



# HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Clubs
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
JFC	Junior Football Club
KNP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OAN	Objectively Assessed Need
ONS	Office for National Statistics
HPBC	High Peak Borough Council
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
YFC	Youth Football Club

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for High Peak. It has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and has been prepared by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) 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, enhancement 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.

Whilst the project has been jointly commissioned with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, this document relates only to High Peak, although cross boundary activity is included. A separate strategy has been produced specific to Staffordshire Moorlands.

The project compiles one document as part of a wider inter-related strategy for sport and recreation that also includes an Open Spaces Strategy. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS use open space areas for informal and casual use and may also provide a current or future resource opportunity for accommodating formal use in some circumstances.

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 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, Sport England and NGBs will consider it to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended. Further details regarding this can be found in section 8.

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 that was 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. To assist this, all information, databases and other tools used to inform the Strategy will be handed over to the Council and full training will be offered to assist in utilisation (see Part 8 for further details).

#### 1.1: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision within High Peak 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.

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The production of the PPS will also support the following areas, identified as imperative to the project.

### *Contribution to the Council's Corporate Aims*

- ◀ Support the High Peak Borough Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019: To help create a safer and healthier environment for residents to live and work (key priority: The provision of high quality leisure facilities).
- ◀ To ensure a strategic approach to outdoor sports provision.
- ◀ Provide direction and set priorities for included sports.

### *Contribution to Planning Policy*

- ◀ Help to update the open space, sport and recreation evidence base in support of the adopted High Peak Local Plan in line with the requirements of NPPF Paragraph 73 and to inform the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- ◀ Provide a basis for establishing new provision necessary to address any existing deficiencies and/or deficiencies that would arise due to additional requirements generated from new housing developments or improvements to existing supply where demand can be satisfied by increasing capacity.
- ◀ Inform land use decisions in respect of the future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing pitches.
- ◀ Contribute to the evidence base used to inform assessment of development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities (in line with national planning policy).

### *Contribution to Operational Effectiveness*

- ◀ Help improve current asset management, resulting in more efficient use of resources.
- ◀ Highlight locations where quality of provision can be enhanced.

### *Contribution to sports development*

- ◀ Improve current asset management, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ Help identify where community use of school sports facilities is most needed.
- ◀ Provide better information to residents and others around sports facilities available for use.
- ◀ Promote sports development and help unlock latent demand by identifying where any lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams/community activities.

### *Support for external funding bids*

- ◀ Provide a robust evidence of need for capital funding and to support grant applications.
- ◀ Prove the need for developer contributions towards provision where relevant.

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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 predicted 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 by providing an evidence base to help secure future funding.

This strategy provides an evidence base to help inform planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to outdoor sport. 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 73 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 73 and 74 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 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

### 1.2: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of outdoor sports provision and usage within High Peak 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 recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, if applicable, the rationalisation of playing pitches.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations that provide a strategic framework for improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

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The Strategy and Action Plan recommends numerous priority projects for High Peak 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 should be used to inform application of relevant policies within High Peak's recently adopted local plan, so that there is a mechanism to support delivery and secure provision and investment into provision where the opportunity arises and there is an identified need.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, NGBs, Sport England, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, 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.

### **Scope**

The PPS covers the following outdoor sports facilities:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches (3G AGPs)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Athletics tracks

Playing pitch sports (i.e. football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey) were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. For non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, bowls and athletics), 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 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

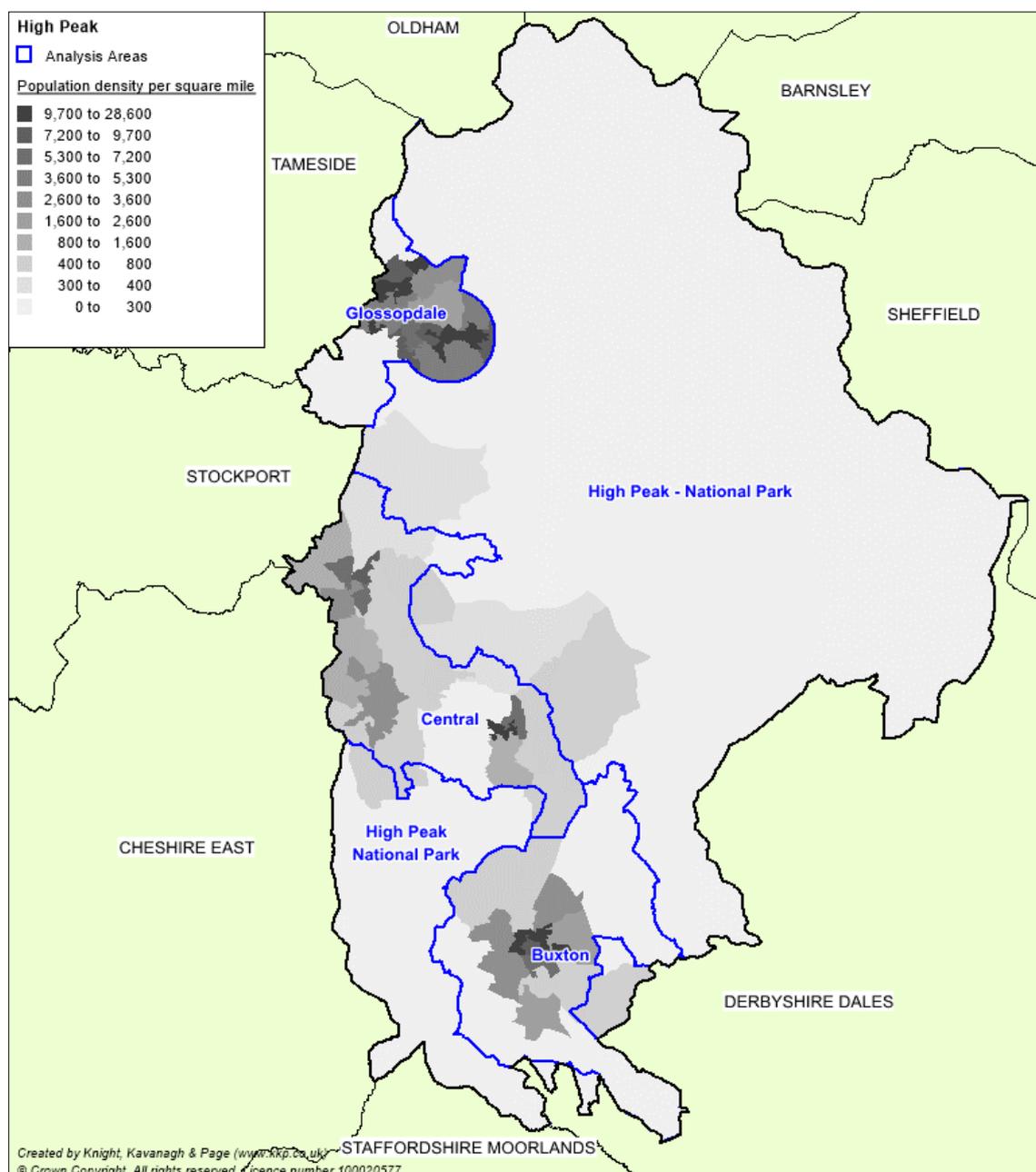
### **Study area**

The study area is the High Peak administrative area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. For this reason, High Peak is divided into the following four analysis areas, based on planning boundaries (as seen in Figure 1.1 overleaf):

- ◀ National Park
- ◀ Glossopdale
- ◀ Central
- ◀ Buxton

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



## Definitions

### Capacity

The capacity for facilities to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch or non-pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times. Quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage but can also be impacted upon by maintenance levels and unofficial use, amongst other factors.

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As a guide, the FA, RFU, RFL and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

*Table 1.1: Capacity of playing pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	All pitch types	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	N/A	N/A

The above does not apply to hockey as there is no limit to how often a sand-based AGP can be used, with capacity instead limited by availability and current usage levels. A pitch without floodlighting or capacity restrictions can generally be accessed for four matches during one day.

For other grass pitch sports (e.g. Gaelic football), no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that similar principles should be followed.

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members. This varies for other court types (e.g. grass) but is not applicable to any courts within High Peak.

For athletics, there is no maximum capacity set out by UK Athletics. Instead a minimum membership of 200 is stated to be required to ensure that tracks remain sustainable.

For bowls, there is no nationally recognised capacity recommendation set out by the NGB. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

### *Match equivalent sessions*

Most playing pitch sports (football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket) have a limit in respect of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality and in turn their use is adversely affected.

As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal play. Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season. For cricket pitches, it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season given how the wickets are rotated.

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## Shortfalls

Shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions. To convert match equivalents into pitches, the number of sessions should generally be halved (to take account of teams playing on a home and away basis) when considering actual match play.

For a full glossary of terms, please refer to Appendix Three.

### 1.3: Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. Please note that this shows the picture on a local authority wide basis and does not include the findings for each specific analysis area or for each specific site (see Part 6).

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2031) <sup>1</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 5.5 adult match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Overplay of 5.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 4 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 2.5 adult match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Overplay by 8.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 3.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>
Football (3G pitches)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches (one in the Glossopdale Analysis Area and one in the Central Analysis Area).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall remains at 2 full sized 3G pitches (one in the Glossopdale Analysis Area and one in the Central Analysis Area).</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Overall space capacity amounting to 27 match sessions per season.</li> <li>◀ Overplay at Glossop, Hadfield St Andrews and Hayfield cricket clubs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Overall spare capacity amounting to 3 match sessions per season. Overplay at Glossop, Hadfield St Andrews and Hayfield unless capacity issues are resolved.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week.</li> </ul>
Rugby league	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Future demand can be met.</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Sufficient supply of full size hockey suitable AGPs for current demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Sufficient supply of full size hockey suitable AGPs for future demand.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Future demand can be met.</li> </ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ The majority of existing courts have spare capacity with the exception of Buxton TC which is at capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Capacity shortfall at Buxton TC.</li> </ul>
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Future demand can be met.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

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### **Summary**

The assessment report identifies that the existing position for all the specified sports is either that demand is broadly being met or that there is a shortfall. In terms of the future position, current shortfalls are shown as exacerbating and new shortfalls emerge in respect of some facility types in some areas. For example, increased demand for football and cricket is predicted to exacerbate current shortfalls and to significantly reduce any pockets of already limited spare capacity.

As such, there is a need to protect all existing outdoor sports provision, or to deliver an equivalent or better quantity and quality of provision to offset any loss of facility prior to the loss taking place.

The only exception to the above would be in the case of sports provision being replaced by a different form of sports provision (e.g. a sand-based AGP being replaced by a 3G pitch) subject to no clubs/sports users being displaced without suitable alternative arrangements being in place, and also subject to overall sports benefits being achieved and proposals being agreed upon by Sport England in conjunction with appropriate NGBs.

Theoretically, natural turf ('grass') capacity shortfalls expressed for pitch sports could be largely addressed by improving quality at some existing operational sites. However, the extent of increased capacity achievable through this route would clearly be dependent upon practical opportunities arising and funding being identified for delivering enhancements at specific sites, and also upon secure maintenance arrangements being put in place to sustain the higher quality standards in the long term.

Therefore, additional options for increasing capacity should also be pursued such as securing access to existing unused provision, (for example pitches located at currently unavailable school sites), pitch re-configuration, the restoration of disused or lapsed sites (if feasible and aligned with identified need), or the creation of new provision when there is an opportunity to deliver a sustainable addition to the pitch/facility stock which would directly help to address current/future needs in the locality. The accompanying Action Plan includes specific recommendations for approaches at different sites.

Consideration could also be given to the scope for transferring a greater proportion of play from natural turf pitches by further increasing 3G provision, thereby helping to reduce grass pitch overplay (which in turn could aid quality improvements) and also lessen overall grass pitch shortfalls. Any such proposals would need to be financially viable both in the short and long term and not create unresolved displacement of other sports as referenced earlier. When appraising this option, consideration would also need to be given to whether there would be a realistic prospect of significant levels of match play being transferred as opposed to the 3G being mainly utilised for training purposes.

For cricket, new provision in the form of non-turf pitches (NTPs), incorporated onto existing sites would create an opportunity to reduce overplay of grass wickets and increase capacity without the requirement for entirely new squares. In particular, an increase in NTPs could be used to transfer junior cricket from grass wickets. It should be stated that any NTP would still require regular maintenance to ensure sustained quality.

For rugby union, there is a clear shortfall identified at Glossop RFC which cannot be alleviated through grass improvements alone. It is recommended that a World Rugby Complaint 3G provision in the Glossopdale analysis area is explored as an option to move midweek training demand offsite, which in turn would allow remaining overplay to be alleviated through quality improvements. Providing additional pitches at the Club site is not considered as a viable option

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due to land restraints. Shortfalls elsewhere can be alleviated through on-site maintenance improvements.

There is minimal rugby league activity taking place within High Peak. All current activity takes place on existing rugby union provision which is able to accommodate the demand expressed. It is unlikely that additional dedicated pitch provision will be required in the future given participation trends in the region.

Hockey can be adequately accommodated in High Peak with the current stock of AGP provision. There are two AGPs within High Peak located at Buxton Community School and Chapel Leisure Centre. The AGP at Chapel Leisure Centre is unused for hockey and is not considered to be required, on the basis the AGP at Buxton School remains fully adequate to accommodate both midweek training demand expressed by Buxton Hockey Club and therefore the AGP can be considered for resurfacing to meet identified shortfalls on 3G pitches.

There is an adequate amount of both bowling green provision and tennis court provision to meet current demand. It is however recognised that in the future, if future demand aspirations by Buxton Tennis Club are achieved that there will be a shortfall of court provision at the Club site which will require additional courts and/or floodlights to be installed. For bowls, future demand will be able to adequately accommodate on the existing supply of bowling greens.

There is no dedicated athletics provision located in High Peak. That's not to say athletic activity is not however taking place. There are several clubs which operate in both endurance and fell running across High Peak as well as a regular Park Run in Glossop. If residents want to access dedicated provision it is likely they will travel to either Stockport or Sheffield.

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## PART 2: VISION

### 2.1: Vision

Below is a proposed vision for High Peak's sport and leisure provision. It builds on the conclusions identified in the PPS Assessment Report and proposes a vision and objectives for the period 2017-2031.

*'To maintain and improve the Borough's network of sport and leisure facilities, ensuring that they offer inclusive, better coordinated services for all residents, play their part in enabling inactive people to become active, support the talented and provide more residents with opportunity to regularly participate in sport and physical activity, thus improving their long-term health and well-being.'*

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy has the following aims:

- ◀ 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 sufficient 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.
- ◀ Ensure that the facility stock enables residents of High Peak to live a healthy, active lifestyle.

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## PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see Figure 1 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where they are needed for meeting current and future needs.

### AIM 2

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

### AIM 3

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

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England 2015

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### 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**

- ◀ The audit identifies a current total of 61 grass football pitches within High Peak across 40 sites. Of these, 53 pitches are available for community use across 35 sites.
- ◀ In addition, there is one site identified as being disused at Bakehurst Recreation Ground, New Mills.
- ◀ In total, 5 pitches are assessed as good quality, 37 as standard and 11 as poor.
- ◀ Issues are highlighted with ancillary provision at both Cote Heath Recreation Ground, Buxton and Rowton Park, Chapel-en-le-Frith.
- ◀ There are 4 clubs in High Peak that play within the non-league football pyramid.
- ◀ A total of 140 teams are identified as playing within High Peak. This consists of 34 men's, 2 women's, 58 youth boys', 7 youth girls' and 39 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ There is latent demand equating to 0.5 adult and 1.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Currently there are 8 clubs registered in High Peak that have teams playing outside of the Borough; however, none of these clubs' state that they wish to move venue.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2031) predict a growth of one youth team, although it is expected that this growth will be incorporated through club growth aspirations.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by 7 clubs amounting to the growth of 12 teams.
- ◀ There is a total of 17 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across High Peak with most identified on adult pitches and in the Buxton Analysis Area.
- ◀ There are 9 pitches overplayed across 5 sites by a total of 13.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall spare capacity exists on adult pitches, although a shortfall is evident in the Central Analysis Area.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches equating to 5.5 match equivalent sessions, which can be attributed to the Central and Glossopdale analysis areas.
- ◀ Overall spare capacity exists on youth 9v9 pitches with no shortfalls evident in any of the analysis areas.
- ◀ There are no shortfalls on either 7v7 or mini 5v5 pitches both now and in the future as long as 3G capacity is maintained and expanded (in line with identified 3G shortfalls).

##### **Scenarios**

###### *Scenario 1 - Improving pitch quality*

In total, there are 11 community available pitches rated as poor quality in High Peak (including three adult pitches with no recorded use). Improving pitch quality on such provision (i.e. through increased maintenance or improved drainage) to either standard or good quality will increase capacity and therefore reduce current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, the table overleaf highlights that the majority of overplay identified in High Peak would be alleviated if pitch quality was improved to good, through qualitative improvements to maintenance regimes currently undertaken in addition to any drainage issues being resolved, with just Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge, being overplayed by one match session per week. It is therefore imperative that a sufficient amount of play is transferred from

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this site (Memorial Park) to a site with actual spare capacity or alternatively, an FA registered 3G pitch which can accommodate competitive football.

*Table 4.1: Levels of overplay if quality improved to good*

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating <sup>2</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>3</sup>
10	Cemetery Road Fields, Glossop	Youth 11v11	3	Poor	6	-
11	Chapel Leisure Centre	Adult	2	Poor	4	2
39	Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge	Adult	1	Standard	2	1
46	Ollersett Avenue, New Mills	Adult	1	Poor	2	-
61	West Drive, Tintwistle	Adult	2	Poor	3.5	0.5

In addition, 4 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are currently discounted (all on adult pitches) due to poor quality. Improving pitch quality on these pitches would provide and increase overall levels of actual spare capacity, which could be used to accommodate latent and future demand. This applies to pitches at:

- ◀ Edale Playing Field
- ◀ Furness Vale Recreation Ground
- ◀ Hogshaw, Buxton
- ◀ Newshaw Lane, Hadfield
- ◀ Roughfields, Glossopdale.

The costs of improving pitch quality will vary according to site specific circumstances, as will practical opportunities to implement improvements. In some cases, such as Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge, demand may still exceed capacity even with quality improvements in place.

Therefore, alternative options also need to be considered that could help to offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches. Not only could this assist in alleviating overplay of grass pitches but it could also aid quality improvements due to reduced usage where play is successfully transferred.

The financial viability of any 3G option would need to be established both in the short and long term and also not create unresolved displacement of other sports. When appraising 3G projects, consideration would also need to be given to whether there would be a realistic prospect of significant levels of match play being readily transferred as opposed to the 3G being mainly utilised for training purposes.

### *Scenario 2 - Quality deterioration*

There is a total of 13 pitches in High Peak which fall within Local Authority or parish/town council management. Given nationwide budget cuts and austerity measures it is recognised that pitch maintenance regimes are, in some instances, likely to suffer cut backs in both

<sup>2</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>3</sup> Match equivalent sessions

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staffing and technical equipment available to cater for the maintenance of grass playing pitches.

The table overleaf highlights the detrimental effect on pitch capacity across all local authority and parish council sites if quality scores dropped to poor. As can be seen, spare capacity at a number of sites is lost and overplay exacerbated at Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge. This therefore demonstrates the need to sustain current levels of maintenance at sites under both Local Authority or parish council management. Sites are only included in the table below if they have identified competitive demand in the 2016-2017 football season.

Table 4.2: Quality deterioration effects

Site ID	Site name	Management	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality <sup>4</sup>	Current pitch capacity rating <sup>5</sup>	Capacity rating <sup>6</sup> if pitches were poor quality
15	Chinley Recreation Ground	Parish Council	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
			9v9	1	Standard	1	-
17	Cote Heath Recreation Ground	Local Authority	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
39	Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge	Parish Council	Adult	1	Standard	2	3
			9v9	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
44	Newtown Recreation Park	Town Council	9v9	1	Standard	1	-
46	Ollersett Avenue, New Mills	Parish Council	Adult	1	Poor	2	2
47	Pyregrove Recreation Ground, Glossop	Local Authority	Adult	2	Standard	3	1
166	Wormhill Playing Field	Parish Council	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5

Pitches located at Hogshaw (Buxton), Newshaw Lane Recreation Ground (Hadfield) and Roughfields (Glossopdale) are under local authority management but are not identified as having regular football usage. Furthermore, each of the sites already has a poor quality rating and therefore the effect of diminished maintenance would be negligible to the respective capacity ratings.

### Scenario 3 - Loss of Local Authority/town/parish council pitches

There is a total of 26 teams (13 match equivalent sessions per week) identified as playing on grass football pitches which fall under management of either the Council or parish/town councils. The scenario overleaf outlines the effect the loss of these football pitches would have

<sup>4</sup> Includes sites which are already identified as being poor quality.

<sup>5</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>6</sup> Match equivalent sessions

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on the remaining pitch infrastructure within High Peak using demand data from the 2016/2017 football season.

*Table 4.3: Loss of local authority/town/parish council pitches*

Pitch type	Current picture <sup>7</sup>	Potential pitch loss	Pitch type	Potential picture <sup>8</sup>
Adult	2.5	10 pitches	Adult	8
Youth 11v11	8.5	-	Youth 11v11	8.5
Youth 9v9	3.5	3 pitches	Youth 9v9	1.5
<b>High Peak</b>	<b>5.5</b>	13 pitches	<b>High Peak</b>	<b>14.5</b>

If local authority or parish/town council pitches were removed from circulation, a significant shortfall across adult pitches would be created, whilst spare capacity on youth 9v9 pitches would reduce and outstanding shortfalls on youth 11v11 pitches would remain static. The above table therefore highlights the critical importance that pitches under local authority and parish/town council management have across High Peak in accommodating football demand.

### *Scenario 4 - Loss of access to low value pitch sites*

There are three sites in High Peak, detailed below, with just a single football pitch and no other sports pitch provision.

Hogshaw (Buxton), Newshaw Lane Recreation Ground (Hadfield) and Roughfields (Glossopdale) are all identified as having no regular community use (other than recreation play) and no accompanying ancillary provision.

These sites are generally considered to be of low value in terms of their current contribution to formal pitch supply (with no teams regularly using them) and investment in pitch quality improvements and ancillary provision would be unlikely to yield high returns given the scale of the facilities relative to the amount of investment that would be needed to deliver substantive enhancements to the sites as standalone facilities.

However, Newshaw Lane is located in close proximity to Glossopdale Community College and Hadfield St Andrews Cricket Club, and so although it has so far operated as an isolated site there could in the future be the potential for use as an annexe to one of these nearby sites and thereby for it to make a more valuable contribution to pitch supply to address specifically identified capacity issues.

In terms of Hogshaw, there does not seem to be scope to link the site to another facility and so although there is not a surplus of pitch provision in the area, consideration could be given to releasing the site for an alternative use subject to there being appropriate mitigation secured to address the loss in line with the National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 74 and Policy CF4 of the adopted Local Plan. Such mitigation would require re-provision of the sporting value at an alternative site in the locality, in a form consistent with this Strategy.

The potential for the Roughfields site to make a more effective contribution towards pitch provision could be enhanced should a new primary school be developed at Padfield Main Road. However, as a standalone facility, it is currently limited in respect of the sporting contribution it can make, and so as above, consideration could be given to releasing the site for an alternative use subject to there being appropriate mitigation secured to address the loss

<sup>7</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>8</sup> Match equivalent sessions

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in line with the National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 74 and Policy CF4 of the adopted Local Plan. Such mitigation would require the re-provision of the sporting value at an alternative site in the locality, in a form consistent with this Strategy.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment through action planning and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality, identifying any necessary changes/improvements.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use where this would address identified need.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of pitches to accommodate youth 11v11 teams, where possible.
- ◀ Explore further options to increase the youth 11v11 pitch stock such as the creation of additional pitches or through the utilisation of 3G.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure clubs in the football pyramid; Buxton Town FC, Glossop North End FC, New Mills FC and Whaley Bridge FC can progress if the opportunity arises through ensuring FA ground grading requirements are met.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure New Mills Juniors FC can access adequate playing pitch provision in its locality through improving pitch quality at New Mills School and creating a Community Use Agreement to secure long term access.
- ◀ Look to support Glossop North End Juniors AFC in aspirational plans to develop a site with accompanying changing facilities and good quality playing pitches.
- ◀ Consider options for sites currently identified as providing low-value, including co-joining with other facilities where there is an opportunity to do so, or releasing for alternative use subject to this loss being offset at a suitable alternative site in the locality in line with NPPF Paragraph 74, Local Plan Policy CF4 and the provisions of this Strategy.
- ◀ Ensure that housing developments are provided for in terms of outdoor sport and assess the need for any new pitch provision, including through the application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Demand Calculator (see Part 7).

### **3G pitches**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There is one full sized 3G pitch in High Peak located at Glossopdale College.
- ◀ In addition, there are two smaller sized pitches located at Buxton Community School and the Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge.
- ◀ Pitches at Glossopdale College and Buxton Community School are on the FA register.
- ◀ Having been installed in 2008, Glossopdale College is assessed as poor-quality due to a mixture of surface quality and low-quality repair work. The pitch is through to the final stages of Football Foundation grant funding to resurface the pitch.
- ◀ Both 3G pitches on the FA register are nearing full capacity.
- ◀ In order to satisfy current and future training demand, there is a need for three full size 3G pitches meaning a current shortfall of two.

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- Priority should therefore be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches in order to reduce shortfalls, particularly in the Glossopdale and Central analysis areas which exhibit highest demand for 3G provision.

### Scenarios

#### Scenario 5 - Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 42 teams) there is a need for three full size 3G pitches in High Peak, meaning a current shortfall of two. As such, there is a requirement to increase pitch stock, particularly in the Glossopdale and Central analysis areas.

#### Scenario 6 - Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA. In High Peak, Glossopdale College has undergone testing and is therefore FA approved to host competitive matches. The pitch is regularly used to host mini matches and is the central venue for the High Peak Junior League. To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred.

The following table therefore calculates the number of teams currently using council or town/parish council facilities in High Peak for each pitch type at peak time.

Table 4.4: Number of teams currently using council and parish council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	9
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	9
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	4
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	2
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	2
<b>Total</b>			<b>26</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 overleaf.

Table 4.5: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council and parish council pitch demand

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	9	4.5	32	144	3
11v11	9	4.5	32	144	3
9v9	4	2	10	20	1
7v7	2	1	8	8	1
5v5	2	1	4	4	1

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Given that peak time is the same for all pitch types (Sunday AM), a total of seven 3G pitches would be required to accommodate all matches currently played on council/parish council pitches. That being said, in practice, creating this number of pitches in High Peak is unrealistic, especially when considering the rural characteristics of the area. It may therefore be more appropriate to understand the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate certain formats of play.

As it stands, the majority of mini football in High Peak is catered for on one 3G pitch at Glossopdale College and is accommodated on both Saturdays and Sundays. The tables below look at the 3G requirement for replicating this model for youth 9v9 and youth 11v11 football.

*Table 4.6: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches*

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – 11:30am	2 x 9v9	2/4
11:30am – 1pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
1pm – 2:30pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
2:30pm – 4pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

Demand for youth 9v9 teams could be accommodated on two full size 3G pitches based on 20 teams currently playing this format in High Peak. This would therefore require the creation of two additional pitches given that the sole existing pitch is in use for mini match demand.

*Table 4.7: Moving all youth 11v11 matches to 3G pitches*

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – 11:30am	1 x 11v11	1/2
11:30am – 1pm	1 x 11v11	1/2
1pm – 2:30pm	1 x 11v11	1/2
2:30pm – 4pm	1 x 11v11	1/2

Demand for youth 11v11 football could be accommodated on six full size 3G pitches based on 45 teams currently playing this format within High Peak. Alternatively, if only youth 11v11 teams using council pitches (nine teams) were transferred to 3G, two full size 3G pitches would be required.

Prior to the future creation of 3G pitches, consideration should firstly be given to the small sided 3G pitches existing in High Peak which are located in both the Buxton and Central analysis areas. The small sided 3G pitch in Buxton is on the FA register and can accommodate mini football matches but isn't large enough to accommodate either youth 9v9 or youth 11v11 matches and as such, generally only accommodates midweek training demand for Buxton Juniors FC. Similarly, the small sided 3G pitch at Memorial Park in the Central analysis area is not on the FA register and therefore only accommodates midweek training. Therefore, if future 3G pitches are to be created for junior and adult competitive match play, neither of these small sided pitches would be suitable.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ◀ Look at the creation of new full sized 3G pitches, particularly in the Glossopdale and Central analysis areas.

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- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have a robust business plan to warrant development and are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Encourage Glossopdale College and any future providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure 3G pitches at Glossopdale College and Buxton Community School remain on the FA register to host competitive matches through testing every three years, and ensure likewise with any new 3G pitches that are created.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of creating a World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch in partnership with the FA to accommodate training demand from Glossop RUFC (scenario highlighted in the rugby union section).
- ◀ Explore feasibility of converting sand based hockey suitable surfaces to 3G if no longer required for hockey use. Ensure consultation with England Hockey is undertaken prior to any pitches being converted.

### Cricket pitches

#### Summary

- ◀ In total, there are 15 grass wicket cricket squares in High Peak located across 15 sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There are no cricket pitches located on school sites or any standalone non-turf pitches (NTPs).
- ◀ The majority of clubs in High Peak own their home grounds (nine clubs), with the remainder all having long terms leases in place
- ◀ The non-technical assessments carried out on grass cricket squares in High Peak found the majority of squares to be standard quality (14) and just one, Hayfield Cricket Club to be good quality. No squares were assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ The only club which raised a specific issue in relation to its ancillary facilities is Tintwistle CC.
- ◀ 7 clubs identify demand for further improvements to existing training provision.
- ◀ In total, there are 14 affiliated clubs competing in High Peak generating 82 teams, which equates to 29 senior men's and 53 junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Most clubs (10) report some level of anticipated participation increases, equating to 2 senior and 13 junior teams.
- ◀ There are 9 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in High Peak totalling 138 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only four of these have actual spare capacity at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ 3 squares are considered to be overplayed in High Peak by a total of 10 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall there is enough spare capacity to accommodate current and future demand in High Peak, although a shortfall is evident in the Glossopdale Analysis Area.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on improving pitch quality, where possible, as well as improving changing facilities and increasing training provision across High Peak.

#### Scenarios

##### *Scenario 7 - Addressing overplay*

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

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Minimal overplay is identified at three clubs; Glossop, Hadfield St Andrews and Hayfield cricket clubs. This can be alleviated either through the creation of an additional wicket (if space allows), or alternatively through the installation of an NTP at each respective site. The latter will enable the transfer of junior match play from grass wickets on each site.

### *Scenario 8 - Increasing stock of NTPs*

The ECB has created a local authority NTP scheme aiming to create a substantial number of new cricket pitches in areas of need and to facilitate a partnership approach between local authorities and county cricket boards. It is expected that the primary source of identified strategic need will be an up-to-date PPS. The scheme will offer capital grants towards the cost of construction of NTPs, periodic maintenance for a period of five years and equipment to engage new participants.

An increase of NTPs within High Peak would not only better accommodate junior demand, thus alleviating all overplay, but it would also assist in the growth of All Stars Cricket (ASC). It should be noted that any newly created NTP's should have a sinking fund in place to allow for future repair work and resurfacing.

### *Scenario 9 - Accommodating future demand*

Both Glossop CC and Buxton CC express future demand for one senior men's team. It is considered that Buxton CC can accommodate its expressed future demand at its secondary home venue (the Green). The site has overall spare capacity as well as capacity at peak time (Saturday).

In contrast, Glossop CC is identified as already being overplayed by one match equivalent session per season and the site is used to capacity at peak time (Saturday). As such, senior growth for the Club would either need to be realised outside of the peak period (on a Sunday or during mid-week), although this would exacerbate overplay, or play would have to be transferred to an alternative venue with spare capacity.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on pitches to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Sustain ancillary facility quality.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ◀ For clubs without lease arrangements, ensure community use agreements are entered into to ensure long-term access.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ◀ Address overplay through the creation of NTP's at Glossop CC, Hadfield St Andrews CC and Hayfield CC.
- ◀ Ensure Glossop CC can realise its future growth aspirations, either through addressing overplay at its existing site, or through enabling access to an alternative site that has spare capacity.

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## Rugby union - grass pitches

### **Summary**

- ◀ Within High Peak there are four sites containing seven senior rugby union pitches. Of these, one pitch is unavailable for community use located at Chapel Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, no pitches are assessed as good quality, five are assessed as standard quality and one is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Three rugby union clubs play within High Peak providing six senior men's, one senior women's, one colt's, four junior boys', and ten (mixed) mini teams.
- ◀ TGRs (2031) do not predict the growth of any additional teams.
- ◀ Glossop RFC has aspirations to develop one junior girls team, whereas Buxton RFC could not quantify growth aspirations but does have aspirations to increase its number of junior teams.
- ◀ Hope Valley RFC has latent demand in that it would operate more teams if more pitches were available.
- ◀ Despite four senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play, only three (all located at Buxton RFC) are deemed to currently have spare capacity, although not during peak periods.
- ◀ There are two senior pitches located at Glossop RFC that are overplayed by a combined 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week and one pitch at Hope Valley RFC overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week.
- ◀ To alleviate shortfalls, there is an evident need to create additional pitches or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch to support Glossop RFC.
- ◀ Buxton RFC can currently accommodate all match and training demand on site; however, capacity should be revisited should the Club start to significantly grow.
- ◀ Quality improvements are required at Castleton Playing Fields in order to accommodate the latent demand expressed by Hope Valley RFC.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Scenario 11 - Alleviating overplay*

Pitch improvements via qualitative enhancements to both maintenance and drainage on overplayed pitches at Glossop Rugby Club and Hope Valley Rugby Club are explored in table 4.8 and 4.9 overleaf. As can be seen, improvements to both maintenance and drainage would not alleviate overplay at Glossop Rugby Club, whilst maintenance improvements to the single pitch at Hope Valley Rugby Club would alleviate all overplay on site.

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- Increasing maintenance to M2 at Glossop Rugby Club would not eliminate overplay, with 1.75 match sessions of overplay still remaining.
- Maintenance improvements would create additional capacity at Buxton Rugby Club and Hope Valley Rugby Club.

Table 4.8: Maintenance improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Quality rating <sup>9</sup>	No. of pitches	Floodlighting	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved quality	Capacity effect
9	Buxton Rugby Club	Senior	Standard (M1/D1)	1	Yes	1.5	2	+0.5	Good (M2/D1)	+1.5
			Standard (M1/D1)	1	Partial	1.5	2	+0.5	Good (M2/D1)	+1.5
			Standard (M1/D1)	1	No	1	2	+1	Good (M2/D1)	+2
28	Glossop Rugby Club	Senior	Standard (M1/D1)	1	Yes	3.5	2	-1.5	Good (M2/D1)	-0.5
			Standard (M1/D1)	1	Partial	4.25	2	-2.25	Good (M2/D1)	-1.25
167	Castleton Playing Fields (Hope Valley RFC)	Senior	Poor (M0/D0)	1	No	1	0.5	-0.5	Standard (M1/D0)	+0.5

- Alternatively, improving both maintenance (where currently below M2) and drainage by one increment would create additional capacity of 4.75 match equivalent sessions per week across Buxton Rugby Club and Hope Valley Rugby Club. Despite improvements, overplay would still be apparent at Glossop Rugby Club totalling 1.25 match sessions per week.

<sup>9</sup> RFU capacity rating explanations can be found in the accompanying assessment report document.

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Table 4.9: Maintenance and drainage improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Quality rating <sup>10</sup>	No. of pitches	Floodlighting	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved quality	Capacity effect
9	Buxton Rugby Club	Senior	Standard (M1/D1)	1	Yes	1.5	2	+0.5	Good (M2/D2)	+1.75
			Standard (M1/D1)	1	Partial	1.5	2	+0.5	Good (M2/D2)	+1.75
			Standard (M1/D1)	1	No	1	2	+1	Good (M2/D2)	+2.25
28	Glossop Rugby Club	Senior	Standard (M1/D1)	1	Yes	3.5	2	-1.5	Good (M2/D2)	-0.25
			Standard (M1/D1)	1	Partial	4.25	2	-2.25	Good (M2/D2)	-1
167	Castleton Playing Fields (Hope Valley RFC)	Senior	Poor (M0/D0)	1	No	1	0.5	-0.5	Standard (M1/D1)	+1

<sup>10</sup> RFU capacity rating explanations can be found in the accompanying assessment report document.

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### *Scenario 12 - Removal of training demand from match pitches*

Removing midweek training demand off pitches at Glossop Rugby Club to a WR Compliant 3G pitch would remove 2.5 match sessions of demand per week, therefore leaving overplay at 0.75 match sessions per week which in turn could be alleviated through maintenance improvements as explored in table 4.8.

#### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Seek to improve the quality of the maintenance regimes at Glossop Rugby Club and Hope Valley Rugby Club to increase capacity as a means of reducing levels of overplay across the sites.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of creating World Rugby Compliant 3G provision to accommodate midweek training demand from Glossop RFC to alleviate the majority of overplay from match pitches.
- ◀ As a minimum, sustain the current maintenance and drainage ratings at all remaining rugby pitch sites.
- ◀ Ensure quality of ancillary facilities at Buxton RFC and Glossop RUFC are sustained and improvements are made when necessary.
- ◀ Look to support Hope Valley RFC in its aspirations to grow and develop.

#### **Rugby league**

##### **Summary**

- ◀ Buxton Bulls ARLFC is the only rugby league club in High Peak.
- ◀ There are no dedicated rugby league pitches, with activity instead carried out on a rugby union pitch at Buxton Rugby Club.
- ◀ The pitch is assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ No issues were raised in relation to the ancillary facilities servicing Buxton Rugby Club.
- ◀ Buxton Bulls ARLFC has 36 members and fields a senior team; however, it reports that it is likely to fold in the near future given decreasing participation.
- ◀ It is likely that all current and future demand for rugby league can be accommodated on existing rugby union pitches, particularly given the uncertainty over the future of Buxton Bulls ARLFC.
- ◀ Unless participation grows to an extent whereby the Club becomes sustainable, providing a dedicated rugby league pitch is considered unfeasible.

##### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Look to support Buxton Bulls ARLFC in increasing its membership levels so that it does not fold.
- ◀ Ensure Buxton Bulls ARLFC can continue to be accommodated at Buxton Rugby Club for the duration of its existence.

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs in High Peak across the same number of sites, both of which are floodlit.
- ◀ The AGP at Buxton Community School has a floodlight restriction of 8pm.
- ◀ Chapel Leisure Centre was built in 2003 and is of a particularly poor quality, whereas Buxton Community School was resurfaced in 2013 and is of a good quality.
- ◀ Consultation with both Buxton HC and Buxton Community School highlights that the floodlighting accompanying the AGP requires urgent improvement.
- ◀ Buxton HC is the only Club operating in High Peak. It operates four senior men's teams, two senior women's teams, one badgers team and two junior boys teams.
- ◀ The Club has future demand for one senior women's team and one badgers team.
- ◀ The AGP at Buxton School can adequately accommodate all current and future growth.
- ◀ The AGP at Chapel Leisure Centre is currently required as a potential training venue for Buxton Hockey Club due to floodlighting issues at its home site, Buxton Community School and as such requires protecting.
- ◀ Once issues with floodlighting are resolved at Buxton Community School the pitch at Chapel Leisure Centre should be considered as for conversion to 3G to reduce overall shortfalls in High Peak.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Scenario 13 - Accommodating future demand*

There is currently a sufficient supply of full size, hockey suitable AGPs in High Peak to meet both current and future demand, based on the aspirations of Buxton HC. This is based on EH's recommendation that a full sized, floodlit AGP can accommodate four matches during the peak period (Saturday).

##### *Scenario 14 - Floodlighting*

The AGP utilised by Buxton Hockey Club at Buxton Community School needs to be fully able to accommodate four Saturday fixtures and therefore requires a good standard of floodlighting to meet league regulations for afternoon matches. At present, floodlighting is poor and if not resolved there may be a requirement for the Club to access alternative venues (although likely to be the poor quality AGP at Chapel Leisure Centre) to accommodate fixtures, in addition to midweek training.

The AGP has a floodlight restriction of 8pm and this therefore reduces the ability for midweek training. Due to this restriction training is scheduled shortly after 6pm which inhibits large proportions of players due to work commitments and traveling times. A floodlighting review and extension to 9pm (in line with the adjacent 3G pitch) would allow an additional five hours of community use, which in turn would allow more players from Buxton HC to train.

##### *Scenario 15 - Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G pitches*

Once floodlighting issues at Buxton Community School are resolved, the AGP at Chapel Leisure Centre is not required for hockey and as such can be considered for conversion to 3G to meet identified football shortfalls.

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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain Buxton Community School as hockey suitable and ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing of the pitch.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to relax floodlight restrictions at Buxton Community School.
- ◀ Retain Chapel Leisure Centre as a hockey suitable AGP until issues with floodlights at Buxton Community School are resolved.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.

### **Bowling greens**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are 19 crown green bowling greens in High Peak provided across 18 sites.
- ◀ Of the 12 clubs that responded to consultation, 5 have freehold of their site, 2 annually rent and 4 have expiring/expired lease agreements.
- ◀ There are 11 good, 5 standard and 3 poor quality greens.
- ◀ Gamesley; Whaley Bridge; Birch Hall, Birch Vale; and Manor Park, Glossop bowling clubs all highlight issues with ancillary provision.
- ◀ There are 18 clubs using bowling greens in High Peak, with each club being assigned to its own site.
- ◀ Of the 11 clubs that revealed their membership figures, there is a combined total of 606 members, which equates to 379 senior men, 216 senior women and 11 juniors.
- ◀ No clubs in High Peak report an increase in membership in the past three years.
- ◀ Seven clubs that responded to consultation have plans to increase their number of members and quantify this growth to a combined 30 senior and 18 junior members.
- ◀ Although there is no known demand for additional greens to be provided across High Peak, this does not translate to a surplus in provision.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Scenario 16 - Amalgamating clubs*

To determine whether the current number of clubs could be amalgamated onto a lesser number of greens, it is imperative that further details are acquired from those clubs that did not respond to consultation requests. The clubs that were unresponsive to consultation requests are Tintwistle, Ashwood Park, Hope Works, Trades Hall, Chapel Park, Burbage and Hadfield bowling clubs.

If a high number of clubs are struggling for membership, it is possible that a merger could help with sustainability. That being said, of the clubs that did respond to consultation requests, membership is relatively high, with Birch Hall BC catering for the lowest (26 members).

#### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality of sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Look to improve quality of ancillary provision at Gamesley, Whaley Bridge, Birch Hall and Manor Park bowling clubs.
- ◀ Look to support clubs with a small membership base to ensure they are not at risk of folding.
- ◀ If a high number of clubs begin to struggle for membership, consider potential merger options to help with sustainability.

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### Tennis courts

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are 31 tennis courts identified in High Peak located across 11 sites and all categorised as being available for community use.
- ◀ In total, 11 courts are at club operated sites, 2 are at a council operated site and 9 are at education operated sites. The remaining 9 courts are at sites operated by other entities.
- ◀ There are 5 courts serviced by floodlighting.
- ◀ Buxton TC has recently submitted an application to Sport England for a grant under the Community Asset Programme to assist with installing floodlights as well as the building of a small clubhouse.
- ◀ The large majority of community available courts have a macadam surface, except one that is polymeric.
- ◀ Of provision that is available for community use, 15 (48%) are assessed as good quality and 16 courts (52%) are assessed as poor quality. None are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ There are 5 tennis clubs in High Peak.
- ◀ Of the 3 clubs that state their membership figures, they collectively consist of 160 senior members and 128 junior members.
- ◀ Future demand amounts to 50 senior members and 20 junior members and is expressed by Buxton TC and Glossop Pyegrove TC.
- ◀ It is concluded that courts accessed by Glossop Pyrgrove have the capacity to accommodate both current and future demand.
- ◀ Edale TC is operating above capacity; however, the Club expresses no capacity issues.
- ◀ Buxton TC can accommodate its current demand, but future demand may result in the need for floodlighting to be provided or additional provision. The Club has Sport England grant funding to install new lights.
- ◀ As membership at Bamford TC and New Mills TC is unknown, further exploration is required to understand whether the current number of courts available to the clubs is adequate.
- ◀ As all remaining courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly sites that are assessed as poor quality.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Scenario 17 - Increasing capacity*

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. If future demand is realised, Buxton Tennis Club will begin to operate at capacity, meaning there could be a requirement to extend the capacity of its site. This can be achieved through the installation of floodlighting or through the creation of new courts.

#### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, particularly those used by clubs.
- ◀ Review quality issues relating to poor quality courts and seek improvements, where possible.
- ◀ Support Buxton TC in its aspiration for floodlighting to increase the capacity of its site.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at non-club sites to improve the casual tennis offer.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of creating a membership scheme at council courts via an access control system.

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- ◀ Assist clubs in engaging with the County LTA to obtain advice and potential funding streams.

## **Athletics tracks**

### ***Summary***

- ◀ There are no athletics tracks in High Peak with residents accessing dedicated provision likely to travel to either Stockport or Sheffield.
- ◀ There are 5 running clubs in operation in High Peak that specialise in long distance endurance and/or fell running.
- ◀ In addition, there is a Park Run event which is held every Saturday morning at Manor Park, Glossop.
- ◀ There are no affiliated Run Together groups and no 3-2-1 routes are provided.
- ◀ Precedence should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the Park Run event as well as supporting the various running clubs.
- ◀ Future options should be explored in relation to Run Together groups and 3-2-1 routes given that none are currently in place.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Support Park Run to ensure that it can sustain its increasing popularity.
- ◀ Explore future options in relation to providing Run Together groups and 3-2-1 routes.

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### PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

#### **AIM 1**

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

#### **Recommendations:**

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

**Recommendation (a) – 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. Underused and poor-quality sites, as well as any sites that become lapsed or disused, 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, application of local planning policy and planning decisions should reflect this situation.

NPPF paragraph 74 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.

High Peak Local Plan Policy CF4 states that the Council will seek to protect, maintain and where possible enhance existing open spaces, sport and recreational buildings and land including playing fields in order to ensure their continued contribution to the health and well-being of local communities. This will be achieved by:

- ◀ Resisting any development that involves the loss of a sport, recreation, play facility or amenity green-space except where it can be demonstrated that alternative facilities of equal or better quality will be provided in an equally accessible location as part of the

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development or the loss is associated with an alternative sports provision that would deliver benefits that would clearly outweigh the loss, or an assessment has been undertaken to demonstrate the facility is surplus to requirements.

- ◀ Encouraging improvements to existing recreation, play and sports facilities within communities and providing new opportunities that shall be informed by the Peak Sub Region Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2012 and successor documents.
- ◀ Improving the quantity, quality and value of play, sports and other amenity green-space provision through requiring qualifying new residential developments to provide or contribute towards public open space and sports facilities in line with the High Peak local open space and recreation provision standards set out in the study report. Further guidance will be provided in the forthcoming Developer Contributions SPD.
- ◀ Requiring all major residential developments to design into schemes growing areas for residents and where this is not feasible, requiring a contribution to allotment provision off-site, in accordance with the local provision standards.
- ◀ Collecting financial contributions towards the delivery, improvement and management of off-site provision of open space and recreation facilities through Section 106 agreement or via the Community Infrastructure Levy if this is adopted.
- ◀ Exploring options for the management of new areas of open space to be undertaken by community owned and run trusts.
- ◀ Designating land as Local Green Space in accordance with the Local Plan sub-area strategies, Policies S5 to S7. Development that would harm the openness and/or special character of a Local Green Space or its significance and value to the local community will not be permitted unless there are very special circumstances which outweigh the harm to the Local Green Space.

**Lapsed and disused** – playing field sites that formerly accommodated outdoor sports facilities but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use within the last five years (lapsed) or longer (disused).

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), 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 playing pitch 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 (subject to being informed by an annual review of the PPS), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

**New housing development** - where proposed housing development is located within access of high-quality outdoor sports facilities, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvements to existing provision in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development.

The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for and capacity of existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required. This can be achieved through utilisation of Sport England's Playing Pitch Demand Calculator (see Part 7).

The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for and capacity of existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required. Sport England's Playing Pitch Demand Calculator tool can be used in conjunction with the PPS and Action Plan to determine requirements and to identify a specific project or projects for direct provision or assignment of financial contributions towards off-site delivery. (see Part 7).

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### ***Playing Field Protection Policy<sup>11</sup>***

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 that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with 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.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing outdoor sport sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger better quality sites. It is imperative, however, that there is no net loss of facilities or playing field space, and that any replacement provision is made available before existing provision is lost.

**Schools** – It is acknowledged that due to housing growth and increasing population, schools will be required to expand, potentially onto playing pitch land. Where this is the case, it is imperative that the schools in question are left with sufficient playing pitch land to deliver curricular and extra-curricular needs. Should that not be the case, then expansion should be prohibited unless a suitable off-site solution to the schools playing pitch needs can be found.

If the schools curricular and extra-curricular needs can continue to be met despite the expansion, mitigation for the loss of the playing pitch land is still required, given the shortfalls identified. This should therefore be covered via developer contributions, with a mitigation package agreed upon by all stakeholders, including Sport England, on a site-by-site and development-by-development basis. As an example, a new playing pitch site may be required to off-set the loss, or existing sites could be improved and/or extended, with this document used as a guide to identify suitable sites. Although such mitigation will not benefit the expanding school, it will benefit the wider community and the increased population that caused the need for the school to expand.

Please note that all schools with playing pitches should be included within this strategy. Where schools are not included, it may be that they have playing field land but no dedicated pitches marked out, meaning they do not fall within the scope of the PPS. That being said, Sport

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-applications/playing-field-land/>

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England planning policies would still apply to such schools if they expanded onto the playing field land.

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

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in High Peak for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should, thus, seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required.

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 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.

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

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

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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' for new clubs (i.e. not those with a Borough-wide significance) but that offer development potential. 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 Council should adopt a policy that supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and NGBs with opportunities to take ownership of facilities and it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building. The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/community-asset-transfer/about/>

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

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

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established

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community use sites. The following four schools in High Peak do not allow community use of some or all of their outdoor sports facilities:

- ◀ All Saints Catholic Primary School, Glossop (one mini football pitch)
- ◀ Duke of Norfolk CE Primary School, Glossop (one mini football pitch)
- ◀ Gamesley Community Primary School, Glossop (one youth and one mini football pitch)
- ◀ New Mills School Business and Enterprise College, New Mills (two adult football pitches)

Whilst gaining access to these schools will assist in more adequately supplying demand, it is not considered a priority in relation to mini football pitches. This is because mini football pitch demand within High Peak generally uses the 3G pitch at Glossopdale Community College due to the use of a central venue system.

In some instances, outdoors sports facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it 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.

Although there are no schools under Local Authority control it is still important to understand the significance of school sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, the relevant NGB has a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver the strategy and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

For schools that are operated by Derbyshire County Council which are planning on or considering converting to academy status, enabling community use should be encouraged and, if possible, negotiated as part of the conversion process.

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

### **AIM 2**

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities 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 improve quality, including, for example, installing drainage systems and improving maintenance.

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Given that the majority of councils face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). With such pressures on budgets, however, any direct investment into pitch quality maybe unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Aim 1, recommendation b, or through other means such as reducing unofficial use, addressing overplay and/or creating equipment banks for the pooling of maintenance resources.

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

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

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality, particularly in a local authority such as High Peak. 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.

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 provision with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces, that are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to provision with, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that 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 (too small) changing rooms, no showers, no running water and 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.

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Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality sites may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same applies to women's and girls' demand.

To prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to High Peak, to provide a steer on this. It is the responsibility of the whole steering group to agree and to attend regular subsequent update meetings.

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:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/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 a good quality pitch should take, as seen in the table overleaf.

Table 5.2: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football (grass)	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 <sup>13</sup>	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	All pitch types	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	N/A	N/A

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up

<sup>13</sup> The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and the maintenance programme afforded to a site.

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to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members.

For athletics, there is no maximum capacity set out by UK Athletics; instead a minimum membership of 200 is required to ensure that tracks remain sustainable.

For bowls there are no capacity recommendations set out by NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

It is imperative to engage with clubs and providers to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. In cases where overplay currently exists, quality should either be improved to an extent that alleviates the overplay, or play should be transferred to sites that have available capacity. This may include transferring demand to 3G pitches (in the case of football and/or rugby union) or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future. In extreme circumstances, where none of the above options are realistic, new provision may be required.

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

### ***Increasing maintenance***

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

The FA and ECB are part of the 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. 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 but can also be used to advise council maintained sites.

All local authority sites in High Peak receive a basic level of maintenance restricted to regular grass cutting and seeding only. To enhance this, aeration, weed-killing, fertilisation and sand-dressing should be explored, if budgets allow.

Another method for improving maintenance could be via asset transfer, as highlighted in Aim 1, with clubs then taking control of maintenance rather than the Council. This can enhance pitch quality as clubs are sometimes able to hire dedicated ground staff or have dedicated volunteers looking after the pitches. It can also aid the remaining pitches still under council operation as more resources can be put towards such sites.

Other options include the use of equipment banks, with clubs pooling resources, and clubs and the Council splitting maintenance on certain sites. A common example of the latter being a cricket club maintaining a square and the Council maintaining the outfield (rather than the Council maintaining the whole site).

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### **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 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitches and accompanying ancillary 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 Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group.

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

One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

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

### **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.

As previously stated, where such development is located within access of a high-quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision in the locality in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. 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 or if new provision is required.

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator as a tool for helping to determine developer contributions linking to sites within the locality.

The calculator 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. This is then converted into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs. Please refer to Part 7 for a worked example.

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The Playing Pitch Demand Calculator tool should be used in conjunction with the PPS and Action Plan in accordance with an agreed mechanism/protocol to ensure a consistent approach is taken to establishing requirements and calculating S106 contributions. Provision may include new facilities/enhancement of existing facilities 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.

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

- ◀ Most new developments which create net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or create a new dwelling, are potentially liable for CIL.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 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.

As a reminder, the OAN for High Peak has been determined through the preparation (in May 2015) of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). This estimates population growth of 7,334 and an annual housing requirement of 350 dwellings per year (2011-2031), equating to 7,000 new homes over the 20-year period.

For scenarios relating to these figures, please see Part 7.

### **AIM 3**

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where 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, where appropriate.

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

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own outdoor sports facilities whilst recognising the need to

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

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 presently are 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 and non-turf cricket wickets where there is a discrete need, or there is a site-specific opportunity to deliver substantial sports benefits from the project to meet a specific local requirement.

Notwithstanding the above, there also remains an isolated need to reconfigure pitches at certain sites throughout High Peak as identified in the Stage C assessment report, in particular in relation to the lack of dedicated youth 11v11 football pitches.

### **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 High Peak can be met 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.
- ◀ 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 that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of outdoor 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 and are not necessarily area specific.

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

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Future sports development trend</b>	<b>Strategy impact</b>
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.	Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.

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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
	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 AGP's.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure regular 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. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Increase in 3G pitch stock required. Need for community use agreements to be in place as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain static for grass wickets for both junior and adult participation.	Sustain current pitch stock. Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are operating at capacity. A need to install NTPs and encourage greater use for junior cricket.
	An increase in non-club based play, especially from South Asian communities.	Develop cricket within communities that more commonly play informal formats of the game.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
	All Stars Cricket initiative is likely to result in increased junior demand.	An increase stock of NTPs required to accommodate demand.
Rugby union	The RFU work towards achieving the stated outcomes of its National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017), the RFU National Women and Girls Strategy and the RFU National Male XV-a-side Strategy. Locally the RFU want to ensure access to pitches that satisfies the existing demand and predicted growth. Further, the RFU is aiming to protect and improve pitch quality plus that of ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights as current and future demand requires.	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.
	The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. To achieve this, the RFU is keen to work locally with partners such as the Council and the FA to look at sites of mutual interest.	There is a need for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch within High Peak to satisfy Glossop RUFC.

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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Hockey	Current playing level is likely to increase with a growth rate predicted by England Hockey.	Retain current stock of sand-based pitches and ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.
	High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018)	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.
	Play Hockey	The launch of Play Hockey and its subsequent website ensures that those wishing to play the game are able to find their local facility and club.
Tennis	Membership of clubs is expected to increase, whilst casual play is expected to remain static.	Increases in participation can be accommodated through existing court provision although Buxton TC requires more floodlit provision. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as the access control system.
Bowls	No expected net increase in memberships although an increasing elderly population could change this.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.
Athletics	Membership is expected to remain static.	Ensure membership stays above 200 to ensure that facilities are sustainable, with quality improvements encouraged.
	Expected increase in Park Run, Run Together Groups and 3-2-1 routes.	Identify sites that can accommodate such facilities/demand.

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## 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, with an overview of each analysis area provided before the site-by-site recommendations.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to propose a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor facility sites and associated facilities.

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

*Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria*

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
<b>Site location</b>	Strategically located in the Borough. 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. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. 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 Borough-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalization of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites in order to develop the hierarchy of sites. Identification of these potential sites should be carried out in partnership with the Steering Group and, in particular, the NGB for that particular sport.

**Key centres** although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will 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. They are generally hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that service just one sport. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the provision. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

### 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 pitches development with the FA.

### Action plan columns

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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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. The Council is considered to be a partner within each action so is therefore not referenced.

### **Site hierarchy tier**

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 be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of Key centres are a **medium** priority and 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.

**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.

### **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 included relate to delivery times and are not priority based.

Timescales: (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.**

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## BUXTON ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current shortfalls	Future shortfalls (2031) <sup>14</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Buxton	No current shortfalls.	No future shortfalls.
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of 5.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</b>
Football (Full sized 3G pitches) <sup>15</sup>	Buxton	No current shortfalls.	No current shortfalls.
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of two full-sized 3G pitches.</b>	<b>Shortfall of two full-sized 3G pitches.</b>
Rugby union	Buxton	No current shortfalls.	No future shortfalls.
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of 4.25 match sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.25 match sessions</b>
Cricket	Buxton	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	Buxton	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Tennis	Buxton	No current shortfalls.	<b>Capacity shortfall at Buxton TC.</b>
	High Peak	All remaining courts have spare capacity with the exception of Buxton TC which is at capacity.	
Bowls	Buxton	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	High Peak	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
Rugby League	High Peak	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
Athletics	High Peak	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.

<sup>14</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

<sup>15</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>16</sup>	Cost <sup>17</sup>	Aim
5	Batham Gate Road Football Ground	Football	Wormhill and Green Fairfield Parish Council	Two adult pitches rated as standard quality. Available for community use. The pitches are fully available during the peak period.	Look to ensure the quality of the pitches is sustained for continued use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
6	Buxton Community School	Hockey	School	A full size, hockey suitable AGP pitch rated as standard quality and with poor quality floodlights. Pitch has a floodlight restriction of 8pm. Ongoing issues with floodlighting quality reduces midweek training availability.	Review conditions of planning and explore opportunities to relax the floodlight restriction to allow operation until 9pm in line with the adjacent 3G pitch.	School England Hockey	Hub site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
					Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained and that there is a sinking fund in place for eventual resurfacing.			Medium	Medium	Low	
					Explore opportunities to improve floodlighting to allow for midweek training sessions for Buxton HC.			High	Short	Medium	
		AGP		One half size, medium pile 3G pitch rated as standard quality and with floodlights. Pitch operating at capacity.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained and that there is a sinking fund in place for eventual resurfacing.	School FA	Medium	Medium	Low		
Football	One good quality adult pitch and two good quality youth 9v9 pitches. Pitches primarily used by Buxton Juniors FC.	Look to ensure that the good quality of the pitches is sustained for continued use by both Buxton School and Buxton Juniors FC.	School FA	Medium	Medium	Low					
9	Buxton Rugby Football Club	Rugby	Sports Club	Three senior pitches with a quality rating of M1/D1. One pitch is fully floodlit, one partially and one without floodlights. The floodlit pitch and the partially floodlit pitch have spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions. The pitch without has spare capacity of one match session.	Look to ensure that quality of the site is sustained for continued use. Explore opportunities to work with the Club to improve quality of maintenance on the site to increase overall spare capacity.	Sports Club RFU	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
17	Cote Heath Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Has actual spare capacity of one match session that can be accommodated on Sunday's. Poor quality accompanying changing provision.	Look to ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained. Explore potential funding opportunities to improve quality of onsite changing provision.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		A standard quality crown bowling green.	Look to enhance quality of the bowling green maintenance regime in order to improve quality of the green.	Sports Club		Medium	Medium	Low	
23	Fairfield Youth Centre	Football	Community Organisation	Four adult pitches rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Has actual spare capacity of four match session that can be accommodated during the peak period.	Ensure that the quality of all pitches is sustained to accommodate both current and future use. Explore opportunities for pitches to be greater utilised.	Community Organisation FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
31	Harpur Hill Primary School	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
35	Hogshaw	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch rated as poor quality. A low value site which is unsuitable for investment. Consider site for future development.	If favourable to develop on, ensure the pitch is mitigated adequately in line with NPPF and local planning policy. As such, steps should be taken to identify suitable	Local Authority FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect

<sup>16</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>17</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>16</sup>	Cost <sup>17</sup>	Aim
					alternative sites for investment in the locality.						
55	Sterndale Moor	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch rated, one 7v7 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use. The adult pitch is played to capacity, the mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match session at peak time and the youth 11v11 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions at peak time.	Ensure that the quality of pitches is sustained for continued use.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
56	The Park (Buxton Cricket Tennis and Bowls Club)	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with nine wickets and an NTP. Available for community use. The pitch is played to capacity.	Look to increase the quality of the square through reviewing the current maintenance and preparatory regime and making adjustments where required.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
				Buxton CC requires a mobile training net.	Explore funding opportunities to purchase a new mobile net.	Sports Club ECB		Medium	Medium	Low	
		Bowls		One green rated as good quality and is the home venue of Buxton BC.	Ensure quality of the green is sustained.	Sports Club		Medium	Medium	Low	
		Tennis		Three poor quality macadam courts. Buxton TC is the site user and the site is deemed to be operating at capacity. The Club has future demand aspirations equating to 30 new members.	Explore funding opportunities to resurface all courts as a way to improve quality of the site. Seek to install floodlighting at the site in order to increase capacity of all courts on site, allowing future demand to be achieved.	Sports Club LTA		Medium	Medium	Low	
57	The Silverlands	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch rated as good quality. Available for community use. Pitch is played to capacity. Club has aspirations to turn natural grass pitch into a 3G stadia pitch.	Ensure that the good quality of the grass pitch is sustained in order to sustain high levels of demand.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Provide
					Support Club in its aspirations to develop a 3G pitch subject to business planning and feasibility testing.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	High	
152	Burbage Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One pitch rated as good quality and is the home venue of Burbage BC.	Ensure quality of the green is sustained.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
153	Ashwood Park	Bowls	Sports Club	One pitch rated as standard quality and is the home venue of Ashwood Park BC.	Look to enhance quality of the bowling green maintenance regime in order to improve quality of the green.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
154	Fairfield Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One pitch rated as good quality and is the home venue of Fairfield BC.	Ensure quality of the green is sustained.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
155	Peak Dale Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One pitch rated as good quality and is the home venue of Peak Dale BC.	Ensure quality of the green is sustained.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
166	Wormhill Parish Council Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Has actual spare capacity of one match session at peak time.	Look to ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained to accommodate current and future use.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
168	The Green	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with six wickets and one non-turf wicket. Available for community use. The pitch has potential capacity for 20 match sessions and has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions on a Saturday.	Look to increase the quality of the square through reviewing the current maintenance and preparatory regime and making adjustments where required.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current shortfalls	Future shortfalls (2031) <sup>18</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Central	<b>Overplay equating to 4.5 match sessions per week on adult pitches.</b>	<b>Future shortfalls of six match sessions per week on adult pitches. Future shortfalls of 2.5 match sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches.</b>
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of 5.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</b>
Football (Full sized 3G pitches) <sup>19</sup>	Central	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G.</b>	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G.</b>
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of two full-sized 3G pitches.</b>	<b>Shortfall of two full-sized 3G pitches.</b>
Rugby union	Central	No current shortfalls.	No future shortfalls.
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of 4.25 match sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.25 match sessions</b>
Cricket	Central	Hayfield CC overplayed by four match sessions per season.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	Central	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Tennis	Central	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Bowls	Central	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Rugby league	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Athletics	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.

<sup>18</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

<sup>19</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>20</sup>	Cost <sup>21</sup>	Aim
11	Chapel Leisure Centre	Football	Commercial	Two adult pitches rated as poor quality. Pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week.	Look to improve quality of the pitches through increased maintenance to alleviate overplay. Increasing pitch quality to standard quality will eradicate all overplay.	Commercial FA	Hub site	Medium	Short	Low	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		One senior pitch with an M0/D1 quality rating and without floodlights. Available for community use.	Explore opportunities to increase the maintenance levels of the pitch to increase surface quality.	Commercial RFU		Medium	Medium	Low	
		Hockey		One full size, hockey suitable AGP pitch rated as poor quality with floodlights. Available for community use. The pitch was installed/resurfaced in 2003.	Explore funding opportunities to resurface the AGP to improve quality of the surface. Explore feasibility of converting to 3G to alleviate shortfalls in the analysis area.	Commercial England Hockey FA		Medium	Medium	High	
		Tennis		Four macadam courts rated as good quality and without floodlights. Available for community use.	Look to ensure that the quality of all courts is sustained. Ensure a sinking fund is in place to resurface courts in future years.	Commercial LTA		Medium	Medium	Low	
13	Chapel-en-le-Frith Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with 11 wickets. Available for community use. The pitch has potential capacity for 17 match sessions and has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions on a Saturday.	Ensure that the quality of the cricket square is sustained as a minimum. Look to review maintenance regime to improve quality of cricket square. If feasible, look to utilise spare Saturday capacity for clubs with future growth aspirations.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
				Chapel-en-le-Firth CC has demand for new training nets to accommodate midweek training demand.	Explore funding opportunities to purchase new nets.			Medium	Medium	Low	
15	Chinley Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Look to improve the quality of the pitch surface through an improve maintenance regime.	Parish Council ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
20	Dove Holes Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with eight wickets. Available for community use. The square has minimal spare capacity.	Look to increase the quality of the square through reviewing the current maintenance and preparatory regime and making adjustments where required.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
				Dove Holes CC requires a mobile cage to better accommodate midweek training demand.	Explore funding opportunities to purchase training nets.			Medium	Medium	Low	
		Football		A standard quality adult football pitch with one match session of spare capacity available.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained to accommodate both current and future use.	Sports Club FA		Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
24	Furness Vale Rec	Football	Community Trust	One adult pitch rated as poor quality. Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Explore opportunities to improve the quality of the pitch through drainage and maintenance improvements.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance

<sup>20</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>21</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>22</sup>	Cost <sup>23</sup>	Aim
32	Hayfield Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A good quality natural grass cricket square with seven wickets. Available for community use. The pitch is overplayed by four match sessions per season.	Ensure good quality of the cricket square is sustained to support overplay.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Provide
					Explore opportunities to increase the number of wickets on the square or alternatively look to install an NTP to transfer junior demand off grass wickets.						
33	Hayfield Primary School	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session at peak time.	Ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
39	Memorial Park	Football	Whaley Bridge Town Council	One adult pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch rated as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by two match sessions. The youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match session at peak time. Adult pitch used by Whaley Bridge FC which play at Step 7 in the football pyramid.	Look to increase the quality of the adult pitch to help mitigate the consequences of overplay. Explore opportunities to transfer some play to alternative pitches to reduce overplay.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
		AGP			A smaller sided 3G pitch with floodlights. Available for community use.			Ensure quality of the AGP is sustained and that a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing.			
40	New Mills AFC	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch rated as good quality. Ground meets FA grading requirements to play Step 4 football.	Ensure good quality of the pitch is sustained. Look to ensure ground meets FA ground grading requirements in the future.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
41	New Mills School Business and Enterprise College (Sports Field)	Football	School	One adult pitch rated as standard quality. Not available for community use due to surface quality. Site has room to develop more pitches.	Explore opportunities to increase improve the surface quality of the pitch and surrounding playing field land through qualitative improvements to the maintenance regime. Look to improve drainage to prevent issues with waterlogging.	School FA	Local site	High	Short	Low	Protect Enhance
		Tennis			Four macadam courts rated as poor quality and without floodlights. Available for community use.			Look to resurface courts to improve quality. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing.			

<sup>22</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>23</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
42	New Mills Sports Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with nine wickets. Site has minimal spare capacity.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained. Look to increase the quality of the square through reviewing the current maintenance and preparatory regime and making adjustments where required.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
				New Mills CC has demand for new artificial training nets.	Explore funding opportunities to purchase new nets.			Medium	Medium	Low	
		Bowls		One pitch rated as good quality and is the home venue of New Mills BC.	Ensure quality of the green is sustained.	Sports Club		Medium	Medium	Low	
		Tennis		Three macadam courts rated as good quality and without floodlights. Available for community use.	Ensure that the good quality of the courts is sustained. Seek to have a sinking fund in place to resurface courts in the future.	Sports Club		Medium	Medium	Low	
44	Newtown Recreation Park	Football	Local Authority	One youth 9v9 pitch rated as standard quality. Minimal spare capacity exists.	Seek to ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained for continued use.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
46	Ollersett Avenue	Football	New Mills Town Council	One adult pitch rated as poor quality. Pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Seek to improve the quality of the pitch through both improvements to the current maintenance regime and through drainage improvements.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
					Seek to transfer play onto alternative pitches with spare capacity.						
60	War Memorial Park	Bowls	Local Authority	One pitch rated as good quality and is the home venue of Chapel Park BC.	Ensure quality of the green is sustained.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
62	Western Lane	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch rated as standard quality. Has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session at peak time.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for continued use.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		A standard quality natural grass cricket square with eight wickets. Available for community use. The pitch is played to capacity.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained. Look to increase the quality of the square through reviewing the current maintenance and preparatory regime and making adjustments where required.	Sports Club ECB		Medium	Medium	Low	
					Look to create additional capacity through extending the cricket square with a grass wicket.						
63	Whalley Bridge Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with 11 wickets. Available for community use. The pitch has potential capacity for 36 match equivalent sessions although has no actual spare capacity.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained. Look to increase the quality of the square through reviewing the current maintenance and preparatory regime and making adjustments where required.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
136	Whalley Bridge Primary School	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality.	Ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
138	Rowton Park	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session at peak time.	Look to sustain quality of the pitch through continuation of current maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
157	Trade Hall Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One pitch rated as poor quality and is the home venue of Trade Hall BC.	Seek to improve the quality of the green through improving the current maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance

<sup>24</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>25</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
158	Whaley Bridge Bowls	Bowls	Sports Club	One pitch rated as good quality and is the home venue of Whaley Bridge BC.	Seek to improve the quality of the green through improving the current maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
159	Furness Vale Bowls	Bowls	Sports Club	One pitch rated as standard quality and is the home venue of Furness Vale BC.	Seek to ensure quality of the green is sustained. Explore opportunities to improve green through improved maintenance.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
		Tennis		One polymeric court rated as poor quality and without floodlights. Available for community use.	Explore potential funding opportunities to resurface court.	Sports Club LTA		Medium			
170	Birch Vale and Thornsett CC	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with 12 wickets. Available for community use. The pitch has potential capacity for 20 match equivalent sessions although has no peak time capacity.	Seek to ensure that the quality of the square is sustained. Explore opportunities to improve overall quality of the square through a review of the maintenance and preparatory regime undertaken by the Club.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
177	Birch Hall Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One pitch rated as standard quality and is the home venue of Birch Hall BC.	Ensure that the quality of the green is sustained. Explore opportunities to improve quality through enhanced maintenance.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## GLOSSOPDALE ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current shortfalls	Future shortfalls (2031) <sup>26</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Glossopdale	<b>Shortfall equating to one match sessions per week on adult pitches Shortfall of six match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches.</b>	<b>Future shortfalls of 1.5 match sessions per week on adult pitches. Shortfall of 6.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches.</b>
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of 5.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</b>
Football (Full sized 3G pitches) <sup>27</sup>	Glossopdale	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G.</b>	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G.</b>
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of two full-sized 3G pitches.</b>	<b>Shortfall of two full-sized 3G pitches.</b>
Rugby union	Glossopdale	<b>Shortfall of 3.75 match sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.75 match sessions</b>
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of 4.25 match sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.25 match sessions</b>
Cricket	Glossopdale	<b>Overplay of five match sessions per season at Hadfield St Andrews CC and overplay of one match session per season at Glossop CC.</b>	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	Glossopdale	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Tennis	Glossopdale	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Bowls	Glossopdale	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Rugby League	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Athletics	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.

<sup>26</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

<sup>27</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>28</sup>	Cost <sup>29</sup>	Aim
1	All Saints Catholic Primary School	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
10	Cemetery Road Fields	Football	Sports Club	Three youth 11v11 pitches rated as poor quality. Available for community use. This site is significantly overplayed, by a total of six match equivalent sessions per week.	Seek to make significant pitch quality improvements to help alleviate overplay. Explore opportunities to transfer match play to sites with spare capacity or to 3G.	Sports Club FA	Local site	High	Short	Low	Protect Enhance
16	Church Fold	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions during peak time.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained to continued use.	Sports Club FA	Local site	High	Short	Low	Protect
19	Dinting Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with eight wickets. Available for community use. The pitch is played to capacity.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained. Look to increase the quality of the square through reviewing the current maintenance and preparatory regime and making adjustments where required.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Provide Enhance
				The Club requires its practice nets refurbishing with new full-length matting and netting required.	Look to create additional capacity through extending the cricket square with a grass wicket.			Medium			
21	Duke of Norfolk CE Primary School	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
25	Gamesley Community Primary School	School	School	One mini 7v7 pitch rated and one youth 9v9 pitch rated as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Ensure that the quality of the pitches is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
26	Glossop Cricket and Bowls Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with nine wickets. Available for community use. The pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per season.	Explore opportunities to improve the quality of the cricket square to mitigate negative consequences of identified overplay.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		One pitch rated as good quality and is the home venue of Glossop BC.	Ensure that the quality of the green is sustained for continued current and future use.			Sports Club			
27	Glossop North End Football Club	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch rated as good quality. Ground meets FA step 4 grounding regulations.	Ensure that the good quality of the pitch is sustained. Seek to ensure ground meets FA ground grading requirements in the future.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect

<sup>28</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>29</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>30</sup>	Cost <sup>31</sup>	Aim
28	Glossop Rugby Union Football Club	Rugby	Sports Club	Two standard quality senior pitches (M1/D1) overplayed by a total of 3.75 match sessions per week.	Seek to make improvements to the maintenance regime on site in order to reduce overplay.	Sports Club RFU	Local site	High	Short	High	Protect Enhance Provide
					Seek to remove midweek training off pitches to a World Rugby Regulation 22 3G pitch which can accommodate contact rugby which would help to alleviate the majority of overplay identified on site.						
29	Glossopdale Community College (Hadfield Site)	AGP	School	One full size, short pile 3G pitch with floodlights and rated as poor quality. The pitch is on the FA register and operating at capacity.	Look to resurface the AGP and ensure it is able to pass FA specifications to be placed on the FA register. Consider partnership opportunities with the RFU to involve the ability to support rugby union and comply with World Rugby Regulation 22 specifications with the outlook of supporting Glossop RFC.	School FA RFU	Key site	High	Short	High	Protect Enhance
		Football		Two standard quality adult pitches unavailable for community use. Likely to be available for community use upon completion of current building work.	Ensure quality of pitches is sustained. Explore opportunities to utilise pitches for community use upon completion of building work.			School FA	Medium	Medium	
				Upon completion of all building work at the School, two adult, one youth 9v9 and four mini pitches will be reprovided and will be available for community use.	Seek that upon reprovision, that pitches are of an overall good quality and are able to accommodate demand for both curricular and community use.	School LTA			Medium	Medium	
				Tennis	Two new macadam courts. Available for community use.			Ensure quality is sustained for current and future curricular and community use.	School LTA	Medium	
30	Hadfield St Andrew's Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with eight wickets. Available for community use. The pitch is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per season.	Explore opportunities to improve the quality of the cricket square to mitigate negative consequences of identified overplay.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
					Explore opportunities to install an additional grass wicket or NTP to create additional capacity on the site.	Sports Club ECB		Medium	Medium	Low	
					Club has a requirement for new training nets.	Explore funding opportunities to purchase new nets.		Sports Club ECB	Medium	Medium	
38	Gamesley FC	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session during peak time.	Ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained for continued use.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
43	Newshaw Lane Rec	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch rated as poor quality. A low value site which is unsuitable for investment as a standalone facility. However, in close proximity to Hadfield St Andrew's Cricket Club and Glossopdale Community College. Consider site for future use in connection with these sites or	If favourable to develop on, ensure the pitch is mitigated adequately in line with the NPPF and local planning policy, As such, steps should be taken to identify suitable alternative sites for investment in the locality.	Local Authority FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect

<sup>30</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>31</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>30</sup>	Cost <sup>31</sup>	Aim
				for alternative development if this is not feasible/viable..							
45	Old Glossop Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with eight wickets. The pitch has minimal spare capacity for midweek use.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained. Look to increase the quality of the square through reviewing the current maintenance and preparatory regime and making adjustments where required	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
47	Pyegrove Rec	Football	Local Authority	Two adult pitches rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session during peak time.	Ensure that the quality of the pitches is sustained for continued use.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
		Tennis		Four macadam courts rated as good quality and with floodlights. Available for community use.	Ensure courts are well maintained to sustain good quality surface. Ensure a sinking fund is in place to resurface courts in the future.	Sports Club LTA		Medium			
48	Roughfields	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch rated as poor quality. A low value site which is unsuitable for investment as a standalone facility, but could be of greater value if associated with a new primary school should this be developed on adjoining land. Consider site for future development.	If favourable to develop on, ensure the pitch is mitigated adequately in line with both NPPF and local planning policy. As such, steps should be taken to identify suitable alternative provision in the locality.	Local Authority FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
53	St Philip Howard Sports Centre	Tennis	Education	Four macadam courts rated as poor quality and without floodlights. Available for community use.	Seek to improve quality of the courts through resurfacing. Ensure a sinking fund is in place and established for future resurfacing.	School LTA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
59	Tintwistle Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with eight wickets. The square has minimal spare midweek capacity.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained. Look to increase the quality of the square through reviewing the current maintenance and preparatory regime and making adjustments where required	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
				Tintwistle CC has demand for two new practice NTPs and accompanying nets. Current provision is 17 years old and of a poor standard.	Explore funding opportunities to purchase and replace current training provision.	Sports Club ECB		Medium			
61	West Drive	Football	Sports Club	Two adult pitches rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Look to improve the quality of both adult pitches on site to good quality to alleviate all overplay on site.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
148	Gamesley Bowling Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One green rated as good quality and is the home venue of Gamesley BC.	Ensure that the quality of the green is sustained for continued current and future use.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Provide
				The Club relies on an electric generator for its clubhouse which is now off an overall poor quality and in need of urgent replacement.	Explore funding opportunities to replace generator to ensure clubhouse has a constant electricity supply.			High			
149	Hadfield Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One green rated as standard quality and is the home venue of Hadfield BC.	Ensure that the quality of the green is sustained for continued current and future use. Explore opportunities to improve green quality through enhanced maintenance.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>30</sup>	Cost <sup>31</sup>	Aim
150	Tintwistle Bowling Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One green rated as poor quality and is the home venue of Tintwistle BC.	Seek to improve the quality of the green through an improved maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
151	Manor Park Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One green rated as good quality and is the home venue of Manor Park BC.	Ensure that the quality of the green is sustained for continued current and future use.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
160	St Charles' Catholic Primary School	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality.	Ensure that the quality of the pitches is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
169	Charlesworth and Chiswell CC	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality natural grass cricket square with 12 wickets. Available for community use. The pitch has midweek capacity of 23 matches per season.	Ensure that the quality of the cricket square is sustained for current and future use. Explore opportunities to increase quality of the square through a review of the on-going maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
-	Glossopdale Community College (Talbot Road)	-	School	Site to close in 2017/2018. Does not have any formal playing pitches but it does have playing field land and an old redgra surface.	Ensure any developments on the site adhere to NPPF 74 and local planning policy.	-	-	-	-	-	

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## NATIONAL PARK ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current shortfalls	Future shortfalls (2031) <sup>32</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	National Park	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of 5.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions.</b>
Football (Full sized 3G pitches) <sup>33</sup>	National Park	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of two full-sized 3G pitches.</b>	<b>Shortfall of two full-sized 3G pitches.</b>
Rugby union	National Park	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions</b>
	High Peak	<b>Shortfall of 4.25 match sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.25 match sessions</b>
Cricket	National Park	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	National Park	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Tennis	National Park	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Bowls	National Park	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Rugby League	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.
Athletics	High Peak	No current shortfall.	No future shortfall.

<sup>32</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

<sup>33</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

## HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>34</sup>	Cost <sup>35</sup>	Aim
3	Bamford with Thornhill Recreation Ground	Tennis	Trust	One macadam court rated as good quality with floodlights and three macadam courts rated as good quality without floodlights. Available for community use.	Ensure that the good quality of all courts on site is sustained. If not already in place, create a sinking fund for future surface works.	Trust LTA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
4	Bank Vale Road Recreation Ground	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches rated as standard quality. Available for community use. All pitches contain minimal spare capacity.	Ensure that the quality of the pitches is sustained. Explore opportunities to increase quality of all pitches on site in order to create additional spare capacity.	Sports Club LTA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
				Hayfield Juniors FC has aspirations to develop a small changing facility on site.	Explore potential funding opportunities to create a changing room facility on site.	Sports Club FA		Medium	Medium	High	
22	Edale Playing Fields	Tennis	Community Organisation	One macadam court rated as poor quality without floodlights. Available for community use.	Explore opportunities to resurface court to improve quality.	Community Organisation LTA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
36	Hope Sports Club	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for continued use.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
37	Hope Valley College	Football	School	One adult pitch rated as standard quality. Available for community use. Has spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions although no actual spare capacity available at peak period.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for continued curricular use.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
147	Hope Works	Bowls	Sports Club	One pitch rated as poor quality and is the home venue of Hope Works BC.	Seek to improve the quality of the green through an improved maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
167	Hope Valley RFC	Rugby Union	Sports Club	A poor quality senior pitch M0/D0 without floodlights. Club has aspirations to relocate to a new site with a better-quality pitch and ancillary facilities.	Seek to improve quality of the pitch through increasing the quality of the maintenance. In turn, this will eradicate overplay on site.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
					Support the Hope Valley RFC in its aspiration to relocate as to acquire better facilities.						

<sup>34</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>35</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2031 (in line with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. Sport England's Playing Pitch Demand Calculator 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 by taking the current team generation rates (TGRs) and current population from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (it does not include non-pitch sports). 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. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.5 persons per dwelling.

Please note that the figures are indicative and do not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

### **Scenario 1: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the Local Plan period (2031)**

The housing requirement for High Peak is identified as 7,000 dwellings over the period to 2031, equating to 350 dwellings per year from 2011.

*Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2031)*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2031)
Adult football	4.31 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	5.34 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	3.73 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	1.41 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby league	-
Hockey	0.86 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	104.73 match equivalent sessions per season

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £1,678,303<sup>36</sup> and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £330,373.<sup>37</sup> In terms of the life cycle costs, the period covered by the developer contributions vary across local authorities but generally range from 10 to 15 years. This should be decided upon in collaboration with Sport England and written into planning policy, if possible.

<sup>36</sup> Capital cost is based on 2017 second quarter calculations.

<sup>37</sup> Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

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### **Scenario 2: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth over the next five years (2022)**

The housing requirement for High Peak over the next five years is identified as 1,750 dwellings (based on 350 being provided each year).

*Table 7.2: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2022)*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2022)
Adult football	1.08 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	1.34 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	0.93 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	0.35 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby league	-
Hockey	0.22 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	26.18 match equivalent sessions per season

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £419,576<sup>38</sup> and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £82,593.<sup>39</sup> In terms of the life cycle costs, the period covered by the developer contributions vary across local authorities but generally range from ten to 15 years. This should be decided upon in collaboration with Sport England and written into planning policy, if possible.

It should be noted that the Playing Pitch Calculator does not allow for land costs, nor does it currently allow for the cost of ancillary provision such as changing rooms. As such, these costs need to be determined on a case by case basis.

### **Scenario 3: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from a particular housing development**

It is important to note that the Playing Pitch Demand Calculator should be used for each new development on a site by site basis. As such, a worked example is necessary to show the means of determining the effect a development will have on pitch demand and the level of contribution required to meet that demand. The example below is for a scheme of 150 new dwellings, equating to 375 people.

*Table 7.3: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from a development of 150 dwellings.*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2022)
Adult football	0.09 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	0.11 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	0.08 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	0.01 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby league	-
Hockey	0.02 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	0.29 match equivalent sessions per season

<sup>38</sup> Capital cost is based on 2017 second quarter calculations.

<sup>39</sup> Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

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Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £23,019<sup>40</sup> and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £4,356.<sup>41</sup> In terms of the life cycle costs, the period covered by the developer contributions vary across local authorities but generally range from 10 to 15 years. This should be decided upon in collaboration with Sport England and written into planning policy, if possible.

### **Conclusions**

The tables above show that over the local plan period and up to 2022, demand will be generated for each pitch sport (with the exception of rugby league) to a lesser or greater extent. That being said, the additional demand is relatively small, suggesting that demand arising from most new housing developments could likely be accommodated on existing provision provided that the recommendations of the PPS are acted upon.

As such, new developments should in the main be used to obtain contributions for the improvement of priority sites, which should be informed by the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs and other relevant stakeholders. The demand calculator should be used for each new development to determine the level of contribution required.

Notwithstanding the above, experience shows that housing sites with a significant number of dwellings are likely to generate demand in their own right. Therefore, larger developments may need to be treated differently and may require new provision being provided rather than an improvement to existing provision.

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<sup>40</sup> Capital cost is based on 2017 second quarter calculations.

<sup>41</sup> Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

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

#### ***Delivery***

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across High Peak. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of High Peak can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

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 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 people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

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

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

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should form an on-going role of 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.

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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 could 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 that would have been built up when developing the PPS. 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 particularly resource intensive task; however, it should highlight:

- ◀ How the 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 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 the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Maintains links between all relevant parties with an interest in outdoor sports provision in the area;
- ◀ 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:
  - ◀ 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 the regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships may be to hold annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings could look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

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These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings. The NGBs will also be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area. Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any 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 working, including for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

## 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?		

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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?		

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### APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The recommendations within this Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis. They reflect key areas to be addressed over its lifetime. However, implementation must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to also meet planning considerations.

#### 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

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- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

### ***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.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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 Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Sustain and Increase Participation.
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.

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- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

### England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Clubs and leagues*
  - ◀ *Kids*
  - ◀ *Communities*
  - ◀ *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Pathway*
  - ◀ *Support*
  - ◀ *Elite Teams*
  - ◀ *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Fan focus*
  - ◀ *New audiences*
  - ◀ *Global stage*
  - ◀ *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Integrity*
  - ◀ *Community programmes*
  - ◀ *Our environments*
  - ◀ *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game's revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
  - ◀ *People*
  - ◀ *Revenue and reach*
  - ◀ *Insight*
  - ◀ *Operations*

### The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game.

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It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

### **England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)**

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

*"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"*

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility

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- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP) that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium-term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities

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

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

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

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.

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

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

We currently have over 1,000 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country. Tactics for supporting this will include:

- ◀ Working with hockey clubs on their facilities partnerships.
- ◀ Influencing Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS) - Continuing the strong relationship with the FA on a local and national level to identify priorities.

#### **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. There needs to be more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset. Tactics for supporting this will include:

- ◀ Targeted investment through England Hockey and other key funding partners.
- ◀ Education around asset owning including when it is appropriate for clubs to asset own as opposed to hire facilities.
- ◀ Improving the administration and business planning with asset owning organisation to ensure there is appropriate finances in place for the replacement of the surface.
- ◀ Developing stronger partnerships between hockey clubs and the asset owner recognising that many clubs are the single largest user of an artificial grass pitch.
- ◀ Strategic investment into pitches that provide opportunities to deliver our player pathway Supporting clubs in the national leagues to achieve the facilities Elite Operating Standards requirements.

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### **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.**

The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site. The tactics for supporting this will include:

- ◀ Targeted investment through the Capital Investment Programme and other key funding partners.
- ◀ Mapping of sites through research and priority areas.
- ◀ Clear rationale developed and implemented that identifies where multi pitch sites should be placed.

#### ***2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy***

The new strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth:

The three participation "focus" areas are where tennis is consumed:

- ◀ Deliver great service to clubs
- ◀ Build partnerships in the community, led by parks
- ◀ Enhance the tennis offer in education

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

- ◀ Becoming more relevant to coaches
- ◀ Refocusing on recreational competition
- ◀ Providing results orientated facility investment
- ◀ Applying best in class marketing and promotion
- ◀ Jump starting the peak summer season
- ◀ Establishing a "no compromise" high performance programme with focus

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

- ◀ Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
- ◀ Harnessing the full resource network
- ◀ Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to <http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision>

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

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%.

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.

### ***England Athletics: Whole Sport Plan 2013-2017***

The England Athletics plan outlines a strategy to attract and retain 3 million athletics participants by 2017, from a current base of 1.9 million as measured by Active People, whilst cementing athletics as the most popular individual sporting activity in England.

*“The ambition is to make England an athletic nation. Traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all”.*

In order to achieve this, the goals of the strategic plan are:

- ◀ To grow and sustain participation levels in the sport.
- ◀ To improve the experiences of every participant in the sport.
- ◀ To improve performance levels and to grow the next generation of senior athletic champions.

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The plan also reflects a total commitment to delivering an inclusive sport, setting specific disability targets that are woven into the core measures for growth and retention of participation. Key personnel within the England Athletics staffing structure will now lead this area of work, focusing on:

- ◀ Delivering inclusive formats of the sport.
- ◀ National policy and programme development.
- ◀ Coaching and teaching resources.

## ***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.

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.

## **UKA's 2014-19 Facilities Strategy 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

## **Local context**

### ***High Peak Local Plan (2016-2031)***

The Local Plan was adopted in April 2016 and sets out the Council's vision and strategy for the Borough until 2031. It provides the development strategy, strategic and development management policies and land designations for the parts of High Peak that lie outside of the Peak District National Park.

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The document covers a wide range of topics, including:

- ◀ **Housing** – setting the scale, distribution and mix of housing to be developed to support a changing population, identifying sufficient land to meet requirements and supporting policies.
- ◀ **Business** – supporting the economy by providing sites for existing and new businesses and supporting the sustainability of town centres and specifying policies that address changing business needs.
- ◀ **Environment** – helping to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects and conserving the natural and historic environment.
- ◀ **Health and wellbeing** – supporting the needs of local people by enabling opportunities for leisure and recreation.
- ◀ **Infrastructure** – enabling the provision of new infrastructure such as education, transport, health care and water supplies.

The Local Plan also highlights the following key issues:

- ◀ Protecting and enhancing the character and distinctiveness of the towns and villages in the plan area.
- ◀ Managing the impact of development on the Peak District National Park.
- ◀ Addressing the challenges of climate change.
- ◀ Diversifying and strengthening the rural economy and responding to the legacy of the industrial past.
- ◀ Maintaining and strengthening the vitality and viability of town centres.
- ◀ Enhancing tourism and visitor management.
- ◀ Meeting local housing needs.
- ◀ Managing travel demand and improving accessibility.
- ◀ Protecting and enhancing community infrastructure and local services.
- ◀ Improving leisure and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

These key issues are grouped together into three main themes that the Local Plan seeks to address:

- ◀ Protecting Peak District character
- ◀ Promoting healthy and sustainable communities.
- ◀ Enhancing prosperity.

The vision of the Local Plan builds on the Sustainable Community Strategy visions and looks beyond it to 2031. The overriding challenge is to achieve the sustainable development that delivers the housing, employment, retail and community facilities that High Peak needs whilst ensuring distinctive natural assets, built heritage and character are conserved and enhanced.

### ***Peak District National Park Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2011-2026)***

The Strategy sets out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the National Park and includes core policies to guide development and change up to 2026. The key challenges identified broadly fall into seven closely related themes:

- ◀ Landscapes and conservation
- ◀ Recreation and tourism
- ◀ Climate change and sustainable building
- ◀ Homes, shops and community facilities

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- ◀ Supporting economic development
- ◀ Minerals
- ◀ Accessibility, travel and traffic

The vision of the Strategy is for:

“A conserved and enhanced Peak District, where the natural beauty and quality of its landscapes, its biodiversity, tranquillity, cultural heritage and the settlements within it continue to be valued for the diversity and richness.

“A welcoming Peak District, where people from all parts of our diverse society have the opportunity to visit, appreciate, understand and enjoy the National Park’s special qualities.

“A living, modern and innovative Peak District, that contributes positively to vibrant communities for both residents and people in neighbouring urban areas, and demonstrates a high quality of life whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park.

“A viable and thriving Peak District economy, that capitalises on its special qualities and promotes a strong sense of identity.”

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## APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

### Funding opportunities<sup>42</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
Big Lottery Fund <a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a>	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment. For example, Awards for All which is for small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: <a href="http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/">http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/</a>	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation <a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</a>	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation <a href="http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113">http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113</a>	The Grant Match Scheme 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. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). Other loan schemes are also available.
The England and Wales Cricket Trust <a href="https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding">https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</a>	Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for capital projects and the Small Grant Scheme is also open to applications from affiliated cricket clubs.
EU Life Fund <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.
National Hockey Foundation <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, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

<sup>42</sup> Up to date as of April 2017.

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### Protecting Playing Fields

Sport England's Strategy: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021) will simplify the funding reducing the number of investment programmes from 30 to 7:

- ◀ Tackling Inactivity
- ◀ Children and Young People
- ◀ Volunteering
- ◀ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ◀ Supporting sports core markets
- ◀ Local delivery
- ◀ Creating welcoming sports facilities

The current funding streams listed below will remain operational during 2016/17 but will be phased out and replaced by one or more of the seven listed above.

It launched Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects.

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds (with up to £2 million being awarded to projects in each round). Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

Sport England's 'Inspired Facilities' funding programme will be delivered via funding rounds and where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

- ◀ Organisations that haven't previously received a Sport England Lottery grant of over £10k.
- ◀ Projects that are the only public sports facility in the local community.
- ◀ Projects that offer local opportunities to people who do not currently play sport.

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also provide opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces. For further up to date information please go to: <http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/protecting-playing-fields/>

### Strategic Facilities Fund

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term.

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Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- ◀ A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- ◀ Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- ◀ Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- ◀ A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- ◀ Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- ◀ Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- ◀ Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- ◀ Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular and sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

# HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### Funder's requirements

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

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

### Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/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.

### APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY

**Exported demand** generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/study area.

**Unmet demand** is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

**Latent demand** is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

**Future demand** is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.

**Casual use** or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- ◀ Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- ◀ Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- ◀ Informal training sessions
- ◀ More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- ◀ Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

**Carrying capacity** is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB.

**Overplay** is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

**Spare capacity** is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed **actual spare capacity**.

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**Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football and rugby union, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.