



# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

**MAY 2019**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## ABBREVIATIONS

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 3G   | Third generation turf                             |
| AGP  | Artificial grass pitch                            |
| ASC  | All Stars Cricket                                 |
| BC   | Bowls Club  |
| CC   | Cricket Club                                      |
| EG   | England Golf                                      |
| ECB  | England and Wales Cricket Board                   |
| EH   | England Hockey                                    |
| FA   | Football Association                              |
| FC   | Football Club                                     |
| FF   | Football Foundation                               |
| FIFA | Fédération Internationale de Football Association |
| GIS  | Geographical Information Systems                  |
| HC   | Hockey Club                                       |
| IOG  | Institute of Groundsmanship                       |
| JFC  | Junior Football Club                              |
| KKP  | Knight, Kavanagh and Page                         |
| MES  | Match Equivalent Sessions                         |
| NGB  | National Governing Body of Sport                  |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework                |
| NTP  | Non-turf pitch                                    |
| OAN  | Objectively Assessed Need                         |
| ONS  | Office for National Statistics                    |
| PGA  | Professional Golfers Association                  |
| PPS  | Playing Pitch Strategy                            |
| PQS  | Performance Quality Standard                      |
| PIP  | Pitch Improvement Programme                       |
| RFU  | Rugby Football Union                              |
| RUFC | Rugby Union Football Club                         |
| S106 | Section 106                                       |
| TC   | Tennis Club                                       |
| TGR  | Team Generation Rate                              |
| UDC  | Uttlesford District Council                       |
| U    | Under   |
| WRC  | World Rugby Compliant                             |

### **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been commissioned by Uttlesford District Council to produce a Sports Facilities and Recreation Strategy. This will be made up of a suite of reports consisting of an Open Space Strategy, Indoor Built Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These documents will act as an evidence base for the preparation of the Local Plan.

These strategies will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions on future strategic planning and any investment priorities for sports facilities across Uttlesford and will support sports development and health and wellbeing objectives.

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Uttlesford. It has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and under the direction of a steering group led by the Council and including National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). It builds upon the preceding Assessment Report and is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
- ◀ Informing the protection and provision of playing pitches.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing pitch areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches).
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches.
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for playing pitches.
- ◀ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

This report is one document in a wider inter-related strategy for sport and recreation. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use indoor facilities for matches or training. Furthermore, some sports will utilise open spaces across the District; for example, running groups may use recreation grounds or connecting green corridors.

### **Monitoring and updating**

It is important to ensure there is regular annual monitoring and review of the 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 PPS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS; and the information on which it is based, to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

The PPS 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 PPS. Taking into account the time spent developing 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. Part 8 of this strategy report contains a suggested process for undertaking the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree the process prior to the adoption of this strategy.

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## Scope

The Council set out that the PPS should cover the main pitch sports of football, cricket, rugby union and hockey and assess both grass pitches and artificial pitches<sup>1</sup>. In addition, it will also include an assessment of other outdoor sports facilities including tennis, bowls, netball and athletics.

Playing pitch sports (i.e. football, cricket, rugby union and hockey) were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS.

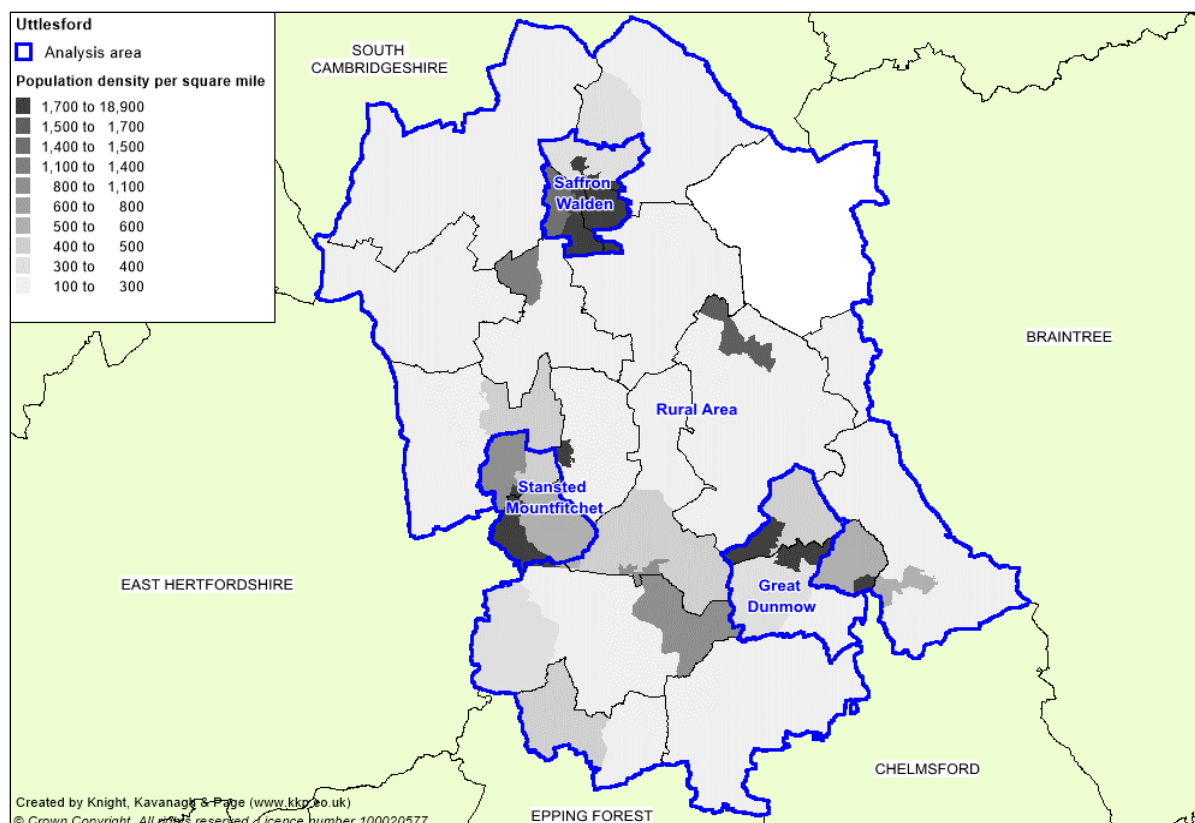
For the remaining sports/facilities, the supply and demand principles of Sport England methodology: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) were followed to ensure the process is compliant with the NPPF.

## Study area

The study area will comprise the whole of the Uttlesford District Council's administrative area. In order to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and to examine playing pitch supply and demand at a local level, four analysis areas have been created; Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Great Dunmow and Rural Area.

Furthermore, cross-boundary issues will be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand. This applies to demand that migrates between neighbouring local authorities.

Figure 1.3: Map of Uttlesford including analysis areas



<sup>1</sup> Please note that there is no current or future identified demand in Uttlesford for rugby league.

### 1.1: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision within Uttlesford across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose of the PPS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of outdoor sports facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents up until the 2033 Local Plan period.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 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.

Paragraphs 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraph 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

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## 1.2: Local context

### *Uttlesford District Corporate Plan 2018-2022*

The District Council's Corporate Plan 2018 – 22 outlines a clear way the Council will co-operate: “*Working together for the well-being of our community and to protect and enhance the unique character of the District.*” This is being achieved by a focus on the following priorities:

*Table 1.1: UDC's corporate priorities and actions*

| Aim   | Proposed actions  |
|---|---|
| Promoting thriving, safe and healthy communities      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Working with the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, to promote healthy lifestyles.</li> <li>◀ Working with the Community Safety Partnership, to improve community safety</li> <li>◀ Working with partners, including the voluntary sector, to reduce social isolation.</li> <li>◀ Delivering affordable housing.</li> <li>◀ Preventing homelessness Improving private sector housing conditions.</li> <li>◀ Improving community engagement</li> <li>◀ Promoting garden communities.</li> </ul>  |
| Protecting and enhancing heritage and character       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Producing and adopting a Local Plan.</li> <li>◀ Increasing the resources in street cleaning and promoting awareness of environmental crime.</li> <li>◀ Working with others to increase access to the heritage and history of the District.</li> <li>◀ Encouraging positive planning that values heritage and promotes growth.</li> <li>◀ Opposing a 2nd runway at Stansted airport.</li> </ul>   |
| Supporting sustainable business growth                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Supporting the expansion of and promotion of key sectors.</li> <li>◀ Supporting the delivery of superfast broadband.</li> <li>◀ Promoting town centres and visitor economy.</li> <li>◀ Promoting the local and regional economic benefits of Stansted Airport.</li> <li>◀ Working with the Employment, Economy, Skills, Environment and Transport Group (EESSET) and London, Stansted, Cambridge Consortium to promote economic opportunities.</li> <li>◀ Establishing local economic strategies for the proposed garden communities.</li> </ul> |
| Maintaining a financially sound and effective Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Setting a MTFS that balances prudent use of investment, reserves and capital.</li> <li>◀ Continuing to develop and invest in Chesterford Research Park and investing in other suitable opportunities as they arise.</li> <li>◀ Reviewing all services to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.</li> <li>◀ Enabling enhanced citizen access through the council's website.</li> <li>◀ Developing a new depot to co-locate three existing depots.</li> </ul>  |

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## ***Sustainable Community Strategy: A vision for our future 2008-2018***

The Sustainable Community Strategy captures the key issues that affect the local community. The themes and priorities emerged from extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community have been the driving force for the Partnership from 2008-2018. The vision for Uttlesford is “to sustain a high quality of life in which the benefits of the unique character of the district are equally available to all residents, workers or visitors.”

*Table 1.2: UDC’s community themes and priorities*

| <b>Theme</b>                     | <b>Priorities</b>  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Children and young people matter | Every Child Matters<br>Gaps in provision of services<br>Commissioning services   |
| Staying healthy                  | Alcohol related hospital admissions<br>Mortality from breast cancer<br>Access to services<br>Sustainability of the voluntary sector<br>Adult obesity                 |
| Developing business              | Developing high value jobs in small businesses<br>Carbon footprint of local businesses<br>Tackling deprivation and poverty<br>Local tourism                          |
| Feeling safe                     | Road safety<br>Young people and crime<br>Anti-social behaviour<br>Core crime<br>Violent crime<br>Substance misuse<br>Feeling safe                                    |
| Protecting the environment       | Climate change mitigation<br>Climate change adaptation<br>Ensuring new development is sustainable<br>Environmental protection<br>Waste minimisation                  |
| Getting around                   | Public and community transport<br>Cycling and walking facilities<br>Accessible information on public transport<br>Condition of the roads<br>Safer journeys to school |



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### ***Uttlesford Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021***

The central aim for this Economic Development Strategy is to deliver the council's sustainable business growth priority. Where "sustainable business growth" means:

- ◀ More business start-ups
- ◀ More businesses relocating into the district
- ◀ More expansions of existing businesses
- ◀ More local jobs for local people
- ◀ Thriving town and village centres
- ◀ More people working from home- and home-based businesses

In addition to setting out work delivered by the Economic Development Team and many other teams across the Council, this strategy focuses on:

- ◀ Supporting the expansion and promotion of key sectors in the local economy. Initially this will be life sciences, research and innovation; the rural economy; and the visitor economy which includes the town centres;
- ◀ Maximising local and regional opportunities that arise from the location at London Stansted Airport;
- ◀ Establishing local economic strategies for each of the three proposed new garden communities in the district; and
- ◀ Supporting the delivery and exploitation of high levels of connectivity including superfast broadband.

There are a number of additional sectors this strategy could potentially focus on such as advanced manufacturing. To maximise the impact of the strategy requires a targeted approach and hence why initially three sectors have been chosen.

The emerging Uttlesford Local Plan will deliver significant new growth in the district with three proposed new garden communities being built over the next twenty-five to thirty years. The Local Plan provides for over 14,100 houses and 14,600 new jobs and opportunities being brought forward by 2033. This will support an economy that helps create more jobs nearer to homes and increased opportunities for local people to work locally.

The new Economic Development Strategy addresses the challenges and opportunities that this development could bring to the local economy and works to maximise the benefits to both existing businesses and residents and those who will move into the new developments.

### ***Local Plan***

The new Uttlesford Local Plan will be part of the statutory planning framework for the District to 2033 guiding decisions on all aspects of development. It will set out how and where new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure will be delivered and the type of places and environment that will be created. It contains the following:

- ◀ A district profile which gives an overview of Uttlesford's characteristics, the issues that arise from this and lead to the identification of the Vision and Objectives for the Local Plan.
- ◀ The big picture of "where" and "when" UDC is planning for activity, development and investment over the period to 2033. This includes the roles and relationships of the settlements, the distribution of development and areas that will be protected from development - what it means for the various areas in the District. This section also includes the policies for new Garden Communities, London Stansted Airport, the Green Belt and the Countryside Protection Zone.

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- ◀ Policies which cover: Housing, Employment, Retail and Tourism, Transport, Infrastructure, Design, the Environment and the Countryside.
- ◀ Site Allocations policies which identify areas for development and include the policies which will determine how these areas should be developed.
- ◀ Delivery and Monitoring - This section sets out how further details of the Plan's implementation and how it will be monitored and reviewed to ensure its objectives are met.

### ***Essex Health and Wellbeing Board: Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013-2018)***

This identifies three key priorities, all of which have specific development areas which need to be achieved through partnership work, as outlined below.

*Table 1.3: Essex Health and Wellbeing Board Key Priorities*

| Priority  | Development areas   |
|---|---|
| Starting and developing well: ensuring every child in Essex has the best start in life.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Increasing children's and young people level of physical activity.</li> <li>◀ Improving development/attainment levels of pre-school children.</li> <li>◀ Working with families with complex needs to ensure better outcomes for children.</li> </ul> |
| Living and working well: ensuring that residents make better lifestyle choices and have opportunities needed to enjoy a healthy life. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Improve diet and nutrition.</li> <li>◀ Increase physical activities levels.</li> <li>◀ Reducing smoking, drinking and alcohol use.</li> <li>◀ Supporting community provision and developing community assets.</li> </ul>                             |
| Ageing well: ensuring that older people remain independent for as long as possible.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Preventing and maintaining independence in the home.</li> <li>◀ Reducing dementia levels.</li> <li>◀ Responding to long term conditions and chronic illness.</li> <li>◀ Ensure high level of end of life care.</li> </ul>                            |

### ***West Essex CCG JSNA Report 2015-2020***

WECCG approved its 5-year *Strategic Plan for West Essex Health and Care system 2015 – 2020* in November 2014. This plan has been developed at a time when the West Essex health and care system is facing major pressures – population growth, financial constraints and public health challenges. There is increasing demand for health and care services.

There is a high degree of alignment between the local West Essex drivers described above and current national NHS policies.

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Figure 1.1: Key drivers for West Essex

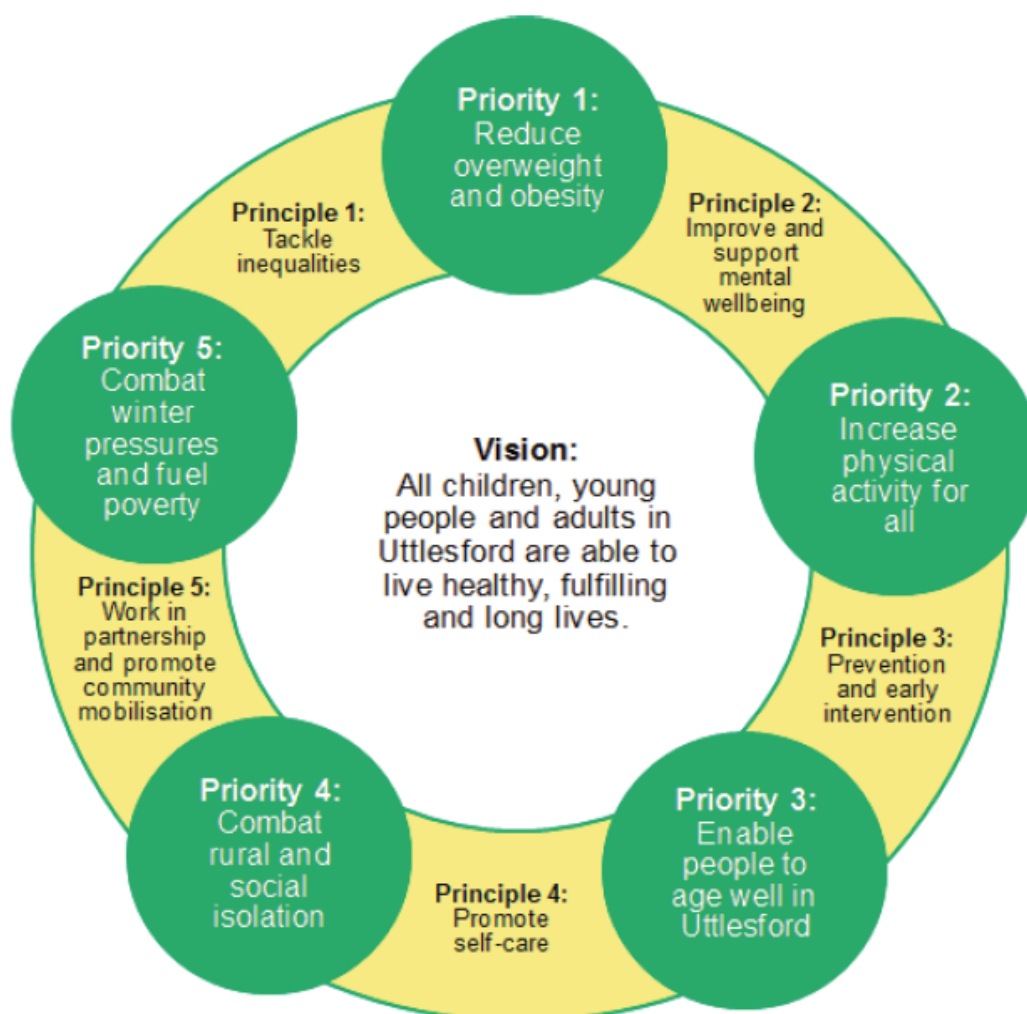


## **Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2022**

The Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2017-2022) has been developed in partnership with members of the Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Board. The Strategy presents a direction for the Council and partners to address an agreed set of five key health and wellbeing priorities, with a particular focus on preventative health. Figure 1.2 represents the key information as set out within this Strategy.

The purpose of this document is to provide a clear direction for the Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Board and its partners to address a number of key health and wellbeing priorities for the district.

Figure 1.2: Uttlesford's Health and wellbeing vision and principles



**Active Essex: Changing One Million Lives to get Essex Active 2017-2021**

The Active Essex (CSP) target is to get one million people active by the year 2021 by driving up and sustaining sports participation and physical activity. In partnership with a number of key partners and organisations, the CSP is committed to creating opportunities and resources to achieve this target which will reduce inactivity and develop positive attitudes to health and wellbeing across communities in the County. The stated intention is that the target will be met via the achievement of the four key priorities identified in Table 2.4:

Table 1.4: Active Essex's strategic priorities

| Priority   | Focus  |
|--|--|
| Increase and sustain participation                                 | More people in Essex being active, taking part and living healthy and active lifestyles.                         |
| Change behaviours to improve the health and wellbeing of residents | Change behaviours to reduce inactivity and make a real impact on physical and mental health and wellbeing.       |
| Develop individuals and organisations                              | Enable people and organisations to develop skills, achieve goals, ambitions, and maximise their potential.       |
| Strengthen local communities and networks                          | Lead, develop and drive communities across Essex, raising the profile and impact of physical activity and sport. |

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Although the Strategy takes a county approach, specific priority is given to the following groups, as those most likely to be underrepresented in both sport and physical activity:

- ◀ People aged 65+.
- ◀ Unemployed people.
- ◀ Females.
- ◀ People with a life-long limiting illness or disability.
- ◀ People from lower socio-economic groups (NS-SEC 5-8) <sup>2</sup>.
- ◀ Black and ethnic minorities.

### ***Physical activity and Sports Strategy 2015***

This was compiled by Saffron Walden Skate Group and The Hub Management Committee. Its vision is for Uttlesford to:

- ◀ Become more active and healthier by creating opportunities and overcoming barriers to taking part in physical activities.
- ◀ Look at more modern/innovative ways of increasing participation and appealing to a wider group.
- ◀ Compile a list of priorities that developers might fund as part of the Local Development Framework Plan.
- ◀ Help build a wider evidence base to secure funding

The strategy aims are to get people:

- ◀ *More Active*: by inspiring them to participate in regular physical activity and sport.
- ◀ *More Healthy*: by helping them to understand and enjoy the health benefits that can be achieved from increased and sustained activity.
- ◀ *More Successful*: by encouraging them to set their own personal participation goals, irrespective of ability, and helping them succeed in leading more active and healthy lifestyles.

### ***Active Uttlesford***

Active Uttlesford is a new group which aims to develop a community led group that can help grow participation in physical activity in the district by sharing best practice, working collaboratively, growing capacity through training. The group will be the grassroots voice for physical activity and sport for Uttlesford District and is part of the Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Board. It will be made up of local community representatives from all walks of life, with varied interest and experience in physical and leisure activity.

### ***Summary of local policy documentation***

The local policies key messages are summarised below:

- ◀ Local authorities, in general, are facing major pressures including population growth, financial constraints and public health challenges.
- ◀ UDC is prioritising, promoting and establishing the new garden communities by 2033.
- ◀ The Local Plan provides for c.14,600 houses and c.14,600 new jobs and opportunities being brought forward by 2033, much of it within the proposed garden communities.
- ◀ There is an understanding of the importance of prioritising health and wellbeing within the District and the need for partnership working to enhance any offer.
- ◀ Many different organisations recognise the importance that increasing physical activity can make and also understand the need to target under-represented groups.

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<sup>2</sup> NS-SEC: National Statistics Socio-economic Classifications

### 1.3: Structure

As this strategy is specific to Uttlesford, it focuses on findings, recommendations and scenarios for outdoor sports facilities within the District.

This strategy has been developed from research and analysis of outdoor sports provision and usage to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sport facilities.
- ◀ Evidence to help protect and enhance outdoor sport provision.
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations that provide a strategic framework for improvements to provision.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends numerous priority projects for Uttlesford that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited council resources.

The recommendations made in this strategy must be translated into local plan policy so that there is a mechanism to support delivery and secure provision and investment into provision where the opportunity arises.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, Essex County Council, Active Essex, NGBs, Sport England, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, community sports networks, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve outdoor sport provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document will provide clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.



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## 1.4: Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Table 1.5: Quantitative headline findings

| Sport                    | Analysis area         | Current demand shortfall   | Future demand shortfall (2033)   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Football (grass pitches) | Saffron Walden        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 6 MES per week on adult pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 3.5 MES per week on youth 11v11 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 0.5 MES per week on youth 9v9 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 3 MES per week on mini 7v7 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1 MES per week on mini 5v5 pitches</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 7 MES per week on adult pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 4.5 MES per week on youth 11v11 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on youth 9v9 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 4.5 MES per week on mini 7v7 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1 MES per week on mini 5v5 pitches</li> </ul> |
|                          | Great Dunmow          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on adult pitches</li> <li>◀ Youth 11v11 pitches at capacity</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 0.5 MES per week on youth 9v9 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 2 MES per week on mini 7v7 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on mini 5v5 pitches</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on adult pitches</li> <li>◀ Youth 11v11 pitches at capacity</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1 MES per week on youth 9v9 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 2 MES per week on mini 7v7 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on mini 5v5 pitches</li> </ul>                      |
|                          | Stansted Mountfitchet | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 0.5 MES on adult pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 0.5 MES per week on youth 11v11 pitches</li> <li>◀ Youth 9v9 pitches at capacity</li> <li>◀ Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity</li> <li>◀ Mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 0.5 MES on adult pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on youth 11v11 pitches</li> <li>◀ Youth 9v9 pitches at capacity</li> <li>◀ Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity</li> <li>◀ Mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week</li> </ul>   |
|                          | Rural                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 5 MES per week on adult pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 3.5 MES per week on youth 11v11 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on youth 9v9 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on mini 7v7 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on mini 5v5 pitches</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 5.5 MES per week on adult pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 5 MES per week on youth 11v11 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 2 MES per week on youth 9v9 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 2 MES per week on mini 7v7 pitches</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week on mini 5v5 pitches</li> </ul>   |

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| Sport                              | Analysis area              | Current demand shortfall   | Future demand shortfall (2033)  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
|                                    | <b>Uttlesford District</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 13 MES per week on adult pitches</b></li> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 7.5 MES per week on youth 11v11 pitches</b></li> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 2.5 MES per week on youth 9v9 pitches</b></li> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 6.5 MES per week on mini 7v7 pitches</b></li> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 4 MES per week on mini 5v5 pitches</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 14.5 MES per week on adult pitches</b></li> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 11 MES per week on youth 11v11 pitches</b></li> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 4.5 MES per week on youth 9v9 pitches</b></li> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 8.5 MES per week on mini 7v7 pitches</b></li> <li>◀ <b>Shortfall of 4 MES per week on mini 5v5 pitches</b></li> </ul> |
| Football (3G pitches) <sup>3</sup> | Saffron Walden             | ◀ <b>Shortfall of 2 full size floodlit pitches</b>   | ◀ <b>Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch</b>  |
|                                    | Great Dunmow               | ◀ <b>Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch</b>   |   |
|                                    | Stansted Mountfitchet      | ◀ <b>Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch</b>   |   |
|                                    | Rural                      | ◀ <b>3G pitches to be provided in larger settlements to accommodate demand from Rural Analysis Area.</b>   | ◀ <b>3G pitches to be provided in larger settlements to accommodate demand from Rural Analysis Area.</b>  |
|                                    | <b>Uttlesford District</b> | ◀ <b>Shortfall of 4 full size floodlit pitches</b>   | ◀ <b>Shortfall of full size floodlit pitches increases to 5</b>   |
| Cricket                            | Saffron Walden             | ◀ <b>Shortfall of 8 MES per season (Saffron Walden County High School)</b>   | ◀ <b>Shortfall of 66 MES per season</b>   |
|                                    | Great Dunmow               | ◀ <b>Pitches at capacity</b>   | ◀ <b>Pitches at capacity</b>  |
|                                    | Stansted Mountfitchet      | ◀ <b>Sufficient supply to meet current demand with 60 MES of spare capacity per season.</b>  | ◀ <b>Sufficient supply to meet future demand with 26 MES of spare capacity per season.</b>  |
|                                    | Rural                      | ◀ <b>Sufficient supply to meet current demand with 406 MES of spare capacity per season.</b>   | ◀ <b>Sufficient supply to meet future demand with 280 MES of spare capacity per season.</b>   |
|                                    | <b>Uttlesford District</b> | ◀ <b>Sufficient supply to meet demand across Great Dunmow, Stansted Mountfitchet and Rural analysis areas but a shortfall in Saffron Walden.</b>   | <b>Sufficient supply to meet demand across Great Dunmow, Stansted Mountfitchet and Rural analysis areas but a shortfall in Saffron Walden.</b>  |
| Rugby union                        | Saffron Walden             | ◀ <b>Shortfall of 1.75 MES per week (Saffron Walden Rugby Club)</b>  | ◀ <b>Shortfall of 6.25 MES per week (Saffron Walden Rugby Club)</b>   |
|                                    | Great Dunmow               | ◀ <b>No rugby union demand in the analysis area.</b>   | ◀ <b>No future demand predicted in the analysis area.</b>   |

<sup>3</sup> Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch



# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

| Sport              | Analysis area         | Current demand shortfall  | Future demand shortfall (2033)  |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
|                    | Stansted Mountfitchet | ◀ No rugby union demand in the analysis area.   | ◀ No future demand predicted in the analysis area.  |
|                    | Rural                 | ◀ Rugby provision being utilised by clubs at capacity (Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy).  | ◀ Shortfall of 0.25 MES per week at both Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy.   |
|                    | Uttlesford District   | ◀ Shortfall of 1.25 MES per week (Saffron Walden Rugby Club)  | ◀ Shortfall of 6.25 MES per week (Saffron Walden Rugby Club)<br>◀ Shortfall of 0.25 MES per week at Carver Barrack.                             |
| Hockey (Sand AGPs) | Uttlesford District   | ◀ Sufficient supply to meet current demand; however, there are quality issues at Joyce Frankland Academy and Saffron Walden County High School. | ◀ AGP provision being provided in a more accessible location for Saffron Walden HC may be required.   |
| Bowls              | Uttlesford District   | ◀ Shortfall at Elsenham Bowl Club (by two members)  | ◀ Potential of shortfall increasing at Elsenham Bowl Club<br>◀ Potential shortfall created at Stansted Recreation Ground and Thaxted Bowls Club |
| Tennis             | Uttlesford District   | ◀ Shortfall equating to 226 members (across seven sites)  | ◀ Potential of shortfall increasing   |
| Netball            | Uttlesford District   | ◀ Sufficient supply to meet current demand  | ◀ Sufficient supply to meet future demand   |
| Athletics          | Uttlesford District   | ◀ Demand for provision of a compact athletics facility.   | ◀ Demand for provision of a compact athletics facility.   |

## Summaries

### Football

Saffron Walden Analysis Area has the most significant current and future shortfalls across all football pitch sizes. These shortfalls increase further based on future demand. The largest shortfalls are on adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches both now and in the future. The shortfalls on youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches are currently minimal at 0.5 (one team) and one (two teams) match equivalent sessions respectively.

Shortfalls in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area are unsurprising given there are just 13 grass pitches to accommodate the 50 teams currently playing within this analysis area.

The Rural Analysis Area also has current shortfalls on all pitch configurations. The most significant being on adult pitches (five match equivalent sessions per week) and youth 11v11 pitches (3.5 match equivalent sessions per week). These increase to 5.5 and five match equivalent sessions per week respectively.

Although both the Stansted Mountfitchet and Great Dunmow analysis area have shortfalls, they are minimal and either do not increase, or increase minimally base on future demand.

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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There is also a shortfall of four full size 3G pitches to service all football training demand in Uttlesford, which will increase to five based future demand. At present there are no 3G pitches in the District.

Current and future shortfalls, as shown in Table 1.5, could be reduced with improvements to grass pitch quality. However, given the investment that would be required to do this and across a high number of sites, a more strategic solution is likely to be required. This is most likely to be through 3G provision.

There is a requirement to provide 3G pitch provision for training demand, as well as to provide additional match play capacity. This will be explored in the sport specific scenarios and recommendations section to follow.

### *Cricket*

For cricket provision, shortfalls are only identified in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, this shortfall is currently eight match equivalent sessions per season; however, this significantly increases to 66 match equivalent sessions per season when considering future demand. Within the Great Dunmow Analysis Area, provision is at capacity based on both current and future demand.

There is opportunity to eradicate all current overplay with qualitative improvements, however, there will also be a need to provide additional provision within the Saffron Walden Analysis Area to accommodate future shortfalls.

Friends School (Walden School) is currently disused. Friends School (Walden School) was closed in 2017 but was previously available for community use. This site provided one square with nine wickets. Its closure resulted in a number of teams having to travel outside of Saffron Walden to access provision. Therefore, should it be brought back into use, opportunity for teams to come back into the analysis area would exist. Use of this site could also see current shortfalls eradicated and future shortfalls significantly reduced.

### *Rugby union*

Saffron Walden Rugby Club has a shortfall of 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week. This shortfall is exasperated based on future demand to 6.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Whilst the other sites assessed for club rugby; Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy can accommodate existing demand, in the future shortfalls will be created of 0.25 match sessions per week at the Carver Barracks site.

There is opportunity to eradicate all current overplay with qualitative improvements; however, in order to ensure sufficient provision is available for future demand, there is also a need to address security of tenure issues across all three sites utilised for club rugby.

### *Hockey (sand AGPs)*

There is a sufficient supply of full size, hockey suitable AGPs in Uttlesford to meet current demand. However, the quality at both Joyce Frankland Academy and Saffron Walden County High School needs to be addressed. Both pitches are currently operating at capacity and as such are unable to accommodate future growth. With regards to future growth, there is a need to consider acceptable travel distances from Saffron Walden (where Saffron Walden HC are based) to other AGPs in the area.

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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The AGPs at Felsted School (35-minute drive time) and Dunmow Leisure Centre (25-minute drive time) this is most likely to be unfeasible for the Club to use. Therefore, an AGP being provided in a more accessible location may be required.

At present, protecting the AGPs at Joyce Frankland Academy and South Walden County High School for hockey is a priority.

### *Bowls*

For bowls, where membership is known, greens can support current demand, with potential to accommodate further club members. Elsenham Bowls Club is operating slightly above the recommended guideline capacity (by two members), which will further increase in the future but given its good quality, future demand could likely also be accommodated.

Thaxted Bowls Club and Stansted Recreation Ground would be operating above the guideline recommended capacity by 11 and 18 members respectively if future growth was achieved. Although this level of overplay is likely to be manageable, there is a need to improve green quality to ensure this is possible.

The 60-member capacity is just a guideline and further investigation to fully determine capacity is required for each individual green.

### *Tennis*

Seven club sites are identified as operating over the recommended capacity, based on guidelines provided by the LTA. At present, this is most significant at Dunmow Tennis Club, which is currently operating over capacity by 75 members.

Castle Hill TC and Stebbing TC outline latent demand and therefore a lack of capacity is already a prominent issue at both sites. The four remaining clubs with identified overplay do not identify capacity as being problem.

Targeted work is required at specific club sites to better accommodate current demand and future growth. This may involve exploring the potential of satellite sites for clubs across sites which are not currently being accessed or are underutilised.

### *Athletics*

There is currently a proposal for new athletics provision at the Carver Barracks site. This would provide an eight lane, 400m track. Notwithstanding the current proposal, based on current demand, a compact athletics facility is more likely to be sustainable.

In light of the uncertainty regarding the long-term future of Carver Barracks, considerations around the sustainability of this project should be made. Should the development of a full size athletics track go ahead, there will not be the demand for a compact facility to also be provided.

### *Netball*

There is enough provision to accommodate current and future demand; however, the quality of available outdoor courts needs improvement. Priority should be placed on improving the existing provision, with a focus on sites currently being accessed by clubs (Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre and Great Dunmow Leisure Centre).

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### **Conclusions**

The existing position for all pitch sports is either; demand is currently being met, or there is a current or future shortfall. There are current shortfalls on grass pitches for football, rugby union and cricket.

For football, current shortfalls are identified across all four analysis areas, with the largest shortfalls existing in the Saffron Walden and Rural analysis areas. It is anticipated that these shortfalls will be exacerbated in the future.

For rugby union and cricket, both current and future shortfalls can be attributed to specific club sites. Both current and future shortfalls for rugby union are attributed to Saffron Walden Rugby Club and Carver Barracks.

Likewise, for cricket, current shortfalls are attributed to Saffron Walden County High School; however, future shortfalls are attributed to a combination of lack of actual spare capacity at peak period and lack of provision available. As such, should future demand (as predicted through population growth, club growth aspirations and NGB predictions) be realised, there will be a requirement for additional provision. This could be in the form of both natural turf and NTP provision. All future shortfalls are predicted to be in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area.

For tennis and bowls, there will be a need to monitor demand, with a number of sites operating over recommended capacity. This is particularly the case at Dunmow Tennis Club, Castle Hill Tennis Club, Stebbing Tennis Club and Elsenham Bowls Club. At the identified tennis clubs, shortfalls are already significant enough to be creating latent demand.

As a result, there is a need for targeted work to better accommodate current demand and future growth. This may involve exploring options of secondary (satellite) sites for clubs. There will also need to be support around management and maintenance. For both bowls and tennis, monitoring of membership numbers will be key.

There will also be a need to improve management and maintenance of netball provision in the District to ensure that there is provision of a sufficient quality to meet both current and future demand.

Notwithstanding the above, there are clear shortfalls identified for 3G pitches which cannot be alleviated unless new provision is created. Given this, there is a need to explore the feasibility of future provision at strategic sites in Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet analysis areas. This is due to these analysis areas being based around key settlements, which can also serve significant parts of the Rural Analysis Area.

With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

As there is identified shortfalls on grass pitches, there is a need to protect both playing pitch provision currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future need. In addition to providing new 3G provision, there is believed to be enough demand to sustain a compact athletics facility. At present, no formal athletics provision exists in the District; however, demand exists and is anticipated to increase.

## PART 2: VISION

### 2.1: Vision

Below is Uttlesford's vision for its sport and leisure provision. It sets out the vision and objectives for the period 2019 - 2033.

*"To produce a robust and comprehensive Strategy which will provide the essential evidence base for informing decisions on planning and investment in the pursuit to provide appropriate outdoor sports provision for all, both now and in the future"*

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.

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 3: AIMS

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

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

### AIM 2

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

### AIM 3

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

Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



Source Sport England (2015)

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

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each playing pitch sport; resulting in sport specific recommendations.

#### Football – grass pitches

##### *Summary*

- ◀ Current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with no spare capacity identified in Uttlesford.
- ◀ In Uttlesford, 22 pitches are overplayed by 22.5 match equivalent sessions. Almost half of this overplay (11 match equivalent sessions) is located on five pitches in Saffron Walden.
- ◀ When considering future demand, shortfalls will be most significant in the Saffron Walden and Rural analysis areas, equating to 18 and 16 match sessions per week respectively. Shortfalls in the Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet analysis areas will equate to six and two match sessions per week respectively, after accounting for future demand.
- ◀ Shortfalls are mostly a result of poor pitch quality reducing available capacity, with a total of 27.5 match equivalent sessions per week of potential spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. There is also a need to explore tenure security on those sites which do not currently provide clubs with security of use. This not only impacts on capacity (discounting 23 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity), but also reduces potential funding opportunities to improve pitch quality on such sites, to increase this potential spare capacity further.
- ◀ The audit identifies 93 grass pitches across 45 sites in Uttlesford. Of these, 89 pitches across 43 sites are available for community use. Most provision (42%) in the District is adult pitches.
- ◀ Following non-technical site assessment, two pitches are rated as good quality, 28 as standard quality and 61 as poor quality.
- ◀ Most sites (18) have ancillary facilities which are rated as standard quality, 11 are assessed as having poor quality facilities and five are assessed as having good quality facilities.
- ◀ Barnston FC currently compete at Step 7, should the Club progress to Step 6, pitch quality and changing provision may prevent this from being possible.
- ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 163 teams from 30 clubs are identified as playing within Uttlesford. This consists of 26 adult men's, two adult women's, 57 youth boys', seven youth girls' teams and 61 mini teams.
- ◀ Chelmsford City Ladies is currently playing its home games at Barnston Association Football Club. This demand is imported from the neighbouring authority of Chelmsford.
- ◀ A number of clubs report latent demand. Of the ten which specify a reason, nine attribute this to lack of enough good quality pitches and access to 3G pitch provision.
- ◀ Most latent demand is expressed within the Rural Analysis Area (three mini 5v5 teams, four mini 7v7 teams, two youth 9v9 teams and seven youth 11v11 teams). This is followed by the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, with latent demand of two mini 5v5, two mini 7v7 and two adult teams.
- ◀ Using TGRs, future population is predicted to generate one adult men's, six youth 11v11 boys', two youth 9v9 boys', four mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 teams in Uttlesford.
- ◀ Further to population growth, several clubs also report potential future demand, with a predicted growth of ten teams (five match equivalent sessions).



# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## Scenarios

### *Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality*

In total, there are 19 community available pitches in Uttlesford that are overplayed by a total of 22.5 match equivalent sessions. Improving quality of the remaining pitches (i.e. through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will therefore increase capacity and consequently reduce current and future shortfalls. At present, 19 of the 22 overplayed pitches are rated as poor quality through non technical assessment.

To illustrate the above, Table 3.1 highlights that current levels of overplay would be alleviated on 20 out of 22 overplayed pitches 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                |

The only pitch which would remain overplayed (given it is already of good quality) is an adult pitch at Catons Lane, located in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area. Further to this, the adult pitches at Carver Barracks would no longer be overplayed; however, would be at capacity. To alleviate this, play should be encouraged to transfer to alternative provision with actual spare capacity or to a 3G pitch facility (if one is created within the locality in the future).

To improve grass pitch quality, the FA's Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) should be used in order to provide recommendations and improvements to the pitches at the sites featured above. Although whilst that may be suitable at some sites, 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 matches. Not only can this alleviate overplay of grass pitches, but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

Using 3G provision for match play will be explored in the following 3G section. There is also a need to consider utilising future 3G provision for larger clubs to prevent them being spread over a high number of grass pitch sites. This is likely to support with both player and club development.



## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.1: Levels of overplay if quality improved to good

| Site ID | Site name                                       | Analysis area  | Pitch type | Pitch size | No. of pitches | Current quality | Current Capacity rating <sup>4</sup> | Good quality capacity rating <sup>5</sup> |
|---------|---|----------------|------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 66      | The Causeway Recreation Ground                  | Great Dunmow   | Adult      |            | 1              | Poor            | 1.5                                  | 0.5                                       |
| 66      | The Causeway Recreation Ground                  | Great Dunmow   | Mini       | (5v5)      | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 3.5                                       |
| 66      | The Causeway Recreation Ground                  | Great Dunmow   | Mini       | (7v7)      | 1              | Poor            | 1.5                                  | 2.5                                       |
| 1       | Alcott Playing Field                            | Rural Area     | Adult      |            | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 1.5                                       |
| 7       | Carver Barracks                                 | Rural Area     | Adult      |            | 2              | Poor            | 1                                    | -   |
| 16      | Elsenham Recreation Ground                      | Rural Area     | Adult      |            | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 1.5                                       |
| 16      | Elsenham Recreation Ground                      | Rural Area     | Mini       | (7v7)      | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 3.5                                       |
| 39      | Laundry Lane                                    | Rural Area     | Mini       | (5v5)      | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 4   |
| 39      | Laundry Lane                                    | Rural Area     | Youth      | (9v9)      | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 1.5                                       |
| 46      | Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust           | Rural Area     | Adult      |            | 1              | Poor            | 1                                    | 1   |
| 47      | Newport Recreation Ground                       | Rural Area     | Adult      |            | 2              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 3.5                                       |
| 63      | Takeley Sports Field                            | Rural Area     | Adult      |            | 2              | Poor            | 1                                    | 3   |
| 65      | Thaxted Recreation Ground                       | Rural Area     | Adult      |            | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 1.5                                       |
| 71      | Wimbish Recreation Ground                       | Rural Area     | Adult      |            | 1              | Poor            | 1.5                                  | 0.5                                       |
| 8       | Catons Lane                                     | Saffron Walden | Adult      |            | 1              | Good            | 4.5                                  | 4.5                                       |
| 29      | Herbert Farm Playing Fields                     | Saffron Walden | Mini       | (7v7)      | 1              | Standard        | 2                                    | 2   |
| 29      | Herbert Farm Playing Fields                     | Saffron Walden | Youth      | (9v9)      | 2              | Standard        | 3.5                                  | 4   |
| 48      | Peasland Road Football Pitch (Walden Ladies FC) | Saffron Walden | Adult      |            | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 1.5                                       |
| 48      | Peasland Road Football Pitch (Walden Ladies FC) | Saffron Walden | Youth      | (9v9)      | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 1.5                                       |

<sup>4</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>5</sup> Match equivalent sessions

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## *Mitigating loss/re-provision*

Given that pitch quality improvements will not eradicate shortfalls for football in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, pitches at Walden School (closed in 2017) should either be reinstated (and reconfigured to meet pitch shortfalls in the Area) or, if lost to development, re-provided to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy. This site was available for community use and last provided three football pitches (configuration unknown).

Further to the above, as part of the development of sports facilities at Carver Barracks, the two adult pitches will be relocated elsewhere on the site. These should be re-provided to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy and to ensure existing use (six teams) are accommodated.

## *Providing security of tenure*

Currently, five match equivalent sessions take place at sites considered as unsecure. If these sites were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be increased as the demand would have to relocate to other sites, thus increasing overplay or resulting in exported demand.

Of the five match equivalent sessions played on unsecured pitches, 1.5 match equivalent sessions are played at peak time, on youth 9v9 provision, suggesting that two youth 9v9 pitches would be required to accommodate the demand. These pitches would likely need to be provided in the Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area, where the teams are currently playing.

*Table 3.2: Summary of supply and demand within the Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area (peak period)*

| Pitch type                   | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions per week) |               |                 |               |              |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
|                              |  | Overplay                         | Latent demand | Total (current) | Future demand | Total future |
| Mini 5v5                     | -                                      | -                                | -             | -               | -             | -            |
| Mini 7v7                     | -                                      | -                                | -             | -               | -             | -            |
| Youth 9v9                    | -                                      | -                                | -             | -               | -             | -            |
| Youth 11v11                  | -                                      | -                                | 0.5           | 0.5             | 1             | 1.5          |
| Adult                        | -                                      | -                                | 0.5           | 0.5             | -             | 0.5          |
| <b>Stansted Mountfitchet</b> | -                                      | -                                | <b>1</b>      | <b>1</b>        | <b>1</b>      | <b>2</b>     |

*Table 3.3: Summary of supply and demand without unsecure sites within the Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area (peak period)*

| Pitch type                   | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions per week) |               |                 |               |              |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
|                              |  | Overplay                         | Latent demand | Total (current) | Future demand | Total future |
| Mini 5v5                     | -                                      | -                                | -             | -               | -             | -            |
| Mini 7v7                     | -                                      | -                                | -             | -               | -             | -            |
| Youth 9v9                    | -                                      | 1.5                              | -             | 1.5             | -             | 1.5          |
| Youth 11v11                  | -                                      | -                                | 0.5           | 0.5             | 1             | 1.5          |
| Adult                        | -                                      | -                                | 0.5           | 0.5             | -             | 0.5          |
| <b>Stansted Mountfitchet</b> | -                                      | -                                | <b>1</b>      | <b>2.5</b>      | <b>1</b>      | <b>3.5</b>   |

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

As can be seen in the above tables, given that youth 9v9 provision is currently at capacity in the Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area, should the unsecure site being accessed at peak period (Stansted Airport Playing Field) be taken out of use, overplay would occur on youth 9v9 provision.

Should security of tenure on the Stansted Airport Playing Field be unachievable, securing community use agreements at Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, located in the Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area could be explored. This site currently has two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality, both of which are unused during the peak period.

### *Pitch reconfigurations*

Most available pitches in Uttlesford (42%) are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players at U13-U16 and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review. Just six available pitches are youth 11v11 sized representing 7% of the available supply in Uttlesford which is low in relation to the proportion of youth teams (26 teams<sup>6</sup> – 16% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this sized pitch.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres.

The table below looks to highlight the number of dedicated youth 11v11 pitches needed within each analysis area to adequately accommodate currently levels of demand (based on teams playing on a home v away basis). As can be seen below, it is identified that there is a need to access a further seven youth 11v11 pitches to adequately accommodate all youth 11v11 demand.

*Table 3.4: Youth 11v11 pitch requirement (U13 – U16)*

| Analysis area         | Number of youth 11v11 teams | Teams playing at peak time (Sunday AM) | Current youth 11v11 pitch supply | Pitch shortfall |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Saffron Walden        | 11                          | 4                                      | 2                                | -               |
| Great Dunmow          | 4                           | 4                                      | 1                                | 1               |
| Stansted Mountfitchet | -                           | -                                      | 1                                | 1               |
| Rural Area            | 13                          | 5                                      | 4                                | 1.5             |
| <b>Uttlesford</b>     | <b>28</b>                   | <b>13</b>                              | <b>8</b>                         | <b>1.5</b>      |

As can be seen in the table above, based on current demand, only the Great Dunmow Analysis Area has a shortfall in youth 11v11 provision at peak period. This shortfall equates to one pitch.

In addition to this, there are also youth 9v9 and mini teams using adult pitch provision for matches within Uttlesford.

The following sites contain adult pitches that are currently being used for youth or mini matches:

- ◀ Elsenham Recreation Ground
- ◀ Wimbish Recreation Ground
- ◀ The Causeway Recreation Ground
- ◀ Laundry Lane
- ◀ Carver Barracks
- ◀ Burns Playing Fields

<sup>6</sup> Teams aged between U13 – U16

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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With the exception of Carver Barracks, these sites are not accessed for adult football. Given that with improvements to grass pitch quality there would be sufficient adult grass provision within the Great Dunmow and Rural analysis areas, where these sites are situated, consideration could be given to reconfiguration. This would ensure that teams were playing on the correct size pitch.

Further to this, there is latent demand highlighted for both mini and youth 9v9 across these analysis areas, which could potentially be accommodated should additional provision for these formats be created.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Utilise off site contributions from housing developments to support with improvements sites utilised by football clubs and have security of tenure.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as good quality, pursue transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity or onto 3G provision developed in the future.
- ◀ Explore options for obtaining security of tenure at Stansted Airport Playing Fields, should this not be achievable, investigate use of Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre pitches for Elsenham Youth FC.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand as well as expressed unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for any clubs using educational sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of adult pitches to accommodate youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini teams.
- ◀ Ensure that the pitches at Walden School, which is now closed, if not reinstated and; for example, lost to development, are re provided to mitigate the loss.
- ◀ Ensure that as part of the sports development at Carver Barracks the two football pitches relocated elsewhere on the site like for like and to a good quality to meet demand.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ Look at options of using 3G provision to increase capacity and allow larger clubs such as Saffron Walden Community FC to be spread across fewer sites. This will further support with player and club development.

### **3G pitches**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are currently no 3G pitches in Uttlesford.
- ◀ Using FA training model and based on 163 teams currently affiliating to Uttlesford, there is a need for four full size 3G pitches to service the District.
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional 24 teams (based on population increases and club growth aspirations), the shortfall increases to five full size 3G pitches.

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- Although pitch quality plays a part in the identified overplay on rugby pitches, it is difficult for a grass pitch to sustain high levels of training regardless of quality. At present, across Uttlesford, there are 41 competitive rugby teams, with clubs aspiring to grow further. On this basis, there could be consideration for a WRC 3G pitch in the Uttlesford area.
- The most favourable locations for 3G pitch provision will be further explored in the subsequent Strategy and Action Plan document.

### Scenarios

#### *Accommodating football training demand*

As evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report, in order to satisfy current football training demand for the 163 teams playing in Uttlesford (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams), there is a need for four full size, floodlit 3G pitches to meet current demand.

When considering future demand of an additional 24 teams (based on population increases and club growth predictions), demand for full size, floodlit 3G pitches increases to five.

*Table 3.5: Demand for full size 3G pitches in Uttlesford*

| Current number of teams | Current 3G requirement <sup>7</sup> | Future number of teams | Future 3G requirement <sup>8</sup> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 163                     | 4                                   | 187                    | 5                                  |

As can be seen in the table overleaf, when studying demand by analysis area (based on where teams currently play competitive fixtures), the Rural Analysis Area has the largest requirement of two 3G pitches and Saffron Walden Analysis Area is identified as requiring one. The remaining 3G provision requirement is made up from demand across both the Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet analysis areas.

*Table 3.6: Demand by analysis area*

| Analysis area         | Current number of teams | 3G requirement <sup>9</sup> | Current number of 3G pitches |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Saffron Walden        | 50                      | 1                           | -                            |
| Great Dunmow          | 22                      | -                           | -                            |
| Stansted Mountfitchet | 10                      | -                           | -                            |
| Rural Area            | 81                      | 2                           | -                            |
| <b>Uttlesford</b>     | <b>163</b>              | <b>4</b>                    | <b>-</b>                     |

Whilst this provides some indication as to where new provision should be located to service demand, it should be noted that the Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet analysis areas are focused around the key settlements. As such, the Rural Analysis Area, which makes up the remaining part of the District is large, covering a wide geographical area.

<sup>7</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

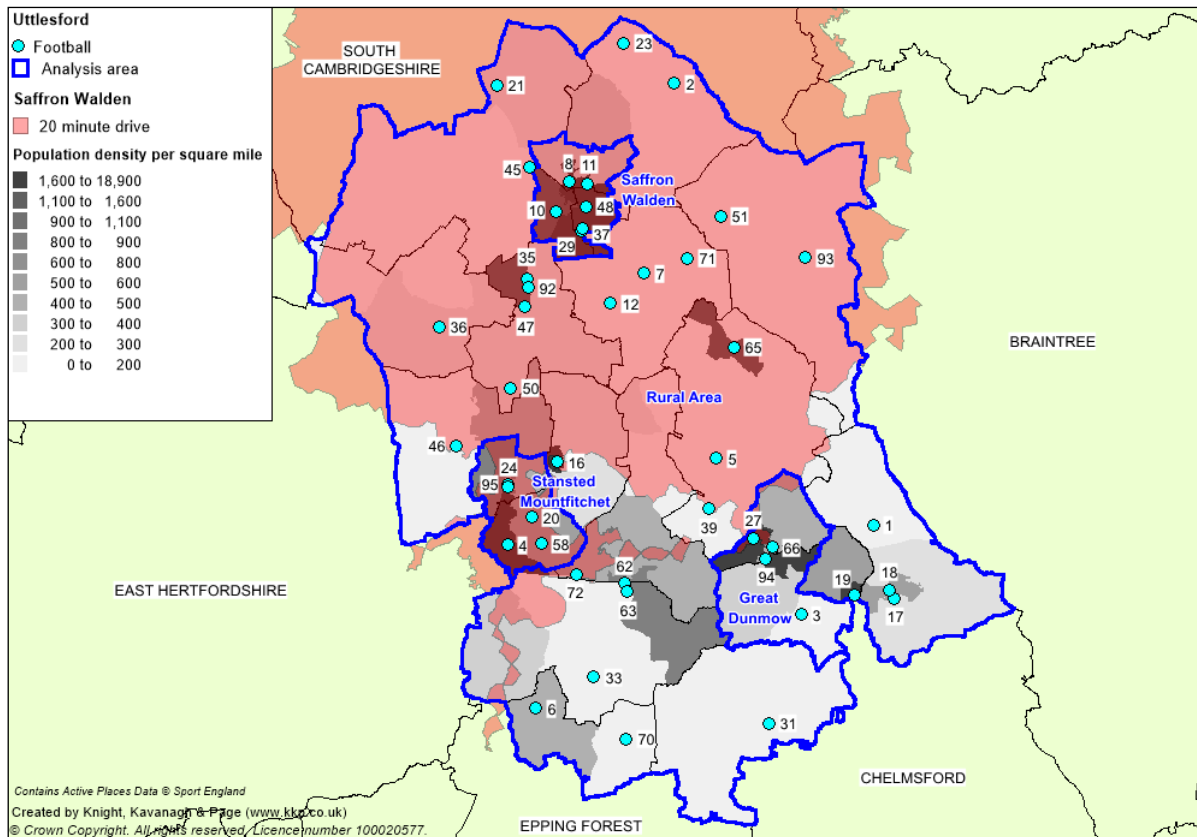
<sup>8</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

<sup>9</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Given that 3G FTPs are often located in areas of higher population density to ensure sufficient demand for sustainability, it is likely more feasible to identify locations of 3G FTPs based on drive time catchments, which will see the Rural Analysis Area broken up into three segments based on which key settlement would provide the best service. 20-minute drive time catchments around each of the three key settlements can be seen in the figures below.

Figure 3.1: 20-minute drive time catchment applied to Saffron Walden Analysis Area





# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 3.2: 20-minute drive time catchment applied to Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area

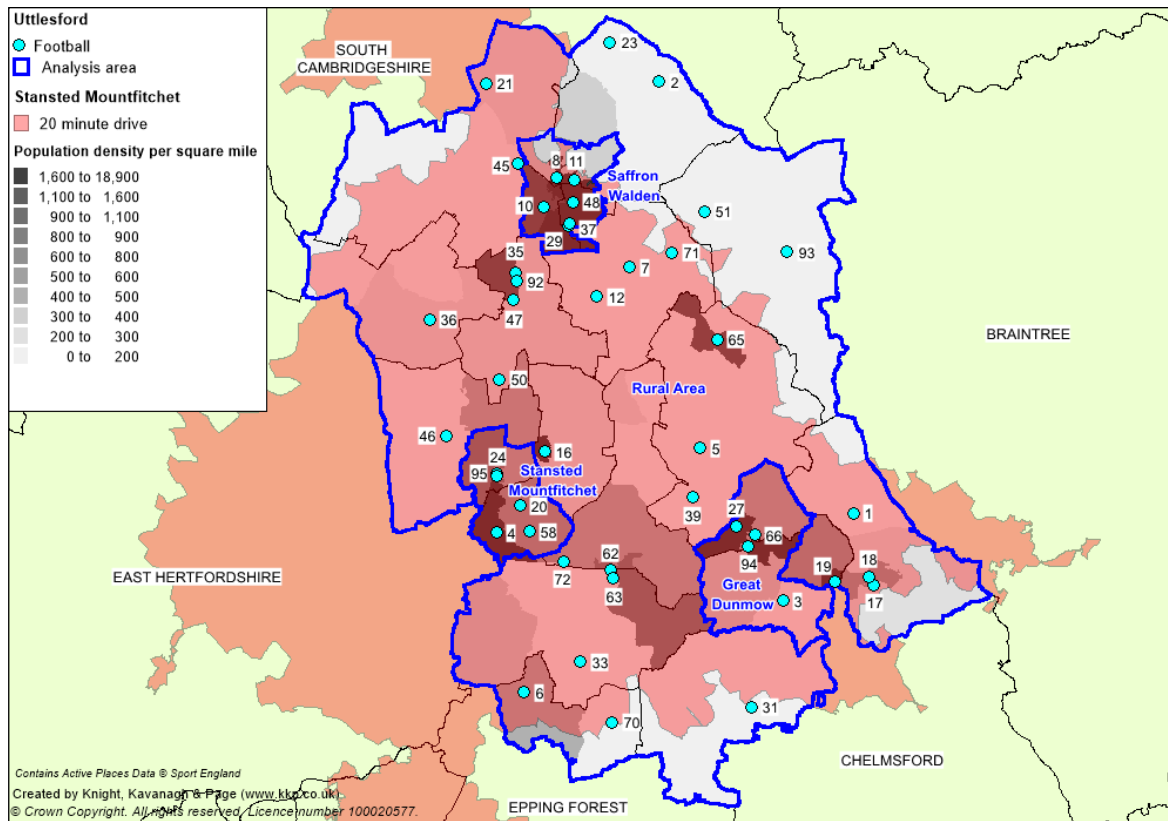
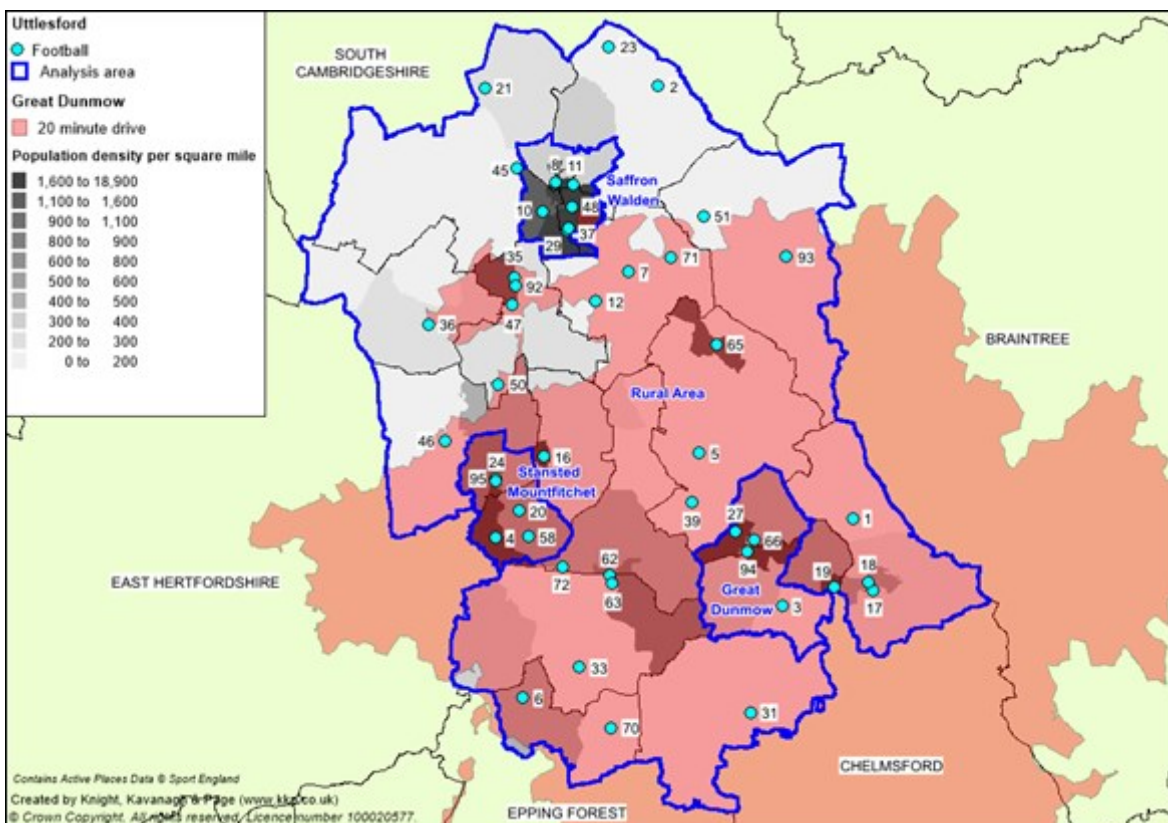


Figure 3.3: 20-minute drive time catchment applied to Great Dunmow Analysis Area



## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

These maps demonstrate that distributing 3G provision across the key settlements of Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet would be appropriate. Given that the Saffron Walden Analysis Area alone has 50 affiliated teams playing across just six sites, with a high number of sites located in the Rural Analysis Area also sitting in close proximity, two 3G pitches would likely be best placed in Saffron Walden to provide the total of four as required.

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

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA. At present the largest club in Saffron Walden; Saffron Walden Community FC, are playing across six separate sites. This is impacting the Club in relation to player and club development, as well as having financial implications. As such, playing matches on 3G provision, which provides more capacity could be an option. This is explored in further below.

The table below shows the number of teams from Saffron Walden Community FC that would be using each pitch type at peak period (should all teams be playing on the correct pitch size).

*Table 3.7: Number of Saffron Walden Community FC teams playing at peak period*

| Pitch type   | Pitch size | Peak period | No. of teams |
|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Youth        | 11v11      | Sunday am   | 1            |
| Youth        | 9v9        | Saturday am | 6            |
| Mini         | 7v7        | Saturday am | 11           |
| Mini         | 5v5        | Sunday am   | -            |
| <b>Total</b> |            |             | <b>18</b>    |

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

*Table 3.8: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of Saffron Walden Community FC demand*

| Format | No teams per time<br>(x) | No matches at PEAK TIME<br>(y) = x/2 | 3G units per match<br>(z) | Total units required formats<br>(A)=(y)*(z) | 3G pitches required<br>B= (A)/64 |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 11v11  | 1                        | 0.5                                  | 32                        | 16  | 0.25                             |
| 9v9    | 6                        | 3                                    | 10                        | 30  | 0.46875                          |
| 7v7    | 11                       | 5.5                                  | 8                         | 44  | 0.6875                           |
| 5v5    | -                        | -                                    | 4                         | -   | -                                |

Given that peak time is the same for both youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 provision, the number of 3G pitches required needs totalling together. This equates to the demand for one full size 3G pitch (rounded down from 1.1).

Despite not being peak time for mini 5v5 match play, Saffron Walden Community FC also has nine mini 5v5 teams playing on a Saturday am. This would therefore impact on the number of 3G pitches required on a Saturday am, should all play be transferred to 3G provision. This would see a requirement for an additional 0.3 3G pitches, and such there would in fact be a need for a total of 1.4 full size 3G pitches.



## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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As the number required is less than the number of full size 3G pitches required for training, this would be feasible.

There is also the option to explore transfer of all mini demand to 3G pitches. The FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this.

At present there are 30 mini 5v5 teams and 31 mini 7v7 teams currently playing within Uttlesford. The peak time for mini 5v5 is Sunday am; however, this is only marginal with 16 mini 5v5 teams playing on a Sunday am, compared to 15 playing Saturday am. For mini 7v7, the peak time is Saturday am, with 22 7v7 team playing at this time.

*Table 3.9: Full size 3G pitches required for transfer of all mini demand*

| Time          | Pitch markings | Total games/teams |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 9.00 – 10.00  | 4 x 5v5        | 4/8               |
| 10.00 – 11.00 | 4 x 5v5        | 4/8               |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | 2 x 7v7        | 2/4               |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | 2 x 7v7        | 2/4               |

Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for three full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 2.75).

As the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate all mini demand is less than that of midweek training demand, it suggests that all mini match play demand could be catered for if three 3G pitches were provided as part of elevating training demand shortfalls.

### *New provision options*

The following sites are considered as priority options to further explore for provision of new full size 3G pitches. These options are also presented in the Uttlesford Local Football Facility Plan and ensure a good geographical spread of provision, which is especially important given the rural make up of the District.

#### *Saffron Walden area*

Saffron Walden County High School is a dual use site located in Saffron Walden, an area of high football demand (63 teams in total), which can also service a significant part of the Rural Analysis area. This site provides an opportunity to develop at least one 3G pitch (a second would require a feasibility study and a phased approach would be adopted), as part of eradicating the shortfall of four 3G pitches in the District. Essex County FA have been working with the School and Saffron Walden Community FC, which will be a partner club.

#### *Great Dunmow area*

Great Dunmow Leisure Centre is a site with potential for the sand dressed AGP to be converted to a 3G carpet. This site could service demand from both the Great Dunmow and Rural analysis areas. Any resurface does; however, need to be considered in line with potential hockey growth in the District and current imported demand from Chelmsford (Braintree HC).

An alternative option in the Great Dunmow Analysis Area is the provision of a 3G pitch as part of a new school development planned to replace the current Helena Romanes School.

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

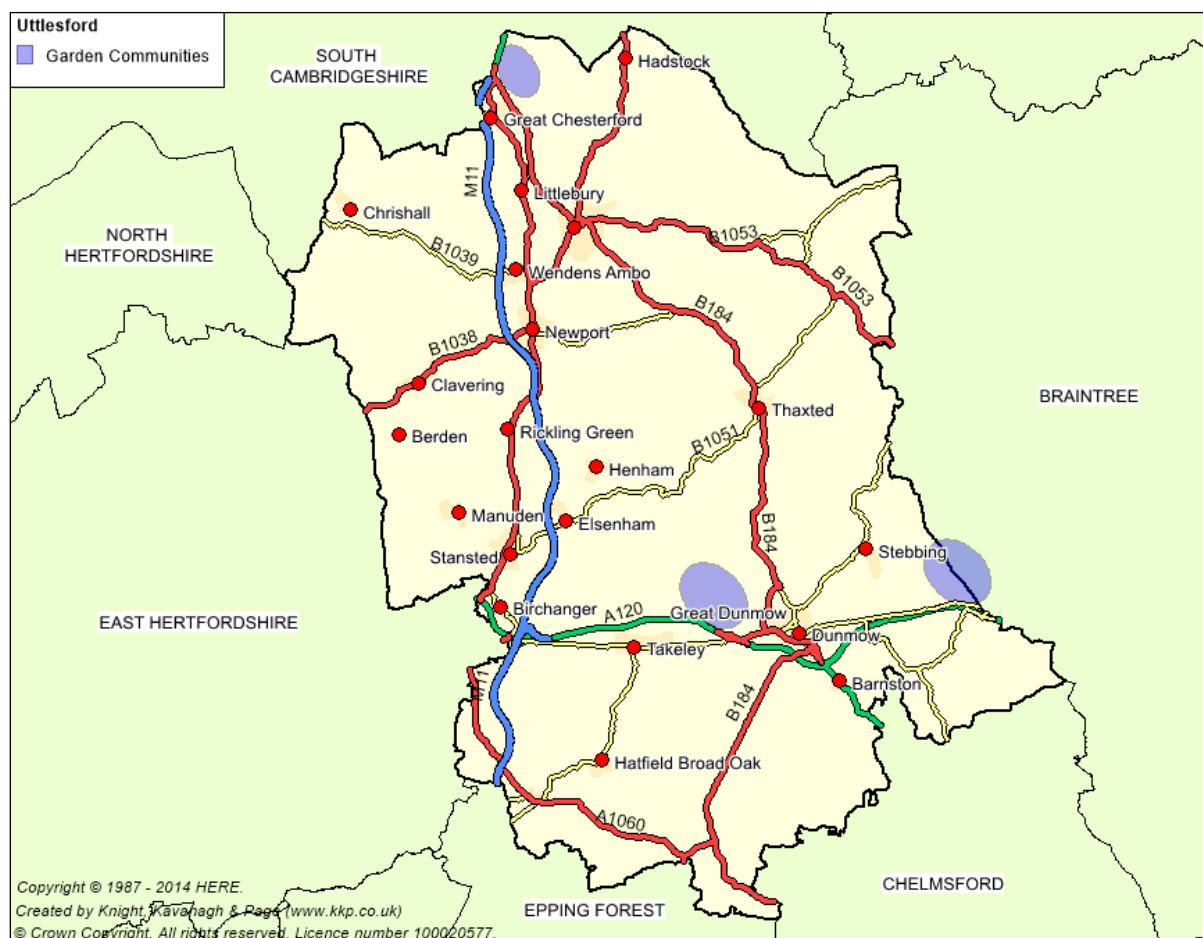
## Stansted Mountfitchet area

Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre (Forest Hall School) is a dual use site that has potential to provide a full size 3G pitch. A pitch here could service both the Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area, as well as servicing parts of the Rural Analysis area. Feasibility needs to be undertaken and an understanding developed of cross boundary migration of training demand and play from East Hertfordshire. Should a full size 3G FTP not be feasible, there could be consideration to a 9v9 3G pitch due to this area having the least identified football demand in the District. Furthermore, the majority of demand here is from youth and mini teams.

## Future developments

There is due to be significant housing growth in the Uttlesford area. A significant proportion of this will be a result of the development of three garden communities. The locations of these can be seen in the figure below.

Table 3.4: Locations of garden communities (significant housing growth)



These areas should be considered for providing future 3G provision. This will be further set out in the Housing Growth Scenario (Part 7). There is also potential demand for new grass football provision within the garden communities, which should be explored further in relation to provision of 3G pitches in replace of grass pitch provision.

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

Please refer to the rugby union scenarios and recommendations section.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Provide 3G provision to accommodate training demand shortfalls (four 3G pitches).
- ◀ Explore options of providing new 3G pitches first and foremost to meet football training shortfalls. Distributing 3G provision across the key settlements of Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet would be appropriate. Given that the Saffron Walden Analysis Area alone has 50 affiliated teams across just six sites, with a high number of sites located in the Rural Analysis Area also sitting in close proximity, two 3G pitches would likely be best placed in Saffron Walden to provide the total of four as required.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible, and ensure that pitches remain suitable to accommodate such demand through appropriate certification when it is required.
- ◀ Explore options of match play on 3G pitches, in particular for larger clubs such as Saffron Walden Community FC, to prevent having to play across a high number of sites, as this can be detrimental to player and club development, as well having financial impact.
- ◀ Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy rugby demand as well as football demand; or, explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Carry out consultation with England Hockey when deciding upon the location/resurface of new 3G pitches to protect hockey clubs in the District and the sustainability of hockey of existing sand-based AGPs.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ◀ Ensure all providers put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Where possible, link partner clubs with new 3G pitch developments.

### **Cricket pitches**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ Overall, there is enough cricket provision in Uttlesford to accommodate both current and future cricket demand; however, when broken down by analysis area, shortfalls are highlighted in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area. Whilst current shortfalls could be eradicated through quality improvements at Saffron Walden County High School, future shortfalls cannot be accommodated on provision in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area alone. Therefore, new provision will be required if future demand is realised.
- ◀ In total, there are 47 grass cricket squares in Uttlesford located across 40 sites, with two sites; Felsted School and Saffron Walden County High School having multiple squares. These sites have seven and two squares respectively.
- ◀ There are seven NTPs in Uttlesford. Three of these accompany grass wickets squares and four are standalone.
- ◀ The only cricket provision unavailable for community use in Uttlesford is at Felsted School.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment of available grass wicket squares found five squares to be good quality, 38 to be standard quality and five to be poor quality.

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Most clubs are considered to have security of tenure due to either owning or having a long term lease on their ground. Further to this, most clubs view their facilities as functional and appropriate to meet their needs.
- ◀ Of the eight sites with poor ancillary provision, seven; Little Bardfield Cricket Club, Little Easton Recreation Newport Recreation Ground, Saffron Walden Cricket Club, Audley End House, Dunmow Cricket Club and Hatfield Heath Cricket Club are accessed by clubs.
- ◀ Training facilities at Farnham, Hatfield Heath and Ashdon cricket clubs are of poor quality. However, Farnham CC and Ashdon CC report no need to refurbish these due to lack of use.
- ◀ In total, there are 132 teams playing in Uttlesford from 34 clubs. As a breakdown, this equates to 68 senior men's, two senior women's, 61 junior boy's teams and one girl's junior team.
- ◀ Despite the national decline, over half of responsive clubs (67%) report that number of senior players have remained static over the last three years, with a further three clubs; Wenden, Radwinter and High Roding, report an increase in senior players. Six clubs report junior member increases.
- ◀ Whilst the more dominant clubs in the District are seeing growth, a high number of clubs identify issues with membership numbers (as reflected in the demand section), and consequent concerns regarding future sustainability.
- ◀ Eight responding clubs report plans to increase the number of teams in the future, amounting to an increase of nine senior and 12 junior teams.
- ◀ The ECB estimates the number of girls and women's teams to grow to eight and four respectively, as a result of the Cluster Clubs Programme running alongside existing development programmes.
- ◀ Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- ◀ Of the sites with potential spare capacity, 20 have actual spare capacity at peak period (Saturday). This being said, a number of these squares are rated as standard quality.
- ◀ Six sites in Uttlesford are overplayed, totalling 48 matches per season. Four of these sites are in the Rural Area, totalling 40 matches of overplay per season.
- ◀ The majority of identified overplay is a result of poor quality squares, with 32 match sessions being a result of squares having discounted capacity.
- ◀ The Indoor Built Facilities Assessment identifies that cricket clubs utilise sports hall space within Uttlesford. There is; however, competing demand from other sports. This includes other outdoor sports such as football, in particular for younger age groups. 3G provision being provided in the area may support with freeing up space in sports halls.
- ◀ Clubs use indoor cricket nets (within sports halls) for winter batting and bowling training from January until mid-April. Indoor cricket is reported to be played at: Felsted School, Joyce Frankland Academy, Dame Bradbury and Saffron Walden County High School.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Addressing overplay*

The capacity of a cricket square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not safe for play.

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### *Improving pitch quality*

In total five sites are classed as being overplayed by a total of 48 matches per season. This can be seen in the table below.

*Table 3.10: Summary of overplay*

| Site ID      | Site name                         | Analysis area  | No. of squares | Overplay (matches per season) |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 10           | Saffron Walden County High School | Saffron Walden | 1              | 8                             |
| 52           | Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club    | Rural Area     | 1              | 10                            |
| 68           | Waltons Park                      | Rural Area     | 1              | 6                             |
| 90           | Hatfield Heath Cricket Club       | Rural Area     | 1              | 18                            |
| 91           | Chrishall Cricket Club            | Rural Area     | 1              | 4                             |
| <b>Total</b> |                                   |                |                | <b>48</b>                     |

Pitch quality does significantly impact on overplay, with 36 match sessions of overplay being attributed to poor quality pitches, resulting in any carrying capacity being discounted.

In addition, 16 match sessions of potential capacity are discounted on standard pitches across Uttlesford, again contributing to overplay.

The table overleaf identifies pitches that are currently poor or standard quality in Uttlesford and indicates what the capacity rating would be if the quality at these sites improved to good.

*Table 3.11: Overplay if all pitches were good quality*

| Site ID | Site name                           | Current quality | Current capacity (sessions per season) | Actual play (sessions per season) | Current Level of overplay (sessions per season) | Good quality capacity rating (sessions per season) |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 9       | Cloghams Cricket Club               | Standard        | 20                                     | 10                                | 10  | 15   |
| 10      | Saffron Walden County High School   | Standard        | 32                                     | 40                                | 8   | -  |
| 11      | Dame Bradbury School                | Standard        | 12                                     | -                                 | -   | 15   |
| 14      | Elmdon Recreation Ground            | Standard        | 40                                     | 20                                | 20  | 30   |
| 15      | Elsenham Cricket Club               | Standard        | 32                                     | 11                                | 21  | 29   |
| 19      | Fritch Green Community Centre       | Standard        | 24                                     | -                                 | 24  | 30   |
| 21      | Great Chesterford Recreation Ground | Standard        | 32                                     | 12                                | 20  | 28   |
| 24      | Hargrave Park                       | Standard        | 40                                     | 23                                | 17  | 27   |
| 25      | Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club      | Standard        | 20                                     | 4                                 | 16  | 21   |
| 30      | High Easter Cricket Club            | Standard        | 24                                     | 9                                 | 15  | 21   |
| 33      | High Street Recreation Ground       | Standard        | 32                                     | -                                 | 32  | 40   |

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

| Site ID | Site name                             | Current quality | Current capacity (sessions per season) | Actual play (sessions per season) | Current Level of overplay (sessions per season) | Good quality capacity rating (sessions per season) |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 34      | Hockerill Cricket Club                | Standard        | 24                                     | 24                                | -   | 6  |
|         |                                       | Standard        | 32                                     | 28                                | 4   | 12   |
| 36      | Jubilee Field                         | Standard        | 32                                     | 10                                | 22  | 30   |
| 38      | Langley Village Green                 | Poor            | -                                      | -                                 | -   | 30   |
| 41      | Little Bardfield Cricket Club         | Standard        | 24                                     | 13                                | 11  | 19   |
| 44      | Little Easton Recreation Ground       | Standard        | 28                                     | 5                                 | 23  | 30   |
| 47      | Newport Recreation Ground             | Standard        | 32                                     | 17                                | 15  | 23   |
| 51      | Radwinter Recreation Ground           | Standard        | 32                                     | 10                                | 22  | 30   |
| 52      | Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club        | Poor            | -                                      | 10                                | 10  | 40   |
| 54      | Roundbush Green                       | Standard        | 40                                     | 20                                | 20  | 30   |
| 56      | Sampfords Cricket Club                | Standard        | 36                                     | 9                                 | 27  | 36   |
| 59      | Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club | Standard        | 32                                     | 23                                | 9   | 17   |
| 61      | Takeley Cricket Club                  | Standard        | 32                                     | 9                                 | 23  | 31   |
| 64      | Thaxted Cricket Club                  | Standard        | 40                                     | 12                                | 28  | 38   |
| 68      | Waltons Park                          | Standard        | 32                                     | 36                                | 4   | 4  |
| 69      | Wenden Cricket Ground                 | Standard        | 24                                     | 22                                | 2   | 8  |
| 86      | Great Canfield Cricket Club           | Standard        | 32                                     | 6                                 | 26  | 34   |
| 87      | Little Hallingbury Cricket Club       | Standard        | 36                                     | 7                                 | 29  | 38   |
| 88      | Farnham Cricket Club                  | Standard        | 28                                     | 12                                | 16  | 23   |
| 90      | Hatfield Heath Cricket Club           | Poor            | -                                      | 18                                | 18  | 22   |
| 91      | Chrishall Cricket Club                | Poor            | -                                      | 4                                 | 4   | 16   |
| 97      | Audley End House                      | Standard        | 28                                     | 17                                | 11  | 18   |

Should the quality of poor and standard pitches, which are overplayed be improved, overplay would be eradicated, with no sites within the District being overplayed.

### *Accommodating future demand*

Even with improvements to pitch quality, shortfalls would exist in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area based on future demand.

Given that 43 match equivalent sessions per season do exist midweek within the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, there could be some consideration towards midweek participation through different formats of the game such as Twenty20 cricket.



## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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It is the norm for junior cricket to be played midweek. With 28 of the 48 future match equivalent sessions per season being junior play, there would be 20 match equivalent sessions per season remaining midweek that could be utilised for senior cricket. However, should senior demand be required on a Saturday additional capacity would be required.

### *Creating additional capacity*

If predicted future demand for senior cricket was to be accommodated at peak period, an additional six good quality wickets (rounded up from 5.6) would be required to accommodate the 28 match equivalent sessions of senior cricket. This is based on the wickets being of good quality, ensuring they can accommodate five matches per season.

Adding additional wickets at existing sites could be explored, given that these sites already have supporting ancillary provision. Alternatively, bringing Friends School (Walden School), which previously provided nine wickets, back into use could be considered. This reiterates the importance of mitigating the loss of the cricket provision on this site should the site be lost to development.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, including protection from development that may prejudice the use of a cricket square such as residential development in close proximity to a cricket outfield (ball strike issues).
- ◀ Improve quality of squares at sites that are overplayed to eradicate current shortfalls. This can be supported by the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as poor or standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Utilise off site contributions from housing developments to support with improvements to sites utilised by cricket clubs and have security of tenure. This is with particular focus on ancillary provision and training facilities to increase sustainability of clubs.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ◀ For clubs without security of tenure (Clavering, Radwinter, Great Chesterfords, Hatfield Heath, Ashdon, Little Bardfield, High Easter, Wenden, Newport cricket clubs), explore opportunities for lease agreements of a minimum of 25 years.
- ◀ Given that 43 match equivalent sessions per season do exist midweek within the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, there could be some consideration towards midweek participation through different formats of the game such as Twenty20 cricket. However, the majority of adult participation will continue to be at weekend. The impact adult midweek participation will have on the increased junior participation would also need to be considered.
- ◀ Should future demand in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area be realised, explore options of providing additional natural turf wickets at existing site.
- ◀ Friends School (Walden School) should be brought back into use due to the high demand evidenced in the Saffron Walden area both now and in the future. This reiterates the importance of mitigating the loss of the cricket provision on this site should the site be lost to development.
- ◀ Seek to improve poor quality ancillary provision at sites utilised by clubs to support with club development and site sustainability.
- ◀ In line with the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy, support investment at sites where sports halls are being refurbished or new sports halls are being developed to ensure cricket is catered for, regularly evaluate programming at sports halls to ensure there is capacity to support cricket and develop relationships between schools and clubs to ensure good access to indoor provision.

### Rugby union

#### Summary

- ◀ There are 25 rugby pitches in Uttlesford across seven sites, broken down as 12 senior, four junior and nine mini rugby pitches. All are available for community use. 21 of these pitches are located in the Rural Area. Saffron Walden County High School (Saffron Walden), Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre (Stansted Mountfitchet) and Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form (Great Dunmow) are the only sites outside of the Rural Area to contain rugby provision.
- ◀ There is a mixed standard of pitch quality across Uttlesford, with eight pitches being assessed as good quality, eight as poor and nine as standard.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC has aspiration to extend and refurbish its clubhouse; however, until tenure security can be secured across the whole site, this is not considered feasible.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC owns its main site (Saffron Walden Rugby Club), meaning it has security of tenure. However, the adjoining site, is on a lease with 28 years remaining but has a 12 month break clause, meaning the land owner can terminate the agreement at any time.
- ◀ Wendens Ambo RFC currently has no security of tenure as it rents pitches at Joyce Frankland Academy on a weekly basis and occasionally must travel outside of Uttlesford to access pitches.
- ◀ In total, there are 25 teams provided across the two clubs, broken down as four senior men's, six junior boys' and 15 (mixed) mini teams.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC reports that it is at capacity and has created a junior waiting list. Further to this, it is unable to operate a full women's and girls' section.
- ◀ Wendens Ambo RFC reports occasionally having to travel outside of Uttlesford to access provision. This is on the odd occasion that use of Joyce Frankland Academy on a Saturday morning clashed with a school fixture.
- ◀ Population growth forecasts the creation of an additional one junior boy's and four mini teams.
- ◀ Wendens Ambo RFC does not quantify team future demand; however, it states that it would like to keep growing as a club as long as it has capacity to do so.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC highlights a desire to have two teams at every age group from U6 through to U14 (an additional three mini and two junior boys' teams). It also aspires to start a competitive women's and girl's section, starting with one girls' team, as well as entering its women's team into a competitive league.
- ◀ No sites currently have actual (peak time) spare capacity. This mostly attributed to unsecure tenure, as well as poor pitch quality.
- ◀ Based on current demand, only Saffron Walden Rugby Club is currently overplayed by 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week (including reported latent demand). Both Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy are currently at capacity.
- ◀ Both Saffron Walden Rugby Club and Carver Barracks have future shortfalls. Carver Barracks has a minimal shortfall of 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. This can be attributed to lack of tenure security and pitch quality.
- ◀ The future shortfall at Saffron Walden Rugby Club is more significant, increasing to 8.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The majority of this overplay is attributed to potential growth of ten mini teams and three junior teams, equating to four match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ With all future play at Saffron Walden Rugby Club being mini and junior play, the majority could be accommodated on the adjacent site. However, due to a lack of secure tenure for continued use of the site, this is not currently an option.
- ◀ The remaining overplay could be further reduced through improving pitch quality and providing floodlights on the second adult pitch to spread some of the training demand.



## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- On this basis, a priority should be placed on securing tenure across sites used for club play in Uttlesford, as well as looking into improvements on pitch quality and floodlights at Saffron Walden Rugby Club to disperse training demand.

### Scenarios

#### Improving pitch quality

At Saffron Walden Rugby Club, there are currently two senior and eight mini pitches of standard quality. The senior pitches receive a non-technical rating of M1/D2, whilst the mini pitches receive a rating of M1/D1. There is also a poor quality (M0/D1) junior pitch on this site.

At Joyce Frankland Academy there are three (one senior and two junior) poor quality pitches (M0/D1). This site is accessed by Wendens Ambo RFC. The Club also access Carver Barracks, which has one standard senior pitch, receiving a quality rating of M1/D1.

At Saffron Walden Rugby Club, there is a current shortfall of 3.75 MES per week (overplay and latent demand). This is mostly attributed to overplay on the junior pitch as a result of training. All other club pitches, across Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy, are played to capacity.

Accounting for future demand, there will be a shortfall of pitches at both Carver Barracks and Saffron Walden Rugby Club. This is shown in the table below.

Table 3.12: Summary of current and future provision of pitches

| Site                      | Actual spare capacity <sup>10</sup> (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions per week) |               |                        |               |                       |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|                           |  | Overplay                         | Latent demand | Total current capacity | Future demand | Total future capacity |
| Carver Barracks           | -  | -                                | -             | -                      | 0.25          | 0.25                  |
| Joyce Frankland Academy   | -  | -                                | -             | -                      | -             | -                     |
| Saffron Walden Rugby Club | -  | 2.75                             | 1             | 3.75                   | 4.5           | 8.25                  |

The table overleaf shows how capacity would increase if all pitches were increased to good quality and had pipe drainage installed (M2/D2). It demonstrates that with improvements to pitch quality through increased maintenance and addressing potential drainage issues, current shortfall would be reduced to one match equivalent session per week. The remaining shortfall can be attributed to training demand. This is further explored in the 'Spreading training demand at Saffron Walden Rugby Club' section.

Despite increases in capacity, none of this increased carrying capacity translates to actual spare capacity due to pitches being accessed by two teams at peak time or having a lack of tenure security.

The potential spare capacity across the mini pitches at Saffron Walden Rugby Club are discounted due to unsecure tenure. Discounted actual spare capacity will be further explored in the 'Providing security of tenure'.

<sup>10</sup> In match equivalent sessions

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.13: Overplay if all pitches were increased to good quality (M2/D2)

| Site ID | Site name                 | Pitch type | No. of pitches | Current Quality | Current capacity (MES) | Level of capacity (MES) | Current capacity if improved to M2/D2 (MES) | Current Level of capacity if improved to M2/D2 (MES) | Spare capacity available in peak period if improved to M2/D2 (MES) |
|---------|---------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| 7       | Carver Barracks           | Senior     | 1              | M1 / D1         | 2                      | 0.75                    | 3.25  | 2  | -  |
| 35      | Joyce Frankland Academy   | Senior     | 1              | M0 / D1         | 1.5                    | 0.5                     | 3.25  | 2.25   | -  |
|         |                           | Junior     | 2              | M0 / D1         | 3                      | 0.75                    | 6.5   | 4.25   | -  |
| 96      | Saffron Walden Rugby Club | Senior     | 2              | M1 / D2         | 2.5                    | 1.5                     | 3.25  | 2.25   | -  |
|         |                           | Senior     |                | M1 / D2         | 2.5                    | -                       | 3.25  | 2.25   | -  |
|         |                           | Junior     | 1              | M0 / D1         | 1.5                    | 2.75                    | 3.25  | 1  | -  |
|         |                           | Mini       | 8              | M1 / D1         | 16                     | 13                      | 26  | 23   | 12   |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                         |   |  |  |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                         |   |  |  |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                         |   |  |  |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                         |   |  |  |
| Mini    | M1 / D1                   |            |                |                 |                        |                         |   |  |  |

The RFU runs a programme for improving grass pitches. Rugby Groundsmen Connected Volunteer Pitch Advisors support local rugby clubs by visiting them, meeting with their groundsman and committee members, providing them with advice about how they can improve their rugby pitch in general or in respect of a specific issues encountered. Building on this, the RFU now has a Pitch Contractor Partnership in place to signpost member clubs to reputable and competitively priced ground maintenance companies. These companies will be able to support with implementing advice and recommendations provided through the Rugby Groundsmen Connected site visit.

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## *Providing security of tenure*

The additional capacity created on the mini pitches at Saffron Walden Rugby Club is discounted due to unsecure tenure.

With most of the future play at Saffron Walden Rugby Club being mini and junior play, this could be accommodated on the part of the site providing eight mini pitches, which has peak time spare capacity. However, due to a lack of secure tenure, improving the quality of these pitches to address shortfalls is not currently considered as a viable option. However, the below table below demonstrates that shortfalls can be eradicated if tenure can be secured in the future and with improvements to pitch quality.

*Table 3.14: Summary of current and future provision at Saffron Walden Rugby Club with good quality pitches and security of tenure*

| Site                      | Actual spare capacity <sup>11</sup> (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions per week) |               |                        |               |                       |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|                           |  | Overplay                         | Latent demand | Total current capacity | Future demand | Total future capacity |
| Saffron Walden Rugby Club | 12   | 1                                | 1             | 10                     | 4.5           | 3.5                   |

Should securing tenure (on the area of land at Saffron Walden Rugby Club where mini pitches are marked) be unachievable, there will need to be consideration to alternative options. This should include exploring relocation of the club (as a whole) to a larger site, preferably closer to its catchment area of Saffron Walden.

## *Spreading training demand at Saffron Walden Rugby Club*

Teams from Saffron Walden RFC train throughout the season on a dedicated floodlit training pitch. This pitch is used for club training on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. In addition, it is used as a warm up area on match days. Whilst this prevents negative effect on match pitches, the Club reports that the training pitch is of poor quality as a result of significant wear and tear.

Should floodlights also be provided on the second senior pitch, this would see training demand able to be spread across two pitches; however, as can be seen in the table below, this would not address overplay even with pitches being of a good quality (M2/D2), with an overplay of 0.75 match equivalent sessions still remaining.

<sup>11</sup> In match equivalent sessions

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.15: Overplay at Saffron Walden Rugby Club if all pitches were increased to good quality (M2/D2) and training demand was spread across pitches

| Site ID | Site name                 | Pitch type | No. of pitches | Current Quality | Current capacity (MES) | Level of capacity (MES) | Current capacity if improved to M2/D2 (MES) | Current Level of capacity if improved to M2/D2 and training demand spread (MES) | Spare capacity available in peak period if improved to M2/D2 (MES) |
|---------|---------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| 96      | Saffron Walden Rugby Club | Senior     | 2              | M1 / D2         | 2.5                    | 1.5                     | 3.25  | 2.25  | -  |
|         |                           | Senior     |                | M1 / D2         | 2.5                    | -                       | 3.25  | 0.75  | -  |
|         |                           | Junior     | 1              | M0 / D1         | 1.5                    | 1.75                    | 3.25  | -   | -  |
|         |                           | Mini       | 8              | M1 / D1         | 16                     | 13                      | 26  | 23  | 12   |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                         |   |   |  |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                         |   |   |  |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                         |   |   |  |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                         |   |   |  |
| Mini    | M1 / D1                   |            |                |                 |                        |                         |   |   |  |

### Transferring demand

An alternative to using grass pitches for matches and training is utilisation of a World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitch.

World Rugby has produced a 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22'. This contains the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems appropriate for rugby union.

There are currently no WR 3G pitches in Uttlesford. The preference for rugby clubs tends to be to have a 3G pitch on site, due to the travel and cost implications of having to travel to an alternative venue and also because of the social aspect involved in the sport. Whilst this is unlikely to be an option at Saffron Walden Rugby Club, there may be potential for the RFU to work in partnership with the FA so that a new 3G pitch at an alternative site is compliant for rugby usage, whilst also alleviating football shortfalls.

The impact of removing training demand from the grass pitches at Saffron Walden Rugby Club can be seen in table overleaf.

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.16: Overplay at Saffron Walden Rugby Club if all pitches were increased to good quality (M2/D2) and training took place of 3G provision

| Site ID | Site name                 | Pitch type | No. of pitches | Current Quality | Current capacity (MES) | Current Level of capacity (MES) | Current capacity if improved to M2/D2 and training demand removed (MES) | Current Level of capacity if improved to M2/D2 and training demand removed (MES) | Spare capacity available in peak period if improved to M2/D2 and training demand removed (MES) |
|---------|---------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 96      | Saffron Walden Rugby Club | Senior     | 2              | M1 / D2         | 2.5                    | 1.5                             | 3.25  | 2.25   | -  |
|         |                           | Senior     |                | M1 / D2         | 2.5                    | -                               | 3.25  | 2.25   | -  |
|         |                           | Junior     | 1              | M0 / D1         | 1.5                    | 0.75                            | 3.25  | 3  | -  |
|         |                           | Mini       | 8              | M1 / D1         | 16                     | 13                              | 26  | 23   | 12   |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                                 |   |  |  |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                                 |   |  |  |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                                 |   |  |  |
|         |                           | Mini       |                | M1 / D1         |                        |                                 |   |  |  |

As can be seen in the table above, moving all training demand to 3G provision would see all overplay eradicated from Saffron Walden Rugby Club.

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at Saffron Walden Rugby Club, Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy to reduce overplay and increase capacity, primarily through improved maintenance and the installation of an effective drainage system where appropriate.
- ◀ Utilise off site contributions from housing developments to support with improvements sites utilised by rugby clubs and have security of tenure.
- ◀ Explore options for obtaining full security of tenure at Saffron Walden Rugby Club.
- ◀ Should securing tenure on the area of land at Saffron Walden Rugby Club where mini pitches are marked be unachievable there will need to be consideration to alternative options. This could include exploring relocation of the club to a larger site, preferably closer to the settlement of Saffron Walden.
- ◀ Once full tenure security is obtained at Saffron Walden Rugby Club, look to carry out extension and refurbishment to ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Look to secure community use agreements at Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy for Wendens Ambo RFC.
- ◀ Consider providing floodlights on the second senior pitch at Saffron Walden Rugby Club to spread training demand. This is; however, a prerequisite of improvements to pitch quality and it should be noted this would not reduce all overplay, merely reduce it.
- ◀ Explore potential of the RFU working in partnership with the FA so that new 3G pitch provision is compliant for rugby usage. This would eradicate overplay at Saffron Walden Rugby Club, whilst also alleviating football shortfalls.

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

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are currently five full size, hockey suitable AGPs in Uttlesford, located across four sites. Two are located at Felsted School. There are also three smaller sized, hockey suitable AGPs.
- ◀ Three of the full-size AGPs are located in the Rural Area, with one full-size AGP located in each the Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow analysis areas. There is no hockey suitable provision in the Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area.
- ◀ The pitch located at Saffron Walden County High School is not floodlit and falls just short of the full size pitch dimensions (by 5m in width).
- ◀ All AGPs, with the exception of the sand filled AGP at Felsted School are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the five full size AGPs in Uttlesford, two are assessed as poor quality, two as standard and one as good.
- ◀ All AGPs, except for the sand filled pitch at Felsted School, are due to be resurfaced. The pitch at Felsted School is also approaching a likely resurface requirement.
- ◀ Joyce Frankland Academy and Dunmow Leisure Centre are readily available to the community, being available for the full 34 hours during the peak period.
- ◀ The pitch at Felsted School is available for 13 hours during the peak period. Saffron Walden County High School has limited usage at peak time. This is mainly attributed to a lack of floodlighting.
- ◀ Both the AGPs at Joyce Frankland Academy and Saffron Walden County High School are currently at capacity at peak time for hockey.
- ◀ There is one hockey club; Saffron Walden HC based in Uttlesford providing a total of 20 teams.
- ◀ Braintree HC, Chelmsford HC and Bishops Stortford HC are all likely to service parts of Uttlesford.

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Population growth (applied through TGRs) predict an additional junior girls' and two junior boys' teams to be generated by 2033.
- ◀ Saffron Walden HC reports likely growth across all age and gender groups. It states it would like to grow by one senior women's, four more junior boys' and four more junior girls' teams.
- ◀ In theory there is enough hockey suitable AGP provision to accommodate both current and future demand in Uttlesford. However, this would require securing access to sites which are located a significant distance away from current home grounds.
- ◀ Further to this, there is an imminent need to address pitch quality at the two AGPs which are currently in use for club hockey to ensure continued use.
- ◀ Whilst this is likely to be possible at Joyce Frankland Academy due to Swancat having a sinking fund in place, this will be more challenging at Saffron Walden County High School given the lack of sinking fund and restriction on funding opportunities due to a lack of floodlighting.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Protecting provision*

Given that two full size sand-based AGPs are required in Uttlesford, it is imperative that AGPs at the Joyce Frankland Academy and Saffron Walden County High School are protected for hockey use and are not converted to 3G as this would be detrimental to hockey, unless suitable replacement provision could be found elsewhere and agreed to be EH.

In order to maintain sufficient supply to accommodate current demand, there is an imminent need to address pitch quality. Whilst this is likely to be possible at Joyce Frankland Academy due to Swancat having a sinking fund in place, this will be more challenging at Saffron Walden County High School given the lack of sinking fund and restriction on funding opportunities due to a lack of floodlighting. Some efforts are; however, being made to address quality issues at this site with the rips in the carpet soon to be repaired.

#### *Accommodating future demand*

When considering future demand at peak time (based on both population growth) it is predicted that one additional senior (women's) team will be created. However, both Joyce Frankland Academy and Saffron Walden County High School are operating at capacity and as such are unable to accommodate this level of growth. Given that there are a further two available hockey suitable AGPs in Uttlesford, hypothetically this additional demand could be accommodated. However, due to the distance between the current sites, and the AGPs at Felsted School (35-minute drive time) and Dunmow Leisure Centre (25-minute drive time) this is most likely to be unfeasible.

This being said, England Hockey reports that Saffron Walden HC does have players from the south of the District. As such, travel distance may not necessarily be a barrier to participation and requires further exploration.

Alternative options could include:

With additional hockey demand predicted through increases in population growth, providing an AGP in a better location to service the Saffron Walden Analysis Area (where Saffron Walden HC are located) through future strategic housing developments may be an option.



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Accessing provision in neighbouring authorities, where AGPs may be better located in terms of distance. This will; however, require further exploration, particularly with regards to supply and demand in that area.

### *Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G pitches*

Great Dunmow Leisure Centre is a site with potential for the sand dressed AGP to be converted to a 3G carpet. This site could service football demand from both the Great Dunmow and Rural analysis areas. Any resurface does; however, need to be considered in line with potential hockey growth in the District and current imported demand from Chelmsford (Braintree HC).

It is imperative that England Hockey be consulted regarding any decisions around conversion of sand to 3G carpet conversions.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Ensure that AGP's at the Joyce Frankland Academy and Saffron Walden County High School are protected from conversion to ensure the continuation of hockey in the District.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability of any current or new AGP provision.
- ◀ In order to maintain sufficient supply to accommodate current demand, address pitch quality at Joyce Frankland Academy and Saffron Walden County High School.
- ◀ Look to secure community use through formal agreement where possible, especially through linked external funding and especially at education sites.
- ◀ Should predicted hockey growth be realised consider options of third AGP pitch for Saffron Walden HC to access. This may include existing provision (despite travel times) or the development of new AGP provision through strategic housing developments.
- ◀ The proposal for a second AGP at Joyce Frankland Academy, which recently had planning permission refused based on changes to a nearby housing development, could be revisited in the future. This would; however, need to be considered in line with other AGPs in the area and strategic need.
- ◀ Seek to maximise hockey usage where hockey is being played.
- ◀ Increase participation driven through community clubs and schools.

### **Bowls**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are 11 flat greens located across nine sites in Uttlesford. Two are located at Bishop's Stortford Bowls Club. Nine bowling greens are located in the Rural Area, with one green located in each the Stansted Mountfitchet and Great Dunmow analysis areas.
- ◀ Of the responsive clubs, three; Stansted Mountfitchet BC Thaxted BC and Elsenham BC, are considered to have security of tenure.
- ◀ Two clubs; Stansted Mountfitchet BC and Thaxted BC own their greens, whilst Elsenham BC has a long term lease. Radwinter BC is not considered to have security of tenure due to a non-contractual agreement.
- ◀ Following a non-technical assessment of greens in Uttlesford, nine greens are assessed as good quality and two as standard quality.
- ◀ All responding clubs report having access to a clubhouse to pavilion.
- ◀ Whilst content with the facilities it has access to, Radwinter BC does highlight issues with electricity supply to the bowling club pavilion.
- ◀ There are eight bowls clubs playing in Uttlesford. Across the four responsive clubs there is a total of 209 members.

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Despite there being a decline in senior membership for bowls nationally, both Stansted Mountfitchet BC and Elsenham BC report an increase in senior members over the last three years and Radwinter BC describes membership numbers as remaining consistent.
- ◀ All four responsive clubs describe aspirations to increase membership number.
- ◀ Using ONS projections (2016-2041), the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Uttlesford is likely to increase continuously from 17,096 in 2017 to 29,783 in 2041, representing an increase of 74.2%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for bowling greens may increase greatly over this period.
- ◀ In summary, where membership number are known, greens can support current demand, with potential to accommodate further club members. Except for Elsenham Bowls Club, which has a minimal overplay of two members.
- ◀ When looking at the future picture based on club growth aspirations, the overplay at Elsenham Bowls Club would become more significant (if achieved) and both Thaxted Bowls Club and Stansted Recreation would become overplayed by 11 and 18 members respectively.
- ◀ There is currently one indoor bowls facility; Turpins Indoor Bowls Club, which is rated as average quality as part of the Indoor Built Facilities Assessment. This facility has six rinks and is located adjacent to the Lord Butler Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Turpins Indoor Bowls Club has aspirations to link to the users of the adjoining skatepark and improve the offer at the centre through modification of the building. This will also increase sustainability of the bowls club.
- ◀ The Indoor Built Facilities Strategy recommends accessing the feasibility of altering the building to open the café to a wider audience, especially to the users of the skateboard park, located next to the centre.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

When looking at the future picture based on club growth aspirations, Elsenham Bowls Club would be operating above the recommended capacity by 82 members, if the level of growth is achieved. However, given the green is assessed as good quality, if this is sustained, then this is likely to be manageable with future growth being monitored.

In addition, both Thaxted Bowls Club and Stansted Recreation Ground would be played beyond the recommended capacity by 11 and 18 members respectively if future growth was achieved. Although this is likely to be manageable, there is a need to improve the quality of both greens which are identified as poor and standard quality respectively.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens.
- ◀ Sustain good quality greens and explore improvements on greens assessed as standard or poor quality, particularly at Thaxted Bowls Club and Stansted Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Seek to ensure that potential future demand expressed by Elsenham Bowls Club can be accommodated.
- ◀ Support Elsenham BC with aspirations to better utilise its ancillary facilities through renting them out for classes and events. This would provide additional income and increase sustainability.
- ◀ Support Radwinter BC in discussions with the charity running the recreation ground, in relation to the impact of the new clubhouse development for other sports on site on the bowls pavilion. Particularly in relation to electricity.
- ◀ Support Stansted Mountfitchet BC with aspirations to refurbish its pavilion, which is of poor quality.

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### Tennis

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are 58 tennis courts identified in Uttlesford, of which, 56 courts are available for community use. The Rural and Saffron Walden analysis areas contain the majority of tennis provision in Uttlesford, with a total of 49 courts located within the two areas.
- ◀ Of the 56 courts available for community use, 22 are floodlit across nine sites.
- ◀ Most courts have a macadam surface, representing 74% of existing supply.
- ◀ Of courts which are available for community use; 17 courts assessed as good quality, 14 as standard quality and 25 as poor quality.
- ◀ There are 11 tennis clubs in Uttlesford which collectively account for 1,328 members (senior members and 551 junior members).
- ◀ Seven club sites are identified as operating over capacity guidelines, with two clubs (Castle Hill TC and Stebbing TC) outlining that lack of capacity is a prominent issue.
- ◀ Targeted work is required at specific club sites to better accommodate current demand and future growth. This may involve exploring the potential of satellite sites for clubs at sites which are not currently being accessed for community tennis.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Accommodating current and future demand*

Seven club sites are identified as operating over the recommended capacity, based on guidelines provided by the LTA. At present, this is most significant at Dunmow Tennis Club, which is currently operating over capacity by 75 members.

In addition, both Castle Hill TC and Stebbing TC outline latent demand and therefore a lack of capacity is already a prominent issue at both sites. The four remaining clubs with identified overplay do not identify capacity as being problem.

Targeted work is required at specific club sites to better accommodate current demand and future growth. This may involve exploring the potential of satellite sites for clubs across sites which are not currently being accessed or are underutilised.

Therefore, it will be imperative to protect and where possible enhance the existing stock of tennis facilities via appropriate maintenance and management support to ensure adequate provision remains for those who seek regular tennis activity, whilst also encouraging consideration of how access and use can be improved across all tennis facilities to enable more informal play.

#### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Seek to protect, and where possible enhance the existing stock of tennis facilities via appropriate maintenance and management support.
- ◀ Work with targeted clubs including Dunmow TC, Castle TC and Stebbing TC to better accommodate current demand and future growth. This may involve exploring the potential of satellite sites for clubs across sites which are not currently being accessed or are underutilised.
- ◀ Improve courts located at education sites to meet curricular and extra-curricular needs which are poor quality.
- ◀ Options should be explored regarding the reinstatement of mitigation of the tennis courts at Friends School (Walden School). Alternatively, there should be offsite contributions to improve existing facilities.

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- ◀ Consider the critical factors of how people access and discover courts to play tennis in line with LTA insight.

### Netball

#### Summary

- ◀ There are 26 outdoor netball courts in Uttlesford across seven sites, all of which are available for community use. Provision is relatively evenly spread across the District, with nine courts located in the Saffron Walden and Rural analysis areas and four courts in each of the Stansted Mountfitchet and Great Dunmow analysis areas.
- ◀ All outdoor netball courts in Uttlesford have a macadam surface.
- ◀ In Uttlesford, all 26 courts are overmarked with tennis markings.
- ◀ Following site assessments, most netball courts (18) are assessed as poor quality. These courts are located at Saffron Walden County High School, Felsted School, Forest Hall School/ Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Great Dunmow Leisure Centre and Radwinter Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Swan NC states that there is a lack of good quality outdoor courts in the Uttlesford area. As such, it is looking at using a new leisure centre being developed in neighbouring East Hertfordshire for both training and setting up a new junior league.
- ◀ In Uttlesford eight courts are floodlit across three sites; Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre and Great Dunmow Leisure Centre.
- ◀ There are three netball clubs active in Uttlesford. Consultation highlights that whilst these clubs train indoors, they play their matches on outdoor courts.
- ◀ Great Baddow High School in neighbouring Chelmsford is the central venue for the Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League. As such, there is some exported demand for junior match play.
- ◀ Swan NC are running walking netball, Back to Netball sessions across two sites; Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre and Lord Butler Leisure Centre.
- ◀ The Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League runs a High 5 league at Great Baddow High School in the neighbouring authority of Chelmsford.
- ◀ There is a high demand for netball in Uttlesford, as well as latent demand. Whilst there is likely enough provision to accommodate this demand, the quality of courts available needs improvement.
- ◀ The Indoor Built Facilities Assessment identifies netball as a strong indoor sport in the Uttlesford area, with a number of netball clubs accessing sports halls within the District.
- ◀ The Indoor Built Facilities Strategy recommends undertaking regular consultation with netball clubs and work with management of sites utilised for netball to ensure courts remain accessible to accommodate training needs, as well as maintaining/increasing the number of Back to Netball sessions in the area.

#### Scenarios

##### *Accommodating current and future demand*

Whilst there is likely enough provision to accommodate current demand, the quality of available outdoor courts available needs improvement.

Based on the above, priority should be placed on improving the existing provision, with a focus on sites currently being accessed by clubs (Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre and Great Dunmow Leisure Centre).

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Good quality, floodlit courts could provide opportunity for clubs wishing to expand. This will, however, need further exploration. Furthermore, this will need to be considered in line with the potential of Swan NC moving to the neighbouring authority of East Hertfordshire.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Seek to improve the quality of courts at Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre and Great Dunmow Leisure Centre in the first instance due to these sites being accessed by netball clubs.
- ◀ Investment into netball courts will need to be considered in line with the potential of Swan NC moving to the neighbouring authority of East Hertfordshire.
- ◀ Improve poor quality courts at education sites to provide enhanced curricular and extra – curricular opportunities for netball.
- ◀ Seek to work with England Netball to increase participation into the sport linked to investment in key sites identified above.

### **Athletics**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There is currently no purpose-built athletics facility in Uttlesford.
- ◀ There are three prominent running clubs; Saffron Striders Running Club, Bishops Stortford Running Club and Yak Yak, as well as a successful triathlon club operating in the area; WaldenTri.
- ◀ Saffron Striders Running Club and Bishops Stortford Running Club are also RunTogether groups.
- ◀ Both WaldenTri, Saffron Striders and Yak Yak report demand for a dedicated home base, to support with the growth of junior participation and increase social opportunities, as well as allowing for revenue generation. The clubs would be happy to consider a joined-up approach, potentially alongside other sporting clubs in the area to make such a facility more sustainable.
- ◀ In addition to latent demand expressed through Sport England's Segmentation Tool, Saffron Striders also reports latent demand to establish a junior section. However, it currently feels unable to achieve this without a dedicated clubhouse base.
- ◀ It is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun events and national running events, as well as demand for RunTogether groups, will increase in the future following national trends.
- ◀ Based on latent demand in the area, there is likely demand to consider operating more running events such as Parkrun in the area.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

There is currently proposal for athletics provision at the Carver Barracks site. This would provide an eight lane, 400m track. Notwithstanding the current proposal based on current demand, and in terms of sustainability, a compact athletics facility is likely to be more appropriate.

England Athletics has adopted UKA's strategic position that we should concentrate on preserving and improving the existing stock of 400m tracks rather than seeking to build additional ones. However, there are areas in the country where journey time to the nearest full size outdoor track is longer than ideal, and there are places where good coaching has created significant demand despite the lack of a local athletics facility.

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The Compact Athletics concept is intended to fill this gap, providing training facilities in places where there is insufficient demand, funding or land to accommodate a full-size track.

A Compact Athletics facility can take a number of forms, but essentially provides a strip of synthetic track plus some capacity for jumps and throws, enabling core athletic skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed.

The majority of demand through running clubs and Walden Tri Club is in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area.

### *Club development and sustainability*

Both WaldenTri, Saffron Striders and Yak Yak report demand for a dedicated home base, to support with the growth of junior participation and increase social opportunities, as well as allowing for revenue generation. The clubs would be happy to consider a joined-up approach, potentially alongside other sporting clubs in the area to make such a facility more sustainable. This would be best placed alongside a compact athletics facility, which could be located at a wider sporting site.

Opportunity may exist for this at Saffron Walden County High School, especially given the recent links developed between Walden Tri Club and the School to increase participation in triathlon and develop young athletes in the area.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Explore opportunities to deliver a Compact Athletic Facility to accommodate running demand within Uttlesford.
- ◀ Explore opportunities of providing a clubhouse to act as a base for the running and Triathlon clubs within the Saffron Walden Analysis Area. This could be located alongside a compact athletics facility, and support with the growth of junior participation and increase social opportunities, as well as allowing for revenue generation.
- ◀ Ensure a sinking fund is in place for any athletics facilities developed in the future.
- ◀ Support the running events taking place as well as exploring the implementation of initiatives not currently serviced to increase participation in recreational running.
- ◀ In planning for new developments give consideration recreational running activity through incorporating circular routes with signage and connecting running routes into routes which already exists, as well as looking to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Further to the above, where possible open space sites being provided within new developments should be considered as venues for Parkrun and other running events.



## PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via a 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 outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

#### Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- 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 there is a need to do so.

**Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor-quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to meet the identified shortfalls. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

NPPF paragraph 97 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.

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. budget restraints or change of ownership), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed, or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.



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Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls are likely to be addressed through quality improvements. Including the need for additional facilities in the Local Plan is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need for additional provision, or where there is significant housing growth.

The PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing fields and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sports types and sizes.

Policy Exception E1:

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

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate 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 Sport England policy exception E4.

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.

Any disused/lapsed sites are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified within the Assessment.

It may be considered appropriate in the future to rationalise some existing outdoor sport sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger, better quality sites (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed upon, lost for development. However, no suitable sites for this have been identified as part of the PPS, meaning the situation should be re-visited as part of the ongoing monitoring and reviewing of the project.

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

A number of education sites are being used in Uttlesford for competitive play, predominately for rugby. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate community use agreement is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

For the remaining providers, 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 agreement.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced 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, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>12</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding.

Each club interested in leasing a site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. 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.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

| Club   | Site  |
|--|---|
| <p>Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard 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 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City-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>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p> |

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

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

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

### **Community asset transfer**

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/asset-transfer/>

### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.**

In order to maximise community use of education facilities it is recommended to establish a coherent, structured relationship with schools. 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. Pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access but also physical access and resistance from schools to open up provision due to staffing, site security or to protect the quality of facilities for school use.

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A number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. Notably, all full sized AGP and 3G pitch provision is in operation at education sites and play a critical role for hockey and football but more significantly as floodlit facilities for midweek team training. The Council and other key partners must work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address any underlying problems.

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

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

The highest priority sites for securing formal community access arrangements should be those schools which already have community use but do not have secured community use arrangements. These already provide an important role in meeting community needs but this must be secured to ensure continued use into the future. Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. The following schools are already used for community use at varying levels but have no secure community usage in Uttlesford:

- ◀ Saffron Walden County High School
- ◀ Joyce Frankland Academy
- ◀ Felsted School
- ◀ Katherine Semar Junior School

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to grass pitches for community use is limited. In some instances, grass pitches are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before community use can be established.

A strategic approach should be taken to identify the priority schools to focus on in regard to both the PPS and the indoor leisure facilities strategies, so that outdoor sport is not considered in isolation to indoor sport (and vice versa).

As a starting point, it is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector but supported by a range of other sectors and members from the PPS steering group, is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased/better use of school facilities. Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ◀ Better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ◀ Identify specific key issues through engagement with individual schools.
- ◀ Identify strategic solutions that can apply to multiple schools.
- ◀ Ensure community use agreements are upheld.
- ◀ Ensuring community use agreements are in place for new secondary and primary schools, including those proposed in major new residential developments due to their potential to meet needs identified in the strategy. This will also involve consideration to sports facilities at the planning and design stage e.g. 3G AGPs on secondary school sites, mini football pitches and MUGAs/small sided AGPs on primary school sites.
- ◀ Identify and pilot a school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the area.
- ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ◀ Secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not necessarily rely on existing school staff structures.
- ◀ Ensure that pitch provision at schools is sufficient in quality and quantity to be able to deliver its curriculum; once this has been achieved, provision could contribute to overcoming deficiencies in the area.

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- ◀ Ensure that any new schools provide the right facilities and that they are community accessible.
- ◀ Use examples of best practice from other local authorities as a guide.

Examples of best practice from elsewhere include Gloucester, Suffolk and Luton. Following completion of the Gloucester PPS, the Council invited all schools to a workshop to discuss community access and what benefits it can bring to both the community and the schools themselves. This improved the relationship between the schools and the Council and led to an increase in the number of schools offering community available provision and in turn reduced identified shortfalls across the City.

In 2010, Suffolk County Council developed a pilot project with a group of schools to fulfil its health and wellbeing aims. A four stage pilot was planned, working with 12 schools. The four stages involved:

- ◀ Identifying the current state of community use on school sites by carrying out a community use audit and analysis
- ◀ Developing a support strategy and recommendations for improving the community use of school services
- ◀ Implementing improvements through a 'Community Use Support Framework'
- ◀ Dissemination of learning from the pilot area across the whole county and beyond

For more information, see <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/case-studies/suffolk-county-council-swiss-project/>

An action from the above could be the Active Essex asking their counterparts in the areas of best practice to visit and provide an overview of the work carried out.

For schools that form part of multi-academy trusts, these should be addressed on a collective basis, with securing community access a co-ordinated approach with other engagement that takes place between the schools and relevant stakeholders e.g. sports development initiatives. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of such schools to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

In many instances, grass pitches are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works and improved maintenance will be required before community use can be established. The low carrying capacity of these pitches sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

Funding quality improvements or new facilities may enable community access to be secured. NGBs and Sport England, as well as Active Essex, can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence i.e. at academies. 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.

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

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

### **Recommendations:**

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

### ***Recommendation (d) – Improve quality***

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality and these are explored below. One way for improving quality on football sites is via the FA's pitch improvement programme.

#### *The FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)*

The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas and discounts on machinery and materials to support improving the clubs' playing surface. The programme should be utilised in order to help any clubs that take on the management and maintenance of sites or which are currently managing and maintaining their own pitch site.

As subsidy is removed for pitch maintenance the PIP is an essential toolkit in supporting self-management/maintenance of sites.

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

Quality in Uttlesford is variable but generally pitches are assessed as poor or standard 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.

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.

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 (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.



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For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. For example, 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).

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby, a good quality pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms with no showers, no running water and/or old, dated interiors. 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.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement.

In order to prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to the District, to provide a steer on future investment.

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: [www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-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).

The FA, the RFU, the 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.



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Table 5.2: Capacity of pitches

| Sport       | Pitch type                 | No. of matches |                  |               |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
|             |                            | Good quality   | Standard quality | Poor quality  |
| Football    | Adult pitches              | 3 per week     | 2 per week       | 1 per week    |
|             | Youth pitches              | 4 per week     | 2 per week       | 1 per week    |
|             | Mini pitches               | 6 per week     | 4 per week       | 2 per week    |
| Rugby union | Natural Inadequate (D0)    | 2 per week     | 1.5 per week     | 0.5 per week  |
|             | Natural Adequate (D1)      | 3 per week     | 2 per week       | 1.5 per week  |
|             | Pipe Drained (D2)          | 3.25 per week  | 2.5 per week     | 1.75 per week |
|             | Pipe and Slit Drained (D3) | 3.5 per week   | 3 per week       | 2 per week    |
| Cricket     | One grass wicket           | 5 per season   | 4 per season     | 0 per season  |
|             | One synthetic wicket       | 60 per season  |                  |               |

For all remaining non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls and tennis) there are no capacity recommendations set out by the NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

A cost-effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.

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, this should be undertaken in situ of quality improvements to a cricket square to improve the quality which in turn will increase carrying capacity.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. However, this is on the basis that there are enough pitches on a site to make this feasible. Alternatively, access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch will help the transfer of midweek training demand and competitive match play which in turn will reduce the pressure on grass pitches.

## **Increasing maintenance**

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of poor drainage. In some instances, ensuring there is an appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches.

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The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain.

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 IOG. 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.

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

The RFU now runs a programme for improving grass pitches. Rugby Groundsmen Connected Volunteer Pitch Advisors support local rugby clubs by visiting them, meeting with their groundsmen and committee members, providing them with advice about how they can improve their rugby pitch in general or in respect of a specific issue the Club has encountered. Building on this, the RFU now has a Pitch Contractor Partnership in place to signpost member clubs to reputable and competitively priced ground maintenance companies. These companies will be able to support with implementing advice and recommendations provided through the Rugby Groundsmen Connected site visit.

### ***Improving changing provision***

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the District, these are generally centred at either club or parish council managed sites.

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.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 5: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision are directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sports facilities.

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Steering Group.

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Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Council seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.

Please refer to Appendix One for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

Further to these, there may be funding opportunities through public health in view of how sport can contribute to physical activity objectives in reducing health inequalities.

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

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

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch New Development Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its life cycle).

The PPS 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 development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused, such as single grass pitch football sites without adequate ancillary facilities or new cricket/rugby grounds located away from existing clubs. Instead, multi-pitch and multi-sport sites should be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development.

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

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

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106/CIL 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. 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 playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are 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.

A step by step guide has been prepared for the Council to support the implementation of this recommendation and use of the Sport England's Playing Pitch New Development Calculator.

### OBJECTIVE 3

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

#### Recommendations:

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

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

The Steering Group should use the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own outdoor sports facilities whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate on an area by area basis.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need, where there is significant housing growth, or where sites fall out of use and require mitigation.

It is important that there is a joined-up approach between the relevant authorities to ensure that 3G pitches are developed at the most appropriate sites, such as by selecting sites that can contribute towards accommodating demand from neighbouring authorities. This approach will also ensure there is no duplication of provision that will compete against each other to attract demand.

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 planning stage to maximise potential demand and ensure the correct facility provision. For example, full size 3G pitches are often best suited to secondary school sites, whereas mini football pitches and MUGAs/small sided AGPs on primary school sites.

#### **Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations (Part 3) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the current and future demand for provision identified in Uttlesford can be overcome through maximising use of existing stock through a combination of:

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

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ The re-designation of facilities.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e. it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities. However, it is important to note that these may be subject to change.

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

*Table 5.3: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

| Sport      | Future sports development trend   | Strategy impact   |
|------------|---|---|
| Football   | Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.  | Additional need for 3G pitches.<br>Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football.<br>Qualitative improvements.  |
|            | Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on TGRs and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGPs.   | Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required.<br>Qualitative improvements.<br>Where possible utilise new 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.   |
|            | The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new strategy will be to double participation.  | Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.  |
| 3G pitches | Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes. | Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds.<br>Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches.<br>Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.                             |
| Cricket    | The ECB predicts further growth in cricket demand for pitch use over the next few years.  | With qualitative improvements and consideration as to when future demand is accommodated on grass squares (within Saffron Walden Analysis Area), it is not predicted that additional cricket playing facilities will be required. Rather there should be a focus on investment in existing facilities and focusing on sustainability. |



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| Sport       | Future sports development trend  | Strategy impact  |
|-------------|--|--|
|             | <p>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.</p> <p>Women's and girls' cricket is a national ECB priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.</p> <p>Essex are putting significant resource into growing female participation, including through a cluster clubs programme which is planned to provide cricket within 30 minutes of home for all women and girls. This will involve having up to four new women's and girls' centres across the county, in addition to further development programmes such as All Stars Cricket (mentioned above).</p> | <p>Greater usage of outfields to accommodate demand from All Stars Cricket.</p> <p>Shorter formats of cricket, and additional formats including softball cricket, are also driving up demand for pitches.</p> <p>Increased requirement for peak time access to pitches.</p> <p>Need to ensure access to good quality facilities including, segregated changing and toilet provision.</p>   |
| Rugby union | Locally, the RFU want to ensure access to pitches satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities.   | <p>Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and support facility development. In particular, capital improvements are required to the existing natural turf pitches as is improvements to the quality of changing rooms, where appropriate. All clubs should have access to high quality floodlit pitches to support training and match play demand.</p> <p>Potential need for access access 3G World Rugby Reg 22 pitch given shortfalls identified on grass pitches and level of training demand on grass pitches.</p> |
| Hockey      | Current playing level is likely to increase.   | <p>Ensure continued use of at least two sand-based AGPs to accommodate current demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Explore access and/or creation of additional sand-based AGP to meet future demand.</p> <p>Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure the subjected pitch is not required.</p>   |



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| Sport     | Future sports development trend   | Strategy impact  |
|-----------|---|--|
|           | High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018 Legacy)  | These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.  |
|           | New England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s).  | Ensure off peak availability to accommodate additional growth.   |
| Bowls     | Potential of increases in membership at Elsenham, Thaxted and Stansted Mountfitchet bowls clubs.  | Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.  |
| Tennis    | The LTA has a key priority for the strategic development and growth of tennis at both a club and wider community level such as local parks.   | Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as digital access systems.  |
| Netball   | Membership of clubs is expected to increase.  | Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing courts; however, qualitative improvements are required. Any investment does need to be considered in line with new netball facilities being developed in East Hertfordshire.   |
| Athletics | Membership is expected to increase at running clubs and the Walden Tri Club. This includes both senior and junior membership.<br><br>In addition, based on latent demand in the area, there is likely demand to consider operating more running events such as Parkrun in the area. | Need to accommodate recreational demand with compact athletics facility. WaldenTri, Saffron Striders and Yak Yak report demand for a dedicated home base, to support with the growth of junior participation and increase social opportunities, as well as allowing for revenue generation. The clubs would be happy to consider a joined-up approach, potentially alongside other sporting clubs in the area to make such a facility more sustainable |

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. The Action Plan is separated by analysis area.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor facility sites and associated provision.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance within the District i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest anticipated impact on addressing shortfalls (identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole).

*Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria*

| Criteria                    | Hub sites   | Key centres   | Local sites   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Site location</b>        | Strategically located in the District. Priority sites for NGBs.   | Strategically located within the analysis area.   | Serves the local community.   |
| <b>Site layout</b>          | Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.  | Accommodates two or more grass pitches.   | Accommodates one or more pitches.   |
| <b>Type of sport</b>        | Single or multi-sport provision.<br>Could also operate as a central venue.  | Single or multi-sport provision.<br>Could also operate as a central venue.  | Single or multi-sport provision.  |
| <b>Management</b>           | Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned. | Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.      | Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.          |
| <b>Maintenance regime</b>   | Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.  | Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.  | Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.  |
| <b>Ancillary facilities</b> | Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.                               | Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches. | No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required). |

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**Hub sites** are of strategic District -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 sites, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. There may be more of a focus on a specific sport.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and 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 facility or a low number of facilities that service just one or two sports. The level of priority attached to them for external investment may be relatively low.

For local authority 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.

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.

Some local sites are suitable for rationalisation providing that capital receipts are allocated to replace the lost provision at larger, multi-pitch sites.

### **Management and development**

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

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

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### **Partners**

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support.

### **Priority**

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority level as they have wide importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are 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 are a **medium** priority, have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The **low** priority sites tend to be 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.

### **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:  
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

### **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur.

The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

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

### **Aim**

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

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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**GREAT DUNMOW ANALYSIS AREA**

| Site ID | Site                               | Sport    | Management       | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners   | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------|------------------|---|---|--|---------------------|----------|------------|------|--------------------|
| 3       | Barnston Association Football Club | Football | Sports Club      | Two poor quality adult football pitches that have minimal spare capacity. Spare capacity on site has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.  | FA<br>FF<br>Sports Club                                      | Local               | M        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 13      | Dunmow Cricket Club (Great Dunmow) | Cricket  | Sports Club      | One good quality grass cricket square consisting of 12 wickets. The square is currently played to capacity on Saturdays and Sundays by Dunmow CC.<br>The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.    | Sustain square quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Should club generate necessary funds or the opportunity for offsite developer contributions arise, look to improve ancillary facility quality.  | ECB<br>Sports Club   | Local               | M        | M          | H    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                                    | Bowls    |                  | One floodlit, flat bowling green of good quality.   | Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime.   | BE<br>Sports Club  |                     | L        | L          | L    |                    |
| 22      | Great Dunmow Leisure Centre        | Tennis   | District Council | Three standard quality macadam courts that are floodlit and available for community use.  | Look to improve court quality through improved maintenance regime.<br>This site could act as a satellite site for Dunmow TC as its site is over capacity by 75 members.<br>If feasible look to improve site to ensure can accommodate competitive play.   | LTA<br>District<br>Council                                   | Local               | M        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                                    | Netball  |                  | Four standard quality macadam netball courts that are floodlit and available for community use.<br>They are currently used by Great Dunmow Junior NC.   | Look to improve court quality through improved maintenance regime.  | EN<br>District<br>Council                                    |                     | M        | M          | L    |                    |
|         |                                    | Hockey   |                  | One full-size, standard quality, sand dressed, floodlit AGP which was installed in 2003. The pitch is available for community use.  | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary.<br>Potential AGP to be converted to a 3G carpet. This site could service football demand from both the Great Dunmow and Rural analysis areas. Any resurface does; however, need to be considered in line with both current participation and potential hockey growth in the District.<br>This includes current imported demand from Chelmsford (Braintree HC satellite club).<br>A conversion may be considered alongside the potential of a second AGP at Joyce Frankland Academy if future demand is realised. | EH<br>FA<br>FF<br>District<br>Council<br>Leisure<br>operator |                     | M-H      | M          | H    |                    |

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| Site ID | Site                                 | Sport       | Management   | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners                    | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|--------------------|
| 27      | Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form | Football    | Education    | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which is currently unused by the community. Spare capacity on site has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities. Site has been identified in local plan for development, with school to be relocated. | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime for curricular and extracurricular use. Ensure loss of all provision through development is mitigated. Look at 3G provision being provided on new school site to accommodate training demand. Formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure on new school facilities and consider site to accommodate future demand if required. | FA<br>FF<br>School          | Local               | M-H      | M-L        | H    | Protect<br>Provide |
|         |                                      | Rugby union |              | One poor quality (M0/D1) senior rugby pitch which is available for community use but currently unused. Spare capacity for this pitch has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure. Site has been identified in local plan for development, with school to be relocated.              | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime for curricular and extracurricular activity. Ensure loss of all provision through development is mitigated. Formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure on new school facilities and consider site to accommodate future demand if required.  | RFU<br>School               |                     | M-H      | M-L        | L    | Protect<br>Provide |
| 66      | The Causeway Recreation Ground       | Football    | Town Council | One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch; all of poor quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is currently played to capacity whilst all other pitch formats are overplayed. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay on site. Site identified as a project within the Uttlesford LFFP.  | FA<br>FF<br>Town<br>Council | Local               | H        | S          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 94      | Takeley Primary School               | Football    | Education    | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unused by the community. Spare capacity on site has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.   | FA<br>FF<br>School          | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect            |
| 95      | Great Dunmow Primary School          | Football    | Education    | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unused by the community. Spare capacity on site has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.   | FA<br>FF<br>School          | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect            |
| 100     | Dunmow Tennis Club                   | Tennis      | Sports Club  | Two standard quality macadam courts of which both courts are floodlit and available for community use. It is currently the home site of Dunmow TC and operating over capacity by 75 members.  | Look to improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Consider secondary (satellite) site for club to access to reduce overplay. Potentially Great Dunmow Leisure Centre. If feasible look to improve leisure centre site to ensure can accommodate competitive play.   | LTA<br>Sports Club          | Local               | M        | M          | L    | Protect            |



**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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**RURAL ANALYSIS AREA**

| Site ID | Site                       | Sport       | Management     | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                   | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                           |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|---|---|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 1       | Alcott Playing Field       | Football    | Parish Council | One poor quality adult pitch which is currently overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week.<br>The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.<br>Explore the feasibility of improving the ancillary provision on site.   | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | M        | M          | M-L  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 2       | Ashdon Villa Football Club | Football    | Private        | One poor quality adult pitch which is currently unused. Spare capacity on site has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.<br>The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.   | Should demand for pitch arise, improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime and explore the feasibility of improving the ancillary provision on site.  | FA<br>FF<br>Private        | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 5       | Burns Playing Field        | Football    | Parish Council | One poor quality adult pitch which is currently used for 0.5 match sessions per week. Spare capacity on site has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.<br>The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.<br>Explore the feasibility of improving the ancillary provision on site.   | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | L        | L          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 6       | Calves Pasture             | Football    | Sports Club    | One poor quality adult pitch which is currently unused. Spare capacity on site has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.<br>The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.   | Should demand for pitch arise, improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime and explore the feasibility of improving the ancillary provision on site.  | FA<br>FF<br>Sports Club    | Local               | L        | L          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 7       | Carver Barracks            | Football    | MOD            | Two poor quality adult pitches that are currently overplayed by one match session per week. There is also an unsecure tenure agreement for the use of these pitches.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.<br>Site is identified for a sports development which will see the pitches relocated elsewhere on site. | Look to formalise a community use agreement to provide security of tenure. Ensure loss of all provision through development is mitigated and provided to a good quality to ensure demand can be met.<br>This site requires investigation into its future and community use. It does have potential to act as a sports hub in the future, especially if a planned full size athletic track is developed at this track. | FA<br>FF<br>MOD            | Local               | H        | M-S        | M    | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |                            | Rugby union |                | One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch which is without floodlighting. The pitch is currently overplayed by 0.25 match sessions per week.<br>Site is identified for a sports development which will see the pitches relocated elsewhere on site.   | Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure. Ensure loss of all provision through development is mitigated and provided to a good quality to ensure demand can be met.<br>This site requires investigation into its future and community use. It does have potential to act as a sports hub in the future, especially if a planned full size athletic track is developed at this track.  | RFU<br>MOD                 |                     | H        | M-S        | M    |                               |



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| Site ID | Site                       | Sport    | Management     | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners             | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                     |
|---------|----------------------------|----------|----------------|--|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------|
| 9       | Cloghams Cricket Club      | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of five wickets. The square has capacity to accommodate an additional senior team at peak time.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities and poor quality practice facilities.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.  | ECB Sports Club      | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect Enhance         |
| 12      | Debden Recreation Ground   | Football | Parish Council | One poor quality adult pitch with minimal spare capacity. The spare capacity on site has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime and increase capacity.  | FA FF Parish Council | Local               | L        | M          | L    | Protect Enhance         |
|         |                            | Tennis   |                | Two macadam tennis courts of poor quality that are available for community use but currently unused.   | Improve court quality through resurfacing to encourage recreational use.  | LTA Parish Council   |                     | L        | L          | L    |                         |
| 14      | Elmdon Recreation Ground   | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of ten grass wickets. The square is currently played to capacity at peak times but could accommodate an additional team on Sunday.<br>The site is supported by good quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.  | ECB Sports Club      | Local               | L        | M          | L    | Protect Enhance         |
| 15      | Elsenham Cricket Club      | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of eight wickets. The square has capacity to accommodate two senior teams at peak time.<br>The site is without ancillary provision.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity and look to provide ancillary provision. Seek opportunity for offsite developer contributions to support with this.<br>Should this site be unable to accommodate a clubhouse with changing facilities, site could be considered for junior football, with ancillary provision of a smaller footprint. | ECB Sports Club      | Local               | M        | L          | M    | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 16      | Elsenham Recreation Ground | Football | Parish Council | One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch; all of poor quality. The mini 5v5 and youth 9v9 pitches both have minimal levels of spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The adult and mini 7v7 pitches are each overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week.<br>The site is also serviced by poor ancillary provision, although this is located at the community hall. Therefore, there are no changing facilities on site. Discussions have been held regarding a potential sports pavilion to be provided on the back of the local housing development. Space has already been set aside for this. Consultation also revealed that there is insufficient parking on site. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay on site.<br>Explore the feasibility of providing a dedicated sports pavilion on site.<br>Site identified as a project within the Uttlesford LFFP.   | FA FF Parish Council | Local               | H        | S-M        | M    | Protect Enhance Provide |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                  | Sport       | Management     | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                   | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|--|--|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|--------------------|
|         |                       | Tennis      |                | Two good quality floodlit macadam tennis courts that are currently used by Elsenham TC. The club has capacity for 40 additional members, after accounting for future demand.<br>Changing facilities on site are reported as being of poor quality.   | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Explore the feasibility of improving the changing facilities on site. Seek offsite developer contributions to support with this.  | LTA<br>Parish Council      |                     | L        | L          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 17      | Felsted Playing Field | Football    | Parish Council | One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of poor quality. Both pitches have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.   | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | L        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 18      | Felsted School        | Rugby union | Education      | Six good quality (M2/D3) senior rugby union pitches that are without floodlighting. Spare capacity on this site has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure so that clubs can access if required.<br>Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.  | FA<br>FF<br>School         | Key                 | M        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                       | Cricket     |                | Limited community use. Seven standard quality grass cricket squares of which one consists of 13 wickets, one of seven wickets, one of four wickets and an NTP and four three wicket squares. In addition, there is an eighth square which contains a standalone NTP. All squares on site are currently played to capacity through curricular use.<br>The site is accompanied by poor quality ancillary facilities. | Sustain square quality through current maintenance regime for curricular and extracurricular use.<br>Should community use increase, subject to a formal community use agreement being put in place, consider improvement to ancillary provision. | ECB<br>School              |                     | L        | L          | L    |                    |
|         |                       | Hockey      |                | Limited community use. Two full-size, sand-based AGPs of which one is sand filled which was laid in 2010 and the other is sand dressed and was laid in 2005. The sand filled pitch is of good quality and the sand dressed pitch is of standard quality. Both pitches are floodlit.<br>The sand filled pitch is available for community use whereas the sand dressed pitch is retained for school use.             | Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure.<br>Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary.                                      | EH<br>School               |                     | H        | S          | L    |                    |
|         |                       | Tennis      |                | Eight poor quality macadam tennis courts that are without floodlighting but available for community use. In addition, there are three poor quality grass tennis courts that are also without floodlighting but available for community use.  | Improve court quality for curricular and extracurricular activity through enhanced maintenance regimes.  | LTA<br>School              |                     | L        | M          | L    |                    |
|         |                       | Netball     |                | Eight poor quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use but without floodlighting.  | Improve court quality for curricular and extracurricular activity through enhanced maintenance regimes.  | EN<br>School               |                     | L        | M          | L    |                    |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                                | Sport    | Management     | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                   | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                |
|---------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--|--|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|--------------------|
| 19      | Flitch Green Community Centre       | Football | Parish Council | One youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch; all of poor quality. All pitch formats currently have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The Centre is aware of this and has already engaged with the County FA to have a Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) assessment carried out. The Centre aspires to use this assessment to apply for grant funding to improve maintenance on site and install an irrigation system.<br>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities although parking provision on site is deemed to be insufficient. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.   | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | L        | L          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                                     | Cricket  |                | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of six wickets. The square is currently unused and could accommodate up to three senior teams.<br>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.   | Sustain square quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Consider site for accommodating future demand. | ECB<br>Parish Council      |                     | L        | L          | L    |                    |
| 21      | Great Chesterford Recreation Ground | Football | Parish Council | One adult pitch of standard quality which currently has one match session of spare capacity at peak times.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.   | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Key                 | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                                     | Cricket  |                | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of eight wickets. The square has capacity to accommodate an additional senior team at peak time.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.<br>There is a priority to obtain tenure security at this site for the Club.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.                     | ECB<br>Parish Council      |                     | H        | S          | L    |                    |
|         |                                     | Bowls    |                | One good quality flat bowling green.   | Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime.  | BE<br>Parish Council       |                     | L        | L          | L    |                    |
|         |                                     | Tennis   |                | Two good quality junior tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use.   | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime.  | LTA<br>Parish Council      |                     | L        | L          | L    |                    |
| 23      | Hadstock Recreation Ground          | Football | Parish Council | One standard quality adult pitch which is currently unused.<br>The site is without ancillary provision.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime should demand arise.                               | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Provide |
| 30      | High Easter Cricket Club            | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of six wickets. The square has capacity to accommodate an additional team at senior peak time.<br>The site is supported by good quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.                     | ECB<br>Sports Club         | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site  | Sport       | Management     | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners                   | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                           |
|---------|---|-------------|----------------|--|---|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 31      | High Easter Playing Fields                                    | Football    | Parish Council | One poor quality adult pitch which is currently played to capacity.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.  | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | L        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 32      | High Roding Cricket Club                                      | Cricket     | Sports Club    | One good quality square which consists of 16 wickets. The square is currently played to capacity at peak time.<br>The site is supported by standard quality ancillary provision.   | Sustain square quality through current maintenance regime.  | ECB<br>Sports Club         | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect                       |
| 33      | High Street Recreation Ground/ Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club | Cricket     | Parish Council | One standard quality cricket square which consists of eight wickets.<br>The site currently has no ancillary provision.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.<br>There is a priority to obtain tenure security at this site for the Club and explore the feasibility of providing ancillary provision.<br>Seek opportunity for offsite developer contributions to support with this. | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | H        | S          | M    | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |   | Football    |                | One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch; all of poor quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is currently played to capacity whilst the remaining pitch formats have some level of spare capacity. However, this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. No ancillary provision.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.<br>Explore the feasibility of providing ancillary facilities on site.<br>There is a priority to obtain tenure security at this site for the Club.  | ECB<br>Parish Council      |                     |          |            |      |                               |
| 34      | Hockerill Cricket Club (Bishop's Stortford)                   | Cricket     | Sports Club    | Two standard quality grass cricket squares of which one consists of eight wickets whilst the second consists of six wickets and is accompanied by an NTP. The six wicket square is currently played to capacity whilst the eight wicket square has minimal spare capacity.<br>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision, however, consultation revealed that Hockerill CC has poor quality practice facilities. | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.<br>Explore the feasibility of improving the practice facilities on site. Seek opportunity for offsite developer contributions to support with this.  | ECB<br>Sports Club         | Local               | M        | M          | M    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 35      | Joyce Frankland Academy                                       | Football    | Education      | One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of standard quality. Both pitches have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure on site.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.   | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure. Explore opportunity to improve ancillary facility if community access is formalised.   | FA<br>FF<br>School         | Key                 | L        | L          | L    | Protect                       |
|         |   | Rugby union |                | One senior and two junior pitches, all poor (M0/D1) quality.<br>There is also an unsecure tenure arrangement on site.  | Formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure.<br>Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.   | RFU<br>School              |                     | H        | S          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
|         |   | Cricket     |                | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of eight wickets. The square is currently played to capacity  | Sustain square quality through current maintenance regime for curricular and extracurricular use.   | ECB<br>School              |                     | M        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                  | Sport    | Management   | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners           | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                     |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|--------------|--|---|--------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------|
|         |                       |          |              | through curricular demand.<br>The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.   | Could consider site to accommodate future demand from Saffron Walden Area should demand exceed what can be accommodated at club sites.<br>Formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure.   |                    |                     |          |            |      |                         |
|         |                       | Hockey   | Sports Club  | One full-size, sand dressed, floodlit AGP which is available for community use. The pitch was installed in 1994 and has not been resurfaced since. Therefore, it is assessed as poor quality.<br>The pitch is the home venue of Saffron Walden HC. Consultation with Saffron Walden HC also revealed that the ancillary facilities on site are in need of improvement. | Improve pitch quality through resurfacing as soon as realistically possible.<br>Explore the feasibility of improving the ancillary provision on site. Seek opportunity for offsite developer contributions to support with this.<br>Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary. | EH Sports Club     |                     | H        | S          | H    | Protect Enhance         |
| 36      | Jubilee Field         | Football | Sports Trust | One poor quality pitch which is currently unused although spare capacity at this site has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime should club demand arise.   | FA FF Sports Trust | Key                 | L        | L          | L    | Protect Enhance         |
|         |                       | Cricket  |              | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of eight wickets. The square has capacity to host two teams at senior peak time.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.  | ECB Sports Trust   |                     | L        | L          | L    | Protect Enhance         |
|         |                       | Bowls    |              | One flat bowling green of good quality.  | Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime.   | BE Sports Trust    |                     | L        | L          | L    |                         |
|         |                       | Tennis   |              | Two good quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but without floodlighting. These courts are currently overplayed by 20 members from Clavering TC.  | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Explore the feasibility of installing floodlighting to alleviate overplay of these courts.   | LTA Sports Trust   |                     | H        | M          | L    | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 38      | Langley Village Green | Cricket  | Sports Club  | One poor quality grass cricket square which consists of six wickets. The square is currently unused.<br>The site is supported by good quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime should demand arise.   | ECB Sports Club    | Local               | M        | L          | L    | Protect Enhance         |



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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                                  | Sport    | Management     | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners                   | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                |
|---------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--|---|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|--------------------|
| 39      | Laundry Lane                          | Football | Town Council   | One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch; all of poor quality. The adult pitch is currently played to capacity whilst the mini 5v5 and youth 9v9 pitches are each overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week. The mini 7v7 pitch currently has some spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision and inadequate parking. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.<br>Explore the feasibility of updating the current ancillary provision and support club aspirations to run female and disability football.<br>Site identified as a project within the Uttlesford LFFP. | FA<br>FF<br>Town Council   | Local               | H        | M-S        | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 40      | Lindsell Cricket Club                 | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One good quality grass cricket square consisting of six wickets. The square has capacity to host an additional team on Saturdays or two additional teams on Sundays. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.  | Sustain square quality through current maintenance regime.  | ECB<br>Sports Club         | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect            |
| 41      | Little Bardfield Cricket Club         | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of six wickets and a single NTP. The NTP is assessed as good quality. The site has capacity to host an additional team at peak time. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.<br>Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site. Seek opportunity for offsite developer contributions to support with this.  | ECB<br>Sports Club         | Local               | H        | S          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 44      | Little Easton Recreation Ground       | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of seven wickets. The site has capacity to accommodate two additional teams at senior peak time. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.<br>Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site. Seek opportunity for offsite developer contributions to support with this.  | ECB<br>Sports Club         | Local               | H        | S          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 45      | Littlebury Recreation Ground          | Football | Parish Council | One poor quality adult football pitch which is currently unused. Spare capacity at this site has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime should demand arise.  | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 46      | Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust | Football | Sports Trust   | One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9; all of poor quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is currently played to capacity whilst the adult pitch is overplayed by one match session per week. The youth 11v11 has minimal spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.  | FA<br>FF<br>Sports Trust   | Local               | H        | S          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                                       | Cricket  |                | One good quality cricket square consisting of five wickets. There is capacity to accommodate an additional team at senior peak time. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.  | Sustain square quality through current maintenance regime.  | ECB<br>Sports Trust        |                     | L        | L          | L    | Protect            |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                        | Sport    | Management     | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                   | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                           |
|---------|-----------------------------|----------|----------------|---|---|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 47      | Newport Recreation Ground   | Football | Parish Council | Two poor quality adult pitches which are also overmarked with youth 9v9 pitches. The site suffers from poor drainage and so the pitches are often waterlogged. The youth 9v9 pitches are currently unused although the adult pitches on site are currently overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.  | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | M        | S          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
|         |                             | Cricket  |                | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of eight wickets. The square is currently played to capacity at peak time although could accommodate an additional team on Sunday. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site. Seek opportunity for offsite developer contributions to support with this. | ECB<br>Parish Council      |                     | H        | S          | L-M  |                               |
| 50      | Quendon Athletic FC         | Football | Parish Council | One poor quality adult pitch which is currently unused. Spare capacity has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is also serviced by poor quality ancillary provision. Quendon & Rickling Parish Council have noted aspirations to bring this pitch back into use. Both Chesterfords Youth FC and Elsenham Youth FC have registered interest in using this site should these aspirations be realised. | Work with the Parish Council to improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of updating the ancillary provision to accommodate youth football demand.  | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | L-M      | M          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
| 51      | Radwinter Recreation Ground | Football | Parish Council | Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that have capacity to accommodate two additional teams at peak time. However, the pitches suffer from poor drainage. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.  | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Key                 | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
|         |                             | Cricket  |                | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of eight wickets. There is capacity for two additional teams at senior peak time. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.  | ECB<br>Parish Council      |                     | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
|         |                             | Bowls    |                | One good quality flat bowling green. It is currently used by Radwinter BC and has capacity to accommodate 18 additional members.  | Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime.   | BE<br>Parish Council       |                     | L        | L          | L    |                               |
|         |                             | Tennis   |                | One standard quality macadam tennis court that is currently unused and without floodlighting.   | Sustain court quality for recreational use.   | LTA<br>Parish Council      |                     | L        | L          | L    |                               |
|         |                             | Netball  |                | One poor quality macadam netball court which is available for community use but is without floodlighting.   | Sustain court quality for recreational use.   | EN<br>Parish Council       |                     | L        | L          | L    |                               |



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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                                | Sport    | Management     | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners             | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim             |
|---------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-----------------|
| 52      | Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club      | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One poor quality grass cricket square which consists of ten wickets. The square is currently overplayed by ten matches per season by Rickling Ramblers CC. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.   | ECB Sports Club      | Local               | H        | S          | L    | Protect Enhance |
| 54      | Roundbush Green                     | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of ten wickets. The square has capacity to accommodate an additional team at senior peak time. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.   | ECB Sports Club      | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect Enhance |
| 56      | Sampfords Cricket Club              | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of nine wickets. There is capacity to accommodate two additional teams at senior peak time. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.   | ECB Sports Club      | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect Enhance |
| 60      | Stebbing Cricket Club               | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One good quality grass cricket square which consists of eight wickets. There is capacity to accommodate two additional teams at senior peak time. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.   | ECB Sports Club      | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect         |
| 61      | Takeley Cricket Club                | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of eight wickets. The square is played to capacity at peak time although there is capacity to accommodate two additional teams on Sunday. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.   | ECB Sports Club      | Local               | L        | M          | L    | Protect Enhance |
| 62      | Takeley Football Club (Fsi Stadium) | Football | Sports Club    | One adult pitch of good quality which is currently played to capacity at peak times. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.  | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.  | FA FF Sports Club    | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect         |
| 63      | Takeley Sports Field                | Football | Parish Council | Two adult and one mini 5v5 pitch; all of poor quality. The adult pitches are currently overplayed by one match session per week whilst the mini 5v5 pitch is currently unused. However, spare capacity has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving the ancillary provision on site. Site is identified as a project in Uttlesford LFFP. | FA FF Parish Council | Local               | M-H      | S-M        | L-M  | Protect Enhance |
| 64      | Thaxted Cricket Club                | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of ten wickets. There is capacity to accommodate an additional team at senior peak time. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.   | ECB Sports Club      | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect Enhance |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                                | Sport    | Management     | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                   | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                           |
|---------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|---|---|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 65      | Thaxted Recreation Ground           | Football | Sports Club    | One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch; both of poor quality. The mini 5v5 pitch is currently played to capacity at peak time whereas the adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week.<br>The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities and consultation revealed that they are not fit for purpose.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.<br>Explore the feasibility of bringing the ancillary provision on site up to standard.   | FA<br>FF<br>Sports Club    | Local               | M        | S          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 68      | Waltons Park                        | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of eight wickets. The square is currently overplayed by four matches per season.<br>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.   | ECB<br>Sports Club         | Local               | M        | S          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 69      | Wenden Cricket Ground               | Cricket  | Sports Club    | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of six wickets. The square has minimal spare capacity.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.  | ECB<br>Sports Club         | Local               | L        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 70      | White Roding Sports and Social Club | Football | Sports Club    | One standard quality adult pitch which is currently played to capacity at peak time.<br>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.  | FA<br>FF<br>Sports Club    | Local               | L        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 71      | Wimbish Recreation Ground           | Football | Parish Council | One adult and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of poor quality. The adult pitch is currently overplayed by 1.5 match sessions per week whilst the mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. It is also reported that the pitches suffer from poor drainage.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.  | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | M        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 72      | Woodfield                           | Football | Parish Council | One poor quality adult pitch which is currently unused. Spare capacity on site has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.<br>The site is without ancillary provision.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.  | FA<br>FF<br>Parish Council | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
| 73      | Bishop's Stortford Bowls Club       | Bowls    | Sports Club    | Two good quality flat bowling greens.   | Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime.   | BE<br>Sports Club          | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect                       |
| 77      | Elsenham Bowls Club                 | Bowls    | Sports Club    | One good quality flat bowling green. The green is currently overplayed minimally by Elsenham BC. However, when considering future demand aspirations, this could lead to a total overplay of 82 members.  | Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Monitor future club growth to ensure significant overplay does not occur.  | BE<br>Sports Club          | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect                       |
| 78      | Henham Tennis Club                  | Tennis   | Sports Club    | Two macadam tennis courts of standard quality that are available for community use but without floodlighting.<br>These courts are currently overplayed by 20 members by Henham TC.<br>Changing facilities on site are also assessed as poor quality.  | Improve court quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Explore the feasibility of reinstating floodlights to alleviate overplay.<br>Consider refurbishing the changing facilities on site. Seek offsite developer contributions to support with this. | LTA<br>Sports Club         | Local               | H        | M          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                            | Sport   | Management  | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners        | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|--|---|-----------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|--------------------|
| 82      | Stebbing Tennis Club            | Tennis  | Sports Club | Three good quality macadam tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use. The site is currently home to Stebbing TC.<br>The courts are currently overplayed by 15 members and this is likely to be exacerbated to 30 members after accounting for future demand. | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Explore options for accessing a secondary (satellite) site in order to alleviate overplay of these courts.   | LTA Sports Club | Local               | H        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Provide |
| 83      | Thaxted Bowls Club              | Bowls   | Sports Club | One poor quality flat bowling green. The green is currently used by Thaxted BC and has minimal spare capacity. If future demand aspirations are realised, overplay is likely to occur.   | Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime.<br>Monitor club growth to prevent significant overplay from occurring.   | BE Sports Club  | Local               | M        | S          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 84      | Thaxted Tennis Club             | Tennis  | Sports Club | Two standard quality artificial tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use. There is sufficient capacity on site to accommodate current and future demand.  | Improve court quality through current maintenance regime.   | LTA Sports Club | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 86      | Great Canfield Cricket Club     | Cricket | Sports Club | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of eight wickets. The square has capacity to accommodate two additional teams at senior peak time.<br>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.  | ECB Sports Club | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 87      | Little Hallingbury Cricket Club | Cricket | Sports Club | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of nine wickets. There is capacity to accommodate an additional team at senior peak time.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity. Also, a need to address unevenness of outfield.  | ECB Sports Club | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 88      | Farnham Cricket Club            | Cricket | Sports Club | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of seven wickets. There is capacity to accommodate an additional team at senior peak time.<br>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.  | ECB Sports Club | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 89      | Molehill Green                  | Cricket | ECB         | Currently a disused cricket square serviced by ancillary provision which requires improvement.<br>Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC is currently exploring the opportunity to bring this site back into use but will require significant improvements.                                   | Investment required into both the pitch and ancillary provision to bring this site back into use for Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC.<br>Seek opportunity for offsite developer contributions to support with this.     | ECB             | Local               | H        | S          | M    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 90      | Hatfield Heath Cricket Club     | Cricket | Sports Club | One poor quality grass cricket square which consists of eight wickets. The square is currently overplayed by 18 matches per season by Hatfield Heath CC.<br>The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to address overplay.<br>Explore the feasibility of improving the ancillary provision on site. Seek offsite developer contributions to support with this. | ECB Sports Club | Local               | H        | S          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                                    | Sport       | Management  | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners        | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim             |
|---------|---|-------------|-------------|---|--|-----------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-----------------|
| 91      | Chrishall Cricket Club                  | Cricket     | Sports Club | One poor quality grass cricket square which consists of four wickets. The square is currently overplayed by four matches per season by Chrishall CC. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to address overplay.  | ECB Sports Club | Local               | H        | S          | L    | Protect Enhance |
| 92      | R A Butler Infant & Junior School       | Football    | Education   | Two mini 5v5 pitches of standard quality which are currently unused. Spare capacity at this site has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime for curricular and extracurricular activity.  | FA FF School    | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect         |
| 93      | Henham & Ugley Primary & Nursery School | Football    | Education   | One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of standard quality. Both pitches have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime for curricular and extracurricular activity.  | FA FF School    | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect         |
| 96      | Saffron Walden Rugby Club               | Rugby union | Sports Club | Two senior, one junior and eight mini pitches. The two senior pitches are standard quality and one is floodlit. The junior pitch is poor quality and is partially floodlit. The six mini pitches are standard quality and no floodlighting. This area has unsecure tenure.<br>The two senior pitches are played to capacity whilst the junior pitch is overplayed by 0.75 match sessions per week due to training demand.<br>The mini pitches have spare capacity. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay of the site.<br>Explore the feasibility of securing a long-term usage agreement for the mini pitches on site.<br>Consider providing floodlights on second senior pitch to spread training demand.<br>Seek opportunities to obtain offsite developer contributions to support with site improvements.<br>Should full security of tenure on the site be obtained, look to improve ancillary provision. | RFU Sports Club | Local               | H        | H          | H    | Protect Enhance |
| 97      | Audley End House                        | Cricket     | Sports Club | One standard quality grass cricket square which consists of seven wickets. There is capacity to accommodate an additional team at senior peak time. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.<br>Support Club with obtaining long term lease from English Heritage.<br>Explore the feasibility of improving the ancillary provision on site and support clubs in discussions with complexities around site being a protected heritage site.   | ECB Sports Club | Local               | H        | S          | M    | Protect Enhance |
| 99      | Newport Village Tennis Club             | Tennis      | Sports Club | Two good quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but without floodlighting. After accounting for current and future demand from Newport Village TC, these courts are likely to be overplayed by 30 members. The ancillary facilities on site have no water or electricity and so are not deemed to be fit for purpose.   | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Explore the feasibility of accessing a secondary site to alleviate overplay.<br>Work with the Club in order to improve the ancillary provision on site. Seek developer contributions to support with this.  | LTA Sports Club | Local               | M        | M          | L-M  | Protect Enhance |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**SAFFRON WALDEN ANALYSIS AREA**

| Site ID | Site                              | Sport       | Management   | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners                 | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                           |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 8       | Catons Lane                       | Football    | Town Council | One good quality adult football pitch which is currently overplayed by 2.5 match sessions per week.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. However, consultation revealed that Saffron Walden Town FC aim to modernise the toilet facilities. Parking on site is also reported to be insufficient. | Consider moving the Club's youth and mini demand to an alternate site to alleviate overplay of this site. Or consider moving this play onto future 3G provision developed in the area.<br>Support club with aspirations for updating the ancillary provision on site.   | FA<br>FF<br>Town Council | Local               | H        | S          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 10      | Saffron Walden County High School | Football    | Education    | One youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches; all of standard quality. All pitch formats currently have some level of spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure on site.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.<br>This site is being considered for 3G provision.      | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure.<br>Site identified in the Uttlesford LFFP as a 3G project. Opportunity to accommodate some match play demand from Saffron Walden Community FC and mini demand from Catons Lane on this pitch.<br>Also, opportunity to invest surplus generated from 3G pitch into grass provision, creating good quality youth provision for demand from Catons Lane.<br>If additional 3G provision is provided at this site (feasibility to be carried out), could be consideration to making it WRC to accommodate some rugby training demand to reduce overplay at Saffron Walden Rugby Club. This should also be considered across other potential sites for 3G provision should two pitches not be possible at this site. | FA<br>FF<br>School       | Key                 | H        | S          | H    | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |                                   | Rugby union |              | One senior and one junior rugby pitch, both of poor (M0/D1) quality. Both pitches currently have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure agreements.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.<br>Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure. Site could be considered for club use should security of tenure not be obtainable at Carver Barracks, Joyce Frankland or Saffron Walden Rugby Club (mini pitch section).  | RFU<br>School            | M                   | M        | L          |      |                               |
|         |                                   | Cricket     |              | One grass cricket square with eight wickets and a secondary square with a single NTP. The grass cricket square is standard quality whilst the NTP is poor quality. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. The square is currently overplayed by eight matches per season by Saffron Walden CC.        | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.<br>Should all predicted future cricket demand be realised in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, there will be a need to improve quality of the NTP to meet additional junior demand.   | ECB<br>School            | H                   | S        | M          |      |                               |



**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site  | Sport    | Management   | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners           | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim             |
|---------|---|----------|--------------|---|---|--------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-----------------|
|         |   | Hockey   |              | One full-size, sand dressed AGP which is available for community use but without floodlighting. The pitch was installed in 1998 and has not been resurfaced since. Therefore, the pitch is assessed as poor quality.<br>This site is used as a secondary site for Saffron Walden HC.  | In the first instance carry out repair work on carpet to improve quality of the pitch.<br>Aim to resurface the pitch when possible and explore why pitch is not floodlit and whether this could be changed to increase capacity.<br>Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary. | EH School          |                     | H        | S          | M-H  |                 |
|         |   | Tennis   |              | Seven poor quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but are without floodlighting.  | Look to improve court quality for curricular and extracurricular demand.  | LTA School         |                     | L        | L          | L    |                 |
|         |   | Netball  |              | Seven poor quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use but without floodlighting.   | Look to improve court quality for curricular and extracurricular demand.  | EN School          |                     | L        | L          | L    |                 |
| 11      | Dame Bradbury School                            | Cricket  | Education    | One standard quality grass cricket square with three wickets. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.<br>The square is currently played to capacity through curricular use.  | Sustain square quality for curricular and extracurricular use.  | ECB School         | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect Enhance |
|         |   | Tennis   |              | Two poor quality macadam tennis courts that are without floodlighting and unavailable for community use.  | Look to improve court quality for curricular and extracurricular demand.  | LTA School         |                     |          |            |      |                 |
| 29      | Herbert Farm Playing Fields                     | Football | Sports Trust | One youth 11v11, two youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch; all of standard quality.<br>The youth 9v9 pitches and the mini 7v7 pitch are overplayed by two match sessions per week whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 3.5 match sessions per week.<br>Ancillary provision on site is of good quality after receiving Football Foundation funding for refurbishment in 2011. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.<br>Site already had a PIP.<br>Explore the feasibility of moving some demand off the pitches to 3G provision once developed.  | FA FF Sports Trust | Local               | H        | S          | L    | Protect         |
| 37      | Katherine Semar Junior School                   | Football | Education    | One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of standard quality. Both pitches have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.<br>Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure.   | FA FF School       | Local               | L-H      | S-L        | L    | Protect Enhance |
| 48      | Peasland Road Football Pitch (Walden Ladies FC) | Football | Sports Club  | One poor quality adult pitch which is overmarked with a youth 9v9 pitch. The pitch is currently overplayed by four match sessions per week.<br>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay.<br>Explore the feasibility of moving some demand to an alternate site to remove overplay of this pitch.   | FA FF Sports Club  | Local               | H        | S          | L    | Protect Enhance |
| 55      | Saffron Walden Cricket Club                     | Cricket  | Sports Club  | One good quality grass cricket square with 23 wickets and a secondary square with a single NTP wicket. The square is currently played to capacity at peak times by Saffron Walden CC.<br>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.   | Sustain square quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Improve pavilion to ensure it is fully accessible and suitable for female players. Seek offsite developer contributions to support with this.<br>Should all future demand be realised, there may be a need to consider use of           | ECB Sports Club    | Local               | H        | M          | M    | Protect Provide |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                                 | Sport    | Management       | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners                      | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                           |
|---------|--------------------------------------|----------|------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------------|
|         |                                      |          |                  |  | NTP provision. This could be through a new NTP at this site, as well as resurfacing the NTP located at Saffron Walden County High School.   |                               |                     |          |            |      |                               |
| 67      | Friends School (Walden School)       | Football | Private          | Disused site which used to provide three adult football pitches.   | Look to bring this site back into use to support with reducing both current and future shortfalls in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area. Alternatively mitigate the loss of this provision (including appropriate ancillary provision). Replacement provision should be of a good quality to ensure it has required carrying capacity.                      | FA<br>FF<br>Private landowner | Local               | H        | M          | M-H  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |                                      | Cricket  |                  | Disused site which used to provide one square with nine wickets.   | Look to bring this site back into use to support with reducing both current and future shortfalls in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area. Alternatively mitigate the loss of this provision (including appropriate ancillary provision). Replacement provision should be of a good quality to ensure it has required carrying capacity.                      | ECB<br>Private landowner      |                     | H        | M          | M-H  |                               |
|         |                                      | Tennis   |                  | Disused site which used to provide two tennis courts.  | Should this provision be lost, look to provide offsite developer contribution to improve courts at Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre.  | LTA<br>Private landowner      |                     | M        | M          | M    |                               |
|         |                                      | Netball  |                  | Disused site which used to provide one netball court.  | Should this provision be lost, look to provide offsite developer contribution to improve courts at Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre. This; however, should be considered in line with development of new courts in East Hertfordshire. Further exploration into demand required.  | EN<br>Private landowner       |                     | H        | M          | M    |                               |
| 74      | Castle Hill Tennis Club              | Tennis   | Private          | One standard quality macadam court and two standard quality grass tennis courts. All of the courts are available for community use but without floodlighting. The site is currently overplayed by 21 members from Castle Hill TC although the Club plans to replace one of the current grass courts with a macadam court. This would alleviate overplay of the site. | Look to improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Assist the Club to install a macadam court in place of one of the existing grass courts. Consider secondary (satellite) site for club to access to reduce overplay.  | LTA<br>Private                | Local               | M        | M          | L-M  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 79      | Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre | Tennis   | District Council | Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use.  | Look to improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime for community and recreational use. Could be potential funding for this should Friends School (Walden School) be developed as housing as an offsite contribution. Explore the feasibility of installing a remote access booking system such as Clubspark to encourage recreational use. | LTA<br>District Council       | Local               | L        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |



**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                           | Sport    | Management  | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners            | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                |
|---------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|--|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|--------------------|
|         |                                | Netball  |             | Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are floodlit and available for community use.<br>They are currently used by Swan NC.  | Look to improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime; however, this needs to be considered in line with demand moving to alternative site in East Hertfordshire.<br>Could be potential funding for this should Friends School (Walden School) be developed as housing as an offsite contribution. | EN District Council |                     | M        | M          | L    |                    |
| 85      | Grove Tennis Club              | Tennis   | Sports Club | Four good quality artificial tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use. There is also one macadam tennis court of standard quality which is without floodlighting on site. This is also available for community use.<br>These courts are currently overplayed by 30 members from Grove TC.   | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime.<br>Look to install floodlighting on the macadam court to reduce overplay of the site.<br>Monitor future Club growth to ensure that significant overplay does not occur.  | LTA Sports Club     | Local               | M        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Provide |
| 102     | Lime Avenue                    | Football | Private     | A two pitch site provided by a housing developer thorough a section 106 agreement. At present, the pitches have not been signed off by UDC as a result of not meeting the required quality standards. Saffron Walden Community FC is keen to take this site on (if possible, on a lease agreement); however, is not able to do so until the quality issues are resolved.<br>UDC is working with Essex CFA to resolve this. | Mobilise pitches at Lime Avenue that are yet to become operational after housing development.  | FA UDC Developer    | Local               | H        | S          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 103     | The Sampfords Lawn Tennis Club | Tennis   | Sports Club | One standard quality macadam tennis court which is available for community use but without floodlighting. It is currently the home site of The Sampfords LTC.  | Look to improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime.   | LTA Sports Club     | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |

**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET ANALYSIS AREA**

| Site ID | Site  | Sport       | Management         | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners                       | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                           |
|---------|---|-------------|--------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 4       | Birchanger Social Club  | Football    | Sports Association | Two poor quality adult pitches that are currently played to capacity. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to increase site capacity.   | FA<br>FF<br>Sports Association | Local               | L-M      | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance            |
|         |   | Cricket     |                    | One good quality grass cricket square consisting of 12 wickets. The square is currently played to capacity at peak time although it could accommodate two Sunday teams. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.              | Sustain square quality through current maintenance regime.   | ECB<br>Sports Association      |                     | L        | L          | L    | Protect                       |
| 20      | Forest Hall School/<br>Mountfitchet Romeera<br>Leisure Centre | Football    | Education          | One youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches; all of standard quality. All pitches on site have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure agreements. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities. | Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure. Site identified in the Uttlesford LFFP as a 3G project. Also, opportunity to invest surplus generated from 3G pitch into grass provision, creating good pitches. | FA<br>FF<br>School             | Key                 | H        | S-M        | H    | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |   | Rugby union |                    | One poor quality (M0/D1) mini pitch which is currently unused by the community. The pitch does have minimal spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and an unsecure tenure.                                  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure.   | RFU<br>School                  |                     | L        | L          | L    |                               |
|         |   | Cricket     |                    | A standalone NTP that is disused due to poor quality. The square is unavailable for community use.  | Work to reinstate the NTP for curricular demand.   | ECB<br>School                  |                     | L        | L          | L    |                               |
|         |   | Tennis      |                    | Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use.   | Look to improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime for community and recreational use. Explore the feasibility of installing a remote access booking system such as Clubspark to encourage recreational use.  | LTA<br>District Council        |                     | L        | L          | L    |                               |
|         |   | Netball     |                    | Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are floodlit and available for community use. The site is currently used by Swan NC.   | Look to improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime; however, this needs to be considered in line with demand moving to alternative site in East Hertfordshire.  | EN<br>School                   |                     | M        | M          | L    |                               |

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

| Site ID | Site                                    | Sport    | Management       | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                     | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales | Cost | Aim                |
|---------|---|----------|------------------|--|--|------------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|--------------------|
| 24      | Hargrave Park                           | Football | Sports Club      | One standard quality adult pitch which is currently played to capacity at peak times. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.   | FA<br>FF<br>Sports Club      | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |   | Cricket  |                  | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of ten wickets. The square is played to capacity at peak time by Stansted CC although there is capacity for an additional team on Sunday. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.                        | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.  | ECB<br>Sports Club           |                     | L        | L          | L    |                    |
| 58      | Stansted Airport Playing Field          | Football | Stansted Airport | Two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch; all of poor quality. All pitch formats have some spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site reportedly suffers from poor drainage and is only available on an annual rental agreement. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of offering a long-term community usage agreement to provide users with security of tenure. | FA<br>FF<br>Stansted Airport | Local               | H        | S-M        | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 59      | Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club | Cricket  | Sports Club      | One standard quality grass cricket square consisting of eight wickets. The square is currently played to capacity on Saturdays and Sundays. The square is supported by standard quality ancillary facilities.  | Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to further increase capacity.   | ECB<br>Sports Club           | Local               | L        | M          | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 95      | Stansted Tennis Club                    | Tennis   | Sports Club      | Two good quality macadam tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use. There is sufficient capacity to accommodate current and future demand from Stansted TC.  | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime.  | LTA<br>Sports Club           | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect            |
| 98      | Stansted Recreation Ground              | Bowls    | Sports Club      | One standard quality flat bowling green which is currently used by Stansted Mountfitchet BC. The green currently has spare capacity although this is likely to become overplayed if future demand aspirations are realised.  | Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime. Monitor club growth to ensure that overplay does not occur.  | BE<br>Sports Club            | Local               | L        | L          | L    | Protect            |

### PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2033 (in line with the Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator (NDC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates (TGRs) in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For large scale developments, it is likely that demand will be potentially generated for larger sports such as football and/or cricket. Consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and carparking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for pitch sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The Action Plan in this document, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches.

The indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3 per dwelling and are accumulative housing figures from 2019 to 2033 (14 years) using per annum figures. The indicative figures will be applied to three exclusive scenarios as follows:

- ◀ **Eastern Park Garden Community: Housing requirement of 1,925 forecasted dwellings (up to 2033).**
- ◀ **North Uttlesford Garden Community: Housing requirement of 1,925 forecasted dwellings (up to 2033).**
- ◀ **West of Braintree Garden Community: Housing requirement of 970 forecasted dwellings (up to 2033).**

Please note that the scenarios can be updated as required over the Local Plan period throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections and projections, changes in the housing requirement and change in the average household size.

The number of pitches required in the following tables has been rounded up or down accordingly, however, capital and revenue costs are based on indicative pitch costs, proportionate to the total match equivalent sessions required rather than just whole pitches required. Though increases in match sessions for some sports are not sufficient to warrant the creation of new pitches, the associated costs have been incorporated and investment into alternative sites could instead be considered to increase capacity to accommodate this new demand.

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Eastern Park Garden Community

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2019-2033 is 4,428 (based on 1,925 dwellings being delivered). This population increase equates to 4.42 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports 0.8 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 59.97 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 8.17 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 1.49 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.44 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

*Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth (2019 – 2033)*

| Pitch sport           | Estimated demand by sport (2033)          |                               |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                       | Match demand (MES) per week <sup>13</sup> | Training demand <sup>14</sup> |
| Adult football        | 0.95                                      | 8.17 hours                    |
| Youth football        | 1.60                                      |                               |
| Mini soccer           | 1.53                                      |                               |
| Rugby union           | 0.34                                      | 0.44 MES                      |
| Adult hockey          | 0.35                                      | 1.05 hours                    |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.45                                      | 0.44 hours                    |
| Cricket               | 59.97                                     | -                             |

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

*Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (2019 – 2033)*

| Pitch type      | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|                 | Number of pitches to meet demand           | Capital cost <sup>15</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>16</sup> |
| Adult football  | 1  | £89,171                    | £18,815                                  |
| Youth football  | 2  | £125,152                   | £26,282                                  |
| Mini soccer     | 2  | £39,762                    | £8,350                                   |
| Rugby union     | 0 (0.34)                                   | £48,399                    | £10,357                                  |
| Cricket         | 1  | £391,714                   | £79,126                                  |
| Sand based AGPs | 0 (0.17)                                   | £140,187                   | £7,839                                   |
| 3G              | 1 (0.22)                                   | £220,326                   | £4,346                                   |

Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide eight changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £1,347,149

<sup>13</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>14</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>15</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>16</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Following 2033, 8,075 additional dwellings will be provided as part of this development. This is estimated to provide an increase in population of 18,573. This population increase equates to 18.59 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports 03.37 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 251.54 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 34.28 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 6.26 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 1.84 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

*Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth (post 2033)*

| Pitch sport           | Estimated demand by sport (2033)          |                               |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                       | Match demand (MES) per week <sup>17</sup> | Training demand <sup>18</sup> |
| Adult football        | 4.00                                      | 34.28                         |
| Youth football        | 6.73                                      |                               |
| Mini soccer           | 6.41                                      |                               |
| Rugby union           | 1.45                                      | 1.84 MES                      |
| Adult hockey          | 1.47                                      | 4.42                          |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 1.89                                      | 1.84                          |
| Cricket               | 251.54                                    | -                             |

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

*Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (post 2033)*

| Pitch type      | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|                 | Number of pitches to meet demand           | Capital cost <sup>19</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>20</sup> |
| Adult football  | 4  | £374,022                   | £78,919                                  |
| Youth football  | 7  | £524,943                   | £110,238                                 |
| Mini soccer     | 6  | £166,779                   | £35,024                                  |
| Rugby union     | 1  | £203,005                   | £43,443                                  |
| Cricket         | 6  | £1,643,024                 | £331,891                                 |
| Sand based AGPs | 1  | £515,100                   | £32,878                                  |
| 3G              | 1  | £924,147                   | £15,968                                  |

Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide 33 changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £5,620,694.

<sup>17</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>18</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>19</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>20</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)



# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## North Uttlesford Garden Community

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2019-2033 is 4,428 (based on 1,925 dwellings being delivered). This population increase equates to 4.42 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports 0.8 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 59.97 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 8.17 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 1.49 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.44 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

*Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth (2019 – 2033)*

| Pitch sport           | Estimated demand by sport (2033)          |                               |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                       | Match demand (MES) per week <sup>21</sup> | Training demand <sup>22</sup> |
| Adult football        | 0.95                                      | 8.17 hours                    |
| Youth football        | 1.60                                      |                               |
| Mini soccer           | 1.53                                      |                               |
| Rugby union           | 0.34                                      | 0.44 MES                      |
| Adult hockey          | 0.35                                      | 1.05 hours                    |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.45                                      | 0.44 hours                    |
| Cricket               | 59.97                                     | -                             |

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

*Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (2019 – 2033)*

| Pitch type      | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|                 | Number of pitches to meet demand           | Capital cost <sup>23</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>24</sup> |
| Adult football  | 1  | £89,171                    | £18,815                                  |
| Youth football  | 2  | £125,152                   | £26,282                                  |
| Mini soccer     | 2  | £39,762                    | £8,350                                   |
| Rugby union     | 0 (0.34)                                   | £48,399                    | £10,357                                  |
| Cricket         | 1  | £391,714                   | £79,126                                  |
| Sand based AGPs | 0 (0.17)                                   | £140,187                   | £7,839                                   |
| 3G              | 1 (0.22)                                   | £220,326                   | £4,346                                   |

Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide eight changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £1,347,149.

<sup>21</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>22</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>23</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>24</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)



## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Following 2033, 3,075 additional dwellings will be provided as part of this development. This is estimated to provide an increase in population of 7,073. This population increase equates to 7.08 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports 1.28 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 95.79 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 13.05 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 2.38 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.70 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

*Table 7.7: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth (post 2033)*

| Pitch sport           | Estimated demand by sport (2033)          |                               |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                       | Match demand (MES) per week <sup>25</sup> | Training demand <sup>26</sup> |
| Adult football        | 1.52                                      | 13.05                         |
| Youth football        | 2.56                                      |                               |
| Mini soccer           | 2.44                                      |                               |
| Rugby union           | 0.55                                      | 0.70 MES                      |
| Adult hockey          | 0.56                                      | 1.68                          |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.72                                      | 0.70                          |
| Cricket               | 95.79                                     | -                             |

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

*Table 7.8: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (post 2033)*

| Pitch type      | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|                 | Number of pitches to meet demand           | Capital cost <sup>27</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>28</sup> |
| Adult football  | 2  | £142,436                   | £30,054                                  |
| Youth football  | 3  | £199,910                   | £41,981                                  |
| Mini soccer     | 2  | £63,513                    | £13,338                                  |
| Rugby union     | 1  | £77,309                    | £16,544                                  |
| Cricket         | 2  | £625,699                   | £126,391                                 |
| Sand based AGPs | 0 (0.24)                                   | £196,161                   | £12,521                                  |
| 3G              | 0 (0.34)                                   | £351,935                   | £6,081                                   |

Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide 13 changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £2,140,482.

<sup>25</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>26</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>27</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>28</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### **West of Braintree Garden Community<sup>29</sup>**

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2019-2033 is 2,231 (based on 970 dwellings being delivered). This population increase equates to 2.23 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports 0.41 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 30.21 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 4.12 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 0.75 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.22 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

*Table 7.9: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth (2019 – 2033)*

| Pitch sport           | Estimated demand by sport (2033)          |                               |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                       | Match demand (MES) per week <sup>30</sup> | Training demand <sup>31</sup> |
| Adult football        | 0.48                                      | 4.12 hours                    |
| Youth football        | 0.81                                      |                               |
| Mini soccer           | 0.77                                      |                               |
| Rugby union           | 0.17                                      | 0.22 MES                      |
| Adult hockey          | 0.18                                      | 0.53 hours                    |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.23                                      | 0.22 hours                    |
| Cricket               | 30.21                                     | -                             |

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

*Table 7.10: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (2019 – 2033)*

| Pitch type      | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|                 | Number of pitches to meet demand           | Capital cost <sup>32</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>33</sup> |
| Adult football  | 1  | £44,928                    | £9,480                                   |
| Youth football  | 1  | £63,056                    | £13,242                                  |
| Mini soccer     | 1  | £20,034                    | £4,207                                   |
| Rugby union     | 0 (0.17)                                   | £24,385                    | £5,218                                   |
| Cricket         | 1  | £197,361                   | £39,867                                  |
| Sand based AGPs | 0.08                                       | £70,638                    | £3,949                                   |
| 3G              | 0.11                                       | £111,009                   | £2,190                                   |

Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide four changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £678,746.

<sup>29</sup> The West of Braintree Garden Community will be a cross boundary development between Braintree and Uttlesford. It is anticipated that 7,000 dwellings will be situated in Uttlesford, whilst 10,000 will be situated in Braintree.

<sup>30</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>31</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>32</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>33</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Following 2033, 2,530 additional dwellings will be provided as part of this development. This is estimated to provide an increase in population of 5,819. This population increase equates to 5.82 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports 1.05 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 78.81 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 10.74 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 1.96 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.58 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

*Table 7.11: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth (post 2033)*

| Pitch sport           | Estimated demand by sport (2033)          |                               |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                       | Match demand (MES) per week <sup>34</sup> | Training demand <sup>35</sup> |
| Adult football        | 1.25                                      | 10.74                         |
| Youth football        | 2.11                                      |                               |
| Mini soccer           | 2.01                                      |                               |
| Rugby union           | 0.45                                      | 0.58 MES                      |
| Adult hockey          | 0.46                                      | 1.38                          |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.59                                      | 0.58                          |
| Cricket               | 78.81                                     | -                             |

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

*Table 7.12: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (post 2033)*

| Pitch type      | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|                 | Number of pitches to meet demand           | Capital cost <sup>36</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>37</sup> |
| Adult football  | 1  | £117,183                   | £24,726                                  |
| Youth football  | 2  | £164,467                   | £34,538                                  |
| Mini soccer     | 2  | £52,252                    | £10,973                                  |
| Rugby union     | 0 (0.45)                                   | £63,602                    | £13,611                                  |
| Cricket         | 2  | £514,766                   | £103,983                                 |
| Sand based AGPs | 0 (0.19)                                   | £161,383                   | £10,301                                  |
| 3G              | 0 (0.28)                                   | £289,539                   | £5,003                                   |

Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide ten changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £1,760,987.

<sup>34</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>35</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>36</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>37</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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

#### ***Delivery***

The PPS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Uttlesford. By addressing issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Uttlesford 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 planning 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 PPS 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 PPS document

To help ensure that the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. 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 ensure that this is achieved the Steering Group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of PPS 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 PPS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which its influence should be applied and strategy delivered.

Following sign off of the PPS, a short-term Action Plan should be prepared by the Council, in consultation with relevant partners, in order to distil the existing Action Plan and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be revised through regular 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 PPS has been applied should be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the Steering Group.

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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The Steering Group that takes the PPS forward should be a sub-regional group made up of the three local authorities included within the study as well as other partners such as the NGBs, and Active Essex. This offers benefits in terms of joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and will also be more efficient in terms of administration when compared to each authority having its own individual Steering Group.

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

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, 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 PPS 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 PPS 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 PPS 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 PPS 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 PPS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ◀ Ensures that the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Considers how provision for sport is to be provided as part of new developments with regards to where on-site provision is required and how developer contributions are used
- ◀ Maintains links between relevant parties with an interest in local outdoor sports provision;
- ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:

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- ◀ 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 PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside regular Steering Group meetings, a good way to keep the PPS up to date and maintain relationships is to hold annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. 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. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended 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.

### *Uttesford Local Football Facilities Plan*


The findings of and any subsequent changes to the PPS should align with the Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for Uttlesford, which will also serve as a live document requiring concurrent management. The position for formal and affiliated football provision determined and updated through the PPS should form the basis for investment into formalised football provision echoed through the LFFP, which will further explore opportunities for investment into informal, recreational, small sided and indoor football as an extension of the PPS findings, the result being a wholistic plan for partnership investment into football facilities in Uttlesford over the next decade. The PPS and LFFP should demonstrate synergy and should inform each other.

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## Checklist

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

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

| Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date  | Tick  |                    |
|--|--|--------------------|
|  | Yes  | Requires Attention |
| <b>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</b>  |  |                    |
| 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?   |  |                    |



### APPENDIX 1: 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.

#### ***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.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

#### ***Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)***

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is 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 of the current or former use.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

### ***The 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 is presently in draft and is due for publication in 2018.

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 Football Foundation.

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"*

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£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;
- ◀ **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 the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

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. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

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### ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The Strategic Plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
  - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for FCCs
  - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and CCBs
  - ◀ Invest in club facilities
  - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ ***Inspire through elite teams***
  - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ ***Make cricket accessible***
  - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
  - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
  - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

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- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
  - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
  
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
  - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
  - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
  - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
  - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
  
- ◀ **Support our communities**
  - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
  - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
  - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
  - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7's offering

### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters 2013***

The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport.

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England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation
2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

### *Club participation*

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

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

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

**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**



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- 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.

### **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.

#### ***England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17***

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

#### ***British Tennis Strategy 2019***

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

**Vision:** tennis opened up

**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;

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- ◀ 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 from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
- ◀ The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ 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.

### ***Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017***

Although the Plan is currently being updated, this version remains the most up to date available. Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

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Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. 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.

### ***Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)***

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”.

The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

- ◀ 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
- ◀ 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
- ◀ Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
- ◀ Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
- ◀ Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
- ◀ Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all.

The objectives are:

- ◀ Being customer focussed
- ◀ Stronger counties and club
- ◀ Excellent governance
- ◀ Improve image
- ◀ More members and players
- ◀ Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- ◀ Winning golfers

### ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond***

This plan sets out England Athletics’ mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

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For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

### ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

### ***UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)***

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

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UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future "running" facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

### **Key outcomes:**

- ◀ Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- ◀ Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- ◀ Increased talent pool
- ◀ Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- ◀ Securing the long term future of existing facilities
- ◀ More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- ◀ Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- ◀ Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

**APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN**

**Funding opportunities<sup>38</sup>**

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

| Awarding body   | Description  |
|---|--|
| <p>Big Lottery Fund<br/><a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a></p> | <p>The Big Lottery Fund distributes over £500m a year to communities across the UK, raised by players of The National Lottery.</p> <p><b>Awards for All</b> – this fund offers National Lottery grants between £300 and £10,000. Applications can be made by: voluntary or community organisations, registered charities, constituted groups or clubs, not-for-profit companies or community interest companies, social enterprises, schools and statutory bodies (including town, parish and community councils). To receive funding, the applicant must meet at least one of the funding priorities listed for these grants. The funding priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities.</li> <li>◀ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities.</li> <li>◀ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Empowering Young People</b> – this grants programme is designed to support projects in Northern Ireland that give young people aged 8 to 25 the ability to overcome the challenges they face. Funding between £30,000 and £500,000 is available and is available to projects which meet one or more of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Equip young people with the skills they need for the future.</li> <li>◀ Improve young people’s relationships with their support networks and communities.</li> <li>◀ Improve the health and well-being of young people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reaching Communities England</b> – this programme provides flexible funding over £10,000 for up to five years to organisations in England who want to act on the issues that matter to people and communities. Grants will be awarded to voluntary and community organisations or social enterprises to fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. Ideas must meet one or more of the following funding priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities.</li> <li>◀ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities.</li> <li>◀ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.</li> </ul> |

<sup>38</sup> Up to date as of January 2019



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| Awarding body  | Description  |
|--|--|
| <p>Sport England<br/>The current funding streams may change throughout 2018/19 so refer to the website for the latest information:<br/><a href="https://www.sportengland.org/funding/">https://www.sportengland.org/funding/</a></p> | <p>Sport England’s vision is that everyone in England feels able to take part in sport or activity, regardless of age, background or ability.</p> <p><b>Small Grants</b> – this programme offers funding to projects involving adults and young people aged 14 or over which meet one or more of the aims of their ‘Towards an Active Nation’ strategy. These aims are: get inactive people more active, develop lasting sporting habits, engender more positive attitudes among young people, develop more diverse volunteers and to improve progression and inclusion among the most talented. Projects with mixed age groups may still be considered if there is a focus on people aged 14 and over.</p> <p><b>Community Asset Fund</b> – this programme is dedicated to enhancing the spaces in your local community that give people the opportunity to be active.</p> <p><b>Major Events Engagement Fund</b> – Sport England’s ‘Towards an Active Nation’ strategy commits them to invest £2m in helping national governing bodies (NGBs) to host major events which evolve their existing business model and derive a greater financial return from their existing customers (players, volunteers or spectators). This funding can also be used to develop programmes that engage with individuals local to the major event, who are currently less likely to take part regularly in sport or physical activity.</p>  |
| <p>Football Foundation<br/><a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</a></p>   | <p>This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.</p> <p><b>Premier League &amp; The FA Facilities Fund</b> – this fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations that improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities, sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age or ability and to help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport. Grants are available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Grass pitch drainage/improvements,</li> <li>◀ Pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms,</li> <li>◀ 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs) and multi-use games areas,</li> <li>◀ Fixed floodlights for artificial pitches.</li> </ul> <p><b>Premier League &amp; The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme</b> – this scheme awards grants of up to £10,000 for the provision of capital items, or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. This scheme aims to support the growth of football clubs and activity, prevent a decline in football participation and make improvements to facilities to address any health and safety issues. Grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost, are awarded to support the costs of the following list of projects and items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Replacement of unsafe goalposts,</li> <li>◀ Portable floodlights,</li> <li>◀ Storage containers,</li> <li>◀ Changing pavilion/clubhouse refurbishment and external works (not including routine maintenance works),</li> <li>◀ Grounds maintenance equipment,</li> </ul> |

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

| Awarding body   | Description   |
|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Pitch improvement works (not including routine maintenance works),</li> <li>◀ Fencing.</li> </ul> <p>The scheme is available to local authorities, educational establishments, grassroots football clubs and professional and semi-professional football clubs and their associated community organisations, to support their community outreach programmes.</p> <p><b>Premier League Primary Stars Kit and Equipment Scheme</b> - this scheme, run in partnership with Nike and delivered by the Football Foundation, gives teachers the opportunity to get their hands on free resources to aid their pupils' learning. Primary school teachers registered at <a href="http://plprimarystars.com">plprimarystars.com</a> can access either a free Nike football strip, or a free equipment pack which can be used across the curriculum.</p>   |
| <p>Rugby Football Foundation (RFF)</p> <p><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></p> | <p><b>The Grant Match Scheme</b> in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project.</p> <p>Projects eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights.</li> <li>2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors).</li> <li>3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).</li> </ol> <p><b>'Helping Hand Grants'</b> can award funding from £500 to £1,500. The Groundmatch Grant Scheme provides funding from £1,501 to £5,000. RFU Accredited clubs at level 5 and below are eligible to apply.</p> <p>The RFF also offer loan schemes for RFU Accredited clubs at level 3 and below. The first scheme is the Interest Free Loan scheme which can provide up to £100,000 as an interest free loan for capital works. Green Deal Loans up to the value of £20,000 are available to clubs to support them in the installation of facility solutions that reduce utility costs. Repayments are structured to be the equivalent of the projected savings over the agreed 'payback' period.</p> |
| <p>The England and Wales Cricket Trust</p> <p><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></p>   | <p><b>The Interest Free Loan Scheme</b> provides finance to clubs for various capital projects such as buildings, equipment purchase, fine turf, land purchase and non-turf. All ECB affiliated cricket clubs are eligible to apply, as well as other organisations that can evidence achievement/delivery of the EWCT's charitable aims. Clubs with a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £50,000 whereas clubs without a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £20,000. A minimum of 10% partnership funding is required from the applicant.</p> <p><b>The Small Grant Scheme</b> aims to support the ECB's national programmes – Get the Game On, All Stars Cricket, Women's Cricket and U19 Club T20. Clubs can apply for funding towards the purchase of relevant products or materials, and associated professional labour costs.</p>   |

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

| Awarding body   | Description  |
|---|--|
|   | Project themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Covers – supporting Get the Game On,</li> <li>◀ Family Friendly Facilities – supporting All Stars Cricket,</li> <li>◀ Improved Changing Facilities for Females – supporting Women’s Cricket,</li> <li>◀ Great Events – supporting U19 Club T20.</li> </ul>  |
| EU Life Fund<br><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a> | LIFE is the EU’s financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. LIFE also finances some grants for non-governmental organisations active in the field of the environment because they are key players in the development and implementation of environmental policy.  |
| National Hockey Foundation<br><a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>     | The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: young people and hockey, young people and sport in Milton Keynes, enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level and smaller charities. There is no limit on the amount of funding that an organisation can request. However, the Foundation does not generally award grants for less than £10,000 or more than £75,000.   |
| Rugby Football League<br><a href="https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities">https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities</a>                          | <b>Rugby League World Cup 2021 Capital Facilities Legacy funding.</b> Small Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £15,000 for the provision of capital items, kit and equipment or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. Large capital grants programme of £15,000 plus focused on supporting the development of new or refurbished local rugby league facilities. The programme is split into four themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming environments</li> <li>2. More players</li> <li>3. Community engagement</li> <li>4. Innovation fund</li> </ol> |

### 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 is providing which services/facilities? Unit and overall costs).
- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g. planning permission).
- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e. the anticipated situation after the project/what the project is anticipated to achieve)
- ◀ Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- ◀ Background/essential documentation (e.g. community use agreement).
- ◀ Assessment of risk.

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## **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/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/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.