

West Berkshire Council

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

2024 - 2041

Consultation Draft

APPENDIX 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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planning | policy | strategy | partnership

Produced for:

 **WestBerkshire**
COUNCIL

Version record

1 st draft (Steering Group)	August 2025
Final draft (Steering Group)	October 2025
Consultation draft	October 2025
Final	

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Playing Pitch Strategy and why do we need one?

This Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) covers the period between 2024 (as the date from which baseline data has been taken) and 2041 and is compliant with the most up-to-date Sport England guidance¹.

A PPS plays a number of important roles in sport, leisure and planning terms, and also has a direct link into the health and wellbeing agenda both in relation to formal club-based sport but also social, casual and informal sport aimed at getting people more active (with positive outcomes for mental as well as physical health). At its basic level, the PPS provides an audit of the quality, quantity and accessibility of playing pitches, establishes the current levels of demand (and therefore whether pitches are being over or under used) and projects forward demand likely to arise by the end of the strategy period so that the appropriate level of pitch provision can be planned for the future.

The PPS:

- Can be used as robust evidence to protect existing playing pitches and playing fields;
- Can and should be used in the planning of new developments to include playing pitches' on-site or contribution to off-site consistent with national and/or local policy;

- Can help to improve the quality of offer and provision by identifying and quantifying issues relating to the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities;
- Can be used by clubs and teams and pitch operators / providers to support applications for funding for the improvement of the quality, quantity and accessibility of provision;
- Helps to defend against inappropriate development or loss of pitches;
- Informs planning policy development; and,
- Provides a strategic view and options for the provision of pitches during the strategy period;
- Forms an important part of the “package” of strategies, evidence and actions which can contribute towards improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of those who live and work in the area.

What the strategy does not and cannot do is provide a blueprint for change to 2041. The strategy can present options based on evidence and assessment of it (and indeed recommendations) but cannot do the work necessary (for example, logistical, feasibility and viability work) required to confirm actions with 100% certainty and make things happen “on the ground”, which is the task of the many stakeholders (such as clubs, providers, owners and managers of pitches) and bodies (such as the Council, sports governing bodies and Sport England) responsible for delivery of pitches and ancillary facilities following the strategy's adoption. The delivery stage of the PPS (known as “Stage E” in the Sport England guidance) should include 3, 6 or 12 monthly

¹ See https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=assessing_needs_and_playing_pitch_strategy_guidance

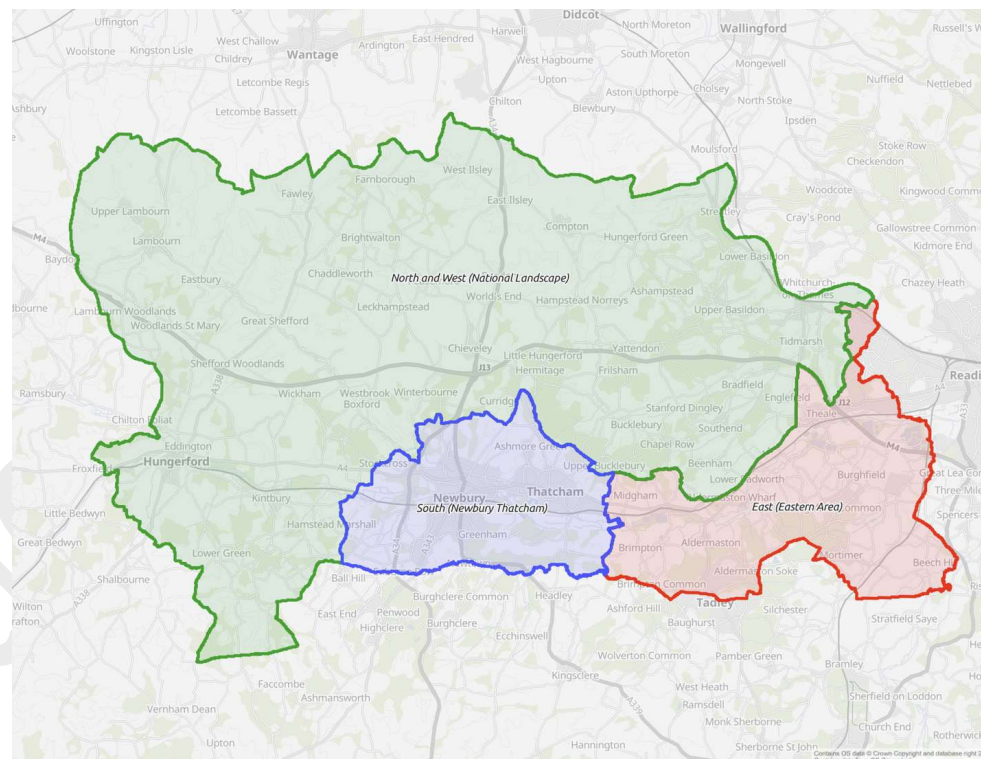
meetings of the steering group to monitor, action and help deliver change. A wider strategy review should take place every 3 years.

What area does the Strategy cover?

The study area for the PPS is the whole of the West Berkshire Council (WBC) area, as shown below (Figure 1). The map also shows the sub-areas used for analysis and presentation of the strategy's recommendations and actions. The locations of all pitches identified in the study are shown in Appendix 5 to this strategy and details of each pitch and site are set out in the Assessment Reports which support and evidence this strategy document and are used by members of the Steering Group during delivery.

The strategy has also considered exported and imported demand for pitch sports, so that the relationship between areas and impact of provision outside the WBC area can be understood and recommendations made to reflect these relationships.

Figure 1: Study Area and Sub-Areas



What sports and pitch types does the Strategy include?

The typology for the playing pitch assessment is as follows:

- Outdoor grass pitches used for football, rugby union, lacrosse and cricket;
- Outdoor full-size artificial grass pitches (AGPs) which can be used, depending on the type of surface, for hockey, football and rugby (which can be partitioned to make a number of smaller pitches for smaller sided games or training), and non-turf cricket pitches;
- Outdoor tennis and netball courts; and,
- Outdoor smaller, dedicated or “formal” AGPs (where booking is required, i.e. not open MUGAs - multi-use games areas) used predominantly for small-sided football (games e.g. 5, 6 or 7-a-side).

The PPS does not consider use of indoor sports halls, “kick-about” areas or, as indicated above, most “open” MUGAs, for example those in parks, although it is recognised that these play important roles in the provision of space for informal / casual play and many different sports.

While all pitches meeting the above criteria are identified for the purposes of establishing the quantity of pitches available, the focus of assessment is on those pitches with “community use” during the “peak period”² or those with potential to host community use. This is because the PPS is concerned with understanding and planning for

public or wider use (for example, by one or more clubs or teams), rather than that provided for a single user without allowing public access. Pitches without “community use” will tend to be used only by one group of users and will typically include mainly school sites. These are important to school pupils and students but will often not be available for wider community use to protect the quality of provision, for reasons of security and child safeguarding, or for logistical reasons such as not being able to open a school site up at a weekend or evening. However, an understanding of pitches not currently available for community use or access are noted to be able to understand the role they could potentially play in supporting provision in the future.

“Community use” does extend to those sites which are provided on a commercial basis and those which require a membership fee for use (where those fees are not exorbitant and where membership is not unduly restrictive).

Analysis of the supply of and demand for community use pitches is also split into those pitches which have “security of community use” (for example, a long-term lease, covenant and / or community use agreement) and those which have “insecure community use” (for example, where such agreements are absent and reliance is on a verbal or other form of informal arrangement). This distinction is important, as those pitches which are used by the community or clubs on insecure sites are at greater risk of being taken away from supply (for example, if the provider decides that they no longer wish to host clubs or other

² The peak period for AGPs is Monday – Thursday 5pm – 10pm, Friday 5pm – 7pm and Saturday and Sundays 9am – 5pm. It is recognised, however, that in some cases for some pitches, this can vary a little. For competitive football the peak period varies between age groups but for adult men it is Saturday afternoon, adult ladies Sunday afternoon and juniors Sunday morning. For rugby union the peak period is Sunday mornings for youth, mini and midi, Saturday afternoon for adult men and Sunday

afternoon for adult ladies. For cricket the peak period is Saturday afternoon for adult men, is variable for adult ladies across weekend afternoons and evenings depending on the format and league and is mostly Sunday mornings or afternoons for juniors. For hockey, peak period is typically Saturdays for adult matches and Sunday afternoons for junior matches, with training taking place preferably on Tuesday to Thursday evenings.

community use), sometimes at short notice, placing additional pressure on those sites with secure community use. During the assessment, consideration has been given to the degree of risk that reliance on use of unsecure sites is placing on supply overall.

Who has contributed to the Strategy's content?

Development of the strategy necessitates a lengthy process to gather and analyse data across different sports' seasons, consult with key stakeholders and ensure agreement of the strategy's content by sports governing bodies and Sport England.

PPS guidance requires the development of the strategy to be steered and managed by a "steering group". The involvement of a steering group is particularly important given the importance of its members in the provision of baseline data, and "grounding" and delivery of the strategy. The steering group plays a significant role by:

- considering (through "check and challenge") information and data during the process;
- verifying and helping to localise data;
- providing a connection with local providers, clubs and teams;
- helping to put locally gathered information into a strategic context; and,
- commenting on and shaping the outputs of the study at each stage in the process and giving approval required by the PPS guidance prior to the process moving to the next stage.

Communication with the steering group has not simply been through meetings at key stages of the process. There has been an ongoing dialogue with members of the steering group throughout the process.

The steering group members are as follows.

Organisation	
West Berkshire	England and Wales Cricket Board
Rugby Football Union	Berkshire Cricket Foundation
Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Football Association	England Hockey
Football Foundation	England Lacrosse
Lawn Tennis Association	England Netball
Sport England	Stuart Todd Associates Ltd.

NGBs have played a key role, in particular, and their role and commitment to the process is set out in the PPS guidance.

Consultation is an integral and important part of the PPS' development, as set out above. Consultation has been undertaken, prior to the strategy being produced, in the following ways:

- online surveys early in the process sent to relevant clubs, pitch owners, pitch managers, pitch providers / operators and the education sector to ascertain up-to-date baseline information about quality, accessibility, demand for pitches and ancillary facilities being reviewed and other important issues of concern;
- 1-2-1 online meetings with various key stakeholders identified by the Steering Group; and,
- face-to-face on-site meetings with some of those providers and operators managing and maintaining sites during playing pitch quality audits.

This strategy is subject to wider consultation and views will help to inform and confirm the strategy's content. Any changes in data identified through consultation will only be updated further at this stage if it would be likely to require a fundamental change to the conclusions overall for that sport or pitch type. The use of pitches and issues of

concern can change from season to season and so some flexibility in the interpretation of results at the pitch specific level will be required, something which will need to be acknowledged as the strategy is delivered and as solutions are identified. This is one of the reasons why, as noted above, the strategy cannot provide a blueprint for change but instead focuses on key actions and options for change to improve the quality of provision and respond appropriately to changes in demand now and in the future.

Within this context, the actions which arise from the process are considered to be “live” and the strategy itself provides “strategic direction” to plan for accommodating demand to 2041.

What is the Strategy trying to achieve?

At the start of the PPS process, the Steering Group overseeing the strategy’s development agreed a Vision for the strategy. The Vision, set out below, sets the tone for the treatment of playing pitches during the strategy period to the year 2041.

Vision

“The PPS seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities which supports increased sports participation by all residents, at all levels of play, from grassroots to elite.”

How was the Playing Pitch Strategy developed?

It has been important that the development of the PPS has followed the guidance published by Sport England and which has been agreed by the national governing bodies (NGBs) for the sports considered by the strategy. Use of the guidance, and data verification and checks on the quality of the various outputs during the strategy’s development by these bodies ensures that the final strategy is robust, fits with and informs their priorities, programmes and strategies and benefits from those bodies’ support as its options are explored and actions delivered.

Sport England’s PPS guidance sets out a ten-step process to be followed to ensure that the PPS is robust. The ten-steps are set out below. Analysis of the data established in stage B is presented in reports setting out summary tables of key data and issues and stage C assessment report itself (the “Assessment Reports”). Those reports sit alongside this strategy as the evidence for its overall “direction of travel” and specific actions for sports and pitches.

- Stage A (led by WBC)
 1. Prepare and tailor approach
- Stage B (led by consultants, Stuart Todd Associates)
 - 2 & 3. Gather supply and demand information and views.
- Stage C (led by consultants, Stuart Todd Associates)
 4. Understand situation at sites.
 5. Develop current & future pitches of provision.
 6. Identify key findings and issues
- Stage D (led by consultants, Stuart Todd Associates)
 7. Develop the recommendations and action plan.
 8. Write and adopt the strategy.
- Stage E (to be led by WBC and members of the Steering Group)

9. Apply and deliver the strategy.
10. Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date.

For each of the sports (football, cricket, hockey and rugby union) and pitch types (grass and artificial) in the typology the report assesses current supply, demand, accessibility, availability, quality, quantity and issues with provision, to set out the position now; and then projects likely future need and demand forward to understand requirements for each sport and pitch type in the future and the changes necessary to ensure provision is adequate to meet these future needs.

For other or lesser played pitch sports, sports governing bodies were contacted to understand key issues, constraints and opportunities in relation to each, where they indicated that there is demand for their sport, and clubs were contacted where further detail was needed to understand key issues.

The supply and demand information and data used in the assessment was collected over several months during 2024/25 and was verified and agreed by the project's Steering Group (see below) prior to the assessment stage.

Who has ownership of the strategy and who will deliver its actions?

This PPS is a strategy for pitch sports. While the development of the strategy was commissioned by West Berkshire Council (and therefore “ownership” of the strategy rests principally with the local authority), this does not mean that all recommendations must be delivered solely

by the Council. Delivery is the responsibility of all members of the steering group, and also of other key stakeholders such as (but not limited to) clubs, providers, operators and land owners.

There is no implication through this strategy that it is the sole responsibility of the local authority to deliver and maintain all pitches and facilities for sport. The nature of sports facility and pitch provision has been changing over the last decade or so nationally with the role of local authorities now moving away from being the main provider, maintainer and operator of pitches to, while still playing this role to an extent now also being a facilitator and enabler.

However, the strategy has an important role in informing the current and future reviews of the Council's Local Plan, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and approach to CIL and s106 planning obligations³. It will also play an important role informing the decision-making process as the Council considers planning applications (as the local planning authority) which relate to the protection, enhancement and provision of pitches and facilities.

New pitches and facilities are most likely to be provided in partnership by the local authority, sports organisations, national sports governing bodies, the education sector / establishments, clubs, businesses and operators, or more commonly by a combination of one or more of these. The local authority is likely to play a key enabling and co-ordination role in planning for and the delivery of new pitches and facilities. The same applies to the improvement of existing pitches and facilities, where management and / or ownership of existing facilities is no longer (or never has been) solely the responsibility of the Council. The current landscape of pitch provision therefore requires the steering

³ Subject to any changes being brought about to the s106 and CIL regime by Government changes to the planning system during the strategy period.

group members each to (continue to) play an important role in helping to deliver the strategy's recommendations and action framework.

What key strategies, plans and funding opportunities are relevant to the PPS?

There are a number of important strategies and plans which are relevant and link to the PPS strategy, both on the sport and planning side which are briefly summarised below. It is important to note the context that they provide, both for the strategy to be produced and also for the recommendations and actions it presents. There are other strategies and plans with which this strategy has a connection. However, these cannot all be summarised here.

Important links should continue to be made by appropriate bodies between this strategy for pitches and sport and those produced for issues such as health & wellbeing (including leisure and active lives), green infrastructure, transport, economic development and wider planning programmes (in addition to those strategies summarised below).

- Adopted planning policies (for example, in the Local Plan)
- Neighbourhood Plans
- National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance
- Sport England: "Uniting the Movement" 2021-2031
- Sport England: "Every Move" Strategy
- Sport England Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance
- Football Association Strategy 2024-28 and Local Football Facility Plans

- Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Football Association's Strategies
- England Hockey "Facilities Strategy" 2017-2033
- England Hockey "Creating A Future For Our Game Together" 2023-2028
- England and Wales Cricket Board "Inspiring Generations" 2025-28
- Berkshire Cricket Facilities Strategy
- Rugby Football Union "England Rugby Strategy – A Successful and Thriving Game Across England" (2021-2026) National Facilities Strategy
- Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Active Design (Sport England, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and Active Travel England)

The nature of funding for sports pitches and facilities is constantly changing and evolving. This strategy, therefore, given that it covers an extensive period of time, does not seek to define what current funding opportunities are in detail due to changes which will undoubtedly occur over time.

However, the list below provides a brief (but not exhaustive) summary of potential funding / resource opportunities across sports at the current time. Readers should not rely on this list being either comprehensive or up-to-date and those with an interest in funding pitch maintenance, improvement or additional new provision should discuss funding opportunities available to them at the time of interest with the local authority, Sport England, Sports Governing Bodies and other relevant

organisations such as the Football Foundation, Rugby Football Foundation and National Hockey Foundation.⁴

Across-sports

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106 planning obligations⁵
- Sport England Movement Fund⁶
- Big Lottery Fund⁷
- Public Work Loans Board (PWLb)⁸
- Multi-sport Funding⁹

Rugby Union

- For Investment support and Guidance, clubs should contact the RFU

Cricket

⁴ At the time of writing this strategy, the following webpages provide gateway information to understanding more about funding opportunities:

<http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/facilities> ,
<https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/> ,
<https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/financial-management/funding/> , <http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/> ,
<http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2388§ionTitle=Sinking+Fund> s , <http://www.54408.mrsite.com/page11.htm> , <https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding>

⁵ CIL is a charge on new developments applied by the local authority to developments which meet certain criteria and is most often collected for housing schemes on a charge per square metre. Contact WBC for further information on CIL. Section 106 planning obligations deliver infrastructure and site specific requirements related to a development that cannot be delivered through CIL but are necessary in order for planning permission to be granted. Contact WBC for further information on the application of section 106 to sports facilities and pitches outside of CIL.

⁶ See <https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/our-funding/>

⁷ See <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>

⁸ See <https://www.pwlb.gov.uk/responsibilities/local-authority-lending-pwlb/>

⁹ See <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/multi-sport>

- County Grants Fund¹⁰
- Interest Free Loan Scheme¹¹
- Grass Pitch Improvement Fund¹²

Hockey

- See England Hockey's website for the most up-to-date funding options.¹³

Football

- Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund¹⁴
- LED Floodlight Fund¹⁵
- PlayZones Programme¹⁶
- Home Advantage Programme¹⁷
- Energy Support Programme¹⁸
- The FA and FF Available Funding¹⁹
- Small Grants Scheme (under £25k)²⁰

¹⁰ See <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding/county-grant-fund>

¹¹ See <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding/interest-free-loan-scheme>

¹² See www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding/grass-pitch-improvement-fund

¹³ See <https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/deliver/facilities/funding-for-facilities>

¹⁴ See <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

¹⁵ See <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/led-floodlight-fund>

¹⁶ See <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/playzones-programme>

¹⁷ See https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/home-advantage-programme?gclid=CjwKCAjw1t2pBhAFEiwA_-A-NF0owM4uvCIHUUFHdnKzUadJpDUBg7jSgy pbCHGOW_R6r_pZFJy7YBoCAycQAvD_BwE

¹⁸ See https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/energy-support-programme?gclid=CjwKCAjw1t2pBhAFEiwA_-ANNulqozJi5-wFpFTiXBeG911fdQGsjAffsQPiak3YRT3eCRgn6C8xBoCf0gQAvD_BwE

¹⁹ See <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

²⁰ See <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

- Delegated Funding (£25k-£250k)²¹
- Large Grants (£250k+)²²
- Premier League Stadium Fund²³

In addition to accessing capital funding opportunities, those providing additional pitches and facilities must take into account the long-term revenue implications of running, managing, maintaining and replacing facilities and pitches as they plan for the future. Many funders providing capital grants and loans will likely require a sustainable viability test and / or business plan to be in place (particularly where large sums of money are involved).

What are the key issues for sports in relation to the changing climate?

When considering the decarbonisation, sustainable travel and climate change agendas, there are several issues of relevance which need to be considered moving forward. There are also opportunities that pitch sports can present to help mitigate the impact of and adapt to a changing climate. Appendix 3 elaborates on these issues and opportunities, but they are summarised below.

While many of the issues and opportunities are not within the gift of a PPS to deliver or “make happen”, with many being cross-cutting across sectors and organisation responsibilities or being part of site management and investment plans, the PPS recommendations seek to provide a positive and constructive response to them.

With regard to renewable and low carbon energy supply and energy costs, there will be opportunities for clubs to retrofit existing facilities with energy efficient, low carbon and renewable energy generation solutions.

Active travel must be part of the solution to not only contribute to improving health, but also reduce reliance on the private car, especially for local journeys. However, the contribution of pitch sports to this has to be seen within the context of practicalities of the need to transport kit by foot or bike, weather conditions, darkness in winter months, players’ time, safe routes on foot and bike, the need to travel distances to away matches, and rurality, with some clubs drawing from a reasonably wide catchment. Cultural shift will be challenging to embed in many sports, but through a package of measures, largely outside of sport or planning, a gradual change can be given an opportunity to occur.

This is not to say that this is a challenge not worth addressing, but the Playing Pitch Strategy cannot provide full answers and proposals to resolve such issues, particularly as they go beyond the remit of the strategy and will require cross-discipline, cross-department and cross-sector working within and with organisations and other stakeholders outside of sport and planning. For example, it will be the role of other strategies and plans such as Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans and active travel strategies and action plans to help ensure that key sports hubs, in particular, which see a substantial amount of demand, are well connected by safe cycling and walking networks, while it is the role of public transport providers and local authorities to

²¹ See <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

²² See <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

²³ See <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/>

ensure that public transport also serves such facilities at the right times, right frequencies and to the most likely destinations of sports users and players.

Opportunities for small scale, but important, measures such as provision of secure and covered cycle stands at home grounds, to support behaviour change as a small part of a much wider package of measures wider than that which sport and planning can provide.

There are clear health benefits to providing sports-lit AGPs, with greater accessibility, particularly during winter months and reliability and durability of the surface, compared to grass. While there are some environmental concerns about the use of artificial pitch surfaces for sport with concerns focusing around use of a synthetic pitch which is predominantly plastic and use of rubber crumb on 3G pitches with consequential loss of rubber particles off-site and into the environment²⁴, the industry and planning system continues to work to find solutions to these issues. Guidance already exists, for example, about the use of infill materials on AGPs²⁵ and design and operational arrangements can be implemented which help in managing and mitigating elements of environmental concerns. For example, the Football Foundation has highlighted that independent studies²⁶ have shown that through good field design, operation and maintenance, infill migration from an artificial grass pitch can be reduced by up to 98%

²⁴ Also, the EU has recently banned use of micro-plastics from 2031, with the UK not yet following suit, but which could have an impact on the availability of rubber crumb. Other infill materials are being trialled at the current time. It should be noted that, at time of writing, there are no such alternatives available which meet FIFA Quality requirements, and as such, they cannot yet provide a solution to support affiliated football requirements/match play aligned to the demand identified within this strategy.

²⁵ See <https://sapca.org.uk/guide/codes-of-practice/>

from typical worst-case situations. Containment is the current policy direction and new AGPs should apply this approach, which will be requested by Sport England when it is consulted on such proposals.

Clearly, for the environment, sport and health to benefit, and for solutions to be financially viable, a balance needs to be struck, as is the case throughout the planning system, between provision of AGPs and resolution of adverse impact and satisfactory mitigation of these. For example, the Government has been exploring whether carbon assessments for developments could be brought in (which seem likely to be introduced anyway by many local authorities) and impact assessments for health, travel / transport and the environment already exist. Net gain biodiversity for development has been introduced through the Environment Act, a legislated requirement giving it more “weight” than a policy only based approach.

WBC can already seek conditions on permissions including the design of schemes, including multiple measures to prevent loss of rubber crumb from 3G pitches and end of surface life recycling for AGPs.

When planning for sports pitch provision, it is important to be cognisant of Sport England’s Every Move Strategy in relation to the application of carbon reduction measures in sport²⁷ and to take into account Sport England’s Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance²⁸.

²⁶ See <https://www.estc.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Ecoloop-Report-Effectiveness-RMMs.pdf>

²⁷ See <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/sustainability>

²⁸ See https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-07/Biodiversity%20Report-v6-15.pdf?VersionId=QgRci4g9qEvzvceqN4FgOMGkd8_ySgr

What lines of enquiry and scenarios have been explored?

The approach taken to the PPS assessment follows Sport England's PPS Guidance. It builds on the guidance by including analysis of various "lines of inquiry" as part of the STA "standard approach" to assessment to help understand fully the main risks for pitch sports, and the impact of and potential opportunity for change in provision for sport. It is worth noting the lines of inquiry which feature as part of the main assessment. These are:

- A. If current pitches with unsecure community use are lost to supply.
- B. Future demand arising from housing/population trajectory.
- C. If current i) "Poor" and ii) "Standard" quality grass pitches were improved to "Good" quality, the additional match equivalent capacity which could be secured in supply.
- D. If those grass and 3G pitches on education sites not currently available for community use were to be opened up to supply.
- E. If current education sector provision is removed from supply i) with existing community use and ii) not currently in community use.
- F. The relationship between the areas with the highest levels of deprivation (10% and 20% IMD decile) and supply of pitches, focusing on: i) if supply was lost from these areas and ii) identification of areas with no existing and unused / closed / lapsed supply.
- G. Factoring disability teams into future projections of demand and commenting, based on any data or other information provided by NGBs, on potential future demand for this particular group of players / teams.

- H. Factoring in participation rate changes and growth in demand in specific age groups and sexes into future projections of demand.
- I. Identifying i) the impact of bringing disused grass pitches which had community use back into use (i.e. former pitches no longer used) and ii) bringing disused grass pitches with community use back into use, with regard to the then subsequent change in additional future demand (pitch capacity / number of pitches).
- J. The impact of those clubs with exported / displaced demand wishing to return to play within the West Berkshire Council (WBC) area, if any.
- K. Identify the impact on existing and future grass pitch demand at rugby club home grounds if existing poor quality grass pitches are improved on club sites / grounds and if additional sports lighting can be introduced to at least one club pitch, where relevant.

As part of the assessment process, several scenarios of particular relevance to the WBC area will be tested. The scenarios are designed to highlight situations which could take place or where there is a need to understand the potential implications of the scenario in order to help ensure that delivery of the preferred strategy approach takes place. The final approach in the strategy may allow or accept one or more of these scenarios as a component of priority action, but each stands alone in its own right to inform the strategy and delivery.

Potential scenarios:

- S1. If all football was to leave sand-based pitches, with all demand migrating to 3G, the possible implications for those sites and for hockey clubs which use them.
- S2. If all mini soccer (5v5 and 7v7) matches moved to 3G, for e.g. to one or more central hub venues.

- S3. Understanding the demand from urban extensions / strategic developments not yet started and which are in the adopted Local Plan.
- S4. If village cricket clubs fold, testing implications for other clubs and grounds.
- S5. Options for accommodating current demand and future growth of all pitch sports using Henwick Worthy (to be explored as part of the masterplanning process for the site).
- S6. If existing 3G pitches that are not on the FA 3G Pitch Register, could be used for matches.
- S7. Consider the impact of reinstating and floodlighting tennis courts at Thatcham Memorial and Henwick Worthy.
- S8. Consider the impact of providing Padel tennis courts at Henwick Worthy.
- S9. If the Faraday Road grass pitch was converted to 3G, what are the implications.
- S10. If grass pitch capacity for matches is limited, for mini soccer and youth football, to 9am to 1pm on a Saturday, what are the implications. Assumes a maximum of 4 matches being played for mini soccer (5v5 and 7v7) and 3 for youth football (9v9 and 11v11 youth).
- S11. Participation rate changes for football: youth male: 15%; Adult Male: 2.5% (decline); Female Youth: 45%; Adult Female: 20%.