



ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION	2
PART 2: VISION	12
PART 3: AIMS.....	13
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	14
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS	32
PART 6: ACTION PLAN.....	46
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS.....	63
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE.....	66
APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT.....	70
APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN	79
APPENDIX THREE: MONITORING AND REVIEW PROCESS	83

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RBC	Rossendale Borough Council
RLT	Rossendale Leisure Trust
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Rossendale Borough Council (RBC). Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of all formal outdoor playing pitch and outdoor sport provision, with accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2034 (in line with the Rossendale Emerging Local Plan) and subject to annual monitoring and review taking place. If no review has taken place in three years from the date of the baseline data being collated, then the PPOSS will no longer be considered up to date or robust.

The PPOSS will form a key element of the evidence base to support local policy and the Local Plan as a whole, ensuring that it is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Strategy has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and under the direction of a steering group led by the Council, Sport England and including National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). It is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities, as appropriate, directing outdoor sport contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
- ◀ Informing the protection and provision of outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ 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 outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities.

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

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

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

Monitoring and updating

It is important to ensure there is regular annual monitoring and review of the baseline data, recommendations and actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the baseline data being collated, then Sport

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

England and the NGBs would consider the PPOSS; and the information on which it is based, to be out of date.

The PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPOSS. Taking into account the time spent developing the PPOSS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. Part 8 of this strategy report contains a suggested process for undertaking the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree a bespoke process prior to the adoption of this strategy.

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Provision included within the project is as follows:

- ◀ Football
- ◀ Rugby union
- ◀ Rugby league
- ◀ Hockey
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Tennis
- ◀ Athletics
- ◀ Netball

Please note that, although included in the scope, no rugby league provision exists in Rossendale. Further to this, although there is existing provision, there is no identified existing demand for hockey.

Pitch sports (i.e. football, rugby union, hockey and cricket) are assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy (2013).

Non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls and tennis) are assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). This requires a different but parallel methodology to assess supply and demand to that used for pitch sports.

Study area

Rossendale is made up of several small former mill towns centred on the valley of the River Irwell in the North West. It combines modest size urban development with rural villages.

The population is spread between the larger towns of Bacup, Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Whitworth; the smaller settlements of Crawshawbooth, Edenfield, Helmshore, Waterfoot, as well as Britannia, Broadclough, Chatterton, Cloughfold, Cowpe, Irwell Vale, Loveclough, Newchurch, Shawforth, Stacksteads, Stubbins, Turn and Weir.

The study area will comprise the whole of the Borough Council's administrative area. In addition, cross-boundary issues will also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand from neighbouring authorities such as Hyndburn and Blackburn with Darwen.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

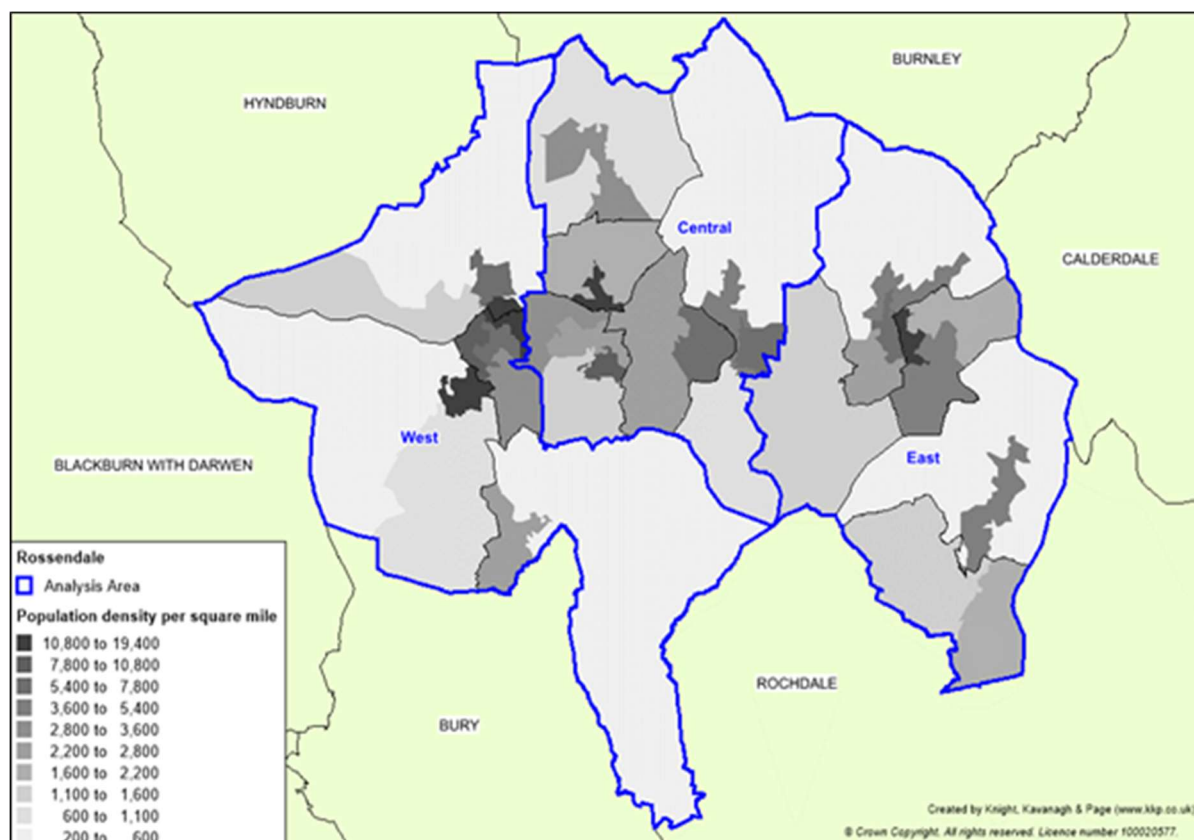
Analysis areas (or sub areas) have been considered to allow for a more localised analysis of Rossendale and its main settlements, particularly for more predominate sports in the area such as football.

- ◀ Rossendale West
- ◀ Rossendale Central
- ◀ Rossendale East

Table 1.1: Analysis areas by ward

Analysis area	Ward
Rossendale West	Eden
	Greenfield
	Helmshore
	Worsley
Rossendale Central	Cribden
	Goodshaw
	Hareholme
	Longholme
	Whitewell
Rossendale East	Facit and Shawforth
	Greensclough
	Healey and Whitworth
	Irwell
	Stacksteads

Figure 1.1: Rossendale analysis area map



ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

1.1: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision in the Borough 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 PPOSS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of playing pitch facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

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.

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

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

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

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

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must continue to be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively;

Corporate and strategic:

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to outdoor sport provision; the PPOSS will act as a tool for the Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for outdoor sports in the future.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding - as well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, a PPOSS can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants; current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Planning:

- ◀ The PPOSS provides important evidence to support the Local Plan process and implementation.
- ◀ It supports strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being.
- ◀ Evidence for developer contributions.

Operational:

- ◀ Helps improve management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ The Action Plan identifies sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- ◀ An assessment of all pitches helps understand how facilities are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development:

- ◀ It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- ◀ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- ◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use; this includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- ◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

1.2: Local context

Rossendale Borough Council Corporate Strategy (2017-2021)

This is a Council wide document which pulls together wider Council plans and strategies so that everyone is working to a vision and priorities that will benefit individuals and Rossendale as a whole. It underlines a commitment to gain investment and ensure sustainable growth in Rossendale, as well as maintaining high quality, value for money services. The vision is: 'Rossendale, a place where people want to live, visit, work and invest'. Its stated values include:

- ◀ Customers matter
- ◀ Listening and communicating
- ◀ Loyalty
- ◀ Management of performance
- ◀ Celebrating success

Its three key priorities are:

- ◀ A clean and green Rossendale
- ◀ A connected and successful Rossendale that welcomes sustainable growth
- ◀ A proud, healthy and vibrant Rossendale

Rossendale Council Core Strategy Development Plan (2011-2026)

This document was adopted in November 2011 and sets out its policies on development and land use. This commits to ensuring that the Borough is a healthy, vibrant place to live and visit. It notes that to achieve this it will need to work with partners to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents, particularly through sport, leisure within its stock of parks and open spaces.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

An emerging Local Plan for Rossendale (to 2034) will replace the Core Strategy once adopted.

Emerging Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2034

This is currently at Examination (as of April 2020); once adopted, it will replace the 2011 Core Strategy. It contains policies seeking to protect existing playing pitches, open space and sport and recreation facilities, as well as setting out requirements for new open space and sport provision.

Housing growth

Strategic Policy HS1 in the emerging Rossendale Local Plan identifies a net housing requirement of 3,180 dwellings over the plan period (2019-2034) equating to 212 dwellings per year.

The net housing requirement for the period 2019-2034 will be achieved through:

- ◀ Providing at least 3,180 additional dwellings over the plan period equating to 212 dwellings a year
- ◀ Delivering an overall amount of 30% of all new dwellings on previously developed land across the Borough
- ◀ Keeping under review housing delivery performance on a yearly basis

The housing requirement figure for Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum for 2019-2034 is 456 dwellings.

Rossendale 2019 Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) update

This was produced in support of the emerging Local Plan and provides an update to the 2018 IDP. The purpose of the IDP is to provide an up-to-date evidence base document to demonstrate that the necessary infrastructure is either in place or is planned to support delivery of Local Plan growth proposals, including those relating to education and health.

Town Centre, Retail Leisure and Tourism Study 2017

A key purpose of this Study is to provide an assessment of retail, leisure and tourism needs and capacity in the period to 2034, and to review the current performance of Rawtenstall town centre, Bacup and Haslingden Borough centres as well as six further local and neighbourhood centres across the Borough.

The key findings for indoor sports or health and fitness are that the Borough's sports offer is extensive and appropriately distributed in its key settlements (reflecting consumer demand). The report determines that from a quantitative and qualitative perspective it can be said that Rossendale is relatively well provided for in terms of indoor health and fitness facilities.

Whilst there does not appear to be a pressing need to allocate additional land for such leisure uses, it is considered that proposals for new indoor sports, health and fitness provision should be considered positively, provided that they are in accordance with the provisions of the development plan and national planning policy.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Economic Development Strategy for Rossendale 2018-2033

This has been prepared to deliver the economic elements of the three corporate priorities and specifically the priority for 'A connected and successful Rossendale that welcomes sustainable growth.' The vision is that, by 2033, Rossendale economy will show strong and sustainable growth, with improved connectivity as a 'bridge' into Lancashire from Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire. The *Invest in Rossendale* brand will be firmly established within the business community, attracting growth sector businesses to employment sites with access to a skilled labour supply, creating well paid jobs for local residents.

Rossendale will be known in the sub-region and beyond for its Adrenaline Valley offer and cultural experiences. Residents will have improved life chances and achieve greater economic success via provision of enhanced employment, skills and educational opportunities. Rawtenstall, Bacup and Haslingden will be renowned regionally for their unique offers and be strong destinations for shoppers and visitors. This strategy aims for Rossendale to:

- ◀ Generate private sector investment within town centres, from employment sites and residential development worth £550m.
- ◀ Attract over £200m public sector investment required in rail and road infrastructure.
- ◀ Create 1,600 new jobs, with more than 800 of these in growth sectors.
- ◀ Achieve greater prosperity for all by raising income levels.
- ◀ Increase the business rate base on undeveloped and under-utilised sites.

Other key strategy documents include:

- ◀ Lancashire Ecological Network Approach and Analysis (2015).
- ◀ Open Space Review for Rossendale: Revision B - June 2006 (currently being updated).
- ◀ Open Space Strategy for Rossendale: Revision C - July 2008 (currently being updated).
- ◀ Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD (2008)
- ◀ Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 (currently being updated).
- ◀ Rossendale Borough Environmental Network Study (2017)
- ◀ Rossendale Local Football Facility Plan (2019)

1.3: Headline findings

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

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

For artificial surfaces (AGPs/3G pitches), how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, netball bowls etc) where it is not as easy to determine carrying capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand (2019)		Future demand (2034)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ¹	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Rossendale Central	Adult	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.5
	Rossendale East	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
	Rossendale West	Adult	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 3.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Rossendale	Adult	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 4
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	At capacity
Football (3G pitches) ²	Rossendale Central	Full size, floodlit	At capacity	At capacity
	Rossendale East	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch equivalent	Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch equivalent
	Rossendale West	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch equivalent	Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch equivalent
	Rossendale	Full size, floodlit	Overall need for three full size pitch equivalents	Overall need for three full size pitch equivalents

¹ MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

² Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand (2019)		Future demand (2034)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ¹	Future capacity total in MES
Cricket	Rossendale Central	Senior	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 4
	Rossendale East	Senior	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
	Rossendale West	Senior	Spare capacity of 24	Spare capacity of 24
	Rossendale	Senior	Spare capacity of 48	Spare capacity of 32
Rugby union	Rossendale Central	Senior	Shortfall of 2.75	Shortfall of 5.25
	Rossendale East	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Rossendale West	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Rossendale	Senior	Shortfall of 2.75	Shortfall of 5.25
Athletics	Rossendale	Athletics Track	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand on the basis quality improvements are undertaken
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Rossendale	Small sided	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand
Tennis	Rossendale	Courts	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand on the basis quality improvements are undertaken at Parkwood LTC and local authority sites
Bowls	Rossendale	Greens	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand
Netball	Rossendale	Courts	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Potential shortfall related to identified latent demand for outdoor courts

Conclusions

The existing position for all outdoor sports is either; demand is currently being met, there is a current or future shortfall or there is a minimal level of spare capacity.

For football, current shortfalls are identified on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch formats, with sufficient capacity remaining on mini pitch formats. Current shortfalls are identified at Haslingden High School and Stacksteads Recreation Ground. No other sites in Rossendale are overplayed, however, its noted that pitch surface quality at many key sites (addressed in Part 4) require remedial work to allow sustained use throughout adverse weather.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

When accounting for future growth, it is anticipated that existing shortfalls will increase, and that new shortfalls emerge. Future shortfalls assume that no improvements will be made to pitch quality over the lifespan of the PPOSS and therefore qualitative improvements will have a positive effect in reducing future shortfalls.

From a cricket perspective, the existing level of provision can suitably accommodate current and future demand levels for both senior and junior cricket. The perennial issues for cricket locally are based on a need to improve the overall stock of ancillary provision which service existing cricket squares.

For rugby union, there are both current and future shortfalls. Shortfalls are solely aligned to concentrated levels of midweek training demand on one floodlit pitch at Marl Pits.

For all remaining sports, the current stock of facilities is meeting demand and is expected to do so in the future, although there is a requirement to increase quality of provision at specific sites which are identified within the Action Plan.

Notwithstanding the above, there are clear shortfalls identified for 3G pitches which cannot be alleviated unless new provision is created. Given this, there is a need to explore the feasibility of future provision at strategic sites in the Borough. The analysis identified a shortfall of two pitches, with a shortfall of one full-size pitch equivalent in each of the Rossendale East and Rossendale West analysis areas.

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

As there are identified shortfalls on grass pitches, there is a need to protect both playing pitch provision currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs. Sites which are lapsed and disused should be protected from development unless the loss of playing field is suitably mitigated for. This might be on a like for like basis or through qualitative improvements on existing sites. Sport England should be consulted on all planning applications to inform what potential mitigation options could be.

In terms of further calculating future need based on housing growth within the Local Plan period please refer to Part 6: Housing Growth Scenario.

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for outdoor sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2034 (in line with the Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated (match equivalent sessions), rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) updates the likely demand generated and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. Using it together with the outcomes of the PPS, it can be used to scenario test requirements on an allocation by allocation basis, where appropriate, or the cumulative impact of allocations.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 2: VISION

2.1: Vision

Below is Rossendale Borough's vision for its sport and leisure provision. It sets out the vision and objectives for the period 2021 - 2034.

"To create and maintain high quality, sustainable leisure and sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle health and age issues and provide accessible, inclusive activities for Rossendale residents as part of an active lifestyle."

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

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 3: AIMS

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

AIM 1

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

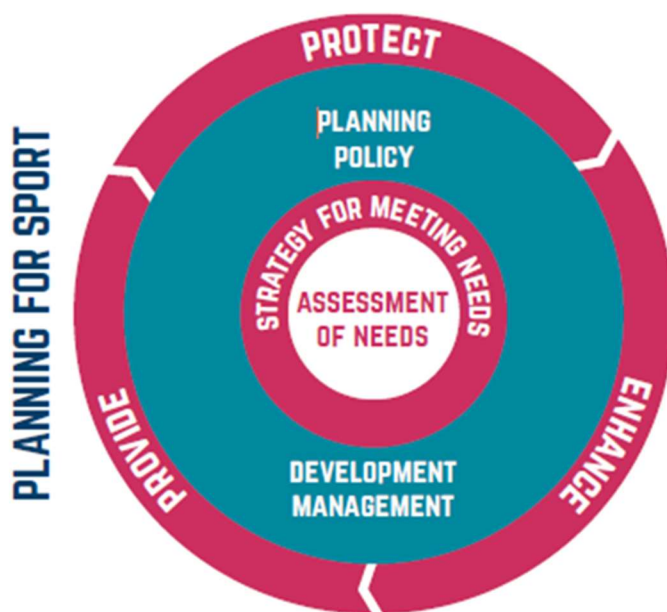
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England Objectives



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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with shortfalls evident on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch formats.**
- ◀ **When considering future demand, these shortfalls are likely to worsen and further shortfalls emerge on adult pitches.**
- ◀ **Grass football pitch supply:**
 - ◀ The audit identifies a total of 66 grass football pitches in Rossendale across 34 sites. Of the pitches, 57 are available, at some level, for community use across 25 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.
 - ◀ 63% of football pitches which are available for community use in Rossendale are poor quality. This severely impacts on the playability of the pitches throughout the football season. Clubs in the area report drainage issues and surface quality as being prominent issues.
- ◀ **Grass football pitch quality:**
 - ◀ Of the available pitches, three pitches are assessed as good quality, 18 as standard quality and 36 as poor quality. All good quality pitches are aligned to adult football teams which compete in high performance league competitions.
- ◀ **Affiliated football demand:**
 - ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 107 teams from 14 clubs are identified as playing in Rossendale. This consists of 13 adult men's, two adult women's, 43 youth boys', nine youth girls' and 40 mini mixed teams.
 - ◀ Six clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. In total, these potential demand increases would lead to the creation of 14 teams. Team generation rates do not forecast the growth of any additional teams from population estimates to 2034.
- ◀ **Supply vs demand analysis conclusions:**
 - ◀ Eight pitches are identified as having spare capacity in Rossendale, equating to actual spare capacity of five match equivalent sessions per week. Adult pitches which have spare capacity, but no changing facilities have had spare capacity discounted as they cannot appropriately accommodate demand for match play due to league regulations.
 - ◀ Three pitches across two sites are identified as being overplayed.
 - ◀ There are current shortfalls on youth 11v11, and youth 9v9 pitch formats and future shortfalls identified across adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 pitch formats.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality

In total, there are three community available pitches which are overplayed in Rossendale. Improving quality of the remaining pitches (i.e. through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will therefore increase capacity and consequently reduce current and future shortfalls, and the impact is shown below.

As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is identified in the table below.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.1: Football capacity rating based on quality scores

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 4.2: Levels of overplay if quality improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ³	Good quality capacity rating ⁴
22	Haslingden High School	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	3.5	0.5
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	3.5	0.5
46	Stacksteads Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5

To illustrate the effect of quality improvements, the table above looks at how pitch improvements would impact on current overplay. At Haslingden High School, overplay would be reduced by six match sessions across two pitches, this would leave each pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Overplay at Stacksteads Recreation Ground would be alleviated and some spare capacity generated.

Notwithstanding the above, given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, which cannot only alleviate overplay on grass pitches, but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

Pitch improvement programme

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Grounds Management Association (GMA, formerly Institute of Groundsmanship).

Three inspections were undertaken in Rossendale in 2018:

- ◀ The Adrenaline Centre
- ◀ Marl Pits
- ◀ Maden Recreation Ground

The overarching recommendations in each report are broadly similar for each site which was inspected, with the core themes centred around enhanced renovation of facilities where possible to do to. One specific recommendation within each report was purchase of a tractor mounted multi-tool attachment (slitter, brush, rake, roller). This equipment was purchased in

³ Match equivalent sessions

⁴ Match equivalent sessions

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

February 2021 and it is anticipated that targeted pitch improvements can now be implemented across key football sites in the area.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

As improving the quality of certain overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. The Rossendale Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies four sites for grass pitch improvements that need investment and that are key for football in the Borough. The table below identifies what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance if quality were improved to good quality.

Table 4.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating (MES) ⁵	Improved capacity rating (MES)
1	Adrenaline Centre	Adult	3	Poor	3	9
		Youth 11v11	2	Poor	-	6
		Mini 7v7	2	Poor	-	8
		Mini 5v5	3	Poor	1.5	11.5
22	Haslingden High School	Adult	1	Poor	-	2
		Youth 11v11	1	Poor	3.5	0.5
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	3.5	0.5
		Mini 7v7	1	Poor	-	4
29	Maden Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Poor	-	2
		Youth 11v11	3	Poor	1	7
48	The Glen Playing Fields	Adult	2	Standard	2.5	3.5
		Youth 11v11	1	Standard	0.5	2.5
		Youth 9v9	2	Standard	2.5	6.5
		Mini 7v7	2	Standard	6	10
		Mini 5v5	2	Standard	7	11

Theoretically, improving the quality of pitches identified as being poor quality would restore capacity which has been discounted from nine pitches across Rossendale. Potential spare capacity at the Adrenaline Centre (six pitches) and Maden Recreation Ground (three pitches) have had spare capacity discounted due to both poor pitch quality and low usability in winter.

Quality improvements would also create additional capacity on the remaining pitches at each site. Collectively, these four sites accommodate just under half (42%) of all affiliated football demand in Rossendale and as such, based on the findings of the PPOSS warrant their inclusion within the LFFP.

Other notable sites which were not included in the Rossendale LFFP at the time of production include St Peters Playing Field (which contains three poor quality mini pitches) and Stacksteads Recreation Ground (one adult pitch).

St Peters Playing Field accommodates demand for 11 mini teams and has three poor quality mini pitches which are not overplayed but only has minimal spare capacity. Consultation with Rossendale Valley Juniors FC highlights issues with both poor quality and low usability across the football season. Stacksteads Recreation Ground has one single poor quality pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

⁵ Spare capacity has been discounted at on poor quality pitches at the Adrenaline Centre and Maden Recreation Ground.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In conclusion, based on the findings of the PPOSS, the current four projects identified in the LFFP warrant their inclusion within the LFFP. The remaining two identified sites (St Peters Playing Field and Stacksteads Recreation Ground) should also be factored into the football plan in subsequent updates to ensure that pitch improvements are addressed in the most needed places.

These six sites account for just over half (56%) of all affiliated football demand in Rossendale and their improvement would have a significant impact on the playability of provision across the Borough.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect both football pitches currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Explore funding opportunities to purchase tractor mounted multi-tool attachment (slitter, brush, rake, roller).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using educational sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of adult pitches to accommodate youth 11v11 teams where possible.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.

3G pitches

Assessment Report Summary

- ◀ **Supply:**
 - ◀ There is one full size floodlit 3G pitch in Rossendale, located at the Valley Leadership Academy. There are also six small sided pitches located across three sites. Two small sided pitches located at Alder Grange School and Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School are unavailable for community use. The remaining four small sided pitches are located at Marl Pits Leisure Centre.
 - ◀ There are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Rossendale. Based on the supply and demand analysis there is no significant need to provide one to service rugby union demand.
- ◀ **Quality:**
 - ◀ The full size pitch at the Valley Leadership Academy is on the FA register and can therefore be used for competitive match play. The pitch is poor quality and is likely to fail future re-certification tests, meaning it will no longer be suitable for match play
 - ◀ All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate.
- ◀ **Supply vs demand analysis:**
 - ◀ With 107 teams currently affiliated to Rossendale there is a need for three full size 3G pitches to service current levels of demand. Future demand does not increase this shortfall.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ When studying demand by analysis area, shortfalls are apparent in Rossendale East and Rossendale West analysis areas. If quality improvements are not made at the Valley Leadership Academy a shortfall will emerge in the Rossendale Central Analysis Area.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers, it is estimated that 38 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.

Given the above, with 107 teams currently affiliated to the Borough, there is a theoretical need for three full size 3G pitches to accommodate training demand. Currently, there is one full size floodlit 3G pitch, located at the Valley Leadership Academy.

This equates to a current shortfall of two full size 3G pitch equivalents to accommodate current demand. Future demand does not increase this shortfall. However, it will increase to three if quality improvements are not undertaken at the Valley Leadership Academy in the next 12 – 24 months.

Table 4.4: Demand for full size 3G pitches

Current number of teams	Current 3G requirement ⁶	Future number of teams	Future 3G requirement ⁷
107	3	121	3

When studying current demand by analysis area (based on where teams currently play competitive fixtures), there is a shortfall of one full size floodlit 3G pitch equivalent in each the Rossendale East and Rossendale West analysis areas.

Table 4.5: Demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ⁸	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Rossendale Central	30	1	1	-
Rossendale East	32	1	-	1
Rossendale West	45	1	-	1
Rossendale	107	3	1	2

⁶ Rounded to the nearest whole number.

⁷ Rounded to the nearest whole number.

⁸ Figure rounded down to the nearest whole number.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Moving football mini match play demand to 3G pitches

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

The FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created for the Borough to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Saturday AM.

Table 4:6 Full size 3G pitch programming for mini demand

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

Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 2.5 full size 3G pitch equivalents (rounded up from 2.12). This is calculated based on 17 mini 5v5 teams and 23 mini 7v7 teams currently playing in Rossendale.

As the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate all mini demand is similar to that of midweek training demand (a total current need of three full size pitches), it suggests that all mini match play demand could be catered for if training shortfalls were alleviated.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The LFFP for Rossendale identifies priority sites for 3G pitch development. The plan identifies the need for two full size 3G projects and one small sided 3G project which are featured in the table below.

The LFFP also states that both All Saints Catholic School and Haslingden High School have expressed an interest (through consultation) to develop full size 3G pitches on each of their respective sites. The LFFP acknowledges that if either were to progress plans it would replace the need to develop a full size 3G pitch at the Adrenaline Centre due to close geographical proximity.

Table 4.7: LFFP 3G projects

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	LFFP project
1	Adrenaline Centre	Rossendale West	1 x full size 3G pitch
31	Marl Pits Leisure Centre	Rossendale Central	1 x full size 3G pitch
55	Whitworth Community High School	Rossendale East	1 x 9v9 3G pitch

The table below looks to align the LFFP projects to the analysis area requirement. The purpose of this is to understand if the projects identified in the LFFP are in the best places relative to assessed demand.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.8: Current demand for 3G pitches in Rossendale (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ⁹	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall	Potential LFFP project
Rossendale Central	30	1	1 (Valley Leadership Academy)	-	Marl Pits Leisure Centre (full size)
Rossendale East	32	1	-	1	Whitworth High School (small sided)
Rossendale West	45	1	-	1	Adrenaline Centre (full size)

The Rossendale West Analysis Area has the largest level of participation without existing 3G pitch provision to service demand (45 teams). Therefore, the identified project at the Adrenaline Centre (or All Saints Catholic High School/ Haslingden High School) justifies its inclusion as a potential project in the LFFP.

The situation in the remaining two analysis areas is more complex. The Rossendale Central Analysis Area is serviced by the pitch at the Valley Leadership Academy (notwithstanding noted quality issues). If the quality of the pitch is not improved (in the next 12-24 months) it will become unusable for both midweek training and match play and the consequential affect for local football will be significant. Therefore, providing a pitch to service demand at Marl Pits will be a priority if quality is not improved at the Valley Leadership Academy.

The Rossendale East Analysis Area is identified as a potential project to provide a small sided 3G pitch at Whitworth High School (to primarily service Whitworth Valley FC). Of the 32 teams identified in the analysis area, almost half (14) play within an eight minute drive time of the Valley Leadership Academy. The remaining 18 teams are all from Whitworth Valley FC which is a 15-20 minute drive time away from the site.

Consultation with clubs suggests that those located in the Stacksteads and Bacup areas (the clubs which are an eight minute drive time from The Valley Leadership Academy) are more likely to use provision located centrally in Rossendale than elsewhere. Whereas Whitworth Valley FC specifically state long travel times for 3G provision as a key issue. On this basis the small sided pitch project at Whitworth High School warrants its inclusion as a small sided project within the LFFP based on servicing demand for the Club.

The potential project at Marl Pits should only be progressed on the basis that quality improvements are not undertaken at the Valley Leadership Academy. Both a full size 3G pitch at Marl Pits and the Valley Leadership Academy (on the basis quality is improved) would create a theoretical oversupply centrally in Rossendale (on the basis alternate 3G projects are progressed in the West Analysis Area).

In conclusion, based on assessed demand, the Rossendale West Analysis Area has the highest demand for a full size 3G pitch to cater for current demand. Rossendale Central Analysis Area is theoretically serviced by existing provision by the Valley Leadership Academy and there is a need for a small sided 3G pitch in the Whitworth locality (Rossendale East) to service demand specifically from Whitworth Valley FC.

⁹ Figure rounded up to the nearest whole number.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches

World Rugby has produced a 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22'. There are no World Rugby Compliant 3G pitches in Rossendale. Rossendale RUFC states it would use such a facility if it were to be provided locally and that it would be beneficial for the development of its mini and junior section. At this time, Rossendale is not considered to be a strategic priority area for World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision by the RFU and therefore it is unlikely a pitch will be provided locally in the near future. On this basis, the priority for rugby union should be placed on ensuring pitch provision is suitable for regular use throughout the rugby union season (as captured within the rugby union element of this report).

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Work to encourage quality improvements at the Valley Leadership Academy in the next 12 -24 months to prevent shortfalls being exacerbated.
- ◀ Explore options of providing new 3G pitches first and foremost to meet football training shortfalls, focusing on the Rossendale East and Rossendale West analysis areas.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place as part of the planning permission.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible, and ensure that pitches remain suitable to accommodate such demand through appropriate certification when it is required.

Cricket pitches

Assessment Report Summary

- ◀ **There is a sufficient supply of cricket provision in Rossendale to accommodate both current and anticipated future levels of demand.**
- ◀ **Cricket square supply:**
 - ◀ There are five natural turf wicket squares in Rossendale spread across five sites. All squares are available for community use.
 - ◀ There is one identified lapsed cricket ground in Rossendale located at Waterbarn Recreation Ground. There is also a lapsed non-turf wicket located at Marl Pits Sports Centre.
 - ◀ Land to the rear of Haslingden Cricket Club, which previously accommodated a junior cricket pitch, is identified for potential residential development in the Emerging Rossendale Local Plan. Allocation H52 identifies the land as being suitable for the development of 30 residential units.
- ◀ **Cricket quality:**
 - ◀ The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares found three squares to be good quality and two squares to be standard. No squares were identified as being poor quality through the non-technical audit.
 - ◀ The changing facilities at New Hall Hey Cricket Ground (Stacksteads CC), Rawtenstall CC, Haslingden CC and Bacup CC are all poor quality.
- ◀ **Affiliated demand:**
 - ◀ There are five clubs competing in Rossendale generating 32 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 14 senior men's and 18 junior boys' teams as seen below. There are no recorded senior women's or junior girls' teams identified in Rossendale.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Future demand aspirations by clubs equates to two senior women's teams, two junior boys' teams and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ **Supply vs demand analysis conclusions:**
 - ◀ In conclusion, based on current demand levels, there is sufficient capacity to accommodate existing demand for cricket provision. While demand levels are suitably accommodated, with no overplay identified. For junior cricket, it is clear that there is sufficient capacity both now and, in the future, to accommodate demand, with most sites having the potential to accommodate additional midweek demand.

Scenarios

Haslingden Cricket Club

Land to the rear of Haslingden Cricket Club is identified for potential residential development in the Emerging Rossendale Local Plan. Allocation H52 identifies the land as being suitable for the development of 30 residential units. The land is currently unused playing field which is owned by the Club and has not been used to accommodate any level of cricket in recent times. It did formerly accommodate a single junior cricket wicket. The capital receipt from development is proposed to be reinvested into the ancillary provision on site to bring it up to a good quality for current and future users.

The land is considered to be surplus to requirements by Haslingden CC. Based on the findings of the Assessment Report, all demand identified on the site (current and future) can be accommodated on its natural turf cricket square and therefore the Assessment supports the development and loss of playing field on the basis the capital receipt is suitably reinvested into its ancillary offer which is identified as being poor quality. Further to this, a mitigation of loss of the junior wicket should be sought and be re-provided at nearby Haslingden High School to support on-going youth development between the Club and School.

The playing field is limited in size and would be unsuitable for cricket but could theoretically accommodate a mini 7v7 football pitch if required. Currently football mini 7v7 is at capacity in the Rossendale West Analysis Area with a small shortfall expected in the future. On that basis, mitigation for the loss of playing field is required to comply with planning policy requirements.

On this basis, from a sporting perspective, the development should be supported.

Accommodating junior future demand

Through delivery of its new strategy, Inspiring Generations, the ECB and county board programmes of activity are targeting growth in women's cricket, club and school's activity targeting growth in girls' cricket and there is increased engagement of young people. All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools. Increasing numbers of those children are continuing to play cricket as they get older, so junior numbers are increasing within clubs.

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

It is generally considered that all clubs which identified future demand for junior teams, or that are engaged within participation initiatives such as All Stars or Dynamos have sufficient capacity on site to accommodate this demand.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all cricket provision which is currently in use. All active sites are required to support demand of clubs in Rossendale (unless suitable re-provision is agreed in line with Sport England Policy)
- ◀ Ensure protection from development that may prejudice the use of a cricket square such as residential development in close proximity to a cricket outfield (ball strike issues). This is essential for any development at Haslingden Cricket Club.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ For clubs without lease arrangements, explore opportunities for long-term asset transfer or as a minimum ensure long term security of tenure. Stacksteads Cricket Club is the only club without freehold of provision in Rossendale.
- ◀ Explore funding opportunities to improve the quality of ancillary provision at New Hall Hey Cricket Ground, Rawtenstall CC, Haslingden CC and Bacup CC.
- ◀ Work to accommodate targeted growth for women's and girls' cricket through the ECB Inspiring Generations Strategy.

Rugby union pitches

Assessment Report Summary

Rugby union summary

- ◀ **There is currently an insufficient level of rugby union provision in Rossendale.**
- ◀ **There is a current shortfall in Rossendale equating to 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Identified latent demand exacerbates the shortfall by a further 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.**
- ◀ **Rugby union pitch supply:**
 - ◀ There is a total of seven rugby union pitches across three sites; as a breakdown this equates to three senior and four junior pitches.
 - ◀ All pitches are available for community use, although those at education sites are unused.
 - ◀ There are no WR compliant 3G pitches in Rossendale. Current demand does not warrant the need to develop a WR compliant pitch.
- ◀ **Rugby union pitch quality:**
 - ◀ In terms of quality, there is one good senior pitch in Rossendale, two standard senior pitches and four poor quality junior pitches.
- ◀ **Rugby union demand:**
 - ◀ Rossendale RUFC is the sole club operating in Rossendale. It operates with a total of 15 teams.
 - ◀ Rossendale RUFC has mixed tenure arrangements at Marl Pits. It is working towards gaining lease agreements on the two poor quality junior pitches to privately invest into drainage solutions to improve quality.
 - ◀ The clubhouse facility at Marl Pits is outdated and would benefit from a new boiler and a kitchen extension. The changing facilities are poor with highlighted issues with showers and heating.
- ◀ **Supply vs demand analysis:**
 - ◀ There is one overplayed pitch in Rossendale located at Marl Pits, it is overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality (via maintenance)

As there are shortfalls identified for rugby union provision equating to 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week in Rossendale, the following scenario examines what affect improving pitch quality would have in reducing the identified shortfall. Table 4.10 looks at the effect of improving the maintenance regime at Marl Pits at capacity or as having a poor quality pitch. where the shortfall is identified.

As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is identified in the table below.

Table 4.9: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

Table 4.10: Impact of maintenance improvements on senior pitches

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Current capacity rating	Improved quality rating	Potential capacity rating
30	Marl Pits	1	Senior	Yes	Standard (M1/D2)	2.75	Good (M2/D2)	2
		1	Senior	No	Standard (M1/D1)	-	Good (M2/D1)	1

As can be seen in the table above, improving the quality of the overplayed training pitch would reduce overplay by 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week, reducing overplay to two match equivalent sessions per week. Spare capacity would be generated on the remaining senior pitch which is currently at capacity.

The first team pitch is discounted from this table on the basis it is already good quality and is neither at capacity nor overplayed.

Improving pitch quality (via drainage)

Like above, exploring the effect of improving drainage by one increment on each pitch has been explored in the table below. If improved drainage solutions were provided on the pitches in the table, the floodlit training pitch would have overplayed reduced by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, leaving the pitch overplayed by 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Minimal spare capacity would be generated on the adjacent pitch.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.11: Impact of drainage improvements on senior pitches

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Current capacity rating	Improved quality rating	Potential capacity rating
30	Marl Pits	1	Senior	Yes	Standard (M1/D2)	2.75	Good (M1/D3)	2.25
		1	Senior	No	Standard (M1/D1)	-	Standard (M1/D2)	0.5

Junior pitches

There are the two junior pitches at Marl Pits which have been discounted from all supply analysis in the Assessment Report based on being unplayable through large parts of the rugby union season as a result of poor quality and therefore not providing capacity for use.

Rossendale RUFC is actively perusing a lease arrangement option on both pitches with the view of privately investing to improve the quality of provision to provide additional capacity for its mini and junior teams. If a lease can be granted from RBC to Rossendale RUFC and pitches are improved, it will create an additional four match sessions of capacity for mini and junior actively on the site (on the basis pitches are improved to an M1/D1 standard).

Providing these pitches can theoretically allow for the transfer of match play and weekend training demand (when team's do not have weekend matches) away from the stock of senior pitches increasing levels of spare capacity. On the third senior pitch which is at capacity, 1.5 match equivalent sessions could be transferred off this pitch onto the junior pitches, in turn, creating a spare capacity on that pitch by 1.5 match equivalent session on the senior pitch.

Providing new floodlighting

There is one floodlit pitch available to Rossendale RUFC which is based at Marl Pits. The pitch accommodates midweek training demand for seven teams and is also used for match play. Consequently, the pitch is overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

In simple terms, the concentration of midweek demand is detrimental to pitch quality and issues cannot be solely addressed through quality improvements alone (as proven in the scenario testing above). Providing new floodlighting on the senior pitch adjacent to the current floodlit pitch would allow for a proportion of demand to be transferred across the site and would reduce pressure on current floodlit pitch. This would put additional pressure on the (currently) non-floodlit pitch but it would reduce the overall concentration of pressure on the current floodlit pitch which in turn would be beneficial to all users.

Conclusions

Based on exploring the above scenarios around reducing rugby union shortfalls, it is considered that there are two essential requirements for alleviating the current level of overplay. In the first instance, a long term lease agreement on the two junior pitches at Marl Pits from RBC would be highly beneficial for Rossendale RUFC by providing long term security of tenure and to allow the Club the opportunity to make improvements to the quality of the pitches. Secondly, additional floodlighting is required on the second adjacent senior pitch on Meadow Head at Marl Pits to allow for the transfer of midweek training demand across the top pitches.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

If accumulatively achieved, demand currently expressed on the second senior pitch (which is currently non-floodlit) by mini and junior teams can be transferred on to the junior pitches, this would create spare capacity on the senior pitch. This spare capacity could then be absorbed through the transfer of demand from the current floodlit pitch which is overplayed (on the basis floodlighting is provided on this pitch). This transfer of demand would in turn, alleviate existing shortfalls on the site.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all existing rugby provision currently in use based on need in accommodating current and future needs (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Provide Rossendale RUFC with a long term lease arrangement on the two junior pitches currently available at Marl Pits. This agreement should ideally be in line with its existing lease agreements on the alternate senior pitches on site.
- ◀ Work alongside Rossendale RUFC to improve the quality of the junior pitches which are currently unplayable at Marl Pits (aligned to lease arrangement being in place).
- ◀ Improve the quality of the ancillary offer at Marl Pits.
- ◀ Explore funding opportunities to provide additional floodlighting on the second senior pitch on Meadow Head.
- ◀ Retain supply of rugby pitches at school sites for curricular and extra-curricular purposes.

Bowling greens

Assessment Report Summary

- ◀ **Supply:**
 - ◀ There are 13 bowling greens in Rossendale, located across 12 sites, all of which are available for community use.
 - ◀ In Rossendale, there are four bowling greens identified as being lapsed. Lapsed bowling greens are located at Maden Recreation Ground, Edgeside Park, Loveclough Park and behind the Boars Head Pub (Newchurch). All four sites are now overgrown and no longer maintained.
- ◀ **Quality:**
 - ◀ Of the 13 bowling greens in Rossendale, nine are standard quality, two are good quality and one is poor quality. One bowling green at The Birches Hotel (Whitworth) could not be accessed during non-technical audits.
- ◀ **Supply vs demand analysis:**
 - ◀ There are 11 bowling clubs playing in the Rossendale with each having access to at least one dedicated bowling green to service club demand.
 - ◀ Based on the existing supply of provision and identified demand to access provision it is determined that there is a sufficient supply of bowling greens in Rossendale to accommodate both current and anticipated future levels of demand.

Scenarios

There is a sufficient supply of bowling greens in Rossendale to accommodate current levels of club demand. There is one poor quality green located at Rose & Bowl Stacksteads which is poor quality and needs quality improvements.

All clubs in the Rossendale have access to a clubhouse/pavilion on site. All clubs which access facilities and are owned and managed by RBC have access to facilities which are poor to standard quality. Whilst no major issues were identified, it is noted that the facility stock servicing these sites is dated with each facility offering basic facilities such as small tea rooms and toilets.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens which are currently servicing demand.
- ◀ Sustain good quality greens and explore improvements on greens assessed as standard or poor quality.
- ◀ Ensure that the ancillary provision accompanying bowls clubs is of a sufficient quality to accommodate current and future users.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.

Tennis courts

Assessment Report Summary

- ◀ **Supply:**
 - ◀ There are 20 outdoor tennis courts identified in Rossendale across eight sites. Of these, 13 courts are available for community use. Courts located at Alder Grange High School (three courts) and Whitworth High School (four courts) are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ **Quality:**
 - ◀ Following a non-technical assessment, no tennis courts are identified as being good quality. Four are standard quality and nine are poor quality.
 - ◀ Courts which are unavailable for community use, at Alder Grange High School and Whitworth High School (seven courts) are all poor quality.
 - ◀ Courts which service Parkwood Lawn Tennis Club are also poor quality and are in need of refurbishment.
- ◀ **Supply vs demand analysis:**
 - ◀ There is one tennis club in Rossendale; Parkwood Lawn Tennis Club. In total, it has a membership of 102, which is derived from 77 senior members and 25 junior members.
 - ◀ Parkwood Lawn Tennis Club states an aspiration to grow by 20 additional members. This aspiration comprises of ten senior members and ten juniors. It plans to achieve this through a mixture of local marketing, open days, free family sessions and work with local schools.
 - ◀ LTA capacity guidelines suggest that based on the Club having three floodlit artificial courts, it can accommodate both current and anticipated future levels of demand.
 - ◀ There is a need to refurbish courts servicing demand from Parkwood Lawn Tennis Club to enable the facility to remain fit for purpose at the site.

Scenarios

Satisfying club demand

Parkwood Lawn Tennis Club is the only tennis club in Rossendale. In total, it has a membership of 102 and has an aspiration to grow by 20 additional members.

LTA capacity guidelines suggest that based on the Club having three floodlit artificial courts, it can accommodate both current and anticipated future levels of demand. However, these courts are poor quality because of high levels of use and having reached the end of their anticipated life expectancy. On this basis, for the Club to continue to be able to service demand, it is imperative that the quality of the courts is improved within the next one to two years to allow for continued use of provision.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recreational and informal tennis

The Assessment Report analysis states the current position for recreational tennis is that there is an adequate supply of tennis courts for use across Rossendale. However, it is clear that the stock of provision available to residents is largely inadequate due to quality concerns at most sites (notwithstanding courts located at the Adrenaline Centre and Loveclough Park).

It is also important to consider the critical factors of how people access and discover courts to play tennis. LTA insight demonstrates that over 50% of all people who play between 1-11 times a year will do so in a non-club environment, for those who play monthly this figure remains at 40%. For those who play weekly the percentage share does split more evenly, showing 40% of weekly players doing so in clubs vs 30% in a non-club environment.

Given the above, the Council and the LTA should consider opportunities to develop tennis hub sites at select locations across Rossendale to promote greater opportunities for tennis engagement, by utilising the three LTA products. To optimise and target resource, as well as stimulating demand for tennis, it is advised to look at creating non tennis club 'hub sites' which can better attract, grow and support recreational tennis in the area. This would involve working with the LTA on target sites that could improve the customer journey to court.

The three LTA products which should be given consideration are:

- ◀ Clubspark - <https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/tennis-venue-support/club-management/clubspark/>
- ◀ RALLY - <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/rally/>
- ◀ Gate Access - <https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/tennis-venue-support/gate-access-technology/>

Sites which should be considered for future investment for recreational tennis should ideally provide several courts to provide the best possible opportunities for tennis and potential participation development schemes. The one site which meets this criteria in Rossendale is Stubblelee Park (three courts), although other popular sites should be explored such as Whittaker Park (two courts).

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain and protect the existing stock of tennis club facilities via appropriate maintenance and management support to ensure adequate provision remains for those who seek regular tennis activity, whilst also encouraging club venues to consider how access and use can be improved at clubs to enable more informal play.
- ◀ Work to secure funding for the improvements at courts located at Parkwood Tennis Club.
- ◀ For non-club venues look to sustain and protect tennis courts that can continue to provide informal access and use.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to improve court quality at sites identified as having poor quality courts.
- ◀ Look to align any future investment to LTA technological opportunities such as Gate Access systems and being part of LTA Rally.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

Assessment Report Summary

- ◀ **Supply:**
 - ◀ There are no full size hockey suitable AGPs in Rossendale, however, there are five small sided pitches provided across five sites. Of these, two are available for community use, three are not.
- ◀ **Quality:**
 - ◀ Three small sided pitches are standard quality and two are poor quality. Poor quality AGPs are located at the Valley Leadership Academy and Haslingden High School.
- ◀ **Demand:**
 - ◀ There is no identified demand for formal or recreational community hockey in Rossendale.

Scenarios

As there is no formal demand for hockey in Rossendale, there is not a strategic need for full size AGP provision to be developed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Work to improve the quality of the poor quality AGPs.
- ◀ Consider conversion of the small sided AGP at the Valley Leadership Academy to 3G to better service current football demand. This would support an increase in the football based demand at the site. The existing full size 3G pitch is at capacity in the peak periods and the conversion of this existing small sided pitch would provide a further facility for affiliated football.

Athletics tracks

Assessment Report Summary

- ◀ **Supply:**
 - ◀ There is one formal athletics track in Rossendale located at Marl Pits Sports Centre. It is a six lane, cinder surface, 400 metre track which is fully floodlit. The inside of the track also contains a condemned throwing cage and two condemned long jumps.
 - ◀ Rossendale Harriers AC aspires to resurface the cinder track with a synthetic surface. It also aspires to develop a 1km synthetic running and cycling loop around Marl Pits to improve opportunities for its membership and casual users.
- ◀ **Quality:**
 - ◀ The quality of the cinder track is poor. Both the non-technical assessment and consultation feedback highlights severe quality issues relating to the track surface. The track was built in 1969 and has had no significant investment into refurbishing the facility since its creation.
- ◀ **Supply vs demand analysis:**
 - ◀ Rossendale Harriers AC is the sole club operating in Rossendale. It has circa 350 members and an aspiration to grow its membership to around 400.
 - ◀ The athletics track at Marl Pits is used as a centre for disability cycling for Rossendale Rays and for annual events such as Relay for Life. Informal usage has increased because of the Coronavirus pandemic.
 - ◀ The track plays a significant role in accommodating local demand for both formal and informal sport.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenarios

There is one formal athletics tracks in Rossendale located at Marl Pits, which is a six lane, 400 metre track with a cinder surface and is fully floodlit. The quality of the track is poor and there are identified issues with drainage and surface quality. There is also a condemned throwing cage and long jump facilities on site too.

It is considered that in order for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of 200 is required; however, a number of other factors should also be considered. As Rossendale Harriers is operating well above this threshold with 350 members the track is deemed to be sustainable.

Given the quality of both the track field facilities, evidence suggests a need (based on accessed demand) for enhancing the quality of existing provision. The priority should therefore be placed exploring potential funding options to resurface the track to ensure its long term usability for athletics.

3G development

The football pitch and condemned athletic facilities which are in the centre of the running track are identified as a potential football project (within the Rossendale Local Football Facility Plan) for conversion to a 3G surface. On the basis of current demand, the track should be protected from development if it will impinge on the overall number of lanes the track can offer.

If the development cannot go ahead without impeding on the overall size of the track, suitable mitigation should be sought for the benefit of local athletics. Two potential opportunities for mitigation include resurfacing the track with a synthetic surface as a four lane facility or development a 1km running and cycling loop around Marl Pits which Rossendale Harriers aspires to develop. Consultation with England Athletics and Sport England should be sought in the case of any development involving the athletics track in the future.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the athletics track and the accompanying ancillary provision at Marl Pits. Where possible, work to secure funding to improve the overall facility offer available to Rossendale Harriers AC through drainage solutions and track resurfacing.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of developing a 1km cycling and running loop at Marl Pits in partnership with Rossendale Harriers AC.
- ◀ Ensure that the potential development of a 3G pitch at Marl Pits is not to the detriment of athletics.
- ◀ Support the running events taking place as well as exploring the implementation of initiatives not currently serviced to increase participation in recreational running.

Netball courts

Assessment Report Summary

- ◀ **Supply:**
 - ◀ In total, there are eight outdoor netball courts located across three sites in Rossendale. Of these, only two courts, located at the Adrenaline Centre are available for community use. Courts located at both Alder Grange High School and Whitworth High School are unavailable for community use.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

◀ **Quality:**

- ◀ The two courts which are available for community use at the Adrenaline Centre are standard quality with no specific issues identified. All courts unavailable for community use at Alder Grange High School and Whitworth High School are poor quality.

◀ **Supply vs demand analysis:**

- ◀ There are 11 netball teams playing in Rossendale which collectively play in the Rossendale Ladies Netball League. The league mainly operates as an indoor league using sports hall at the Adrenaline Centre and the Valley Leadership Academy.
- ◀ Rossendale Ladies Netball League aspires to grow its league competition by an additional nine teams but cannot, due to a lack of courts.
- ◀ Based on the current supply of outdoor netball courts in Rossendale, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply to accommodate any current demand.
- ◀ When considering latent demand identified by Rossendale Ladies Netball League it is considered that there is an insufficient supply of outdoor courts to accommodate potential demand for summer netball. It is also noted that no current participation programmes such as Back to Netball or Walking Netball occur in Rossendale and therefore consideration should also be given to where these could occur and to what existing capacity exists to run these events in the future.

Scenarios

Current demand for netball is satisfied through the indoor facilities on offer. There is, however, an identified latent demand for outdoor courts to accommodate a summer format of the local netball league. The only currently available outdoor courts are located on the outdoor AGP at the Adrenaline Centre in Haslingden and therefore the league must compete against other sports and bookings to secure slots for match play.

There are poor quality netball courts at both Alder Grange School and Whitworth High School which are unavailable for community use. With modest investment, these courts would likely satisfy the identified latent demand. As these sites are both unavailable for community use, work would need to be undertaken with each provider to secure use. Each school does offer some level of community use for alternate sports, so this is unlikely to be a difficult hurdle to overcome.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retrain and protect the current supply of outdoor netball courts.
- ◀ Seek to improve poor quality courts at education sites to provide enhanced curricular and extracurricular opportunities for netball.
- ◀ Work to express identified latent demand at education sites on the basis improvements can be undertaken.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to work in partnership with England Netball to increase participation into the sport.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.

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

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing pitch sites require protection or replacement and therefore no provision can be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Reflecting the outcomes of the PPOSS, local planning policy should echo this situation.

When shortfalls are evident, a playing pitch facility can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result excess provision across all pitch sport types existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders.

NPPF paragraph 97 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls are likely to be addressed through quality improvements. Where shortfalls cannot be met through pitch improvements, the long term development of 3G pitches will likely help satisfy demand (although this will need to be established through an up to date PPOSS evidence base). On this basis, including the need for additional natural turf pitches in the Local Plan is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need for additional provision, or where there is significant housing growth.

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

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of currently used, lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPOSS 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 PPOSS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

Policy Exception E3

'The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch.
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas).
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality.
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site.
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Policy Exception E4:

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and;
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Policy Exception E5

'The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

Lapsed and disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions. A disused site is a playing field which is not currently being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

Disused and lapsed sites can theoretically provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls in the PPOSS. However, serious consideration should be given to the tangible benefit which would be created by bringing these sites back into operation. If sites require significant investment to bring back into use, are relatively small (in playing field terms) and have no changing or toilet facilities, it is likely that their ultimate value to local pitch sport is minimal. On this basis, bringing these sites back into use as pitches is not considered to be viable. If these sites are to be lost to development, mitigation could be sought through qualitative improvements of existing, active playing field sites to improve overall quality and infrastructure.

All identified disused/lapsed playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

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

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

For the remaining providers, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence (i.e. with private landowners). 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.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding.

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)¹⁰. 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

Clubs	Site
<p>Clubs should have NGB accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management sites identified as 'Key' or 'Local' within the action plan hierarchy may be appropriate to consider.</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>

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, RLT, and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work.

All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC). They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

- ◀ Increasing participation.

¹⁰ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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

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

Community asset transfer

Another way of ensuring tenure long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

CAT is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability
- ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces
- ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit
- ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers
- ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets

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

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/community-assets-and-rights>

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

In order to maximise community use of education facilities it is recommended to establish a coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. Pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access but also physical access and resistance from schools to open up provision due to staffing, site security or to protect the quality of facilities for school use.

A number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. The

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Council and other key partners must work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address any underlying problems.

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

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

The highest priority sites for securing formal community access arrangements should be those schools which already have community use but do not have secured community use arrangements. These already provide an important role in meeting community needs but this must be secured to ensure continued use into the future. Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use.

In Rossendale, Haslingden High School and Whitworth Community High School are education sites which accommodate high levels of community use where no formal agreements are in place. The Valley Leadership Academy is now managed by RLT (a change which has taken place since the production of the PPOSS) and therefore facilities at the site are secure for clubs. If this management arrangement changes, then it is recommended a formal agreement is created.

Alder Grange High School currently offers little community use for outdoor sport facilities. Its 3G pitch is not floodlit, if this changes in the future and floodlights are installed, a community use agreement should be sought to ensure guaranteed access for local football clubs.

The remaining education sites in Rossendale have limited formal provision and therefore looking to secure formal community use agreements is not considered to be necessary.

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.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

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

The FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

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

Addressing quality issues

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

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

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focussed 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).

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms with no showers, no running water and/or old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed, it may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

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

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

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 and the ECB all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 5.2: Capacity of pitches

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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

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

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets, this should be undertaken in situ of quality improvements to a cricket square to improve the quality which in turn will increase carrying capacity.

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

Increasing maintenance

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

The FA has the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Grounds Management Association (GMA) 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.

In addition, PIP also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance programmes with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority maintained sites.

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

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites, these are generally centred at either Council or privately managed sites (these are all identified in the Action Plan). As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. As an example, spare capacity on the adult pitches at The Glen Playing Fields is discounted in the Assessment Report due to there being no changing facilities on site to cater for adult match play.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. 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 One for further funding information which includes detail in respect of 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.

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality, as this quantifies and provides evidence of additional demand arising from housing developments.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

This uses team information from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its life cycle).

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration). Please refer to Part 7: Housing growth scenarios for more detail.

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

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

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106/CIL Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.

Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand are currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need.

The development of additional 3G pitches in Rossendale is likely to help in reducing shortfalls, particularly for football and rugby union where 3G pitches can offer a facility for either match play or training which will reduce existing pressures on natural turf pitches.

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified qualitative 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 can be overcome through maximising use of existing stock through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-configuration of pitches.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

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

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on TGRs and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGPs.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
	The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new strategy will be to double participation.	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.
Cricket	ECB predicts further growth in cricket demand for pitch use over the next few years.	Pitches that are already identified in the PPOSS as being at capacity will not be able to accommodate additional playing demand generated and it is predicted there will be demand for additional cricket playing facilities.
	All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools. Increasing numbers of those children are continuing to play cricket as they get older so junior numbers are increasing within clubs. Dynamos Cricket is the ECB national programme for 8-11 year old. It builds on the core principles of All Stars Cricket and participants will continue to develop skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket.	Greater usage of outfielders to accommodate demand from All Stars Cricket. Shorter formats of cricket, and additional formats including softball cricket, are also driving up demand for pitches. An increase stock of NTPs likely to be required to accommodate demand.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national ECB priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Increased requirement for peak time access to pitches. Need to ensure access to good quality facilities including, segregated changing and toilet provision.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Rugby union	Locally, it is expected Rossendale RUFC will see a rise in which will lead to a higher demand for pitches and midweek training facilities.	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.
		Need for greater access to current 3G World Rugby Reg 22 pitch given shortfalls identified on grass pitches and level of training demand on grass pitches.
Athletics	England Athletics is working towards to achieving goals which are set out in it the England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018-2025). This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".	A need to sustain the current quality of provision at Marl Pits and where possible look to improve the overall quality through resurfacing the track.
Bowls	No expected net increase in memberships.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.
Tennis	The LTA has a key priority for the strategic development and growth of tennis at both a club and wider community level such as local parks.	Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as digital access systems.
Netball	Membership of clubs is expected to increase.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing courts. The local league is an indoor central venue outside of the Borough so little anticipated impact for Rossendale itself.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

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

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

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

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
Type of sport	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.
Management	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/parish council 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.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	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).

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.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Key centres are more community focussed sites, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. There may be more of a focus on a specific sport.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that service just one or two sports. The level of priority attached to them for external investment may be relatively low.

For local authority and parish council sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities, and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

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

Management and development

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

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

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. It is vital that, where possible, the Council supports all parish councils in the Borough in the delivery of key actions and priorities identified in the Action Plan below.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Priority

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a high priority level as they have wide importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of key centres are a **medium** priority, have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The **low** priority sites tend to be single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users.

Costs

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

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

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

Timescales

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

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

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

Aim

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

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

ROSSENDALE HIGH PRIORITY SPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Adrenaline Centre	Football (3G)	RLT	<p>There is an identified shortfall of one full size 3G pitch in the Rossendale West Analysis Area.</p> <p>The Adrenaline Centre is identified in the Rossendale LFFP as being a priority project for the development of a full size 3G pitch which would alleviate the identified shortfall.</p> <p>Other potential sites in the local area for potential delivery are Haslingden High School and All Saints Catholic School.</p>	The PPS Assessment supports the development of a 3G in this geographical catchment (Rossendale West). Work to develop a full size 3G project on site (or others within an appropriate geographical proximity) to support midweek training demand from local clubs.	RLT, Council, FA, FF	Hub Site	H	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
20	Valley Leadership Academy (Fearn's)	Football (3G)	School/RLT	One full-size, floodlit, 3G pitch which is available for community use and on the FA register. The pitch is of poor quality due to being past its anticipated life expectancy and repair work has been poorly undertaken.	Ensure pitch quality improvements are made as soon as feasibly possible to prevent the pitch becoming unusable and current shortfalls being exacerbated.	School RLT, FF, FA	Hub Site	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
21	Haslingden CC	Cricket	Sports Club	<p>One good quality grass cricket square with 19 wickets. The square is supported by standard quality ancillary provision and poor quality changing facilities.</p> <p>Land to the rear of the site is identified for potential residential development in the Emerging Rossendale Local Plan. Allocation H52. It identifies the land as being suitable for the development of 30 residential units. The land is currently unused playing field which is owned by the Club and has not been used to accommodate any level of cricket in recent times. It did formerly accommodate a single junior cricket wicket. The capital receipt from development is proposed to be reinvested into the ancillary provision on site to bring it up to a good quality for current and future users.</p>	<p>Sustain quality of pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime.</p> <p>Based on the findings of the Assessment Report, all demand identified on the site (current and future) can be accommodated on its natural turf cricket square and therefore the Assessment supports the development and loss of playing field on the basis the capital receipt is suitably reinvested into its ancillary offer which is identified as being poor quality. Further to this, a mitigation of loss of the junior wicket should be sought and be re-provided at nearby Haslingden High School to support on-going youth development between the Club and School.</p>	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
30	Marl Pits	Rugby Union	RLT	<p>Three senior pitches and two junior pitches on site. The senior pitches range from good to standard quality. All senior pitches are currently leased to Rossendale RUFC from RBC. Of these, one is floodlit and overplayed due to concentrated midweek use.</p> <p>The two junior pitches are under the management of RBC. These pitches are unusable throughout the majority of the rugby union season as a result of issues with drainage and a limited maintenance regime. The Club aspires to privately invest in the pitches to improve quality for the benefit of its mini and junior section.</p> <p>The clubhouse is outdated and could ideally be improved by a kitchen refurbishment. The changing facility (which also services both football and athletics) is poor quality. Its identified in the LFFP for refurbishment (on the basis a 3G pitch is developed on site).</p>	<p>Work to grant Rossendale RUFC a long term lease on the two junior pitches which are owned by RBC to secure tenure.</p> <p>Work with Rossendale RUFC to improve the quality of pitches across the site, particularly the two junior pitches which are unplayable.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of providing additional floodlighting on site to enable training demand to be better distributed across the site.</p> <p>Secure funding opportunities to improve the kitchen and changing facilities on site.</p>	RLT, Council, Sports Club	Key Centre	H	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
		Athletics		<p>One poor quality, six-lane, 400m, floodlit cinder track. The throwing cage and long jump pits have been condemned.</p> <p>Rossendale Harriers AC aspires to create a 1km floodlit synthetic fell running and cycling loop around the site in partnership with RLT and England Athletics. It also aspires to resurface the track on site to a synthetic surface.</p>				Support Rossendale Harriers AC in its aspiration to resurface the track and develop additional athletics facilities on site.	H	M	
55	Whitworth Community High School	-	School	Whitworth High School has been identified as a priority in the Governments Schools Rebuilding Programme. The School will be rebuilt ensuring it is a new, modern, energy efficient facility fit for future generations.	Use the rebuild opportunity to ensure that there is a suitable facility stock for local community sport. Utilise the PPS and LFFP to support the development of a small sided (9v9) 3G pitch is developed to support curricular demand and Whitworth Valley FC. Link any new facility to a secure community use arrangement.	Council Sport England FF LFA	Key Centre	H	M-L	H	Protect Provide Enhance
-	Rossendale FC – Dark Lane	-	RBC	Lapsed stadia football site. Planning consent now agreed for 100 dwellings.	<p>There is a need to formalise a dedicated task and finish group with National Governing Bodies of Sport, the Council, Sport England and RLT to determine the best use of the agreed S106 amount.</p> <p>Priority actions identified above (in this action plan) should be first considered for use of the S106 amount.</p>	RBC SE	-	H	S	-	-

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

ROSSENDALE EAST ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Bacup Borough Football Club	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult football pitch. The pitch has actual spare capacity but this has been discounted as it is a private stadia site. The top side of the pitch is reported to drain poorly.	Sustain quality of pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime. Consider the feasibility of rectifying drainage issues on site.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	M	Protect
6	Bacup CC	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass cricket square with 20 wickets. The square has actual spare capacity equating to 28 sessions per season. The square is supported by a good clubhouse but poor changing facilities.	Sustain quality of pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving changing facilities on site.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
25	John Street Recreation Ground	Football	RBC	One poor quality adult football pitch. The pitch is unused but spare capacity has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime. No explicit need for targeted quality improvements based on current demand.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
29	Maden Recreation Ground	Football	Sports Club	One adult and three youth 11v11 pitches, all of poor quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity whilst the youth 11v11 pitches have actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. Identified in the LFFP for pitch improvements.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage. Look to utilise the Rossendale LFFP to improve quality.	FA, FF RLT	Key Site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
35	Northern Primary School	Football	School	One mini 5v5 pitch of poor quality which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
36	Our Lady St Anselms School Playing Field	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is played to capacity. Tenure on site is deemed to be unsecure.	Improve quality of pitch by undertaking a more dedicated maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to form a community use agreement for the benefit of Whitworth FC.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
46	Stacksteads Recreation Ground	Football	RBC	One poor quality adult football pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. Flooding was reported to have destroyed the pitch for a significant portion of the season and the pitch drains poorly.	Improve quality of pitch by undertaking a more dedicated maintenance regime. Consider the feasibility of rectifying drainage issues on site. Consider inclusion into the Rossendale LFFP once the document is updated in the future.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
50	Tonacliffe County Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 football pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
53	Weir Playing Field	Football	RBC	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unused. Spare capacity has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime. No explicit need for targeted quality improvements based on current demand.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim			
55	Whitworth Community High School	-	School	Whitworth High School has been identified as a priority in the Governments Schools Rebuilding Programme. The School will be rebuilt ensuring it is a new, modern, energy efficient facility fit for future generations.	Use the rebuild opportunity to ensure that there is a suitable facility stock for local community sport. Utilise the PPS and LFFP to ensure a small sided (9v9) 3G pitch is developed to support curricular demand and Whitworth Valley FC. Link any new facility to a secure community use arrangement.	Council Sport England	Key Centre	H	M-L	H	Protect Provide Enhance			
		Football		Two youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. All pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality of pitches by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to form a community use agreement.			FA,FF LTA School				L	L	L
		3G		The School is identified in the Rossendale LFFP as site for the development of a small sided (9v9) 3G pitch for the primary community benefit of Whitworth Valley FC.	Where possible, support any advance in the development of the 3G pitch. Ensure any investment is underpinned by a Community Use Agreement.									
		Tennis		Four macadam tennis courts that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.									
		Netball		Three macadam netball courts that are unavailable for community use.										
56	Whitworth Valley Football Club	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult football pitch which is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality of pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect			
57	Festival Park	Bowls	RBC	One standard quality crown bowling green used by Whitworth Festival Park BC.	Sustain green quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, RBC	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect			
60	Rose & Bowls Stacksteads	Bowls	RBC	One poor quality crown bowling green used by Rose & Bowl BC.	Sustain green quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, RBC	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect			
61	Stubbylee Park	Bowls	RBC	Two standard quality crown bowling greens used by Bacup BC.	Sustain green quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, LTA RBC	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance			
		Tennis		Three poor quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but without floodlighting.	Explore the feasibility of improving court quality on site through the use of LTA technological solutions.							M		
62	The Birches Hotel	Bowls	Private	One crown bowling green which is currently unused.	Sustain green quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, Private	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect			
-	Levensgreave Sports Field	-	RBC	Lapsed playing field site. Previously contained one adult football pitch. There is no accompanying ancillary provision or car parking. It is considered that the site has a low sporting value.	The site should be protected from development or replacement (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. If it is determined by the PPOSS Steering Group that this site is not needed to be protected from development based on it being a lapsed with a low sporting value, then mitigation can be delivered through qualitative improvements to existing sites then the most suitable improvement projects within this analysis area are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developer contribution towards a 3G pitch at Whitworth High School 	RBC SE	Local Site	-	-	-	-			

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Pitch improvements at Maden Recreation Ground ◀ Pitch improvements at Stacksteads Recreation Ground ◀ Drainage solutions for the pitch at Bacup Borough FC ◀ Ancillary improvements at Bacup CC 						
-	Waterbarn Recreation Ground	-	RBC	Lapsed cricket ground. Previous home of Stacksteads Cricket Club. The site has a dilapidated clubhouse and no carparking facilities. It is currently considered to have a low sporting value.	<p>The site should be protected from development or replacement (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. If it is determined by the PPOSS Steering Group that this site is not needed to be protected from development based on it being a lapsed with a low sporting value, then mitigation can be delivered through qualitative improvements to existing sites then the most suitable improvement projects within this analysis area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Developer contributions towards a 3G pitch at Whitworth High School ◀ Pitch improvements at Maden Recreation Ground ◀ Pitch improvements at Stacksteads Recreation Ground ◀ Drainage solutions for the pitch at Bacup Borough FC ◀ Ancillary improvements at Bacup CC 	RBC SE	Local Site	-	-	-	-

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

ROSSENDALE CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Alder Grange School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is played to capacity through curricular use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF, RFU, LTA School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		3G		One small-size 3G pitch which is without floodlighting and unavailable for community use (largely due to not having floodlighting).	Retain for school use. Explore opportunities to provide floodlighting on the pitch linked to a Community Use Agreement to increase the supply of provision available to clubs in the local area.				M	L	
		Rugby Union		One poor quality (M0/D0) junior rugby pitch which is played to capacity through curricular use.	Retain for school use. Seek to improve pitch quality to increase site capacity and enhance participant experience.				L	L	
		Tennis		Three macadam tennis courts that are unavailable for community use.							
		Netball		Three macadam netball courts that are unavailable for community use.							
3	All Saints Catholic High School	Football	School	Two poor quality adult football pitches that are played to capacity through curricular use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
4	Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School	3G	School	One small-size 3G pitch which is without floodlighting and unavailable for community use. The pitch is of standard quality.	Retain for school use. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment/resurfacing when necessary.	FA, FF, EH School	Local Site	L	M	H	Protect Enhance
		Hockey		One small-size, sand filled AGP which is unavailable for community use. The pitch is of standard quality.							
8	Balladen Community Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
9	Barlowfold Recreation Ground	Football	RLT	One poor quality adult pitch that has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime. No explicit need for targeted quality improvements based on current demand.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
11	Cowpe Recreation Ground	Football	RLT	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime. No explicit need for targeted quality improvements based on current demand.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
12	Crawshawbooth Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
13	Dean Lane Playing Field	Football	RLT	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime. No explicit need for targeted quality improvements based on current demand.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
17	Edgeside Park	Football	RLT	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime. No explicit need for targeted quality improvements based on current demand.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
19	Fairview Recreation Ground	Football	RLT	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime. No explicit need for targeted quality improvements based on current demand.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
20	Valley Leadership Academy (Fearn)	Football	School/RLT	One poor quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF, EH School	Hub Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		3G		One full-size, floodlit, 3G pitch which is available for community use and on the FA register. The pitch is of poor quality due to being past its anticipated life expectancy and repair work has been poorly undertaken.	Ensure pitch quality improvements are made as soon as feasibly possible to prevent the pitch becoming unusable and current shortfalls being exacerbated.			H	S	H	
		Hockey		One small-size AGP which is available for community use. The AGP is reported to be in poor condition.	Improve quality of pitch through resurfacing as soon as feasibly possible, possibly to a 3G surface. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment/resurfacing.						
27	Loveclough Park	Football	RLT	One poor quality adult pitch which has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime. No explicit need for targeted quality improvements based on current demand.	FA, FF, LTA RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		One standard quality macadam tennis court that is available for community use but without floodlighting.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.						
28	Lumb Millennium Green	Football	RLT	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime. No explicit need for targeted quality improvements based on current demand.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
30	Marl Pits	Football	RLT	Three poor quality adult pitches which have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site suffers from poor drainage and is listed for pitch improvements in the LFFP.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	FA, FF, RFU, EA RLT	Key Centre	M	L	M	Protect Provide Enhance
		3G		Four small-size floodlit 3G pitches that are of standard quality. The site is listed for a full-size 3G pitch project in the LFFP as well as new/improved ancillary provision to facilitate this.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for further refurbishment/replacement.			M	M	H	
		Rugby Union		Three senior pitches and two junior pitches on site. The senior pitches range from good to standard quality. All senior pitches are currently leased to Rossendale RUFC from RBC. Of these, one is floodlit and overplayed due to concentrated midweek use. The two junior pitches are under the management of RBC. These pitches are unusable throughout the majority of the rugby union season as a result of issues with drainage and a limited maintenance regime. The Club aspires to privately invest in the pitches to improve quality for the benefit of its mini and junior section.	Work to grant Rossendale RUFC a long term lease on the two junior pitches which are owned by RBC to secure tenure. Work with Rossendale RUFC to improve the quality of pitches across the site, particularly the two junior pitches which are unplayable. Explore the feasibility of providing additional floodlighting on site to enable training demand to be better distributed across the site. Secure funding opportunities to improve the kitchen and changing facilities on site.			H	S	M	

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				The clubhouse is outdated and could ideally be improved by a kitchen refurbishment. The changing facility (which also services both football and athletics) is poor quality. Its identified in the LFFP for refurbishment (on the basis a 3G pitch is developed on site).							
		Athletics		One poor quality, six-lane, 400m, floodlit cinder track. The throwing cage and long jump pits have been condemned. Rossendale Harriers AC aspires to create a 1km floodlit synthetic fell running and cycling loop around the site in partnership with RLT and England Athletics. It also aspires to resurface the track on site to a synthetic surface.	Support Rossendale Harriers AC in its aspiration to resurface the track and develop additional athletics facilities on site.			H	M	H	Protect Enhance
33	New Hall Hey Cricket Ground	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass cricket square with 10 wickets. The square has actual spare capacity equating to 16 sessions per season. The square is supported by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving changing facilities on site.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
37	Rawtenstall CC	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass cricket square with nine senior wickets and four junior wickets. The square has actual spare capacity equating to 13 sessions per season. The square is supported by good quality ancillary provision but poor quality changing facilities. New residential developments in the surrounding area have caused water damage to the terrace and deteriorated the outfield. The Club has ambitions for a mobile net cage for training demand.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving changing facilities on site. Support the Club with its ambitions to increase training facilities and support rectification of damage caused to the site by residential developments.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	M	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
48	The Glen Playing Fields	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality. Spare capacity on the adult pitches is discounted due to a lack of changing facilities whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity. The remaining pitch formats have actual spare capacity. The site suffers from unsecure tenure and is listed as requiring a clubhouse facility in the LFFP. It's also listed for pitch improvements.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Aim to formalise a community use agreement to secure tenure.	FA, FF Sports Club, School	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Provide Enhance

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
54	Whittaker Park	Football	RLT	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve quality of pitch by undertaking a more dedicated maintenance regime.	FA, FF, BCGBA, LTA, RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		One standard quality crown bowling currently used by Whittaker Park BC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.						
		Tennis		Two poor quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but without floodlighting.	Explore the feasibility of improving court quality on site.					M	
58	Gaghills Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality crown bowling green currently used by Gaghills BC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
66	CPA Social Club	Bowls	Community	One good quality crown bowling green currently used by CPA BC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, Community	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
-	Rosendale FC – Dark Lane	-	RBC	Lapsed stadia football site. Planning consent now agreed for 100 dwellings.	<p>There is a need to formalise a dedicated task and finish group with National Governing Bodies of Sport, the Council, Sport England and RLT to determine the best use of the agreed S106 amount.</p> <p>Priority actions identified above (in this action plan) should be first considered for use of the S106 amount. The existing MOU between Sport England and RBC agrees to a new senior rugby union pitch being provided at Marl Pits. As rugby union short falls are identified in this PPOSS potential mitigation could be sought to reduce these shortfalls through pitch improvements and new floodlighting being provided.</p>	RBC SE	-	H	S	-	-
-	Former Alder Grange Playing Field	-		Lapsed playing field site. Previous playing field for Alder Grange High School which relocated to a different part of Rawtenstall several decades ago. The site formerly contained one adult football pitch and a cricket wicket. It has no accompanying changing facilities and no car parking.	The site should be protected from development or replacement (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. If it is determined by the PPOSS Steering Group that this site is not needed to be protected from development based on it being a lapsed with a low sporting value, then mitigation can be delivered through qualitative improvements to existing sites then the most suitable improvement projects within this analysis area are:	RBC SE	-	-	-	-	-

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Resurface athletics track at Marl Pits ◀ Additional floodlighting at Marl Pits (to support Rossendale RUFC) ◀ 3G pitch contribution aligned to LFFP projects ◀ The purchase of technical maintenance equipment to support RBC staff (as identified in the recent Pitch Improvement Reports undertaken by the GMA) 						
-	Bowling green behind Boars Head Pub	-	-		If the site is to be lost from development, mitigate in accordance with local planning policy.	RBC SE	-	-	-	-	-

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

ROSSENDALE WEST ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Adrenaline Centre	Football	RLT/RBC	Three adult, two youth 11v11, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of poor quality. The youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity whilst the remaining pitch types have discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality, The pitches are reported to suffer from poor drainage. The site is listed in the LFFP for pitch improvements and new ancillary provision.	Improve quality of pitch by undertaking a more dedicated maintenance regime. Examine the feasibility of improving drainage on site.	FA, FF, EH, LTA RLT	Hub Site	H	L	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Football (3G)		The site is identified in the Rossendale LFFP as being a priority project for the development of a full size 3G pitch.	Work to develop a full size 3G project on site to support midweek training demand from local clubs.			H	M	H	
		Hockey		One small-size AGP which is available for community use. The pitch is reported to be in poor condition.	Improve quality of pitch through resurfacing as soon as feasibly possible. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment/resurfacing.			L	S	H	
		Tennis		Three standard quality artificial tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use. Ancillary provision on site is of standard quality.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.				L	L	
		Netball		Two standard quality artificial netball courts that are floodlit and available for community use.							
14	Edenfield C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
15	Edenfield CC	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass cricket square with 12 wickets. The Club reports that the outfield becomes more uneven each year. The square is played to capacity at peak time. Ancillary provision and changing facilities on site are reported as standard quality.	Sustain quality of pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore potential opportunities to resolve issues with outfield.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
21	Haslingden CC	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass cricket square with 19 wickets. The square is supported by standard quality ancillary provision and poor quality changing facilities. Land to the rear of the site is identified for potential residential development in the Emerging Rossendale Local Plan. Allocation H52. It identifies the land as being suitable for the development of 30 residential units. The land is currently unused playing field which is owned by the Club and has not been used to accommodate any level of cricket in recent times. It did formerly accommodate a single junior cricket wicket. The capital receipt from development is proposed to be reinvested into the ancillary provision on site to bring it up to a good quality for current and future users.	Sustain quality of pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime. Based on the findings of the Assessment Report, all demand identified on the site (current and future) can be accommodated on its natural turf cricket. The playing field is limited in size and would be unsuitable for cricket but it could theoretically accommodate a mini 7v7 football pitch if required. Currently mini 7v7 pitches are at capacity in the Rossendale West Analysis Area with a small shortfall expected in the future. On that basis, mitigation for the loss of playing field is required to comply with planning policy requirements. Further to this, a mitigation of loss of the junior wicket should be sought and be re-provided at nearby Haslingden High School to support on-going youth development between the Club and School.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
22	Haslingden High School	Football	School	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch. The adult and mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity whilst the youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches are significantly overplayed. The site is reported to suffer from poor drainage. The site is listed in the LFFP for pitch improvements.	Improve quality of pitch by undertaking a more dedicated maintenance regime. Examine the feasibility of improving drainage on site. Look to formalise a long-term community use agreement.	FA, FF, RFU School	Key Centre	H	L	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union	One poor quality (M0/D1) junior rugby union pitch that is available for community use. The pitch is currently played to capacity through curricular use.	Retain for school use. Seek to improve pitch quality to increase site capacity and enhance participant experience.	L			L	L		
		Hockey	One small-size AGP which is unavailable for community use. The pitch is reported to be in poor condition and more recently condemned due to safety concerns.	Improve quality of pitch through resurfacing as soon as feasibly possible. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment/resurfacing.				S	M-H		
23	Haslingden St Mary's FC	Football	Sports Club	Two adult football pitches, one of good quality and one of standard quality. Both pitches have actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
24	Helmshore Park	Football	RLT	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve quality of pitch by undertaking a more dedicated maintenance regime.	FA, FF RLT	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
38	Rossendale School	Hockey	School	One small-size AGP which is unavailable for community use. The pitch is sand dressed and considered to be standard condition.	Retain for school use. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment/resurfacing when necessary.	EH School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
41	St Johns Stonefold C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
44	St Peters Playing Field	Football	Sports Club	Two mini 5v5 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of poor quality. Both pitch types have spare capacity which has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is listed in the LFFP for new ancillary provision.	Improve pitches quality through maintenance improvements. The site should be considered for inclusion within the Rossendale LFFP for pitch improvements due to its significance for local football and containing poor quality pitches.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect Provide
45	St Veronicas RC Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
47	Stubbins Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
59	Greenfield Gardens	Bowls	RBC	One standard quality crown bowling green used by Greenfield BC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, RBC	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
63	Victoria Park	Bowls	RBC	One standard quality crown bowling green used by Victoria BC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, RBC	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
64	Worsley Park	Bowls	RBC	One standard quality crown bowling green used by Worsley Park BC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, LTA RBC	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		One poor quality macadam tennis court that is available for community use but without floodlighting.	Explore the feasibility of improving court quality on site.					M	
65	Parkwood Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Three poor quality artificial tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use. The courts are used by Parkwood LTC. The Club has sourced funding to resurface the courts, and this is expected to be undertaken in 2022. Ancillary provision on site is of good quality.	Support Parkwood LTC to improve court quality on site.	LTA, Sports Club	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
67	Haslingden Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown bowling green used by Haslingden BC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
68	Sunnybank Social Club (Helmshore)	Bowls	Community	One standard quality crown bowling green used by Sunnybank BC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BCGBA, Community	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
-	Ewood Bridge FC	-	Private	Lapsed stadia football site. Land currently on sale through private lettings agency. The site does contain a dilapidated clubhouse with changing facilities, a dilapidated small sided AGP.	The site should be protected from development or replacement (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. If it is determined by the PPOSS Steering Group that this site is not needed to be protected from development based on it being a lapsed with a low sporting value, then mitigation can be delivered through qualitative improvements to existing sites then the most suitable improvement projects within this analysis area are:	RBC SE	Local Site	-	-	-	-

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Pitch improvements at Haslingden High School ◀ Parkwood Lawn Tennis Club – Court Resurfacing ◀ 3G pitch contribution for the development of a pitch within the locality (as identified in the LFFP) ◀ Improvement of the outfield at Edenfield CC 						

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2034 (in line with the emerging Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on additional population generated from housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates (TGRs) in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

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

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

Two scenarios have been developed using the PPC to determine potential future requirements for pitch sports based on local housing growth. The first scenario is based on the overall housing target over the emerging local plan period (2019-2034) and is based on a total requirement of 3,180 dwellings. The second scenario is based on two years of housing targets being achieved during the emerging Local Plan period between 2019 and 2020 (based on 212 houses being delivered per annum and thus a total increase of 424 houses) and therefore a remaining overall target of 2,756 dwellings.

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

Indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.4 per dwelling. Based on an anticipated 3180 dwellings (scenario one) and 2,756 dwellings (scenario two) the additional population for each respective scenario is 7,632 and 6,614.

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

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenario one – 3180 dwellings – Emerging Local Plan (2019-2034)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2019-2034 is 7,632 (based on 3,180 dwellings being delivered). This population increase equates to 6.2 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports and 30.15 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 11.36 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches. There are also 0.61 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated over emerging Local Plan Period (2019-2034)

Pitch sport ¹¹	Estimated demand by sport – 2019-2034	
	Match demand (MES) per week ¹²	Training demand ¹³
Adult football	0.8	11.36
Youth football	2.76	
Mini soccer	2.12	
Rugby union	0.52	0.61
Cricket	30.15	-

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

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches				
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ¹⁴	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ¹⁵	Changing rooms (numbers)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
Adult football	0.8 (0)	£77,236	£16,297	1.59	£266,465
Youth football	2.76 (2)	£214,202	£44,982	3.18	£532,930
Mini soccer	2.12 (2)	£51,491	£10,813	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.52 (0)	£70,285	£15,041	1.04	£173,202
Cricket	0.64 (0)	£184,447	£37,258	1.29	£215,710
Sand based AGPs	0 (0)	£0	£0	0.00	£0
3G	0.30 (0)	£288,525	£11,006	0.60	£100,041

¹¹ Note that no figures for hockey AGPs are identified as no current demand exists.

¹² As per the PPOSS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

¹³ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch.

¹⁴ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

¹⁵ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenario two – 2756 dwellings – Emerging Local Plan (2021-2034)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2021-2034 is 6,614 (based on 2,756 dwellings being delivered). This population increase equates to 5.37 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports and 26.13 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 9.84 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches. There are also 0.53 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated over emerging Local Plan Period (2021-2034)

Pitch sport ¹⁶	Estimated demand by sport – 2021 - 2034	
	Match demand (MES) per week ¹⁷	Training demand ¹⁸
Adult football	0.69	9.84
Youth football	2.39	
Mini soccer	1.84	
Rugby union	0.45	0.53
Cricket	26.13	-

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

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches				
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ¹⁹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²⁰	Changing rooms (numbers)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
Adult football	0.69 (0)	£66,934	£14,123	1.38	£230,922
Youth football	2.39 (2)	£185,630	£38,982	2.76	£461,845
Mini soccer	1.84 (1)	£44,623	£9,371	0	£0
Rugby union	0.45 (0)	£60,910	£13,035	0.9	£150,100
Cricket	0.56 (0)	£159,845	£32,289	1.12	£186,937
Sand based AGPs	0	£0	£0	0	£0
3G	0.26 (0)	£250,040	£9,538	0.52	£86,697

¹⁶ Note that no figures for hockey AGPs are identified as no current demand exists.

¹⁷ As per the PPOSS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

¹⁸ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch.

¹⁹ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

Delivery

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

Production of this Strategy is the start of the planning process. Successful Strategy implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into, strategic approach. It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

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

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

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

Following sign off of the PPOSS, a short-term Action Plan should be prepared by the Council, in consultation with relevant partners, in order to distil the existing Action Plan and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be revised through regular meetings.

Monitoring and updating

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

The Steering Group that takes the PPOSS forward should be made up of Rossendale Borough Council as well as other partners such as the NGBs, and Leicestershire & Rutland Sport. This offers benefits in terms of joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and will also be more efficient in terms of administration when compared to each authority having its own individual Steering Group.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, Sport England and the NGBs will consider the PPOSS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites should also feed into these meetings.

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

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

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

Appendix Three: Monitoring and review process outlines the suggested approach for review of the PPOSS for the established Rossendale Steering Group.

Rossendale Local Football Facilities Plan


The findings of and any subsequent changes to the LFFP (completed in 2019) should align to the Rossendale PPOSS which will serve as a live document requiring concurrent management. The position for formal and affiliated football provision determined and updated through the PPOSS should form the basis for investment into formalised football provision echoed through the LFFP, which will further explore opportunities for investment into informal, recreational, small sided and indoor football as an extension of the PPOSS findings, the result being a wholistic plan for partnership investment into football facilities in the Borough over the next decade. The PPOSS should have a synergy with the LFFP, by that, the projects within the LFFP are determined by the supporting evidence of the PPOSS.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Checklist

To help ensure the PPOSS 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
Step 9: Apply & deliver the strategy		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPOSS 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 PPOSS 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 PPOSS is being applied?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust & up to date		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPOSS is kept robust and up to date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPOSS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

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

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

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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

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

National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

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 and safe communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

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 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 benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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

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

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPOSS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Inspiring Generations" is the new ECB participation strategy which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

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

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

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

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

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

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

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

England Hockey Strategy

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

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

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

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

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

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

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

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.

British Crown Green Bowling Association

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

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

Lawn Tennis Association – Tennis Opened Up

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

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - ◀ The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business. To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.

3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

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

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)

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

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

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

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
<p>The current funding streams may change throughout 2019/20 so refer to the website for the latest information: https://www.sportengland.org/funding/</p>	<p>Small Grants – this programme offers funding to projects involving adults and young people aged 14 or over which meet one or more of the aims of their ‘Towards an Active Nation’ strategy. These aims are: get inactive people more active, develop lasting sporting habits, engender more positive attitudes among young people, develop more diverse volunteers and to improve progression and inclusion among the most talented. Projects with mixed age groups may still be considered if there is a focus on people aged 14 and over.</p> <p>Community Asset Fund – this programme is dedicated to enhancing the spaces in your local community that give people the opportunity to be active.</p> <p>Major Events Engagement Fund – Sport England’s ‘Towards an Active Nation’ strategy commits them to invest £2m in helping national governing bodies (NGBs) to host major events which evolve their existing business model and derive a greater financial return from their existing customers (players, volunteers or spectators). This funding can also be used to develop programmes that engage with individuals local to the major event, who are currently less likely to take part regularly in sport or physical activity.</p>
<p>Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</p>	<p>This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.</p> <p>Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund – this fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations that improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities, sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age or ability and to help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport. Grants are available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Grass pitch drainage/improvements, ◀ Pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms, ◀ 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs) and multi-use games areas, ◀ Fixed floodlights for artificial pitches. <p>Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme – this scheme awards grants of up to £10,000 for the provision of capital items, or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. This scheme aims to support the growth of football clubs and activity, prevent a decline in football participation and make improvements to facilities to address any health and safety issues. Grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost, are awarded to support the costs of the following list of projects and items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Replacement of unsafe goalposts, ◀ Portable floodlights, ◀ Storage containers, ◀ Changing pavilion/clubhouse refurbishment and external works (not including routine maintenance works), ◀ Grounds maintenance equipment, ◀ Pitch improvement works (not including routine maintenance works), ◀ Fencing.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
	<p>The scheme is available to local authorities, educational establishments, grassroots football clubs and professional and semi-professional football clubs and their associated community organisations, to support their community outreach programmes.</p> <p>Premier League Primary Stars Kit and Equipment Scheme - this scheme, run in partnership with Nike and delivered by the Football Foundation, gives teachers the opportunity to get their hands on free resources to aid their pupils' learning. Primary school teachers registered at plprimarystars.com can access either a free Nike football strip, or a free equipment pack which can be used across the curriculum.</p>
<p>Rugby Football Foundation (RFF) http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=113</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Projects eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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). <p>'Helping Hand Grants' can award funding from £500 to £1,500. The Groundmatch Grant Scheme provides funding from £1,501 to £5,000. RFU Accredited clubs at level 5 and below are eligible to apply.</p> <p>The RFF also offer loan schemes for RFU Accredited clubs at level 3 and below. The first scheme is the Interest Free Loan scheme which can provide up to £100,000 as an interest free loan for capital works. Green Deal Loans up to the value of £20,000 are available to clubs to support them in the installation of facility solutions that reduce utility costs. Repayments are structured to be the equivalent of the projected savings over the agreed 'payback' period.</p>
<p>The England and Wales Cricket Trust https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</p>	<p>The Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for various capital projects such as buildings, equipment purchase, fine turf, land purchase and non-turf. All ECB affiliated cricket clubs are eligible to apply, as well as other organisations that can evidence achievement/delivery of the EWCT's charitable aims. Clubs with a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £50,000 whereas clubs without a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £20,000. A minimum of 10% partnership funding is required from the applicant.</p> <p>The Small Grant Scheme aims to support the ECB's national programmes – Get the Game On, All Stars Cricket, Women's Cricket and U19 Club T20. Clubs can apply for funding towards the purchase of relevant products or materials, and associated professional labour costs.</p> <p>Project themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Covers – supporting Get the Game On, ◀ Family Friendly Facilities – supporting All Stars Cricket,

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Improved Changing Facilities for Females – supporting Women’s Cricket, ◀ Great Events – supporting U19 Club T20.
LTA Transforming British Tennis Together https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/tennis-venue-support/tennis-facility-funding-and-advice/transforming-british-tennis-together/	TBTT is the largest capital investment programme the LTA has undertaken. It aims to invest £125 million over the next ten years in tennis facilities which it hopes can be match funded by partners to bring £250 million into the sport.

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 & Outdoor Sport Strategy:

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

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.

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

APPENDIX THREE: MONITORING AND REVIEW PROCESS

What task	Who by	When
<p>Internal steering group meeting</p> <p>Meeting between RLT/RBC internal Steering Group members to discuss and log key changes in playing pitch and facility provision, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ New pitch provision; ◀ Pitch improvements; ◀ Pitch re-configuration; ◀ Pitch loss/threat; ◀ Community Access agreements (e.g. education or private sites); ◀ Plans for future provision. <p>Outcome of meeting and updates to documents recorded.</p>	<p>Rossendale Leisure Trust Rossendale Borough Council</p>	<p>Bi-Annually</p>
<p>Sport England and NGB update meetings</p> <p>RLT Steering Group Chair to hold series of update meetings with individual sports NGBs to discuss and log:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Any changes in club and team details; ◀ Any changes in sport format; ◀ Any site specific updates; ◀ Changes to supply and demand data; ◀ The application and use of the PPS e.g. in delivery of new or improved provision, funding opportunities, programmes and initiatives; ◀ Any new issues and opportunities. 	<p>RLT Steering Group Chair Sports NGBs Sport England (Planning)</p>	<p>Annually for each sport:</p> <p>Football – October Rugby Union – October Cricket – May Tennis – May</p>

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

What task	Who by	When
<p>Sport specific implementation groups</p> <p>Based on the findings of the PPOSS there is a need to hold small scale focus group meetings to implement specific issues identified in the PPOSS. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Pitch investment strategy (grass improvements and 3G) ◀ Pitch management, improvement and maintenance of existing pitches, and potential asset transfers ◀ Developer contributions group (S106 linked) ◀ Valley Leadership Academy ◀ Marl Pits running track 	<p>Rossendale Borough Council Rossendale Leisure Trust NGBs Local sports clubs and schools Other stakeholders as relevant</p>	<p>As required</p>
<p>Prepare Annual PPOSS Progress Paper</p> <p>Based on the outcome of actions above, prepare a short Annual PPS Progress and Update paper highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ The delivery of PPS recommendations and any changes in priority; ◀ Changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area and other supply and demand information with implications for PPS's key findings; ◀ Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format; ◀ Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities; ◀ Any issues with the application of the PPS and lessons learnt; ◀ Actions needed to keep the PPS 'live' and up to date. <p>Based on the above, the Annual Progress Paper will also consider if a partial or full update of the PPS is required.</p>	<p>PPS Steering Group</p>	<p>Annually</p>

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

What task	Who by	When
<p>Circulation and Agreement</p> <p>Circulate Annual Progress Paper to Steering Group for comment and agreement with opportunity to hold Steering Group Meeting to discuss findings and issues.</p>	<p>PPS Steering Group</p>	<p>Annually</p>
<p>Publish Paper</p> <p>Make Annual Progress paper available online. Report any significant findings to appropriate committee if considered necessary.</p>	<p>RLT/RBC</p>	<p>Annually – following Steering Group agreement on progress paper</p>