



# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

**APRIL 2023**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF  
T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@kcp.co.uk](mailto:mail@kcp.co.uk) [www.kcp.co.uk](http://www.kcp.co.uk)



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

## CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS .....	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION .....	2
PART 2: VISION .....	10
PART 3: AIMS .....	11
PART 4: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS .....	12
PART 5: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	27
PART 6: STRATEGIC ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.....	57
◀ BOOTLE AND NETHERTON SETTLEMENT AREA .....	59
◀ CROSBY SETTLEMENT AREA.....	69
◀ FORMBY SETTLEMENT AREA.....	79
◀ SEFTON EAST SETTLEMENT AREA .....	86
◀ SOUTHPORT SETTLEMENT AREA.....	94
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS.....	110
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE .....	111
APPENDIX ONE: TAILORED APPROACH FOR SEFTON STAGE E.....	116
APPENDIX TWO: SPORTING CONTEXT .....	118
APPENDIX THREE: FUNDING PLAN .....	125

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BC	Bowls Club
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
BCIS	Building Cost Information Service
CFA	County Football Association
DCMS	Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFA	Lancashire Football Association
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
LCFA	Liverpool County Football Association
MES	Match Equivalent Session
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non Turf Pitch
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
SC	Sefton Council
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
RFC	Rugby Football Club
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

A Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) has been commissioned by Sefton Council (SC), to assess playing pitch and outdoor sport facility needs. This report provides the Strategy and Action & Implementation Plan for Sefton.

Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and outdoor sport and accompanying ancillary facilities, with future demand projected up to 2030 (in line with Local Plan). It has been developed to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

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 (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a ten step 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, Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if annual Monitoring and Review is carried out from the date the Steering Group formally sign off the PPOSS.

A PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, picking up on particular local demand issues.
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
- ◀ Supporting funding applications.
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

The Strategy and Action & Implementation Plan recommends several priority projects for Sefton which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), sports organisations, education establishments and parish/town councils. In many instances, the Council will not be the agency which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

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

It is important to ensure there is regular annual monitoring and review of the baseline data, recommendations and actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the baseline data being collated, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS; and the information on which it is based, to be out of date.

The PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPOSS. Taking into account the time spent developing the PPOSS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. Part 8 of this strategy report contains a suggested process for undertaking the annual update and monitoring. To assist this process, Sport England has produced a template Annual Monitoring Report which can be tailored to meet the needs of the Steering Group.

### ***Agreed scope***

A wide range of playing pitch and outdoor sports and associated facilities were agreed for inclusion in the PPOSS as follows:

- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Football (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Hockey (sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Rugby union (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby league (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Tennis

### ***Study area***

The study area for the Sefton PPOSS is the Sefton Council boundary area. Further to this, sub areas or settlement areas have been used to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of supply and demand at a local level. It should be noted that sport catchment areas do not naturally fall within administrative analysis areas and can be either larger or cross over analysis areas. The analysis areas are for reporting purposes only and should not be used to compare provision between areas.

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

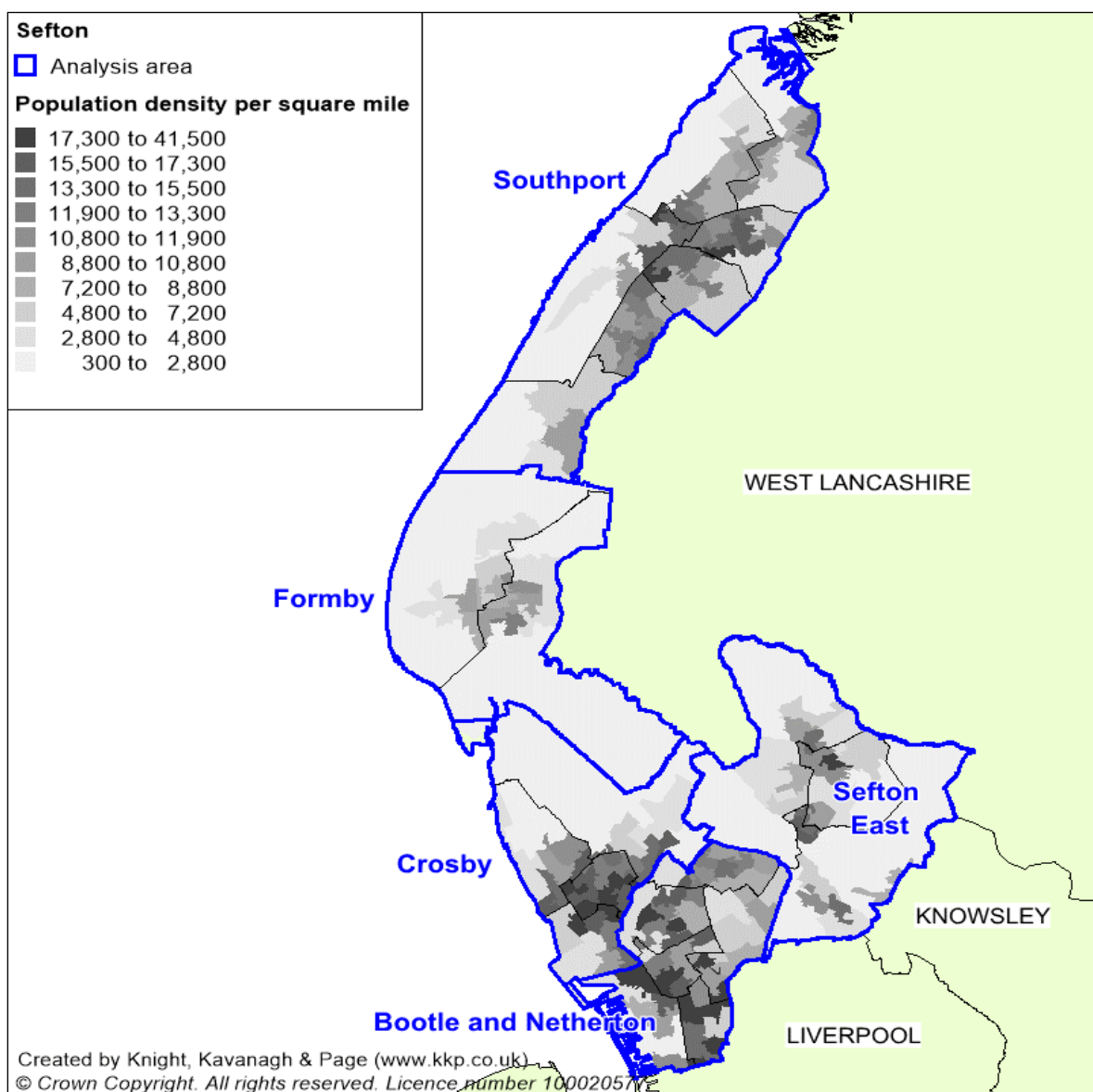
Sefton is split into the following five areas:

- ◀ Bootle and Netherton
- ◀ Crosby
- ◀ Formby
- ◀ Sefton East
- ◀ Southport

These are shown in the figure below.

Cross-boundary migration is also explored by sport, with neighbouring authorities such as West Lancashire and Liverpool.

Figure 1.1: Analysis areas



# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### **Local context**

The Sefton Local Plan sets out how new development will be managed in the period from 2015 to 2030. It encourages sustainable development and economic growth, and it gives current and future generations more opportunities to live and work in Sefton. Part of the rationale for undertaking this study is to update current levels of provision within the public, private, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand.

Its primary purpose is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor sports facilities meet local and community needs of existing and future residents. The strategies will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision.

The strategy has been produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout Sefton. One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in 2021, is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. NPPF paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sports facilities.

### **Disused playing field sites**

The following are identified as being disused playing field sites. Note that there are other sites in Sefton which contain disused facility types, such as cricket squares, bowling greens and tennis courts but the broad site remains in active use. As an example, Ferryside Lane, Southport, has a cricket square last used in 2012 but remains an actively used site for football. These are not included in the table below.

*Table 1.1: Summary of disused playing field sites*

<b>Site name</b>	<b>Postcode and address</b>
Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale, Southport	PR8 2PJ, Sandringham Road, Southport
Former St Raymond’s School playing field, Harrops Croft, Netherton, Bootle	L30 0QY, Harrops Croft, Bootle
Former Daleacre School, Daleacre Drive, Netherton, Bootle	L30 2QQ, Daleacre Drive, Netherton
Former St Mary’s Primary School playing fields, Waverley Street, Bootle	L20 4AH, Waverley Street, Bootle
Former St Ambrose Barlow High School, Netherton, Bootle	L30 7PQ, Copy Lane, Bootle
Former Bootle High School.	L30 5RN, Browns Lane, Bootle
Chaffers Fields, Glenwylin Road	L22 4RN, Glenwylin Road, Crosby.
Parkhaven Trust, Willow Centre	L31 8BR, Liverpool Road, Sefton East

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

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.

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The PPS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

For artificial surfaces, how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, hours in the peak period is used as the comparable unit. For the other non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, bowls etc) capacity is in accordance with Paragraph B13 of the ANOG guidance.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Settlement area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	Bootle and Netherton	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 7</b>	<b>Shortfall of 7</b>
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 4</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.5</b>
		Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 5.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5.5</b>
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
	Crosby	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	<b>Shortfall of 2</b>
		Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 2</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 8	Spare capacity of 8
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Formby	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 6.5</b>
		Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 6.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 6.5</b>
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Sefton East	Adult	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>



# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Settlement area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Southport	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
		Sefton	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>
	Youth 11v11		<b>Shortfall of 10</b>	<b>Shortfall of 20</b>
	Youth 9v9		<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>
	Mini 7v7		Spare capacity of 9	Spare capacity of 9
	Mini 5v5		Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Football (3G pitches) <sup>1</sup>	Bootle and Netherton	Full size	<b>Shortfall of 4</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.5</b>
	Crosby		<b>Shortfall of 2</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2</b>
	Formby		<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>
	Sefton East		<b>Shortfall of 1</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>
	Southport		<b>Shortfall of 2.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.5</b>
	Sefton		<b>Shortfall of 13</b>	<b>Shortfall of 13.5</b>
Cricket	Bootle and Netherton	Saturday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 37	Spare capacity of 37
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
	Crosby	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 24</b>	<b>Shortfall of 24</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 97	Spare capacity of 97
	Formby	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 17</b>	<b>Shortfall of 17</b>
		Sunday	<b>Shortfall of 17</b>	<b>Shortfall of 17</b>
		Midweek	<b>Shortfall of 17</b>	<b>Shortfall of 17</b>
	Sefton East	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 21	Spare capacity of 21
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 6
	Southport	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 41</b>	<b>Shortfall of 41</b>
		Sunday	<b>Shortfall of 30</b>	<b>Shortfall of 30</b>
		Midweek	<b>Shortfall of 9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9</b>
Sefton	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 70</b>	<b>Shortfall of 70</b>	
	Sunday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 4	
	Midweek	Spare capacity of 95	Spare capacity of 49	
Rugby union	Bootle and Netherton	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>
	Crosby		<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>
	Formby		At capacity	At capacity
	Sefton East		At capacity	At capacity
	Southport		<b>Shortfall of 6.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 6.25</b>

<sup>1</sup> 3G shortfalls are derived from the FA 1:38 team model. Shortfalls are based on full size pitch need and not match equivalent sessions.

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Settlement area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
	<b>Sefton</b>		<b>Shortfall of 12.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.25</b>
Rugby league	<b>Sefton</b>	Senior	No demand so no provision required	No demand so no provision required
Hockey (sand AGPs)	<b>Sefton</b>	Full size	No shortfall	No shortfall if <b>additional access to Greenbank High School is sought.</b>

For non-pitch sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal club activity. The current and future picture for each sport is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 1.3: Quantitative headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
<b>Tennis</b>	There is a theoretical shortfall of capacity for Formby Village Tennis Club at its current venue. In addition, there is a requirement to focus on informal activity at non-club courts and improving the recreational tennis offer (e.g., at town and parish council sites).	Position remains the same unless recreational improvements are undertaken. Southport and Birkdale TC and Formby LTC could also have theoretical capacity issues if future recruitment aspirations are achieved.
<b>Bowls</b>	A sufficient supply of greens exists in Sefton to accommodate existing levels of demand. There are currently 13 known unused bowling greens at eight sites across Sefton.	A sufficient supply of greens exists in Sefton to accommodate future levels of demand. There will remain 13 known unused bowling greens at eight sites across Sefton unless any are lost for development or become utilised.

## Conclusions

From a quantitative perspective, the existing position for each sport is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. Where shortfalls exist, they are expected to be exacerbated in the future (based on population changes established through team generation rates).

From a natural turf football perspective, there are existing shortfalls on adult, and both youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitch formats. Future demand exacerbates shortfalls on youth 11v11 pitch types.

Sefton currently shows a shortfall of 13 full size 3G pitches (on a settlement area basis), something that cannot be addressed unless new provision is built. It is expected that growth in the sport will exacerbate this shortfall by up to 0.5 and one full size pitch.

Shortfalls in rugby provision are a result of both Southport RUFC and Firwood Waterloo RFC providing a combined 41 teams across a limited supply of provision (both in quality and quantity). Facilities at education sites are either unavailable for community use, or do not offer sports lighting meaning they cannot be generally used out of school hours.

For hockey, demand is currently being met by provision at Greenbank High School, Formby Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club and The Northern Club.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

All three pitches are of a good quality and have associated clubs that access its site for training and fixture purposes. With good quality provision and two of the three AGPs in Sefton being under club ownership, the area is well positioned for hockey over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

Regarding future demand for hockey, there is theoretical shortfall aligned to Southport HC and Greenbank High School due to existing issues with football programming on the pitch at peak times for hockey, which means it cannot play any more matches than it currently does (thus limiting growth opportunities).

Regarding tennis, Formby Village Tennis Club is the only site currently operating beyond LTA recommended guidelines, albeit only by a marginal amount. When accounting for future demand, a further two clubs shall also be operating above LTA guidelines, whilst current capacity issues present at Formby Village Tennis Club shall be exacerbated.

Finally, ten bowls clubs across Sefton currently operate over BCGBA recommended guidelines. Future demand increases this total to 12 clubs with Netherton BC in Bootle and Netherton and Brooklands BC in Crosby if club ambitions are to be achieved. However, no clubs identify a need for additional provision. It is noted that BCGBA guidelines are more aligned to sustainability than overall capacity.

Where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered to be a solution to overcoming current or future shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

For the most part, the shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. However, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches that can only be met through increased provision. Following this, resources should be directed towards improving the quality of grass pitches, particularly at sites heavily accessed for the Bootle and Netherton Junior League or the Hightown Junior Football League as to reduce grass pitch shortfalls. Transfer of play at overplayed council sites, which in turn can reduce overplay and aid pitch quality improvements should also be explored.

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### PART 2: VISION

#### Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Sefton Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy.

“Sefton will be able to best meet the needs for pitches and outdoor sport facilities in quantity, quality and accessibility terms within the constraints of limited resources”.

To achieve this vision, the Strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives:

- ◀ Working collectively with partners to create opportunity for everyone to participate.
- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long term benefit of sport.
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations.

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England planning objectives shown in Figure 3.1. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPOSS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

### AIM 1

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

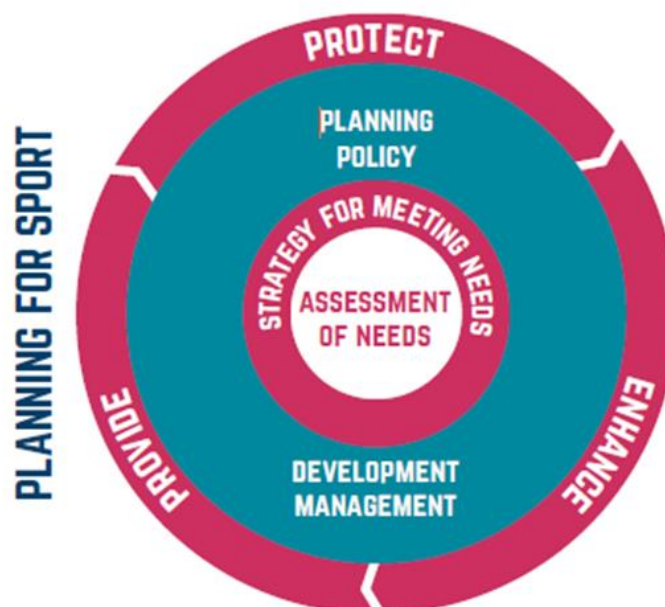
### AIM 2

To support the **enhancement** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities within available resources through improving quality and management of sites.

### AIM 3

To support the provision of **new** outdoor sport facilities, within available resources, where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 3.1: Sport England objectives



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (June 2019)

### PART 4: 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.

#### **AIM 1**

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

#### **Recommendations:**

- a. With reference to the PPOSS, protect outdoor sport facilities through the planning process.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

#### **Recommendation (a) – With reference to the PPOSS, protect outdoor sport facilities through the planning process (development plans and the development management process).**

The PPOSS shows that no existing playing field sites can be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes disused (including any which may not have been identified in this document) underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF (2021) paragraph 99 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.

Sefton's Local Plan policy NH5 'Protection of open space and Countryside Recreation Areas' reflects the NPPF. The PPOSS 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 the development plan and other material consideration which may include site specific factors.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing fields used within the last five years and will use the PPOSS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy<sup>2</sup>.

### *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 PPOSS 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.

### *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’.

In some circumstances (as to be determined by Sport England) Policy Exceptions E4 or E5 may be sufficient to justify the principle of loss of a grass pitch to allow provision of a 3G pitch. This would be the case for most of the potential 3G sites identified in the sport-specific section ‘Third Generation turf (3G) pitches’ and LFFP.

---

<sup>2</sup> See [Leading for Renewal prospectus \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://www.sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com)



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating or improving bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and playing field land and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost or within an agreed timescale secured by legal agreement or other means.

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

A number of education sites in Sefton are used for competitive play, predominately for football. The following schools are already used for community use for football at varying levels but have no secure community usage:

- ◀ Our Lady of Walsingham School (Bootle)
- ◀ Clarence House School (Formby)
- ◀ Range High School (Formby)
- ◀ Redgate Primary School (Formby)
- ◀ Woodlands Infant & Juniors School (Formby)
- ◀ Holy Rosary Catholic Primary School, Aintree (Sefton East)
- ◀ St Georges Primary School (Sefton East)
- ◀ Greenbank High School (Southport)
- ◀ Larkfield, Presfield School (Southport)
- ◀ Meols Cop High School (Southport)
- ◀ Stanley High School (Southport) (grass and small-sided 3G pitch)
- ◀ Kings Meadow Primary School (Southport)

The same is true of Merchant Taylors Playing Field, Spinney Crescent (Crosby) for rugby and Greenbank High School (Southport) for hockey.

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time. Securing community use at such as will help to create additional pitch capacity and could help to address deficiencies as demonstrated within the Football Scenarios.

NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as the Football Foundation 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 the funding agreement, and/or a planning condition to meet Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as England Hockey 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.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In the context of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced significant public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, the Council should support and enable clubs, through the PPOSS, to generate sufficient funds, providing this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council (and including parish and town councils) 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.

For local sites, 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 is it 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.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be support and clubs should be encouraged 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>3</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or other requirements. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

*Table 4.1: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations*

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have NGB accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a borough-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>Sites should acquire capital investment to improve or be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

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

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or at 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. For example, it is important in these instances that the site remains available for other purposes or for other users.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain to improve security of tenure and aid the attraction of funding; clubs with fewer than 25 years remaining on a lease agreement are unlikely to be eligible for external funding.

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

To maximise community use a more coherent, structured relationship with schools 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.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for school provision not to be used by the community, or for all outdoor sports facilities to be used even on established community use sites. There may be site specific issues which affect schools' willingness to allow community use, such as the impact of increased use on pitch quality and the availability of resources to open up part or all of school sites outside their usual operating hours.

Although there are a growing number of academies for which the Council has little or no control over the day to day management of school playing fields, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. Relevant NGBs have a role to play in delivering this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as sport lit courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity. No provision of new schools is proposed in the 2017 Sefton Local Plan.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, the Active Partnership and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools 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 funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

## AIM 2

To support the **enhancement** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities within available resources through improving quality and management of sites.

### Recommendations:

- d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Encourage and enhance participation in outdoor sports.
- g. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- h. Secure developer contributions where appropriate to enhance provision.

### **Recommendation (d) - Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary.**

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that many organisations face reducing budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving hub sites and key centres as a priority (e.g., the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest quality). The sport-specific sections and Action Plan within this document provide a starting point for this, identifying hub sites, key centres, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement.

With such pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely, excepting time-limited schemes such as the Football Foundation's PitchPower initiative or the recent government funding announced for tennis. Other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in recommendation 1 (b) above, with clubs taking on maintenance. Other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

### **Addressing quality issues**

Quality across Sefton is variable between different sports and between club and Council-run sites. Most football pitches are assessed as poor or standard quality (34% of community use football pitches are poor quality, 56% are standard quality) whereas other pitches are generally of higher quality (67% of community use cricket pitches are good quality, one pitch (7%) is poor quality, 54% of rugby pitches are good quality). 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 sites 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).

## SEFTON COUNCIL

# PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

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

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).

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 and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For most sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies 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 Football Foundation'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.

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 cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the GMA. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England Wales.

Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

For the improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/outdoor-surfaces>

### ***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 (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a 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 4.2: Capacity of pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	Number 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
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	4 per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-sports lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 60 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

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.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.

For rugby union, additional sports lighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch (or greater utilisation of existing provision).

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 specific sites in Sefton, these are generally centred at either club or Council managed sites.

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance.

For example:

- ◀ Northern CC – second pavilion (Crosby)
- ◀ Waterloo RUFC (Crosby)
- ◀ Duke Street
- ◀ Smithy Green Recreation Ground (Formby)
- ◀ Harrow Drive Playing Field (Sefton East)
- ◀ Pimbley Playing Fields (Sefton East)
- ◀ Bedford Park (Southport)
- ◀ Ferryside Lane/Bank End (Southport)
- ◀ Crossens Recreation Ground (Southport)
- ◀ Devonshire Road Recreation Ground (Southport)
- ◀ Meols Cop Playing Field (Southport)
- ◀ Preston New Road Recreation Ground (Southport)
- ◀ Rookery Sports Ground (Southport)
- ◀ Russell Road Recreation Ground (Southport)

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

To allow for management and maintenance and improvement of sites the Council should continue to move towards the tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Litherland Sports Park, Netherton Activity Centre and LCFA Sefton, all in Bootle and Netherton are considered to function currently as hub sites (although LCFA Sefton is next too and accessed from Crosby). The Council should work towards the identification and functioning of a hub site in Southport and consider whether to work towards hub sites in Crosby, Formby and Sefton East.

### **Site hierarchy**

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in to sporting outcomes in Sefton i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

*Table 4.3: Proposed tiered site criteria*

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the locality. 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 two.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school 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. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Key centres** are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); 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., single-sex changing if necessary) 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. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites). For local sites, 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 a club would then 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.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### **Recommendation (f) – Encourage and enhance participation in outdoor sports.**

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health, both physical and mental health and well-being. This is recognised in the Council's corporate health priorities. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence. This may be especially important for disadvantaged groups, older people, those in poor health and those who traditionally do not participate in such activities including women and girls. Participation also has the potential to enhance social skills and attributes useful in employment or volunteering.

The National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) encourage increased and wider participation through a range of initiatives which are referred to in more detail in the sport-specific sections and Appendix 2. Individual clubs also aspire to widen and increase membership including through these specific initiatives. Sefton Council runs a number of initiatives for all ages including Active Lifestyles Sefton, Active Workforce, Active Buggies, Couch to 5k and Tough Mama's<sup>4</sup>. It is important that such activities are maximised to benefit clubs, sports and the population of Sefton.

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

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

To address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required, as above. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

### **Recommendation (h) – Secure developer contributions where appropriate to enhance provision.**

It is important that this strategy informs future development plan policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out a recommended approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. Sefton's current Local Plan was subject to a viability appraisal, which did not take into account a specific need for contributions towards new or improved pitch sports, tennis or bowls provision from all new development. The Local Plan does include policies to protect existing outdoor sports provision.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality in any future Local Plan review.

This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions in any future Local Plan review.

---

<sup>4</sup>See for example [Couch to 5k \(sefton.gov.uk\)](http://sefton.gov.uk) and [Home - Active Lifestyles Sefton \(activelifestyles-sefton.co.uk\)](http://activelifestyles-sefton.co.uk)



## SEFTON COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth of individual or cumulative housing sites. The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. 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.

However, it should also be recognised that new homes in Sefton provide for the housing needs of the existing population rather than purely for population growth and therefore that the Playing Pitch Calculator alone is too blunt an instrument for Sefton. Government census data<sup>5</sup> shows that Sefton's population has increased by 2.0% from around 273,800 in 2011 to 279,300 in 2021. This is lower than the increase for the North West (5.2%), and England as a whole (6.6%). This increase of around 5,500 people (around 2620 new households) between 2011 and 2021 should be compared to the 5,097 net new homes provided in Sefton between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022<sup>6</sup>. Also, in Sefton the greatest increase in population from 2011 to 2021 has been the increase of 13.5% in people aged 65 years and over, with a decrease of 1.3% in people aged 15 to 64 years. That is, the biggest increase has been in age groups less likely to participate in pitch sports. While nationally in England there was an increase of 5.0% in children aged under 15 years, in Sefton there was a decrease of 0.3% in children aged under 15 years; those aged 15-19 declined by 16% and those aged 20-24 by 15%.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a 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 a future development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that meet the needs of the development scheme and this may also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine the scale and supply of provision, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly future large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of making sure that the right facilities are provided to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference 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 future AGP development. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site provision for specific sports such as cricket, rugby or hockey, or if it not clear that there is sufficient demand to sustain new facilities on the site, consideration should be given to using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

---

<sup>5</sup> See [Sefton population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#).

<sup>6</sup> See [authoritymonitoringreport2021.pdf \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

## SEFTON COUNCIL

# PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions for strategic development sites or to inform the preparation of development plans take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings if these are timely. Such meetings should take place regularly following adoption of the study as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

The PPOSS together with Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) should form the basis for any future negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches where this meets the needs of the development scheme.

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations where relevant. 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 Sport England Playing Pitch 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.

### AIM 3

To support the provision of **new outdoor sport facilities**, within available resources, where there is current or future demand to do so.

#### Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through improvements to the current stock.
- i. Explore opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

#### **Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through improvements to 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 5) as well as the following Strategic Action Plan (Part 6), as resources allow.

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. 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.
- ◀ 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). This includes the conversion of a grass football pitch to a full -sized 3G pitch.
- ◀ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

#### **Recommendation (j) - Explore opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.**

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

Linked to the above and as evidenced in the sport-specific sections; although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions most current and future demand is currently being met. Most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock (even if this involves the loss of a grass pitch where Sport England's policy exceptions can be met). The only case for providing for new natural turf pitches is for an increase in natural turf senior rugby union pitches, however, this would have to be aligned to Waterloo RFC and/or Southport RFC.

## **SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

If such a pitch would not benefit these clubs, then contributions to improve their sites and the capacity of their provision would be more suitable to meeting each clubs' needs. The development of a 3G pitch, for example, would also benefit these clubs via the reduction of demand on their existing grass pitches.

Future large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. 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. No provision of new schools is proposed in the 2017 Sefton Local Plan.

For future housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements.

### PART 5: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop recommendations and actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This then informs sport specific recommendations.

#### Football – grass pitches

##### *Assessment Report summary*

- ◀ **There is a current shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst minimal capacity exists on mini 5v5 pitches, and a large capacity exists on mini 7v7 pitches.**
- ◀ **After factoring in future demand, spare capacity on certain pitch types is utilised and existing shortfalls are exacerbated and shortfalls are predicted for, adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.**
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 244 grass football pitches within Sefton across 94 sites, with 186 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 59 sites.
- ◀ As a breakdown, there are 66 adult, 21 youth 11v11, 38 youth 9v9, 38 mini 7v7 and 23 mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use.
- ◀ No disused sites, which have formerly accommodated football are identified.
- ◀ The Council and schools are the predominant supplier of football pitches.
- ◀ Maghull FC state it is working with Sefton Council to receive a long-term lease of the playing provision at Old Hall Field.
- ◀ Most community available pitches are considered to be standard quality, with 104 pitches assessed as this (56% of all provision).
- ◀ 19 pitches (10% of all provision) are assessed as good quality, whilst 63 are deemed poor (34% of all provision).
- ◀ Quality of ancillary provision is an issue at sites such as Deansgate Lane Recreation Ground and Stuart Road Playing Fields. Crosby Stuart FC hopes to improve the ancillary provision provided at Brook Vale Playing Fields following the granting of a 25-year lease in 2021.
- ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 645 teams from within 147 clubs are identified as playing within Sefton, consisting of 122 adult, 280 youth and 243 mini teams.
- ◀ There is a trend of participation growth across Sefton in recent years.
- ◀ There are 28 clubs importing demand into Sefton, due to the many clubs being situated near the boundary between Sefton and Liverpool and therefore coming into Sefton to access sites which are used as central venues for competitive football.
- ◀ Likewise, 16 clubs export demand outside of Sefton, mostly to access central venue sites in Liverpool for competitive play.
- ◀ No unmet demand has been identified by any clubs within Sefton.
- ◀ A total of 28 clubs express latent demand in that they could field more teams if more or better training facilities were available to them.
- ◀ Based on population growth, an increase of 18 youth boys' teams and one youth girls' team is projected (to 2030), whilst 20 clubs report aspirations to grow by a combined total of 52 teams. In the case of this report, future demand is calculated using club aspirations rather than population growth.
- ◀ Whilst not a built 3G pitch facility as such, a hybrid grass pitch (made using a partial blend of synthetic fibres and natural turf) was installed in April 2020 at Bootle FC as part of a pilot supported by Sport England. The pitch was designed to support a maximum of 25 hours of demand per week. This has not been factored into the supply of 3G pitch provision as it is a pilot design project which is still under assessment from Sport England and football partners and it does not meet the technical design specifications of a 3G pitch.

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Scenarios

### Improving pitch quality

In total there are 37 pitches overplayed in Sefton across 19 sites, with overplay equating to 43.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Improving quality of such provision (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 5.1 highlights the current levels of overplay that 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 pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 5.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Client site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating <sup>7</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>8</sup>
14	B1321	Brook Vale Playing Fields	11v11	2	Poor	2.5	3.5
			9v9	1		2	1
221	B2305	Litherland Sports Park	Adult	3	Standard	3	-
			9v9	2		2	2
60	B1304	Netherton Activity Centre	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
63	B1327	Orrell Mount Park	Adult	1	Poor	2	-
			9v9	1		1.5	1.5
64	B1317	Our Lady of Walsingham School	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
15	C1215	Buckley Hill Playing Fields	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
			9v9	3		1.5	4.5
53	C1223	Marine AFC	Adult	1	Good	0.5	1.5
90	C2201	Sandy Lane Football (Hightown Jnr League)	9v9	2	Standard	2	2
19	F1102	Clarence House School	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
			9v9	1		0.5	2.5
22	F1106	Deansgate Lane Playing Fields	11v11	3	Standard	3.5	2.5
			9v9	2		3	1
120	F2110	King George V Playing Fields	11v11	1	Poor	1.5	1.5

<sup>7</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>8</sup> Match equivalent sessions

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Client site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating <sup>7</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>8</sup>
75	F1117	Smithy Green Recreation Ground	9v9	1	Standard	3	-
43	E1421	King George V Playing Fields, Maghull	11v11	1	Poor	1	2
73	E1401	Sandy Lane Playing Fields	Adult	2	Standard	2	-
3	S1035	Ainsdale Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
27	S1001	Ferryside Lane/Bank End Park	9v9	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
			5v5	1		0.5	3.5
55	S1018 S2012	Meols Cop High School	Adult	1	Poor	3	1
93	S1012	Rookery Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5

As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good. The only sites that would continue to accommodate some level of overplay are Netherton Activity Centre and Meols Cop High School, as all three sites feature only one adult pitch, meaning only limited demand can be catered for.

Given the above, regardless of quality improvements, some community play at Meols Cop High School and Netherton Activity Centre could be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity or to an existing or newly provided 3G pitches.

On this basis, only one match equivalent session of overplay per week would remain across Sefton, compared to 43.5 match equivalent sessions currently, and this would also only exist on youth 11v11 pitches. The impact this would have on the supply and demand balance across the area is shown in the table below, with all shortfalls being alleviated. This being said, it is unlikely to be feasible to undertake all these improvements across all sites due to issues relating to security of tenure or lack of resource availability at specific sites.

*Table 5.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
	Current actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total	Theoretical position
Adult	6	18.5	11	0.5
Youth 11v11	-	10	10	3
Youth 9v9	3.5	16	12.5	2.5
Mini 7v7	9	-	9	9
Mini 5v5	2.5	0.5	2	2

Given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, which can not only alleviate overplay of grass pitches but can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use. However, for sustainability, there also needs to be a sufficient level of midweek training demand taking place on the pitches.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites, that is hub sites or key centres with a number of pitches used by a number of teams and existing facilities associated with the site. To that end, the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies seven sites for grass pitch improvements in need of investment and that are key for football across Sefton.

The table below identifies what the impact would be on capacity of pitches at these sites if quality was improved too good.

Table 5.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Client ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
60	B1304	Netherton Activity Centre	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
			5v5	6		14	20
15	C1215	Buckley Hill Playing Fields	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
			Youth 11v11	7		-	14
			Youth 9v9	3		1.5	4.5
			7v7	4		11	19
			5v5	1		2	4
73	E1401	Sandy Lane Playing Fields	Adult	2	Standard	2	-
16	S1029	Carr Lane Recreation Ground	Adult	3	Standard	5.5	8.5
56	S1020	Meols Cop Rd Paying Fields	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
			Youth 11v11	1		0.5	1.5
			Youth 9v9	1		1	3
			7v7	1		4	6
			5v5	1		3.5	5.5
66	S1021	Portland Street Playing Fields	Adult	2	Standard	3	5
				1	Poor	-	2
72	S1037	Sandbrook Road Playing Field	Adult	1	Poor	1	3

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 50.5 match equivalent sessions of additional capacity per week (note this is not peak time capacity, but total pitch capacity).

None of the 37 pitches are adjudged (by non-technical audits) to be good quality so all provision would see theoretical capacity improvements.

The impact the improvements would have on the overall supply and demand balance is shown in the following table. This table only reflects the position on peak time demand access, and discounts capacity outside of this time period. Quality improvements at several sites, such as Netherton Activity Centre and Buckley Hill Playing Fields won't create further capacity during peak periods of play but will still improve the user experience and durability of pitches.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As such, only two sites from this list create peak time capacity (based on the PPS Guidance) and this is on one adult pitch at Meols Cop Rd Playing Fields and on one mini 5v5 pitch at Sandbrook Road Playing Field.

*Table 5.4: Impact on overall capacity balance (peak time access) if quality improved at LFFP sites*

Pitch type	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	11.5	7
Youth 11v11	10	10
Youth 9v9	12.5	11
Mini 7v7	9	9
Mini 5v5	2	3

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, it is recommended that the priority list is updated on the back of this study to account for changes in demand since the project was completed.

*Table 5.5: Assessing LFFP priority list (grass pitch improvements)*

Site ID	Client ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP update recommendation
60	B1304	Netherton Activity Centre	Key site with large quantity of provision.	Retain for improvement
15	C1215	Buckley Hill Playing Fields	Key overplayed site with large quantity of provision.	Retain for improvement
73	E1401	Sandy Lane Playing Fields	Overplayed site accessed by nine clubs.	Retain for improvement
16	S1029	Carr Lane Recreation Ground	Local site. Underutilised playing field site which could be better used.	Retain for improvement
56	S1020	Meols Park	Key site with large quantity of provision. Actual spare capacity identified.	Retain for improvement
66	S1021	Portland Street Playing Fields	Key site with actual spare capacity identified.	Retain for improvement
72	S1037	Sandbrook Road Playing Field	Local site. One poor quality un-used adult pitch.	Retain for improvement

Additions should also be sought given the quality issues and shortfalls evidenced across Sefton. In that regard, the following sites should be added to the LFFP priority list given the number of pitches supplied and the quality/overplay issues identified:

- ◆ Brookvale Playing Field (Bootle)
- ◆ Litherland Sports Park (Bootle)
- ◆ Orrel Mount Park (Bootle)
- ◆ Stuart Road Playing Field (Bootle)
- ◆ Hightown Club (Crosby)
- ◆ Northern Club (Crosby)
- ◆ Deansgate Lane Playing Fields – Deansgate Park (Formby)
- ◆ Smithy Green Recreation Ground (Formby)
- ◆ Sandy Lane Playing Field – Lydiate (Sefton East)

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ✦ Bank End Park / Ferryside Lane (Southport)
- ✦ Rookery Sports Ground (Southport)
- ✦ Meols Cop High School (Southport)
- ✦ Southport & Birkdale Sports Club (Southport)

Targeting these sites for improvements will provide a tangible benefit for community football users in Sefton due to the alleviation of overplay and thus improving the user experience.

### *Providing secure tenure*

Currently the following school sites are accessed for community football. There are no known community use agreements in place at these sites, and therefore the tenure position of clubs accessing facilities at these sites is unsecure i.e., they can be asked to vacate at short notice. The applicable sites and clubs this is relevant to are detailed in the table below.

*Table 5.6: School sites accessed for community football*

Site ID	School	Club(s)	Total number of teams	Settlement
B1317	Our Lady of Walsingham	The Fillies	6	Bootle & Netherton
F1102	Clarence House School	Greenloons Formby FC Liverpool Vets FC	8	Formby
F1115	Woodlands Infant & Junior	Redgate Rovers FC	3	Formby
F1119	Redgate Primary School	Redgate Rovers FC	3	Formby
E1426	St Georges RC Primary School	Georges FC	1	Sefton East
E1433	Holy Rosary Catholic Primary	Aintree FC Holy Rosary Raiders FC Marina Sands FC Northfield Sports Association	6	Sefton East
S1008	Larkfield, Presfield School	Churchtown Jaguars FC	3	Southport
S1018	Meols Cop High School	Southport FC Hesketh Colts FC	9	Southport
S1027	Greenbank High School	Churchtown Athletic FC Hillside Athletic FC	7	Southport
S1038	King Meadows Primary School	Southport FC	1	Southport

In total, 47 teams are accessing school sites where there is no secure tenure position. If access to these was revoked, there would be a need to accommodate a total of 23.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The impact this would have on the overall supply vs demand balance is aggregated below. Overall, it would exacerbate existing shortfalls and create a marginal shortfall on mini 5v5 pitch types.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 5.7: Summary of supply and demand in Sefton (with impact of no school access)

Pitch format	Actual spare capacity <sup>9</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Current total	Theoretical total
Adult	6	17	11	12.5
Youth 11v11	-	10	10	17
Youth 9v9	3.5	16	12.5	15.5
Mini 7v7	9	-	9	0.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	0.5	2	1

### Future demand

In the proceeding Assessment Report, future demand derived from team generation rates has been considered to determine the future supply and demand of pitches. This scenario looks specifically at what changes in demand are expected to emerge directly from population growth when removing access to school pitches. As can be seen in the table, there would be a high theoretical impact on youth 11v11 pitches.

Table 5.8: Summary of future supply and demand in Sefton (with impact of no school access)

Pitch format	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
	Current total	Future demand (MES)	Total
Adult	11	-	11
Youth 11v11	10	+10	27
Youth 9v9	12.5	-	12.5
Mini 7v7	9	-	9
Mini 5v5	2	-	2

### Recommendations

- ◀ F1) Protect existing quantity of pitch sites until all demand is being met (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided) [1a].
- ◀ F2) Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality (within available resources) [2d), 2e)].
- ◀ F3) Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision [2d), 2e)].
- ◀ F4) Support clubs which maintain their own pitches to access support through the FF Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, to improve and sustain pitch quality as good. [2d), 2e)].
- ◀ F5) Update the Sefton LFFP with new site recommendations for both grass pitch improvements and ancillary development projects, based on findings of the PPOSS [2d), 2e)].
- ◀ F6) Explore opportunities to transfer play from overplayed sites and from exported, latent and future demand to alternative sites with spare capacity (or 3G provision). [3)].
- ◀ F7) Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer [2d), 2g)].
- ◀ F8) Explore opportunities to secure the tenure of clubs on schools which are key sites or secure the club use of alternative sites [1b), 1c)].
- ◀ F9) Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease opportunities for clubs who do not own or manage their own site to do so [1b)].

<sup>9</sup> In match equivalent sessions

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ F10) Monitor the hybrid pitch at Bootle FC as to assess how successful the Sport England pilot model has progressed as an approach to future football provision [3i)].

*(Links to strategic recommendations are given in [square brackets] after each recommendation)*

### Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

#### **Assessment Report summary**

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current unmet and anticipated future football demand in Sefton based on the FA training scenario for football equating to 13 3G pitches now and 13.5 in the future (based on team generation rate forecasts).**
- ◀ **There is demand for rugby union use of compliant 3G pitch provision which should be explored within the development of future pitches and programmes.**
- ◀ There are four full size 3G pitches based in Sefton; these are based at Chesterfield High School, LCFA Sefton, Marine AFC and Litherland Sports Park.
- ◀ Plans to build a full size 3G pitch at Orrell Mount Park have been withdrawn as a result of public consultation feedback.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitch at LCFA Sefton is FA approved for competitive match play. The pitch at Marine AFC is FIFA approved and also suitable for competitive match play. The pitch at Litherland Sports Park is currently unregistered for competitive play.
- ◀ There are a further 35 small size 3G pitches across nine sites.
- ◀ Sites featuring sand filled AGPs' which are primarily used for hockey, such as Greenbank High School and Formby Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club also accommodate for football demand.
- ◀ A total of 26 football clubs report having an unmet demand to increase current access to 3G provision for training purposes. These have a combined total of 259 teams.
- ◀ In addition, 23 football clubs report future demand to grow by a collective total of 62 teams, which if realised would increase future 3G requirements (this is tested as a scenario in the Strategy & Action Plan).
- ◀ There is spare capacity in the peak period of 18.75 hours across all pitches which theoretically could accommodate 18 of the 259 teams reported to require access to 3G pitch provision.
- ◀ There are no World Rugby Compliant Reg 22 3G pitches in Sefton.
- ◀ Sites featuring sand filled AGPs' which are primarily used for hockey, such as Greenbank High School and Formby Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club also accommodate for football demand.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Accommodating football training demand (FA scenario)*

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a sports lit 3G surface, together with priority access for every England Football Accredited Club through a partnership agreement.

To enable this this, it has created a scenario which determines that one full size 3G pitch with sports lighting can accommodate 38 teams for midweek training. Using this scenario, football partners can work to understand what theoretical there need is for 3G pitches within any given area.

This is a theoretical scenario and based on the assumption that every team registered to Sefton will (and wants too) access a 3G pitch for training.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

This theoretical scenario assumes that all pitches are fully available for club use at peak time; however, in practice, some pitches operate commercial small-sided leagues, accommodate recreational programmes and have scope for use outside of football, which can reduce available capacity for midweek training needs.

Utilising this scenario (based on one full size 3G pitch equivalent being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a broad theoretical need for 17 full size 3G pitches in Sefton (rounded up from 16.97) and a settlement specific requirement of 16.5 full size pitches. The table below identifies need by settlement area.

Table 5.9: Current demand for full size 3G pitches by settlement area (FA training scenario)

Settlement area	Current number of teams	3G requirement <sup>10</sup>	Current number of full size 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Bootle and Netherton	239	6	2	4
Crosby	139	3.5	2	2 <sup>11</sup>
Formby	132	3.5	0	3.5
Sefton East	35	1	0	1
Southport	100	2.5	0	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>

Note the table above includes all full size 3G pitches in Sefton as of March 2023.

As seen in the tables above, all five settlement areas have a theoretical shortfall, ranging from one pitch in Sefton East to a shortfall of four pitches in Bootle and Netherton. When accounting for future demand, through team generation rates the total shortfall is exacerbated by one pitch, to a total requirement of 17.5 full size 3G pitches.

Table 5.10: Future demand for full size 3G pitches by settlement area (FA training scenario)

Settlement area	Future number of teams	Potential 3G requirement <sup>12</sup>	Current number of full size 3G pitches	Future shortfall
Bootle and Netherton	248	6.5	2	4.5
Crosby	143	4	2	2
Formby	135	3.5	0	3.5
Sefton East	36	1	0	1
Southport	103	2.5	0	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13.5</b>

The Sefton Local Football Facility Plan (2019) identifies the need for 11 full size, sports lit 3G pitches and one small sided 3G pitch, at Sandy Lane, Lydiate (Sefton East).

Two of these projects have been completed with a pitch since built at LCFA Sefton and one at Chesterfield High School (Crosby). One project at Orrell Mount Park was progressed but has since been abandoned based on public consultation feedback and a project for a pitch at Meols Park Recreation Ground has been identified as being undeliverable due to ground conditions.

The list of remaining potential full size 3G pitch developments included within the LFFP are:

- ◀ Litherland Sports Park (second 3G pitch) – *Bootle and Netherton*
- ◀ Crosby / Hightown Area (full size 3G) – *Crosby*

<sup>10</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25

<sup>11</sup> Shortfall increased by 0.5 due to the pitch at Marine AFC having a 30 hour per week usage allowance.

<sup>12</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Formby High School (full size 3G) – *Formby*
- ◀ Formby Area (full size 3G) - *Formby*
- ◀ Ferryside Lane (two full size 3Gs) - *Southport*

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up to date PPOSS, the priority project list should be revisited following this study and updated/amended based on the findings, if necessary.

To help further guide this process, the table below identifies what impact delivering the current projects would have on existing shortfalls.

*Table 5.11: Impact of delivering current LFFP 3G pitch projects (FA training scenario)*

Settlement area	Potential 3G requirement <sup>13</sup>	No. of proposed pitches	Shortfall if delivered
Bootle and Netherton	4	1	3
Crosby	2	1	1
Formby	3.5	2	1.5
Sefton East	1	0.5	0.5
Southport	2.5	2	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>

Based on the existing portfolio of projects identified in the LFFP, there is a need for the list to be updated to reflect the need for additional 3G pitches in all settlement areas.

The table below identifies sites which could, in theory, be suitable for future development to meet known shortfalls for 3G pitches. Each of these sites will require a full feasibility to be undertaken to determine if they are suitable in meeting known need. Such a full feasibility would include a range of matters including site characteristics, sports, financial, planning and other issues. This should be done in consultation with Liverpool FA, Lancashire FA, RFU and the Football Foundation as well as Sport England and other relevant NGBs. It is crucial to recognise that this list is a starting point for discussion and should be updated as part of the Stage – E process.

For the development of any 3G pitch at the sites below (and any other suggested sites in the future) there is a need to ensure that Sport England’s Playing Field Policy is adhered to.

*Table 5.12: Potential site options for new 3G pitches*

Settlement area	Current shortfall	Site ID	Client ID	Site name	Included in LFFP?
Bootle and Netherton	4	221	B2305	Litherland Sports Park (LFFP)	Yes
		46	B1301	LCFA Sefton	Yes
		60	B1304	Netherton Activity Centre	No
		74	B1316	Savio Salesian College	No
		88	B1341	Stuart Road Playing Field	No
Crosby	2	39	C1211	Holy Family High School	No
		83	C1204	St Michaels Church of England High School	No
		185	C1222	Sacred Heart Catholic Academy	No

<sup>13</sup> Shortfall based on FA training scenario

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Settlement area	Current shortfall	Site ID	Client ID	Site name	Included in LFFP?
Formby	3.5	22	F1106	Deansgate Lane Playing Fields	No
		31	F1108	Formby High School	No
		68	F1121	Range High School	No
Sefton East	0.5	40	E1433	Holy Rosary Catholic Primary School, Aintree	No
		51	E1419	Maghull High School	No
		73	E1404	Sandy Lane Playing Field, Lydiate	Yes (small sided)
		230	E1424	Maricourt Catholic High School, Maghull	No
Southport	2.5	10	S1030	Birkdale High School	No
		18	S1023	Christ the King High School	No
		55	S1018	Meols Cop High School	No
		87	S1005	Stanley High School	No
		27	S1001	Ferryside Lane/ Bank End Park	Yes

### *Moving football mini match play demand to 3G pitches*

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size sports lit 3G pitches to cater for different formats of match play.

The FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created for Sefton to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Sunday mornings. The table below uses the total demand figures for mini football in Sefton to determine theoretical need to accommodating this format off football. There are 147 mini 7v7 teams and 96 mini 5v5 teams. Using the programme of use for a pitch below, 12 3G pitches would be needed to accommodate all demand for mini 5v5 football with four matches (eight teams) being accommodated per pitch.

*Table 5.13: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches*

Time	AGP	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

This slightly increases to by 0.25 pitches (total need of 12.25) when accommodating mini 7v7 football across the three programmed usage slots on provision.

Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 12.25 full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand.

With a current 3G pitch requirement in Sefton of 16.5 pitches for training demand (based on total demand utilising the 1:38 FA scenario), it is therefore considered feasible that all mini football could be accommodated on 3G pitches if training shortfalls were to be alleviated.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The table below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football. This is based on 119 youth 9v9 teams in Sefton. With a programme of use based on two concurrent matches taking place in a two hour slot accommodating four teams (per slot) there would be a need for ten full size pitches (rounded up from 9.9).

It's worth noting that moving forward (i.e., in 2023 onwards) that the standard size of a 3G pitch funded by the Football Foundation will measure 91 x 55m and not the typically sized 100x60 of which this scenario is based on. The impact of this is that only one youth 9v9 game can be played at a time as opposed to two. In some circumstances, the 100 x 60m pitches will be built dependent on higher levels of partnership funding contributions or for the benefit of multi-sport needs (i.e. accommodating rugby union).

*Table 5.14: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches*

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	2 x 9v9	2/4
Noon – 2pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
2pm – 4pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

As such, it is also worth noting that if all youth 9v9 football was moved to a Saturday and all mini football was retained on a Sunday (or vice versa), it is feasible that all current demand for mini and 9v9 football could be accommodated on 12.25 full size pitches (although figure will likely be higher when considering new pitches anticipated to be provided at 91 x 55m formats).

This being said, it would take a significant amount programming and league restructure at local youth level to transfer all U11 and U12 football (youth 9v9) to take place on Saturdays instead of Sundays so this may not be realistic. It is also unrealistic to further increase the known shortfall of 3G pitches to programme this football to take place concurrently and after mini football.

Based on the above, the most appropriate outcome will be to provide 3G opportunities for mini teams and utilise any remaining capacity for required youth 9v9 games relative to capacity allowances.

### *Hightown Junior Football League*

The Hightown Junior Football League is one of the largest operating in Sefton. Its fixtures are primarily held on Saturday mornings, where 165 teams are registered as playing within this time. 70 female teams utilise the site on Saturday mornings.

This scenario considers how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate match play demand for this league if it was to operate on a central venue basis using the same programming methodology as in Table 5.13.

Based on there being 39 mini 5v5 teams and 52 teams mini 7v7 teams all playing within the peak period, there would be a theoretical need for five full size pitches (rounded up from 4.8) to accommodate all peak time demand for both formats to be accommodate on Saturday mornings. This would also include circa 20 youth 9v9 teams (out of 31) being able to be accommodated in early afternoon slots.

### *World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches*

WR produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The RFU investment strategy for AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

There are no full size WR compliant 3G pitches within Sefton, meaning the three Sefton based rugby clubs do not have access to such provision (unless they travel outside of the area). None of the three clubs made reference to accessing 3G pitches for either training or match play purposes, however, both Firwood Waterloo RFC and Southport RFC stress high demand for such provision within the area.

Consultation with Firwood Waterloo RFC raises ambitions for the site to convert its sole senior rugby union pitch into a WR 3G pitch to better accommodate for its large amount of training demand which currently accesses Litherland Sports Park.

Consultation with Birkdale High School and Southport RFC both highlights the ambition to install a WR compliant 3G pitch at the school site. Overplay on provision (associated with the aforementioned clubs) equates to 12.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The benefits of pitch improvements at these sites are explored further in this section of the report, however, through these, it is known that even with maximum improvements overplay would remain (albeit at a much reduced level). On this basis, there is suitable evidence to suggest capacity benefits would be created through the installation of WR compliant 3G provision.

Southport RFC and Firwood Waterloo RFC are located 11 miles from each other and a circa 30 minute drive. In order to know if this is a distance both clubs would travel to access future 3G provision further feasibility work will need to be undertaken. As shortfalls largely derive from midweek training, it is the opinion of KKP, that a WR compliant shock pad on new proposals for 3G pitches predominantly provided for football would solve most capacity issues (combined with pitch improvements) on the basis a secured community use agreement is in place, and this should be also considered when proposals, led by football and rugby union partners are brought forward in the future (in addition to club's individual proposals). This is on the basis clubs get adequate access to the pitch when programming allocations are established.

*Table 5.15: Overplay summary on senior rugby union pitches*

Site ID	Client Site ID	Site	Analysis area	User	Number of pitches	Overplay (MES)
221	B2305	Litherland Sports Park	Bootle and Netherton	Firwood Waterloo RUFC	1	3
181	C1205	Waterloo RUFC	Crosby	Firwood Waterloo RUFC	1	3
171	S1028	Waterloo Road Recreation (SRUFC)	Southport	Southport RUFC	2	5
235	-	Southport RUFC	Southport	Southport RUFC	1	1.25
<b>Total</b>						<b>12.25</b>

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ G1) Protect the current stock of 3G pitches of all sizes [1a), 2e)].
- ◀ G2) Carry out further exploratory, feasibility and other work to identify suitable or priority locations for new 3G pitches to cater primarily for football training demand and other sports as applicable [2e), 2g), 3j)].
- ◀ G3) Update Sefton LFFP (regarding 3G pitches) based on findings of the PPOSS [2d)].

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ G4/H1) Protect the current stock of community used sand based/hockey suitable AGPs [1a)].
- ◀ G5) Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place [1b),3j)].
- ◀ G6) Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches. This will have value at overplayed sites, such as those used for central venue league play [2d)].
- ◀ G7/R3). Explore opportunities with Southport RFC and Firwood Waterloo RFC and providers of existing or new 3G pitches, where appropriate, to secure WR compliant 3G provision [2d), 2g), 3j)].
- ◀ G8) Explore with the Bootle League and Hightown League the transition of more match play on to 3G pitches as they are built [2d)].
- ◀ G9) Ensure that all other full size and larger small size pitches remain on the FA Register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification [2d) 3i)].
- ◀ G10) Work to ensure the certification of full size 3G pitches at Litherland Sports Park and Chesterfield High School to ensure suitability for match play [2d)].
- ◀ G11) Encourage all current and future providers have in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability [2d), 2g)].

*(Links to strategic recommendations are given in [square brackets] after each recommendation)*

### Cricket pitches

#### Assessment report summary

- ◀ **There are 13 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets; however, only one of these are considered to have actual spare capacity for senior cricket on a Saturday.**
- ◀ **Seven squares have actual spare capacity on Sunday's, whilst 10 do during midweek for junior cricket.**
- ◀ **Four squares are overplayed, with total overplay equating to 82 match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ **Both current and future spare capacity is present for Sunday as well as midweek demand, whilst Saturday cricket is overplayed by 70 MES for both current and future demand.**
- ◀ In total, there are 18 grass cricket squares in Sefton across 15 sites, with 16 being available for community use.
- ◀ There Settlement Area with the smallest quantity of provision is Formby featuring one square, whilst Crosby resembles the Settlement Area with the most provision which totals seven.
- ◀ There is one disused square located in Sefton, that being the Parkhaven Trust headquarters (Sefton East). The square was formerly accessed by Maghull CC who now play at Old Hall Playing Field leaving it dormant since 2019.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at three sites and there are standalone NTPs at seven sites.
- ◀ Of the clubs with lease arrangements in place, Moss Side Maghull CC has a rolling 12 month agreement in place, deeming the Club as having unsecure tenure.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found ten to be good quality, five to be standard quality and one to be assessed as poor.
- ◀ New Victoria CC (Crossens Recreation Ground/ Crossens Community Centre), Southport Trinity CC, Bedford Park CC and Churchtown CC all report frustrations related to their accompanying ancillary provision. The latter three clubs play at the Rookery Sports Ground, which has no functional ancillary provision due to damage in 2018.
- ◀ Three clubs report a demand for new, improved or additional training facilities, those being Ainsdale CC, Southport Trinity CC and Fleetwood Hesketh CC.
- ◀ There are 13 clubs in Sefton which collectively provide 36 senior men's, nine senior women's and 33 junior boys and eight junior girls teams.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- South Liverpool CC, which is a nomadic Club predominantly based in Liverpool, imports demand to Northern CC, whilst no clubs report any examples of exporting demand outside of Sefton.
- Eight clubs in Sefton offer both All Stars and Dynamo sessions.
- Maghull CC are the only Club known to partake in softball activity, as the club's women's side compete in the Women's Softball Super 8's League.
- Chance to Shine sessions have been held at 47 primary and four secondary schools in Sefton since 2019.
- Future demand expectations identified by Lancashire CC equates to seven women's teams, eight junior teams and one junior girls' team.

### Scenarios

#### Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

In Sefton, overplay is identified at four sites and across as many squares. The impact of improving quality at all these sites is considered in the table below. As seen in the table below, two of the squares are already of a good quality meaning improvement would not have a theoretical capacity benefit.

Table 5.16: Overplay if all overplayed squares were good quality

Site ID	Client ID	Site name	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (matches per season)	Potential overplay (matches per season)
38	C1201	The Hightown Club	1	Good	12	24	24
30	F1104	Formby Cricket Hockey and Squash Club	1	Good	11	17	17
21	S1003	Crossens Recreation Ground (New Victoria CC)	1	Poor	8	21	19
28	S1006/S2002	Fleetwood Hesketh Sports Club	1	Standard	16	20	4

For the remaining two squares, the standard quality square at Fleetwood Hesketh Sports Club would remain overplayed if quality improvements took place yet a sizeable amount of overplay would be reduced, with just four match sessions of overplay remaining.

The poor quality square at Crossens Recreation Ground, if improved to good, would create spare capacity of 19 sessions per season and 11 match sessions per season if improved to a standard quality.

Cricket squares can be accompanied by Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs), made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on natural turf wickets (grass wickets). By the nature of its design, an NTP can accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

NTPs already accompany the overplayed squares at Hightown Cricket Ground and Fleetwood Hesketh Sports Club but neither are known to accommodate high levels of demand for junior activity on this surface type, as such, its benefit for reducing overplay is not utilised. On this basis, an increase of usage should be encouraged at these clubs to alleviate identified issues. Neither club would likely use a secondary site to accommodate existing demand and as such it is important that both the natural turf squares are maintained as good quality and that additional use of the NTP is encouraged at each site.

For the remaining two squares at Formby Cricket Hockey and Squash Club and Crossens Recreation Ground (used by New Victoria Cricket Club), neither currently have such provision, meaning the installation of an NTP could theoretically alleviate overplay, although a modest improvement of square quality at Crossens Recreation Ground would be the most practical solution in this instance. Formby CC and Southport and Birkdale CC should be prioritised as sites for future installation of NTPs.

The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance<sup>14</sup> on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets.

### *Accommodating future demand*

#### *Junior demand*

Through delivery of its strategy, Inspiring Generations, the ECB and county board programmes of activity are targeting growth in women's cricket, club and school activity and there is increased engagement of young people.

All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools. Increasing numbers of those children are continuing to play cricket as they get older, so junior numbers are increasing within clubs.

The ECB has also launched Dynamos Cricket, a new programme to inspire children aged 8-11 to play cricket. Dynamos Cricket builds on the existing All Stars programme for 5-8-year-olds. Participants will continue to develop their skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket match.

Of the four clubs that express aspiration to increase their number of junior teams, only Maghull CC and Ainsdale CC can accommodate for the additional capacity on their current provision. This is due to enough spare capacity for midweek demand at both of their respective sites (20 MES at Maghull CC and seven sessions at Ainsdale CC). In the case of Fleetwood Hesketh CC and Southport and Birkdale CC, Fleetwood Hesketh CCs demand could be accommodated on a NTP (further linking to its need to alleviate overplay) and Southport and Birkdale CC would also benefit from such provision to accommodate its demand aspirations.

#### *Senior demand*

Of all the clubs consulted throughout the process of the PPOSS, not one expressed the desire to gain additional men's teams. LCF state it expects to see the growth of senior women's teams throughout the lifespan of the PPOSS, all of which, come from clubs already currently fielding women's teams.

---

<sup>14</sup><http://www.cag.org.uk/information/ecb-documents/performance-standards-for-non-turf-pitches/>

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

The clubs currently hosting women's teams are: Firwood Bootle CC (Bootle), Hightown St Mary's CC (Crosby), Northern CC (Crosby), Formby CC (Formby), Maghull CC (Sefton East), Fleetwood Hesketh CC (Southport), Southport and Birkdale CC (Southport) and Southport Trinity CC (Southport).

If this demand is established, and clubs develop secondary senior women's teams, for; Firwood Bootle CC, Northern CC, Maghull CC and Southport Trinity CC this increased demand can be accounted at each clubs' home venue.

For the remaining clubs, there would be a need to use alternate sites which are available during the Sunday peak period for women's cricket.

Available sites are:

- ◀ Bootle CC (Bootle)
- ◀ Stuart Road Playing Field (Bootle)
- ◀ Northern CC (Crosby)
- ◀ Maghull Moss Side (Sefton East)
- ◀ Ainsdale Sports and Social Club (Southport)
- ◀ Rookery Sports Ground (Southport)

Access to these would need to be negotiated on a club by club basis, assisted by LCF.

### *Disused provision*

There is one disused cricket square in Sefton located at the Parkhaven Trust headquarters, at the Willow Centre (Sefton East). This site was formerly used by Maghull CC which now solely utilises the Old Hall Field within Sefton East (and occasionally Maghull Moss side CC as an overspill facility). It has not been used since 2019.

Based on the PPOSS evidence base, there is not a need to restore this site back into use for the benefit of cricket. Existing demand can be met across existing sites with a discrete need for an increase in NTP provision and square quality improvements at existing sites sufficient to accommodate any increases in demand.

Note the site is not, however, surplus to requirements as it could theoretically provide for shortfalls identified for football and any proposal to develop the site will need to be assessed against NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ C1) Protect existing quantity of cricket squares [1a)].
- ◀ C2) Improve quality at sites assessed as poor or standard and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good [2d)].
- ◀ C3) Address overplay via quality improvements, an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets and increased utilisation of existing NTPs [2d), 3i), 3j)].
- ◀ C4) Explore opportunities for improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement [1b)].
- ◀ C5) Improve the changing facilities at sites where clubs have identified a need to do so [2d), 2g)].
- ◀ C6) Consider options to increase and improve the stock of suitable practice facilities where clubs have raised this as an issue [2d) 2g)].
- ◀ C7) Continue to support ECB initiatives for junior cricket such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for [2f)].
- ◀ C8) Continue to support LCF initiatives for women's cricket [2f)].

*(Links to strategic recommendations are given in [square brackets] after each recommendation)*



# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### Rugby union - grass pitches

#### *Assessment Report summary*

- ◀ **There is currently an insufficient level of rugby union provision in Sefton to accommodate current and future demand.**
- ◀ There is a total of 21 rugby union pitches across 14 identified in Sefton. Of these, 13 are available for community use across seven sites.
- ◀ There are no WR compliant 3G pitches within Sefton. However, an aspiration is identified from Birkdale High School which could see the installation of a WR compliant 3G in the near future. If completed, this would service training purposes Southport RUFC and likely Firwood Waterloo RUFC which also has significant demand for such provision.
- ◀ In terms of quality, of community use pitches, there are six good quality, four standard and four poor quality pitches.
- ◀ Of the three clubs located within Sefton, only Waterloo RFC expressed intentions to develop the existing ancillary provision. The Club has ambitions to address the six boilers on site that are reportedly a constant issue.
- ◀ Additional sports lighting on pitches such as the Hightown Club (Crosby St Mary RUFC), Merchant Taylors School playing fields, Spinney Crescent (used by Firwood Waterloo RUFC) and Waterloo Road Recreation ground (used by Southport RUFC) would allow greater training use (although capacity is also affected by pitch quality).
- ◀ There are three rugby union clubs in Sefton which in total generate demand equating to 42 teams.
- ◀ The breakdown of the number of teams seen in Sefton host seven senior men's teams, two senior women's teams, four colts' teams, nine junior boys' teams, one junior girls' team and 19 mini teams.
- ◀ No future demand is generated through team generation rates.
- ◀ Southport RUFC plan on developing an additional senior women's team and two junior girls' team. The impact of this potential growth will be explored in the Strategy & Action Plan.
- ◀ There is an overall insufficient supply of provision to cater for both current and future demand.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Loss of access to Merchant Taylors Playing Fields, Spinney Crescent*

Merchant Taylors Playing Fields (at Spinney Crescent, Crosby, rather than the School site) features four senior and two junior pitches, all of which, are accessed by Firwood Waterloo RFC for most of its junior and mini fixtures. The Club has a sole senior pitch at its home site and therefore there is a reliance on this relationship with Merchant Taylors School (and associated access to its playing field) to see its teams get access to provision.

If access to the site was revoked, the Club would need to relocate demand equating to 11.25 match equivalent sessions per week. No standalone site in the entirety of Sefton would be able to theoretically accommodate this. Therefore, the importance of ensuring the site remains accessible to Firwood Waterloo RFC is essential for the Club's existence.

##### *Improving pitch maintenance and drainage*

Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand through the season. Currently, there are five rugby union pitches across four sites in Sefton which are overplayed by a total of 12.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

These pitches are located at Litherland Sports Park RFC, Waterloo RFC, Waterloo Road Recreation Ground, Southport and Southport RUFC.

*Table 5.17: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments*

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

The tables below looks at what capacity benefits would be ascertained through improvement of both maintenance and drainage solutions in one increment on the above technical criteria. It further looks at the benefit of maximum improvements to both drainage and maintenance to explore maximum benefits.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 5.18: Improving maintenance on overplayed senior rugby union pitches by one increment

Site ID	Client ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Current capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
221	B2305	Litherland Sports Park	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	5	2	3	M2/D1	Good	2
181	C1205	Firwood Waterloo RUFC	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	5	2	3	M2/D1	Good	2
171	S1028	Waterloo Road Recreation (SRUFC)	2	M0/D1	Poor	2 Partial (sports lighting)	8	3	5	M1/D1	Standard	4
235	-	Southport RUFC	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	3.25	2	1.25	M2/D1	Good	0.25

Table 5.19: Improvements to existing drainage regimes overplayed on senior rugby union pitches by one increment

Site ID	Client ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Current capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
221	B2305	Litherland Sports Park	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	5	2	3	M1/D2	Standard	2.5
181	C1205	Firwood Waterloo RUFC	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	5	2	3	M1/D2	Standard	1.75
171	S1028	Waterloo Road Recreation (SRUFC)	2	M0/D1	Poor	2 Partial (sports lighting)	8	3	5	M0/D2	Poor	4.5
235	-	Southport RUFC	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	3.25	2	1.25	M1/D2	Standard	0.75

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 5.20: Maximum improvements to maintenance and drainage on overplayed senior rugby union pitches

Site ID	Client ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Current capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
221	B2305	Litherland Sports Park	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	5	3.5	3	M2/D3	Good	1.5
181	C1205	Firwood Waterloo RUFC	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	5	3.5	3	M2/D3	Good	1.5
171	S1028	Waterloo Road Recreation (SRUFC)	2	M0/D1	Poor	2 Partial (sports lighting servicing dead ball zone at one end on both pitches)	8	7	5	M2/D3	Good	1
235	-	Southport RUFC	1	M1/D1	Standard	Yes	3.25	3.5	1.25	M2/D3	Good	0.25

The above three tables illustrate the theoretical benefits of improvements to maintenance regime and drainage solutions. These show that maintenance improvements by one increment would fail to alleviate overplay across all four sites. This also applies to the scenario of improving the drainage regime by one increment as all four sites continue to exhibit overplay. Finally, if maximum improvements were to be undertaken spare capacity of 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week would be created at Southport RUFC, whilst the three remaining sites would exhibit a total overplay figure of for match equivalent sessions.

To achieve an M2/D3 rating on rugby union pitches is often difficult and costly and therefore unrealistic for most community clubs. Locally, it would not be expected that clubs have the resource to achieve this technical threshold. On this basis, there is evidence to suggest (backed up through consultation with the clubs) a WR compliant 3G pitch would benefit Firwood Waterloo RFC and Southport RFC. Further feasibility work should be undertaken by the relevant partners to establish if one WR 3G pitch would be sufficient for both clubs in an equidistant location such as Formby or whether each has a need for dedicated provision. Alternatively, the consideration for the installation of WR compliant shock pads on new football led projects should also be considered as options for meeting this level of demand.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

*Potential impact on rugby union club capacity if 3G pitch is accessed by both clubs*

The scenario below looks at what the capacity benefit of transferring half of each clubs current training demand onto a 3G pitch and off existing grass pitches would be. The scenario assumes each club would transfer 50% of existing demand onto a 3G pitch. The current levels of training demand equate too:

- ◀ Firwood Waterloo RFC: 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week (MES) at Firwood Waterloo RFC / 5 match equivalent sessions per week at Litherland Sports Park
- ◀ Southport RFC: 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week at Southport RFC / 2 match equivalent sessions per week at Waterloo Road Recreation Ground

*Table 5.21: Impact of transferring training demand onto 3G pitch*

Site name	Current capacity rating (MES)	Current training demand on site (MES)	Retained training demand (MES)	Theoretical impact (MES)
Litherland Sports Park	3	5	2.25	0.75
Firwood Waterloo RUFC	3	2.25	1	2
Waterloo Road Recreation (SRUFC)	5	2	1	4
Southport RUFC	1.25	2.25	1	0.25

The table above shows that transferring 50% of each clubs training demand onto a 3G pitch would reduce overplay on every existing overplayed site and alleviate all overplay at Southport RUFC as well as generating a small level of spare capacity.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ R1) Protect the existing quantity of rugby union pitches in Sefton to continue to accommodate for community and curricular demand [1a)].
- ◀ R2) Improve pitch quality at sites aligned with Southport RUFC and Firwood Waterloo RFC [2d), 2e), 2g), 3j)].
- ◀ R3/G7) Explore opportunities with Southport RFC and Firwood Waterloo RFC and providers of existing or new 3G pitches, where appropriate, to secure WR compliant 3G provision [2d), 2g), 3i, 3j)].
- ◀ R4) Improve the ancillary facilities at sites where clubs have identified a need to do so [2d), 2g), 3i)].
- ◀ R5) Provide additional sports lighting where possible at sites with specific needs for this [2d), 2g)].
- ◀ R6) Retain supply of rugby pitches at school sites for curricular and extra-curricular (community/club) use and formalise existing community/club use [2d), 2g), 3j)].
- ◀ R7). Make sure provision at Merchant Taylors Playing Field, Spinney Crescent can continue to be accessed by Firwood Waterloo RFC for its mixed age grade and junior demand [1c), 2d)].
- ◀ R8). Explore opportunities for clubs who do not manage their own sites to do so [2b)].

*(Links to strategic recommendations are given in [square brackets] after each recommendation)*

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

#### *Assessment Report summary*

- ◀ **There is sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Sefton to accommodate current and future levels of peak time demand if additional access to Greenbank High School can be sought.**
- ◀ **Focus should be placed on ensuring that sinking funds are in place at existing provision as to ensure long term sustainability across the three sites.**
- ◀ **With all three full size AGP's assessed as of a good quality, there is the need to preserve such provision for as long as possible through thorough maintenance regimes and avoiding overuse whenever possible.**
- ◀ There are three full size hockey suitable AGP in Sefton, provided across as many sites.
- ◀ All three pitches are available to the community use, serviced by sports lighting and are of a good quality.
- ◀ There are three smaller size pitches provided at Sacred Heart High School, Ashworth Hospital North and Melling Primary School, none of which are open to community use.
- ◀ Sports lighting is not an issue at any of the three sites within Sefton.
- ◀ Provision provided at Greenbank High School, Formby Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club and The Northern Club are all of a good quality. In the case of the latter, the playing provision was replaced in 2015, however, the Club state it has been well preserved, and the surface has remained that of a good quality.
- ◀ There are three affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Sefton, those being Formby HC, Northern HC and Southport HC.
- ◀ The three hockey clubs provide 26 teams, consisting of nine senior men's, eight senior women's, seven junior teams and two other teams.
- ◀ Both Formby HC and Northern HC have freehold ownership of its club site, whilst Southport HC access Greenbank High School for both training and match play purposes.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *What would happen if an AGP became unavailable?*

With three well established hockey clubs in Sefton, each, as a minimum, requires its own pitch to accommodate fixtures. This is based on the analysis undertaken in the Sefton PPOSS Assessment Report. With three pitches in Sefton meeting this need, demand is currently met. If, however, any of these were to be lost there would not be sufficient provision to accommodate existing levels of demand, and no opportunities to grow the sport at a senior level. As such, if a pitch was lost or to become unavailable or times for hockey use cut, it is likely a club would have to fold or relocate outside of Sefton to accommodate demand.

##### *Southport HC*

For Southport HC, based at Greenbank High School (Southport) there is known programming issues with weekend recreational football limiting opportunities for hockey match play. As it stands, the Club cannot access the pitch until mid-day and therefore cannot grow the number of teams it currently has (something which it believes it could achieve via improved pitch access). Unless this demand is relocated to a suitable 3G pitch (which can only be met through an increase of 3G pitch provision locally) then this theoretical unmet demand will continue to be unsatisfied.

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ H1/G4) Protect all community use sand-based AGPs for continued hockey use [1a)].
- ◀ H2) Look to preserve current good quality of full size AGPs through thorough appropriate maintenance regimes at all three sites [2d), 2e), 3i].
- ◀ H3) Look to increase and formalise AGP pitch access at Greenbank High School for Southport HC to better service the Club for training and match play demand [1c)].
- ◀ H4). Encourage all hockey suitable AGP providers to have a sinking fund in place for their eventual refurbishment [2d), 2g)].

*(Links to strategic recommendations are given in [square brackets] after each recommendation)*

### **Tennis courts**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

- ◀ **Formby Village TC is the only site in Sefton showing current capacity issues.**
- ◀ **As well as Formby Village TC, two other clubs have future capacity issues: Formby LTC and Southport & Birkdale LTC.**
- ◀ No non-club courts are identified as having capacity issues. There is spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not always recorded due to the open access nature of many sites. Priority should be placed on improving park court quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts such Victoria Park (Southport).
- ◀ There is a total of 171 tennis courts identified in Sefton across 37 sites, with 108 courts categorised as being available for community use at 24 sites.
- ◀ The majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 81 being of this type compared to 47 having an artificial surface, with the remaining courts having a shale, concrete or grass surface.
- ◀ In Sefton, ten of the 14 clubs access courts with sports lighting at home sites. Provision of additional sports lighting at club such as Rookery Sports Club, North Meols LTC and Waterloo LTC may help improve capacity.
- ◀ Of the community use courts, 71 are assessed as good quality, 22 as standard quality and 15 as poor quality.
- ◀ None of the ancillary facilities servicing club courts in Sefton were assessed as of a poor quality, however the car park at Southbank TC is deemed of a poor quality. Southbank TC who access The Rookery Sports Ground had its ancillary provision deemed out of use following an alleged arson attack in 2018.
- ◀ Hillside LTC state it is undertaking a major refurbishment of its ancillary provision, whilst Sphynx TC has an ambition to refurbish its clubhouse.
- ◀ There are 14 tennis clubs in Sefton which collectively cater for 1,982 members, which as a breakdown equates to 1,411 senior and 571 junior members.
- ◀ Nine clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 565 potential additional members (340 senior and 225 junior).

### **Scenarios**

#### *Satisfying club demand*

The table below explores what opportunities are available to resolve identified capacity issues at tennis clubs by highlighting nearby provision which could provide opportunities for satellite participation.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In most cases an increase of provision of one court would alleviate most theoretical capacity challenges, or notwithstanding issues development, satellite options are also available to clubs.

Table 5.22: Accessing nearby education sites

Club name	Current membership balance	Future capacity balance	No. of additional courts required	Nearby education provision to satisfy demand	Comments
Formby Village TC	10	80	One sports lit and one non sport lit court	Formby High School (0.5 miles)	Six standard quality non courts at school site.
Formby Lawn TC		20	One non sport lit court	Formby High School (0.7 miles)	Six standard quality non courts at school site.
Southport and Birkdale Sports Club		30	One non sport lit court	Victoria Park (1.4 miles)	6 standard quality public courts.

Where satellite use opportunities are in place at education sites, this may also provide a partnership opportunity to encourage coaching, development and linked club-school pathways for students.

### LTA Investment

#### Recreational and informal tennis

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access and can be used individually or in combination. The products are used to provide a remote booking and access system.

Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. In addition, it provides income generation that can go towards ongoing maintenance of the courts.

The LTA and Government have also in 2021 announced a £30 million package to refurbish more than 4,500 public tennis courts in poor or unplayable condition at more than 1,500 venues in the most deprived parts of the UK<sup>15</sup>.

Currently no sites have been identified in Sefton by the LTA; but it is continuing to work to identify potential sites for development/improvement. Potential site recommendations are identified below.

#### ClubSpark

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport.

<sup>15</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>



## SEFTON COUNCIL

# PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions of their venue(s) including:

- ◀ Managed Website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed Coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership Management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch. Take online payments, manage direct debits and monitor revenue streams with ease.
- ◀ Membership modules can also be used to take ‘Season Ticket’ payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee. ‘Season Tickets’ can be configured to allow court bookings to be made for free or at a reduced rate by players who hold one, whilst still allowing non-holders to book
- ◀ Organise Payments - Set the way you want payments to be taken, whether it’s immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package.
- ◀ Court Bookings – Reduced admin for managing bookings. Give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - Set unique booking and price rules to suit your venue. Enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and Pay remotely - Customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders. This allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

### *LTA PLAY*

LTA PLAY is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via partner venues ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. Rally allows players to search for venues close to them, and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book. It provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the local authority.

### *Gate Access*

The LTA has developed two Gate Access systems that work in association with ClubSpark, to secure your courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and will receive a four digit access code via email, to enter using the courtside keypad. The system will allow entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

Nationally the LTA has reported that in the last three years sites with gate access installed have attracted 64,841 unique players to make bookings, leading to 609,671 courts being booked, and has generated £1.1m of income.

There are two gate options available Smart Access Premium & Smart Access Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue will determine the most appropriate system for each site.

The LTA report that use of park tennis courts are greatly increased where there is accessible toilets and a café nearby providing more of a destination to play tennis. Additional sports lighting expands the maximum available courts hours available to play for longer periods of the year.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Overall, the combination of these ancillary elements is shown to increase the value and sustainability of tennis within park sites and therefore these features should be considered when investing into court provision.

Public sites in Sefton which contain poor quality tennis courts and would benefit from the above LTA package are as follows:

- ◀ Derby Park (Bootle and Netherton)
- ◀ Coronation Park (Crosby)
- ◀ Victoria Park (Crosby)
- ◀ Duke Street Park (Formby)
- ◀ Victoria Park (Southport)

The rationale for the above is a mixture of poor quality surfaces and importance for recreational tennis within their respective locality. As an example, Derby Park is the only court available for recreational tennis within Bootle and Netherton outside of an educational setting. It is currently poor quality and likely to be infrequently used. The remaining courts offer a more substantial court offering but have poor surface quality.

### *Padel tennis*

Padel is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and sociable. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although players serve underhand and the walls are used as part of the game, with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

Padel tennis is one of the fastest growing sports across continental Europe, it has gained increasing popularity over recent years. As of 2021, there are around 6,000 active padel tennis players across Great Britain, with 107 courts provided at 52 clubs. This is predicted to grow substantially in future years.

There are currently no padel tennis courts in Sefton, however, Southport Argyle LTC and Formby LTC are both seeking planning permission for two padel courts at each venue. This type of tennis should be encouraged at club sites to provide an alternate faster paced version of the sport, in turn, retaining and growing memberships.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ T1) Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts [1e)].
- ◀ T2) Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain court quality at sites assessed as good quality at sites in use by clubs or that are (or could be) well used for recreational demand [2d), 3i)].
- ◀ T3). Explore opportunities to install additional sports lighting at club-based venues, particularly at sites operating above the capacity guidance [2d), 2g), 3i)].
- ◀ T4). Explore opportunities to improve ancillary facilities at sites where clubs have identified a need to do so [2d), 2g), 3i)].
- ◀ T5) Explore opportunities to provide additional on-site or off-site court space for clubs operating above LTA capacity guidance [1b), 1c), 2g), 3i), 3j)].
- ◀ T6). Explore opportunities for club or community use of school sites with higher levels of provision [1c), 2f), 3j)].
- ◀ T7). Support padel tennis and other opportunities to increase participation in club tennis [2f)].
- ◀ T8) Increase opportunities for year-round recreational tennis on courts in parks to meet local demand including via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA [2f)].

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

(Links to strategic recommendations are given in [square brackets] after each recommendation)

### Bowling greens

#### Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **No bowling clubs are operating below the level of membership required to ensure that the greens that they use are sustainable.**
- ◀ **A total of ten bowling greens are operating above BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines. Once accounting for future demand through club ambitions a total of 12 greens shall be operating above recommended capacity if growth were to be achieved.**
- ◀ There are 40 crown green bowls greens in Sefton provided across 34 sites.
- ◀ There are eight sites featuring a total of 13 disused bowling greens within Sefton.
- ◀ Of clubs which responded to consultation requests, five own their greens, eight have lease arrangements in place and three rents greens from various parties.
- ◀ Overall, 28 greens are assessed as good quality, 11 as standard quality and one is poor quality.
- ◀ The green provided at The Hightown Club (Hightown BC) is the only poor quality green within Sefton.
- ◀ Five sites have been identified as featuring poor quality facilities and or toilets, those being St Monica's BC, Brooklands BC, Hightown BC, Our Lady's BC and Maghull meadows King George V Playing Field.
- ◀ Hightown BC and Brooklands BC plan to upgrade the toilet facilities on site, whilst Formby Park BC is developing additional steps from the green to the clubhouse.
- ◀ Maghull Meadows BC and Our Lady's BC report a lack of toilet facilities on site as a major frustration.
- ◀ Eight greens in Sefton are serviced by sports lighting, which is a comparably high amount. No clubs currently without such provision express the desire to install sports lighting on its site.
- ◀ There are 39 clubs using bowling greens in Sefton.
- ◀ Where membership is known, there are a total of 1,487 members, equating to 914 senior men, 569 senior women and five juniors.
- ◀ The average membership across the clubs is 72.
- ◀ There are no artificial greens in Sefton.
- ◀ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2030), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ◀ Ten clubs outlined intentions to increase membership figures to give a total of 188 additional members across Sefton. These clubs are Crescent BC, Netherton BC, Brooklands BC, Formby Park BC, Formby Village BC, Ainsdale BC, Hesketh Arms BC, Sandbrook Park BC, Victoria Park BC. Were these figures to be achieved 12 sites would be operating above BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.
- ◀ Freshfield BC is the most overplayed green within Sefton with 183 members accessing one green, meaning the site is currently operating at more than double the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.

#### Scenarios

##### Accommodating demand

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that the user operates. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

Based on this model, ten clubs may require “additional resource” based on existing capacity, and these are as follows:

- ◀ Hightown BC (Crosby)
- ◀ Kensington House BC (Sefton East)
- ◀ Formby Sports and Social BC (Formby)
- ◀ Freshfield Bowling Club (Formby)
- ◀ Formby Village BC (Formby)
- ◀ Formby Park BC (Formby)
- ◀ Ainsdale BC (Southport)
- ◀ Crossens BC (Southport)
- ◀ Hesketh Arms BC (Southport)
- ◀ Victoria Park BC (Southport)

None of these clubs specifically mentioned a need for an additional bowling green. In future, four of these Formby clubs and three in Southport are likely to have more than 120 members per green.

When considering future demand (expressed through club aspirations) the following clubs also come into the 60+ threshold.

- ◀ Netherton BC (Bootle)
- ◀ Brooklands BC (Crosby)

Based on the above list of clubs, consultation identified the following facility needs at each. As such, where opportunities present themselves for available funding, these clubs should be prioritised for investment. Note that clubs not listed in this table, but are listed above, either did not respond to consultation or did not express a facility requirement.

*Table 5.23: Bowling club facility requirements*

Club name	Location	Facility need
Brooklands BC	Haigh Rd/Parklands Way, L22 3XN	Toilets upgrades
Hightown BC	Thirlmere Rd, L38 3RQ	Quality improvements to bowling green and toilet upgrades
Formby Park BC	Watchyard Rd, L37 3LT	New access path from clubhouse to bowling green
Formby Village BC	Rosemary Lane, L37 3HA	New sprinkler system and replacement sport lighting
Kensington BC	Station Rd, Maghull L31 3DF	Replace uneven path around bowling green
Ainsdale BC	Liverpool RD, PR8 3QF	Replace uneven path around bowling green
Hesketh Arms BC	Botanic Rd, PR9 7NA	New sprinkler system

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### *Disused provision*

A total of 13 disused bowling greens are identified in Sefton. located at the following sites:

- ◀ One green at Hatton Hill Park, Litherland, Bootle and Netherton, L21 9JN
- ◀ One green at Lathom Road, Bootle & Netherton, L20 5EL
- ◀ One green at Netherton Park/British Legion, Killen Green Park, Fleetwoods Lane, Netherton & Bootle, L21 5JH
- ◀ One green at Orrell Mount Park, Orrell Rd, Bootle & Netherton L20 6ED
- ◀ Four greens at Victoria Park, Park View, Crosby, L22 2AP
- ◀ Two greens at Potters Barn Park, Crosby, L22 1RR
- ◀ One green at Bedford Park, Southport, PR8 4JT
- ◀ Two greens at Salisbury Park, Southport, PR9 0SJ

All greens listed above have come out of use due to a decreasing formal demand over a number of years. However, it is possible that some additional demand may materialise over the lifespan of the PPOSS. Office of National Statistics population projections (2018-2043), identify that the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Sefton is likely to increase continuously from 64,032 in 2018 to 78,816 in 2030, representing an increase of 23%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, it can be said that demand for bowling greens in Sefton may increase with additional pressure placed on the existing stock of provision (although this trend is not observed on council run sites, where numbers are diminishing).

Potential increased future demand due to a changing population structure should be balanced against the continuing recent pattern of disuse, current demand and potential future needs for 'additional resource' based on capacity as set out above. The highest proportions of people over 65 are anticipated to be living in Formby and especially Southport; and several clubs needing 'additional resource' are in these areas. The highest number of disused greens are in Bootle and Netherton, and Crosby. It is considered that in general only disused greens within the same settlement area are in practice able to meet current or future demand from that settlement area.

On this basis, as well as the retention of greens in active use in each settlement area, it is important to retain a strategic supply of reserve disused bowling greens to accommodate any significant future increases in demand. This should comprise one disused bowling green site in each settlement area with a disused green.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ B1) Protect the existing quantity of bowling greens which are currently in use [1a)].
- ◀ B2) Retain a supply of disused bowling green sites to act as a strategic growth supply for an ageing population or to meet other future needs [1a)].
- ◀ B3) Improve the quality of greens assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain the quality of greens assessed as good quality [2d)].
- ◀ B4) Explore opportunities to improve ancillary facilities at sites where clubs have identified a need to do so [2d), 2g),3i)].
- ◀ B5) Explore opportunities to support clubs which have plans to increase membership so that their growth can be maximised and accommodated [2f)].

*(Links to strategic recommendations are given in [square brackets] after each recommendation)*

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### PART 6: STRATEGIC ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues outlined in earlier sections of this 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.

#### **Partners**

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that would 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, while at one level the Council may be considered to be a partner for each identified action it is acknowledged that it will not have a role for some sites or strategic actions or priorities although it may take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues).

#### **Priority**

Hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority actions, although Litherland Sports Park, Netherton Activity Centre and LCFA Sefton are the only hub sites in Sefton. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are 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).

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These 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 for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

#### **Costs**

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

- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k
- ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k
- ◀ (H) -High £250k and above

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:

#### **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.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

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 strategic recommendations aims of the Strategy; Enhance, Provide, Protect, and in most cases will also relate to one of the sport-specific recommendations. Some sites will also relate to area-specific recommendations. Cross references to these recommendations are shown.

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## BOOTLE AND NETHERTON SETTLEMENT AREA

### Summary pitch sports

Sport	Settlement area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Bootle and Netherton	Adult	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 7
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 8.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 5.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
	Sefton	Adult	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 11
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 20
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 12.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 9	Spare capacity of 9
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Football (3G pitches) <sup>16</sup>	Bootle and Netherton	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 4.5
	Sefton	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 13	Shortfall of 13.5
Cricket	Bootle and Netherton	Saturday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 37	Spare capacity of 37
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
	Sefton	Saturday	Shortfall of 70	Shortfall of 70
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 4
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 95	Spare capacity of 49
Rugby union	Bootle and Netherton	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3
	Sefton	Senior	Shortfall of 12.25	Shortfall of 12.25
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Sefton	Full size, sports lit	No provision	No provision

### Summary non-pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
<b>Tennis</b>	There is a total of six courts across three sites within Bootle and Netherton, five of which are open to community use. These are located at Litherland High School and Derby Park. Quality of provision is adequate. There are no tennis clubs operating within Bootle and Netherton.	No change in picture. Quality of recreational offer should be monitored as there is a broad reliance on a single site (outside of Litherland High School) to accommodate for recreational demand.
<b>Bowls</b>	None of the three greens across Bootle and Netherton report any current capacity issues.	When accommodating for future demand Netherton Park Estate BC who access

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>16</sup> 3G shortfalls are derived from the FA 1:38 team model. Shortfalls are based on full size pitch need and not match equivalent sessions.



# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
	<p>Ancillary provision accommodating St Monicas BC at Derby Park is of a poor quality.</p> <p>There are four disused greens across as many sites within Bootle and Netherton.</p>	<p>Netherton and Sefton Sports and Social Club shall be operating above BCGBA recommended guidelines on capacity.</p> <p>Ancillary provision accommodating St Monicas BC at Derby Park will still require upgrades if no work is undertaken.</p> <p>There will be four disused greens across as many sites within Bootle and Netherton, unless any are lost to development in order to maintain an apparent future balance between supply and demand.</p>

## Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Brook Vale Playing Fields and Stuart Road Playing Fields.</li> <li>◀ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure the 3G pitch at LCFA Sefton remains on the FA register for match play. Work to gain accreditation on the 3G pitch at Litherland Sports Park to enable match playing opportunities for local users.</li> <li>◀ Look to increase the supply of 3G provision.</li> <li>◀ The FA scenario suggests a total need for six in the settlement catchment (shortfall of four). Unmet demand figure equates to a shortfall of one.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Undertake improvements to playing provision where possible.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> <li>◀ Utilise identified spare capacity for Saturday demand where available.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect existing provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at Litherland Sports Park as to better service training demand from Firwood Waterloo RFC.</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No existing provision.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision in active use.</li> <li>◀ Improve green quality for Nethertgon Park BC.</li> <li>◀ Retain a supply of disused sites to use as a strategic reserve for future growth</li> </ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Seek to improve park courts such as Derby Park via implementation of LTA products.</li> </ul>

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim				
46	B1301	L23 9YP Litherland	LCFA Sefton	Football	Liverpool County FA	Four adult and two 9v9 pitches all of which are of a good quality and played at capacity by the nine clubs accessing the site for match play. Pitches are of a good quality following investment from the Football Foundation after the installation of 3G provision on site.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g) Sustain current maintenance of provision as to preserve good quality rating. Ensure pitches continue to be used at its current rate as to maximise play whilst not allowing for quality to deteriorate.	Liverpool CFA FF Council	Hub site	M	L	L	Protect (LFFP)				
				3G		One full size 3G with seven accompanying smaller 3G pitches all of which are open to community use and on the FIFA register. The full sized is played at 94% capacity with only 1.25 hours of availability within SE peak time hours.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitch. 2d), 3i), G9. Ensure provision retains its FIFA approved certification which is scheduled to expire as of June 2025. 2d). 2g). G11. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to preserve the lifespan of the site.							Liverpool CFA FF Council SE	H	L	H
						The site has the potential to accommodate a secondary full size 3G pitch, subject to a feasibility assessment being undertaken.	2e), 2g), 3i), G2. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site, as set out in the LFFP.										
33	B1303	L30 0QS Stonyfield, Bootle	The Grange Primary	Football	School	One poor quality 9v9 pitch with no community use.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular demand.	School Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance				
60	B1304	L30 3LT Glovers Lane	Netherton Activity Centre	Football	Commercial	One adult and six 5v5 pitches all of which are of a standard quality. Adult pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES, whilst actual spare capacity of 2 MES exists across the 5v5 pitches.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. F2, F3, 2g) Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 2d), 2e), F5. Strategic site so should be prioritised for pitch improvements (and shown as such in LFFP)	Liverpool CFA FF	Hub site	M	M	M	Protect Enhance (LFFP)				
				3G		Site has six 3G pitches of varying scales all of which are Full size, sports lit and open to community use. Provision is of a standard quality and not FA certified, having first been installed in 2011.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitches. 2d), G6. Look to maximise usage of provision as to better support training demand across Sefton whilst generating greater revenue for the site. 2d). 2g),G11. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to preserve the lifespan of the site.							Liverpool CFA FF SE	H	L	H
						The site has the potential to accommodate a secondary full size 3G pitch, subject to a feasibility assessment being undertaken.	2e), 2g), 3i), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.										

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
182	B1306	L30 7PG Copy lane	St Benedicts' RC Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 7v7 pitches with no community use.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular demand.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
76	B1313	L30 2DP Sterrix Lane	Litherland High School	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch with no community use. Site borders with Litherland Sports Park.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 1c) Look to enable community access to provision given its location bordering with the overplayed site of Litherland Sports Park.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide
				Tennis		Four standard quality macadam courts open to community use with sports lighting. Site has no formal tennis club partner.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Look to sustain current quality through thorough maintenance regime. 1c), 2f), 3j), T6. Given the community use agreement and existence of sports lighting, look to increase recreational use.	School LTA SE		M	L	L	
218	B1315	L21 7NW Moss Lane	Litherland Moss Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular demand.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
74	B1316	L30 2NA	Savio RC High School	Football	School	Two adult, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch all standard quality and no community use.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand.	School	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide
						The site has the potential to accommodate a secondary full size 3G pitch, subject to a feasibility assessment being undertaken.	2e), 2g), 3i), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.						
64	B1317	L30 3SA Stand Park Avenue	Our Lady of Walsingham School	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 1 MES due to demand from the Fillies G.F.C.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e). F2, F3. Enhance maintenance regime of the site as to better accommodate community demand and reduce overplay. 3i), F6. Look to divert some demand from the Fillies G.F.C as to alleviate current overplay. F2. Alternatively, as majority of demand takes place from junior teams, look to reconfigure the layout of provision as to reduce overplay. 1b), 1c), F8. Explore options to secure tenure of provision for community club accessing site.	School Lancashire CFA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
32	B1318	L30 1QQ Park Lane	Goals Site	3G	Commercial	Site has nine good quality 3G pitches of varying scales all of which are open to community use and operate on a commercial model.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitches. 2d), G6. Ensure provision is accessed as much as possible as to better support training demand.	Commercial Liverpool CFA FF	Local	H	L	H	Protect Enhance

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							2d), 2g), G11. Have a sinking fund in place for all pitches as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of provision.						
61	B1320	L30 1QW Chester Avenue	Netherton Park Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch that is available but unused.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
14	B1321	L22 3YB Litherland	Brook Vale Playing Fields	Football	Sports Club	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9m one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. Site is overplayed by a total of 4.5 MES through demand from Crosby Stuart FC. Crosby Stuart FC signed a 25-year on the site in 2021, it is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision that is in need of significant refurbishment or a complete replacement of the current building. The provision currently has eight small changing rooms that are unused by the Club due to poor quality. Ambitions for the Club are to build a new clubhouse to service the site.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2, F3, F4. Enhance maintenance regime of the site as to better accommodate community demand and reduce overplay. 2d), 2e), 2g), 3i, F7. Work with the Club to support its ambitions on improving the ancillary offers supporting the site.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
84	B1325	L21 8NZ Church Road	St Phillips C of E Primary	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
63	B1327	L20 6DX Harris Drive	Orrell Mount Park	Football	Council	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch both of which are of a poor quality and overplayed by a total of 3.5 MES through demand from Silcox Villa FC. The existing proposal to build a full size 3G pitch on the site has been withdrawn due to feedback based on public consultation.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2, F3. Improve quality of the natural turf pitches on the site as a means to reduce/alleviate overplay	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
				Lawn Bowls		One disused bowling green.	1a), B2. Consider whether there is a need to retain site as a strategic reserve for future growth or whether there are other disused greens in the area to provide this reserve.			Council BCGBA			
13	B1340	L20 9PQ	Bootle Sports Stadium	Baseball	Community Organisation	One baseball pitch. Home of Liverpool Trojans Baseball Club.	2f) Retain for community sport.	Community Organisation	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
88	B1341	L20 9EU Maguire Avenue	Stuart Road Playing Fields / Hillside	Cricket	Council (Education)	One standard quality square accessed by Firwood Bootle CC's third team. Site has actual spare capacity for Saturday, Sunday and midweek play, making it the only square in Sefton with capacity for additional Saturday demand.	1a), C1. Protect existing quantity of cricket squares. 2d), 2g), C2. Enhance maintenance regime of the site as to better accommodate community demand and enable actual spare capacity to be utilised. 2f), C8. Utilise identified spare capacity for Saturday, Sunday and midweek demand, including for women's teams for Firwood Bootle CC and other clubs.	ECB LCF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide (LFFP)
				Football		Three poor quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to pitch quality. Site is accessed by Liverpool Veterans Circuit FC and the Merseyside College League.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Enhance maintenance regime of the site as to better accommodate community demand and enable actual spare capacity to be utilised. 2e), 2g), 3i), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.			Council Liverpool CFA FF			
138	B1344	L20 2DD Balliol Road	Bootle Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square accessed by Firwood Bootle CC. Site has spare capacity for additional Sunday demand.	1a), C1. Protect for community use. C2, 2g) Sustain current main regime as to preserve quality C8 Look to utilise identified spare capacity for Sunday demand and increased women's cricket	ECB LCCB	Local	M	L	L	Provide Enhance
12	B1345	L30 1NY Vesty Road	Bootle Football Club	Football	Sports Club	Site it home to step 4 Club Bootle FC and features the only hybrid pitch in Sefton. Provision was installed in 2020 as part of a Sport England pilot for new football provision. The Club state the pitch cannot withhold the anticipated 25 hours of demand per week and state demand on such pitches should be reduced over winter months.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 3i), F10. Monitor results of hybrid pilot and taper demand on the pitch to result in the pitch accommodating the optimum amount of use relative to retaining high quality.	Sports Club SE Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	H	M	L	Protect
				3G		Two small sized 3G pitches open to community use with accompanying sports lighting. Provision was replaced in 2022 meaning it is of a good quality.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitches. 2d), G6. Ensure provision is accessed as much as possible as to better support training demand. 2d), 2g) G11. Have a sinking fund in place for all pitches as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of provision.			Sports Club Liverpool CFA FF			



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
239	B1346	L21 7LX School Lane	English Martys Catholic Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch that is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	1a), F1. Protect for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
37	B1347	L21 9NZ Awlyn Avenue	Hatton Hill Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch that is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	1a), F1. Protect for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
241	B1348	L20 9NU	Hillside High School	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches with no community use.	1a), F1. Protect for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
240	B1349	L30 2DB	Hugh Baird College (Netherton)	Football	School	One poor quality sports lit adult pitch with no community use. Sports lighting was converted to LED as of February 2022.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Enhance maintenance regime of the site as to better accommodate community demand and reduce overplay. 1c) Given the accompanying sports lighting and location nearby Litherland Sports Park, look to open provision to community access as to better support community demand.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
123	B2301	L30 0PF	Buckley Hill Rec Ground	Lawn Bowls	Council	Site is a former bowling green that has now been repurposed.	1a), B2. Consider whether there is a need to retain site as a strategic reserve for future growth or whether there are other disused greens in the area to provide this reserve.	Council BCGBA SE	Local	L	L	M	Provide
220	B2304	L21 0DB Sterrix Lane	Rowan Park School	Tennis	School	One standard quality concrete tennis court with no sports lighting or community use.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g) ,3i), T2. Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
221	B2305	L21 7LA Boundary Road	Litherland Sports Park	Football	Council	Site has four adult and four 7v7 pitches. The site has scope for an increase of provision at youth 9v9 format. All provision is to a standard quality excluding one good quality adult pitch accessed by step 5 Club, Litherland REMYCA, which sits inside an athletics track. Site is overplayed by a total of 5 MES across as many pitches (on community focused pitches).	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g) F2, F3. Enhance maintenance regime of the site as to better accommodate community demand and reduce overplay. 2d), 2e), F5. Add overall pitch stock to LFFP as grass pitch improvement project. 1b), 1c), F9. Investigate scope for maintenance responsibility for one or more pitches to pass to Litherland REMYCA to enable pitch improvements to take place.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Hub site	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide (LFFP)
				3G		The site has one full sized good quality 3G pitch that was installed in 2021 and is open to community use.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitch. 2e), 2g), 3i), G2. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G	Council Liverpool CFA FF		M	M	H	

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						Provision is not on the FA register as at the time of writing it is yet to be tested. The pitch is at 72% capacity, meaning it has 9.5 hours of availability during Sport England's peak time frame. The site is referenced in the Sefton LFFP as a potential site for an additional 3G pitch.	pitch on site, as set out in the LFFP. Consider medium-long term opportunity to provide a 3G stadium pitch on site aligned to Litherland REMYCA FC. 2d), G6. Look to maximise usage of the pitch as to better service football training demand. G7/R3. Consider need for WR Reg 22 shock pad (for rugby) as part of any development. 2d). 2g), G11. Have a sinking fund in place for all pitches as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of provision.						
				Rugby Union		Site has one standard quality sports lit senior pitch that is overplayed by 3 MES due to concentrated training demand from Firwood Waterloo RUFC. If Club were to install a WR22 compliant 3G pitch at its home site overplay would be significantly reduced.	1a), R1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), 3i), R2. Look to enhance maintenance regime as to improve pitch quality, reduce overplay caused by Firwood Waterloo RUFC and better service training demand from Firwood Waterloo RUFC. G7/R3. Consider need for WR Reg 22 shock pad (for rugby) as part of any 3G development at Litherland Sports Park.	Council RFU		M	M	M	
130	B2306	L21 5JH Thirlmere Drive	Netherton Park Bowls Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Site has one disused bowling green.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), B3. Sustain or improve current maintenance levels as to preserve or enhance quality.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
223	B2313	L20 6DU	Walnut Tree PH	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Walnut Tree BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Sustain current maintenance levels as to preserve quality.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
131	B2314	L20 0ED 19 Orrell Road	Orrell Lodge (Crescent)	Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Crescent BC and BRNESC BC. Site is operating within BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g) B3. Sustain current maintenance levels as to preserve quality.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
135	B2316	L20 5EL Lathom Road	Linacre Bridge Community Centre	Lawn Bowls	Community Organisation	Disused bowling green. Basic ancillary offer within grounds of community building.	1a), B2. Consider whether there is a need to retain site as a strategic reserve for future growth or whether there are other disused greens in the area to provide this reserve.	Community Organisation BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							This site is preferential for retention on the basis of having an ancillary offer.						
129	B2308 / B2309	L21 9JN Field Lane	Hatton Hill Park	Lawn Bowls	Council	Site has one good quality bowling green accessed by Litherland Pensioners BC and an additional disused bowling green.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Sustain current maintenance levels on existing greens as to preserve quality. 1a), B2. Look to bring disused green back into existence if there is a need from Litherland Pensioners BC. Or if it is not required, consider whether there is a need to retain the disused green as a strategic reserve for future growth or whether there are other disused greens in the area to provide this reserve.	Council BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
108	B2317 / B2318 / B2319	L20 9HE	Derby Park	Tennis	Council	One poor quality concrete court that is open to community use with no sports lighting.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Look to re-surface existing provision as to better service community demand. 2f), 2g), T8. Look to install LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark etc to increase opportunities for year-round recreational tennis.	Council LTA	Key Centre	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
				Lawn Bowls		Site has one standard quality bowling green accessed by Saint Monica's who are operating within the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Look to improve maintenance of the green as to further enhance quality of the playing surface. 2d), 2g), 3i), B4. Explore opportunities to improve ancillary facilities.	Council BCGBA		M	L	L	
-	-	L30 0QY, Harrops Croft, Bootle	Former St Raymond's School playing field, Harrops Croft, Netherton, Bootle	-	-	Disused school playing field.	1a), 2h), F1. Site is allocated for housing development in the 2017 Sefton Local Plan, subject to a compensatory provision via a contribution towards the provision of a new 3G pitch(es) at Litherland Sports Park.	Council SE	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	L30 2QQ, Daleacre Drive, Netherton	Former Daleacre School, Daleacre Drive, Netherton, Bootle	-	-	Disused school playing field.	1a), 2h), F1. Site is allocated for housing development in the 2017 Sefton Local Plan, subject to a compensatory provision via a contribution towards the provision of a new 3G pitch(es) at Litherland Sports Park.	Council SE	-	-	-	-	-

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
-	-	L20 4AH, Waverley Street, Bootle	Former St Mary's Primary School playing fields, Waverley Street, Bootle	-	-	Disused school playing field.	1a), 2h), F1. Site is allocated for housing development in the 2017 Sefton Local Plan, subject to a compensatory provision via a contribution towards the provision of a new 3G pitch(es) at Litherland Sports Park.	Council SE	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	L30 7PQ, Copy Lane, Bootle	Former St Ambrose Barlow High School, Netherton, Bootle	-	-	Disused school playing field.	1a), F1. The site should be protected from development (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4, paragraph 99(b) of the 2021 NPPF and 2017 Sefton Local Plan policy NH5), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.	Council SE	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	L30 5RN, Browns Lane, Bootle	Former Bootle High School.	-	-	Disused school playing field.	1a), F1. The site should be protected from development (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4, paragraph 99(b) of the 2021 NPPF and 2017 Sefton Local Plan policy NH5), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet	Council SE	-	-	-	-	-

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## CROSBY SETTLEMENT AREA

### Summary pitch sports

Sport	Settlement area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Crosby	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 8	Spare capacity of 8
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Sefton	Adult	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 11
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 20
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 12.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 9	Spare capacity of 9
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Football (3G pitches) <sup>17</sup>	Crosby	Full size, sport lit	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
	Sefton	Full size, sport lit	Shortfall of 13	Shortfall of 13.5
Cricket	Crosby	Saturday	Shortfall of 24	Shortfall of 24
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 97	Spare capacity of 97
	Sefton	Saturday	Shortfall of 70	Shortfall of 70
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 4
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 95	Spare capacity of 49
Rugby union	Crosby	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3
	Sefton	Senior	Shortfall of 12.25	Shortfall of 12.25
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Sefton	Full size, sport lit	Currently no shortfall	No shortfall

### Summary non-pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	There is no shortfall of capacity at any of the four clubs accessing their current venues in Crosby. The four poor quality, non-sport lit concrete courts at Victoria Park act as the hub for a local friendly tennis league across Sefton.	The position at all four clubs consistent with current position. The four poor quality, non sports lit concrete courts at Victoria Park will require refurbishment to retain being able to be used for recreational tennis.

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>17</sup> 3G shortfalls are derived from the FA 1:38 team model. Shortfalls are based on full size pitch need and not match equivalent sessions.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
<b>Bowls</b>	There are seven greens across as many sites within Crosby. Hightown BC has the highest membership. Its green is poor quality and needs improvement, this is also the case for its ancillary provision. There are six disused greens across two sites in Crosby. There is currently an apparent excess of supply over demand.	No change in club picture. There will remain a need to improve the offer at Hightown BC, unless improvements are made. There will remain six disused greens across two sites in Crosby, unless any are lost to development in order to maintain an apparent future balance between supply and demand.

### Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Sandy Lane Football (Hightown Jnr League).</li> <li>◀ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure provision located at Chesterfield High School and Marine AFC remain registered for competitive match play.</li> <li>◀ Work to increase the supply of full size 3G pitches.</li> <li>◀ FA scenario suggests a need for 3.5 full size pitches, a shortfall of 1.5 full size pitches. Unmet demand equates to a shortfall of one full size pitch.</li> <li>◀ Consider opportunities to provide WR Reg 22 3G provision to ease pressure on provision at Firwood Waterloo RFC.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Undertake improvements to playing provision where possible.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure provision at Merchant Taylors remains accessible to Firwood Waterloo RFC.</li> <li>◀ Look to increase the quantity of sports lighting at The Hightown Cricket Club as to better service Crosby St Mary's RFC.</li> <li>◀ Look to support Firwood Waterloo RFC with its pitch capacity issues.</li> <li>◀ Support Firwood Waterloo RFC in modernising its changing rooms and associated facilities.</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure a sinking fund is in place at Moor Park Cricket Ground (Northern Club) as to ensure the long term sustainability of provision.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision in active use.</li> <li>◀ Improve green quality and upgrade toilets for Hightown BC</li> <li>◀ Provide toilets upgrade at Brooklands BC.</li> <li>◀ Retain one of the disused greens to use as a strategic reserve for future growth</li> </ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Support Waterloo LTC in its ambitions to provide additional sports lighting on site.</li> <li>◀ Seek to improve park courts such as at Victoria Park through playing surface replacements and implementation of LTA products.</li> </ul>

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
38	C2201	L38 3RQ Thirlmere Road, Hightown	The Hightown Club	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Site has one poor quality senior pitch with partial sports lighting servicing a strip on one side. Site is used by Crosby St Mary's RUFC for training and match play purposes of one team.	1a), R1. Protect existing provision. 2d), 2e), 2g), 3i), R2. Support club to improve the quality of the pitch to support existing/future demand. 2d), 2g), R5. Look to install a second strip of sports lighting as to better service Crosby St Mary's for training demand.	Sports Club RFU	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Provide Enhance
				Football		Site has one standard quality adult pitch with standard quality accompanying ancillary provision.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d),2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA, FF		L	L	L	
				Cricket		Site has one good quality square that is open to community use. Site is not accompanied by an NTP and is overplayed by 24 match sessions.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. 2g), C2 Sustain current maintenance regime as to preserve quality. 2d), 3i), 3j) C3. Address overplay by increasing the use of the NTP including for juniors. 2f), C8. Seek to encourage women's cricket, if necessary, using other sites which have capacity.	Sports Club LCF ECB		L	L	L	
				Lawn Bowls		Home of Hightown BC. The Club identifies a need for quality improvements to its bowling green surface and improvements to the onsite toilet.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), B3. Improve green quality. 2d), 2g), 3i), B4. Support club with its list of needs for ancillary facilities, notably toilets.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
				Tennis		Site has six good quality courts, three of which are macadam with the remaining three being grass. Courts are open to community use and have no sports lighting.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Ensure a thorough maintenance regime is in place to preserve court quality.	Sports Club LTA		L	L	L	
58	C1203	L23 8TZ Spinney Crescent	Merchant Taylors Playing Fields, Spinney Crescent	Cricket	School	Site has three squares with three accompanying Non-Turf Pitches, all of which are of a good quality. Provision is not open to community use.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. 1c) Given the scale and quality of provision, it could provide a substantial offer during free school periods for community clubs (particularly around peak time demand).	School ECB LCCB	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
				Football		Site has one adult, one youth 11v11 and three 7v7 pitches all of which are of a standard quality. 7v7 pitches show spare capacity that has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. Pitches are open to community use but are un-used.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular demand	School Liverpool CFA FF		M	L	L	

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				Rugby Union		Site has four senior rugby pitches and two junior pitches, all of which are of a good quality and are not serviced by sports lighting. Pitches are accessed heavily by Firwood Waterloo RUFC for training purposes.	1a), R1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), 3i), R2. Maintain pitch quality. 1c), 2d), R7. Sustain relationship between school and Firwood Waterloo RUFC to secure long term ability to meet existing demand including mixed age grade and junior demand.	School RFU		M	M	M	
83	C1204	L23 7UL St Michaels Road	St. Michaels Church of England High School	Football	School	Site has four adult pitches, one of which is standard with the remaining three being of a poor quality. All pitches are not open to community use. The School has ambitions to install a 3G pitch. The land features a derelict redgra facility that has been out of use for several decades leaving the space unusable for sport.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 1c) Given the scale of provision, site should look to open to community use. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand. 2e), 2g), 3i), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
181	C1205	L23 8TW	Firwood Waterloo RUFC	Rugby Union	Sports Club	One standard quality senior pitch with accompanying sports lighting. Site is overplayed by 3 MES per week, The Club has had ambitions to install a WR Reg 22 compliant 3G pitch on sole senior rugby union pitch. The six changing rooms shall be in need of modernisation in the near future, whilst the clubhouses six boilers present frequent problems for the Club.	1a), R1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), 3i), R2. Improve current maintenance as to preserve pitch quality and reduce the risk of exacerbating overplay. 2g), R3/G7. Further investigate the feasibility to install a WR compliant 3G pitch on its home pitch. 2d), 2g), R4. Look to enhance the six changing rooms in the accompanying clubhouse. 2d), 2g), R4. Look to address the continuous boiler issue in the clubhouse.	Sports Club RFU	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
205	C1206	L23 4TR	St Mary's College Sports Ground (Crosby)	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and four mini pitches of which are all standard quality. No community use is available of the pitch provision on site.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
				Rugby Union		Two senior pitches of M1/D1 quality. No community use.	1a), R1. Protect to meet pitch demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
				Cricket		Two standard quality squares with circa eight wickets each. No community use available of provision.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision.	School LCF ECB		L	L	L	
91	C1210 / C2206	L23 2SX De Villiers Avenue	The Northern Club	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality 9v9 pitches accessed by Forefield Rangers FC. Site is showing actual spare capacity of 1.5 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							2d), 2g). Sustain current maintenance as to preserve pitch quality. Utilise identified actual spare capacity.						
				AGP		<p>One full sized good quality sand filled AGP accessed by Northern HC. The surface of provision was replaced in 2015, however the Club state its quality has not deteriorated. The pitch has capacity for additional growth for hockey.</p> <p>The Club aspires to improve the ancillary provision servicing the pitch with a particular need for improvements to meet DDA guidelines. This is linked to the multisport usage of cricket which share similar aspirations.</p>	<p>1a), G4/H1. Protect the existing AGP for continued hockey use. Look to utilise additional capacity for Saturday demand.</p> <p>2d), 2e), 2g), 3i), H2. Sustain the quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime.2d). 2g), G11. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long term sustainability of the site.</p>	<p>Sports Club EH SE Liverpool CFA FF</p>		H	L	H	
				Cricket		<p>Site has three squares, two of which are of a good quality, whilst the remaining square is standard.</p> <p>All three squares have spare capacity for additional midweek demand, whilst one of the three squares has capacity for additional Sunday play.</p>	<p>1a), C1. Protect existing provision.</p> <p>2g), C2 Sustain current maintenance regime for the three good quality squares so as to preserve quality. Improve square quality of the other square through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and allow for all provision to be of a good quality.</p> <p>2d), 2g), C5. Explore opportunities to improve secondary pavilion changing facilities and where possible support the ambition for improvements.</p> <p>2f), C8. Utilise identified spare capacity for Sunday demand and increased women's cricket.</p>	<p>Sports Club ECB LCCB</p>		M	M	L	
				Lawn Bowls		Two good quality bowling greens accessed by Northern BC.	<p>1a), B1. Protect to meet existing demand.</p> <p>2d), 2g), B3. Sustain the quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime.</p>	<p>Sports Club BCGBA</p>		L	L	L	
39	C1211 / C2204	L23 4UL Virgins Lane	Holy Family High School	Football	School	<p>One adult and two youth 11v11 pitches all of which are of a poor quality and not open to community use with exception to the Merseyside College Cup. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.</p>	<p>1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand.</p> <p>2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.</p> <p>1c) Given the scale of provision look to open site for community use.</p>	<p>School Liverpool CFA FF</p>	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				Tennis		The site formerly accommodated two courts (as part of a wider multi use games area offer) but it is now used as overspill car parking.	N/A	School LTA		L	L	L	
48	C1212	L23 4TW Moor Lane	Liverpool Ramblers AFC	Football	Sports Club	Two good quality adult pitches accessed by Liverpool Ramblers FC. Site has no actual spare capacity.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Preserve current pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
15	C1215	L29 1YB Buckley Hill Lane	Buckley Hill Playing Fields	Football	Council	One adult, seven youth 11v11, three 9v9, four 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch all of which are of a standard quality. Site is accessed heavily by both the Bootle and Netherton JYFL and the Hightown JYFL. Overplay is present on the adult and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst actual spare capacity is present on the 7v7 pitches.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2, F3. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime (delivered through recommendations from PitchPower) as to better service community demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F5. Site is one of the most heavily accessed in Sefton so should be prioritised for pitch improvements (and shown as such in LFFP).	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance (LFFP)
17	C1218 / C2217	L23 9YB Chesterfield Road	Chesterfield High School	Football	School	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality and are open to community use. Pitches are outlined to receive investment from the Football Foundation as to enhance its quality following the investment into installing a 3G pitch in 2022.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Undertake work outlined by the Football Foundation to enhance pitch quality. 1c). Look to utilise provision as pitches are currently un-used for community demand.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
				3G		One full size 3G pitch installed in 2022. Site is operating at 79% capacity with 6 hours of availability during peak period.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitch. G6 Maximise use. 2d), 3i), G9. Ensure pitch is added to FA Register.	School Liverpool CFA, FF		H	M	M	
				Tennis		Seven good quality macadam courts with no accompanying sports lighting or community use. Courts are overmarked by netball provision.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Sustain court quality. 1c), 2f), 3j), T6. Given the scale and quality of provision and the site already being open for lettings, look to use as a community outlet for recreational activity.	School LTA		M	L	L	
20	C1218	L23 2TH 15, De Villiers Avenue	Crosby High Cooperative Learning Trust	Football	Council	One poor quality 9v9 pitch that is open to community use but is un-used. Spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
34	C1221	L23 2RQ The Northern Road	Great Crosby RC Upper School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
185	C1222	L23 5TF Liverpool Road	Sacred Heart High School	Football	School	One adult and one 9v9 pitch, both of which are of a poor quality. Site is used for the Merseyside College Cup and is played at capacity.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				AGP		One 32m x 19m AGP with no community use or accompanying sports lighting.	G1/1a), G4/H1. Protect the existing AGP. 2d), 2g), G11/H4. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee for the long term sustainability of provision.	School EH, SE Liverpool CFA, FF		L	L	L	
				3G		The school has identified an aspiration to develop a 3G pitch on the site.	2d), 2g), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.	School FF Liverpool CFA		M	M	H	
53	C1223	L23 3AS College Road	Marine AFC	Football	Sports Club	One good quality Fifa Pro Stadia 3G pitch. Typical usage range of up to 30 hours per week.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitch. G6 Maximise use.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA FF SE	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
57	C1228	L23 0QP Liverpool Road	Merchant Taylors School	Cricket	School	Site has one good quality square with an accompanying NTP. Provision is not open to community use.	1a), C1. Retain for school use. 2g), C2 Sustain current maintenance regime as to preserve quality.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
90	C1210	L38 3RQ Sandy Lane, Hightown	Sandy Lane Football (Hightown Jnr League)	Football	Council	Two 9v9, six 7v7 and four 5v5 pitches all of which are of a standard quality. Site is used heavily by six leagues. 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 2 MES whilst spare capacity is present on the 7v7 pitches. The site is currently receiving GPMF.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F3, F4. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime delivered through recommendations from PitchPower as to better service community demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F5. Site is one of the most heavily accessed in Sefton so should be prioritised for pitch improvements and shown as such in the LFFP. 2e), 2g), 3i), G2. Explore the feasibility of installing a full size 3G pitch on site, and encouraging the Hightown Junior Football League to use these.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Key Center	M	M	L	Protect Provide Enhance (LFFP)
125	C2203	L23 1TJ Green Lane	Nag's Head Public House	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality green accessed by Sefton and Thornton BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Sustain current maintenance as to preserve current green quality.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
96	C2208	L23 6UF Warren Road	Blundellsands Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Six good quality courts, four of which are artificial turf and two are a macadam surface. Four courts are serviced by sports lighting. The site is accessed by Blundellsands LTC and it is operating within LTA recommended sustainability guidelines.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Preserve court quality through a thorough maintenance regime of provision. 2d), 2g), 3i), T3. Look to install sports lighting on the two remaining courts as to improve the offering at the site and increase overall potential membership capacity.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
106	C2210	L23 8TP St Anthony's Road	Campion LTC	Tennis	Sports Club	Seven good quality artificial courts all of which are open to community use and are serviced with sports lighting. The site is accessed by Campion LTC and it is operating within LTA recommended guidelines.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Preserve court quality through a thorough maintenance regime of provision.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
107	C2214 / C2211	L23 5RD Coronation Road	Coronation Park	Tennis	Council	Site has five poor quality concrete courts that are open to community use and are not serviced by sports lighting. Site is used for a friendly competitive public court tennis league.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3j), T2. Given the scale and quality of provision, look to re-surface existing provision as to better service community demand from the friendly competitive tennis league. 2f), T8. Look to install LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark etc to increase opportunities for year-round recreational tennis.	Council LTA	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide (LFFP)
				Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green with no known user.	B1, B2 Look to identify current user of provision and whether there is a need to retain this green.			Council BCGBA	L	L	
124	C2215 / C2216	L23 2RT Moorside Road	Moorside Park	Tennis	Council	One standard quality concrete court with no community use or accompanying sports lighting.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Sustain current maintenance as to preserve current court quality.	School LTA	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Provide
				Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Moorside BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Sustain current maintenance as to preserve current green quality.			School BCGBA	L	L	
97	C2218	L23 0TN Brownmoor Park	Brownmoor Park	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Brownmoor Brooke BC. Site was formerly the home of Brownmoor Park Tennis Club.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Sustain current maintenance as to preserve green quality.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
127	C2227	L22 3XN 21a Haigh Road	Brooklands Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Brooklands BC. The Club identifies a need for new toilets.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Sustain current maintenance as to preserve current green quality. 2d), 2g), 3i), B4. Support club with its need for new toilets.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
111	C2220 / C2221	L22 2AP Park View	Victoria Park	Tennis	Council	Site has four poor quality concrete tennis courts that are open to community use and not serviced by sports lighting. Site is utilised for a local friendly competitive public court league.	1a), T1. Protect the existing tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3j), T2. Given the scale and quality of provision, look to re-surface existing provision as to better service community demand from the friendly competitive tennis league. 2f), T8. Look to install LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark, GateAccess and Rally on site, to increase opportunities for year-round recreational tennis.	Council LTA	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Provide
				Lawn Bowls		Site hosts a former bowling green that has since been repurposed.	1a), B2. Consider whether there is a need to retain site as a strategic reserve for future growth or whether there are other disused greens in the area to provide this reserve.	Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
226	C2212	L23 5SP	Merchant Taylors School for Girls	Tennis	School	Two good quality and two standard quality tennis courts. No sports lighting or community use access to the site.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Sustain current maintenance as to preserve current court quality.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
105	C2224	L22 3XG Park Road	Waterloo LTC	Tennis	Sports Club	Five standard quality artificial turf courts that are open to community use with no accompanying sports lighting. Club have freehold ownership of its site and have expressed a desire to install sports lighting on its courts. The facility as a whole has been assessed as adequate whilst the changing facilities are good. Site is operating within the LTA recommended sustainability guidelines.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Sustain current maintenance as to preserve current court quality. 2d), 2g), 3i), T3. Look to support the Club in its ambitions to install sports lighting on provision.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
155	C2225 / C2226	L22 1RR Crosby Road South	Potters Barn Park	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality concrete courts that are open to community use and are not accompanied with sports lighting.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Look to re-surface existing provision as to better service community demand. Look to install LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark etc.	Council LTA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				Lawn Bowls		The site accommodates two disused bowling greens that have since been repurposed.	1a), B2. Consider whether there is a need to retain site as a strategic reserve for future growth or whether there are other disused	Council BCGBA		L	L	L	

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							greens in the area to provide this reserve.						
-	-	L22 4RN, Glenwylin Road, Crosby.	Chaffers Fields	-	-	The site has disused football pitches and formerly a disused athletics track, however this was track was brought back into use by Marsh Lane Harriers in 2020 and now has sports lighting as well as a fully functioning track.	N/A	Council SE	-	-	-	-	-

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## FORMBY SETTLEMENT AREA

### Summary pitch sports

Sport	Settlement area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Formby	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 6.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Shortfall of 6.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Sefton	Adult	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 11
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 20
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 12.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 9	Spare capacity of 9
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Football (3G pitches) <small>18</small>	Formby	Full size, sport lit	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 3.5
	Sefton	Full size, sport lit	Shortfall of 13	Shortfall of 13.5
Cricket	Formby	Saturday	Shortfall of 17	Shortfall of 17
		Sunday	Shortfall of 17	Shortfall of 17
		Midweek	Shortfall of 17	Shortfall of 17
	Sefton	Saturday	Shortfall of 70	Shortfall of 70
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 4
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 95	Spare capacity of 49
Rugby union	Formby	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Sefton	Senior	Shortfall of 12.25	Shortfall of 12.25
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Sefton	Full size, sport lit	Currently no shortfall	No shortfall

### Summary non-pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	There is a shortfall of capacity Formby Village TC. The five macadam courts of varying quality at Duke Street Park are utilised in a local friendly tennis league across Sefton. These are the only recreational courts available to residents.	When equating for future demand, both Formby Village Tennis Club and Formby LTC will be theoretically over capacity. The five macadam courts of varying quality at Duke Street Park will require quality improvements.

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>18</sup> 3G shortfalls are derived from the FA 1:38 team model. Shortfalls are based on full size pitch need and not match equivalent sessions.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
<b>Bowls</b>	<p>There are six greens across as many sites within Formby. All clubs have high memberships. Freshfield BC has the highest membership.</p> <p>Our Lady's BC is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.</p> <p>There are no known disused greens within Formby.</p>	<p>There are six greens across as many sites within Formby. Club memberships are expected to increase.</p> <p>Our Lady's BC is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision unless work is undertaken to improve offer.</p> <p>There are no known disused greens within Formby and thus no scope for rationalisation of existing facilities.</p>

### Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Deansgate Lane Playing Fields and Smithy Green Recreation Ground.</li> <li>◀ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required such as that servicing Smithy Green Recreation Ground.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>◀ Work to increase the supply of full size 3G pitches.</li> <li>◀ FA scenario suggests a need for 3.5 full size pitches. Unmet demand equates to a shortfall of two full size pitches.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Undertake improvements to playing provision where possible.</li> <li>◀ Consider installing a Non-Turf-Pitch wicket at Formby Cricket Hockey and Squash Club as to reduce overplay.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure a sinking fund is place at Formby HC to ensure the long term sustainability of the site.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve green quality for Formby Sports and Social BC and Formby Park BC</li> <li>◀ Look to support Formby Village Sports Club in its ambition to upgrade its sprinkler system and convert existing halogen sports lights to LED.</li> <li>◀</li> </ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Seek to improve park courts such as at Duke Street Park via surface replacement and the implementation of LTA products.</li> <li>◀ Support plans for the development of Padel tennis facilities at Formby LTC.</li> </ul>



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
99	F1002	L37 7DF 90 Gores Lane	Formby Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Six good quality macadam courts with accompanying sports lighting that are open to community use. Site is currently operating within LTA recommended sustainability guidelines. Future demand aspirations, if achieve, would make the site theoretically overplayed.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Sustain current court quality with thorough maintenance regime. 1b), 1c), 2g), 3i), 3j), T5. Explore accessing a second site as to alleviate the quantity of demand on the six courts. T7. If granted planning permission, support the Club in its installation of padel provision.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
19	F1102	L37 7BZ West Lane	[Former] Clarence House School	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one 9v9 pitch, both of which are of a poor quality and open to community use. Pitches are overplayed by a total of 2 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community and curricular demand and alleviate overplay. 1b), F8. Explore options to secure tenure of provision for community club accessing site.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
30	F1104	L37 7DP Gores Lane	Formby Cricket Hockey and Squash Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square that is open to community use. Site is not accompanied by an NTP and is overplayed by 17 match sessions.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. 2d), 2g), C2. Sustain current maintenance of the square as to preserve quality. 2d), 2g), 3i), 3j) C3. As a priority, look to install an accompanying NTP as to reduce overplay. 2d), 2g), C5. Explore opportunities to improve changing facilities. 2f), C8. Seek to encourage women's cricket, if necessary, using other sites which have capacity.	Sports Club ECB LCF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Provide Enhance
				AGP		One good quality, full sized sports lit AGP that is open to community use. Site is accessed by Formby HC and has no spare capacity for additional Saturday demand (adult peak time).	1a), G4/H1. Protect the existing AGP for hockey use. 2d), 2e), 2g), 3i), H2. Sustain current maintenance of the surface as to preserve quality. 2d), 2g), H4. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long term sustainability of the site.	Sports Club EH SE Liverpool CFA, FF		H	L	H	
				Lawn Bowls		One standard quality bowling green accessed by Formby Sports and Social BC. Provision is serviced by sports lighting and is operating slightly above BCGBA recommended guidelines.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
22	F1106	L37 7EF Watchyard Lane	Deansgate Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	Site has three youth 11v11, two 9v9's, seven 7v7's and one 5v5 pitch. All provision is of standard quality and accessed by eight clubs and 44 teams. Youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches are overplayed by a total of 7.5 MES. The site has no supporting ancillary provision.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2, F3 Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime, potentially delivered through recommendations from PitchPower as to better service community demand. Site is one of the most heavily accessed in Sefton so should be prioritised for pitch improvements. 2d), 2e), 2g), F5. Add overall pitch stock to LFFP as grass pitch improvement project. 2e), 2g), 3i), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance (LFFP)
31	F1108/ F2104	L37 3HW Freshfield Road	Formby High School	Football	School	One adult and one 9v9 pitch both of which are of a poor quality and open to community use but un-used. Site has been outlined in the LFFP for the installation of a full size 3G pitch.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2e), 2g), 3i), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide (LFFP)
				Cricket		Site has one square with an accompanying NTP which has not been replaced since its initial instalment 18 years ago.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. 2d), 2g). Look to replace the existing outdared NTP as to enhance quality.	School ECB LCCB		M	L	M	
				Rugby Union		One senior rugby pitch with no community use	R1, 2d), 2g), 3i), R6. Retain for curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
				Tennis		Six standard quality non-sports lit macadam courts that are not open to community use.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 1c), 2f), 3j), T6. Given the quantity of provision, look to open access to community use.	School LTA		M	L	L	
44	F2103	L37 3LT Watchyard Lane, Formby	Formby Sports and Social Bowls Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality green accessed by Formby Village BC. The club is looking to upgrade its sprinkler system as well as its sports lighting to be converted to LED.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Maintain green quality. 2d), 2g), 3i), B4. Support the Club in its ambition to upgrade its sprinkler system and sports lighting to LED.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local site	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
175	F1111	L37 8BZ Bull Cop	Our Lady of Compassion RC Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch that is not open to community use.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
95	F1115	L37 2JN Woodlands Road	Woodlands Infant & Juniors Schools	Football	School	Two poor quality 7v7 pitches that are accessed by Redgate Rovers FC.	2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 1b), 1c), F8. Explore options to secure tenure of provision for community club accessing the site.	School Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	
26	F1116/ F2107	L37 4AP Duke Street	Duke Street Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches that are open to community use. Site has no actual spare capacity. Ancillary provision servicing the site is poor quality and requires improvement/replacement.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. [2d),2g), F7). Improve ancillary facilities on the site to benefit existing or potential future use.	Council Liverpool CFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance	
				Tennis		Three poor quality, non-sports lit macadam courts that are open to community use.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Look to resurface existing provision as to enhance playing quality. 2f), T8. Look to provide LTA initiative such as ClubSpark etc to increase opportunities for year-round recreational tennis.			Council LTA	M	M		M
				Lawn Bowls		One standard quality bowling green accessed by Formby Park BC. The Club identify a need for an improved access path to the green and clubhouse.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.			Council BCGBA	L	L		L
75	F1117	L37 3PR Smithy Green	Smithy Green Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Site has one adult and one 9v9 pitch. The 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 3 MES. Muniflex FC which use the site state that the ancillary provision provided is outdated and cannot withhold the scale of the site. The building has no showers or heating and limited toilets for two teams.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g), Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 2d), 2g). Look to enhance current ancillary provision offering. 2d), 2e), F5. Add overall stock of pitches to LFFP as a grass pitch improvement project.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance	
29	F1118	L37 8DL Altcar Road	Formby Football Club	Football	Sports Club	Site has one good quality adult pitch that is open to community use and has no actual spare capacity	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Sustain current maintenance of provision as to preserve quality.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	
				3G		Four small sided 3G pitches all of which are of a poor quality having not been replaced since being installed in 2005.	1a), 2d), 2e), 2g), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitches. Look to replace the existing surface of provision as the turf has passed its expected lifespan.			Sports Club Liverpool CFA FF	H	M		H

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim					
							Following this look to maximise usage of provision as to better service training demand.											
69	F1119	L37 4EW Redgate	Redgate Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 5v5 pitches that are accessed by Redgate Rovers FC.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community and curricular demand. 1b), 1c), F8. Explore options to secure tenure of provision for community club accessing site.	School Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance					
82	F1120	L37 2HW Jubilee Road	St Lukes CE Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 5v5 pitches that are not open for community use.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance					
68	F1121/ F2109	L37 2YN Stapleton Road	Range High School	Football	School	Two adult and one 7v7 pitch all of which are of a poor quality. Site is accessed for the Merseyside College Championships and Merseyside College Premier.	F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community and curricular demand. 1c) Look to partner with a formal football Club as to enable access for frequent match play demand. 2d), 2g), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide					
						The site has the potential to accommodate a secondary full size 3G pitch, subject to a feasibility assessment being undertaken.	1a), C1. Protect for curricular use.											
						Cricket	One square with accompanying NTP that is not open to community use.							R1, 2d), 2g), 3i), R6. Protect for curricular use.	School	L	L	L
						Rugby Union	One junior pitch that is not open to community use.							1a), 2g), T1. Protect for curricular use and improve as required.	School	L	L	L
						Tennis	Six poor quality macadam courts that are not serviced by sports lighting and are not open to community use.							F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community and curricular demand.  1c) Look to partner with a formal football Club as to enable	School	M	M	M

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							access for frequent match play demand. 2d), 2g), G2. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.						
5	F1122 / F1123	L38 7JE Hightown	Altcar Rifle Range	Football Rugby Union	M.O.D	One standard quality adult pitch. No community use. One standard quality rugby union pitch. No community use.	1a), F1. Retain for private use.	M.O.D	Local	L L	L L	L L	Protect
119	F2101	L37 7DN Timms Lane	Freshfield Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Freshfield BC. The green accommodates one of the highest demand rates in the locality.	1a), B1. Protect to meet existing demand. 2d), 2g), B3. Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime as to preserve quality of overplayed provision.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide
120	F1110/ F2103	L37 3LT 40b Whitehouse Lane	King George V Playing Fields	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch that is of a poor quality and overplayed by 1.5 MES due to demand from Formby Community FC.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
109	F2105	L37 3HA Holy Trinity Church and Hall	Formby Village Sports Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality artificial courts that are accessed by Formby LTC. Provision is supported by sports lighting.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Ensure a robust maintenance of courts is in place as to preserve quality. 2f), T7. If granted planning permission, support the Club in its installation of padel provision.	Sports Club LTA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
121	F2110	L38 1QA Scaffold Lane	Weld Blundell Arms Public House	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Weld Blundell BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime as to preserve quality of provision.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## SEFTON EAST SETTLEMENT AREA

### Summary pitch sports

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Sefton East	Adult	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Sefton	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 10</b>	<b>Shortfall of 20</b>
		Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 9	Spare capacity of 9
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Football (3G pitches) <sup>19</sup>	Sefton East	Full size, sport lit	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>
	Sefton	Full size, sport lit	<b>Shortfall of 13</b>	<b>Shortfall of 13.5</b>
Cricket	Sefton East	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 21	Spare capacity of 21
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 6
	Sefton	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 70</b>	<b>Shortfall of 70</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 4
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 95	Spare capacity of 49
Rugby union	Sefton East	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Sefton	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 12.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.25</b>
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Sefton	Full size, sport lit	Currently no shortfall	No shortfall

### Summary pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
<b>Tennis</b>	There are no known capacity issues at Maghull TC who access provision at King George V Park (Maghull). None of the 12 courts within Sefton East poor quality.	There are no forecasted capacity issues at Maghull TC who access provision at King George V Park (Maghull). Quality of community available courts should be monitored.
<b>Bowls</b>	There are seven greens across five sites within Sefton East. Kensington House BC playing at St Georges RC Church is the only Club within Sefton East theoretically over capacity.	There are seven greens across five sites within Sefton East. Future demand does not change existing position. There are no disused greens within Sefton East.

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>19</sup> 3G shortfalls are derived from the FA 1:38 team model. Shortfalls are based on full size pitch need and not match equivalent sessions.



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
	<p>There are no disused greens within Sefton East.</p> <p>Overall there is apparent broad alignment between supply and need.</p> <p>Maghull Meadows BC based at King George V Playing Field is supported by poor quality ancillary provision.</p>	<p>Overall the supply and demand should remain broadly aligned. Maghull Meadows BC based at King George V Playing Field is supported by poor quality ancillary provision.</p>

### Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Sandy Lane and King George V Playing Fields.</li> <li>◀ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required such as that servicing Harrow Drive Playing Fields.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Work to increase the supply of full size 3G pitches.</li> <li>◀ FA scenario suggests a need for one full size pitch. Unmet demand equates to a shortfall of one full size pitch.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Sustain quality of playing provision provided at Old Hall Playing Field.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision at Melling Primary School and Ashworth Hospital North.</li> <li>◀ Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long term sustainability of existing provision.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision in active use.</li> <li>◀ Improve green quality and improve paths for Kensington BC.</li> </ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
73	E1401	L31 2LB Sandy Lane	Sandy Lane Playing Fields, Lydiate	Football	Lydiate Parish Council	Two standard quality adult pitches accessed by nine clubs causing overplay of 2 MES. Site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F5. Strategic site so should be prioritised for pitch improvements (and shown as such in LFFP). 2e), 2g), 3i), G2. Explore the feasibility of installing a small sided 3G pitch on site, as set out in the LFFP.	Lydiate Parish Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
				Tennis		Three standard quality concrete tennis courts with no associated club user.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Sustain quality and ensure it does not deteriorate.			Council LTA			
80	E1402	L31 2LB Sandy lane	St Gregory's RC Junior and Infant Schools	Football	School	One adult and two 7v7 pitches all of which are of a poor quality and not open to community use.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular demand.	School	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
6	E1407	L31 1JB Park Lane	Ashworth Hospital North	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch with good quality ancillary provision.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime.	Council Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
				AGP		One 34m x 17m AGP with no sports lighting or community use.	G1/H1/. Protect the existing AGP. 2d), 2g), G11/H3. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of provision.			Council EH SE Liverpool CFA, FF			
139	E1410	L31 1HQ, 400 Park Lane	Maghull Moss Side	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality 5 wicket square which is the home to Maghull Moss Side CC. The site is on as 12 month rolling lease from Homes England. Site often used as an overspill facility for nearby clubs.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. 2d), 2g), C2. Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 1b), 2g), C4 Explore opportunities to improve the tenure position of the club is to ensure its long term viability on the site. 2f), C8. Look to utilise identified spare capacity including for increased women's cricket for Maghull CC and other clubs.	Sports Club LCF ECB	Sports Club LCF EC	L	L	L	Protect
81	E1412	L31 8BW Green Lane	St John Bosco RC Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 9v9 pitches with no community use.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular demand and improve as required.	School	Local	L	M	L	Protect

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
94	E1413	L31 6BR	Whinney Brook Playing Fields	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is open to community use with no one accessing the site. Site has actual spare capacity of 1 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. Utilise actual spare capacity	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
24	E1414/ E2407	L31 6DE Deyes Lane	Deyes High School	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch that is open to community use and is played at capacity through demand from the Merseyside College Cup.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	L	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				Tennis		Six standard quality macadam courts that have no sports lighting and are not open for community use.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 1c), 2f), 3j), T6. Given the scale and quality of provision, explore the possibility of opening courts to community use.	Council LTA		M	M	L	
				-		The School is currently going through a rebuild where new pitch provision will be established. The masterplan of the site currently includes one youth 11v11 football pitch with an overmarked grass athletics track (summer term only) and a 100m running straight. Provision will be available for community use via a community use agreement.	1c) Monitor progress of new sport provision and ensure it is provided to a high quality and sufficient for both curricular and community demand.	Council Liverpool CFA FF		L	L	L	
85	E1415	L31 6DE Deyes Lane	St Andrews Primary School, Maghull	Football	School	One poor quality 9v9 pitch that is not open to community use.	1a), F1. Retain for curricular demand and improve as required.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
1	E1417	L31 8BT Sefton Lane	Activity for all/Active Soccer, Maghull	3G	Commercial	Three 27m x 15m standard quality 3G pitches with accompanying sports lighting and are open to community use. Provision was last re-surfaced in 2014.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitches. 2d), G3. Ensure capacity utilisation is maximised. 2d), 2g), G11. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to ensure the long-term sustainability of provision.	Commercial Liverpool CFA FF SE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
92	E1418	L29 7WA Lunt Road, Sefton Village	Football Field, Sefton Village	Football	Private	One standard quality adult pitch that is open to community use and is un-used. Site has actual spare capacity of 1 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
51	E1419/ E2411	L31 7AW Ormonde Drive	Maghull High School	Tennis	School	Six standard quality concrete courts with no sports lighting or community use.	1a), T1. Retain for curricular use.	School	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
				Football		Two poor quality 9v9 pitches that are open to community use but are not accessed. Site has actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and pitch quality.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School Liverpool CFA FF		M	M	L	

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				3G		The site has the potential to accommodate a secondary full size 3G pitch, subject to a feasibility assessment being undertaken.	2e), 2g), 3i), G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.						
43	E1421/ E2410	L31 7BB Liverpool Road South	King George V Playing Fields, Maghull	Football	Maghull Town Council / Sports Club	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are open to community use and are overplayed by 1 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g), 2e), F2. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and reduce overplay.	Council Liverpool CFA, FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				Tennis		Six good quality macadam courts that are open to community use and are not accompanied by sports lighting. Home venue of Maghull TC.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3j), T2. Sustain current court quality through a through maintenance regime. 2d), 2g), 3i), T3. Explore the possibility of installing sports lighting on provision as to improve the overall offering of the site.			Sports Club LTA	M	L	
				Lawn Bowls		Two good quality bowling greens accessed by Maghull Meadows BC	1a), B1. Protect to meet demand. 2d), 2g), 2e), B3. Retain green quality	Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
50	E1422	L31 3DY Hall Lane	Tommy Gent Way off Hall Lane	Football	Maghull Town Council/ Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch with good quality ancillary provision, leased by Maghull FC. Site has no actual spare capacity.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Sustain current pitch quality through a through maintenance regime.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
				Cricket		One standard quality square that is accessed by Maghull CC and has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek demand.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. 2d), 2g), C2. Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and sustain the quality of playing provision. 2f), C7. Look to utilise identified spare capacity for increased numbers of junior teams. C8. Look to utilise identified spare capacity for Sunday and midweek demand and for increased women's cricket for Maghull CC and other clubs.			Sports Club ECB	M	L	
89	E1425	L31 3DT Poverty Lane	Summerhill Primary School, Maghull	Football	School	One poor quality 9v9 pitch that is not open for community use.	F1 Retain for curricular demand and improve as required.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
79	E1426	L31 5PD Dennett Close	St George's RC Primary School, Maghull	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch that has no actual spare capacity. Site is accessed by George's FC.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand.	School Liverpool CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community and curricular demand. 1b), 1c), F8. Explore options to secure tenure of provision for community club accessing site.	FF					
65	E1427	L31 5NB Bridge Road	Pimbley Fields, Maghull	Football	Maghull Town Council	Two standard quality adult pitches accessed by Maghull FC. Site has actual spare capacity of 1 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2f) Utilise actual spare capacity.	Maghull Town Council Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect
179	E1428	L31 5LE Moorhey Road	Hudson Primary School, Maghull	Football	School	Two poor quality 9v9 pitches with no community use.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.	School Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
7	E1429	L31 3EB Poverty Lane	Balls Wood Playing Fields, Maghull	Football	Maghull Town Council	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are open to community use. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Maghull Town Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
54	E1430	L31 1DA Wheeler Drive	Melling Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 9v9 pitch that is not open to community use.	1a), 2g), F1. Retain for curricular demand and improve as required.	School	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
				AGP		One 21m x 15m AGP with no community use or sports lighting.	G1/1a), 2g), G4/H1. Protect the existing AGP. Retain for curricular demand and improve as required.	School		H	L	H	
36	E1431/E2412/ E2415	L10 8LD Harrow Drive Playing Fields	Harrow Drive Playing Fields, Aintree	Football	Council	One adult one 9v9 and two 5v5 pitches all of which are of a poor quality and accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g), 2e), F2. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. If feasible look to improve current ancillary provision offering.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	H	Protect Enhance
				Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts that are open to community use and have no sports lighting.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Sustain current court quality through a through maintenance regime.	Council LTA		L	L	L	
				Lawn Bowls		One bowling green accessed by Aintree Harrow BC.	1a), B1. Protect for community use.	Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
4	E1432	L9 5AS Melling Road	Aintree Racecourse Football Pitch	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch with standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Aintree Villa FC who use provision	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance	Sports Club Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						to capacity. Site currently receiving GPMF.	regime as to better service community demand.						
40	E1433	L10 6NJ Oriel Drive	Holy Rosary Catholic Primary School, Aintree	Football	School	One adult one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch all of which is of a poor quality. Site is used at capacity by FC Aintree and Holy Rosary Raiders FC.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 1b), 1c), F8. Explore options to secure tenure of provision for community club accessing site. 2e), 2g), 3i), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
				Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts that are not open to community use.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Sustain current court quality through a through maintenance regime.	School LTA		L	L	L	
122	E2402	L31 2PB Oakhill Cottage Lane	Oakhill Cottage Lane, Maghull	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality bowling greens accessed by St Gregory's BC and Lydiat BC Federation.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Sustain current green quality through a through maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
110	E2404/ E2405	L31 6DT Glenn Park	Glenn Park, Maghull	Lawn Bowls	Maghull Town Council	One former bowling green that has since been repurposed.	1a), B2. Consider whether there is a need to retain site as a strategic reserve for future growth or whether there are other disused greens in the area to provide this reserve.	Maghull Town Council BCGBA	Local	H	L	H	Provide
230	E1424/E2408	L31 3DZ Damfield Lane	Maricourt Catholic High School, Maghull	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP.	1a), C1. Protect for curricular use.	School Liverpool CFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				Football		Three poor quality adult pitches that are accessed for the Merseyside College Cup. Site has no actual spare capacity.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g), Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 2e), 2g), 3i), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.			L	M	L	
				Tennis		Eight standard quality non-sports lit concrete tennis courts that are not open for community use.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 1c), 2f), 2g), 3j), T6. Given the scale and quality of provision, explore the possibility of opening courts to community use.	School LTA		M	M	M	
126	E2409	L31 3DF Station Road	St Georges RC Church	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality green accessed by Kensington House	1a), B1. Protect for existing use.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			(Kensington BC), Maghull			BC. The Club identify a need to improve the surrounding path around the green.	2d), 2g), B3. Ensure a through maintenance regime is in place as to preserve quality of overplayed provision. 2g), B4. Support club with subsequent work to improve the overall offer including paths improvements.						
231	E2412	L29 7WA E2412	Punch Bowl Public House	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch accessed by South Sefton Borough FC. Site has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2f). Utilise actual spare capacity.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect
				Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Yew Tree (Bootle) Pensioners BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Sustain current green quality through a through maintenance regime.			Sports Club BCGBA			
-	-	L31 8BR, Park Lane	Parkhaven Trust, Sefton Lane, Maghull	Cricket	Private	There is one disused cricket square in Sefton located at the Parkhaven Trust headquarters, at the Willow Centre. This site was formerly used by Maghull CC which now solely utilises the Old Hall Field within Sefton East (and occasionally Maghull Moss side CC as an overspill facility). It has not been used since 2019 and has therefore fallen out of use.	1a) The site should be protected from development (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4, paragraph 99(b) of the 2021 NPPF and 2017 Sefton Local Plan policy NH5). While there is no current need to bring this site back into cricket use there is a potential need for playing field land to accommodate for existing pitch shortfalls and those which may emerge in the future.	Council SE	-	-	-	-	-



# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## SOUTHPORT SETTLEMENT AREA

### Summary pitch sports

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Southport	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1</b>
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Sefton	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 10</b>	<b>Shortfall of 20</b>
		Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 9	Spare capacity of 9
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Football (3G pitches) <small>20</small>	Southport	Full size, sport lit	<b>Shortfall of 2.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.5</b>
	Sefton	Full size, sport lit	<b>Shortfall of 13</b>	<b>Shortfall of 13.5</b>
Cricket	Southport	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 41</b>	<b>Shortfall of 41</b>
		Sunday	<b>Shortfall of 30</b>	<b>Shortfall of 30</b>
		Midweek	<b>Shortfall of 9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9</b>
	Sefton	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 70</b>	<b>Shortfall of 70</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 4
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 95	Spare capacity of 49
Rugby union	Southport	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 6.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 6.25</b>
	Sefton	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 12.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.25</b>
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Sefton	Full size, sport lit	Currently no shortfall	<b>Demand for additional Saturday and midweek access at Greenbank High School.</b>

### Summary pitch sports

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	There are seven tennis clubs in Southport. All are within recommended capacity guidelines set by the LTA. The recreational offer is broadly good, but courts at Victoria Park should be monitored as to not become poor.	When accounting for future demand, Southport and Birkdale Sports Club shall show capacity issues if club ambitions are achieved. The six standard quality courts at Victoria Park will require improvement.

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>20</sup> 3G shortfalls are derived from the FA 1:38 team model. Shortfalls are based on full size pitch need and not match equivalent sessions.

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
<b>Bowls</b>	There are 15 greens located in Southport. There are 12 clubs (two clubs have access to two greens each). Victoria Park BC has the highest known membership for bowls in Sefton. There is one disused green. Overall there is an apparent balance between supply and need.	All clubs are likely to retain memberships based on current use and future intentions and demographic change. Large clubs may require additional resource in the future. The disused bowling green may provide a role in accommodating for the popularity of the sport in the future, and in retaining the apparent balance between supply and need.

## Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Bank End Park / Ferryside Lane and Meols Cop High School.</li> <li>◀ Where pitches remain overplayed following pitch improvements, seek the transfer of demand.</li> <li>◀ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required, such as at Devonshire Road Recreation Ground and Russell Road Recreation Ground.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>◀ Work to increase the supply of full size 3G pitches.</li> <li>◀ FA scenario suggests a need for 2.5 full size pitches. Unmet demand equates to a shortfall of two full size pitches.</li> <li>◀ Consider opportunities to provide a WR Reg 22 compliant 3G within Southport as to support training demand from Southport RUFC, with Birkdale High School outlined as a potential site.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve quality of playing provision provided at sites such as Crossens Recreation Ground.</li> <li>◀ Improve training facilities where required, such as providing a mobile practice cage for Fleetwood Hesketh CC.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Improve quality of playing provision provided at Southport RUFC and Waterloo Road Recreation Ground as to better support community demand.</li> <li>◀ Work towards providing a site suitable of installing a WR Reg 22 3G pitch as to better support training demand from Southport RUFC, with Birkdale High School outlined as a priority choice.</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure a sinking fund is place at Greenbank High School as to ensure the long-term sustainability of the site.</li> <li>◀ Look to divert Saturday morning AGP allocation from Southport Athletic FC and Southport Trinity FC to enable Southport HC an additional fixture as to allow for future growth to be achieved.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision in active use.</li> <li>◀ Improve green quality for Crossens BC, Hesketh Arms BC, and as a priority Victoria Park BC to improve quality of playing provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve paths at Ainsdale BC and provide a new sprinkler system at Hesketh Arms BC.</li> <li>◀ Retain the disused green at Bedford Park to use as a strategic reserve for future growth.</li> </ul>

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Sport	Priority recommendations
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◀ Protect provision.</li><li>◀ Seek to improve park courts such as at Victoria Park via surface replacement and the implementation of LTA products.</li><li>◀ If feasible look to provide additional sports lighting at the Rookery Sports Club and North Meols Lawn Tennis Club.</li><li>◀ Look to support Southport Argyle LTC in its efforts to install two padel courts at its home site.</li><li>◀ Promote Padel tennis at club venues.</li></ul>

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
27	S1001	PR9 9FJ Ferryside Lane	Ferryside Lane Playing Fields / Bank End Park	Football	Council	Key community football sites which accommodates for 1x adult pitch, 1 x youth 11v11, 1 x youth 9v9 and four mini pitches. All pitches are poor quality and small levels of overplay exist on youth pitches. Southport Athletic FC has ambitions to acquire access to the poor-quality ancillary provision on the site. The existing un-used provision which holds four changing rooms and has working electricity and running water is owned by Southport and Ainsdale FC.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2, F3. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F5. Add overall stock of pitches to LFFP as grass pitch improvement project. 2d), 2g). Look to enhance current ancillary provision offering.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance (LFFP)
21	S1003	PR9 8JU Rufford Road	Crossens Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Site has one poor quality adult pitch with ancillary provision of the same quality.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Explore the feasibility of enhancing on site ancillary provision.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	M	L	M	Protect Enhance Provide (LFFP)
				Cricket		One poor quality square with no accompanying NTP or spare capacity for additional demand. Site is accessed by New Victoria CC and is overplayed by 21 sessions per season.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. C2, 2d), 2g), 3i), 3j) C3. Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and address overplay. 2d), 3i), 3j) C3. Consider the installation of a Non-Turf Pitch as to reduce identified overplay. 1b), C4. Explore opportunities to improve the tenure position of the club. 2d), 2g), C5. Explore opportunities to improve the changing facilities.	Council ECB LCCB		M			
				Lawn Bowls		One standard quality green accessed by Crossens BC who are currently operating above BCGBA recommended guidelines.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Council BCGBA		L			
87	S1005/ S2003	PR9 9TF Fleetwood Road	Stanley High School	Football	School	Two adult, two 9v9 and four 7v7 pitches all of which are of a poor quality and are un-used despite being open for community use.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand. 2f) Look to partner with a football Club as to better utilise existing provision.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				3G		One 36m x 18m 3G pitch with sports lighting that is open for community use. Provision is of a standard quality having last been replaced in 2015.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitch. 2d), G6. Look to maximise usage of provision as to better service training demand and increase revenue. 2d), 2g), G11. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to financially prepare of the long-term sustainability of provision.	School Liverpool CFA FF SE		H	L	H	
						The site has the potential to accommodate a secondary full size 3G pitch, subject to a feasibility assessment being undertaken.	2e), 2g), 3i), G2, G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.						
				Rugby Union		One senior pitch with no community use.	R1. Protect for curricular use.	School		L	L	L	
28	S1006/ S2002	PR9 9XH Fylde Road	Fleetwood and Hesketh Sports & Social	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one 9v9 pitch both of which are of a good quality and accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity for 0.5 MES. Site is currently receiving GPMF.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2f) Utilise actual spare capacity. 2d), 2g). Preserve pitch quality through a thorough maintenance regime.	Sports Club Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Protect Enhance
				Cricket		One standard quality square with accompanying NT. Site is overplayed by 20 sessions per season. Club raised the desire to gain a mobile practice cage as to better support training.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. C2, 2d), 2g), ,3i), 3j) C3. Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime and address overplay. C3, 2f), C7. Increasingly utilise NTP including for juniors to reduce overplay and increase the number of junior teams. 2g), C6. Look to provide a mobile practice cage for the Club as to better service training demand. 2f), C8. Seek to encourage women's cricket, if necessary, using other sites which have capacity.	Sports Club ECB LCCB		L	L	L	
				Lawn Bowls		Home of Fleetwood Hesketh BC. The green is good quality.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Preserve existing green quality through a through maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
67	S1007	PR9 8NP Preston New Road	Preston New Road Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches accessed by the Bold Arms and Hesketh Casuals. Site has no actual spare capacity. The site is supported by poor quality ancillary provision.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Preserve pitch quality through a thorough maintenance regime.	Council Liverpool CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
168	S1008	PR9 8PA Preston New Road	Larkfield Presfield Schools	Football	School	One adult and one 9v9 pitch both of which are of a poor quality and played at capacity.	1a), F1. Protect for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							1b), 1c), F8. Explore options to secure tenure of provision for community club accessing site.						
8	S1010	PR9 7NJ Bankfield Lane	YMCA Playing Fields	Football	Council	One adult one 9v9 and one 5v5 pitch all of which are of a good quality and accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. 5v5 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Preserve pitch quality through a thorough maintenance regime. 2f). Utilise actual spare capacity.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
93	S1012	PR9 7HR Rookery Road	Rookery Sports Club	Football	Sports Club	Two youth 11v11 pitches, 1 x youth 9v9, 1x mini 7v7 and 2 x mini 5v5 pitches all of which are standard quality. The site accommodates an old pavilion which was subject to arson and has since become unusable. The Club has a current planning application which would see the development of four changing rooms, officials' rooms, and a social area with a bar area. There are no plans to address existing carparking issues.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g), 2e). F3. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and reduce overplay. 2d), 2g), F7. Explore opportunities to improve the changing and social facilities to support the full multisport offer on the site.	Sports Club Lancashire CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide (LFFP)
				Cricket		Two good quality squares accessed by Southport Trinity CC, Churchtown CC and Bedford Park CC. Site has capacity for additional Sunday and midweek demand.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. 2d), C2. Preserve square quality through a thorough maintenance regime. 2d), 2g), C5. Explore opportunities to improve the changing facilities. 2g), C6. Consider options to increase and improve the stock of suitable practice facilities, notably for Southport Trinity CC. 2f), C8. Look to utilise identified spare capacity including for increased women's cricket for Southport Trinity CC and other clubs.	Sports Club ECB LCCB		L	L	L	
				Tennis		Five good quality artificial turf courts, two of which have sports lighting. Site is accessed by Southbank LTC. Site has known issues with car parking during peak periods.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T3. If possible, look to increase the amount of sports lighting provided on site. 2d), 2g), T4. Look to address parking issues on site through gaining access to existing parking or increasing the amount of spaces provided.	Sports Club LTA		L	L	L	



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
23	S1014	PR9 7QW Devonshire Road	Devonshire Road Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Two adult pitches one of which is standard with the other being poor quality. Site is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision. Actual spare capacity on the poor quality pitch is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and enable actual spare capacity to be utilised. If feasible look to enhance existing ancillary provision	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
11	S1015	PR9 7BZ Devonshire Road	Bishop David Shepherd School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	1a), F1. Protect for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
70	S1016	PR9 7SD Russell Road	Russell Road Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Two 7v7 and one 9v9 pitch all poor quality and open to community use but unused. Site is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and create actual spare capacity. If feasible look to enhance existing ancillary provision.	Council Lancashire CFA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
59	S1017	PR8 6JZ Meols Cop Road	Southport FC	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult stadia pitch accessed by step 2 Club Southport FC.	1a), F1. Protect for community use.	Sports Club Lancashire CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
55	S1018/ S2012	PR8 6JS Meols Cop Road	Meols Cop High School	Football	School	One adult and one 9v9 pitch both of which are of a poor quality and open to community use. Adult pitch is overplayed by 3 MES through demand from Hesketh Colts FC and Southport FC.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2, F3. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community and curricular demand and reduce overplay. 2d), 2e), F5. Add overall stock of pitches to LFFP as grass pitch improvement project. 1b), 1c), F8. Explore options to secure community use for community club accessing the site.	School Lancashire CFA Liverpool CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
				3G		The site has the potential to accommodate a secondary full size 3G pitch, subject to a feasibility assessment being undertaken.	2e), 2g), 3i), G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.						
42	S1019/ S2103	PR8 6LR Meols Cop Road	King George V College	Football	School	One adult and one 5v5 pitch both of which are of a poor quality. Site is open to community use and is accessed by Southport / KGV College FC.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and reduce overplay.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				3G		One 60m x 40m 3G pitch that is open to community use and is supported by sports lighting. Provision is of a good quality having been installed in 2019.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitch. 2d), 2g), G6. Look to maximise usage of provision as to better service training demand and increase revenue. 2d), 2g), G11. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to financially prepare of the long-term sustainability of provision.	School Liverpool CFA FF SE		H	L	H	
56	S1020	PR8 6JU Meols Cop Road	Meols Park	Football	Council	Site has one of every pitch scale (excluding a youth 7v7 pitch) all of which is of a standard quality. Site has both standard and poor-quality ancillary provision accompanying the pitches. Actual spare capacity of 1 MES on the 7v7 pitch is present.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F5. Strategic site so should be prioritised for pitch improvements (and shown as such in LFFP). 2f), F6 Utilise actual spare capacity. If feasible look to enhance ancillary provision. 2e), 2g), 3i), G2. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site, as set out in the LFFP.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide (LFFP)
66	S1021	PR8 6NL Portland Street	Portland Street Playing Fields	Football	Council	Site has two standard quality adult pitches and a poor quality adult pitch that is accessed by four clubs. Actual spare capacity of 1 MES is present.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and make all provision of the same quality. 2d), 2e), 2g), F3. Potential strategic site so should be prioritised for pitch improvements (and shown as such in LFFP) if this encourages use of spare capacity. 3i), F4. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance (LFFP)
41	S1022	PR8 6JW Ovington Drive	Kew Woods School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	1a), F1. Protect for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
18	S1023/ S2027	PR8 4EX Stamford Road	Christ the King RC High School	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches that are open to community use and are un-used. Ancillary provision supporting the site could be improved to support football offer, particularly if any 3G development takes place.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand. Look to partner with a club as to utilise community accessible provision.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				3G		The site has the potential to accommodate a secondary full size 3G pitch, subject to a feasibility assessment being undertaken.	2e), 2g), 3i), G3. Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch on site.						
				Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch that has no community use.	R1, 2d), 2g), 3i), R6. Retain for curricular demand.	School		L	L	L	
9	S1024/S2026	PR8 4JF Bedford Road	Bedford Park	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is open to community use and is un-used. Site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision and has actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. 2f) Look to partner with a Club as to make use of existing un-used provision.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				Lawn Bowls		One disused green.	1a), B2. Retain site as a strategic reserve for potential future use,	Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
78	S1026/S2023/S2024	PR8 2HF Trafalgar Road	Southport Cricket Club (Southport and Birkdale Sports Club)	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality 9v9 pitches that are accessed by Southport and Birkdale United FC. Site has actual spare capacity of 1.5 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2f). Utilise actual spare capacity.	Sports Club Lancashire CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
				Cricket		One good quality square with no accompanying NTP. Site is accessed by Southport and Birkdale CC and has no capacity for additional demand.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. 2d), 2g), C2. Preserve square quality through a thorough maintenance regime. C3, 2f), 2g), C7. As a priority, look to install an accompanying NTP as to reduce overplay and increase the number of junior teams. 2f), C8. Seek to encourage women's cricket, if necessary, using other sites which have capacity.	Sports Club ECB LCCB		L	L	L	
				Tennis		Four good quality natural turf courts that are accessed by Birkdale LTC. All four courts are accompanied by sports lighting. Birkdale LTC is currently within LTA capacity guidelines, however, if future demand ambitions are achieved the Club will be over capacity.	1a), T1. Protect for community use. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Preserve court quality through a thorough maintenance regime. 2f), T7. Explore opportunities to promote padel tennis.	Sports Club LTA		L	L	L	
35	S1027	PR8 2LT Hastings Road	Greenbank High School	Football	School	One adult one 9v9, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch all of which is open to community use. Adult pitch is of a standard quality whilst the remaining pitches are poor quality.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community and curricular demand.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							1b), 1c), F8. Explore options to secure community use of site for community club users.						
				AGP		Site has one good quality full sized AGP having had its playing surface replaced in 2019. Site is accessed by Southport HC which has no capacity for additional Saturday play due to football demand on a Saturday morning. Club report the desire to gain additional midweek access as to increase amount of training, however demand from clubs such as Southport Athletic FC and Southport Trinity FC currently prevent such ambitions.	1a), 2g), G4/H1. Protect the existing AGP for hockey and other use. 2d), 2e), 3j), H2. Look to preserve current good quality of full size AGPs through thorough maintenance regimes at all three sites. 1c), H3. Look to increase and formalise AGP pitch access at Greenbank High School for Southport HC to better service the Club for training and match play demand. 1c), H3. Shift Saturday football demand onto existing grass pitches as to free up space for Southport HC for additional fixtures. 1c), H3. Provide Southport HC with additional midweek allocation as to grant the Club its increased training sessions it desires. 2d), 2g), H4. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of provision.	School EH SE Lancashire CFA FF		H	S-M	L	
				Cricket		One standalone NTP with no community use.	1a), C1. Protect for curricular use.	ECB		L	L	L	
171	S1028	Waterloo Road	Waterloo Road Recreation	Rugby	Council	Two poor quality senior pitches with partial sports lighting servicing a portion of the two pitches. Provision is heavily accessed by Southport RUFC and is currently maintained by Green Sefton, something the Club would like to take the responsibility of. Pitches are overplayed by 5 MES.	R1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), 3i), R2. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and reduce overplay. 2d), 2g), R5. Consider the scope for sports lighting so as to better service demand. 1b), R8. Look to grant maintenance responsibility to Southport RUFC as to better enable pitch improvements to take place.	Council RFU	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim			
16	S1029	PR8 3ED Carr Lane	Carr Lane Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches with standard quality ancillary provision. Site has actual spare capacity of 2.5 MES.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2, F3. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to better service community demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F5. Potential strategic site so should be prioritised for pitch improvements (and shown as such in LFFP). 3i), F6. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect (LFFP)			
10	S1030/ S2028	PR8 3DT Windy Harbour Road	Birkdale High School	Football	School	One standard quality adult and three poor quality 9v9 pitches all of which are open to community use. Actual spare capacity on 9v9 pitches is discounted due to pitch quality. Ancillary improvements needed to support any 3G development.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand.	School Liverpool CFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide			
				3G		The site has the potential to accommodate a secondary full size 3G pitch, subject to a feasibility assessment being undertaken. Opportunity for any development to be WR22 compliant.	2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community and curricular demand and to create actual spare capacity.									
				Cricket		One standalone NTP with no community use.	1a), C1. Protect for curricular use.	School						L	L	L
				Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch that is open to community use and is un-used. Provision has no accompanying sports lighting. Site has been outlined for the potential WR compliant 3G pitch for Southport RUFC.	R1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), 3i), R2. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand. Look to partner with a Club as to utilise accessible provision. 2g), R3./G7. Further investigate the feasibility of a WR compliant (rugby) 3G pitch to support demand from Southport RUFC.	School RFU						M	M	H
100	S1032	PR8 3BG Liverpool Road	Liverpool Road Recreation Road	Tennis	Council	Five good quality macadam courts accessed by Hillside LTC who are operating within LTA recommended capacity guidelines. Four of the courts are serviced by sports lighting.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Preserve court quality through a thorough maintenance regime. 2d), 2g), 3i), T3. Look to provide additional sports lighting on remaining provision.	Council LTA	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide			



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
172	S1034	PR8 2QZ Westminster Drive	Shoreside Primary School	3G	School	Site has no existing sports provision due to rabbits damaging grass. School presented ambitions to install a 3G pitch on site via consultation. Site is unlikely to be of a sufficient size for a full size 3G pitch but could accommodate a smaller offer.	2g), G2 Undertake further work with school to determine feasibility of site for development of a 3G pitch.	School Lancashire CFA FF SE	Local	M	M	H	Protect Provide
3	S1035 S2033/ S2023	PR8 3QF Liverpool Road	Ainsdale Sports Club (Ainsdale 3G)	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one 9v9 pitch and two mini pitches all of which are of a standard quality. Provision is accessed by Southport and Ainsdale Amateurs FC which contribute to the site being marginally overplayed. Site currently receiving GPMF.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 1b) Protect for community use. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and reduce overplay.	Sports Club Lancashire CFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
				3G		One 45m x 34m and one 34m x 17m 3G pitch both of which are open to community use and serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. Provision is of a standard quality having been installed in 2013.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitches. 2d), G6. Look to maximise usage of provision as to better service training demand and increase revenue. 2d), 2g), G11. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to financially prepare of the long-term sustainability of provision.	Sports Club Lancashire CFA FF SE ECB BCGBA		H	L	H	
				Cricket		One good quality square with no accompanying NTP. Site has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek demand.	1a), C1. Protect existing provision. 2d), 2g), C2. Preserve existing square quality through a through maintenance regime. 2g), C6. Consider options to increase and improve the stock of suitable practice facilities. 2f), C7. Look to utilise identified spare capacity for increased numbers of junior teams. 2f), C8. Look to utilise identified spare capacity for increased women's cricket including for other clubs.						
				Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Ainsdale BC. The surrounding path around the green is uneven and dangerous for the demographic of user.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Preserve existing green quality through a through maintenance regime. 2d), 2g), 3i), B4. Support club with site improvements.						



**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
72	S1037	PR8 3RL Sandbrook Road	Sandbrook Rd Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is open to community use but is un-used. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality provision The site would benefit from the development of ancillary provision. .	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2e), 2g), F2, F3. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and enable the creation of actual spare capacity. 2d), 2e), 2g), F5. Potential strategic site so should be prioritised for pitch improvements (and shown as such in LFFP).	Council Liverpool CFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance (LFFP)
45	S1038	PR8 3RS Meadow Lane	Kings Meadow Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch that is accessed by Southport FC.	1a), F1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand. 1b), 1c), F8. Explore options to secure tenure of provision for community club accessing site.	School Liverpool CFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
242	S1040	PR8 1RX	Dunes Leisure Centre	3G	Council	Four 25m x 18m 3G pitches that are open to community use and serviced by sports lighting. Provision is of a good quality having been installed in 2018.	1a), 2e), G1. Protect the existing 3G pitches. 2d), 2g), G11. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to financially prepare for the long-term sustainability of provision.	Private Lancashire CFA FF	Local	H	L	H	Protect Enhance
112	S2004	PR9 7NA Botanic Road	Botanic Gardens Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality bowling greens accessed by Botanic Gardens BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Preserve existing green quality through a through maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
115	S2006	PR9 9PR Cambridge Road	Emmanuel Church	Lawn Bowls	Private	One good quality bowling green accessed by Emmanuel BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 1a), 2g), B2. Preserve existing green quality through a through maintenance regime.	Private BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	S2007	PR9 9LH 10a Argyle Road	Southport Argyle Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Six good quality artificial turf courts that are open to community use and serviced by sports lighting. Club are operating within LTA recommended guidelines. Club are seeking planning permission for the installation of two padel courts at its home venue.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Preserve existing court quality through a through maintenance regime. 2f), T7. If granted planning permission, support the Club in its installation of padel provision	Sports Club LTA	Local	H	M	H	Protect Provide

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
136	S2008	PR9 7NA Botanic Road	Hesketh Arms Hotel	Lawn Bowls	Private	A standard quality bowling green aligned to Hesketh Arms BC. The Club has an aspiration for a new sprinkler system to be installed.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Improve green quality. Ensure long term access for the Club to the site. Given existing trend of pubs using greens for alternate purposes, ensure there is a reserve option for potential future use. 2d), 2g), 3i), B4. Support club with subsequent work to improve the overall offer including paths improvements.	Private Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
101	S2009	PR9 7PF Mill Lane Crescent	North Meols Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Eight good quality artificial courts that are open to community use. Three of the five courts are serviced by sports lighting for North Meols LTC who are operating within LTA recommended guidelines.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Preserve existing court quality through a through maintenance regime. 2d), 2g), 3i), T3. Look to install additional sports lighting on remaining courts. 2f), T7. Explore opportunities to promote padel tennis.	Sports Club LTA SE	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide
233	S2011	PR9 7SP	Salisbury Park	Lawn Bowls	Council	Two disused bowling greens.	1a), B2. Consider whether there is a need to retain site as a strategic reserve for future growth or whether there are other disused greens in the area to provide this reserve.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
103	S2014	PR8 6TL Ashdown Close	Sphynx Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality artificial courts that are serviced by sports lighting. Club are operating within LTA recommended guidelines.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Preserve existing court quality through a through maintenance regime. 2f), T7. Explore opportunities to promote padel tennis.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
				Lawn Bowls		One good quality bowling green accessed by Sphynx TC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Preserve existing green quality through a through maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
116	S2015	PR8 6LG 1a Falkland Road	Scarisbrick Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Scarisbrick BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Preserve existing green quality through a through maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
114	S2016	PR9 0RH 53 Zetland Street	Zetland Hotel	Lawn Bowls	Private	One good quality bowling green accessed by Zetland BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Preserve existing green quality through a through maintenance regime.	Private BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
146	S2017	PR9 0SJ Sussex Road	British Rail Social Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One former bowling green that has been repurposed for alternative use.	1a), B2. Consider whether there is a need to retain site as a strategic reserve for future growth or whether there are other disused greens in the area to provide this reserve.	Sports Club BCGBA SE	Local	H	L	H	Provide
117	S2020	PR8 1RX Esplande	Southport Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality bowling greens accessed by Southport BC.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Preserve existing green quality through a through maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
104	S2021	PR8 1RX Rotten Row	Victoria Park	Tennis	Council (Tourism)	Two macadam and four concrete courts all of which are of a standard quality, open to community use and not serviced by sports lighting.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Explore opportunities to improve court quality. 2d), 2g), 3i), T3. If feasible look to provide sports lighting as to improve the offering of provision on site. 2f), T8. Look to install LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark etc to increase opportunities for year-round recreational tennis.	Council LTA SE	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide Enhance
				Lawn Bowls		Two standard quality bowling greens accessed by Victoria Park BC and Brownmoore Brooke BC. Site is operating above BCGBA recommended guidelines and club ambitions are to further increase membership figures.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Green quality is particularly important given provision is operating over BCGBA guidelines.			Council BCGBA			
98	S2025	PR8 4RQ 24a Dunkirk Road	Carlton Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality shale courts that are open to community use and have no sports lighting. Site is operating within LTA recommended guidelines.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3j), T2. Preserve existing court quality through a through maintenance regime. 2d), 2g), 3i), T3. If feasible look to provide sports lighting as to improve the offering of provision on site. 2f), T7. Explore opportunities to promote padel tennis.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide
148	S2029	PR8 3LG Bradshaws Lane	Liverpool Road Recreation Ground	Tennis	Sports Club	Five good quality macadam courts that are open to community use. Four of the five courts are accompanied by sports lighting.	1a), T1. Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts. 2d), 2g), 3i), T2. Preserve existing court quality through a through maintenance regime. 2d), 2g), 3i), T3. If feasible look to provide sports lighting on remaining court as to improve the offering of provision on site.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide

**SEFTON COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Client ID	Address	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Strategic and sport-specific recommendations for site	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
118	S2030	PR8 3RA Orchard Lane	Sandbrook Park Bowling Club (The Meadows Home)	Lawn Bowls	Council	One standard quality bowling green accessed by Sandbrook Park BC who are operating within BCGBA guidelines.	1a), B1. Protect for existing use. 2d), 2g), B3. Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
				Tennis		One standard quality concrete court that is open to community use.	1a), T1. Protect for community use.	Council LTA		L	L	L	
235	-	PR8 4QN Southport Road	Southport RUFC	Rugby Union	Sports Club	One standard quality senior pitch that is fully sports lit and heavily accessed by Southport RUFC who cause 1.25 MES of overplay. Pitch is accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. Consultation with the Club raised the need for a WR22 3G pitch within the area as to better support training demand.	1a), R1. Protect to meet pitch demand. 2d), 2g). Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and reduce overplay. 2d), 2g), 3j), G7/R3. Look to provide a site suitable of installing a WR22 3G pitch as to better support training demand from the Club, with Birkdale High School.	Sports Club RFU	Local	M	L	H	Protect Enhance
-	-	PR8 2PJ, Sandringham Road, Southport	Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale, Southport	-	-	Disused school playing field.	1a), 3j), F1. Site is allocated for housing development in the 2017 Sefton Local Plan, subject to compensatory provision via a contribution towards the provision of a new 3G pitch(es) at Meols Park or adjacent land.	Council SE	-	-	-	-	-

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

Sefton's Local Plan was adopted in 2017. The Council intends to undertake a review of the Local Plan during the period October 2022 – February 2023, and to publish the findings of this review in March 2023.

The Local Plan provided for 11, 520 new homes over the period 2012-2030, 7,264 of these on allocated housing sites. By October 2022 planning approval had been granted for 75% of the total indicative site capacity on Local Plan housing allocations. This includes the strategic allocation East of Maghull. 5,097 net new homes have already been provided in Sefton between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022<sup>21</sup>. Virtually the whole of Sefton's rural area is in the Green Belt.

Government census data<sup>22</sup> shows that Sefton's population has increased by 2% from around 273,800 in 2011 to 279,300 in 2021. This is lower than the increase for the Northwest (5.2%), and England as a whole (6.6%). This increase of around 5,500 people (around 2620 new households) compared to 5,097 net new homes. Also, in Sefton the greatest increase in population from 2011 to 2021 has been the increase of 13.5% in people aged 65 years and over, with a decrease of 1.3% in people aged 15 to 64 years. This low level of population increases, and the trends in population age structure are broadly in line with Sefton's long-term population trends.

- ◀ Future housing completions are likely to be distributed across the Borough's five settlement areas.
- ◀ The only strategic housing site (i.e. over 1,000 homes) identified in the Local Plan has already received planning permission.
- ◀ The fact that Sefton has an 8.4 year supply of specific, deliverable housing land, and that almost all of the rural area is in the Green Belt, means that the Council would not expect new housing development to take place outside the housing policy framework set by the Sefton Local Plan during the plan period.
- ◀ Between 2011 and 2021 the percentage increase in children aged under 15 years was 0.3% compared to 5.0 nationally, and there were large decreases in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups in Sefton by 16% and 15% respectively. There was an increase of 13.5% in people aged 65 years and over but a decrease of 1.3% in people aged 15 to 64 years in Sefton. That is, the biggest increase in Sefton's population between 2011 and 2021 has been in age groups considered less likely to participate in pitch sports. There is nothing to suggest this trend will change in coming years.

Therefore, it is considered that Sefton's future needs for pitch sports, tennis and bowls set out elsewhere in the PPOSS are realistic.

Strategic Recommendation 2 h) above provides further information about the limited role of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches in Sefton.

---

<sup>21</sup> See [authoritymonitoringreport2021.pdf \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> See [Sefton population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#).

### **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 PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, as agreed by Sport England and the NGBs, a more tailored approach should be considered for Sefton, aligning with the processes adopted by other local authorities in the Northwest. Sport England has produced a template Annual Monitoring Report that can be tailored to the individual Local Authority to assist with this process (see Appendix One).

#### ***Delivery***

The PPOSS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made. By addressing and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Borough can be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

Production of this Strategy is the start of the process. Successful Strategy implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into, strategic approach. It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement 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.

Each member of the Steering Group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the Steering Group should not end with the completion of the PPOSS document.

The PPOSS should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision, tennis courts and bowling greens. It needs to be the document to which people and agencies regularly turn to for information in respect of how current demand should be met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. To help this is achieved the Steering Group will need to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of PPOSS development has already led to a number of benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhanced partnership work across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthened relationships and understanding between stakeholders, members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS 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 its influence should be applied and strategy delivered.

Following sign off of the PPOSS, Steering Group partners may wish to prepare short-term Action Plans or priorities in order to distil the existing Action Plan and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be monitored through Steering Group meetings.

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

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group.

Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the Steering Group.



## SEFTON COUNCIL

# PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

The Steering Group that takes the PPOSS forward should continue to be made up of Sefton Council as well as other partners such as the NGBs and any local sports partnerships.

KKP has provided the tools used to produce the PPOSS to the Council as well as training on how to use such tools, such as the PPOSS database used to hold all information gathered. This will enable the monitoring and updating process to be carried out.

As a guide, as set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy guidance, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, Sport England and the NGBs will consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

Ideally the PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particular resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase or reduce following the delivery of others)
- ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, 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 and opportunities.

Once the PPOSS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPOSS and outdoor sports provision in the area
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the PPOSS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ◀ Ensures that the PPOSS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Maintains links between relevant parties with an interest in local outdoor sports provision;
- ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPOSS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
  - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
  - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
  - ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPOSS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).
- ◀ Consider how provision for sport be made in new development, where on-site provision is required and how developer contributions are used.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Alongside regular Steering Group meetings, annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties can help to keep the PPOSS up to date and maintain relationships. These could be part of a process of updating key supply and demand information plus, if necessary, amending assessment work, tracking progress in respect of implementing action plan recommendations and highlighting new issues and opportunities.

Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal 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 should also feed into these meetings.

NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area. Discussion with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings may be useful to attend to pick up on specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

The Steering Group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database, within the constraints of limited resources. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are able to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental work encompassing, for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

### *Sefton Local Football Facilities Plan*

The findings of and any subsequent changes to the LFFP (completed in 2019) should align to the Sefton PPOSS which will serve as a live document requiring concurrent management. The position for formal and affiliated football provision determined and updated through the PPOSS should form the basis for investment into formalised football provision echoed through the LFFP. The LFFP will further explore opportunities for investment into informal, recreational, small sided and indoor football as an extension of the PPOSS findings, the result being a holistic plan for partnership investment into football facilities over the next decade. The PPOSS should have a synergy with the LFFP, by that, the projects within the LFFP are determined by the supporting evidence of the PPOSS. The 2019 LFFP was prepared by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) with support from local partners, including Liverpool County FA, Sefton Council, Sport England and the Football Foundation.

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy, is signed off.

Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan</b>	✓	
1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?	✓	
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?	✓	
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?	✓	
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?	✓	
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?	✓	
6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?	✓	
7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overlapped?	✓	
8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?	✓	
9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?	✓	
10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?	✓	
11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?	✓	
12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?	✓	
13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?	✓	
14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?	✓	
15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?	✓	
16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?	✓	
17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?	✓	
18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?	✓	
<b>Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy</b>	✓	
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?	✓	

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

2.	Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?	✓	
3.	Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4.	Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5.	Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6.	Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?	✓	

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

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

For more information, see:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

# SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## APPENDIX ONE: TAILORED APPROACH FOR SEFTON STAGE E

What?	Who?	When?
<p>1. Internal Steering Group Meeting</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>	Sefton Council	Bi-Annually
<p>2. Sport England and NGB Update Meetings (Steering Group)</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>	Sefton Council NGBs Sport England	Annually for each sport, to fit with affiliation process (generally October for winter sports and June for summer sports)
<p>3. Prepare Annual Monitoring Report</p> <p>Based on the outcome of actions above, a short Annual Monitoring Report should be produced within the constrains of limited resources, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ The delivery of PPOSS 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 PPOSS's 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 PPOSS 'live' and up to date.</li> </ul> <p>Based on the above, the Annual Monitoring Report will also consider if a partial or full update of the PPS is required.</p>	PPOSS Steering Group	Annually

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

What?	Who?	When?
<p>4. Circulation and Agreement</p> <p>Circulate the Annual Monitoring Report or updated PPOSS document to the Steering Group for comment and agreement with opportunity to hold a further meeting to discuss findings and issues.</p>	<p>PPOSS Steering Group</p>	<p>Annually</p>
<p>5. Publish Paper</p> <p>Append Annual Monitoring Report to the Strategy documents and make it available online; report any significant findings to appropriate committee if considered necessary. Report if changes are so significant that a full review of the PPOSS is required.</p>	<p>Sefton Council</p>	<p>Annually – following completion of all the above</p>



### APPENDIX TWO: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

#### National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021***

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

***Recover and reinvent:*** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

***Connecting communities:*** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

***Positive experiences for children and young people:*** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

***Connecting with health and wellbeing:*** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

***Active environments:*** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

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

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the FF.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;

## SEFTON COUNCIL

# PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;  
**Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

### *Local Football Facility Plans*

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has now been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, DCMS, FF) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A

### ***The FA: Survive .Revive. Thrive (2020-2024)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform

## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2019-2024)***

“Inspiring Generations” is the new ECB participation strategy which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women’s and girls’ cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◀ Investing in girls’ county age group cricket.
- ◀ Delivering a girls’ secondary school programme.

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

England Hockey’s Facilities Strategy can be found [here](http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075&sectionTitle=Facilities+Strategy).  
<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075&sectionTitle=Facilities+Strategy>

**Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

**Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

#### **1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

#### **2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

## SEFTON COUNCIL

# PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### 3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

- England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

#### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve ‘a successful and thriving game across England’. The strategy can be found [here](#).

It identifies four ‘Game Objectives’ and four ‘Driving Objectives’, to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

#### *Game objectives*

- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Enable positive player experiences on and off the field.
- ◀ **Winning England** – Create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby.
- ◀ **Welfare** – Enhance players welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players.
- ◀ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society.

#### *Driving objectives*

- ◀ **Diversity & inclusion** – Drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society.
- ◀ **Understand** – Build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game.
- ◀ **Connect** – Connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences.
- ◀ **Commercial & operational excellence** – Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce.

A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game.
- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds.
- ◀ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets.
- ◀ **Diversity & Inclusion** – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create an inclusive environment for all.

# SEFTON COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### ***Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy***

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

#### **Objectives**

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
  - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
  - ◀ The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

#### **Strategies**

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

### ***British Crown Green Bowling Association***

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://bcgba.org.uk/index.html>

### ***Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)***

Bowls England's new Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it a the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway



## SEFTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

# SEFTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## APPENDIX THREE: FUNDING PLAN

In order to deliver much of the Action Plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding bodies and relevant website links; further detail is not available at this stage as the funding streams are regularly changing.

Awarding body	Website link
The National Lottery Community Fund	<a href="http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/">http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/</a>
Sport England	<a href="https://www.sportengland.org/funding/">https://www.sportengland.org/funding/</a>
Football Foundation	<a href="https://footballfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do">https://footballfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do</a>
Rugby Football Foundation (RFF)	<a href="http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113">http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113</a>
The England and Wales Cricket Trust	<a href="https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding">https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</a>
National Hockey Foundation	<a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>
Rugby Football League	<a href="https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities">https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities</a>
Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)	<a href="https://www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/venues/tennis-padel-facility-funding-advice/quick-access-loan-scheme/">https://www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/venues/tennis-padel-facility-funding-advice/quick-access-loan-scheme/</a>

### Funder's requirements

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

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

### Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website: <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/facility-cost-guidance>

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility based on the last quarter. The Facilities Costs are updated on the Sport England website every quarter. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.