches*

Where shortfalls remain despite actioning other scenarios, this may necessitate the creation of new grass pitches (or bringing disused pitches back into use). This is also the case when and where other solutions cannot be actioned in full.

The table below explores the number of new grass pitches required for each playing format based on current shortfalls, on the assumption that no improvement is made to the existing supply to increase capacity. As seen, this totals 16 pitches, 11 of which would derive from youth 11v11 provision, which is fairly significant.

Table 4.16: Potential number of new grass pitches required to alleviate current shortfalls

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Adult	Spare capacity of 12	-
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 11	11
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 5	5
Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 7	-
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 10.5	-

In addition, the requirements increase when accounting for future demand, as seen in the following table. It totals 24 pitches across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 4.17: Potential number of new grass pitches required to alleviate future shortfalls

Pitch type	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Adult	Spare capacity of 7.5	-

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Pitch type	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 15.5	16
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 8	8
Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4	-
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 8	-

### *Ancillary provision*

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

As outlined in the Assessment Report, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for football clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls', disability and mini demand.

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

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

Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience.

### **Recommendations**

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of pitches and areas used for football activity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ✦ Improve pitch quality with a focus on overplayed pitches (e.g. at Thurcroft Hub) and key sites for women's and girls' football (e.g. at Phoenix Sports & Social Club).
- ✦ Utilise the FF's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ✦ Provide security of tenure at sites, with a focus on those currently in use by clubs (e.g. at Swinton Academy) and those that provide multiple pitches.
- ✦ Consider bringing disused sites back into use, particularly when multi-pitch and in areas where existing shortfalls are present.
- ✦ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so, where it can benefit the wider footballing offer (e.g. at Stelrad Park) and where women's and girls' football can be supported.
- ✦ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.

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- ◀ Monitor participation growth of football through Stage E to ensure needs of community clubs continue to be met as needed.
- ◀ Consider the creation of a central venue for large league-based activity and the resultant transfer of demand from grass pitches.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls.

### 4.2: Third generation turf (3G) pitches

#### Assessment Report summary

##### Supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is insufficient supply of 3G provision to meet football requirements, with large shortfalls identified across the Borough to meet training demand (in each analysis area)
- ◀ For rugby union, evidence exists to support the creation of World Rugby compliant provision given the large grass pitch shortfalls that have been identified.
- ◀ No action is presently required in relation to any other sports (rugby league information to be added).

##### Supply summary

- ◀ There are six 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham across the same number of sites, with all six pitches sports lit and available for community use.
- ◀ There are also ten smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites in Rotherham, with each serviced by sports lighting and nine considered to be available to the community.
- ◀ All six full size as well as the smaller sized pitches at Kiveton Community Sports Park and Parkgate Astro are FA approved to accommodate match play.
- ◀ No pitches are World Rugby or RFL compliant.
- ◀ Five of the six 11v11 3G pitches are managed by education providers with only the 11v11 3G pitch located at Blackout13.com Arena separate to this (it is operated by Dinnington Resource Centre).
- ◀ Availability is relatively good across the provision, with the only exception being at Maltby Academy, where no weekend accessibility is offered.
- ◀ The 11v11 3G pitch located at Maltby Academy is assessed as standard quality, whilst the remaining 11v11 3G pitches are good quality.
- ◀ All smaller sized 3G pitches are good or standard quality, with each within its recommended lifespan.
- ◀ No ancillary facility issues have been identified.

##### Demand summary

- ◀ The majority of 3G provision currently servicing Rotherham is reported by providers and clubs as operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ In total, only seven hours of midweek spare capacity and eight hours of weekend spare capacity is identified across the 11v11 stock.
- ◀ All off the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is currently football related.
- ◀ Demand is received from football clubs not only for training demand but also for match play, with 129 teams currently using 3G provision for this purpose.
- ◀ A total of 12 clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with this representing a high proportion of unmet demand (129 teams are represented).
- ◀ There are 25 teams exporting 3G pitch demand outside of Rotherham (to Sheffield).
- ◀ If future demand from population projections and club aspirations is realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for football.
- ◀ Future demand could also exist for rugby union and rugby league based on the current supply and demand picture.

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## Scenarios

### *Accommodating football training demand*

Based on the FA Training Model, which identifies that an 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 teams for training activity, there is a current requirement for 16.25 11v11 3G pitch equivalents in Rotherham (rounded up from 16.16). This calculation includes affiliated football teams (556), exported demand (25 teams), walking football (seven teams), disability teams (13 teams), education teams (16 teams) and U6 teams (three teams), with six imported teams excluded from the total as they do not generate local demand.

In total, the above equates to 614 teams in Rotherham. Against the current supply of 7.25 11v11 3G pitches, there is therefore a shortfall of nine 11v11 3G pitch equivalents to meet training demand across the Borough.

Table 4.18: Current demand for 3G pitches in Rotherham (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
614	16.25	7.25	9

When considering future demand for an additional 58 teams (based on population growth up to 2040), there is potential demand for 17 full size pitches overall (rounded down from 17.08), which means a theoretical future shortfall of 9.75 pitches.

Table 4.19: Future demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham (38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
649	17	7.25	9.75

If every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play their matches in, all three analysis areas would reflect a current shortfall, with the largest identified in the South Analysis Area (5.25 pitches).

Table 4.20: Current demand for 3G pitches in Rotherham by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches
North	144	3.75	2	1.75
Central	119	3.25	1.25	2
South	351	9.25	4	5.25
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>16.25</b>	<b>7.25</b>	<b>9</b>

### *Accounting for additional future demand*

When factoring in future demand via participation increases (club aspirations), the overall requirement would increase to 18 11v11 3G pitch equivalents in Rotherham (rounded up from 17.97), with a future shortfall of 10.75 pitches. At a localised level, the largest future shortfall would be identified in the South Analysis Area (six pitches). Furthermore, both of the remaining analysis areas would also have a relatively large a future shortfall.

This demand has previously been discounted from the PPS due to being considered more aspirational than future growth from population growth. However, based on recent participation trends, it is considered to be possible by the FF.

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Table 4.21: Future shortfall of 3G pitches via club aspirations (by analysis area)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches
North	176	4.75	2	2.75
Central	123	3.25	1.25	2
South	384	10	4	6
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7.25</b>	<b>10.75</b>

The table below shows the total need for 3G pitches when accounting for the growth rate trend for football to 2030 (identified in Figure 4.1). This achieves a higher participation total than when compared to the population change and club aspirations and identifies a shortfall of 13.5 11v11 3G pitches by 2030 as opposed to 9.75 3G pitches by 2040.

Table 4.22: Future demand based on participation trends (5-year growth rate)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
784	20.75	7.25	13.5

*Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches*

In Rotherham, currently 129 affiliated teams are registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play. To increase 3G match play demand, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for 11v11 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. At peak time for each format of play, this applies to 107 teams in Rotherham.

Table 4.23: Number of teams currently using council-pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	34
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	25
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	16
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	17
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	15
<b>Total</b>			<b>107</b>

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of 11v11 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.24: 11v11 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No. of teams at peak time	No. of matches at peak time	No. of 3G units required per match <sup>2</sup>	Total 3G units required	No. of 3G pitches required
Adult	34	17	32	544	8.5
11v11	25	12.5	32	400	6.25
9v9	16	8	10	80	1.25
7v7	17	8.5	8	68	1.0625
5v5	15	7.5	4	30	0.46875

<sup>2</sup> Based on how pitches are split within a 11v11 3G pitch.

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Transferring all matches currently on council and parish/town council pitches would equate to the need for 17.5 11v11 3G pitches. However, as this is more than the number of pitches required to meet current training demand, it could be unfeasible to provide this number in the short-term (as without sufficient midweek access the excess number may become unsustainable).

An alternative approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football from grass to 3G pitches. As such, the table below tests a scenario that would enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.25: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

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

Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for eight full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 82 teams playing 5v5 football and 94 teams playing 7v7 football. This could therefore be accommodated via the supply of only two additional 11v11 3G pitches.

### *Requirement of 3G pitches to accommodate a central venue league in Rotherham*

The table below identifies the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate a central venue league (the Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League) in Rotherham, as also outlined within the grass pitch scenario section. Currently, the Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League caters for the largest demand across the Borough, made up of 313 teams across 33 clubs. Of these, 71 teams currently access 3G pitches for match play demand. Based on the FA Training Model, which identifies that an 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 teams for training activity, there is a current requirement for 6.5 11v11 3G pitch equivalents in Rotherham (rounded up from 6.37).

Table 4.26: Potential demand based on a central venue league being hosted in Rotherham

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Number of 3G pitches	Potential surplus
242	6.5	7.25	0.75

As seen, the current supply of 3G pitches in Rotherham can accommodate the league's activity in Rotherham, although this would entail it being spread across several sites. In reality, for a central venue system to truly work, multiple suitable pitches need to be provided at one or two sites (e.g., one site needs to provide 6.5 pitches, or two sites collectively need to).

### **Borough-wide multi-sport approach to new 3G stock**

Meeting the growing demand for high quality playing facilities in Rotherham requires targeted investment in additional 3G provision, with priority as outlined above given to football. However, a multi-sport approach should also be adopted when addressing the need for 3G provision across the Borough, with attention also given to additional activity that can be accommodate, particularly in regards to rugby union. This is because there are significant

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shortfalls in grass pitch capacity for the sport, with further detail relating to this and the number of 3G pitches potentially required provided in Section 4.3.

Notwithstanding the above, it should also be noted that any 3G pitches developed for multi-sport activity may increase the overall number required to meet football demand. This is because such provision will have more limited capacity i.e. to cater for 38 teams for training, as per the FA's model.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls.
- ◀ Consider creation of a 3G pitch hub as a means to reducing the shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure all existing and new 3G providers have a pitch replacement fund in place for long-term sustainability and seek resurfacing when pitches reach the end of their recommended lifespan.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA quality standards.
- ◀ Seek FIFA/FA testing of all existing and new 3G pitches so that they can be used for competitive football matches and ensure re-testing when it is required,
- ◀ Where the delivery of new 3G pitch stock is considered, explore the feasibility of making such provision World Rugby compliant to facilitate multi-sport use and to help alleviate rugby union grass pitch shortfalls.
- ◀ Where provision is established as World Rugby compliant, ensure construction is to RFU requirements and ensure re-testing every two years.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches in order to reduce grass pitch shortfalls and increase overall capacity.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to establish a network of 3G pitch central venues and to transition Rotherham-based leagues to operate/play in this way.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- ◀ Ensure ancillary facilities are appropriate to support 3G pitch provision, meeting all relevant NGB standards (e.g. FA, RFU & RFL).
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are serviced by sports lighting (LED with controllable switch gear) to maximise usage potential.
- ◀ Ensure suitable infill containment measures are installed to existing supply where possible and that all pitches have containment and recycling strategies in place, with alternatives to rubber crumb to potentially be explored.

### 4.3: Rugby union - grass pitches

#### Assessment Report summary

##### **Rugby union – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ No actual spare capacity has been identified.
- ◀ There are seven pitches across five sites that are overplayed by a combined 19 match equivalent sessions, which is substantial.
- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 19 match equivalent sessions to meet current demand, with this increasing to 23.5 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

##### **Rugby union – supply summary**

- ◀ There are 20 grass rugby union pitches identified across 13 sites in Rotherham.
- ◀ All pitches are available at some level for community use, albeit not all are being accessed.
- ◀ There are no WR22 compliant 3G pitches in Rotherham.
- ◀ Of the pitches, nine are operated by clubs and nine are operated by schools, with the remaining two being managed by the Council.

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- ◀ Tenure for clubs is primarily secure at their primary venues, although some have unsecure access to secondary sites.
- ◀ Three pitches are assessed as good quality, 13 are assessed as standard quality and four are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Poor quality pitches are provided at Wales High School and Baths Field, neither of which are currently used by clubs.
- ◀ Three sports-lit pitches are provided at Phoenix Park, with one also in place at each of Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club, Rotherham Titans Rugby Club (Clifton Lane) and Wath Pump House Field.
- ◀ Rotherham Phoenix RUFC is without dedicated ancillary provision at Phoenix Park, with the facilities at Clifton Lane Rotherham Titans Rugby Club instead accessed.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities in place across the Borough are assessed as good or standard quality.

### Rugby union – demand summary

- ◀ Five rugby union clubs play within Rotherham consisting of 52 teams.
- ◀ As a breakdown, there are nine senior men's, 20 age grade boys', seven age grade girls' and 16 age grade mixed teams.
- ◀ No senior women's teams are currently fielded, although Dinnington RUFC has ambitions to establish a side over the coming years.
- ◀ In addition to match play demand, all clubs access sports-lit pitches for some level of training activity, with non-lit pitches at Maltby Miners Welfare, Wath Academy and St Pius X Catholic High School also utilised.
- ◀ Both Dinnington RUFC and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC report aspirations to grow their demand, with this collectively amounting to a potential increase of nine teams.
- ◀ Increases forecast from population growth amount to one senior men's, one age grade boys' and one age grade mixed team, although no growth is identified when applied on an analysis area basis.

## Scenarios

### *Improving pitch quality*

Improving pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and the installation of drainage systems would alleviate overplay on three of the seven overplayed rugby union pitches in Rotherham (leaving spare capacity), whilst overplay would be reduced on the remaining pitches. This is shown in the following table.

Table 4.27: Capacity of overplayed pitches if quality was maximised (M2/D3)

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Good quality rating (match equivalent sessions)
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	1	Standard (M1/D1)	6	4.5
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	1	Standard (M1/D1)	0.75	0.75
98	Phoenix Park	1	Standard (M1/D1)	3.5	2
98	Phoenix Park	1	Standard (M1/D1)	4	2.5
151	Wath Academy	1	Standard (M1/D1)	1.25	0.25
153	Wath Cricket Club	1	Standard (M1/D1)	3	1.5
154	Wath Pump House Field	1	Standard (M1/D1)	0.5	1

The table below shows that if the overplayed pitches were improved to good quality (M2/D3), both the current and future shortfalls in Rotherham would be reduced, albeit not alleviated entirely. A substantial level of shortfall would still remain, with this being due to particularly high demand levels across club-based sites.

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Table 4.28: Overall supply and demand balance with overplayed pitch quality improvements

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Current	19	10.5
Future	23.5	15

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

An alternative or addition to improving pitch quality is to install additional sports lighting across overplayed sites. However, this would not make a discernible difference in Rotherham as most overplayed sites are already serviced, whilst the remaining site at Wath Cricket Club has only one pitch so no demand could be transferred.

Another solution would be to develop and enable access to World Rugby compliant 3G provision. The following table therefore further explores this and potential capacity impact it could have if all training demand in Rotherham was to be transferred to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Table 4.29: Supply and demand balance with access to World Rugby compliant provision

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Potential quality	Good quality capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	1	Good (M2/D3)	4.5	2.5
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	1	Good (M2/D3)	0.75	0.75
98	Phoenix Park	1	Good (M2/D3)	2	1
98	Phoenix Park	1	Good (M2/D3)	2.5	0.5
151	Wath Academy	1	Good (M2/D3)	0.25	1.25
153	Wath Cricket Club	1	Good (M2/D3)	1.5	1.5
154	Wath Pump House Field	1	Good (M2/D3)	1	1

The table below shows that if the overplayed pitches were improved to good quality (M2/D3) and access to a World Rugby compliant pitch was enabled, that the current shortfall in Rotherham would be alleviated. A small future shortfall would, however, remain.

Table 4.30: Overall supply and demand balance with overplayed pitch quality improvements

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Current	19	0
Future	23.5	4.5

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that for all rugby union training demand to take place on 3G pitches, multiple World Rugby compliant facilities would be required. This

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is because one pitch would not be able to accommodate all of the demand, and it would not be reasonable to expect all clubs to travel to use it. In addition, transferring all training to a 3G pitch could negatively affect financial sustainability. Clubs currently earn significant income from clubhouse use on training nights, and this revenue stream would diminish if activity were relocated.

Locationally, a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in the North Analysis Area would cater for demand from Wath-upon-Deerne RUFC, whilst one in the Central Analysis Area would cater demand from Rotherham Phoenix RUFC and Rotherham Titans RUFC. A pitch in the South Analysis Area could cater for demand from Dinnington RUFC and Maltby RUFC.

Furthermore, as identified earlier in the report, a multi-sport approach should be adopted when addressing the need for 3G provision across the Borough, with facilities set up to support not only rugby union but also football (it is assumed that most developments will be football-led). This is because significant shortfalls in grass pitch capacity have been identified.

### *Accommodating future demand from club aspirations*

Future demand expressed through club aspirations and by the RFU based on its own targets projects the number of rugby union teams to grow by ten teams across Rotherham. This is broken down as eight teams (one senior men's team, one senior women's team, two age grade boys' teams, two age grade girls' teams & two age grade mixed teams) in the South Analysis Area (from Dinnington RUFC) and two teams (one senior men's team & one age grade girls' team) in the North Analysis Area (from Wath-upon-Deerne RUFC).

Future demand through club aspirations has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth; however, if such demand is realised, it will increase shortfalls throughout the Borough (by 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week). This is presented only on a Borough-wide basis, as when future demand generated via population growth is applied on an analysis area basis, it does not equate to a whole team for any of the formats. This is further shown in the following table.

Table 4.31: Impact of future demand generated via population growth up to 2040 (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current supply and demand balance	Future demand	Future supply and demand balance
North	-	4.75	4.75	-	-
Central	-	7.5	7.5	-	-
South	-	6.75	6.75	-	-
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>20.25</b>

As seen, the existing shortfall would increase overall across the Borough, this therefore increases the need for other scenarios to be actioned i.e., improved pitch quality, increased sports lighting and access to 3G provision.

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### *New grass pitches*

Where shortfalls remain despite actioning other scenarios, this may necessitate the creation of new grass pitches. This is also the case when and where other solutions cannot be actioned in full.

The table below explores the number of new grass pitches required based on current shortfalls, on the assumption that no improvement is made to the existing supply to increase capacity. As seen, this totals 19 pitches, equating to seven grass pitches in both the Central and South analysis areas and five grass pitches in the North Analysis Area.

Table 4.32: Potential number of new grass pitches required to alleviate current shortfalls

Analysis area	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
North	4.75	5
Central	7	7
South	6.75	7

In addition, the requirements increase when accounting for future demand, as seen in the following table. It totals 24 pitches, 11 of which would derive from the South Analysis area.

Table 4.33: Potential number of new grass pitches required to alleviate future shortfalls

Analysis area	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
North	5.75	6
Central	7	7
South	10.25	11

The above shows the importance of trying to rectify the deficits through improving pitch quality and installing World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. This is because the creation of at least 19 grass pitches is unfeasible and would involve significant land take.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches and areas used for rugby union activity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems.
- ◀ Seek to secure long-term access to the pitches at Wath Academy through a formal agreement between Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC and the School, ensuring the Club's continued use of the provision.
- ◀ Retain the stock of pitches at all education sites for continued curricular and extra-curricular usage and encourage improved club links where possible.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of providing one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in each analysis area, working in partnership with football stakeholders.
- ◀ Ensure ancillary facilities are inclusive and have appropriate segregation and improve quality across the Borough where required.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.

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- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

### 4.4: Rugby league - grass pitches

#### Assessment Report summary

##### Rugby league – supply and demand summary

- ◀ With no full-contact rugby league supply or demand identified in Rotherham, no current action is required in relation to the traditional form of sport.
- ◀ Any potential participation should be signposted to activity in neighbouring authorities to ensure that it can be accommodated.
- ◀ For Rotherham Nomads, continued access to the provision at Parkgate Astro (or a suitable alternative) is imperative.

##### Rugby league – supply summary

- ◀ There are currently no dedicated rugby league pitches within Rotherham.

##### Rugby league – demand summary

- ◀ There are no competitive, full-contact rugby league clubs based in Rotherham.
- ◀ Rotherham Giants RLFC had been the sole full-contact rugby league club in the Borough, based at Herringthorpe Playing Fields, before it folded in 2012.
- ◀ With no club based in Rotherham, it is likely that some demand will be exporting outside of the Borough to access clubs in nearby authorities (such as in Sheffield), although to what extent is difficult to determine.
- ◀ Rotherham Nomads is a community rugby league group specialising in X-League, which is a non-contact, mixed-gender variation of the sport designed to be inclusive, social and accessible to all abilities.

#### Scenarios

If participation grows to a level that supports establishing a new club during the PPS lifespan, demand should be directed to the North Analysis Area. This reflects the existing Tri-Tag provision at Parkgate Astro (Rotherham Nomads) and the high number of rugby union pitches which are frequently used to host rugby league when no dedicated pitches are available.

#### Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure any localised demand is signposted to clubs in neighbouring authorities until such a time when a sufficient level may exist for the formation of a Rotherham-based club.
- ◀ Establish links with schools to deliver rugby-league based activity to assist in growing the game.
- ◀ If a Rotherham-based club does form, ensure it has an appropriate site to play at (potentially via a dual use facility in the first instance).
- ◀ Ensure continued access for Rotherham Nomads to the provision at Parkgate Astro (or a suitable alternative).
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

### 4.5: Hockey - artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

#### Assessment Report summary

##### **Hockey – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There is a sufficient supply of hockey pitches in Rotherham to cater for current demand; however, any future demand is likely to result in capacity pressures being created.
- ◀ The pitches at Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School require ongoing protection for hockey, whilst improvements at Dinnington High School would be beneficial in order to provide a suitable overspill venue.
- ◀ To further increase capacity, reported cost issues at Aurora Playing Fields linked to Rotherham HC's community use agreement can be explored, whilst enabling regular Sunday access at Oakwood High School should also be prioritised.

##### **Hockey – supply summary**

- ◀ There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs in Rotherham (provided at Aurora Playing Fields, Dinnington High School and Oakwood High School), with each of these available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ The pitch at Aurora Playing Field is accessed by Rotherham HC, whilst the pitch at Oakwood High School is utilised by both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC (Dinnington High School is not currently used for any community hockey).
- ◀ There is also a smaller sized AGP with a hockey suitable surface at Clifton Community School (measuring 78 x 37 metres); however, it is not available for community use or serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ Whilst all three pitches are available for community use, the pitch at Oakwood High School is generally inaccessible on Fridays and Sundays, whereas Rotherham HC indicates that usage outside of its agreed community use agreement is too expensive.
- ◀ The pitch at Dinnington High School is assessed as poor quality, which is linked to its lack of hockey usage as it is not currently suitable for access.
- ◀ The pitches at Aurora Playing Field and Oakwood High School are good quality.
- ◀ Whilst no significant ancillary facility issues are identified, Rotherham HC reports that the provision at Aurora Playing Fields is not dedicated to the hockey pitch, leading it access Phoenix Sports & Social Club as a post-match base instead.

##### **Hockey – demand summary**

- ◀ There are 26 hockey teams fielded by the three community clubs, with this equating to eight senior men's, seven senior women's, four junior boys', five junior girls' and two mini (mixed) teams.
- ◀ Across the three clubs, there are 349 registered members, with this consisting of 172 seniors and 177 juniors.
- ◀ Both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC were previously primarily based in Sheffield, which meant that Phoenix HC was exporting demand (as a Rotherham-based club), whilst Chapeltown HC's is now importing demand (it is a Sheffield-based club).
- ◀ Chapeltown HC still utilises supplementary provision in Sheffield via a smaller sized pitch at Caribbean Sports Club for some junior activity; however, the operator of this site is reportedly exploring options that may result in the facility being unusable for hockey in the future.
- ◀ Rotherham HC indicates plans to increase by one senior men's team, in addition to growing its junior section.
- ◀ Football demand is relatively high at both Dinnington High School and Oakwood High School, which further limits capacity for hockey at the sites.
- ◀ At Aurora Playing Fields, no football activity is taking place due to the conditions of the community use agreement that stipulates that only hockey and lacrosse demand can access the provision.

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## Scenarios

### *Accommodating current demand*

For senior hockey, on the basis that there are three full size AGPs which can accommodate hockey matches in Rotherham, there is a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 24 hockey teams across the Borough (one pitch can meet demand for eight teams). As such, with 15 senior teams currently fielded in the Borough, this suggests that current supply is sufficient to accommodate demand. However, this is not a true reflection of overall capacity, with quality issues at Dinnington High School making the pitch unusable. As such, there is only capacity for one additional team to be fielded based on the current status of the provision.

The table below highlights the current capacity of community available AGPs within Rotherham on the basis that four match equivalent sessions per week can be catered for within the peak period (Saturday 09:00-17:00).

Table 4.34: Summary of capacity at peak time for senior hockey (Saturdays)

Site ID	Site	Peak time availability (Saturday)	Potential capacity (number of teams)	Actual capacity (number of teams)	Number of hockey teams using the provision	Capacity balance (number of teams)
14	Aurora Playing Field	09:00-17:00	8	8	8	0
49	Dinnington High School	09:00-15:00	8	-	-	-
95	Oakwood High School	09:00-17:00	8	8	7	1
-	-	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>

There is a sufficient supply of hockey pitches in Rotherham to cater for current demand. However, availability is extremely limited in relation to both match play and training usage at both Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School, with any future demand likely to result in capacity pressures being created. This is then a particular issue when considering that the alternative pitch at Dinnington High School cannot be used due to quality issues. The picture could also be impacted upon if Chapeltown HC loses access to the supplementary provision that it uses in Sheffield.

Based on the above, it is clear that the pitches at Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School require ongoing protection for hockey, whilst improvements at Dinnington High School would be beneficial in order to provide a suitable overspill venue. If this cannot be achieved, an alternative new pitch may be required.

In addition, there are clear means to further increase capacity via the pitches at Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School. For Aurora Playing Fields, reported cost issues linked to Rotherham HC's community use agreement can be explored, whilst enabling regular Sunday access at Oakwood High School should also be prioritised.

## Recommendations

- ✦ Protect all pitches for continued hockey demand.
- ✦ Resurface the pitch at Dinnington High School to provide a suitable overspill venue, or explore the creation of an alternative venue via the creation of a new pitch.
- ✦ Ensure sinking funds are in place across all venues to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ✦ Improve security of tenure for club access across the facility stock.

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

### 4.6: Cricket pitches

#### Assessment Report summary

##### **Cricket – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Actual spare capacity totals 12 match equivalent sessions for Saturday cricket, 21 match equivalent sessions for Sunday cricket and 26 match equivalent sessions for midweek cricket, whereas a total of 11 sites are overplayed by 237 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ◀ Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket capacity in Rotherham to cater for all formats of cricket (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket).
- ◀ When considering future demand, the shortfall worsens for each playing format.

##### **Cricket – supply summary**

- ◀ In total, there are 19 grass wicket cricket squares provided across the same number of sites, with all 19 available for community use.
- ◀ There are a total of 33 NTPs across the Borough, with 13 accompanying grass wickets squares and the remaining 20 being standalone (eight are unavailable for community use).
- ◀ There are eight sites with disused cricket provision identified.
- ◀ Two clubs are without security of tenure, with these being Kiveton Park Colliery CC and Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC.
- ◀ The audit of grass wicket cricket squares found two (11%) to be good quality, 14 (73%) to be of standard quality and three to be poor quality (16%).
- ◀ Four sites are accompanied by good quality ancillary provision and eight sites are accompanied by standard quality provision, one has poor quality facilities, and one site (Greenlands Park) does not offer any ancillary pavilion provision.
- ◀ A total of 15 sites offer some form of outdoor training provision; however, eight responsive clubs (57%) report a need for new, additional or improved practice facilities.

##### **Cricket – demand summary**

- ◀ There are 21 clubs generating a total of 109 teams, which as a breakdown totals 50 senior men's, seven senior women's, 48 junior boys' and four junior girls' teams.
- ◀ Rotherham Town CC previously provided additional demand prior to the 2025 season.
- ◀ 11 clubs currently take part in the All-Stars, 10 take part in Dynamos initiatives and seven host women's softball cricket.
- ◀ Upper Haugh CC and Whiston Parish Church CC currently export demand outside of Rotherham to fulfil match demand and seven clubs are travelling outside of the Borough to access indoor cricket provision.
- ◀ No clubs report any latent or unmet demand, and no imported demand is received.
- ◀ Future demand from population forecasts equates to the predicted growth of three senior men's teams and three junior teams.
- ◀ There are nine clubs with future demand aspirations, with potential growth totalling two senior men's teams, three senior women's teams and eight junior boy's teams.

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### Scenarios

#### *Addressing overplay*

Although a regular, sophisticated maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay, a solution is generally recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. Attempts should therefore be made to reduce identified overplay, although it is recognised that many clubs do not necessarily believe that there is an issue and are able to accommodate such demand.

In Rotherham, overplay is identified on seven squares. The scenario below looks at the impacts of quality improvements as a solution to reducing or alleviating overplay. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

Only two of the 11 overplayed squares are identified as poor quality, with this being at Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground and Greenlands Park. Therefore, the impact of improving the quality of overplayed squares to good across the Borough is relatively modest. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.35: Impact on overplay if all overplayed squares were improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Current quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (match equivalent sessions)	Potential position (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity
3	Anston Cricket Club	Standard	5	48	43	-
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	Standard	10	11	1	-
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	Poor	10	20	30	2 Sunday teams & 1 midweek team
61	Greenlands Park	Poor	2	20	10	-
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	Standard	2	19	17	-
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	Standard	6	5	1	0
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	Standard	9	28	19	-
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	Standard	3	53	50	-
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Good	12	10	10	-
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	Good	8	13	13	-
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Standard	8	10	2	-

As seen in the table above, nine squares would continue to be overplayed even if improved to good quality. The overplay remains due to high levels of demand but also due to a

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minimal number of wickets at the sites. The remaining squares (at Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground and Maltby Miners Welfare) would see overplay alleviated and spare capacity of 31 match equivalent sessions per season collectively created.

The table below shows that if the overplayed pitches were improved to good quality, that the current shortfall in Rotherham would only reduce marginally across all playing formats.

Table 4.36: Overall supply and demand balance with overplayed pitch quality improvements

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	237	165
Sunday	237	141
Midweek	222	146

### *Additional wickets*

A common method for alleviating overplay on squares, in addition to quality improvements, is via the installation of NTPs. However, this is not relevant in Rotherham as eight of the nine overplayed squares are already supported by such provision.

A common theme with the remaining overplayed squares in Rotherham is a low number of grass wickets on each. In comparison to the majority of local authorities, this is relatively uncommon. With this in mind, there is a case to be made for additional grass wickets to be installed on these squares, if the space allows.

The following table shows the additional number of grass wickets that would be required on each remaining overplayed square to alleviate the outstanding overplay.

Table 4.37: Installing additional grass wickets on overplayed squares

Site ID	Site name	Quality	No. of wickets	Good quality capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Number of additional wickets needed	Potential position (match equivalent sessions)
3	Anston Cricket Club	Good	5	43	9	2
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	Good	10	1	1	4
61	Greenlands Park	Good	2	10	2	0
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	Good	2	17	4	3
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	Good	9	19	4	1
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	Good	3	50	10	0
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Good	12	10	2	0
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	Good	8	13	3	2
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Good	8	2	1	3

A total of 36 additional grass wickets across the remaining nine overplayed squares would be required to alleviate the outstanding overplay across Rotherham.

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The table below shows that if the overplayed pitches were improved to good quality and additional grass wickets are installed at the remaining overplayed squares, the current shortfall in Rotherham would be alleviated for each playing format.

Table 4.38: Overall supply and demand balance with quality improved & additional grass wickets installed

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	237	24
Sunday	237	66
Midweek	222	41

Should the above scenario be realised and additional grass wickets installed, it should be noted that the squares must still meet the minimum boundary dimensions<sup>3</sup> (50 yards plus the three-yard safety margin). This is therefore site dependent and may not be achievable across the stock.

### *Accommodating future demand*

Of the responding clubs in Rotherham, nine quantify their aspirations to increase levels of participation. This equates to a total predicted growth of two senior men's, three senior women's and eight junior boys' teams. Future demand through club aspirations has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth; however, if such demand is realised, it will increase shortfalls throughout the Borough. This is further shown in the following table.

Table 4.39: Overall supply and demand balance with future demand (club aspirations) accounted for

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Future demand (club aspirations)	Potential future capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	237	24	261
Sunday	237	36	273
Midweek	222	32	254

As outlined above, any increase in demand will only exacerbate the existing shortfalls across all playing formats and cannot be feasibly accommodated under the current supply. This reinforces the urgency of pursuing alternative scenarios, such as improving pitch quality and increasing wicket numbers. It also increases the likelihood that additional provision will need to be established.

### *Accommodating girls' demand*

The Assessment Report has accounted for future demand by applying team generation rates to ONS population projections to 2040. This identifies that there shall be the growth of three senior men's teams and four junior boys' teams, with no senior women's team or junior girls' team are projected to emerge. However, this is only because of existing low levels of female

<sup>3</sup> <https://resources.thegma.org.uk/your-sport/cricket/maintaining-your-cricket-ground/cricket-season/preparing-ground-play/setting-and>

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demand, with it not taking into account recent growth trends and a drive to increase such participation.

The ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2026/2027, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand across Rotherham. To quantify this, with one senior women's team and four junior girls' teams currently fielded in the Borough (from Anston CC, Upper Haugh CC, Whiston Parish Church CC & Wickersley Old Village CC), if fully realised, this could amount to an increase to 15 teams by 2026/2027.

As girls' demand commonly takes place midweek, the sites listed below showing spare capacity for midweek demand should be prioritised for accommodating additional fixtures:

- ◀ Brookhouse Cricket Club
- ◀ Scholes & Harley Cricket Club
- ◀ Wath Cricket Club

Although there is sufficient theoretical spare capacity to accommodate the club aspirational future demand for three senior women's teams, this capacity is not located at the clubs where such demand has been identified (Upper Haugh CC, Wath CC & Whiston Forge CC). As such, further evidence towards the need for pitch provision is provided.

### *New grass squares*

Where shortfalls remain despite actioning other scenarios, this may necessitate the creation of new grass squares. This is also the case when and where other solutions cannot be actioned in full.

The table below explores the number of new grass squares required based on current shortfalls, on the assumption that no improvement is made to the existing supply to increase capacity. As shown, this identifies a need for 10 additional squares for each of the three playing periods.

Table 4.40: Potential number of new grass squares required to alleviate current shortfalls

Demand	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Saturday	237	10
Sunday	237	10
Midweek	222	10

In addition, the requirement increases when accounting for future demand, as seen in the following table. It totals 12 additional squares to accommodate Saturday demand, with a need for 10 still existing for Sunday and midweek cricket.

Table 4.41: Potential number of new grass squares required to alleviate future shortfalls

Demand	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Saturday	273	12
Sunday	237	10
Midweek	234	10

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Notwithstanding the above, it should be recognised that new squares could be used for each playing period, providing they have enough grass wickets and overall capacity. This means that there will not be a need to consider the three separately, and that only 10 new squares could be needed for current demand and 12 for future demand. However, this also shows the importance of trying to rectify the deficits through improving square quality and installing additional grass wickets. The creation of 10-12 new squares is likely to be unfeasible and would involve significant land take.

### Disused sites

There are five disused cricket squares in Rotherham, located at the following sites:

- ◀ Harley Recreation Ground (North Analysis Area)
- ◀ Herringthorpe Playing Fields (x2) (Central Analysis Area)
- ◀ Thurcroft Hub (South Analysis Area)
- ◀ Former Greasbrough Cricket Club site (Central Analysis Area)

The table below outlines the potential capacity created if the five above listed squares were to be brought back into use. As can be seen, if these sites were to be reinstated, there would be 120 sessions of actual spare capacity for Saturday demand, and shortfalls would remain in the North and South analysis areas.

4.42: Potential Saturday capacity if disused provision is reinstated

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Capacity created	Total
North	-	28	28	24 <sup>4</sup>	4
Central	-	20	20	72	52
South	-	189	189	24	165
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>117</b>

As there are relatively modest shortfalls identified in the Central and North analysis areas, if a disused square in each could once again become available, the localised shortfalls would be alleviated.

However, a substantial shortfall exists in the South Analysis Area (189 match equivalent sessions per season). As a result, the return of the Thurcroft Hub square alone would be insufficient; an additional seven squares would also be required to relieve the total localised shortfall.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of squares and areas used for cricket activity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Improve quality of overplayed squares to alleviate overplay (e.g. Aston Hall Cricket Club).
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of installing additional grass wickets at overplayed sites (e.g. Harthill The Field Cricket Club).
- ◀ Improve existing and provide additional training facilities where there is demand (e.g. at Upper Haugh Cricket Club).

<sup>4</sup> On the basis that one new square would be equivalent to 24 match equivalent sessions.

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- ◀ Improve ancillary changing facilities where there is a need and ensure the stock is appropriate to accommodate women and girls' cricket and inclusive access via separate changing rooms and shower facilities.
- ◀ Consider bringing disused squares back into use, where appropriate.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is adequately provided for.
- ◀ Explore the creation of new cricket provision to fully meet current and future demand.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing or new cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues).

### 4.7: Tennis courts

#### Assessment Report summary

##### **Tennis – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ The supply of tennis provision in Rotherham is sufficient to meet club-based demand, with current and expected future activity being adequately accommodated.
- ◀ For non-club courts, issues across the supply are likely deterring usage, meaning it can be improved upon through increasing quantity, improving quality, installing sports lighting, and rolling out LTA products such as Clubspark and Gate Access.
- ◀ There is also a clear need to develop padel provision, with no courts currently provided.

##### **Tennis – supply summary**

- ◀ There are 56 tennis courts identified in Rotherham across 14 sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 45 are categorised as being available for community use at 12 sites, compared to 11 that are unavailable at two sites.
- ◀ Disused courts at Rosehill Victoria Park and Valley Park, are to be brought back into use imminently via the LTA renovation fund.
- ◀ There are no padel courts currently provided, although a planning application has recently been submitted to construct an indoor centre at Hellaby Industrial Estate.
- ◀ Most community available courts are operated by education providers (31 courts), with only eight identified at council-owned sites.
- ◀ Most community available tennis courts in Rotherham have a macadam surface (37 courts), although there are also four artificial grass courts and four polymeric courts.
- ◀ A total of 31 of the 45 community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 69% of the provision, although this applies to only two local authority courts.
- ◀ Eight courts (14%) are assessed as good quality, 31 (55%) as standard quality and 16 (30%) as poor quality.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club are considered to be good quality.
- ◀ At non-club venues, dedicated amenities are only provided at Wales Recreation Ground and Harthill Leisure Centre.

##### **Tennis – demand summary**

- ◀ There is one tennis club in Rotherham, Rotherham Moorgate LTC.
- ◀ The Club has a current membership of 172, which as a breakdown totals 133 senior and 39 junior members.
- ◀ Although not currently operational, Ravenfield LTC is expected to be established soon, with this to utilise provision at Ravenfield Tennis Courts.

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- ◀ Courts at Clifton Park and Wales Recreation Ground are known to utilise LTA products currently, with this assisting in accommodating recreational demand.
- ◀ No LTA programmes or additional tennis activity is identified as currently taking place in the Borough (e.g., Local Tennis Leagues).
- ◀ With no padel courts provided, no demand is being received, although the LTA identifies a need for 21 courts to meet expected demand levels.
- ◀ No latent or unmet demand is identified for club-based tennis; however, together with future demand, it is expected to be high for parks tennis and padel due to existing quantity and quality issues.
- ◀ Rotherham Moorgate LTC reports anticipated future demand totalling 50 members (30 seniors and 20 juniors).

### Scenarios

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

The LTA suggests that a court without sports lighting can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Based on this, Rotherham Moorgate LTC (the sole tennis club in the Borough) has current spare capacity equating to 68 members, meaning overall capacity will also remain even if it fulfils its future growth plans. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.43: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	No. of courts	Sports-lit?	Capacity	Current membership	Current capacity balance (no. of members)	Future capacity balance (no. of members)
94	Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club	4	Yes	240	172	68	18

Given the expected emergence of Ravenfield LTC, consideration should also be given to Ravenfield Tennis Courts. This has capacity for a membership of 80 (two non-lit courts), meaning activity should be monitored if and when a club forms at the site. It is likely that sufficient capacity will exist, at least in the short term, but this is dependent on the growth of the Club.

#### *Sports Facilities Calculator*

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator. This is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas.

The calculator uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension.

The table below sets out how many tennis courts the sports facilities calculator suggests would be required to serve the additional population growth in Rotherham to 2040.

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Table 4.44: Sports facilities calculator

Factor	Current demand	Future demand (2040)
ONS population projections	265,969	287,077
Population increase	-	21,108
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	2.79

As seen, it is projected that three additional tennis courts will be required (rounded up from 2.79). This is also on the assumption that the current tennis court stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same.

If three additional courts without sports lighting were to be constructed in Rotherham based on the LTA recommended guidelines, an additional 120 users could theoretically be accommodated. This figure would increase to an additional 180 members if the courts are equipped with sports lighting.

### *Padel demand*

The LTA has developed a calculator for the estimated requirement of padel courts across a local authority based on total population (20% of total population based on YouGov survey which estimates 20% of the population would be interested in playing tennis if there were local facilities available) and padel penetration with (8% of demand estimated to convert to playing padel).

On the basis of 200 players being accommodated per padel court, it is considered that up to 21 padel courts could be sustained across Rotherham. With none currently provided, this means a shortfall of 21 courts exists (notwithstanding a planning application existing for the creation of provision at Hellaby Industrial Estate).

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts and areas used for tennis activity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Ensure club-based demand remains adequately provided for.
- ◀ Support investment into local authority courts to better provide for recreational tennis and seek to maximise usage following funding (e.g. Clifton Park).
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via further utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Support opportunities to provide padel courts given its growing demand (and ensure any proposals for an increase provision are not to the detriment of other sports which use court facilities i.e. tennis and netball).
- ◀ Provide additional tennis courts to meet future demand projections, potentially linked to and funded by large-scale developments.

### PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

#### OBJECTIVE 1

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

#### Recommendations:

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

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

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

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (as a result of no shortfalls existing), or unless appropriate mitigation is provided and agreed upon, in line with national planning policy. This also applies to sites providing for sports that have no shortfalls as the provision could be utilised to reduce deficits for other facility types (i.e., via re-configuration/designation).

The above is linked to the NPPF and specifically Paragraph 104. This states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

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The PPS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. Local planning authorities are required by law to consult Sport England when they receive planning applications for development affecting playing fields. Sport England has a Playing Field Policy and Guidance in place to help it assess such applications. They will use the PPS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields .

Policy as set out below.

### *Policy Exception E1:*

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

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

### *Policy Exception E2*

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

### *Policy Exception E3*

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

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

### *Policy Exception E4:*

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

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

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### *Policy Exception E5*

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

### ***Disused provision***

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with the NPPF and Sport England’s policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. As such, any disused sites are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate permanent loss via a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

For playing pitch sports, the lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of provision and that replacement facilities are in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost (e.g., taking into account a “bedding in” period).

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

Much like some authorities nationally, there is reliance on the education sector to provide for demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in Rotherham. However, where this is the case, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenure for clubs is explored and progressed where possible. Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time.

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

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

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

### ***Alternative management models***

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

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and National Governing Bodies to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>5</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

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

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

### ***Community Asset Transfer***

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

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

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

- ◀ Help local authorities meet policy objectives.
- ◀ Make better use of underused assets.

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<sup>5</sup> [Link to CASC benefits](#)

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

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

Although sites could have the potential for a long-term lease or asset transfer more research is required to understand the feasibility of such a decision and wider implications such as any potential fencing of areas would need to take account of any FIT and Green Guarantee Status.

### **Recommendation (c) – Maximise community use of education facilities where needed**

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

A number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the venues (e.g., via development funding, maintenance assistance and pitch hire income) and local clubs/users, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

Notwithstanding the above, there are comparably few schools in Rotherham that do not currently allow for community use at their sites. This currently only applies to the following 10 sites:

- ◀ Aston All Saints School
- ◀ Aughton Junior Academy
- ◀ Dalton Listerdale Junior & Infant School
- ◀ Herringthorpe Junior School
- ◀ Laughton Junior & Infant School
- ◀ Maltby Redwood Academy
- ◀ Meadow View Primary School
- ◀ Rawmarsh Junior & Infant Thorogate School
- ◀ Wath Central Primary School
- ◀ Wickersley Northfield Primary School

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As a priority, community use options should be explored at large education sites offering several pitches/facilities, with focus therefore placed predominately on secondary schools rather than primary schools. Securing access to such sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

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

As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England, as well as other funding bodies, can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive investment in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.<sup>6</sup>

Where new schools are provided, these should be designed to facilitate community access via a community use agreement, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sporting needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as artificial pitches (e.g., 3G) or courts that can accommodate tennis activity.

### OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance playing pitch and outdoor sport provision as well as ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

#### Recommendations:

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

#### Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

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

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<sup>6</sup><https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/use-our-school>

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

### ***Addressing quality issues***

Quality in Rotherham is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard quality, although poor quality provision is more prevalent than good quality provision. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality pitches is also essential.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For rugby union, rugby league and cricket, the respective NGBs are now also utilising Pitch Power, with reports being produced similar to those for football.

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

As improving all sites is unlikely to be feasible from a budgetary and logistical perspective, key sites with a larger number of pitches/facilities should be prioritised, particularly where they are well used or could be well used following improvements. The table below identifies sites in Rotherham that could be focused on for each relevant sport, based on their current status and issues.

Table 5.1: Key sites requiring quality improvements (by sport / facility type)

Sport/facility	Sites for improvement
Football	Bramley Sunnyside Junior School Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme Maltby Miners Welfare Phoenix Sports & Social Club Ruby Cook Recreation Ground Thurcroft Hub
3G pitches	-
Rugby league	-
Rugby union	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club Phoenix Park Wath Academy Wath Cricket Club Wath Pump House Field
Hockey	Dinnington High School
Cricket	Greenlands Park
Tennis	Clifton Park Coronation Park Harthill Leisure Centre

### Addressing overplay

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

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

Table 5.2: Carrying capacity of pitches

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

For tennis, a hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts).

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

For cricket, an increase in grass wickets and/or NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer demand from existing wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as they can be installed in situ with existing squares (if space allows). The emergence of hybrid wickets could also provide an additional solution.

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

Similarly, additional sports lighting can help resolve capacity issues for tennis. This is because it can allow for greater usage, especially during winter months.

To help assist with the identification of sites that are presently overused, the table below identifies sites in Rotherham that are currently operating over capacity for each sport.

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Table 5.3: Overplayed sites (by sport / facility type)

Sport	Sites for improvement
Football	Barkers Park Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme Greenlands Park Kilnhurst Recreation Ground Kiveton Park Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground Maltby Lilly Hall Academy Maltby Miners Welfare Millmoor Juniors Football Club Phoenix Sports & Social Club Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club Roughwood Road Recreation Ground Ruby Cook Recreation Ground Sitwell Junior School St Bernards Catholic High School Swinton Academy Thurcroft Hub
3G pitches	-
Rugby league	-
Rugby union	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club Phoenix Park Wath Academy Wath Cricket Club Wath Pump House Field
Hockey	-
Cricket	Anston Cricket Club Aston Hall Cricket Club Greenlands Park Harthill The Field Cricket Club Upper Haugh Cricket Club Waleswood Sports Cricket Club Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club
Tennis	-

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

## Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in Rotherham (these are detailed further in the Action Plan). For example, the changing provision at Kilnhurst Recreation Ground, Lodge Lane Park, Roughwood Road Recreation Ground, Stelrad Park, Swinton Miners Welfare and Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground are poor quality with users stating the need to redevelop the ancillary facilities as the current facilities are outdated. As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised.

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Emphasis in regards to changing facilities should also be placed on where women’s and girls activity is or could be attracted, with dedicated spaces required to enable inclusive access. Such sites should therefore also be prioritised, in addition to sites that have poor quality provision in need of general improvement.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. The identification of sites should be based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide and sporting context, taking into account the level of demand accommodated and the potential impact the recommended actions will have on addressing the identified shortfalls/issues.

The proposed site-hierarchy for Rotherham is summarised in the following table.

Table 5.4: Proposed tiered site criteria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, to address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPS Steering Group as well as with neighbouring local authorities. Cross-border developments can accommodate demand from within Rotherham and lessen requirements within the Borough (and vice versa).

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

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

### **Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions**

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

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator. This works by turning an estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent number of courts which will be needed to meet this. It helps quantify additional demand for new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas, and is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations. The tool, however, should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

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

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

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

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

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

### **Developer contributions - step by step guide**

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

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

<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from the development</b>
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The main tool for determining this is Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, which is a Sport England tool provided on completion of the Strategy. The calculator will be pre-populated with the current population of the local authority and the current demand data from the PPS. Until this requires updating, to determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from a development, all that is required is the input of the new population that will derive from a proposal.

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

<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Determine whether new provision is required and whether this should be on or off site</b>
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For large-scale developments that generate high levels of demand, new pitch provision may be required to meet the population growth. This is particularly the case when the calculator identifies a need for multiple pitches and across multiple sports.

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

Other useful questions when deciding on new provision include:

- ◀ Are there any teams/clubs playing outside of the local area (displaced demand) which could utilise provision at the site?
- ◀ Do any local clubs identify existing plans/demand for access to new provision?
- ◀ Are there any overplayed sites in the local area where existing demand could be transferred to a new site?
- ◀ Do any local clubs identify any latent demand (i.e. if they had access to more pitches they could they field more teams?)

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

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

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

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

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

<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Determine the other pitch and non-pitch requirements resulting from the development</b>
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The Sports Facility Calculator now calculates tennis demand so this can therefore be used to inform tennis requirements; however, neither this nor the Playing Pitch Calculator determine needs for any other sports. That being said, the PPOSS identifies (where relevant) current and future demand requirements and can therefore still be used to determine if contributions are required towards these sports or if new provision is required, in conjunction with NGB discussions.

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

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

<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Consider design principles for new provision</b>
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The exact nature and location of provision associated with onsite developments should be fully determined in partnership with each relevant NGB. Further to this, each pitch sport NGB provides national guidance in relation to provision of new pitches.

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

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### Step 5 Calculate the financial contribution required

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

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

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

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

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

### OBJECTIVE 3

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

#### Recommendations:

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

#### Recommendation (h) – Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6). In addition, first and foremost, it is imperative that the current levels of provision are protected and maintained to ensure that the overall picture does not worsen in the future.

To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity and/or to artificial surfaces.

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- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g., converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Bringing disused provision back into use.
- ◀ Securing long-term tenure at sites that are currently unsecured.
- ◀ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- ◀ Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure.
- ◀ Establishing additional sports lighting.
- ◀ Installing artificial surfaces.

The PPS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome. This is done on a site-by-site basis in the proceeding Action Plan.

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

Better utilising the stock of provision across Rotherham will lessen the need for new provision. Although there are identified shortfalls, most existing shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock is therefore not recommended as a priority solution, although for certain sports and in specific areas it is likely to be required depending on the feasibility and success of other solutions.

In particular, for cricket and rugby union, evidence shows that some level of shortfall would still be present even if other solutions are maximised, particularly when accounting for future demand. As such, other methods of addressing overplay should also be explored, such as the installation of additional wickets/pitches and/or installing World Rugby compliant 3G pitches to better support training demand.

In addition, there is also a discrete need for additional 3G pitches and padel courts that cannot be overcome via other actions. However, such provision could be provided via utilisation of existing playing fields, subject to meeting the relevant NPPF requirements.

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

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

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### PART 6: ACTION PLAN

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

#### Site hierarchy

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

#### Partners

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

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

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

#### Priority

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

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

The **low** priority actions tend to be where little work is required, or where the status quo can be maintained, or they are for single pitch or single sport sites with only local specific importance. However, the actions may still contribute to addressing issues for specific users and there may also be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

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### Costs

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

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

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

### Timescales

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

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

### Aim

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

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

### Analysis area summary - pitch sports

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balanced (match equivalent sessions)
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 2.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 3.5
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
North	11v11	Shortfall of 1.75	-
<b>Rugby union pitches</b>			
North	-	Shortfall of 4.75	Shortfall of 5.75
<b>Cricket pitches</b>			
North	Saturday	Shortfall of 28	Shortfall of 28
<b>Hockey pitches</b>			
North	Full size	No supply and demand	No supply and demand

### Analysis area summary – tennis

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	Supply is adequate to meet demand.

### Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Football</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. at Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme).</li> <li>◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs, enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Swinton Academy).</li> <li>◀ Utilise spare capacity to alleviate overplay via transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand (e.g. at Swinton Miners Welfare).</li> <li>◀ Explore the feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision (e.g. at Wath Pump House Field).</li> </ul>
<b>3G pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Explore the viability of a new 3G pitch, where this is appropriate.</li> <li>◀ Resurface pitches to improve quality (poor quality/exceeded ten-year recommended lifespan) and ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability (e.g. at DVC Sports).</li> <li>◀ Ensure that 3G provision at Parkgate Astro remains accessible to Rotherham Nomads.</li> </ul>
<b>Rugby league</b>	◀ N/A
<b>Rugby union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. at Wath Academy).</li> <li>◀ Seek to secure long-term access to the pitches at Wath Academy through a formal agreement between Wath-upon-Deerne RUFC and the School, ensuring the Club's continued use of the provision.</li> <li>◀ Explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the North Analysis Area.</li> </ul>
<b>Hockey</b>	◀ N/A

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Sport	Headline findings
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◀ Protect provision.</li><li>◀ Explore installing additional training provision where it is required and demand exists for it (e.g. at Wentworth Recreation Ground).</li></ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◀ Protect provision.</li></ul>

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**NORTH ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
18	Baths Field	1202885	S63 7DH	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Provide
18	Baths Field	1202885	S63 7DH	Rugby Union	Council	One poor quality (M0/D1) pitch without sports lighting. The pitch has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity.	RFU	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
23	Bow Broom Playing Field	6002494	S64 8NP	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
27	Brampton Bierlow Park	1041675	S73 0YA	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Sustain pitch quality.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
28	Brampton Ellis Playing Fields	1041814	S63 6AW	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are good quality. Both pitches have spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The site is without ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch capacity. Utilise actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
41	Claypit Lane Recreation Ground	6002493	S62 5JX	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch. The site is without ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	6001187	S73 0TU	Football	Community Organisation	One mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are poor quality. Pitches at the site are all either at capacity or overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	6001187	S73 0TU	Cricket (disused)	Community Organisation	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football purposes.	Explore options to bring the provision back into use to accommodate recreational demand.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provie

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
51	DVC Sports	1002916	S63 7EW	3G	Education	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch, installed in 2014. The pitch has exceeded its recommended lifespan but remains as standard quality. The pitch is available for community use from 08:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday, from 08:00 to 15:30 on Saturdays and from 08:00 until 14:00 on Sundays. The pitch has FA accreditation, due to expire in May 2026.	Look to resurface the pitch during the lifespan of the PPS to improve pitch quality. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
64	Harley Recreation Ground	1202818	S62 7UF	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
64	Harley Recreation Ground	1202818	S62 7UF	Cricket (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated a ten-wicket grass square.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	ECB, YCF SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
71	Hill Sixty	1202831	S62 5AQ	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
73	Hollings Lane Sports Field	6016525	S65 4JE	Football	Community Organisation	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is without ancillary pavilion facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhancing maintenance regime.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
75	Kilnhurst Recreation Ground	6002497	S64 5SN	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary pavilion facilities are poor quality and need major refurbishment to accommodate demand.	Sustain pitch quality. Explore feasibility options for improving ancillary provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
97	Parkgate Astro	30007837	S62 6HQ	3G	Rotherham United Community Trust	One good quality smaller sized 3G pitch that has recently undergone refurbishment this year. The pitch has FA accreditation and can accommodate match play (mini demand). Community use at this site has been discounted as the pitch is programmed to deliver principally non-affiliated football activity, with only Rotherham United Community Trust currently being accommodated. The 3G pitch is also accessed by Rotherham Nomads for its training sessions.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches. Ensure that 3G provision remains accessible to Rotherham Nomads.	Rotherham United Community Trust, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
101	Queens Ground	30002784	S63 6FS	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch.	Sustain pitch quality.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	Rawmarsh Community School	1201733	S62 7GA	Football	Education	Three youth 11v11 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of which are poor quality and are unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	Rawmarsh Community School	1201733	S62 7GA	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	Rawmarsh Community School	1201733	S62 7GA	Tennis	Education	Four poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use and equipped with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality.	Education, LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
103	Rawmarsh Junior & Infant Thorogate School	30004271	S62 7HS	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
104	Rawmarsh Leisure	1202890	S62 6DG	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has one match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity and one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. Ancillary facilities are good quality but has no officials changing room or spectator toilets available.	Improve pitch quality through enhancing maintenance regime. Explore feasibility options to provide spectator toilets.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
104	Rawmarsh Leisure	1202890	S62 6DG	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
106	Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club	30003087	S62 7RZ	Football	Community Organisation	One adult pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are good quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhancing maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Community, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect
110	Rosehill Victoria Park	1043037	S62 7HJ	Tennis (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated three macadam courts. The LTA reports that the disused courts are to be brought back into use imminently via the LTA renovation fund.	Bring the courts back into use to a good quality and seek to maximise usage.	LTA, SE	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
116	Roundwood Golf Sports & Social Club	1102098	S62 6LA	Football	Other	Three good quality adult pitches that have three match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality and utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
119	Silverwood Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	6001263	S65 3ES	Football	Other	Two youth 11v11 pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches, all of which are standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
128	St Pius X Catholic High School	1201125	S63 7PQ	Football	Education	Two mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Protect for curricular use. Seek to establish a community use agreement to provide security of tenure to users.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
129	Stelrad Park	30004817	S64 8BH	Football	Sports Club	One mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. Ancillary facilities are poor quality; there are no changing facilities, and the Club has access to a Portaloos to facilitate players and spectators.	Sustain pitch quality. Explore feasibility options improving ancillary provision.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance
132	Swinton Academy	1201709	S64 8JW	Football	Education	Two mini 5v5 pitches, one mini 7v7 pitch, three youth 9v9 pitches, two youth 11v11 pitches and one adult pitch, all of which are standard quality. The adult pitch and mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhancing maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
134	Swinton Miners Welfare	6002501	S64 8JH	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which are good quality. The mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches both have one match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity. The site's ancillary provision is poor quality and consists of a mobile unit that contains basic facilities including changing rooms and toilets.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise spare capacity. Explore feasibility options for improving ancillary provision.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
139	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	1004772	S65 4BH	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch, three youth 11v11 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are standard quality and have actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
139	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	1004772	S65 4BH	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
139	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	1004772	S65 4BH	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts, two of which are serviced with sports lighting and both are available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	1202781	S62 7SL	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality nine-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by 28 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is equipped with three fixed bays and a mobile net for training. The Club has aspirations for a new NTP wicket and additional fixed bay nets for training.	Look to improve square quality and explore the feasibility of installing additional grass wickets to alleviate overplay. to alleviate overplay. Explore the Club's aspirations for replacing its NTP wicket and additional fixed nets to be installed.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Football	Education	Three mini 5v5 pitches, one mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality and have actual spare capacity totalling six match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, installed in 2023. The 3G pitch has FA accreditation and is available to the community from 18:00 to 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 17:00 on weekends. Wath Academy aspires to construct a second 11v11 3G pitch; plans have been drawn up for a new pitch	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch requires resurfacing. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches. Explore feasibility options for building a second 11v11 3G and accompanying ancillary pavilion provision and parking.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	H	M	H	Protect Provide

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						together with an accompanying pavilion and car parking.							
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Rugby Union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch that is overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary facilities are standard quality; however, these are not generally accessed due to nature of usage by Wath-upon-Deane RUFC (mostly age grade activity).	Seek to secure long-term access to the pitches at Wath Academy through a formal agreement between Wath-upon-Deane RUFC and the School, ensuring the Club's continued use of the provision. Look to improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Education, RFU	Hub	M	S	L	Protect
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Cricket (disused)	Education	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football cricket purposes.	Explore opportunities for re-establishing the provision to better accommodate curricular and extra curricular activity.	Education, ECB, YCF, SE	Hub	L	S	L	Protect Provide
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Tennis	Education	Six standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and serviced with sports lighting.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
152	Wath Central Primary School	6019285	S63 7HG	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
153	Wath Cricket Club	1202787	S63 7RW	Rugby Union	Sports Club	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch that is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary facilities are good quality and include changing rooms that include segregated showers. For Wath-upon-Deane RUFC, no issues are reported regarding sites ancillary facilities.	Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the North Analysis Area.	Sports Club, RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
153	Wath Cricket Club	1202787	S63 7RW	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality 11-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The outfield of the square is poor quality. The site is accompanied by a three fixed bay net facility and mobile nets for training provision. The square has spare capacity for one additional midweek team.	Look to improve the quality of the outfield through thorough maintenance and drainage. Utilise midweek spare capacity.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
154	Wath Pump House Field	1202886	S63 7DQ	Rugby Union	Council	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions by Wath-upon-Deane RUFC. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 to alleviate overplay. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	1202820	S62 7SB	Football	Council	Three standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that have two match	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity.							
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	1202820	S62 7SB	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	1202820	S62 7SB	Cricket	Council	One standard quality eight-wicket grass square that is accompanied by an NTP. The square has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. The site is without any form of training net provision.	Explore feasibility of providing some form of training provision at the site, should demand exist. Encourage the Parish Council to allow for additional cricket to be played at the site, especially given localised and Borough-wide shortfalls.	ECB, YCF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Provide
158	West Melton Park	6019127	S63 6GF	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
173	Magna Lane Recreation Ground	N/A	S65 4HH	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
177	Newhill Park	N/A	S63 6HY	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
178	Picadilly Recreation Ground	N/A	S64 8JZ	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

#### Analysis area summary - pitch sports

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balanced (match equivalent sessions)
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
Central	11v11	Shortfall of 1.75	-
<b>Rugby union pitches</b>			
Central	-	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 7.5
<b>Cricket pitches</b>			
Central	Saturday	Shortfall of 20	Shortfall of 32
<b>Hockey pitches</b>			
Central	Full size	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1

#### Analysis area summary – tennis

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	Supply is adequate to meet demand.

#### Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. at Barkers Park).</li> <li>◀ Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Clifton Community School).</li> <li>◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required (e.g. at Roughwood Road Recreation Ground) and provide ancillary facilities at sites that are currently without (e.g. at Ferham Park).</li> <li>◀ Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand (e.g. at Herringthorpe Stadium).</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Explore community use options (e.g. at St Bede's Catholic Primary School).</li> <li>◀ Explore the viability of a new 3G pitch, where this is appropriate.</li> <li>◀ Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when pitches need resurfacing.</li> </ul>
Rugby league	◀ N/A
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision (e.g. at Phoenix Park).</li> <li>◀ Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the Central Analysis Area (e.g. at Phoenix Park).</li> <li>◀ Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Oakwood High School).</li> </ul>

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Sport	Headline findings
<b>Hockey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Cricket</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Seek to provide a long-term agreement for continued use of sites, providing security of tenure (e.g. at Thorpe Hesley &amp; High Green Cricket Club).</li> <li>◀ Utilise spare capacity where it exists (e.g. at Scholes &amp; Harley Cricket Club).</li> </ul>
<b>Tennis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve quality of courts (e.g. at Clifton Park).</li> <li>◀ Explore sports lighting potential to better cater for and to attract demand (e.g. at Clifton Park).</li> </ul>

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
16	Barkers Park	6002479	S61 3NU	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Facilities require a degree of modernisation to ensure they remain fit for purpose in the future.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay. Explore feasibility options for improving ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
24	Bradgate Park	30010145	S61 1LJ	Tennis	Council	Site previously accommodated two macadam courts.	Explore options to re-establish tennis at the site to cater for recreational activity.	LTA, SE	Local	L	M	M	Protect Provide
37	Canklow Recreation Ground	6019050	S60 2JH	Football	Council	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
42	Clifton Community School	1201803	S65 2SN	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
42	Clifton Community School	1201803	S65 2SN	AGP	Education	One smaller sized hockey suitable AGP that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Clifton Community School (Cranworth Road Campus)	1201742	S65 1LN	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are standard quality. Both pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Clifton Community School (Cranworth Road Campus)	1201742	S65 1LN	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
44	Clifton Park	1043034	S65 2AQ	Tennis	Council	Three poor quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting. Premier Tennis group (operating at the site) reports capacity concerns.	Look to improve court quality and explore sports lighting potential. Ensure that the needs of the Premier Tennis group are met in terms of capacity of courts.	LTA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
52	Eldon Road Recreation Ground	6002483	S65 1RD	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
54	Ferham Park	6002484	S61 1DY	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.						
62	Gulthwaite Hill	6002474	S60 4NE	Football (disused)	Private	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
62	Gulthwaite Hill	6002474	S60 4NE	Cricket	Private	One standard quality eight-wicket grass square accompanied by a poor quality NTP. The site is equipped with a mobile net for training provision. The square is accessed by Whiston Forge CC.	Retain for continued community use. Explore feasibility of replacing the carpet for the NTP.	ECB, YCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
67	Herringthorpe Junior School	6019209	S65 2JW	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
68	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	1202829	S65 2ED	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are poor quality and have spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Rotherham Borough Council are considering the potential of developing a 3G pitch at this site. The Council is currently establishing a masterplan for the site.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility options for developing a 3G pitch at the site.	S&HFA, FF	Local	H	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
68	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	1202829	S65 2ED	Cricket (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated three squares, an eight-wicket grass wicket square, accompanied by an NTP, a seven-wicket grass square and a standalone NTP.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	ECB, YCF, SE	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
69	Herringthorpe Stadium	1004751	S65 2HR	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
82	Lodge Lane	6002488	S61 2SF	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
90	Meadow View Primary School	6019257	S61 2JD	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
91	Millmoor Juniors Football Club	S61 2RB	6002485	Football	Sports Club	One mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch and	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						one adult pitch, all of which are standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overlaid by one match equivalent session per week.							
92	Millmoor Stadium	50000119	S60 1HB	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
95	Oakwood High School	1201828	S60 2UH	Football	Education	Three youth 11v11 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
95	Oakwood High School	1201828	S60 2UH	AGP	Education	One good quality full-size hockey suitable AGP, installed in 2024. The site is utilised by both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC. Both clubs are considered to have secure tenure that expires in 2038. The site is generally unavailable for use on Fridays and Sundays, this is due to operational cost, particularly in summer months.	Explore options to provide security of tenure for club users. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Explore opportunities to increase capacity via improved opening hours.	Education, EH	Key Centre	H	M	L	Protect
95	Oakwood High School	1201828	S60 2UH	Rugby Union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch. The pitch is unused by the community with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
95	Oakwood High School	1201828	S60 2UH	Cricket (disused)	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Explore opportunities to re-establish the provision to better meet curricular and extra curricular activity.	Education, ECB, YCF, SE	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect Provide
98	Phoenix Park	30009280	S65 2PS	Rugby Union	Sports Club	One good quality (M2/D1) pitch and two standard quality (M1/D1) pitches. All three pitches are equipped with sports lighting. Each pitch is significantly overlaid by accommodating both match and training demand from Rotherham Phoenix RUFC. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the Central Analysis Area. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	Sports Club, RFU	Key Centre	H	M	M	Protect Provide

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
112	Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane)	1041740	S60 2SN	Rugby Union	Sports Club	One good quality (M2/D1) pitch. The pitch is used for match play and training by Rotherham Titans RUFC and is played to capacity.	Sustain pitch quality.	Sports Club, RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
112	Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane)	1041740	S60 2SN	Cricket	Sports Club	One standalone NTP that is available for community use. The square is accessed by Rotherham Sultans CC and Rotherham Town Eagles CC. The site is without any form of training net provision. Rotherham Town CC previously provided demand prior to the 2025 season; however, it ceased fielding competitive teams for the 2025 season due to a decision made by the committee that oversees both cricket and rugby union at the site. The Club has struggled financially for many years and its future is unknown at present.	Secure the future of Rotherham Town CC via access to the site or an appropriate alternative in the area. Explore creation of practice facilities at the site.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
113	Rotherham United Football Club (The Aesdeal New York Stadium)	30003454	S60 1FJ	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	3004426	S61 AAZ	Football	Council	One good quality mini 7v7 pitch, one standard quality mini 5v5, one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch and one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary facilities are poor quality consisting of a mobile unit utilised as a clubhouse which contains basic facilities including changing rooms and toilets.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay. Explore feasibility of improving ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
118	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	1202767	S61 2RQ	Cricket	Council	One standard quality seven-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The square has actual spare capacity to accommodate one additional midweek team. The site is equipped with mobile nets for training provision and the Club has aspirations for a	Explore the feasibility of the Club's aspirations for new training provision. Utilise spare capacity.	ECB, YCF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						fixed-bay net training facility at the site.							
120	Sitwell Junior School	6019168	S60 3LA	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Look to improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
123	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	30008295	S61 1PD	3G	Education	One standard quality smaller sized 3G pitch that is unavailable for community use. The pitch was installed in 2019.	Explore community use options to provide a recreational offer.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect
124	St Bernards Catholic High School	1201168	S65 3BE	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches, all of which are standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Look to improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
124	St Bernards Catholic High School	1201168	S65 3BE	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
127	St Pauls Field	6002491	S61 3JF	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Utilise spare capacity. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
136	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	30009781	S65 2UF	3G	Council	Five standard quality smaller sized 3G pitches, installed in 2021. The pitch has sports lighting but is discounted due to commercial use.	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing. Explore sports lighting potential.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect
138	Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground	1041511	S61 2PT	Football	Sports Club	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. Ancillary facilities are poor quality with changing rooms that are without any showering facilities or toilets.	Look to improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility of improving ancillary pavilion provision.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
143	TR Sports Centre	1004770	S60 2BE	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
143	TR Sports Centre	1004770	S60 2BE	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, installed in 2019. The pitch is available for community use from 17:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 14:00 on weekends.	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	M	M	H	Protect

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The pitch has FA accreditation due to expire in May 2027.							
143	TR Sports Centre	1004770	S60 2BE	Rugby Union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch. The pitch is unused by the community with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, RFU	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
143	TR Sports Centre	1004770	S60 2BE	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
147	Valley Park	1043035	S65 3DJ	Tennis (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated three macadam courts. The LTA reports that the disused courts are to be brought back into use imminently via the LTA renovation fund.	Re-provide courts to a good quality and seek to maximise usage.	LTA, SE	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	1202791	S60 4JG	Cricket	Private	One good quality 12-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions per season. The Club has a lease with Church Commissioners for use of the site (expires in 2041). The site is equipped with a three-lane fixed bay net facility (2025).	Explore the feasibility of installing two additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay.	Private, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
166	Wingfield Academy	1203143	S61 4AU	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are of standard quality and have actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week.	Utilise spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
166	Wingfield Academy	1203143	S61 4AU	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are equipped with sports lighting but are unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options.	Education, LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
167	Winterhill School	1201705	S61 2BD	Football	Education	Two good quality youth 11v11 pitches and one standard quality adult pitch, both of which are unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
167	Winterhill School	1201705	S61 2BD	3G	Education	One good quality smaller sized 3G pitch, installed in 2022. The pitch is large enough for mini 7v7 football usage.	Protect for curricular use. Explore FA accreditation so that it can be used for competitive mini matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
167	Winterhill School	1201705	S61 2BD	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
167	Winterhill School	1201705	S61 2BD	Tennis	Education	Seven standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and equipped with sports lighting.	Protect for curricular use and explore opportunities to establish a better community use programme given the number of courts provided and the presence of sports lighting.	Education, LTA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	N/A	S61 2SE	Cricket	Private	One standard quality eight-wicket square accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions per season. The site is equipped with a mobile net for training provision. The Club has a rolling annual lease with Wentworth Estate for use of the site. The square has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a long-term agreement between the Club and Wentworth Estate to provide security of tenure and to utilise spare capacity at the site. Look to improve square quality and explore the feasibility of installing one additional grass wicket on the square, to alleviate overplay.	ECB, YCF	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
193	Former Greasbrough Cricket Club site	N/A	S61 4NY	Cricket (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated a six-wicket grass square, accompanied by an NTP.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	YCF, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
194	New Wortley Road Park	N/A	S60 1LD	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously provided one mini 5v5 pitch circa 2016.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

### Analysis area summary - pitch sports

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balanced (match equivalent sessions)
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 12.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 6.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 4.5
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
South	11v11	Shortfall of 5.25	-
<b>Rugby union pitches</b>			
South	-	Shortfall of 6.75	Shortfall of 10.25
<b>Cricket pitches</b>			
South	Saturday	Played to capacity	Shortfall of 12
<b>Hockey pitches</b>			
South	Full size	Played to capacity	Played to capacity

### Analysis area summary – tennis

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	Supply is adequate to meet demand.

### Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Football</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. at Greenlands Park).</li> <li>◀ Utilise spare capacity where it exists (e.g. at Bill Hawes Recreation Ground).</li> <li>◀ Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Kiveton Park).</li> <li>◀ Explore feasibility of improving the site's ancillary pavilion provision (e.g. at Lodge Lane Park).</li> <li>◀ Explore the feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision (e.g. at Bill Hawes Recreation Ground).</li> </ul>
<b>3G pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Explore the viability of a new 3G pitch, where this is appropriate.</li> <li>◀ Resurface pitches to improve quality (poor quality/exceeded ten-year recommended lifespan) (e.g. at Maltby Academy).</li> <li>◀ Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing (e.g. at Blackout13.Com Arena).</li> </ul>
<b>Rugby league</b>	◀ N/A
<b>Rugby union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the South Analysis Area.</li> <li>◀ Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Wales High School).</li> </ul>

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Sport	Headline findings
<b>Hockey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Immediately look to resurface the pitch (e.g. at Dinnington High School).</li> <li>◀ Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing (e.g. at Aurora Playing Field).</li> </ul>
<b>Cricket</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve quality to alleviate overplay (e.g. at Aston Hall Cricket Club).</li> <li>◀ Explore installing additional training provision where it is required and demand exists for it (e.g. at Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground).</li> <li>◀ Explore feasibility of installing additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay (e.g. at Harthill The Field Cricket Club).</li> </ul>
<b>Tennis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Explore community use options at sites currently without (e.g. at Wales High School).</li> <li>◀ Explore sports lighting potential at sites currently without (Aston Academy).</li> <li>◀ Monitor demand levels at Ravenfield Tennis Courts, as when a club does form, it must be assured that the demand is being adequately accommodated in regard to access and ancillary facilities.</li> </ul>

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Anston Cricket Club	1041701	S25 4DL	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality five-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The site is serviced with a four-lane fixed bay net facility (2024). The square is overplayed by 48 match equivalent sessions per season.	Look to improve square quality and explore the feasibility of installing nine additional grass wickets to the square in order to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
4	Anston Greenlands Primary	6019065	S25 4HD	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
6	Anston Park Junior School	6000502	S25 2QZ	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
7	Anston Recreation Ground	6002476	S25 4DN	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
8	Aston Academy	12016151	S26 4SF	Football	Education	One adult pitch and three mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are standard quality. Two mini 7v7 pitches, two youth 9v9 pitches and two youth 11v11 pitches, all of which are good quality. Pitches at the site have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
8	Aston Academy	12016151	S26 4SF	Tennis	Education	Five standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting.	Explore sports lighting potential.	Education, LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
9	Aston All Saints School	6000499	S26 2BL	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	30006227	S26 2BD	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality 10-wicket grass square accompanied by a poor quality NTP. The site is equipped with a three-lane fixed bay facility and mobile nets for training. The square is overplayed by 11 match equivalent sessions per season. The Club has	Look to improve square quality and explore the feasibility of installing nine additional grass wickets to the square in order to alleviate overplay. Also, explore feasibility of replacing the carpet for the NTP wicket and explore the	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						aspirations for mobile training nets.	Club's aspirations for mobile nets.						
13	Aughton Junior Academy	30004914	S60 5ND	Football	Education	Two mini 5v5 pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality for curricular use and then explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
14	Aurora Playing Field	1103866	S60 5ND	AGP	Education	One good quality full-size AGP, equipped with sports lighting and available for community use. The pitch is good quality despite not having been resurfaced since it was installed in 2017. The site has restricted its access in line with its community use agreement as any additional usage is too expensive.	Sustain AGP quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Ensure a future sink fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Look at increasing access to better support demand. Seek to improve security of tenure.	Education, EH	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect
19	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	6002502	S66 2UX	Football	Council	One mini 5v5 pitch, three mini 7v7 pitches, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision. All mini 5v5, mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitches have actual spare capacity.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
21	Blackout13.Com Arena	1041700	S25 2PS	3G	Dinnington Resource Centre	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, resurfaced in 2022. The pitch has FA accreditation due to expire in May 2026. Has FA accreditation which is due to expire in May 2026 Available for community use from 9:00 until 21:00 every day but is limited when matches are scheduled.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches.	Dinnington Resource Centre, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	H	Protect
21	Blackout13.Com Arena	1041700	S25 2PS	Cricket (disused)	Dinnington Resource Centre	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football purposes.	Explore options to re-establish provision to accommodate recreational demand.	Dinnington Resource Centre, ECB, YCF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
22	Bob Mason Recreation Grounds	1041741	S66 1DR	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are good quality. One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. One of the youth 11v11 pitches and the youth 9v9	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						pitch has actual spare capacity.							
26	Bramley Sunnyside Junior School	6018939	S66 3QW	Football	Education	Four mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
29	Brinsworth Academy	1201658	S60 5EJ	Cricket	Education	Two standalone NTPs that are available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
32	Brinsworth Playing Fields	6000290	S60 5GD	Football	Brinsworth Parish Council	One good quality youth 11v11 pitch and two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches, both of which have actual spare capacity.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Brinsworth Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect
36	Burgoyne Park	6002464	S26 3XA	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
47	Crowgate Recreation Ground	20000166	S25 5AL	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which are poor quality and have spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
48	Dalton Listerdale Junior & Infant School	6000401	S65 3HN	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
49	Dinnington High School	1201653	S25 2NZ	Football	Education	One adult pitch, three mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The site has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect
49	Dinnington High School	1201653	S25 2NZ	AGP	Education	One poor-quality full-size hockey suitable AGP. The pitch has exceeded its recommended lifespan as it has not been resurfaced since it was originally installed in 2006. The pitch is used by the school until 17:30 during midweek to meet extra-curricular requirements, resulting in 2.5 hours that cannot be used by the community. Also, the pitch is not fully available on weekends due to closing at 15:00.	Immediately look to resurface the pitch. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Attempt to improve security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	Education, EH	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
49	Dinnington High School	1201653	S25 2NZ	Rugby Union	Education	Two pitches, both of which are standard quality (M1/D1). The pitch is used to capacity through school and occasional access by Dinnington RUFC.	Sustain pitch quality. Attempt to improve security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	Education, RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
49	Dinnington High School	1201653	S25 2NZ	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
50	Dinnington Rugby Club	1202792	S25 2PB	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Two standard quality (M1/D1) pitches and one good quality (M2/D1) pitch. Both standard quality pitches are overplayed through accommodating both match and training demand from Dinnington RUFC.	Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the South Analysis Area.	Sports Club, RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
53	Falconer Lane Recreation Ground	6002465	S13 9ZL	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
56	Flash Lane Recreational Field	6002468	S66 1TS	Football	Council	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Utilise spare capacity. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	6009728	S26 1HG	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	6009728	S26 1HG	Cricket	Todwick Parish Council	One poor quality 10-wicket grass square that is overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is without any form of training provision. However, Todwick CC reports of aspirations for an NTP wicket to accompany the grass square and mobile nets for training.	Look to improve square quality to alleviate overplay. Support Todwick CC with its aspirations for an NTP wicket and mobile nets for training.	Todwick Parish Council, ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
60	Green Arbour Road Rec Ground	6009716	S99 9LQ	Football	Council	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Without ancillary facilities.	Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
61	Greenlands Park	1202889	S25 4BR	Football	Council	Two mini 7v7 pitches, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are poor quality. Both youth pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Both mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay where it exists and to enable actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
61	Greenlands Park	1202889	S25 4BR	Cricket	Council	One poor quality two-wicket grass square that is overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is without ancillary facilities or any form of training provision.	Look to improve square quality and explore feasibility of installing two additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay.	ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
63	Hangsman Lane Recreation Ground	20001122	S25 3UD	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	1041750	S26 7YF	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality two-wicket grass square that is overplayed by 19 match equivalent sessions per season and is accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions per season. It is equipped with a one-lane fixed net facility and a mobile net for training.	Explore feasibility of installing four additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
72	Hollings Lane Field	1041743	S65 4PS	Football	Council	One poor quality 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity for clubs. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
77	Kiveton Community Sports Park	30006468	S26 6LR	3G	Community Organisation	One good quality smaller sized 3G pitch. The pitch has FA accreditation and therefore can accommodate match play (mini demand). Site hasn't been resurfaced since 2016 but still exists within its recommended lifespan.	Sustain 3G pitch quality. Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing. Seek FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match play.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
78	Kiveton Park	1202494	S26 6SQ	Football	Community Organisation	One adult pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary facilities are poor quality; Kiveton Park FC are in the process of upgrading its facilities at the site through fund raising and volunteers.	Utilise spare capacity where it exists via the transfer of demand. Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay where it exists. Support Kiveton Park FC with its ancillary development plans.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
78	Kiveton Park	1202494	S26 6SQ	Cricket	Community Organisation	One standard quality 12-wicket grass square. Kiveton Park Colliery CC currently rents its use of the square from Kiveton Park Miners Welfare (unsecure tenure). The site is equipped with a two-lane fixed bay net facility and a mobile net for training. The square has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek cricket discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a long-term agreement between the Club and Kiveton Park Miners Welfare to provide security of tenure.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect
80	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground	6010012	S25 1YD	Football	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay.	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
81	Leonard Kyte Recreation Ground	6002463	S26 3UT	Football	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has actual spare capacity is 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
83	Lodge Lane Park	6002469	S26 2BB	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are poor quality. The youth pitch has actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. Ancillary facilities are of a poor quality with no changing rooms or toilets located onsite.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility of improving ancillary pavilion provision and providing appropriate changing rooms.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
84	Maltby Academy	1201700	S66 8AB	3G	Education	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch. The pitch has exceeded its recommended lifespan and requires resurfacing. The pitch is available from 17:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday. However, it is unavailable for community use on the weekends.	Improve pitch quality through resurfacing pitch. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure FA accreditation so that the provision can be used for competitive matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
85	Maltby Lilly Hall Academy	6019317	S66 8AU	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
86	Maltby Manor Academy	6006630	S66 8JN	Football	Education	One adult pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch, three mini 5v5 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are standard quality. All mini pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect
87	Maltby Manor Fields	6009754	S66 7EJ	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
87	Maltby Manor Fields	6009754	S66 7EJ	Rugby Union	Council	Two pitches are to be marked out from the beginning of the 2025/26 season. Maltby RUFC are to relocate to the site.	Ensure the needs of Maltby RUFC are met in terms of pitch capacity and ancillary provision.	RFU	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	1202759	S66 7JQ	Football	Community Organisation	One good quality adult pitch and two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Consider the transfer of demand to a site with actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	1202759	S66 7JQ	Rugby Union	Community Organisation	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch that is without sports lighting. The pitch is played to capacity by Maltby RUFC.	Explore sports lighting potential.	Community Organisation, RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	1202759	S66 7JQ	Cricket	Community Organisation	One standard quality six-wicket grass square that is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per season. The site is equipped with a two-lane fixed bay net facility.	Sustain quality. Look to improve square quality to alleviate overplay.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	1202759	S66 7JQ	Cricket (disused)	Community Organisation	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football and cricket purposes.	Explore options to re-establish provision to provide for recreational demand.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF, SE	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect Provide
89	Maltby Redwood Academy	6019312	S66 8DL	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
99	Phoenix Sports Club & Social Club	1102095	S60 5PA	Football	Sports Club	Two adult pitches and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are good quality. The mini 5v5 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. One mini 5v5 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and two youth 11v11 pitches, all of which are standard quality. All pitches are either at capacity or overplayed. One adult pitch, two mini 5v5 pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are poor quality. All pitches are either at capacity or overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity where it exists and to alleviate overplay where it exists.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect
99	Phoenix Sports Club & Social Club	1102095	S60 5PA	Cricket	Sports Club	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Retain for continued community demand.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
100	Poplar Way Recreation Ground	6004960	S60 5TR	Football	Catcliffe Parish Council	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches.	Sustain quality.	Catcliffe Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
117	Ruby Cook Recreation Ground	6002470	S66 2LA	Football	Wickersley Parish Council	One mini 5v5 pitch, two mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are poor quality. All pitches are at capacity or overplayed. Two mini 5v5 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of which are good quality and have actual spare capacity. Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches. Ancillary facilities are poor quality with no changing rooms available.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility options to improve ancillary pavilion provision and provide appropriate changing rooms.	Wickersley Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
131	Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	6001486	S26 4UR	Football	Other	One good quality adult pitch, one poor quality adult pitch and one poor quality mini 5v5 pitch.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Miners Welfare, S&HFA, FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						One mini 7v7 pitch and three mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are standard quality. Barring the poor quality adult pitch, all pitches have actual spare capacity.							
141	Thurcroft Hub	6000275	S66 9AB	Football	Community Organisation	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of which are standard quality and have actual spare capacity. One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve poor quality pitches to alleviate overplay and utilise actual spare capacity where it exists, at the site.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect
141	Thurcroft Hub	6000275	S66 9AB	Cricket (disused)	Community Organisation	Site previously accommodated a 10-wicket grass square. The site is still used for football purposes.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	1041747	S60 5PU	Football	Community Organisation	One good quality adult pitch and mini 5v5 pitch.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	1041747	S60 5PU	Cricket	Community Organisation	One standard quality 14-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The site is equipped with a two-lane fixed bay net facility which requires replacing due to deteriorating quality. The square is played to capacity.	Look to replace the two-lane net facility.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	Football	Education	One adult pitch, two youth 11v11 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are good quality. Both the adult and youth 11v11 pitches have actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	Rugby Union	Education	Three poor quality (M1/D0) pitches. The pitches are unused by community with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and quality. A proposal is in place for the re-build of the School, with the existing plans impacting upon the playing field provision. It is set out that three rugby union pitches will still be provided following	Improve pitch quality and seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity. Ensure that the three rugby union pitches are re-installed at the site, to the same degree of quality, and that rugby union activity is not inhibited by football use.	Education, RFU	Hub	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						the development, although each will also be a dual use football pitch.							
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, installed in 2022. The pitch is FA registered, due to expire in May 2027. The pitch is available for community use from 17:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 17:00 on weekends.	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	M	M	H	Protect
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	Cricket	Education	Two standalone NTPs that are unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	Tennis	Education	Seven poor quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are equipped with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality and explore community use options.	Education, LTA	Hub	L	L	L	Protect, Enhance
149	Wales Recreation Ground	6009741	S26 6RB	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
149	Wales Recreation Ground	6009741	S26 6RB	Tennis	Council	Eight good quality polymeric courts, seven of which are equipped with sports lighting and one which is without.	Sustain quality.	LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	1041752	S26 5PE	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality three-wicket square accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by 53 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is equipped with a two-lane fixed bay net facility for training.	Look to improve square quality and explore feasibility of installing ten additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
162	Wickersley Northfield Primary School	6019138	S66 2HL	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	1202788	S66 2HL	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality eight-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The site is equipped with mobile nets for training, but the Club aspires for a fixed bay net facility. The square is overplayed by 13 match equivalent sessions per season.	Explore feasibility of installing three additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay. Support the Club with its aspirations for new training provision.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	Football	Education	Five youth 11v11 pitches, two youth 9v9 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of which are poor quality. The mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity but is discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	Rugby Union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch. The pitch is unused by the community and has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, RFU	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Provide
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	3G	Education	One standard quality smaller sized 3G, installed in 2019. The pitch is large enough for mini 7v7 football usage.	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for carpet replacement is required. Look to achieve FA accreditation in order to host competitive matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	Cricket	Education	Four standalone NTPs that are unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	Tennis	Education	Six standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and are equipped with sports lighting.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
168	Woodhouse Mill	1042668	S13 9WF	Football	Council	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch, one poor quality mini 7v7 pitch and youth 9v9 pitch. The youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
170	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	6002473	S81 8QA	Football	Woodsetts Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Woodsetts Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
170	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	6002473	S81 8QA	Cricket	Woodsetts Parish Council	One poor quality one-wicket grass square that is currently unused.	Look to improve square quality.	Woodsetts Parish Council, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
175	Highfield Park	N/A	S66 7DR	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
171	Mill Lane	N/A	S60 5PL	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
176	Tickhill Road	N/A	S66 7QW	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch. The wider location is subject to development proposals.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, with protection required in line with national planning policy. Ensure area where the pitch resides is not impacted upon by development proposals, unless appropriate mitigation is provided.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
179	Redhill	N/A	S26 6QA	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
183	Winney Hill	N/A	S26 7YL	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
184	Harthill Leisure Centre	N/A	S26 7XG	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
185	Brookhouse Cricket Club	N/A	S25 1XZ	Cricket	Private	One standard quality ten-wicket grass square that has spare capacity for one additional midweek team. The site is equipped with mobile nets for training, but the Club aspires for an NTP wicket to accompany the square.	Support the Club with its aspirations for an NTP wicket on the square.	ECB, YCF	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
187	Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute	N/A	S21 1ED	Football	Sports Club	Three adult pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are good quality. The adult pitches have three match equivalent sessions	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						per week of actual spare capacity.							
191	Ravenfield Tennis Courts	N/A	S65 4PP	Tennis	Private	Two good quality polymeric courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting. Although not currently operational, a second tennis club known as Ravenfield LTC, is expected to be established in Rotherham in the near future. Plans are in place to develop appropriate ancillary facilities when a club is established at the site.	Monitor demand levels at the site, as when a club does form to ensure it is being adequately accommodated.	LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
192	Kiveton Park Industrial Estate	N/A	S26 6PB	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch circa 2010.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2040, with this future demand then translated into teams likely to be generated. Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases before converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches that may be required to meet the growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision. The Calculator splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required to support the new demand.

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

The scenarios are as follows:

- ◀ **Scenario One – Rotherham Housing Land Supply Monitoring Report - Five-year Housing Supply Trajectory Target (2025-2030)** - Additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth of 5,148 dwellings across the Borough.
- ◀ **Scenario Two – Land to the West of Maltby Colliery** - Additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth of 185 dwellings.

For reference, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3<sup>7</sup> per dwelling, which is based on a national average.

### Scenario One – Rotherham Housing Land Supply Monitoring Report - Five-year Housing Supply Trajectory Target (2025-2030)

Based on the five-year housing supply trajectory target outlined in the Rotherham Housing Land Supply Monitoring Report, the estimated additional population from 5,148 dwellings — assuming an average occupancy of 2.3 persons per household — is approximately 11,840 people.

Table 6.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 5,148 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 5,148 dwellings	
	Match demand <sup>8</sup>	Training demand <sup>9</sup>
Adult football	2.82	24.12
Youth football	5.42	
Mini soccer	3.81	
Rugby union	0.87	0.95
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.33	0.98

<sup>7</sup> The occupancy rate of 2.3 is in line with figures used in the 2011 Census.

<sup>8</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>9</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 5,148 dwellings	
	Match demand <sup>8</sup>	Training demand <sup>9</sup>
Junior & mixed hockey	0.24	0.27
Cricket	42.78	N/A

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

Table 6.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>10</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>11</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	2.82	£291,924	£57,509	5.64	£1,047,120
Youth football	5.42	£463,797	£93,687	6.55	£1,216,408
Mini soccer	3.81	£102,953	£20,385	-	-
Rugby union	0.87	£136,655	£25,281	1.74	£322,116
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.94	£304,738	£56,072	1.88	£349,179
Sand based AGPs	0.1	£85,616	£2,226	0.19	£35,317
3G	0.63	£685,409	£22,847	1.27	£235,609

In total, it is set out that 14.6 pitches will be required to meet the demand, with the capital cost of providing this estimated at £2,071,093 in addition to lifecycle costs of £278,007. In addition, 17.27 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £3,205,748.

## Scenario Two – Land to the West of Maltby Colliery development

The estimated additional population derived from the Land to the west of Maltby Colliery development of 185 dwellings, with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household, is 426 people.

Table 6.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 185 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 185 dwellings	
	Match demand <sup>12</sup>	Training demand <sup>13</sup>
Adult football	0.1	0.87
Youth football	0.2	
Mini soccer	0.14	
Rugby union	0.03	0.03
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.01	0.04
Junior & mixed hockey	0.01	0.01
Cricket	1.54	N/A

<sup>10</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>11</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

<sup>12</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>13</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Table 6.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>14</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>15</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.1	£10,505	£2,070	0.2	£37,682
Youth football	0.2	£16,689	£3,371	0.24	£43,762
Mini soccer	0.14	£3,704	£733	-	-
Rugby union	0.03	£4,917	£910	0.06	£11,590
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.03	£10,966	£2,018	0.07	£12,566
Sand based AGPs	0	£3,081	£80	0.01	£1,271
3G	0.02	£24,663	£822	0.05	£8,478

In total, it is set out that 0.53 pitches will be required to meet the demand, with the capital cost of providing this estimated at £74,525 in addition to lifecycle costs of £10,004. In addition, 0.62 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £115,347.

### *Dinnington housing allocation*

£663,000 of S106 funding has been allocated to Dinnington, with the potential recipients identified as either Dinnington High School or Dinnington Rugby Club. The summary below outlines the current supply and demand for sports provision in Dinnington, highlighting the key needs and shortfalls within the local area.

- ✦ Four sites: Anston Park Junior School, Blackout13.com Arena, Dinnington High School & Dinnington Rugby Club.
- ✦ One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, built in 2022 (at Blackout13.com Arena).
- ✦ One poor quality hockey-suitable AGP, built in 2006 (at Dinnington High School) – the AGP is currently unused for hockey due to its poor condition; it has exceeded its recommended lifespan and requires resurfacing.
- ✦ Grass football pitches at Anston Park Junior School and Dinnington High School.
- ✦ Three grass rugby union pitches at Dinnington Rugby Club, two of which are overplayed to total a combined shortfall of 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

### Summary

The above scenarios identify that through overall housing growth, demand will be generated to some extent for all pitch sports, and the level of demand generated for football, 3G, rugby union and cricket is such that new provision will likely be warranted. As demand generated for hockey does not equate to a whole pitch, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).

<sup>14</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>15</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## **ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created in their own right. Where this is the case, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). This would only be the case if nearby sites have sufficient actual spare capacity for the relevant sports, which could be established, as an example, through creating a bespoke catchment area for the development and reviewing the provision that falls within this.

If sufficient actual spare capacity does not exist, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

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

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for Rotherham based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group. There is also a need for the Council to identify a schedule to deliver Stage E, please see Appendix One for a tailored approach.

#### **Delivery**

The PPS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Rotherham in relation to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as well as supporting ancillary facilities. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and by using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this moving forward.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities. The creation of this document should therefore be regarded as only part of the planning process. The success of the Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. To that end, each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPS is well used, it should be regarded as a key document within the study area, guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision, being used to attract and distribute both internal and external investment, and being used as an evidence base to support or oppose any development proposals. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. The Steering Group also needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

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

#### **Monitoring and updating**

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

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As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust. This makes it less likely to be able to be used as an evidence base for any funding bids or development proposals.

To extend the lifespan of the PPS for as long as possible, it is advised that regular Steering Group meetings take place to review the study. Ideally, these should take place twice yearly, aligned to the split of summer and winter sport seasons and in line with affiliation periods.

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

- ◀ Actions undertaken since the adoption of the PPS or since the last review, as well as any actions that have been attempted but have been unsuccessful (and for what reason).
- ◀ Any changes required to the priority afforded to each remaining action (as the priority of some may change following the delivery of others or for more general reasons e.g., alterations in participation trends or focus areas).
- ◀ Any significant changes to supply and demand information and what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues (e.g., development pressures) and opportunities (e.g., S106 contributions or club aspirations).
- ◀ Priority actions to be focused on before the next review.
- ◀ How the PPS has been applied to date and the lessons learnt.

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

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

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

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## Checklist

To help ensure the PPS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the Steering Group can refer to Sport England's Stage E Checklist, as shown below.

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

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## APPENDIX ONE: TAILORED APPROACH FOR ROTHERHAM PPS STAGE E

What?	Who?	When?
<p><b>1. Internal Steering Group Meeting</b></p> <p>Meeting between council officers internal Steering Group members to discuss and log key changes in provision, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ New pitch provision.</li> <li>◀ Pitch improvements.</li> <li>◀ Pitch re-configuration.</li> <li>◀ Pitch loss/threat.</li> <li>◀ Community access agreements (e.g. education/private sites).</li> <li>◀ Plans for future provision.</li> </ul> <p>The outcomes from the meeting and updates to documents should be recorded.</p>	<p>Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</p>	<p>Bi-Annually</p>
<p><b>2. Sport England and NGB Update Meetings</b></p> <p>The Council to hold series of update meetings with individual sports NGBs to discuss and log:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Any changes in club and team details.</li> <li>◀ Any changes in sport format.</li> <li>◀ Any site specific updates.</li> <li>◀ Changes to supply and demand data.</li> <li>◀ The application and use of the PPS e.g. in delivery of new or improved provision, funding opportunities, programmes and initiatives.</li> <li>◀ Any new issues and opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council NGBs Sport England</p>	<p>Annually for each sport, to fit with affiliation process (generally October for winter sports and June for summer sports)</p>

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What?	Who?	When?
<p><b>3. Prepare Annual PPS Progress Paper</b></p> <p>Based on the outcome of actions above, a short Annual PPS Progress and Update paper should be produced, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ The delivery of PPS recommendations and any changes in priority;</li> <li>◀ Changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area and other supply and demand information with implications for PPS' key findings;</li> <li>◀ Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format;</li> <li>◀ Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities;</li> <li>◀ Any issues with the application of the PPS and lessons learnt;</li> <li>◀ Actions needed to keep the PPS 'live' and up to date.</li> </ul> <p>Based on the above, the Annual Progress Paper will also consider if a partial or full update of the PPS is required.</p> <p>Alternatively, both the Assessment Report and the Strategy can be updated to take into account and referencing all of the above.</p>	PPS Steering Group	Annually
<p><b>4. Circulation and Agreement</b></p> <p>Circulate the Annual Progress Paper or updated PPS document to the Steering Group for comment and agreement with opportunity to hold a further meeting to discuss findings and issues.</p>	PPS Steering Group	Annually
<p><b>5. Publish Paper</b></p> <p>Make Annual Progress paper or updated documents available online; report any significant findings to appropriate committee if considered necessary.</p>	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Annually – following completion of all of the above