

Stroud District Playing Pitch Strategy

**Final Strategy:
Main Report (Part 1)**

June 2019



belap
bennett leisure & planning
sport • health • plan

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL

info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



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The full set of documents comprises:

Stroud PPS Final Strategy: Main Report (Part 1)

Stroud PPS Final Strategy: Action Plans (Part 2)

Stroud PPS Final Needs Assessment Reports (7 documents: (1&2) Introduction & Context; (3) Football; (4) Cricket; (5) Rugby; (6) Hockey; (7)Tennis & Bowls; (8) Key Findings and Issues)

Appendix 1 Final Stage B Database

Appendix 2 Maps of Clusters

Appendix 3 List of Site Reference Numbers

Appendix 4 Key Site Overviews (37 in total)

Please note that acronyms used are set out on p47, Section 6.5.

1. INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

- 1.1. This Playing Pitch Strategy is one of a suite of reports covering Stroud District, commissioned by Stroud District Council as part of a wide assessment of Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Sport and Recreation within the District. The other elements are the Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study and the Indoor/Built Sports Facility Needs Assessment.
- 1.2. The overarching intent of the wider study is to provide a robust audit and assessment evidence base of open space and sport and recreation areas set within a Green Infrastructure network, enabling a coherent strategy approach to policy and development. Its objectives are to:
 - Protect the existing open space network;
 - Enhance and improve the accessibility and quality of existing provision;
 - Provide new open space to expand the network strategically;
 - Create multifunctional strategic hubs of open space; and
 - Work together to protect, deliver and effectively manage open space, green infrastructure, sport and recreation provision across the District.
- 1.3. This PPS covers the sports of football, cricket, rugby and hockey and other sports making use of playing pitch areas such as lacrosse, softball, stoolball and American football and associated facilities for tennis and bowls. Consideration is given to the provision of all facilities – both grass and artificial grass- that allow these sports to be played,
- 1.4. The PPS will ensure that the Council has an up-to-date robust assessment of the supply and demand factors influencing pitch sport provision over the next twenty years or so. It will underpin the Local Plan Review and ensure that:
 - the Local Plan is in conformity with relevant national guidance (including that of the government, and national agencies and organisations) and meets the of the requirements of the NPPF.
 - the Council has a robust evidence base underpinning the statutory land-use planning process in respect of its forward planning and development control functions, in particular to:
 - negotiate and apply provision at the major growth sites that may be proposed through the Local Plan Review;
 - inform the negotiation of public open space section 106 contributions with developers and use of CIL where appropriate;
 - inform the infrastructure requirements as part of the preparation of a revised Infrastructure Delivery Plan and potential future changes to CIL.
 - the Council can set out a range of other council policies and strategies, including the development plan framework, Health and Wellbeing strategies, public health strategies and community infrastructure plans.
 - there is a robust strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches across the district
 - there is the necessary evidence to support external funding bids and the provision of ancillary facilities, resources and personnel who help to deliver and maintain and utilize the playing pitch stick.

- there is a framework for ongoing monitoring and review of the pitch resources and that their management and use can be adequately and appropriately overseen.

1.5. Sport England has prescribed guidance for local authorities to follow when producing playing pitch strategies. There are ten steps incorporated within five stages as follows:

- Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (*Step 1*)
- Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- Stage D: Develop the strategy
- Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date

1.6. This draft Strategy document represents Stage D above, specifically Step 7 Development of the Strategy and Action Plan. It is underpinned by the supply and demand database produced for Stage B and the suite of Stage C Needs Assessment Reports. Once considered by the Steering Group and finally agreed, it will be adopted by the District Council and used as a basis for further dialogue and project implementation in partnership with other stakeholders. A Steering Group, comprising the following members, has been convened to oversee the Strategy's production and implementation:

- Conrad Moore Principal Planner, Stroud District Council
- Jane Bullows Sport and Health Development Manager, SDC
- Hannah Drew Sport and Health Development Officer
- Rozelle Jachowicz Public Space Officer, Community Services
- Bob Sharples Planning Manager, Sport England
- Neil Higginson Regional Clubs & Facilities Manager, ECB
- Eric Woodmason Clubs & Programme Officer, Gloucestershire Cricket Board
- Matthew Boucher Football Development Manager (Glos FA)
- Liz Pill Engagement Manager, Football Foundation
- Jon Bendle Area Facilities Manager, RFU
- Neil Loader Rugby Development Officer, Glos RFU
- Joanna Hawley Facilities Relationship Manager, England Hockey
- Verity Langfield Relationship Manager, England Hockey
- Colin Corline Regional Facilities Project Manager, LTA
- James Deem Regional Tennis Participation Manager, LTA
- Tom Beasley Active Gloucestershire

1.7. The purpose of this document is to set out within this Context section, a brief background to the area and the playing pitch resource, followed by:

- Section 2 The Vision: for the future protection, development and use of playing pitches within Stroud and Strategic Objectives which underpin the Vision
- Section 3 Sports specific priorities for each sport and actions to take these forward
- Section 4 Priority sites and projects
- Section 5 Delivering the strategy and keeping it up to date

Section 6 Action Plans by Cluster Area (An inventory of key sites and the measures to address identified issues) and strategic objectives – separate document

BACKGROUND

- 1.8. Stroud District covers an area of approximately 45,325 hectares (about 175 square miles). The District shares boundaries with Cotswold District, Gloucester City, Tewkesbury Borough and the unitary authority of South Gloucestershire. To the west is the Forest of Dean, which sits on the opposite bank of the River Severn estuary.
- 1.9. Much of the eastern half of the District falls into the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which covers just over 50% of the District's total land area. The western half of the District, characterised by the low-lying landscape of the Severn Vale, is bounded by the Severn Estuary
- 1.10. The District's principal town, Stroud lies about 20 miles north of Bristol and immediately south of Gloucester and Cheltenham and acts as the focal point of the wider functional urban area within the Stroud Valleys. The Valleys are home to some 49,000 people (just over 40% of the District's population), the other main town being Nailsworth. Towards the south of the District lie the towns of Cam and Dursley (population approximately 15,000), which jointly act as a focus for the South Vale area. Stonehouse (just under 8,000 people) lies just outside the topographical Stroud Valleys (3.5 miles west of Stroud), but the town functions as part of this urban area.
- 1.11. To the north of the District, Hardwicke (just under 4,000 people) forms part of the Gloucester urban area. The remaining countryside areas of the District are mainly used for agriculture and contain a large number of smaller towns, villages and hamlets. The population of Stroud District has increased by more than the national average.
- 1.12. Figure 2.1 shows the boundaries of the 8 'local clusters' that are employed within the current Local Plan and have also been used as the basis of sub-district analyses and recommendations within this report.
 - Berkeley Cluster (population 2013: 6,716)
 - Cam/Dursley Cluster (population 2013: 17,638)
 - Cotswold Fringe Cluster (population 2013: 6,300)
 - Gloucester Fringe Cluster (population 2013: 7,124)
 - Severn Vale Cluster (population 2013: 4,128)
 - Stonehouse Fringe Cluster (population 2013: 11,912)
 - Stroud Valleys Cluster (population 2013: 48,788)
 - Wotton Cluster (population 2013: 8,606)

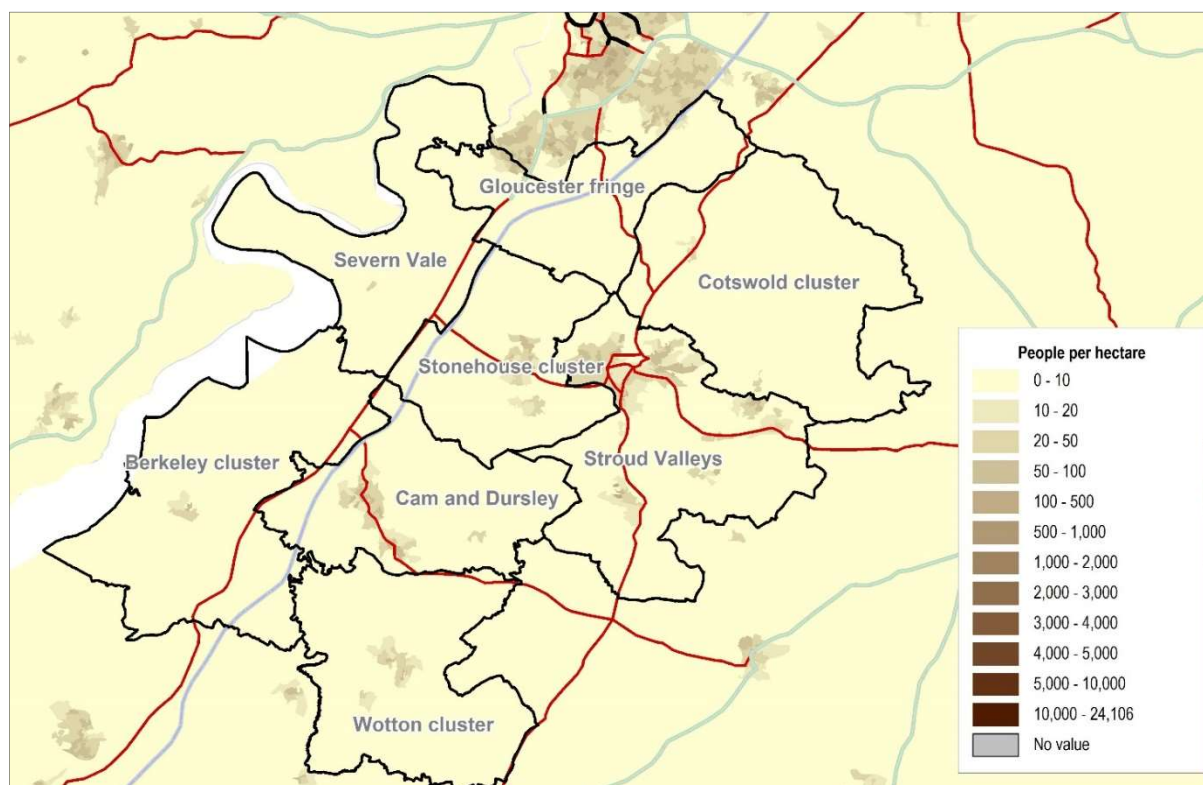


Figure 1: Stroud District

1.13. Salient points around population projections for Stroud are that:

- the overall population of Stroud District is predicted to increase from 119,074 in 2018 to 135,429 in 2040, an increase of 13.7% (16,355). The number of people in the overall 'active participation' age group (5-69 years) is also projected to increase, but at a lower rate (i.e. by 3,954 or 4.2%).
- the age group within the 'active participation' group that is projected to see the greatest increase in numbers in the period to 2040 is the 10-19 years age group (youth/junior pitch sports), which is predicted to increase by 12.2%.
- the main age band for adult pitch sports (20 – 34 years) is predicted to show an increase of 5%.
- the age group predicted to see a decline in numbers in the period to 2040 is the 46-54 years age group (adult and vets pitch sports) by -3.8%.
- the 55-69 years age group will increase by 5.6%. There is a very large increase predicted in the 70-79 years age group – just under 5,500 people, an increase of 44%.

1.14. According to the main indicator of sport and physical activity across England (the 'Active Lives' Survey managed by Sport England), the population of Stroud is slightly more 'active' than the national average. Latest available figures from 2015/16 indicated that male sports participation rates (48%) in Stroud were higher than those for females (32%).

1.15. Research has shown that there is a high correlation between levels of deprivation, and participation levels in sport and recreation. (i.e. the more deprived an area the lower the tendency for residents in those areas to participate, and vice versa). The analysis has been mapped for the Built Facilities Assessment and indicates that there is some association between low physical activity levels and higher incidences of

deprivation within the District, around for example, some parts of the Cam and Dursley area.

- 1.16. Whilst baseline population data from ONS can be used to indicate the change in population District-wide based on previous trends and the demographic characteristics of the population this does not allow examination of the impact that new housing allocations will have in respect of localised population change and the demand for new facilities in the areas concerned.
- 1.17. At present, the anticipated distribution of housing growth (2018-2040) for meeting development needs over the next 20 years comprises the following (see Appendix 1):
 - The strategy will concentrate housing growth at the main towns of Cam and Dursley, Stonehouse and Stroud, where there is best access to services, facilities, jobs and infrastructure.
 - Housing and employment growth will also be centered at two new settlements at Sharpness and at Wisloe within the Severn Vale (A38/M5 corridor) where there is the potential to create new sustainable communities along garden village principles. Further strategic employment growth will also be concentrated at accessible locations within the A38/M5 corridor.
 - In order to meet wider development needs and to support and improve existing services and facilities at smaller towns and larger villages, lesser levels of growth will be delivered at the local service centres of Berkeley, Minchinhampton, Nailsworth and Painswick.
 - Strategic site allocations of particular relevance comprise: West of Stonehouse (1350 dwellings); North East of Cam (450 dwellings); Hunts Grove extension (Gloucester Fringe -750 dwellings), and Sharpness Docks (300 dwellings).
 - Limited further growth will be delivered at a number of smaller settlements within development limits
- 1.18. As regards surrounding authorities, there is no significant development on the borders with Stroud:
 - The Joint core strategy (Gloucester, with Tewksbury & Cheltenham) was adopted in Dec 2017. Winneycroft urban extension allocates 620 homes to the north of Gloucester City's border with Stroud District, but it is better related to Gloucester city facilities.
 - Strategic development in South Gloucestershire is in Thornbury, but far enough south of Stroud to not impact the recreation needs.
 - Charfield is on the southern edge of Stroud District and there are some plans for the area including reopening the rail station and other development pressures to the south of the district.

OVERVIEW OF PLAYING PITCH RESOURCES

Football

- 1.19. 112 football pitches have been recorded across 61 sites in Stroud: 61 adult pitches, one junior 11v11, sixteen junior 9v9, twenty-three mini 7v7 and eleven mini 5v5. Almost all pitches are listed as being available for community use and used), the exceptions being: 7 sites recorded as being available for community use and unused (5 of these are school sites); 2 sites recorded as not being available for community use, as a matter of policy and practice and 3 football pitches recorded as being disused. 5% of sites are owned by the District Council; 44% by Town/Parish Councils; 21% by commercial concerns or sports clubs, 20% at education sites and 10% by

community organisations/trusts. Out of 61 adult pitches recorded, 40 were rated as standard and 21 as good. None were rated poor. The majority of junior and mini pitches were rated as standard, many of them being on school sites. There are several clubs with their own stadia pitches (e.g. Stonehouse Town FC, Shortwood FC and Brimscombe & Thrupp FC).

- 1.20. As regards teams, 236 football teams have been identified as playing for clubs based in Stroud District: 71 adult teams, 3 Ladies teams, 100 junior teams and 62 mini teams (12 of which are girls' teams). 1 team from Stonehouse Youth FC, 1 team from Shortwood Youth FC and 7 youth teams and 2 mini teams for Forest Green Rovers FC play outside the area. 87% of adult men's play is on Saturday afternoon; 100% of Ladies play is on Sundays. Youth football is split 60%:40% between Saturday mornings and Sundays. 97% of mini football is on Saturday mornings.

Cricket

- 1.21. In total 42 sites containing cricket pitches have been identified in Stroud district, of which 6 are school sites. 9 of these are not currently being used: 3 are theoretically available but not in use; 1 site is not available, and 6 sites are identified which have hosted cricket in the past but no longer do so. Excluding school pitches, 17 sites are shared with either rugby or football. As a district, Stroud has comparatively few artificial non turf wickets. The only Local Authority owned and managed cricket pitch is Stratford Court, Stroud. No cricket has been played here for the past two seasons. Marling School, Stroud & Wycliffe College have community use of their cricket facilities.
- 1.22. All cricket grounds scored highly, and out of 41 grounds assessed, 31 were rated good and 10 as standard. Many grounds have good quality artificial net cages. The standard of cricket pitches is commensurate with the standard of play and of particular note were the excellent pitches at Cullimore Grounds, Stroud CC (double pitch site) and Pounds Close, Frocester CC.
- 1.23. 27 cricket clubs were identified in Stroud fielding a total of 71 adult and 33 junior teams. Junior cricket in Stroud is entirely club based with all the youth teams playing as part of well-established senior clubs. Cam, Frampton-on-Severn, Frocester, Stroud and Upton St Leonards CC each field at least 3 junior teams. 63% of senior play is on Saturdays; 10% midweek and 27% on Sundays. 97% of youth play is midweek, with just 1 team playing Sunday afternoons.

Rugby

- 1.24. 11 sites containing rugby pitches are identified in Stroud, with a total of 23 pitches. 4 of these sites (7 pitches) are on school sites with no recorded community use. There are two schools which have community use: Wotton Sports Centre Community Parc – 1 adult pitch and Archway School – 2 not quite adult size pitches. Together with the other 5 sites, there are thus 16 pitches with community use: 10 adult and 6 mini/midi. Stroud RFC (Fromehall Park) and Minchinhampton RFC are the only two sites catering exclusively for rugby. No playing surfaces were regarded as being less than acceptable. The best rated pitch was Stroud RFC's ground at Fromehall Park (D2/M2). The lowest rated pitches were #3 at Dursley Rugby Club and the midi pitch at Minchinhampton RFC. The pitches at Archway School were not assessed although Stroud RFC youth section who use them say they drain well. All other pitches scored D2/M1, meaning that they can accommodate 2.5 match equivalent sessions a week.
- 1.25. 6 rugby clubs were identified in Stroud fielding a total of 58 teams - 17 adult and colts and 41 mini/midis. Four of the clubs run the whole range of adult, youth and mini/midi teams. Cainscross RFC and Wotton RFC currently run one team each.

There is a joint initiative supported by Glos RFU to run a 'Cainswick' team jointly between Painswick and Cainscross RFCs. Painswick RFC is the only club to currently run a women's/girls' team.

Artificial turf pitch provision

- 1.26. With regard to artificial turf pitch provision, there are 4 full size floodlit artificial grass pitches within Stroud District, currently with community use, all rated overall as good (although there are some localized quality issues) There is one sand dressed pitch (at Stratford Park Leisure Centre) and two sand based pitches – at Wotton Sports Centre Community Parc and Wycliffe College. There is only one full size floodlit 3G FTP in the district and it has community use – this is the 3G FTP at Rednock School in Dursley. However, it is not on the FA 3G Register and therefore is not available for matchplay.
- 1.27. The pitches at Wotton Community Parc, Stratford Park Leisure Centre and Rednock School Dursley can be considered as having secure community use. Wycliffe College is an independent School and whilst happy to accommodate community use on weekday evenings (and it seems likely that this will continue for the foreseeable future), this use is not secured. (The pitch is not available at weekends, due to the needs of the College).
- 1.28. There is an undersize 3G FTP at Wotton Sports Centre which has secure community use (it is not on the FA 3G Register and therefore not available for matchplay). Other demand for football training is met by the three small indoor artificial grass pitches at 'Inside Football' on the Brimscombe Industrial Estate in Stroud (not appropriate for league matchplay). There is occasional use of AGPs to the south of the district but not enough to merit them being considered as forming part of the pattern of provision for Stroud teams. Three clubs in the north Gloucester Fringe cluster use pitches at St Peter's High School (on the FA 3G Register and therefore available for matchplay) and Severn Vale School (sand based) for training. Both these AGPs are outside the area, located within Gloucester City PPS.

Hockey

- 1.29. Stroud Hockey Club runs 3 Ladies teams; 3 men's teams and 5 junior teams and is based principally at Stratford Park Leisure Centre (also training at Wycliffe College). Wotton under Edge Hockey Club (WUE) based at Wotton Community Parc, fields 4 Ladies teams, 4 men's teams and 10 junior teams. Dursley Hockey Club, which also plays and trains at Wotton, has one Ladies team, and Painswick Hockey Club runs one senior Ladies team and plays at St Peter's School, Tuffley (outside the area) In total there are the following club players affiliated to England Hockey in Stroud district: 125 adult men; 132 adult women; 154 junior boys and 223 junior girls, a total of 634.

Tennis and Bowls

- 1.30. 55 tennis courts across have been identified with community use, 27 (49%) of which are accessed via the club which either leases or owns them i.e. the user needs to be a club owner or request access via the club. 20 (36%) are available through booking, usually through town or parish councils and the remainder are generally left unlocked with free open access. Most of the courts were rated as of average/good quality and nearly 60% are floodlit. The provision of adequate, attractive pavilions is often an issue.
- 1.31. Of nine tennis clubs recorded, six have upwards of 100 members and most report buoyant interest, especially for juniors. There is little reliable data on the use of public park and recreation ground courts.

- 1.32. There are ten bowling greens in the district; most of which are kept in very good condition by club members. Many however are struggling with membership and undertaking active recruitment drives.

Athletics

- 1.33. Athletics (including road running and track and field) is very popular in the district, with many running clubs. Several playing fields, including school facilities are used for parkruns and for athletics training and events. The main clubs are Stroud and District Athletic Club (based at Archway School Stroud, with around 240 members) and Dursley Running Club (based at Dursley Rugby Club in Stinchcombe, with close to 400 members).
- 1.34. There is no full size synthetic athletics track in the district. Athletics is included within the Indoor/Built Sports Facilities Strategy, where it is recommended that consideration is given to the provision of a compact training facility for track and field events.

Facilities on education sites

- 1.35. As the above suggests, pitches at schools in Stroud District make a vital contribution to pitch sport participation and development. With regard to football, 12 adult, 5 junior and 10 mini pitches are recorded as being available for community use at schools. Of these, 5 adult and all junior and mini pitches are used. 9v9 and mini pitches on school sites are essential to maintain the current level of youth football; there are no alternatives to these pitches should they become unavailable.
- 1.36. There is little scope for increasing community use of school football pitches. Research indicates that use of such facilities is probably at a maximum and that schools – with the exception of Maidenhill School in Stroud and Thomas Keble in Eastcombe - are unlikely to be persuaded to increase/embrace further community use.
- 1.37. The only full size 3G FTP in Stroud district is at Rednock School in Dursley and two out of the three community accessible sand based AGPs are also on school sites – at Wycliffe College (independent) and Wotton Community Parc (Katharine Lady Berkeley School). Whilst the latter is managed as a community trust where usage for the community is secured, use of the artificial grass pitch at Wycliffe College is not secured. Stroud Hockey Club would not be able to run the teams that it currently does were this site not available for training opportunities.
- 1.38. Just 6 out of 42 cricket grounds are on school sites, although schools do have the majority of non turf wickets (5 out of 7). Marling School, Stroud is the only school recorded as having regular, community use of its cricket facilities (and the only state school with a grass wicket) but Katharine Lady Berkeley School is keen to develop use of its non turf wicket.. Wycliffe College hosts County Age Group matches on its grass pitch. Several school sports halls are important for net practice.
- 1.39. Of the seven rugby clubs in Stroud district, two clubs – Stroud RFC and Wotton RFC - rely heavily on school pitches. Wotton RFC has one team and is based on the rugby pitch at Wotton Community Parc, whilst Stroud RFC plays all its junior and mini matches on the two rugby pitches at Archway School; there are no alternative facilities in the town for junior rugby and the club is desperate to find its own secure pitches. 5 rugby pitches are recorded at Marling, Maidenhill and Thomas Keble school but there is no recorded community use.
- 1.40. Most secondary schools have tennis courts, with varying degrees of accessibility to the community. It appears that community use of school courts is low; this may be because of poor quality and/or lack of floodlighting and there is considerable scope

to increase this. As already indicated, the athletics facilities at Archway School Stroud are home to Stroud and District Athletics Club.

2. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION

2.1. Within the Stroud Corporate Delivery Plan 2018 – 2022, a key priority is:

‘To promote the health and wellbeing of our communities and work with others to deliver the public health agenda’

This accords closely with Active Gloucestershire’s objective of ‘making Everyone in Gloucestershire Active every day’ which focuses on 3 outcomes:

- Community (Active communities are a tremendous force for pulling people together)
- Wellbeing (Physical activity brings reward, satisfaction, happiness, motivation and challenge) and
- Productivity (The most successful organisations are those with an active and healthy workforce)

2.2. Physical activity in its broadest sense can be defined as ‘any activity involving body movement that uses energy and produces a benefit’, which spans all activities from gardening and dog walking to competitive sport at the highest level. Sport England, through the County Sports Partnerships, has long championed the now widely recognised view that being physically active offers individuals and society a raft of benefits that extend beyond physical and mental health to relationships, success at school and work, social integration, and reduced crime. Within this ethos, stakeholders are committed to an inclusive approach; ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or situation, has the chance to be active and/or play sport in the way that is right for them.

2.3. National Planning Guidance requires the planning policy making and decision taking to consider to the role of health and wellbeing in planning. Specifically noting that planning should consider:

‘opportunities for healthy lifestyles have been considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity, and promotes access to healthier food, high quality open spaces, green infrastructure and opportunities for play, sport and recreation) (NPPG ID: 53-002-20140306)’.

2.4. Particularly since local authorities took on new public health responsibilities in 2013, an increasing range of statutory, corporate and planning documents reiterate the importance of planning for health and creating healthy environments which can support and benefit people's wellbeing - not just physical but mental as well.

2.5. Following from this, the Stroud PPS Steering Group believes that the playing pitch resource can make a significant contribution to Stroud residents’ physical, mental and community wellbeing which is encapsulated in the following Vision Statement for this Playing Pitch Strategy:

To support the protection and provision of appropriate and high quality playing pitch facilities across Stroud District that maximize opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling and encouraging those who are inactive to become active and those who are already active to participate more and improve their performance.

2.6. Based on the Needs Assessments and identification of key issues and findings, this framework for future delivery is supported by five objectives. They reflect Sport England's Playing Pitch Methodology's priority themes of PROTECT, ENHANCE, PROVIDE as follows:

- Protect:** To protect the right opportunities in the right places
- Enhance:** To enhance opportunities through making better use of existing provision
- Provide:** To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations

2.7. These aims and the strategic objectives below are interlinked and overlap. They are presented in more detail within the Action Plan (Section 6I) and also underpin the site specific recommendations (Sections 6A-6H). But some of the considerations within each are briefly summarised below.

Objective 1 To protect existing provision and create viable and sustainable sites, by making the best use of existing resources

- The first objective must be to protect existing provision and have planning policies in place, in line with the NPPF, which do not allow the loss of playing fields unless robust evidence can be provided to support alternative, equal and replacement provision.
- Protecting playing fields also involves ensuring they are well used. More remote rural playing fields are experiencing a decline in the number of teams playing on them, and several look increasingly vulnerable as sports facilities, although they will continue to have a role and be safeguarded as public open space. Maintaining viable sites involves ensuring that facilities are well cared for and meet the needs of the users, that they are located in the right places and that they are affordable and accessible to all.
- As set out in Section 1, a significant proportion of grass playing pitches in Stroud District are on school sites, where they frequently provide essential overflow and back up facilities. In particular, the artificial grass pitches at Rednock School and Wycliffe College are essential for football training and the meeting of demand for hockey, whilst the Wotton Community Parc in association with Katharine Lady Berkeley School is an excellent example of a community multi sports facility developing on and from a school site.
- There is clear evidence that the movement towards academies within the education sector has resulted in a situation where schools now have autonomy over their pitches, with varying approaches to embracing community access. Securing and increasing community use of school/FE and HE facilities through appropriate pricing and accessibility should be a major priority, but there is a lack of co-ordinating agencies and agreed approaches which can help to drive this process. However, it is recognised that links between schools and their local community do seem to change regularly over time with new regulations, new school leadership, sport or open space funding bid requirements etc.
- It is not only security of tenure at schools which need to be strengthened, but also access to private sites and others where security of tenure is not long enough to support funding bids. Sites under threat from development should be monitored closely.

Objective 2 To provide sufficient and appropriate high quality facilities and opportunities (enhanced and new) to meet demand to 2040

- The Needs Assessment has taken into account population growth from new housing together with trends in participation, latent and unmet demand and the aspirations of clubs to develop new teams. These aspirations have been

considered conservatively; some of them are dependent upon access to more/better pitches and changing facilities, but others will depend on the availability of support personnel especially coaches. The Strategy explores ways in which demand for new pitch space can be met, not just through providing new facilities but through making better use of existing resources. It is important that the Strategy is future-proofed and plans for all elements of growth and demand.

- Local authorities, including town and parish councils, are experiencing severe budgetary and financial constraints, with less money available not only for providing new pitch space but for managing and maintaining grass and artificial turf pitches. It is a constant challenge to source funds to support the high costs of maintaining grounds, replacing equipment and delivering a high quality service.
- We know that housing growth can help to deliver new pitches through S106 and CIL, and the needs assessment presented in this Strategy will help to provide the evidence necessary to underpin developer contributions policies.
- Meeting demand through to 2040 will depend upon new facilities being located in the right place and designed appropriately and flexibly in order to be able to respond to changing patterns of participation. For example, ideally when considering new football pitches, an area of flat land should be provided which can be set out flexibly, as age ranges change. Facilities should be developed in line with appropriate national governing body and Sport England standards relating to ancillary facilities, natural and artificial grass pitches etc. and will need to ensure sufficient access for community use to secure funding.
- Across all playing pitch sites – new and existing and grass and artificial – it is critical for sustainability that: high quality standards, ancillary facilities and intensification of use such as floodlighting can be easily achieved; the management infrastructure is in place to develop maximise usage; outdoor and indoor facilities are co-located to encourage cross-participation; winter pitches are used in the summer and vice versa wherever possible, and new facilities are energy efficient, can be maintained effectively and have adequate sinking funds for replacement.
- Demand for pitch sport facilities comes from a varied range of clubs, individuals, groups and teams, with different requirements depending on their standard of play. It is important to support grass root clubs on the ground and ensure there will be an appropriate range of facilities to enable competition and training at a range of levels. This might include better changing facilities and other ancillary provision (stands, perimeter fencing) to enable progression, floodlighting to facilitate off pitch training, better training facilities on site and enabling players to train and play at the same venue/location.

Objective 3 To raise the profile of the pitch sports in contributing to enhanced mental and physical health and wellbeing and to consider the establishment of community sport, health and wellbeing hub sites based around pitch sport provision.

- There is now a growing appreciation of the problems of obesity and poor health allied to a lack of exercise and how the provision and use of sports pitches and associated facilities may link in to wider health and community development agendas.
- It is within this context that this Playing Pitch Strategy sits and will contribute to. In particular, the following points are highlighted:
- Playing fields operate at the interface between open space and activity and sport. They are open space resources with a sporting function. They are undoubtedly a healthy environment – with the unique attributes of being an

outdoor resource which provides a range of opportunities for physical exercise and activity and social interaction.

- There are other aspects to playing pitches and the land on which they are situated which contribute towards healthy environments. Many playing fields are valuable in their own right as public open space sites for informal recreation and a wealth of informal activities – kite flying, picnics, play, environmental studies, dog walking and park runs or even fairs, circuses, festivals etc.
- Playing fields often include other facilities in addition to grass and artificial grass pitches, such as bowling greens, skateparks and tennis courts, outdoor gyms and play areas and of course changing rooms, pavilions and cafes. If planned and managed jointly these elements can enhance the overall value of playing fields as a health, sport and wellbeing hubs.
- This Strategy proposes the designation of community sport, health and wellbeing hubs, as promoted by Stroud District Council (referred to as ‘Sport, Health and Wellbeing’ (SHW) hubs)

Objective 4 To enhance and manage facilities to ensure retention of players and attraction of new participants, particularly those still underrepresented in the pitch sports such as women, girls and people with disabilities

- Football, cricket and rugby are still overwhelmingly male sports, with less than 10% of teams registered as female. (It is noted that female players can now play within youth football teams up to u18; youth cricket teams can also be mixed gender). In Stroud, we want our playing pitch facilities to be an equitable resource – available and accessible to all, whatever their gender, level of ability or disability, level of inactivity or activity or income.
- In particular, if women and girls are to be attracted in large numbers to the pitch sports, changing facilities will need to both accommodate, and be attractive to them. All the major sports have specific initiatives targeted at young people and the provision of appropriate ancillary facilities are essential for these. This often involves enlarging facilities to enable separate changing; youth players also have different requirements to adult players. The designation of certain sites as being particular appropriate for female players and, separately, for youth players will hopefully be an outcome from the strategy.
- The cost of taking part in sport is a significant factor and we have found increasing concern at the cost of hiring artificial grass surfaces, especially for training purposes for young people.

Objective 5 To create a delivery framework for people and organisations to work together to share skills, expertise, resources and facilities in implementing the Strategy

- This strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community. The Steering Group set up to deliver the Strategy includes officers from the District Council and Active Gloucestershire, as well as National Governing Bodies of Sport. It is planned that it should continue to meet at a minimum of six monthly intervals after the Strategy is adopted to monitor progress and continue to implement schemes.
- A key partner will be local schools and South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, and it may be beneficial to establish a Stroud Playing Fields Group with representatives from all secondary schools, FE and HE. The PPS Implementation Group might also include representatives from major clubs and local leagues.
- Future funding of sports pitch provision and improvement is likely to be predominantly through S106 agreements and CIL, but the Steering Group also

needs to think of innovative ways to link existing community assets/groups in to the development of new identified projects to ensure they are sustainable and embedded within their local communities.

- Support for the voluntary sector in relation to the management and maintenance of facilities and membership activity is increasingly important to ensure a thriving club sector and good quality facilities and it may be that schemes will be given priority if clubs have Clubmark or other indications of their standard. There is also scope for leasing of sites to clubs, providing appropriate training and support can be given to volunteers.
- There are other ways, not just financial, in which people can work together to improve the viability of pitch sport sites. For example, there may be scope for local clubs, teams and leagues to work together to review and reschedule football kick-off times to avoid the Saturday afternoon peak-time capacity problem.
- Considerable investment is now being made into health which may be a way forward in securing funding for pitch improvements. There may be opportunities in major new developments to deliver community sport, health and wellbeing hubs.

3. SPORT SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

FOOTBALL

- 3.1. The Local Football Facility Plan for Stroud has recently been completed: <https://lffp-prod.ff-apps.dh.bytemark.co.uk/local-authorities-index/stroud/stroud-local-football-facility-plan/>.

This plan recommends that the future football development priorities for Stroud are:

1. Increase Women & Girl's Participation
2. Sustain & Increase Adult Male 11v11 Football
3. Increase Disability participation
4. Increase Recreational playing opportunities
5. Retain youth and Mini-Soccer participation

Investment priorities are identified under 4 categories:

1. 3G FTPs
2. Improved grass pitches
3. Changing room pavilions / clubhouses
4. Small-sided facilities

The projects are identified within Section 6: Strategy Action Plans.

- 3.2. The main characteristics of future demand for football in Stroud are a buoyant youth and minis sector and growing demand for affordable and accessible floodlit training areas and 3G football turf pitches (which should be FA/FF compliant and in line with the principles of provision around design, pricing, sinking funds and testing for compliance so they can be put on the 3G FTP Register). Sunday adult play is in decline, but Saturday play seems relatively stable and the CFA is planning to increase the number of Wildcat centres (for girls' participation) operating in Stroud. Growth in small sided games has not emerged as a particular trend in Stroud, although it is probable that increase in demand for indoor small sided football and such initiatives as walking football will translate to demand for outdoor 3G FTPs and/or even grass pitches.
- 3.3. For the future situation, using housing growth allocations, it is possible to estimate the demand that will be generated by people moving into new housing in the district. Together with changes in participation trends, latent, unmet and currently displaced (at least 11 youth teams) demand and the aspirations of clubs, careful analysis suggests that an additional 22 male adult, 2 female adult, 35 junior teams and 16 mini teams will be created by 2040; an additional 75 teams.
- 3.4. The following table shows total number of teams by cluster area, comparing 2040 to now (2019). This must be qualified by the fact that current distribution of clubs will have a great influence on the formation of new teams.

Table 1: Football teams generated to 2040 by cluster area

	District	Berkeley	Cam/ Dursley	Cotswold Fringe	Gloucester Fringe	Severn Vale	Stone - house	Stroud Valleys	Wotton
Existing Teams 2019	236	16	31	1	24	17	37	89	22
Increase in demand 2019-2040									
<i>Sport England Calculator</i>	47.2	15.3	6.8	0.4	7.5	0.2	8.4	7.6	0.8
<i>Men</i>	6		1		1	1	1	1	1
<i>Ladies</i>	1		1						
<i>Youth 12-15 yrs</i>	7	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
<i>Youth 10-11 yrs</i>	9	1	1		1	1	2	2	1
<i>Minis</i>	3						1	1	1
<i>Sub Total</i>	26	2	4	0	3	3	5	5	4
<i>Total Increase 2019-2040</i>	73.2	17.3	10.8	0.4	10.5	3.2	13.4	12.6	4.8
Projected Total Teams 2040	310	30	42	2	35	20	50	102	27

3.5. The following priorities have been identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy for football in Stroud (F1 – F6):

F.1 Meeting current and future demand for natural grass pitch space for football

3.6. According to the Sport England Playing Pitch calculator, the amount of pitch space required to meet demand from an additional 73 teams would be in the order of:

- 8-9 adult pitches
- 4- 5 pitches as Youth 11v11 for 12-15 years
- 4-5 pitches for Youth 9v9 for 10-11 years (this does not take account of finding sites where youth pitches are located together to serve large youth football clubs)
- 6-7 mini soccer pitches

3.7. The need for pitch space does not just have to be met through new provision and there are various other ways of providing increased capacity. The following discussion in Table 4 is informed in particular by Table 1 (above) and Tables 2 and 3 below:

Table 2: Extent of any current spare capacity for football matches during the peak period, expressed as match equivalents, by sub area

Sub Area	Time of Play		
	Adult football peak time	Junior football peak times	Mini football peak times
Berkeley	1	0.5	10
Cam/Dursley	0.5	0	4
Cotswold Fringe	1	No junior pitches	
Gloucester Fringe	0	0	6
Severn Vale	0.5	0.5	5
Stonehouse	2	0	12
Stroud Valleys	6	0.5	18.5
Wotton	1	0	2
	12	1.5	57.5

Table 3: School football pitches
(schools own 20% of the pitch stock identified in this study)

Rednock School, Dursley	1 adult	No community use, but available
Maidenhill School, Stonehouse	2 adult	No community use, but available
Stroud High School	2 adult	No community use
Thomas Keble School, Eastcombe	2 adult	No community use but available
Nailsworth Primary School	1 adult	No community use, not known if available
Archway School, Stroud	1 adult & 1 9v9	Used by community teams
Chalford Hill Primary	1 adult & 1 7v7	Used by community youth teams
Marling School	1 large junior	Used by community youth teams
Hardwicke Primary Academy	1 9v9; 1 7v7	Used by community youth & mini teams
Eastington Primary school	2 x 7v7	Used by community mini teams
Park Junior School, Stonehouse	2 7v7	Used by community mini teams
Minchinhampton Primary School	2 x 7v7	Used by community mini teams
Severn View Primary	2 x 7v7	Used by community mini teams

- 3.8. Meeting the demand for pitch space might be met in any combination of the following ways:

Table 4: Addressing the shortfall for future pitch space for football in Stroud District

Opportunity	Commentary
<i>Encouraging new teams to play on pitches where there is currently spare capacity</i>	<p>In theory there are 12 spare Saturday pm slots which could accommodate 24 adult men’s football teams, but they are scattered across many grounds throughout the district and would mean fitting in with other well established teams’ use. There are 6 spare slots in Stroud Valleys, but these are at scattered grounds. Some spare slots should be retained, for rest and recovery of pitches, for fixture backlogs and other reasons when other pitches are temporarily out of use.</p> <p>Spare capacity for youth teams is much more limited; only spaces for around 3 teams on existing pitches across the district as a whole.</p> <p>Given that several matches can be played consecutively on a Sunday morning, the situation is not so acute for mini teams.</p> <p>Encouraging new teams to play on pitches where there is currently spare capacity (this may mean teams playing away from their club’s ‘home ground’) may prove difficult.</p>

Opportunity	Commentary
<i>Grounds where football pitches have existed in the past and could be reinstated and/or where there is room to put in additional pitches</i>	<p>There are some opportunities here e.g</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painswick . Enough flat grass for a junior pitch. • An adult pitch could be reinstated at Coaley Recreation ground • Some spare land at Reg Davies Memorial Ground, although club are working to provide an indoor training 3G here • King George V Nymphsfield - Site consists of just one pitch at present; previously there were 2 pitches, but this area now unmarked. • War Memorial Ground, Dursley – room for mini pitch • Kingswood Playing Fields - set of junior goals on unmarked pitch. • Possibility of ground levelling and extension of pitch plateau at King George V Nailsworth • Uplands Recreation Area Stroud – room for an adult pitch (but no changing)
<i>Securing (greater) community use of pitches on school sites (see Table 3)</i>	<p>Research has indicated that schools who do not have community use have not had requests to use their facilities and so have not pursued this on their sites. We feel that use of school facilities is probably at a maximum and that schools are unlikely to be persuaded to increase/embrace community use. The main exceptions to this are Maidenhill School in Stonehouse and Thomas Keble School in Eastcombe, both of which have had community use in the past</p>
<i>Improving the quality of key pitches to increase their capacity (does not solve problem of peak time)</i>	<p>No football sites have been rated as ‘poor’ quality. There are no grounds where upgrading the ground from standard to good would enable any more slots to become available at peak times – i.e. Saturday afternoons for adult play.</p> <p>There may be certain junior pitches where raising the quality to good might enable more matches to be played, which depending on the split of Saturday/Sunday play, may enable more teams to be based there.</p>
<i>Remarking and resizing of pitches to accommodate greatest needs</i>	<p>Berkeley, Stonehouse and Stroud Valleys cluster areas have a very healthy spare capacity for mini football, and it may be that some of these could be remarked as 9v9 pitches, given that all areas have very little capacity for 9v9 football.</p> <p>The only area where there is enough spare capacity to consider remarking adult pitches to junior is in Stroud Valleys.</p>
<i>Encouraging teams to play matches on 3G FTPs</i>	<p>Moving training off marked out formal pitches to increase their capacity for matchplay.</p> <p>The transference of play between grass and 3G FTP provision for matchplay requires the provision of 3G FTPs in Stroud District as the only existing facility – at Rednock School – is full</p>
<i>Improvements to changing facilities (although this rarely solves the problem of peak time demand)</i>	<p>There are certain identified grounds where improvements or the provision of changing facilities would enable the ground to meet league requirements and/or increase their attractiveness as a home venue – these enhancements are very important to sustain interest in the game.</p>
<i>Changes to supply through new housing development</i>	<p>See Appendix 1</p>

3.9. It can be seen that given the various areas of land and possible opportunities it is very difficult to put a figure on the needs for completely new provision, neither may it be possible to identify precise locations for new grass and/or artificial pitches. Much will depend on the progress made with installing 3G FTPs in the district and whether clubs are happy to take up spare slots on existing pitches. The provision of additional pitches can remain an aspiration, to be brought forward once suitable and sustainable sites are identified.

3.10. However, in an attempt at this stage to give a figure, it is suggested that in addition to existing stock the minimum number of additional pitches required to 2040 is as follows (some of which could be accommodated at existing playing fields as listed above if in the right location):

- 3-4 x adult pitches
- 8-10 x junior pitches (of varying pitch size)
- 4 x mini pitches (7x7 and 5v5).

F.2 Providing appropriate, sustainable, affordable 3G FTPs which are FA/FF compliant

3.11. Using the above team generation figures, it is possible to estimate the demand for 3G FTPs in each cluster area both now and in 2040:

Table 5: Assessment of demand for 3G FTPs for football training

	Requirement (based on no. of teams now)	Requirement (based on no. of teams – 2040)	No of full size FTP equivalents (built & under construction)	Shortfall 2019	Shortfall 2040
Total	6.4 (236)	8.2 (310)	2.3	4.1	5.9
Berkeley	0.4 (16)	0.9 (33)		0.4	0.9
Cam/Dursley	0.8 (31)	1.1 (42)	1	(+0.2)	0.1
Cotswold Fringe	(1)	(2)			
Gloucester Fringe	0.6 (24)	0.9 (35)		0.6	0.9
Severn Vale	0.4 (17)	0.5 (20)		0.4	0.5
Stonehouse	1 (37)	1.3 (50)		1	1.3
Stroud Valleys	2.3 (89)	2.7 (102)	0.5	1.8	2.2
Wotton	0.6 (22)	0.7 (27)	0.8	(+0.2)	0.1

3.12. A minimum of four additional 3G FTPs are required in the Stroud Study area to meet current requirements for training (based on the FA target of 38 teams for training per 3G FTP). Requirements for matchplay are more difficult to predict, but if the FA target of 50% of youth and mini play currently taking place on public sector pitches (i.e. excluding education pitches) is adhered to; this means 4.2 x 3G FTPs required in total – an addition of 2. With regards to future demand, six additional 3G FTPs would be required across the district.

3.13. There are many caveats to the above table, and it needs careful interpretation. But it does give an overview of where demand will start to grow through new housing across Stroud district. It is emphasised that all new build/refurbished 3G FTPs should be FA/FF compliant and aligned with the necessary principles around design, pricing, sinking funds and testing for the FA 3G Register, to enable matchplay. Options for provision are as follows:

Berkeley

- Berkeley will experience significant growth over the next 20 years and demand for a 3G FTP in the area will grow. The Hamfields site (now managed by a charitable trust) is a possible long term location for a 3G FTP. SGS College and Berkeley UIC are located here and numbers of students are expected to grow to around 1000 in the next 3-5 years. SGS has an arrangement whereby it uses some areas of the playing fields and is hoping this will increase as numbers grow. Pitches are used by Sharpness AFC and Severnside Nuclear Juniors at the

weekend. A 3G FTP on site remains an aspiration of SGS which it would look to develop in partnership with the Community Trust, local clubs and community.

- Thornhill Park, Slimbridge AFC is a good rated stadium pitch, with good access via A38 and M5. The club have expressed desire for a 3G training area as there is no area off-pitch for warm up for visiting teams etc. This site is identified by the FA and SDC as having potential as a key football site.

Cam/Dursley

- At present, the only 3G FTP in Stroud district – at Rednock School in Dursley – is fully used by local clubs on weekday evenings. It has not been recently tested and is therefore not in the FA 3G Register and cannot cater for any affiliated matchplay. The reasons behind this may be complex but in the interests of making the best use of this facility need to be resolved.

Gloucester Fringe:

- The recently published Local Football Facilities Plan for Stroud refers to the 3G FTP potential project for Gloucester to be located at Waterwells Sports Centre, which borders onto Hardwicke and could impact on the north of Stroud District. Hardwicke AFC and Hardwicke Rangers Youth FC train extensively at Severn Vale School and it would be possible that if a new full size 3G FTP was provided (at Waterwells Sports Centre) the club might relocate their training there if affordable, convenient and available. The table above suggests that by 2040 there will be a requirement for a 3G FTP to serve the teams in the Hardwicke area alone, but for the foreseeable future the provision of one within Gloucester itself at Waterwells but with easy access should suffice.
- The only evidence of cross boundary issues to the eastern side of the Gloucester Fringe - in the Upton St Leonards/Brockworth area – is Upton St Leonards FC training on the 3G pitch at St Peter’s School Tuffley (FA Accredited). There appeared no demand expressed for additional 3G provision in this area.

Severn Vale

- There are longstanding proposals, for a small (mini pitch size) 3G indoor training area to be located on the home ground of Frampton Youth FC (Reg Davies Memorial Ground in Frampton). The siting of such a facility has considerable support and some funding is in place; it will not involve the loss of any grass pitches. The table above suggests there is demand for this facility.

Stonehouse

- The above table demonstrates an urgent shortfall of one 3G FTP in this area to meet existing demand. Football teams travel outside of Stonehouse to use a variety of artificial grass pitches for training, notably in Stroud and Dursley. Maidenhill School and Oldends Lane Playing Field in Stonehouse both merit further consideration and investigation as possible sites, although there are constraints and limiting factors for each.

Stroud Valleys

- The findings from this PPS would support currently one 3G FTP provision in Stroud and another facility by 2040. The only full size floodlit provision is provided by the sand dressed AGP at Stratford Park (local authority) and the sand based AGP at Wycliffe College (independent school without secure community use). If a 3G FTP is provided in Stroud it seems likely that, if the cost and access is convenient, football teams will transfer across, thus freeing up spaces for hockey training during weekday evenings.
- Stratford Court Playing Fields: this site has a history of many proposals for both grass and artificial grass pitch provision. It is used extensively by SGS College during the week and the College are generally supportive of additional 3G FTP

provision in the town. However, it is concluded that this site is not suitable for such provision – it is the premier public grass playing field site in the town which lends itself to maintaining its open aspect as a hub site for grass pitch sports

- Archway School has extensive community use both indoors and of its football and rugby pitches. Marling School also has community use of its indoor facilities and its football pitches. Each of these sites have been identified as a potential 3G FTP priority projects within the Local Football Facilities Plan. The FF/Gloucestershire FA and the Strategy Steering Group will identify the most appropriate project to take forward, based on outcomes demonstrated for each respective project via the National Football Facilities Strategy.
- There are a number of single pitch sport sites around Stroud, but there are restricting factors at many as regards conversion to 3G FTPs – either from a topographical viewpoint, or floodlighting concerns or lack of on-site management.
- Inside Football at Brimscombe Industrial Estate caters for many local clubs. If the future of the Industrial Estate is not secure, these teams will require alternative facilities (and will remove the '0.5' no. of full size equivalent facilities in the above table).

Wotton

- The 3G FTP at Wotton Sports Centre Community Parc is undersize (59m x 40m); there has been discussion around providing a full size 3G FTP on site. It would not seem possible to enlarge the existing pitch as this would encroach on the rugby pitch. Whilst such a facility would benefit local clubs (mainly Wotton FC and other surrounding village teams) the above table and other findings do not support the provision of a full size facility at this time.
- Artificial grass pitches on school sites are often more complicated and expensive to book than local authority leisure facilities (they often have to be block booked in advance and there is more administrative paperwork to comply with).

3.14. It needs to be noted that the cost of artificial grass pitches is an extremely important aspect of their provision and unless they are affordable, they will not be used to their maximum capacity. This particularly relates to the cost of hiring 3G FTPs for matchplay which can be up to three times the price of a grass pitch and generally outside the reach of most clubs. It is emphasised that pricing policies must be affordable for grass roots football clubs and should be agreed with the local County Football Association. This should include match rates at weekends which are equivalent to local authority (district, town and/or parish council) prices for natural turf pitches. Part of the rationale for the provision of full size 3G FTPs is to provide an alternative to natural turf pitches for matchplay and thus reduce wear and tear on the latter. If they are not to be used for this purpose, it may be more cost effective to provide smaller 3G FTPs to accommodate youth and mini matches and training.

3.15. The provision of 3G AGPs will also assist with the following:

- Providing pitch facilities of the required standard for progression through the leagues
- Stabilising fixture schedules by avoiding the need to postpone up to 2-3 months' worth of matches when grass pitches become waterlogged during the winter
- Increasing the capacity for peak time matchplay by scheduling two matches on a Saturday afternoon at 1pm and 4pm
- Providing easily managed and welcoming environments for youth and disability teams
- Providing central venues for development activity

- Meeting increasing demand for the growth in 5-a-side teams. At present a considerable amount of small sided soccer is played in sports halls,
- 3.16. New pitches should be constructed to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf – FIFA Quality (old FIFA 1*) accreditation or equivalent International Match Standards (IMS) as a minimum and meet the recommended pitch size of (including run offs) 100m (106m) x 64m (70m). If shared football/rugby AGPs are to be constructed, there should be appropriate programming for football and any shared 3Gs will impact on the formula for determining how many additional 3Gs are required. If football does not have exclusive use, it will increase the overall number of equivalent 3Gs required for football. It is not advisable for football to share with hockey as the surfaces are not compatible for both training and matchplay.
- 3.17. If any possible sand based AGPs are being considered for possible future ‘conversion’, no decision should be taken in isolation without consulting the relevant NGBs and other key stakeholders.

F.3 Recognising and meeting the specific needs of youth football clubs

- 3.18. Within football, two important considerations are the growth of youth and mini football and the growth in 5-a-side teams and leagues. Generally in the study area, junior football is played on pitches which are the appropriate size, albeit with smaller 7v7 and 5v5 pitches marked out with cones or overmarked on 9v9 and small youth pitches. However, going forward the key will be for new provision to be flexible, enabling different configurations of pitch sizes i.e. providing sites large enough to accommodate a range of youth football teams in one place.
- 3.19. Several large football clubs in Stroud district are split between different sites, most notably in the main urban areas. 4 large junior clubs split over up to 6 sites. Few sites currently have enough space to cater for flexibility and a range of different pitch sizes plus appropriate, attractive toilets and changing facilities to meet needs of girls, boys and referees.
- 3.20. Problems are most acute for the following clubs:
- Cotswold Rangers playing at 3 sites – two in Stonehouse and at Whitminster (provision of 3G FTP in Stonehouse may assist)
 - Minchinhampton Rangers playing across 5 sites – accommodating more matches at Stuart Playing Field may ease the situation– 5 sites
 - in the Gloucester Fringe area for Hardwicke Rangers Youth playing across 3-4 sites; provision of 3G FTP in nearby area may assist
 - For Rodborough Youth FC playing across 6 sites in Stroud and surrounding areas (see F6 below)

F.4 Enhancing the quality and capacity of existing provision where specific issues have been identified, particularly around clubs aspiring to progression to the next level

- 3.21. The Action Plan sets out the situation regarding each site and where enhancements are required. Certain grounds require improvements to facilitate promotion and others to increase the capacity of the pitches. For example: Hardwicke AFC, Shortwood FC, Stonehouse FC, Slimbridge FC + some smaller clubs.

F.5 Encouraging participation by women and girls, particularly through enhanced changing facilities and general improvements to pitch and site quality.

- 3.22. The FA's 'Gameplan for Growth' strategy for women's football sets out the objectives of doubling participation, doubling the numbers of fans and ensuring consistent success on the world stage.
- 3.23. Women's and girls' football in Stroud is expanding and is currently a focus for Gloucestershire FA and there are initiatives – such as Wildcats - to increase this. There is evidence that the lack of appropriate, dedicated changing facilities to meet their requirements restricting development at some sites.
- 3.24. The need for changing and other ancillary facilities which are welcoming and appropriate for female participation is vital to sustain this growing demand. War Memorial Ground, Dursley is a priority site.

F.6 Addressing the 'Stroud problem' including single pitch sites; lack of 3G FTPs, the future of Stratford Court playing fields and accommodating youth football appropriately

- 3.25. Issues are:
- There is a patchwork of provision in Stroud for football with several teams playing on more than one site.
 - There is no 3G FTP provision in the town.
 - There are a very high number of single pitch sites in Stroud, many with constraining factors – size of pitch, sloping pitch, no/inadequate changing facilities. In order to retain players, improvements would be very desirable, but it is often difficult to justify investment on such sites. For example, changing facilities at Mason Road require enhancement, but the pitch itself is on a restricted area and of minimum adult size and would not support the club's promotion.
 - There are two youth football clubs in particular in the Stroud area which struggle to accommodate teams – Stroud Town Youth and particularly Rodborough Youth due to the large number of teams
 - Stratford Court is the prime playing field site in Stroud and a potential premier sporting venue and sport, health and wellbeing (SHW) hub. The site currently accommodates 1 adult pitch, 1 9v9 and 3 x 7v7 pitches, with various overmarkings for 5v5 pitches and this season is hosting 2 adult teams and 9 youth and mini teams, from 2 youth football clubs. Adult pitch is being played to the level it can sustain; junior pitch is being overplayed slightly and there is a little spare capacity on mini pitches.
 - Stratford Court has hosted cricket in the recent past and the main cricket square is still evident but not cut. There is a redundant artificial strip to the west of the cricket square.
 - The changing facility is acceptable but has been identified for refurbishment. Any intensification of use would benefit from enhanced facilities including officials' changing.
 - Pitch alignments could be changed, and configurations could vary – but positioning of redundant artificial wicket restricts possibilities.
- 3.26. Possible options:
- Suggest removal of derelict non turf wicket in Stratford Court (west of site), but maintain cricket square on site for any upsurge in demand for informal cricket or from an established club

- Move Rodborough Youth FC to Stratford Court – currently fielding 8 teams here and a further 11 teams across 5 venues: Severn View Primary School - 2 x u10, 2 x u11; Bownham Park - 2 x u13, u15; Butterow West - u16, u16G; Whiteshill & Ruscombe – u15 and Archway School – u18). (It is estimated that these teams could be accommodated on 2 x mini 7v7; 1 x 9v9 and 2 x adult pitches, plus there would be room for another adult pitch for Stroud Town 1st XI it is important to retain this club on this ground))
- The transfer of Rodborough Youth to Stratford Court will free up single junior pitch at Bownham Park (it may be possible to move Minchinhampton Rovers 2 x u12s here) and the minimum adult size pitch at Butterow West and the pitch at Whiteshill & Ruscombe (although there is no changing here).
- The enhancement of changing facilities here will help to support the development of a sport, health and wellbeing hub site.
- Install 3G FTP at Archway School or Marling School and see how demand redistributes itself within the town, particularly if clubs can be attracted to the facility for matchplay. Then consider additional 3G FTPs in the town and investment in single pitch sites on a phased basis.

CRICKET

- 3.27. The following priorities have been identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy for cricket in Stroud (C1 – C6) (not necessarily in priority order)

C.1 Meeting current and future demand for pitch space for cricket

- 3.28. The main characteristics of future demand for cricket in Stroud are a fairly buoyant youth sector, which it is hoped will develop further following the introduction of All Stars cricket but a more mixed picture in respect of adult teams. There are some very strong, well established and managed clubs with very good quality grounds, but overall the level of adult play needs support. There are some optimistic signs for women's cricket and T20 is also experiencing some growth which may result in an increase in more casual play and midweek leagues.
- 3.29. Demand generated by people moving into new housing in the district, together with changes in participation trends, latent and unmet demand and the aspirations of clubs suggests that an additional 20 men's teams, 3 ladies' teams and 11 youth teams will be created by 2040 (a total of 34 additional teams)
- 3.30. The following table shows the total number of teams by cluster area, comparing 2040 to now (2019). This must be qualified by the fact that the current distribution of clubs will have a great influence on the formation of new teams.

Table 6: Cricket teams generated to 2040 by cluster

	District	Berkeley	Cam/ Dursley	Cotswold Fringe	Gloucester Fringe	Severn Vale	Stone house	Stroud Valleys	Wotton
Existing Teams 2019	104	12	13	15	11	12	27	12	2
Increase 2019- 2040									
Sport England Calculator	22	7	3	<1	3	<1	4	3	<1
Other increase	12	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	1
Total expected growth 2019-2040	34	8	5	2	4	1	7	5	2
Projected Total Teams 2040	138	20	18	17	15	13	34	17	4

3.31. According to the calculator, the amount of pitch space required to meet demand from an additional 34 teams would be 3 - 4 cricket pitches. (Junior cricket can be accommodated on adult pitches; one good quality pitch can support up to 4 adult teams (providing they are split into Saturday/Sunday/midweek play) and around 7 juniors). As with football, the need for pitch space does not just have to be met through new provision and there are various other ways of providing increased capacity.

Table 7: Addressing the shortfall for future pitch space for cricket in Stroud District

Opportunity	
<i>Grounds where there is current spare capacity</i>	There is some spare capacity, but this is more likely for Sunday and midweek teams. Only 8 out of 36 grounds in use have potential to accommodate one additional Saturday team. 20 grounds have potential to accommodate more play at off-peak times. The greatest pressure for Saturday play is in the Stroud Valley, Cam/Dursley cluster and Gloucester Fringe clusters
<i>Grounds where cricket pitches have existed in the past and could be reinstated and/or where there is room to put in additional pitches</i>	Stratford Court; Hamfields Leisure Centre (shared ground) Rockhampton CC (putting in an additional square); Pitch at KGV Bisley could be reinstated
<i>Securing (greater) community use of pitches on school sites</i>	There is little scope to do this, other than to make use of the newly installed artificial wicket at KLB/Wotton Sports Centre (supported in emerging Stroud Local Plan PS40). There is an unused non turf wicket at Norman Hill (Rednock School) There are cricket pitches at Beaudesert School (independent) with apparently no outside use

Opportunity	
<i>Improving the quality of key pitches to increase their capacity (includes moving training on to non-turf practice areas)</i>	(Although this rarely solves the problem of peak time demand). Generally, cricket pitch quality in Stroud is very good, with 2/3rds of pitches rated as good. Slimbridge Recreation Ground's capacity would increase if wickets were improved
<i>Through new housing development</i>	See Appendix 1

C.2 Addressing shortfalls in particular areas and/or clusters

- 3.32. As set out above, the greatest pressure for Saturday play is in Stroud Valleys, Cam/Dursley cluster and Gloucester Fringe clusters, although there are only 5 and 3 grounds respectively in these clusters. There are grounds which are currently being overplayed - and where any increase in teams will ideally require access to a second ground - Cam Everlands and Upton St Leonard's grounds are examples.
- 3.33. Around a third of grounds are being played to the level the site can sustain and thus any growth in the number of teams (particularly Saturday sides) will mean an additional ground is required to meet the fixture schedule for the 3rd XI
- 3.34. Taking C1 and C2 together, it is suggested that in addition to existing pitches in use (i.e. reusing pitches which have existed in the past) there are requirements for additional pitches to 2040:
- To serve the Cam/Dursley cluster. This is particularly urgent and a top priority for the cricket NGBs, given the pressure on the ground at Cam Everlands, and the long standing desire of Cam Cricket Club to secure additional pitch facilities for its 3rd and 4th teams. An obvious site is Norman Hill (Rednock School land owned by Gloucestershire County Council; the status of this site requires clarification. Jubilee Fields is potentially another site where a cricket pitch could be provided, although access to this site is poor.
 - In the longer term, to meet growth in demand arising from new development in the Berkeley Cluster, possibly through reinstating the pitch at Hamfields Leisure Centre (Berkeley Power Station)
 - To serve the Stroud Valleys (reinstate pitch at Stratford Court or new pitch in the area)
- 3.35. The research has identified the aspiration for a cricket pitch in Wotton, although there is scope to use the non turf wicket at Katharine Lady Berkeley School. Moreover, the nearby pitch at Kingswood playing fields is underused.
- 3.36. It is possible that non turf pitch facilities will increasingly play a key role in delivering casual and informal formats of the game as they require minimal preparation and maintenance, thus helping to keep the activity more affordable. There are only a few non turf wickets in Stroud – and only two are on non-school sites (although they have spare capacity). One option might be to increase the provision of non-turf wickets.

C.3 Ensuring facilities support the development of youth cricket and that there is sufficient capacity to meet growth

- 3.37. It is important to ensure that there is enough capacity to meet growth (the proposals at Rockhampton CC for providing additional pitch space are to be welcomed) and good quality changing facilities. Support for the All Stars programme to continue; one of the challenges will be to ensure that there are enough coaches and managers to enable the transition from the programme into clubs and teams.
- 3.38. The ECB's strategy 'Inspiring Generations' focuses in particular on the development of youth cricket. In due course, there may be merit in discussing with clubs and leagues setting up a centre for junior cricket in the district to bridge the gap between the All Stars programme and youth development in a central location such as the Owen Memorial Playing Fields at Eastington.

C.4 Supporting enhancements to ancillary facilities at specified grounds

- 3.39. Although this does not affect capacity at cricket grounds, such improvements are required to enhance the playing experience and maintain and attract new members. New clubhouse and changing facilities are required at:
- Everlands Ground Cam
 - Whitminster Playing Fields

C.5 Addressing underuse of some grounds

- 3.40. There are some underused grounds where measures should be considered to increase usage if possible:
- Stratford Court Playing Fields, Stroud
 - King George V Playing Fields, Bisley
 - Owen Harris Memorial Ground, Eastington
 - Kingswood Playing Fields

C.6 Ensuring facilities support the development of cricket amongst women and girls

- 3.41. As well as focusing on the recreational game and youth cricket, the ECB and Gloucestershire Cricket Board are keen to support investment into women's and girls' cricket and appropriate facilities are regarded as key components to this. There are likely to be substantial funds available through TV rights and other commercial sponsorship to help fund improvements. In time, it may be that a particular site is identified as focus for women and girls cricket, such as Cam Everlands CC or Frampton upon Severn CC.

RUGBY

- 3.42. The main characteristics of future demand for rugby in Stroud are a buoyant youth sector, and strong clubs with ambitions to increase their range of teams and constantly improve their facilities.

- 3.43. Demand generated by people moving into new housing in the district, together with changes in participation trends, latent and unmet demand and the aspirations of clubs suggests that an additional 5 - 6 men's teams, 2 ladies' teams, 4 – 5 junior rugby and 7 mini rugby teams will be created by 2040. However, as the TGR for rugby is very high, it is difficult to project an increase in the number of teams on an area basis through new housing/population growth. The growth will come through the existing rugby clubs, or possibly the formation of a new club with its own facilities.
- 3.44. It is not really helpful to summarise opportunities for expansion for rugby on a cluster basis. The analysis has demonstrated that existing pitches are nearing capacity. Each club has particular issues in terms of accommodating growth in demand – some sites with the addition of floodlighting may be able to accommodate more matches, but there are particular pinchpoints for Minchinhampton RFC, Painswick RFC and Stroud RFC (especially juniors), and any increase at Cainscross (with just one pitch) will be difficult to accommodate.
- Minchinhampton RFC: Being played to the level the site can sustain although training on adult pitches means these pitches are technically overplayed
 - Dursley RFC Potentially able to accommodate some additional play at peak times – a little at peak time on the adult pitch and more on the mini pitches.
 - Stroud RFC – adult pitch at Fromehall Park is being overplayed as accommodates matches from u13s upwards and adult teams. Lower age groups play off site on the two pitches at Archway School which are at capacity as a result.
 - Painswick RFC: Technically overplayed main pitch and no spare capacity on mini/midi pitches at peak time
 - Cainscross RFC: A little spare capacity but with training, the site is probably being played to the level it can sustain.
 - Wotton RFC: One team currently based here so some spare capacity including at peak time.
- 3.45. There are some additional rugby pitches at schools, but it does seem that most avenues for securing greater use of school sites have been explored. Stroud RFC did use Maidenhill school rugby pitches in the past but is currently focusing use on Fromehall Park and Archway School in an effort to bring some cohesion to the club. However, it does desperately require additional provision, ideally 4 rugby pitches in total and sites have been sought throughout Stroud for some years.
- 3.46. Several rugby clubs in Stroud train on 3G FTPs – notably Dursley RFC who train at Rednock School (and Wotton Sports Centre) and Minchinhampton RFC who train on the sand based AGP at Wycliffe College. However, the provision of additional AGP training facilities for rugby (or the provision of a World Rugby compliant surface) has not emerged as an issue. The improvement of floodlights will provide greater capacity on training areas at certain grounds.
- 3.47. The following priorities have been identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy for rugby in Stroud (R1 – R5) (not necessarily in priority order):

R.1 Meeting current and future demand for pitch space for rugby

- 3.48. Given the various areas of land and possible permutations, it is very difficult to put a figure on the needs for new provision. Considering likely growth in demand, it is estimated that 6-7 additional rugby pitches will be required across the district as a

whole, plus a minimum of 3 pitches in Stroud to accommodate Stroud RFC youth teams.

- 3.49. Minchinhampton RFC and Painswick RFC will probably require additional provision to 2040; an expansion at Cainscross will also require additional pitch space. The most pragmatic solution is to try to obtain pitches at schools with community use agreements although there are none nearby to the former two clubs. But providing just one rugby pitch on a single site is not a sustainable option.

R.2 Providing adequate and appropriate floodlighting for training and matchplay

- 3.50. This can increase capacity and recommended as follows:
- Dursley RFC –on training area and Pitch 2
 - Painswick improvement of lights on both Pitch 1 and Pitch 2
 - Wotton RFC – higher permanent lighting stations

R.3 Addressing the shortage of provision in Stroud for youth rugby

- 3.51. Urgent requirement – minimum of 3 pitches required. Sites for consideration:
- Marling School (with community use agreement)
 - area of land between Fromehall Park and the Marling School sports ground, adjacent to the Howdens Joinery Industrial Park

R.4 Supporting the enhancement of changing and ancillary facilities

- 3.52. Notably at Fromehall Park (Stroud RFC)

R.5 Providing facilities to promote participation amongst women and girls

- 3.53. The RFU has a new Women and Girls' Action plan within the new Strategy, promoting all forms of the Game. Within this Action Plan, there is a specific element that seeks to address facility limitations, to increase participation from Women and Girls. A priority site for this is considered to be Dursley RFC.

HOCKEY

- 3.54. Hockey is experiencing considerable growth, promoted through increasing media profile and international success and the popularity of a range of initiatives to get people playing the sport. The burgeoning growth in junior play looks set to continue and there are two strong clubs in Stroud which run a range of teams of both genders and all ages and who are seeing their membership increase. There are two other clubs running one ladies' team each and it is important that these are supported to provide an equally valuable, but different, experience.
- 3.55. Future demand for hockey really needs to be assessed on the basis of club members rather than league teams, as that does not reflect the amount of informal and casual hockey play and coaching and training. (Projections on the basis of new housing only)

show an increase of 4 senior teams and 2 junior teams, as the team generation rate for hockey is so high). Further guidance on this is expected soon from Sport England (hopefully in time to incorporate in this Strategy)

- 3.56. As part of the England Hockey Strategy 'A Nation where Hockey Matters' 2017 - 2021, a long term aspiration was to double the number of people playing hockey in clubs by 2028. This would include the informal hockey offer, including Back to Hockey, Pay & Play, and Walking Hockey as well as league teams. Based on the numbers of club members in 2017 in Stroud (219 adults and 318 juniors), this would suggest that there would be target of at least 400 seniors and upwards of 600 juniors. However, with currently 257 adult and 377 junior hockey players in Stroud, even a 10% increase will result in an additional 26 adult and 38 juniors which will result in additional teams as well as increase the numbers of members to be accommodated in training sessions and informal play formats.
- 3.57. Salient points about capacity are:
- All 4 clubs, with the possible exception of Painswick, are currently struggling to access available provision to accommodate growth and other models of hockey. Demand can only be met at present due to creative scheduling and the clubs being spread over four sites.
 - There is very limited capacity for growth in hockey activity at any of the three sand based AGPs in the district. In the first instance, squad sizes for training can be increased to cater for more participants, but once 2 new teams form, a new match slot will need to be found, which on current scheduling will be very difficult. There is very little spare capacity for hockey matchplay on Saturdays. There appears to be some availability on Sundays, although this does not align with the league fixtures schedule.
 - The new Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator has revised the calculations for hockey to include the number of junior club members, rather than just the number of teams, to give a more accurate measure of demand. In Stroud, the estimated additional demand accruing from the increase in population from new housing development is calculated as 1.7 match equivalent sessions per week for adults and 0.4 of a match for junior and mixed U10s. The estimated additional demand for training per week on a sand based artificial pitch is calculated as just over 5 hours for adults and just under 2 hours for juniors and mixed U10s. There is no room to accommodate this on the existing sand based AGPs in Stroud.
 - Two of the three AGPs are on school sites: as these establishments grow or change, they may have increasing demands for pitch space and time which may restrict their ability to accommodate external hockey club use.
 - England Hockey is keen to develop hub sites for large hockey clubs, to ensure that the majority of senior and junior teams can be wholly based at one site, sharing clubhouse and changing facilities and enabling close liaison over training and coaching and the social aspects of the sport. The capacity of full size sand based AGPs for tournament matchplay can be increased if there is a suitable surface adjacent for a half hour pre-match warm up. Sites suitable for two sand based AGPs as a hub site for hockey should be considered over the life of this Strategy; Wotton Community Parc would be a possible option.
- 3.58. The future requirement is closely related to what happens in terms of football and the provision of 3G FTPs, as the latter can potentially attract football teams away from sand based AGPs for weekday evening training, thus freeing up room for hockey training.
- 3.59. It is important for club development that wherever possible:

- club training and matchplay should be located at the same site for all teams and
 - that there are adequate social facilities. Social facilities are an integral part of the hockey 'mix' providing relaxation and hospitality for visiting teams. The hockey clubhouse is a vital component of the support for a club
 - that there is appropriate access to facilities and clubhouse and ancillary facilities such as car parking
- 3.60. The holistic model set out above ensures that all aspects of facility provision can together provide a positive experience for the players and spectators and wider membership of the club.
- 3.61. The following priorities have been identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy for hockey in Stroud (H1 – H7) (not necessarily in priority order)

H.1 Protecting existing pitches used for hockey in Stroud District and ensuring that community use is secure at all sites

- 3.62. The following full-size, floodlit sand based pitches to be protected as hockey compliant surfaces:
- Stratford Park Leisure Centre AGP
 - Wotton Community Parc AGP
 - Wycliffe College AGP
- 3.63. Two of the three existing sand based AGPs are on education sites (albeit one which is has secured community use through a Trust). However, the pitch at Wycliffe College does not have secured community use (although it is apparently the intention of the College to maintain this – albeit only on weekday evenings for training, not for weekend matchplay as the facilities are required by the school). Community use at Wycliffe College should be subject to a community use agreement, certainly for the weekday evenings when it accommodates community use. Without access to this pitch for training during weekday evenings by Stroud Hockey Club, an additional hockey compliant AGP will be required in the town, as a replacement facility.
- 3.64. If any possible sand based AGPs are being considered for possible future 'conversion', no decision to be taken in isolation without consulting the relevant NGBs and other key stakeholders.

H.2 Meeting existing and future demand for hockey compliant pitches

- 3.65. Given the lack of spare capacity and expected growth in hockey it is proposed that over the life of the strategy, an additional sand based AGP will be required in the district. It is considered that the provision of second AGP at Wotton Community Parc is one option to meet this need, although this would depend upon sufficient appropriate space being available, amongst other factors.
- 3.66. If Wycliffe College becomes no longer available for community use, another AGP will be required in Stroud to meet the demand from Stroud Hockey Club to be met.

H.3 Protecting Dursley Hockey Club's training and matchplay access at Wotton Community Parc AGP

H.4 Enabling Stroud Hockey Club to accommodate all its junior and senior training and matchplay at Stratford Park Leisure Centre AGP and to have a 'clubhome' at this location

H.5 Providing a 'clubhome' for WUE Hockey Club at Wotton Community Parc AGP (this to be a joint facility between all clubs, the need for which has been highlighted by other sports playing there)

3.67. Within hockey, the provision of a social clubhouse facility, incorporating changing facilities is a very important component and adds to the community benefit of the sport. Two such clubhouses or 'clubhomes' are required within Stroud district for Wotton-under-Edge Hockey Club and Stroud Hockey Club (as above).

H.6 Ensuring sufficient funds and resources are available for ongoing high quality maintenance, particularly at Stratford Park Leisure Centre AGP

H.7 Ensuring enough sinking funds are available for replacement facilities when required.

3.68. It is vitally important that there is enough funding for ongoing maintenance and, quite separately, that adequate sinking funds exist for replacement and upgrade of facilities when required (as above).

3.69. At present, none of the three sand based AGPs in Stroud District have been identified as requiring replacement/major upgrading; situation to be kept under review.

TENNIS AND BOWLS

Tennis

3.70. It is a key finding of the Needs Assessment that there is evidence of robust demand for tennis in Stroud, primarily emanating from pro-active clubs, with a significant element of latent demand. There is increasing interest from juniors and from those wanting to improve their game through coaching and opportunities for a better standard of play. Although future population change will have some impact upon demand for outdoor tennis, it is likely that any such increase could be absorbed by improvements to the existing stock of facilities.

3.71. The LTA's current strategy has 3 main foci in its vision to get more people playing tennis more often. These are:

- To deliver great service to clubs by training and sharing best practice and supporting proposals for improved facilities
- To build partnerships in the community by developing local park and community tennis initiatives to improve provision and deliver inclusive tennis opportunities
- To enhance the tennis offer in education by developing links between schools and other venues and improving school courts

3.72. All three of these elements are present within Stroud and can provide a basis for going forward. Hence the priorities are:

T1 Retaining and protecting all existing tennis courts

- 3.73. In the first instance, the aim is to maintain the current level of provision. There is considerable latent demand for tennis in Stroud and all courts should be protected at the present time.

T2 Upgrading and improving tennis facilities at Stratford Park in Stroud

- 3.71 A number of courts at park sites have quality issues; many do not charge for use. Although there is a cost implication, the introduction of the ClubSpark initiative (Remote Access scheme) is a possible way forward in securing funding to maintain the courts, once a certain standard has been reached.
- 3.72. The ClubSpark initiative has already been considered for the 6 courts (4 of which are floodlit) at Stratford Park in Stroud. This is regarded as a priority by the LTA, potentially providing a big potential participation win, and the LTA wishes to work with SDC to progress this project.

T3 Developing a phased programme for improvements of other park based courts

- 3.74. For example, the War Memorial Recreation Ground in Dursley which is identified as a potential Sport, Health and Wellbeing Site. It has 2 non floodlit courts in standard condition; any enhancement/floodlighting of these courts to be supported. The capacity of the two courts at King George V Recreation Ground, Nailsworth would be increased by floodlighting.
- 3.73. There is potential for the courts at Hamfields Leisure Centre (Berkeley Power Station) to be developed in partnership with other uses of the site (South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, Hamfields Leisure Trust). Other sites such as Sharpness Recreation Ground may be suitable for consideration as ClubSpark sites.

Flat green bowls

- 3.74. Market segmentation analysis does not demonstrate a high latent demand for bowls. However, Stroud district faces an ageing population over the life of the Strategy and a number of clubs are actively pursuing recruitment drives.
- 3.75. Whilst there may be additional bowlers generated through new housing, these will still be able to be accommodated in existing clubs. While some greens operate a busy programme of fixtures, all clubs have the capacity for additional members and the flexibility of fixtures means that there is scope to accommodate more teams on existing greens. The priorities are:

B1 Retain and protect all existing bowling greens

- 3.76. In particular, the lease on Painswick Bowling Club expires in 4 years' time and it is understood that the lease will not be renewed. The situation needs to be clarified before a course of action is agreed.

B2 Support the improvement of bowling greens and ancillary facilities to retain membership and quality of the playing experience

3.77. In particular, the refurbishment of Stratford Park Bowling Club pavilion.

Other Sports

3.78. As set out in Section 2, playing fields are not just a resource for the pitch sports of football, rugby, cricket and hockey. Although the strategy has not found evidence of any other pitch sports being regularly played (American football, softball, baseball, Gaelic football, lacrosse and rugby league) there may be instances of such activity and it is important that Stroud's playing pitches meet anticipated demand for these sports, or are available for the promotion of opportunities in them.

3.79. There are other sports and recreational activities which make use of Stroud's playing fields.

- Archery: potential growth area is archery (e.g. archery, North Nibley Archery Club)
- Athletics: the provision of built facilities for athletics is considered within the Built Sports Facilities Strategy. However, there is a growing interest in running and many local clubs and groups start and finish at playing fields or use them, for example, Stonehouse Parkrun (Oldends Lane Playing Fields), Wotton Parkrun (Wotton Community Parc); Dursley Running Club (Dursley RFC, Stinchcombe), Stroud Valley Running Club (various)
- Several playing field sites have skateparks: these have been considered as part of the Open Space and Green Infrastructure study under the typology 'youth provision', for which we have set standards in terms of quantity, quality and access.
- Cycling: the Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study has mapped PROW and cycle routes (including proposed routes) as part of the GI element – so perhaps just say it is covered there.

4. PRIORITY SITES AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE STRATEGY

4.1. Section 2 outlined the Vision for this Strategy as:

To support the protection and provision of appropriate and high quality playing pitch facilities across Stroud District that maximize opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling and encouraging those who are inactive to become active and those who are already active to participate more and improve their performance.

4.2. The Strategy is underpinned by 5 Objectives as set out in Section 1:

Objective 1 To protect existing provision and create viable and sustainable sites, by making the best use of existing resources

Objective 2 To provide sufficient and appropriate high quality facilities and opportunities (enhanced and new) to meet demand to 2040

Objective 3 To raise the profile of the pitch sports in contributing to enhanced mental and physical health and wellbeing and to consider the establishment of community sport, health and wellbeing hub sites based around pitch sport provision.

Objective 4 To enhance and manage facilities to ensure retention of players and attraction of new participants, particularly those still underrepresented in the pitch sports such as women, girls and people with disabilities

Objective 5 To create a delivery framework for people and organisations to work together to share skills, expertise, resources and facilities in implementing the Strategy

4.3. Particular priorities have been set out for the individual sports in Section 3. Some of these are general in terms of meeting future demand for pitches; others relate to specific sites and the Strategy highlights some of these for particular attention below.

POTENTIAL PRIORITY SITES/PROJECTS

4.4. One of Stroud District Council's Health and Wellbeing objectives is to develop a network of sport, health and wellbeing hub sites in the north and south of the district. Some of these will be focused around playing pitches and are thus integrated into this Playing Pitch Strategy. These are listed below, together with further details as to why the sites are regarded as priorities for the Strategy. This is followed by a number of other sites/projects identified as priorities. They could be further refined – or others added - using the grid set out under Section 5: Delivery

Potential Sport, Health and Wellbeing Hubs (not in priority order)

Hamfields Leisure Centre

Facilities/Rationale

Possible 3G FTP; involvement of South Gloucestershire & Stroud College; football & tennis facilities already on site; potential reinstatement of cricket pitch; Berkeley cluster focus for housing growth

Dursley Rugby Club

Facilities/Rationale

Active rugby club. Potential to develop facilities (including adjacent farmland) as a partnership between Dursley Running Club, Dursley RFC and Stinchcombe Stragglers CC (possibly to include artificial training area). Potential to upgrade floodlighting to improve capacity for training.

War Memorial Playing Fields, Dursley

Facilities/Rationale

Central visible site in Dursley; Key site for women and girls' football; improvements to playing pitch quality & tennis courts (floodlighting) proposed; upgrading of changing facilities also recommended.

Reg Davies Memorial Ground (Frampton FC)

Facilities/Rationale

Active youth football site; well located to cater for the Severn Vale cluster. Site of proposed indoor 5v5 training facility

Hardwicke Village Hall Playing Fields & Rob Dawe Memorial Close

Facilities/Rationale

These are both key sites for youth football development in the Gloucester Fringe area. A range of enhancements to changing and ancillary facilities are required at the Rob Dawe Memorial Close for Hardwicke Rangers FC and ground should be protected. Ground upgrade for Hardwicke FC identified; possible requirement for new site and access to 3G FTP facilities.

Maidenhill School

Facilities/Rationale

School has history of community use and well sited within community. Sports facilities now managed by on-site sports centre management and potential to develop community use of adjacent football and rugby pitches and courts. Potential site for 3G FTP provision.

Thomas Keble School

Facilities/Rationale

School has history of community use and well sited within community. Sports facilities now managed by on-site sports centre management and potential to develop community use of adjacent football and rugby pitches and courts.

Stratford Park Leisure Centre/Stratford Court Playing Fields

Facilities/Rationale

Premier, visible open space/sports facilities site in Stroud, adjacent to indoor sports centre provision. Variety of facilities catering for bowls, tennis, hockey, adult and youth football, cricket and parkrun; home to many senior clubs. Desire to encourage greater usage and to effect a range of improvements to create a true hubsite and home ground for range of clubs (including provision of hockey clubhouse improvements to tennis courts, enhancement of Stratford Court pavilion etc).

Wotton Community Sports Parc

Facilities/Rationale

Major sports hub in South of district with range of sports and facilities, skatepark, parkrun etc. Pitch improvements recommended; new changing/clubhouse for all teams – possible site for additional sand based AGP etc. Already all sports played here, plus skatepark, parkrun etc.

Other Priority Projects/Sites (not in priority order)

Provision of 3G FTP in Stroud

Facilities/Rationale

Identified within this Strategy and Local Football Facilities Plan as urgent requirement to address deficit in Stroud. Potential sites include Archway School or Marling School.

Rednock School, Dursley

Facilities/Rationale

Encourage 3G AGP to be on FA Register to enable affiliated matchplay at weekends.

Whitminster Pavilion

Facilities/Rationale

Important site for youth football and cricket. Upgrading of changing facilities urgently required.

Leonard Stanley Playing Fields

Facilities/Rationale

Focus for youth football development; football hub site

Finding site for Stroud Youth rugby teams

Facilities/rationale

No central base for Stroud Rugby Club. Youth teams played on school pitches with no security of tenure

Everlands, Cam

Facilities/rationale

Valuable but restricted site in Cam, base for football, cricket and tennis. Urgently requires new changing facilities

Norman Hill, Dursley

Facilities/rationale

Key area of playing fields in Dursley, now underused. Has hosted football, rugby and cricket. Future of site requires clarification and action.

Wycliffe College

Facilities/rationale

Important site for hockey training. Community use of sand based AGP should be secured under a community use agreement.

- 4.5 When undertaking sports related site development or enhancement, the following issues should also be considered
- Financial viability.
 - Degree of deliverability
 - Security of tenure.
 - Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
 - Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
 - A 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 strategic sites.
 - Availability of funding for hub site development.
 - Impact on all sports that use a site regardless of the sport that is the subject of enhancements
- 4.6 A key factor is the deliverability of the scheme – whether funding has been allocated and whether the structure is already in place to deliver it. Schemes need to be fluid and flexible and able to adapt quickly to change. There will be some elements of schemes that have quick, easy ‘wins’ – enhancements for example. This is explored further in Section 5.

Identification of priority projects

- 4.7 It is requested that the Steering Group identifies ten or so key priority projects, two of which should be deliverable in the first 12 months of the Strategy. The list is an initial list and a starting point for discussion. One of the first tasks of the Playing Pitch Strategy Delivery group (see Section 5) will be to discuss and review it. It will function as a rolling list, with projects added and removed as circumstances and progress suggest.
- 4.8 Some of the factors which have shaped the list include:
- Deliverability of the project is a factor when considering inclusion
 - The list should reflect the priorities of all parties on the Steering Group
 - The client authority has necessarily to ensure that priorities embrace their whole area and sports and range of interests and supported projects
 - Compromises have been accepted as necessary in order for this draft list to be included
- 4.9 The current list is (not in priority order):
- Improvements to pitch maintenance at Stratford Park Leisure Centre artificial grass pitch*
 - Resolution of security of tenure at Rob Dawe Memorial Close for Hardwicke Rangers FC and provision of appropriate changing and ancillary facilities*

- Provision of clubhouse at Wotton Community Parc for use by Wotton under Edge Hockey Club, Wotton Rovers FC, Wotton RFC and other users of the site
- Provision of clubhouse for Stroud Hockey Club at Stratford Park Leisure Centre
- Provision of additional hockey-compliant (sand based) artificial grass pitch in the district, possibly at Wotton Community Parc
- Provision of a new pavilion/changing facilities at Whitminster Playing Fields to meet requirements for football and cricket
- Access to an additional cricket pitch for Cam Cricket Club and provision of a new clubhouse on site to meet requirements for football, cricket and tennis
- Provision of a full size floodlit 3G football turf pitch to FA/FF specification delivered and operational in Stroud
- Provision of/secure access to appropriate pitch facilities to accommodate Stroud RFC on a secured community use site
- Provision of an indoor 5v5 artificial turf pitch facility at the Reg Davies Memorial Ground for Frampton Youth FC
- Progression of the Stratford Court Playing Fields project (i.e. including improvement to the clubhouse (enhanced changing and officials' changing); rationalisation of youth teams on the one site for Rodborough Youth; removal of redundant cricket wicket)

**Projects for advancement, preferably completion, in the first year. However, this can be reviewed at the first meeting of the Delivery Group*

4.10 In respect of the above, the FA and FF would like the following to be noted:

The FA and FF acknowledge that the indoor 5v5 3G pitch at Frampton is a priority for Stroud DC and will be included in the list of projects for Stroud PPS. From a football perspective, the PPS has identified the need for a full size 3G FTP in Stroud and subsequently a full size 3G FTP in Stonehouse. Based on need and potential outcomes with anticipated 85 hours of use on a full size 3G FTP which can attract an average of 1200 participants per week, it is clear that the delivery of a 3G FTP in Stroud should be the priority. The return on investment for a full size 3G FTP would be far greater for football and the district. It should be noted that the indoor 5v5 3G FTP proposal at Frampton is a FIFA Quality Pro surface which would facilitate less community hours but also preclude the project from accessing FF funding.

5. DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

- 5.1. Once the Strategy has been agreed by the Steering Group it will be adopted by Stroud District Council and form part of its evidence base for the emerging Stroud Local Plan.
- 5.2. The Strategy Steering Group should provide the basis for membership of a Stroud PPS Delivery Group, which should be formed to oversee the implementation of the strategy and to monitor progress towards the identified Action Points. Other organisations and individuals may be invited on to the Delivery Group as needed to oversee certain projects. It is recommended that membership should include Active Gloucestershire (County Sports Partnership), South Gloucestershire & Stroud College and the larger Town Councils, as well as the original members of the Steering Group.
- 5.3. It is understood that such Delivery Groups are already operating to oversee the implementation of the Gloucester and Cotswold Playing Pitch Strategies and possibilities for merging or co-running these groups should be investigated, to make the process more efficient and save officer and stakeholder time. Delivery Group meetings could also be arranged to coincide with NGB meetings or Sport England led seminars.
- 5.4. The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust. There are considerable time and cost implications of monitoring and progressing the Strategy and a way needs to be found to make it efficient and effective.
- 5.5. The management of this process needs to be considered further and will be discussed at the PPS Stage D Meeting. The Terms of Reference for the steering group will be set out and agreed by the Council and stakeholders, including the PPS Steering Group, and those with responsibility for health and wellbeing and planning and greenspace operations. Initial features of the group's terms of reference may include:
 - A rotating chairmanship of the group to ensure no one sport or interest pushes a single issue agenda. Nominal coordination or support can be provided by the Council.
 - The Delivery Group to meet initially (within three months) to agree which of the actions should be taken forward in the short term (1-2 years); medium term (3-5 years) and longer term (5-10 years), and also agree who the main partners should be in taking the relevant actions forward. The grid set out below (Figure XXX) can be used to assess priorities from within the many projects proposed. Following this to meet at agreed intervals.
 - The Delivery Group should meet periodically with National Governing Bodies of Sport to inform and discuss the annual progress summary and agree next steps, and ideally provide a conduit to improve coordination with work on the agreed actions.
 - The Council should maintain the PPS database underpinning the Strategy (Stage B database) and ensure data is kept up to date and communicated through the steering group to relevant bodies.
- 5.6. The Delivery Group will be committed to advancing the strategy and keeping it up to date through:

- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action.
- Recording changes to the pitch stock in the area and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information.
- Assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- Assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / housing growth.
- Analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities.
- Reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development.

Figure 2: Suggested grid for rating of priority schemes/projects

3	High priority/rating
2	Medium priority/rating
1	Low priority/rating

S	Short term: 1-2 years
M	Medium term: 2-5 years
L	Long term: 5 years +

Site Ref	Site/Proposal	Proposed Project Summary	Sport, Health & Wellbeing Hub	Rating				Support			Other Indices							Timescale	
				Inactive to active	Sport participation	Sport development	Community development	SDC Priority	NGB Priority	Town/Parish Council Priority	Multi sport opportunity	Partnership project/Joint	Enhancement in quality	Protect existing provision	Meet identified deficiencies	Readiness/Deliverability	Improve sustainability		Revenue schemes

FUNDING AND ONGOING ACTIONS

- 5.7. Funding of sport and recreation facilities is often difficult and the many demands on development obligations result complex viability negotiations with the needs of e.g., affordable housing, balanced against the needs of social and community infrastructure.
- 5.8. The expectation is that some of the potential initiatives identified in this strategy and action plan will be funded wholly or partly by developer contributions in the form of Section 106 agreements and/or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). At present it is intended that S106 agreements that will now be produced in Stroud will be used specific on-site provision (for strategic sites as identified in the Local Plan) and all other new development will be subject to CIL. The Government's proposed changes to CIL, including the removal of pooling restrictions on s106 will provide scope for alternative approaches to funding.
- 5.9. Stroud's CIL Regulation 123 list includes sport in its Social Infrastructure spending. The CIL Stroud Planning Obligations SPD (2017) provides more detail on sport within the Social and Health Infrastructure, specifically requiring:
- 5.5 Planning obligations for the provision of on-site outdoor play facilities will be identified by the Council at the pre-application stage. The developer will need to make reference to the following list when considering the inclusion of outdoor play areas within the boundaries of a residential development site:
- location
 - area
 - layout and equipment
 - landscaping and planting
 - future maintenance arrangements
 - phasing proposals (for developments planned over a number of years)
- 5.6 The developer will need to provide the outdoor playing space and associated facilities to the satisfaction of the Council. In the case of equipped children's play areas, the developer will be required to ensure that the facilities are inspected and certified by a relevant and recognised organisation, such as RoSPA.
- 5.7 Outdoor playing space should be integrated with the wider GI network wherever possible, for example through the use of naturalistic landscaping and planting and designed to optimise use in all seasons.
- 5.8 Developers providing on-site outdoor play space facilities will also be required to make a one-off commuted sum payment for their future maintenance for a period of 15 years, following their installation. Maintenance costs per facility or type of outdoor play area are outlined in Appendix B. These are calculated using rates from the current Spon's external works and landscape price book. The figures are only intended to act as a guide for negotiation and the exact level of contributions will vary according to site characteristics and over time, reflecting changes in maintenance costs. The scale of the maintenance contributions payable by developers will be reviewed annually to take account of changing circumstances in the costs of playing equipment and installation.

Maintenance Charges

	Maintenance costs per annum (2016)	Commuted payment (for 15 years)
Grass playing pitch	£3,814	£57,210
Artificially surfaced pitch	£4,425	£66,375
Tarmac tennis court	£571	£8,565
Changing accommodation	£4,580	£68,700
Landscaping/miscellaneous	£4,349	£65,235
Equipped children's play area	£2,745	£41,175

- 5.10. If a Parish has a NDP (Neighbourhood Development Plan) then that Town/Parish will receive 25% of the contributions collected from developments within that NDP area. Non-NDP Parishes will receive 15% of contributions. This Parish CIL money can be used by the Parishes for *any* Community Infrastructure they decide to be a priority. The CIL Regulations state the Council may “apply CIL to funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or **maintenance of infrastructure** to support the development of its area” (s59). However, CIL funding is not intended to replace revenue budgets for maintain existing infrastructure and given exemptions and phasing CIL receipts can take years to accrue to large enough sums for substantial projects.
- 5.11. Moreover, maintenance payments through S106 agreements are unlikely to cover full costs for maintenance and operational funds has to come from other budgets. Further work needs to be done about best practice elsewhere. Projects involving education sites might also be funded through separate national capital funds. Other potential funding sources are may include the following.
- 5.12. **Sport England** and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) have capital funds. These can make a major contribution to key local capital projects and the identification of projects through the playing pitch strategy process should help increase prospects for the funding of some key projects. Priorities are set out within their facilities plans as follows:
- **The FA National Game Strategy for Participation and Development 2018-2021**
 - **English Cricket Board:** ‘Inspiring Generations - Strategy Document January 2019’.
 - **The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan 2017 - 2021**
 - **England Hockey Strategy ' A Nation where Hockey Matters' 2017 - 2021**
- 5.13. In some sports, **funding through TV rights** is already having a major impact on supporting grass roots initiatives.
- 5.14. **Active Gloucestershire**, Sport England and various NGB county and regional offices can advise on specific funding opportunities available specifically for pitch sports locally. The National Lottery has a website allowing potential applicants to search for sources of external funding based on the nature of the project. <http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding-finder> .
- 5.15. Other than the recommendations in the Action Plan in Section 6, it will be very important for the Council to provide complementary guidance through their planning policies, and these should cover the following.
- Include policies and proposals in the Development Plan which are consistent with National Planning Policy Framework guidance and, in particular, include reference to the recommendations contained in this Section. A strategic

policy included in the local plan should set out expected requirements and formulae for provision of facilities and open space and specify that sums for offsite delivery may be required.

- Where strategic development sites or new communities are being considered there should be early identification of suitably sized level areas which can be safeguarded for provision of playing pitches.
- Include proposals that cover the relevant recommendations contained in the Action Guide where the location and/or site of new or improved provision is determined.
- In assessing all options, the potential for developing/improving bone fide community facilities on existing and new school sites should be considered.
- Finally, it will be helpful to enshrine the preservation of recreation land in the Local Development Plan to ensure proposals to develop and use facilities contrary to the recommendations of this assessment and any subsequent strategy and action plan, they should only be approved where:
 - an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the facilities 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.'

6. ACTION PLANS (SEPARATE DOCUMENT)

6.1 Section 6 sets out Action Plans as follows:

6A: Action Plans - Berkeley Cluster; 6B: Action Plans – Cam/Dursley Cluster; 6C: Action Plans – Cotswold Fringe Cluster; 6D: Action Plans – Gloucester Fringe Cluster; 6E: Action Plans – Severn Vale Cluster; 6F: Action Plans – Stonehouse Cluster; 6G: Action Plans – Stroud Valleys Cluster and 6H: Action Plans – Wotton Cluster.

6I: Action Plan by Strategic Objectives (General, District Wide)

6.2 The final Action Plans are accompanied by indicative maps showing pitch sport sites in each cluster. Progress against the action plans and the potential for additional actions will be considered at meetings of the Playing Pitch Strategy Delivery Group as detailed in Section 5.

6.3 Indicative time frames and/or priorities are given as follows (although it is recognised that many actions will run concurrently and/or take advantage of opportunities arising):

- 1 Ongoing and very important; to be addressed in short term (1-5 years)
- 2 Important: to be addressed in medium term (6-10 years)
- 3 During the remainder of the life of the Strategy (Over 10 years)

Priority Projects are denoted accordingly*

6.5 Acronyms used are as follows:

3G FGP	Football Turf Pitch
AG	Active Gloucestershire
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
Comm. Org.	Community Organisation
CUA	Community Use Agreement
ECB	England Cricket Board/
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association/Glos FA
FF	Football Foundation
GCB	Gloucestershire Cricket Board
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Assn
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NGBs	National Governing Bodies
NTW	Non Turf Wicket
P/TC	Parish/Town Council
PC	Parish Council
RFU	Rugby Football Union
SDC	Stroud District Council

SE	Sport England
SGS	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College
SHW hub	Sport, Health & Wellbeing Hub
TC	Town Council
VQA	Visual Quality Assessment

6.6 In the Action Plans, cost estimates used in the cost bandings are taken from the latest version (2nd quarter 2018) of the Facilities Costs Datasheet provided by Sport England

L – Low (<£50k); M – Medium (£50k-250k) and H - High (£250k+)

APPENDIX 1: NOTE ON HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

Adopted Local Plan (Key Relevant Policies) Site Allocations Policy SA2 West of Stonehouse

Includes requirement for

- Accessible structural natural green space, allotments and **formal public outdoor playing space, including sports pavilion/community building**

Approved 14/0810/OUT

Site Allocations Policy SA5: Sharpness Docks

Requires “Tourism and recreational related facilities, including a community football pitch, community gardens, informal green space and equestrian development”

Delivery Policy EI11 Promoting sport, leisure and recreation

Promoting sport, leisure and recreation pertains

Planning applications for new sports, cultural, leisure and recreational facilities, or improvements and extensions to existing facilities, will be permitted provided:

1. the proposals are connected to and associated with existing facilities, they are located at a site that relates well to the settlement hierarchy in the District or they are intended to meet specific rural needs that cannot be appropriately met at settlements within the settlement hierarchy
2. the development would not harm the character, appearance and amenities of the area
3. the development can be made readily accessible to adequate bus, cycling and walking links, for the benefit of non-car users
4. cycle/vehicle access and on-site cycle/vehicle parking would be provided to the adopted standards
5. adequate access to and between the facilities would be provided for people with disabilities
6. any biodiversity interest is enhanced by taking opportunities to create a network of multi-functional green spaces, which support the locality’s natural and ecological processes
7. it is not subject to any other overriding environmental or other material planning constraints

Emerging Local Plan Policies

At Berkeley/Newtown/Sharpness, the strategy shows potential for:

Strategic development including “*delivery of a new garden village community incorporating housing, employment, shopping, community and open space uses, with the opportunity to transform local transport facilities and access to new and enhanced facilities for existing residents and businesses.*”

Any such allocation should include a requirement to deliver appropriate publicly accessible sports facilities including playing pitches and associated changing facilities and parking. Given that this potential growth area is remote from the district’s existing service centres this will be particularly important.

DM/Delivery Policies

These are not addressed in detail in the emerging plan consultation paper. In addition to ensuring that any strategic allocations include requirements for sports provision (safeguarding land and providing facilities), sports provision should be referenced in a **general development standards** policy. This may be similar to **Policy E111** and/or as part of **Health and Wellbeing** policies, or **Green Infrastructure** Policies.

It will be important to review adopted policy, **Policy E111**, to determine where it has been effective in achieving development outcomes.

Projected Housing Growth

Table A1: Projected housing growth and estimated population over life of the Strategy

Cluster	Housing growth figures	Additional population accrued*
Berkeley	3343	7690
Cam/Dursley	1489	3425
Cotwold Fringe	94	217
Gloucester Fringe	1646	3785
Severn Vale	95	219
Stonehouse	1848	4251
Stroud Valleys	1669	3839
Wotton	198	455
District Total	10383	23881

*The mid-2016 total population estimate for SDC in 2018 (119,074 (say 119,100)) divided by the mid-2016 based corresponding estimate for households (51k) equals 2.33 as an average household size. The corresponding figure for the 2036 time horizon is 2.257; and, only very slightly less (2.256) for the 2040 time horizon. 2.3 is a compromise between all three of the above.

Examples can be provided in relation to specific settlements within Stroud district (to be agreed with SDC as required) e.g. For a development of c 1250 houses (2875 people)

	Football	Cricket	Rugby	Hockey
a. Projected new teams from new housing	2.0 adult 2.2 junior 1.5 mini	1.7 senior 0.8 junior	0.4 adult 0.3 junior 0.6 mini	0.4 adult 0.1 junior
b. Pitch requirements from new housing	0.5 adult 0.5 youth 0.2 mini	0.4 pitches	0.1 senior	0.1 pitches

	Football	Cricket	Rugby	Hockey
c. How to provide for b. (detail on On-site & Off-site)	Contributions towards enhancements of existing off site provision (e.g. nearby recreation ground with cricket and football facilities) or pooled towards additional new provision of artificial grass pitch			

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