

Climate Impact Assessment, Appendix 5 , Playing Pitch Strategy

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase	<p>Any construction of new pavilions, changing rooms or 3G pitch infrastructure could temporarily increase embodied carbon and operational emissions.</p> <p>Ongoing building use may increase electricity consumption, though PPS recommends LED lighting, energy-efficient systems and modernised buildings that reduce long-term emissions.</p>	<p>Community clubs may also develop new ancillary buildings, creating mixed impacts.</p> <p>Long-term efficiency gains from better-quality, accessible facilities may reduce heating/lighting waste</p>	<p>New non-domestic buildings will be designed to minimise carbon emissions operationally if built by the Council.</p> <p>Where the council are not the developers, support and knowledge will be shared in best practice with regards to reductions in carbon footprint.</p>	Track energy consumption at Council-owned and leased sites annually.
Emissions from transport?	Increase	<p>Where a development may occur, there will be an increase in emissions.</p> <p>There is a potential increase in the emissions from the council due to travel for site maintenance.</p>	<p>There is a potential increase in emissions from cars due to increased participation, people attending training, matches.</p> <p>However, there is a current export from the borough which may decrease the amount of travel and emissions from users.</p>	<p>The creation of central venue leagues may lead to more car sharing, use of public transport if town centre based.</p> <p>Promotion of public transport and active travel options.</p>	The number of teams will be monitored on an annual basis, as the PPS is updated.

			There could also be a reduction in emissions where a new facility is created that is more local and accessible via public transport or active travel.		
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	<p>Construction of new 3G pitches or development of grass pitches (i.e. levelling a pitch) will generate waste.</p> <p>PPS does not directly increase waste; modernisation may reduce material waste long-term</p>	<p>Emissions and quantity from waste will be minimal once construction has been completed.</p> <p>Community clubs may generate waste from events/matchdays</p>	Offer recycling provision at playing fields.	Annual site audits
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	<p>The PPS does not influence domestic buildings</p> <p>However, people will be encouraged to be more active and outdoors more often supporting the Cultural Strategy, which may have an impact on emissions from housing and buildings.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	New 3G pitches, cricket squares, lighting and pavilion upgrades involve embodied carbon and construction impacts.	Temporary increase in Borough emissions during construction.	<p>Locally sourced materials and resources where possible.</p> <p>Avoid over-building by prioritising refurbishment and bringing disused</p>	Industry standard practises to be managed by contractor.

				sites back into use (which the PPS strongly supports)	
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Unknown	<p>Potential but this isn't quantifiable at the moment as the programme hasn't been drafted as of yet.</p> <p>Pitch developments may require removal of minor vegetation.</p> <p>Opportunities exist to plant new trees/hedging around sports sites</p>	<p>Protecting large green open spaces as playing fields prevents them from being developed, maintaining carbon-absorbing land use.</p> <p>Outdoor sports areas provide informal green infrastructure</p>	Avoid loss of green space; PPS already emphasises protection of existing pitches	Annual review of lost/created green assets as part of PPS updates

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

Use of rubber crumb in some existing 3G pitches: PPS recommends infill containment measures and exploring alternative infills in line with environmental policy. In September 2023, European REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) introduced restrictions on the use of microplastics for such infill material, effective from October 2031, which may affect the continued viability of maintaining 3G pitches in the UK (*Position statement on 3G pitches*, Sport England, 2025. Available from: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/position-statement-on-3g-pitches>).

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

The impact is positive:

Outdoor sports sites form part of Rotherham's green infrastructure, supporting natural drainage and reducing localised flood risk. The PPS encourages bringing disused pitches back into use, limiting pressure to convert open spaces into built development. Upgrades to pitches improve drainage and resilience to extreme rainfall (notably relevant given Rotherham's recent flood history). Enhanced/modernised pavilions can be designed to be resilient to heatwaves, flooding and power interruptions. More geographically local facilities reduce transport vulnerability during disruption. Community wellbeing and physical activity are important resilience factors.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The Playing Pitch Strategy has a balanced climate impact, with some temporary carbon costs associated with construction of new or improved sports facilities, but with long-term environmental and social benefits.

Key emissions considerations:

- Short-term carbon increases from construction of 3G pitches, pavilions and lighting.
- Long-term reductions through energy-efficient designs, LED lighting, modern buildings and reduced travel distances.
- Protection of green open space maintains carbon capture and reduces development-related emissions.
- Active travel opportunities increase when facilities are more local and accessible.
- Improved drainage and modern infrastructure enhance resilience to Rotherham-specific climate risks (flooding, heatwaves).
- Reuse of existing sites (rather than new land take) significantly reduces embodied carbon impacts.

Supporting information:

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Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rotherham Playing Pitch Strategy• Part A Equality Screening Assessment• Sport England's Position Statement on 3G Pitches
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not required at PPS adoption stage; to be completed at project design stage if new builds or lighting systems are specified.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 589 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer