



CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

JUNE 2012

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy for Central Lancashire. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities between 2012 and 2026. This Strategy, covering the sports of football, rugby, cricket and artificial grass pitches (AGPs) will:

- ◀ Provide a clear investment strategy for outdoor sports facility provision within each local authority area;
- ◀ Provide a clear framework for all outdoor sports facility providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
- ◀ Clearly address the needs of all identified sports within the local area, picking up particular local demand issues;
- ◀ Address issues of population growth, and or major growth/regeneration areas up to 2026;
- ◀ Address issues of cross boundary facility provision;
- ◀ Address issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision;
- ◀ Stand up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.

1.1: Vision

Each of the three local authorities has a Strategic Partnership. The Partnerships bring together individuals and organisations from different public, private, voluntary and community backgrounds; with the aim of improving the quality of life for communities.

All three Strategic Partnerships are guided by their respective Community Strategy. The Strategies set out the vision and key themes to focus on during each of their plan periods. The table summarises the themes for each authorities Community Strategy.

Chorley	Preston	South Ribble
Developing the character & feel of Chorley as a good place to live, work & play	Children & young people	People & communities (including children & young people & older people)
Building stronger communities with improved access to & satisfaction with public services	Community safety	Safe neighbourhoods
Improving life chances for all	Health	Health & wellbeing
Ensuring Chorley is the pulse of a thriving central Lancashire economy	Prosperity	Prosperous economy
Developing local solutions to global climate change	-	Environment, climate change & sustainability

Policy 24 of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy details the vision for sport and recreation. It sets out that policy should '*ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access good sport, physical activity and recreation facilities*'. This should be achieved through setting robust minimum local standards, protecting existing sport and recreation facilities – unless surplus to requirements or unless improved alternative provision is to made as well as identifying sites for major new facilities where evidence of need is provided.

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1.2: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision and usage within the Central Lancashire and provides:

- ◀ A strategic framework for provision, development, improvement, maintenance, and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch facility stock.
- ◀ A strategic vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitch facilities (including ancillary facilities) in Central Lancashire.
- ◀ Robust evidence to support work on the Central Lancashire Core Strategy.
- ◀ A site-specific action plan (where action is deemed necessary to maintain or improve quality and accessibility).

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Central Lancashire, which should be implemented from 2012 to 2026. It recognises the other facility providers (i.e., University of Central Lancashire, private clubs and independent schools). It should be recognised that the Strategy and Action Plan is outlined to provide a framework and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, partners and possible sources of external funding have been identified. There is a need to build key partnerships with schools, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision. In these instances the potential for each authority to take a strategic lead is more limited. This document provides clarity about the way forward, and allows each authority to focus on key issues that it can directly influence and achieve.

The site-by-site Action Plan provides recommended actions for each site, based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

1.3: Strategic framework for playing pitch facility improvements

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

1.4: National context

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

The following section summarises the key strategic documents relevant to this Strategy and link, where appropriate, to the aims and objectives set out later.

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National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are still required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including Sport England's Towards a Level Playing Field (TALPF) and PPG17. Despite the latter being replaced by the NPPF it still offers relevant guidance on undertaking a needs assessment; which can be enhanced by our own expert understanding and knowledge in this area.

Sport England

A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England. Protection of playing fields was further enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09) which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

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As a statutory consultee for the loss of playing fields, Sport England is a key partner. Regional planning officers should be kept informed of developing projects/schemes and can provide essential guidance and advice throughout the process, not just at planning application stage.

Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria & support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

Sport England Youth and Community Strategy 2012 – 2017

Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics.

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habitat for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes to achieve:

- ◀ Every 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in its area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools, who wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

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National governing bodies of sport

Consideration has been given throughout the Assessment Report and the Strategy to national governing body facility strategies. A summary of each is summarised below.

The Football Association (FA)

The FA's National Game Strategy (2007-2012) provides a strategic framework that sets out the key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a six year period.

The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young players)
- ◀ Growth and retention (adult players)
- ◀ Football for All
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Player development
- ◀ Running the game
- ◀ Football work force
- ◀ Facilities
- ◀ Partnerships and investment
- ◀ Promotion

The Strategy also reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites.

Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities rather than in private members' clubs. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years as priorities have been in other sectors. This has resulted in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields within the Country has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built 5-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB (now DW) and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of 5-a-side teams in recent years.

Central Lancashire is a significant priority area for the FA. Its main priority for the Area is to ensure key leagues in the area i.e Mid Lancs Colts League can continue to be accommodated on City/Key Centre sites. Furthermore, it would like to increase the number of charter standard clubs to support club development.

On-going engagement with the FA is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Each Council should further engage with the FA Regional Facility Manager (Lancashire) as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

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Rugby Football Union (RFU)

The National Facilities Strategy provides a framework for the sustainable development of facilities for rugby union in England, at a national, regional and local level. The framework enables clubs, Constituent Bodies (CBs), the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) and other partners to:

- ◀ Identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport.
- ◀ Identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU's Strategic Plan.
- ◀ Support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of developmental criteria, technical requirements, management / operational structures and potential financial viability which will be critical to the provision of quality rugby facilities.
- ◀ Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.
- ◀ Identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision.

The strategy shows clubs what facilities are needed to provide these different programmes, from grass roots through to the professional game.

The RFU's priorities for each local authority includes to ensure that the number and quality of sites in the Area is maintained and that, where possible clubs are supported through facility development.

On-going engagement with the RFU is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Each Council should further engage with the RFU Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (Lancashire) as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

Rugby Football League (RFL)

The overarching outcome of the RFL Community Strategy is to maximise the numbers engaged in, and the enjoyment derived from, participation in Rugby League.

The Facilities Strategy has been developed and written from a participant perspective. It is based upon the targets identified in the 2010-2012 Rugby League Community Strategy, which forms the basis of the Rugby League Whole Sport Plan. The Whole Sport Plan was successful in securing from Sport England significant investment for facilities for the period 2009-2013. This Strategy builds on the previous RFL 10 Year Facility Strategy written in 2003. It is critical that any new or updated facilities strategy is participant and not facilities led and will deliver the objectives and goals of the RFL Community Strategy.

The purpose of this Strategy is:

- ◀ To provide evidence of the current facility provision and its quality and standards;
- ◀ To provide clear guidance on how, and the work required, to set appropriate quality standards and explain how those standards can be reached and maintained;
- ◀ To identify trends and demonstrate 'gaps' in both particular types of provision and in their geographic spread;
- ◀ To highlight those gaps to the Rugby Football League and its external partners;

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- ◀ To be used as a tool to work with external partners to address the gaps in provision and build strategic partnerships at national, regional and local level;
- ◀ To provide a framework and criteria for identifying future priorities for investment and the effective and efficient distribution of the capital element of the funding made available by Sport England to the RFL.

The strategy is built upon nine key themes which are:

- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Club management
- ◀ Playing surfaces and floodlighting
- ◀ Site and clubhouse improvement
- ◀ Access to other facilities: natural grass; artificial turf; indoor facilities
- ◀ Primary and secondary schools, higher and further education
- ◀ Performance
- ◀ Informal rugby league
- ◀ Rugby football league management of facilities

Rugby League in Central Lancashire is emerging and the profile of rugby league in Preston is predicted to increase. The RFL's main aspiration is to support the growth and ensure that there is adequate quality playing provision to support the game. RFL are in the process of updating its National Facilities Strategy.

English Cricket Board (ECB)

Grounds to Play, ECB Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013) continues to focus on four pillars, as identified in the previous strategy, Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
 - ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established the County Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
 - ◀ Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
 - ◀ The focus of this plan will be on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than a focus on a substantial increase in participation;
 - ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
 - ◀ To further expand club/ school links and position the cricket club at the heart of the community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to the local community and to local schools.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

The following actions executed during the duration of Building Partnerships provide a strong base for this new plan. Actions include:

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- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB focus clubs and County Boards)
- ◀ Developing women's cricket
- ◀ Attracting volunteers
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket

The theme of this plan therefore progresses to Grounds to Play and it is in the areas of facilities and coaches where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

Partners particularly applicable to community cricket include:

- ◀ England and Wales Cricket Trust - to provide up to £5 million of interest free loans to member clubs for recreational projects and to work with grounds in inner city areas to provide greater community use by 2013.
- ◀ Sport England - to enhance the Whole Sport Plan award of £38 million by obtaining a further £10 million of lottery aid support by 2013.

On-going engagement with the ECB is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Each Council should further engage with the Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (Lancashire) within the ECB as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

England Hockey (EH)

EH are in the process of writing its National Facilities strategy which is expected to launch in 2012.

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Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)¹

The resident population across Central Lancashire is estimated to generate demand for a minimum of 12 full size AGPs (hockey or football surface). This compares to a current supply of fourteen AGPs, including, Longridge High School which is located just outside Preston local authority boundary which is not taken into account within the FPM calculations (hockey or football surface). Therefore, all demand generated within Central Lancashire is estimated to be satisfied by current available provision.

On an individual authority basis, Chorley has demand for an additional AGP (either hockey or football surface) calculated on the number of peak period visits to current provision (Chorley has two pitches, resulting in a shortfall of one).

Both Preston and South Ribble have sufficient provision to meet demand. However, this does not take into account latent demand from clubs. Latent demand has been identified (summarised in the latent demand section) is concentrated in Preston and Chorley. Leyland & Chorley Mens Hockey Club accesses AGP provision in Chorley as there is no provision in Leyland (Preston).

Within Central Lancashire there are no 'hotspots' but it highlights unmet demand across Chorley, approximately two thirds of South Ribble and in small parts of Preston. Maps of unmet demand for Council area can be found in the Playing Pitch Assessment Report.

The majority of unmet demand is due to existing AGPs operating at capacity. There is competition between football and hockey on existing AGPs and the hours of usage are significantly higher for football than hockey.

¹ The FPM presents data from Sport England's National Facilities Audit Dataset as of January 2011. The FPM identifies there are two AGP in private ownership with no public use and these are not included in the FPM analysis.

PART 2: SETTING PLAYING PITCH STANDARDS

2.1: Introduction

Within development plans, many local authorities use the FIT (Fields in Trust - old NPFA) guidelines to set local standards for outdoor sports provision. This is usually based on a number of hectares per 1,000 population, which should be protected and maintained as formal outdoor sports provision and designated as such in the LDF. FIT outlines 1.21 hectares of formal outdoor sports pitches as an aspiration for provision. Local authorities can then use this figure as a benchmark.

However, taking this analysis a step further to identify within the pitch stock, adequate and inadequate provision and levels of latent demand in the area, makes the standard significantly more representative of the local situation. By factoring in this information a 'qualitative local standard' can be derived. That is to say a local standard that takes into account local qualitative information.

The qualitative local standard is calculated by adding the hectarage of pitch stock available for community use to the identified shortfall/surplus of pitches (latent and future demand) and applying it to potential future population growth.

It is important that this document informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out an approach to securing outdoor sport facilities through new housing development. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions for the provision of appropriate facilities and their long term maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches. A number of management objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Continue to ensure that where sites are lost, through development or closure, that facilities of the same or improved standard are provided to meet the continued needs of residents.
- ◀ Capital receipts from disposals of playing pitch facilities should be ring-fenced specifically for investment into other playing pitch facilities. They should be invested in accordance with the aims of the Strategy.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to a Section 106 Agreement. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement must be completed specifying the amount and timing of sums to be paid.
- ◀ A 'central pot' for developer contributions for each authority should be established to invest in playing pitch facility provision and maintenance.
- ◀ Where new pitches are provided, changing rooms should be located on site.

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KKP recommended approach

The Assessment Report divides Central Lancashire into three analysis areas. These have been adopted to allow more localised assessment of provision, examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies and local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The proposed standards take account of demand identified within the Assessment Report (latent and current). Local standards or 'local aspirations targets for provision' in hectares per 1,000 population are derived as follows:

Table 2.1: Local standards calculations

Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet latent demand (ha)	Provision to meet deficiencies – from the PPM by 2026 (ha)	Total required to meet demand identified (ha)	Standard based on demand identified (ha per 1,000 population)
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
		A/Bx1,000			A+D	E/Bx1,000

The current level of provision (column A, B, C)

The current level of provision is calculated using the information collected and is presented earlier within the Assessment Report and analysed using the playing pitch project database.

Deficiencies (column D & E)

Latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded were access to a sufficient number of pitches available. Consultation reveals that a number of clubs currently consider themselves to have latent demand, which they cannot meet due to lack of access to good quality facilities. The table below provides a summary of latent demand identified and feeds into the standards calculations.

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Table 2.2: Summary of latent demand

Authority	Pitches					Total area converted into hectares (using average pitch sizes)
	Football			Cricket	Rugby union	
	Senior	Junior	Mini	All	Senior	
Chorley	2.5	3.5	1.5	1		8.42
Preston	2	3	3	1	1	8.96
South Ribble	1.5	6	1	2		10.52

Provision to meet deficiencies (column E)

This is calculated by using the surplus and deficiencies identified in the Playing Pitch Model (PPM) and is totalled and converted into hectares to provide a total surplus or deficiency across all the pitch types for each Area.

Table 2.3: Summary of PPM deficiencies

Summary of surplus and deficiencies by 2026										
Authority	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Rugby league		Total area converted into hectares (using average pitch sizes)
	Senior	Junior	Mini		Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior	Junior	
Chorley	17.8	-8.0	-6.5	-3.8	0.4	-	-0.8	0.4	-6.6	20.64
South Ribble	17.9	-0.6	-12.8	-2.3	-0.1	-	-	1.9	-3.3	10.97
Preston	9.2	-9.5	-7.6	-7.9	-3.0	-	2.1	-0.1	-	25.82

Total future provision (column F)

This is calculated by adding latent demand (converted into hectares) to the total hectareage of current provision.

Standard based on current demand (column G)

Current population is applied to total future provision required to provide target standards by analysis area.

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Proposed provision standards

Table 2.4: Playing pitch standards

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet latent demand (ha)	Provision to meet deficiencies – from the PPM by 2026 (ha) ²	Total required to meet demand identified (ha)	Standard based on demand identified (ha per 1,000 population)
Chorley	97.55	104,700	0.93	8.42	20.65	126.62	1.21
Preston	101.69	135,300	0.75	8.96	25.82	136.47	1.01
South Ribble	101.16	107,500	0.94	10.52	10.98	122.66	1.14
CENTRAL LANCASHIRE	46.28	347,500	0.86	27.90	57.45	385.75	1.11

It is important that all levels of analysis are kept up to date approximately every three years in line with Sport England recommendations and so that each Council has a current audit and assessment of provision in order to respond appropriately to the needs of the local community. The recommended standard for planning is the standard based on current demand.

² Rounded to the nearest ten

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Developer contributions

The action plan that accompanies this Strategy seeks to address the surpluses and deficiencies identified in the Playing Pitch Model (Table 2.3), together with key issues emerging from the Assessment Report (see Part 3, below). As part of the process of seeking developer contributions, each Authority will need to use the action plan to determine the need to provide new provision, improve the quality of existing or to open up sites which are not currently used for community use i.e. education sites.

Given that the proposed standards take into account latent demand and deficiencies from the PPM, they should be used to calculate the amount of provision to be sought for new housing development.

Where contributions are to be sought to make improvements to existing provision, further calculations will be required to cost up the required works. As a guide, please refer to Sport England's website:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance.aspx

The requirement for new playing pitch provision should be based upon the number of persons generated from the net increase in dwellings in the proposed scheme, using the average household occupancy rate of 2.4 persons per dwelling as derived from the Census 2001. On this basis 1,000 persons at 2.4 persons per household represents 417 dwellings.

The first stage is to calculate the total number of persons in the development (dwellings in the development multiplied by 2.4 (persons per dwelling). For example, 500 dwellings at 2.4 persons per household represent 1,200 persons.

The next stage is to calculate the hectareage required for the development. This is calculated by multiplying total persons in the development by the target local standard for the area where the development is taking place and dividing the total by 1,000. For example, 1,200 persons multiplied by Chorley's standard of 1.21 (hectares per 1,000 population) and divided by 1,000 equals 1.46 hectares required.

Based on the figure that a senior football pitch (including run off) is 0.64 hectares³, this would equate to, for example, two senior and one junior football pitches.

Based on the figure that a senior football pitch (including run off) is 0.64 hectares, this would equate to, for example, two senior football pitches. The deficiencies identified within the Playing Pitch Model should be used in terms of identifying where and what type of provision is required.

Calculation:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Number of} & & & & & & \text{Hectares} \\ \text{dwellings} & & & & & & \text{required for} \\ \times 2.32 & \times & \text{Local} & = & (\div 1,000) & = & \text{the} \\ & & \text{standard} & & & & \text{proposed} \\ & & & & & & \text{development} \end{array}$$

³ Dimensions of a senior football pitch have been taken from Sport England's cost guidance (100 x 64m = 6,400 sqm or 0.64 ha).

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Changing rooms

Across Central Lancashire, poor quality pitches are unable to accommodate the maximum number of weekly matches. In certain cases, this is due to either lack of changing facilities or current changing provision being poor quality. All playing pitches should be served by suitable, good quality ancillary facilities; these should be located in close proximity to the playing area.

To achieve an increase in participation in sport and physical activity, it is imperative that in addition to the need to secure developer contributions for pitch provision, contributions should also be sought for improving and providing changing room accommodation using the following guidelines:

- ◀ Figures based on the sports facility costs from Sport England:
http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/planning_kitbag.aspx
- ◀ The calculations below would need to change each quarter.
- ◀ Changing provision requirements are reliant on the number of pitches not the size of pitches. Changing facilities are required for new pitches, whether they are on or off site.

Example 1: Calculation for off-site contribution for playing pitches:

Hectares required	/	6,400sqm (or 0.64ha) (typical area of grass pitch identified by Sport England for calculation purposes)	x	£75,000 (cost of grass pitch per 6,400sqm as identified by Sport England for calculation purposes)	=	£ off-site contribution
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Example 2: Calculation for off-site contribution for changing rooms:

No. of Pitches (Need 2 team changing room per pitch)	x	£555,000 (cost of 4 team changing room as identified by Sport England for calculation purposes)	/	2 (based on 2 teams per pitch)	=	£ off-site contribution
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NB – the total figures do not include land value contribution or commuted sum for future maintenance.

PART 3: SUMMARY FROM THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

This section summarises the key findings from the Assessment Report. The Strategy has been developed in recognition of the consultation findings whilst drawing upon a core series of objectives which should be applied across the board and should not be attributed to any one particular type of facility.

3.1: Football

- ◀ Generally, there is an even distribution of football pitches across Central Lancashire. However, some settlement areas, particularly in the south east area of Preston and north of Chorley, only contain pitches which are not available for community use.
- ◀ There are 85 sites providing 125 pitches, which are not currently accessible to the community. The majority of these are located on school sites and tend to comprise mainly junior pitches.
- ◀ The large majority (82%) of football pitches were assessed as good quality, 12% were assessed as average and a further 5% were assessed as poor quality. Furthermore, over three fifths of clubs (63%) rating the quality of their designated home pitch as either good or average.
- ◀ League consultation suggests that changing facilities are, in general, substandard. In addition, there is a lack of segregated changing facilities across Central Lancashire.
- ◀ Six sites (one located in Chorley, two in Preston and three in South Ribble) are overplayed by 28 matches each week. The large majority of overplay is attributed to significant over play of Penwortham Holme Recreation Ground mini pitches which accommodated the Mid Lancs Colts League (central venue).
- ◀ Clubs report that membership levels have generally remained static at senior, junior and mini level over the three years. However, 40 clubs also cite proposals to increase the number of teams provided further by an additional 94 junior teams.
- ◀ 22 clubs in Central Lancashire express latent demand for 6 senior, 12.5 junior and 5.5 mini pitches.
- ◀ There is a current deficiency of junior and mini grass football pitches and a surplus of senior pitches across Central Lancashire. The situation will be exacerbated in the future.
- ◀ Sport England's Facilities Planning Model identifies that only Chorley has a need for additional pitch space across both AGP types (sandbased and 3G).
- ◀ The FA provision standard for 3G pitches suggests there is a need for 7.54 pitches in Central Lancashire. On this basis, an additional 4 pitches are needed by 2026.

3.2: Cricket

- ◀ Site assessments generally score the quality of available cricket pitches as good.
- ◀ Capacity analysis shows there are 15 sites being played over their current capacity. One site; Penwortham Sports & Social Club is played to capacity.
- ◀ There is generally a low level of latent demand expressed. However, four clubs report demand for one pitch each.
- ◀ In addition to participation increases due to population growth, it is likely that women's and girls' cricket participation will increase if the national target to establish two junior girls' and a women's team in every local authority over the next five years is achieved.
- ◀ New pitches would be required in all local authority areas to meet future demand at peak times.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

3.3 Rugby union

- ◀ Rugby union pitches are predominately located in Preston.
- ◀ A small number of pitches are located at education sites but are not used for community use as there is no reported demand.
- ◀ With the exception of Preston Grasshoppers RFC the remaining pitches in Central Lancashire have spare capacity to accommodate additional play. However, any significant increase in playing membership at remaining clubs may result in the need for additional pitch provision.
- ◀ There are aspirations to improve Chorley RFC pitches and facilities and enable this by limited housing development. However, a formal planning application has not yet been submitted.
- ◀ Latent demand for pitches has been expressed by Preston Grasshoppers RFC to accommodate two junior and five mini teams.
- ◀ New pitches would be required in Preston to meet future demand at peak times. Rugby union pitches are predominately located in Preston.

3.4: Rugby league

- ◀ Four sites (two in South Ribble and two in Chorley) accommodating four pitches are located at education sites and are not used for community use reportedly due to a lack of demand.
- ◀ Temporal demand for senior rugby league (matches only) is Saturday (63%) with junior and mini demand exclusively on a Sunday.
- ◀ Leyland Warriors has aspirations to have greater security of tenure in order to be eligible for external funding to develop a third pitch on Moss Side Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Latent demand for pitches has been expressed in Preston by Bamber Bridge RFC for one youth team.
- ◀ It is likely that participation in rugby league will increase, particularly in Preston linked to RFL initiatives and linked to the World Cup in 2013.
- ◀ Chisnall Lane is overplayed and two other sites are played to capacity and given that these pitches are assessed as good quality, this suggests that additional pitches may be required at these sites in the future. Spare capacity at sites close by may help to alleviate some pressure.
- ◀ New pitches would be required to meet future demand at peak times.

3.5: Hockey

- ◀ The Central Lancashire has high demand for hockey, particularly in Preston. In total, there are eight hockey clubs playing in the area.
- ◀ There are eight full size AGPs, suitable for competitive hockey in Central Lancashire, with Preston Sports Arena (UCLAN) accommodating two adjacent to each other. In addition, Longridge High School provides a full size sandbased AGP and is located just outside the Preston local authority boundary.
- ◀ The key issue for hockey clubs in Central Lancashire is the accessibility of existing provision. Although existing pitches are operating at capacity there are three pitches (Longridge High School, Penwortham Leisure Centre and Runshaw College) that are suitable for hockey but predominately accommodating football usage.
- ◀ The large majority of AGPs in Central Lancashire over recent years have been refurbished. However, Runshaw College is the oldest pitch (built in 1974) and it is likely to be in need of replacing over the next few years.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ The FPM model estimates that Preston and South Ribble have sufficient pitches to meet demand. However, this does not include unmet and latent demand. It identifies that Chorley has a need for additional pitch space across all AGP types in Central Lancashire due to the number of visits (peak period) which equates to approximately three pitch. However, Chorley only provides two pitches, resulting in a shortfall of one pitch.

3.6: Education

- ◀ There are 182 playing pitches (including all types) in Central Lancashire, of which 63 are available for community use.
- ◀ In total, 35 secondary and primary schools are regularly used for competitive community use.
- ◀ A quarter of these schools (25%) identify that community use is through competitive play.
- ◀ In the majority of instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to school changing accommodation is limited or non-existent.
- ◀ The quality and quantity of outdoor sports facilities at school sites varies across Central Lancashire but a common theme on secondary pitch proving is poor quality drainage which often dictates the level of curricular, extracurricular and community use.

PART 4: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

4.1: Introduction

The following section provides a framework for the Central Lancashire Councils and its partners to maintain and improve the playing pitch facilities. The overall vision in Central Lancashire should adopt Policy 24 of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy which is to *'ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access good sport, physical activity and recreation facilities'*

The Strategy will also respond to other drivers including the Preston Community Strategy, Preston's Physical and Activity and Sport Strategy, Chorley Sport and Physical Activity Alliance, Chorley's Community Strategy and the South Ribble Sustainable Community Strategy.

4.2: Strategic objectives

The proposed vision is based upon a clear, achievable framework of strategic objectives (not in any priority and summarised in the text boxes below) which should be adopted as policy). These are supported by a range of management objectives. The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that each Council adopts the following strategic objectives (as policy) to enable it to achieve the vision of the Strategy:

OBJECTIVE 1

Address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required).

OBJECTIVE 2

Address qualitative deficiencies and enhance existing provision to continue to support high levels of participation.

OBJECTIVE 3

Maximise access to all outdoor facilities (including DDA compliances, marketing and accessibility).

OBJECTIVE 4

Ensure that unmet current demand and future demand is accommodated through planned increases in provision.

OBJECTIVE 5

Support the development of local leagues and clubs to meet their needs within Central Lancashire.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 5: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that each Council adopts the following management objectives across a range of departments to enable it to achieve the vision of the Strategy (note: not in any priority order):

OBJECTIVE 1

Address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required).

- a. Adopt minimum levels of provision which are accessible and sustainable and which commensurate to supporting current and future demand.
- b. Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.
- c. Rectify inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities in line with the Action Plan.
- d. Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both latent and potential future demand.
- e. Prioritises new capital development projects from the action plan according to a range of core criteria (which as a core should identify strategic need, sports development objectives, sustainability of provision and work with target groups)
- f. Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to avoid/reduce duplication of provision.

Management objective (a) - Adopt minimum levels of provision which are accessible and sustainable and which commensurate to supporting current and future demand.

In order to achieve the management objectives set out within the core strategic objective it is vital that each Council has a clear understanding of the surpluses and deficiencies on an area by area basis both now and in the future. The following tables provide a summary of the surpluses and deficiencies (for playing pitches) identified at present and the future levels in 2026. The supporting commentary suggests how such issues can be tackled.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Deficiencies in the supply of playing pitches are expressed by a range of instances which include an overall shortage and/or when existing pitch(es) cannot accommodate existing demand, particularly at peak periods and as a result of poor quality facilities which do not offer sufficient capacity. It is important that some surpluses (i.e. spare capacity) are built into the pitch provision and indeed all outdoor sports facilities as an integral aspect of allowing rest and rotation of pitches and also ensuring that pitches are available for training purposes and to support informal play.

The following tables address the issues associated with surpluses and deficiencies in provision which arise across the analysis areas. Recommendations identify the need for additional provision, by area, as identified through the playing pitch modelling for the future (2026). It is important that the recommendations for pitches are placed within the wider context of demand and housing development and considers facility development which may be feasible in the long-term and where the latent demand/pressure for additional pitches both now and in the future has been identified.

The identified deficiencies should be addressed through a range of actions including improvements to the current pitch stock and re-aligning a proportion of the existing pitch stock i.e. changing some senior pitches to junior pitches according to expressed demand in those areas. Demand for junior provision should be updated by 2013/14 to accommodate the new football format requirements (i.e. 9v9) and to further quantify it in terms of provision required. It is important that the Strategy also recognises the long term need for senior pitches as juniors' progress into senior football, cricket, rugby and hockey.

Across Central Lancashire there is currently an oversupply of adult football pitches (52) and an undersupply of junior (-13.5) and mini pitches (-23.0). Modelling the future 2026 scenario maintains an oversupply of adult pitches (44.9), whilst the undersupply of junior (-18.1) and mini football pitches (-26.9) is predicted to increase. Cricket pitches are undersupplied (-10.5), which is likely to increase (-14) by 2026 whilst there is a slight deficiency of senior rugby pitches (-2). By 2026 the undersupply of senior rugby pitches will marginally increase (-2.7). There is a small surplus of senior rugby league pitches (2.5) which remains the same by 2026 (2.2). The shortfall of junior rugby league pitches (9) will also remain the same by 2026 (-9.9).

However, these surpluses and deficiencies must be considered within the context of other findings within the report including:

- ◀ Variable community use of school pitches which can contribute to the overall pitches stock.
- ◀ The number of sites which are currently not operating at capacity.
- ◀ The number of sites which are only used informally.
- ◀ The potential to re-align the pitch stock i.e. surplus adult pitches could be re-marked as junior/mini pitches. However it is important to note that adult pitches still need to retain the ability to be re-laid out as such in the future on these sites and should not be lost. Levels and grass landscaping should also be maintained as circulation space to be able to respond to future requirements (i.e. as junior teams progress to adult football) and to ensure capacity at peak usage time is retained.
- ◀ Re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

To ensure that there is an element of future-proofing built into the Strategy we have modelled future scenarios based on population increases up to 2026. Whilst making accurate predictions is very difficult and can change with lifestyle and demographic changes over a period as short as 11 years, the scenarios for the future show, with some certainty, that the pressure on junior football and mini-soccer pitches, rugby league and cricket pitches will increase.

To some extent the identified deficiencies could also be overcome either by securing long term community use at school sites or the re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply. However, there is a need to protect some senior pitches as this provides the flexibility to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). Furthermore the re-designation of all surplus adult pitches may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

Although each Council is a lead partner in pitch provision, it should support the needs of all sporting clubs and bodies to work together to make the recommendations of this strategy a reality.

The following tables provide a summary of the surpluses and deficiencies (for playing pitches) identified at present and the future levels in 2026. The supporting commentary suggests how such issues can be tackled.

Area-by-area analysis of deficiencies

Chorley

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i> Surplus of 20, estimated to decrease slightly to 17.8 by 2026</p>	<p>The surplus of senior pitches is attributed to spare capacity across 22 sites including significant spare capacity at St Michaels High School, Parklands High School and Westway Playing Fields, Astley Village.</p>	<p>Pitches with spare capacity at peak time could help to address the shortfall of junior and mini football.</p> <p>For example, overplay at Twin Lakes could be accommodated on sites with spare capacity such as Croston Sports Club.</p> <p>Seek to maintain at least one pitch to accommodate overplay, three pitches for latent demand and at least four pitches as strategic reserve (i.e. 10% of the stock in the area).</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i> Deficiency of -6.5, estimated to increase to -8.0 by 2026</p>	<p>There are a large number of junior teams playing on senior sized pitches. Please note that in this instance this is fully accepted by the leagues/teams.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate junior teams and latent demand.</p> <p>Re-designation of senior pitches for which there is an oversupply to accommodate junior pitches.</p>

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Mini football</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -5.5 of, estimated to increase slightly to -6.5 by 2026</p>	<p>The deficiency is as a result of the large number of mini teams (23) playing and the shortage of pitches at peak time.</p>	<p>Seek to provide a dedicated mini soccer site to accommodate demand. As a result this will help to address the deficiency of junior pitches.</p>
<p><i>Cricket</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -2.2, estimated to increase to -3.8 by 2026</p>	<p>The deficiency is attributed to overplay at five sites in the area particularly Chorley, and Charnock Richard cricket clubs.</p>	<p>It is vital that all sites are protected from development and that clubs/providers are supported to increase the availability of artificial wickets for seniors.</p> <p>In addition, increase community use and quality of cricket wickets at secondary school sites; Parklands, St Michaels and Southlands to help meet the deficiency.</p>
<p><i>Senior Rugby union</i></p> <p>Surplus of 0.5, estimated to decrease slightly to 0.4 by 2026</p>	<p>The slight surplus is attributed to spare capacity at Chorley Rugby Club to accommodate future growth.</p>	<p>Seek to maintain this level of provision to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>
<p><i>Mini Rugby Union</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -0.8, estimated to remain the same by 2026</p>	<p>The small deficiency is attributed to mini rugby teams playing on senior rugby pitches at Chorley Rugby Club.</p>	<p>The senior rugby pitches can accommodate the mini play and the deficiency identified is not necessarily a true reflection of current demand.</p> <p>No new provision is required to meet deficiencies identified for rugby</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby league</i></p> <p>Surplus of 0.5, estimated to decrease slightly to 0.4 by 2026</p>	<p>The slight surplus is attributed to spare peak time capacity at King George V Playing Fields, Adlington (Saturday am).</p>	<p>Seek to maintain this level of provision to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>
<p><i>Junior rugby league</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -6.0, estimated to increase slightly to -6.6 by 2026</p>	<p>The deficiency results from the large number of junior teams (14) playing at peak time (Sunday) at Chisnall Lane Playing Fields.</p>	<p>The deficiency of junior rugby union pitches is attributed to the large number of junior teams playing at Chisnall Lane Playing Fields. The Council should seek to provide rugby league pitches in Coppull to meet demand.</p>

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

South Ribble

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i></p> <p>Surplus of 20.5, estimated to decrease slightly to 17.9 by 2026</p>	<p>The surplus is attributed to spare capacity across 31 sites including significant spare capacity at Worden Park, Wellfield Business & Enterprise College and Lostock Hall Community High School.</p>	<p>Overplay at sites; Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club, Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club and Hurst Grange could be accommodated on sites with spare capacity.</p> <p>Maintain at least 10% of stock as strategic reserve (two pitches) and an additional two pitches to accommodate latent demand.</p> <p>Seek to maintain at least ten pitches to accommodate overplay, two for latent demand and at least two pitches as strategic reserve (i.e. 10% of the stock in the area).</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i></p> <p>Surplus of 1.0, estimated to decrease slightly to -0.6 by 2026</p>	<p>Small amounts of spare capacity are expressed across a number of sites including St Anne's and Whitefield primary schools. However, this does not equate surplus provision.</p>	<p>Spare capacity should be retained to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>
<p><i>Mini football</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -10.5, estimated to increase slightly to -12.8 by 2026</p>	<p>South Ribble contains a significant number of mini football teams (83) which are accommodated across 13 mini pitches. Demand is comfortably met on existing provision.</p>	<p>Any future requirements could be satisfied through reconfiguration of the existing stock.</p>
<p><i>Cricket</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -1.4, estimated to increase to -2.3 by 2026</p>	<p>Preston's previous Playing Pitch Strategy (undertaken in 2007) identified a surplus of cricket pitches. However, the deficiency identified in this strategy is brought about by the high number of teams playing at two sites; Fox Lane Sports Club and Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club.</p>	<p>It is vital that all sites are protected from development and that clubs are supported to increase the availability of artificial wickets for seniors or as appropriate demand for second home grounds is supported.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby</i></p> <p>There is no current shortfall or deficiency of pitches identified, however, this is estimated to decrease to -0.1 by 2026</p>	<p>Spare capacity is expressed at Lancashire Constabulary Police Headquarters.</p>	<p>The surplus of pitches is negligible but should be retained to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby league</i></p> <p>Surplus of 2.0, estimated to decrease slightly to 1.9 by 2026</p>	<p>Although the sites in South Ribble are played to capacity at there is spare capacity at peak time (Saturday am).</p>	<p>The surplus should be retained as strategic reserve and to accommodate future increases in participation and latent demand.</p>

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Junior rugby league</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -3.0, estimated to increase slightly to -3.3 by 2026</p>	<p>At peak times (Sunday) there is a shortfall of junior pitches.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites at junior peak times (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate teams.</p>

Preston

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i></p> <p>Surplus of 11.5, estimated to decrease slightly to 9.2 by 2026</p>	<p>The surplus relates to spare capacity at Archbishop Temple and Corpus Christi high schools as well as Moor Park.</p>	<p>Pitches with spare capacity could help to address the shortfall of junior and mini pitches.</p> <p>Seek to maintain at least three pitches to accommodate overplay, two pitches for latent demand and at least one pitch as strategic reserve (i.e. 10% of the stock in the area).</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -8.0, estimated to increase slightly to -9.5 by 2026</p>	<p>There are a large number of junior teams playing on senior sized pitches. Please note that in this instance this is fully accepted by the leagues/teams.</p>	<p>The deficiency of junior pitches can be met through greater use of senior pitches.</p>
<p><i>Mini football</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -7.0, estimated to increase slightly to -7.6 by 2026</p>	<p>Preston has the fewest (two) mini pitches in Central Lancashire.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate junior teams and latent demand.</p>
<p><i>Cricket</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -6.9, estimated to increase to -7.9 by 2026</p>	<p>The deficiency is brought about by overplay across a number of sites, particularly at Preston Sports Arena which accommodates a mid week cricket league.</p>	<p>It is vital that all sites are protected from development and that clubs/providers are supported to increase the availability of artificial wickets for seniors.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby union</i></p> <p>Deficiency of -2.5, estimated to increase to -3.0 by 2026</p>	<p>Preston Grasshoppers RFC is overplayed by 1.8 matches each week.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate junior teams.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby league</i></p> <p>No current/future shortfall but a deficiency of -0.1 by 2026</p>	<p>It is likely that participation in rugby league will increase, particularly in Preston linked to RFL initiatives and linked to the World Cup in 2013.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites to accommodate future demand.</p>

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<i>Junior rugby league</i>	There is no current/future shortfall or deficiency of pitches identified. It is likely that participation in rugby league will increase, particularly in Preston linked to RFL initiatives and linked to the World Cup in 2013.	Increase community use at school sites to accommodate future demand.

Management objective (b) - Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

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

Management objective (c) - Rectify inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities in line with the Action Plan. For example, re-designate a small proportion of surplus adult pitches for other sports with an identified shortfall (e.g. junior football and mini-soccer), where another solution has not been identified (i.e. access to additional provision).

Each Council and their partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities. It is important that the current levels of pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future.

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

Latent demand is expressed for senior, junior and mini football as well as cricket pitches in each area. Latent demand for rugby union was also identified in Preston and rugby league in South Ribble.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Sport England Playing Pitch Model (PPM) used in the Assessment Report highlights an anticipated future surplus of senior football pitches, particularly in Chorley and South Ribble. Whilst these predictions should not be used in isolation, it is in the main attributed to spare capacity across a large number of sites, some of which is significant. This type of surplus can be important to overall levels of participation in the context of using it to accommodate predicted growth in football participation.

Furthermore surplus pitches allow some to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is no demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

Table 5.1: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Likely that junior and mini clubs will continue to grow in number and to develop into large multi-team entities.	Consider re-allocating leases to Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities.
	Demand for senior football is also likely to be sustained by the high levels of junior participation onward flow of players and supported by the FA's National Strategy. FA targets for growth are 20,500 new teams by 2012. ⁴	Continually invest in the improvement of 'key centres' to improve ancillary facilities (see site by site action plan).
Cricket	Clubs have strong and active senior and junior sections which access a range of club facilities.	A number of clubs with large junior sections are likely to require access to additional pitches and to be supported to make improvements to ancillary facilities.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	RFU Strategic Plan focuses on a 2% growth year on year until 2013 for adults.	Clubs in Central Lancashire are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.
Rugby league	Preston is regarded as a potential growth area for rugby league as UCLAN has recently been named as an official host training camp for the 2013 Rugby League World Cup.	Likely that any future increases will be accommodated on existing facilities.

⁴ Football Association National Game Strategy 2008 – 2012.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

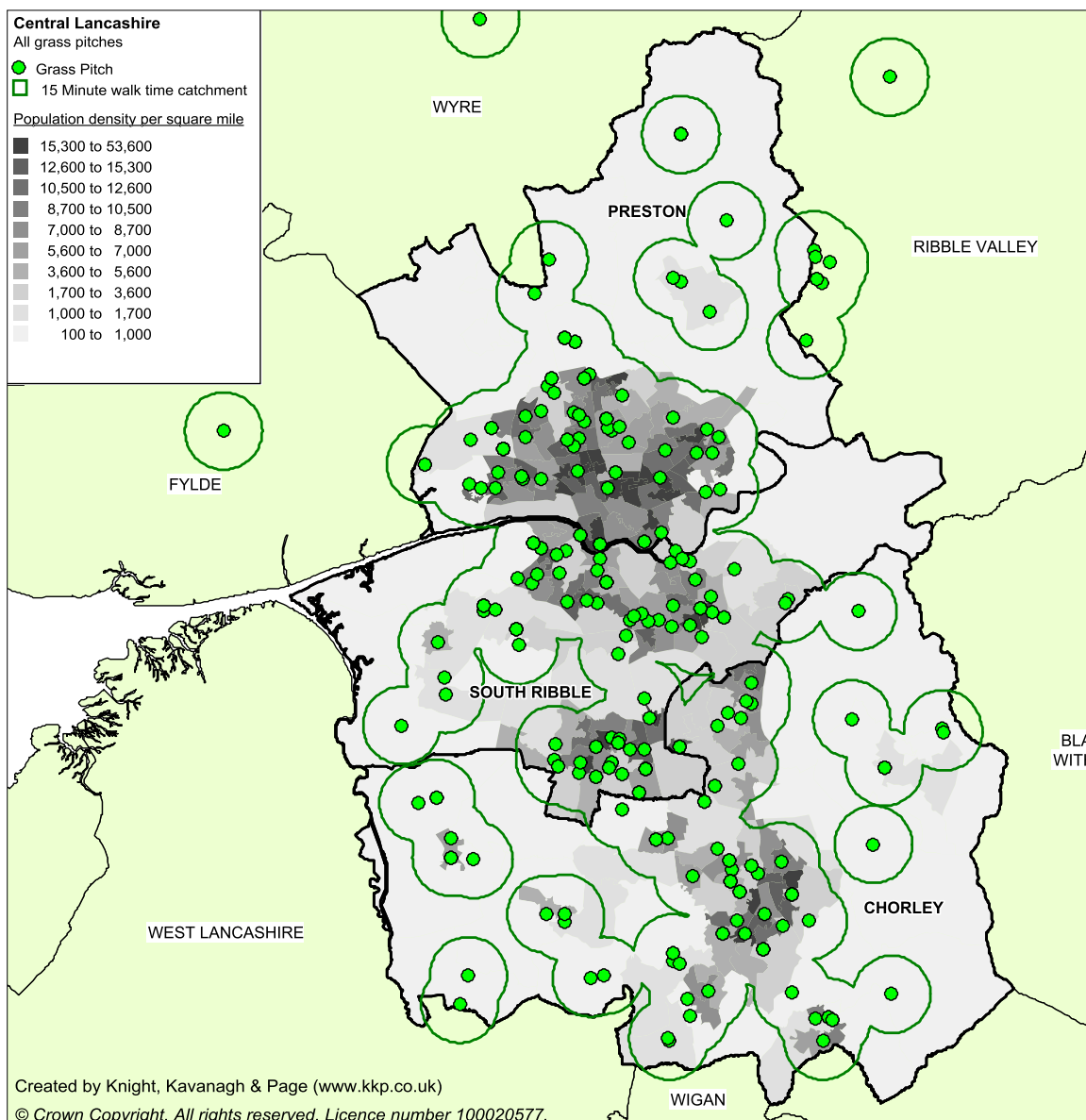
Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Hockey	Likely that hockey participation will increase across Area. Through the introduction of England's hockey 'Rush Hockey' which is aimed at increasing participation.	Work with clubs to ensure continued access to hockey provision.
AGPs	Demand for AGPs for football continues to increase. Provision of 3G pitches will help to reduce overlap of football and rugby pitches.	Continue to work with schools and clubs to identify partnerships.

Accessibility

Community access to playing pitches and artificial grass pitches is important. The use of accessibility standards enables the identification of areas of deficiency. Accessibility in this instance refers to the distance to travel to provision, rather than to access for disabled people. The methodology used to identify catchment areas takes data from user surveys and takes the distance from which the majority of users have travelled to reach sites. The results are rationalised into walking, cycling and for larger sites, public transport and/or driving distances. The approach used adopts 5, 10, 15 or 20 minute travel times and converts them into distances using typical walking, cycling, and public transport or driving times. Taking both into account, we have then recommended a 15 minute walk time distance threshold is applied to outdoor sports across the study area. This standard has then been used to map pitch and non-pitch facilities to identify deficiencies.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 5.2: Pitch facilities with a 15 minute walk time



Through application of a fifteen minute walk time, it is evident that whilst the main settlement areas (which thus correlate with the patterns of population density) are well served by playing pitch facilities, the main gaps are in the south east of Preston, south west of South Ribble and central of Chorley.

The gaps identified in the accessibility mapping should be used as a guide to direct the location of new provision (if required). Where new provision is required, this is dealt with in the action plan. The need for new provision should be demand led.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Management objective (d) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both latent and potential future demand.

Each Council should use, and regularly update, the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each authority area.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be converted to dedicated community use to help address any unmet community needs.

Management objective (e) - Establish an approach to securing developer contributions which prioritises projects according to a range of core criteria.

It is important that this strategy informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate outdoor playing fields and sports grounds/courts and its subsequent maintenance towards the first ten years. A number of management objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ To continue to ensure that where playing field and sports ground/courts are lost, through alternative development or closure, that the type of sports facilities of the same or improved standard are provided to meet the continued needs of residents within the Area.
- ◀ Where pitches are lost due to redevelopment of the site, compensatory re-provision or an equivalent contribution for re-investment into new pitches will be sought as appropriate in an alternative accessible location.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed specifying the amount which will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the Planning Committee, and timing of the Contribution(s) to be paid.
- ◀ Some contributions may need to be ring fenced for use according to the particular terms of the Planning Obligation, where there is opportunity to improve the appropriate sporting facility within the local vicinity. However, for some sports such as for example cricket and rugby a "central pot" for developer contributions across the local authority area may be necessary for the particular sport.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance .
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Management objective (f) - Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision.

Some investment in new provision will not be made by Councils directly, it is important that each Council therefore seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by schools, colleges, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision. In delivering this objective each Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through existing networks.

OBJECTIVE 2

Address qualitative deficiencies and enhance existing provision to continue to support high levels of participation.

- g. Adopt a Central Lancashire wide quality standard.
- h. Increase the capacity of sites.
- i. Invest in key strategic multi-pitch/sport sites strategically distributed and located across Central Lancashire which will accommodate the greatest number of teams and are located in the areas of highest population density at new and existing sites, to address the deficiency and future changes to pitch sizes of junior football pitches.
- j. Projects should improve pitch/surface quality as a priority particularly in the first instance on sites involving three or more pitches including improvements to changing accommodation and parking as necessary.
- k. Prepare funding packages as appropriate to secure improvements to the quality of existing outdoor playing fields and to provide new ones where a shortfall has been identified or is predicted to be significant in the future.

Management objective (g) – Adopt a City wide quality standard

To support achievement of this objective, Councils should adopt the following quality standard for provision, to be achieved by 2026:

'All outdoor sports pitches should achieve a quality score of 55% and/or be rated as adequate quality' by 2016 and of 64% to good quality by 2026 (all sites to meet a good quality standard)

Priority in the short term (given limited resources) should be directed to poor quality sites. This standard, based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, should be used to identify deficiencies and hence investment should be prioritised to those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database, provided in electronic format). The policy approach to these outdoor recreation facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Good quality refers to facilities that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc, have access for disabled people and are supported by good quality ancillary facilities including changing accommodation, toilets and car parking. While “adequate” quality refers to facilities that have, for example adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear, reasonable changing accommodation and the goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. Please refer to the Sport England quality assessments.

Management objective (h) – Increase the capacity of sites

Each Council and its partners should work to deliver improvements to pitch sites which are rated as average quality or below. This will assist in increasing the capacity of sites. Those sites which require capacity improvements include those sites identified as poor quality in the Assessment Report.

Management objective (i) – Invest in key strategic multi-pitch/sport sites which accommodate the greatest number of teams and are located in the areas of highest population density

Consultation highlighted a number of key sites across Central Lancashire. These are the sites which are considered to be the most popular. They need to be high quality in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. Partners should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve all sites in the area based on current levels of usage.

The identification of sites is based on strategic importance in a Central Lancashire-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, junior and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

Management objective (j) – Projects should improve pitch/surface quality as a priority and improvements to ancillary facilities including changing accommodation and parking

It is vital that local clubs and organisations have access to the best facilities possible, both to accommodate current levels of participation and to stimulate new activity. These facilities must meet the minimum specification requirements set out by governing bodies of sport, leagues/competitions as well as (as far as possible) meet the aspirations of sports clubs in Central Lancashire.

There are some key sites that have poor quality facilities. League consultation suggests the quality of local authority changing provision across Central Lancashire is substandard and note concerns with the showers not providing hot water and a general lack of maintenance. In addition, leagues raise concerns at the lack of segregation of changing facilities (which would allow facilities to be used for all age groups at any one time).

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Due to local authority budget constraints, it is clear that, across the life of this strategy, not all of those sites currently without changing facilities can be upgraded to have suitable changing facilities. Furthermore in some locations the provision of changing accommodation is not economic or efficient. It is therefore important to prioritise those sites which, by upgrading the changing facilities, will have the greatest impact on the largest number (and variety) of teams.

The following sites should therefore be considered short-term priorities for partners to upgrade the changing facilities:

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 5.2: Short-term priority sites for changing facilities from 2012

Site	Analysis area	Current quality ⁵	Comments	Recommendation
Chorley Cricket Club	Chorley	Adequate	There are plans to increase the number of changing rooms at the site to accommodate women's cricket by enhancing the existing building.	Plans should be supported by the Council. The Club has submitted a funding application to Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund and is awaiting a decision.
Chorley RUFC	Chorley	Adequate	Plans are in place to replace and relocate the clubhouse facility elsewhere on the site. Proposals include providing four changing rooms, an official's room, medical room and a large function room.	Support the Club to identify potential funding opportunities to make the required improvements.
Chisnall Lane Playing Field	Chorley	Adequate	Chorley RFC has received funding from the RFL and private funders for facility development plans which include improvements to pitch drainage, floodlighting, fencing, replacing the changing facilities and improvements to the clubhouse facility.	Plans should be supported by the Council.
Preston Grasshoppers RFC	Preston	Excellent	Demand for additional changing rooms to accommodate peak time play.	Support the Club to identify potential funding opportunities to make the required improvements.
Withy Grove	South Ribble	Poor	Poor quality changing predominately due to the overall cleanliness and broken tiles on the floor. The showers do not provide hot water due to a leaking boiler.	Work with clubs and seek to identify funding opportunities to upgrade the facilities.

⁵ Based on either KKP site assessments or information from consultation and is focused on the interior of the changing room.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitch stock, it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity (Sport England suggests that a good pitch can accommodate two matches per week). This is determined by assessing pitch quality and allocating a weekly match limit to each.

Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this, for example at Preston Grasshoppers RFC where one pitch is overplayed due to poor pitch quality. Whilst this works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being played overcapacity, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular.

Management objective (k) – Prepare funding packages as appropriate to secure improvements to the quality of existing outdoor playing fields and to provide new ones where a shortfall has been identified or is predicted to be significant in the future.

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

OBJECTIVE 3

Maximise access to all outdoor facilities (including DDA compliances, marketing and accessibility).

- l. Maintain, improve and encourage community use of school facilities (including toilet and changing provision)
- m. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through lease arrangements.
- n. Work to ensure that pitch site ancillary facilities are DDA compliant.
- o. Create centralised booking services for playing pitches and sports grounds to ensure easy access on pitch availability for local teams, and to aid general promotion of sport and one stop marketing of provision

Management objective (l) – Maintain, improve and encourage community use of school facilities (including toilet and changing provision)

Colleges, secondary schools, and indeed primary schools where the facilities exist, have an important role in a playing pitch strategy. It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to outdoor sports facilities to the community is limited. The Assessment Report identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ There is no strategic guidance as to which clubs are allocated the use of playing pitch facilities (i.e. in accordance with a strategic need).

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ There are no identified standard community use agreements between clubs and schools for outdoor pitches.
- ◀ There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing community use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England's Planning Bulletin 16 – School Sites and Community Provision (2004). (www.sportengland.org/planningkitbag).

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. This need to be examined against these issues:

- ◀ The analysis provides a clear indication of the future pitch requirements and provides a basis for partners to negotiate.
- ◀ Community use should not impact on the needs of schools to deliver curricular and extracurricular activities

It is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector (i.e. Lancashire County Council) but supported by a range of other sectors including sport and leisure is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased use of school facilities.

Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ◀ To better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ◀ Identify and pilot one school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the area.
- ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ◀ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- ◀ Ensure that pitch provision at schools is sufficient in quality and quantity to be able to deliver its curriculum. Once this has been achieved provision could contribute towards overcoming deficiencies in the area (as identified in the assessment above).

Management objective (m) - Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality development minded clubs through lease arrangements

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. These have not been included in the list identified in Table 5.4 as they are used by a single club on a season-by-season basis. Such sites are therefore considered the 'home ground' of the club, despite not always having a long-term lease. It is recommended that security of tenure should be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 20 years) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities.

There is potential for a number of sites in Central Lancashire to be leased to sports clubs and/or organisations. Each club will be required to meet service and/or strategic objectives set out by each Council. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which take into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for each Council to work with voluntary sector organisations in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, each Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

Table 5.3: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

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

Councils can further recognise the value of Clubmark/Charter Standard by adopting a policy of prioritising the clubs that are to have access to these better quality facilities. This may be achieved by inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial.

Club outcomes for lease agreements

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

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

Management objective (n) - Work to ensure that ancillary facilities are DDA compliant

Where appropriate, carry out DDA Audits to identify insufficiencies in Council owned ancillary facilities. Pavilions on private club sites require investment to improve access including, for example, Preston Sports Club.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Management objective (o) – In each authority create a centralised booking service to provide a user friendly booking system helping the clubs/public to access and use playing pitches and outdoor sports courts

A centralised management system at each Council should be implemented which assumes overall management of pitch bookings through a one stop booking service for users. This should include secondary school sites and should be centrally managed by each Council. Adequate promotion and marketing attached to this will ensure that users are aware of the availability, location and cost of provision.

OBJECTIVE 4

Ensure that unmet current demand and future demand is accommodated through planned increases in provision.

- p. Adopted a tiered approach to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation and car parking.
- q. Use the findings of the Strategy to provide an evidence base for the Local Development Framework to secure new provision from new development.

Management objective (p) – Adopted a tiered approach to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation and car parking

Central Lancashire has a small number of ‘key centres’, which are sites which are considered to be the most popular and therefore need to be of a high standard in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. This applies mainly to football pitch hire. However, Councils should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve sites based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition to this, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, junior and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

In the context of developing a tiered model approach to the management of sports facilities, Central Lancashire has a large number of multi-team junior clubs which place a great demand on the pitch stock. Therefore, there are a number of sites which are still owned and maintained by each local authority, but are actually booked by the clubs for the entire season. The sites are then recognised as the ‘home ground’ of the club. Such sites are fundamentally different from those which can be hired on a regular basis because they are, in effect, ‘allocated’ to a certain club and management responsibility, in terms of allocating teams to pitches, is transferred to the individual club.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 5.4: Proposed tiered site criteria

Regional Sites ⁶	Key Centres	Club Sites	Strategic Reserve Sites
Strategically placed in the Central Lancashire context.	Strategically placed in the local authority context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.
Accommodates six or more pitches.	Accommodates three or more pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site with limited demand.
Serves a range of sports (multi pitch site).	Serves a range of sports (multi pitch site).	Single or multi sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.
Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or university owned	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site.	Management control remains with the Council or existing management body.
Special maintenance in conjunction with NGBs.	Special maintenance in conjunction with NGBs.	Maintenance can be either by the club or remain with the local authority.	Maintenance should remain with the local authority or existing management body.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	Appropriate access changing to accommodate as required.

Regional Sites such as Penwortham Holme Recreation Ground and Preston Sports have City-wide significance, will be multi-pitch sites catering for more than one type of sport and cater for a high level of play. They should be maintained to a high standard, although in some instances improvements in the quality of these pitches will relieve pressure on football pitch stock elsewhere in the Area and increase the capacity and adequacy of the pitch stock.

It is recommended that Regional Sites are continually improved in order to preserve their status as the key sites in Central Lancashire. As multi-pitch sites they should be able to accommodate different forms of play concurrently, including male/female mixed mini-soccer, junior male/female 11-a-side football and senior male/female. As such we recommend that:

- ▶ All sites have dedicated/segregated changing facilities for junior, male and female teams that are of sufficient size and quality for the target user group. It is vital that the changing rooms are secluded, primarily for child protection issues.

⁶ Regional sites = sites that are strategically significant to the Central Lancashire area

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ A mixture of senior, junior and mini-soccer pitches should be located on Regional Sites to actively encourage a cross-section of teams to make use of the facilities. The types of pitches provided should be driven by local demand as highlighted in the Assessment Report.

It is therefore anticipated that a significant amount of the annual maintenance budget, and any available capital investment should be spent on Regional Sites. Due to the recommendations highlighted above, any initial investment is considered to be at least a medium-term priority.

Key Centres such as Ashton Park, Astley Park, Moor Park and Worden Park already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for junior football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for junior football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both junior and mini-football matches could be played on these sites and would be an appropriate site to accommodate 9v9 pitches. Initial investment could be required in the short term and has been identified in the Action Plan.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Regional and Key Centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions. They should be designated as medium priority for investment.

Club Sites such as Fox Lane, Frenchwood Recreation Ground and Watering Poole Lane Playing Fields refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis and are primarily two pitch sites. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment is relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site, in order that external funding can be sought. It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

Strategic Reserve Sites such as off the Meadows Playing Fields, Station Lane and Kingsfold Drive Playing Fields are sites which could be used for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They could be single-pitch sites with limited usage, or have no recognised current usage.

Management objective (q) - Use the findings of the Strategy to provide an evidence base for the Local Development Framework to secure new provision from new housing development

This is important as the assessment has provided the evidence base to justify protecting facilities to meet existing/future needs and therefore the development of appropriate policies through the LDF to secure protection, are required.

OBJECTIVE 5

Support the development of local leagues and clubs to meet their needs within Central Lancashire.

- r. Support high levels of participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives.
- s. Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities.
- t. Support local clubs to demonstrate sustainability.
- u. Adopt a Community Asset Transfer Policy.

Management objective (r) – Support high levels participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives

It is important that sports development objectives, to some extent, dictate and are embedded within the outcomes of the Strategy. To this end, the following objectives are suggested for use to monitor and evaluate the future sustainability, and relative success, of facility projects which are identified and supported:

- ◀ Increasing participation
- ◀ Raising standards
- ◀ Workforce development
- ◀ Improving facilities

Management objective (s) - Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities

Each Council should adopt a policy/charter which supports quality accredited clubs (<http://www.clubmark.org.uk/files/images/clubmark-charter-large.gif>). The Clubmark/FA Charter Standard and the local Club Registration Scheme help clubs to achieve their own aims and ambitions and to support the complementary objectives and targets of partners in local authorities, schools/school sport partnerships and other community agencies.

Support to accredited clubs may include offering discounted facility hire and priority bookings slots as well as assembling bespoke benefits packages incorporating free or reduced cost access to courses. The adoption of a charter as policy also benefits partners:

- ◀ **Grow:** Research suggests that Clubmark clubs are better equipped to drive and manage increased levels of participation; particularly, but not solely, for young people.
- ◀ **Meeting targets:** Having Clubmark clubs to work with will assist local authorities and SSPs to achieve targets for youth participation and school-club links.

- ◀ **Parental confidence:** Being seen to actively address issues such as equity and child protection gives parents confidence when considering or choosing a club for their children - thus helping to boost introductory participation.
- ◀ **Sustaining participation levels:** Clubmark stimulates innovation and improvements to how clubs cater for junior (and all) members. The culture it promotes boosts the morale of players and ensures that volunteers are recognised for their contribution.
- ◀ **Continuous improvement:** Accreditation encourages clubs to adopt better, more organised systems and structures, helping them to run more effectively and efficiently.
- ◀ **Coaches and coaching:** Research suggests Clubmark clubs both deploy more, and work harder to develop the skills of, coaches. This leads to better quality provision and improved player performance.
- ◀ **School-club links:** Increasingly, schools are seeking guarantees of quality and the presence of child-friendly systems and procedures. Clubmark clubs are the first invited to work with local school sport partnerships and individual schools. Teachers and schools staff are actively encouraged to signpost pupils to them.

Management objective (t) – Support local clubs to demonstrate sustainability

Local sports clubs should be supported to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, each Council should continue to support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁷. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

Management objective (u) – Adopt a Community Asset Transfer Policy

Each Council should adopt a policy, which supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take ownership of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building.

⁷ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

5.1: Sport specific objectives

Sports development objectives should also guide delivery of sports specific objectives and should be read within the context of the summary findings identified by the Assessment Report.

FOOTBALL OBJECTIVE

Meet identified deficiencies in junior and mini football provision.

Senior football

- ◀ Protect the current playing pitch stock.
- ◀ Work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.
- ◀ The anticipated surplus of senior pitches should be considered in contributing towards addressing the current and future deficit of junior and mini pitches. However, also ensure that some senior pitches are retained for strategic reserve.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded (i.e. Charter Standard) clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development (as detailed in the management objectives).
- ◀ Continue to support clubs in the management and improvement of their facilities.
- ◀ As far as possible, support clubs with facility development aspirations through the planning and application stages.

Women and girls' football

- ◀ Invest in central venue sites to accommodate anticipated growth in girls' football.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.

Junior boys' football

- ◀ Improve the quality and capacity of existing pitch stock.
- ◀ Work to maximise primary school sites to address the shortfall of junior pitches and ensure site security and access to changing facilities is enhanced.
- ◀ Work with clubs to achieve FA Charter Standard accreditation. As a target, work to achieve at least 75% (from the current baseline of 21.7% in Preston, 27% in South Ribble and 20% in Chorley) of youth and mini teams playing within a Charter Standard club (in line with national targets) by 2015.

Mini football

- ◀ Meet likely future deficiencies in mini pitches by utilising senior pitches in areas of oversupply and marking out more pitches where land is available on existing sites.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.
- ◀ Encourage greater usage of primary school sites to cater for mini-soccer demand.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

FA Youth Development Review

The FA's Youth Development Review will see an increased use of small-sided games for all age groups up to U12s. This will allow children to progress gradually through age-appropriate formats. The entry point for U7s and U8s will be the 5v5 game. U9s and U10s will then step up to 7v7, followed by a new 9v9 level for U11s and U12s.

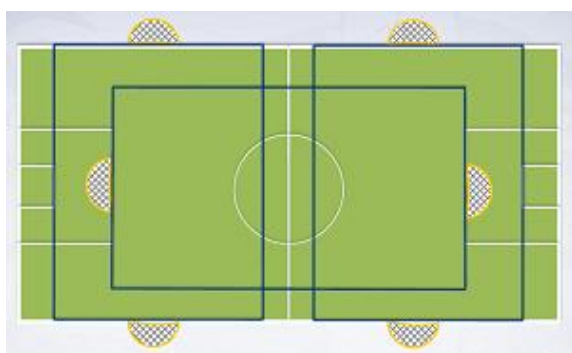
Table 7.8: Summary of each step and the appropriate pitch and goal sizes

Age	Format	Pitch size (m)	Goal size
7-8	5 v 5	30 x 20 – 40 x 30	Mini soccer (12'x6')
9-10	7 v 7	50 x 30 – 60 x 40	Mini soccer (12'x6')
11-12	9 v 9	70 x 40 – 80 x 50	New 9v9 goals (16'x7')
13+	11 v 11	90 x 50 – 110 x 70	Full size (24' x 8')

Playing smaller-sided games has been proved to give children an increased number of touches of the ball, while providing more goals and scoring attempts, more one-v-one encounters and more chance to attempt dribbling skills. It is this increased contact time with the ball that the FA believe will help children enjoy the game more while providing them with better preparation for the 11-a-side a game.

The introduction of 9v9 football, by the FA, is designed to help bridge the gap between mini soccer at U10s and 11 a-side at U11s and will see the introduction of a new intermediate sized pitch. Teams in Central Lancashire are already playing 9v9 fixtures in the Central Lancashire Junior League which fields 9v9 divisions at U11 and U12. However, this is no on designated 9v9 pitches and is often on senior sized football pitches.

The FA reports the solution is to use existing 11 a side pitches and mark out two 9v9 pitches in blue lines, with either one pitch from box to box or two pitches across half a pitch (see diagram below):



Through marking out two 9v9 pitches on one senior pitch this will thus help to meet the shortfall of junior pitches identified at peak times in Chorley. However, portable intermediate sized (16'x7') goalposts will be required, which the FA, in partnership with the Football Foundation, is making funding available as part of the Grow the Game scheme. Furthermore, Sport England can also provide 100% funding for 9v9 goalposts via the small grants scheme.

The proposals will not become mandatory until 2013/14 season.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The table below provides a predicated forecast to indicate how many 9v9 pitches are likely to be required by 2014 at peak time (Sunday AM) based on current participation levels (season 2011/12).⁸

Area	Requirement of pitches in 2014 (estimated)
Chorley	6
Preston	8
South Ribble	16
CENTRAL LANCASHIRE	30

The table above identifies the number of pitches required in each area. Each Council should seek to work towards introducing 9v9 pitches by 2013/2014 (based on the number of junior football teams in season 11/12) to ensure it can accommodate this new format of football. However, this does not take into account latent demand in increases in football participation. This could be achieved by re-marking senior pitches (of which there is a surplus) as 9v9 pitches to accommodate this new format of football. Any new pitch development should take into consideration the 9v9 pitch requirements.

CRICKET OBJECTIVE

Maintain current provision levels and quality but work to increase access to single team club pitches for those clubs expressing demand.

- ◀ Support clubs to develop their ancillary facilities to further meet local needs.
- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed support opportunities for senior women's and junior girl's competitive cricket.
- ◀ Increase the quality of cricket pitches where necessary.
- ◀ Encourage and support development of junior girls' and women's cricket.
- ◀ Support clubs to develop and improve practice facilities.
- ◀ Support the development of cricket informally within parks.
- ◀ Investment should be primarily be targeted and directed to ECB focus clubs which support high levels of participation and have also the ECB Clubmark criteria.

RUGBY UNION OBJECTIVE

Work towards meeting identified deficiencies and increase quality as required.

- ◀ Work with Chorley RFC to support its facility development plan.
- ◀ Support Preston Grasshoppers to increase the capacity of its changing provision.
- ◀ Encourage and support development of junior girls' and women's' rugby at Preston Grasshoppers RFC.
- ◀ Encourage and support further development of school rugby union.

⁸ This has been calculated based on the number of football teams playing in each local authority in divisions U11 and U12 (Chorley 11 teams, South Ribble 15 teams and Preston 31 teams). It is also assumed that each pitch will take two matches per week.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

RUGBY LEAGUE OBJECTIVE

Work towards meeting identified deficiencies and increase quality as required.

- ◀ Encourage and support the growth of rugby league in Preston
- ◀ Work with Chorley Rugby League to support its facility development plan.
- ◀ Encourage and support further development of school and college rugby league.

HOCKEY OBJECTIVE

Maintain current levels of provision.

- ◀ Work with England Hockey (EH) to support 'Rush Hockey' which is a new development programme introduced by EH aimed at increasing participation
- ◀ Work to ensure that plans are in place to maintain AGP quality in the long term.
- ◀ Work to make quality improvements to AGPs to address current issues.

EDUCATION OBJECTIVE

Work with schools to encourage greater community use, particularly for junior sports at appropriate sites.

- ◀ Secure existing community use through implementation of formal community use agreements where they are not currently in existence in order to provide sustainable community access.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate access to changing provision on school sites to support community use of their playing fields and sports grounds/courts.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

6.1: Introduction

The Action Plan seeks to address the surpluses and deficiencies identified in the Playing Pitch Model together with key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. This should be used to spend developer contributions (where secured).

The Action Plan does not identify all quality improvements required. It is recommended that each council should seek to prioritise working through the relevant actions and recommendations. Specific details on how this is best achieved can be found in the accompanying assessment database. Prioritisation of improvements should be led through the annual maintenance planning programme.

6.2: Justification of sites within the action plan

The Action Plan details policy options relating to individual sites and the need to enhance and develop new sporting provision. The following criteria have been used to identify priorities and justify the inclusion of sites within the Action Plan. Just one of the following may apply:

- ◀ A project is currently underway to enhance the existing site and/or funding has been secured.
- ◀ An evaluation of site use is required as it is of poor quality and is reportedly underused.
- ◀ The desired action is small scale, short term and will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst aiding community use.
- ◀ The importance of the site is identified in other strategies.

6.3: Management and development

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

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

The following tables set out a series of recommended actions relating to sport and site specific issues within Central Lancashire.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Area by area specific action plan

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. It is not feasible to include all sites with identified development issues. Only sites, which meet the criteria listed above, have, therefore, been included.

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

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Chorley

Summary of surplus and deficiency in Chorley										
	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Rugby league		Total area converted into hectares
	Senior	Junior	Mini		Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior	Junior	
Current	20	-6.5	-5.5	-2.2	0.5	-	-0.8	0.5	-6.0	-16.03
2026	17.8	-8.0	-6.5	-3.8	0.4	-	-0.8	0.4	-6.6	-20.64

Currently there is an oversupply of senior pitches that is attributed to spare capacity across a large number of sites (22 in total). The Council should seek to maintain at least one pitch to accommodate overplay, three pitches for latent demand and at least four pitches as strategic reserve (i.e. 10% of the stock in the area). Furthermore, at least six senior football pitches should also be maintained to accommodate future increases in participation and the new football formats (i.e. 9v9).

The deficiency of mini football pitches is attributed to mini teams playing across junior pitches resulting in overplay at Twin Lakes and Bretherton Sports Club. This would suggest there is demand for a site with dedicated mini soccer provision. The Council should seek to provide a dedicated mini soccer site to alleviate play elsewhere and to service the catchment areas of Bretherton and Croston (located to the West of the Borough close to the boundary with West Lancashire District Council). If land cannot be found to accommodate such a facility in Chorley, explore opportunities to offset provision in West Lancashire, however, this will need to be investigated further with WLDC.

In terms of cricket, the Council should seek to increase community use and quality of cricket wickets at secondary school sites; Parklands, St Michaels and Southlands to help meet the current and future deficiency.

The deficiency of junior rugby union pitches is attributed to the large number of junior teams playing at Chisnall Lane Playing Fields (located in Coppull). The Council should seek to provide rugby league pitches in Coppull to meet demand.

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Twin Lakes, Croston	180	Croston Parish Council	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 matches each week.	Transfer some of the teams using the site to nearby sites with spare capacity e.g. Croston Sports Club (KKP ref: 77) and Bishop Rawsthorne C of E Language College (KKP ref: 216).	Club Site	S

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Jim Flowers Memorial Ground (Euxton Villa)	67	Euxton Villa FC	Significant demand identified - latent demand also expressed for two senior teams and future demand for four junior teams. Spare capacity to accommodate mini teams at peak time (Sunday). The Club identifies the need for pitch improvements (including drainage works) to its three senior pitches.	Support the Club to secure funding to undertake pitch improvements. This should result in further growth of the Club. Retain current spare capacity to accommodate future growth.	Club Site	M
Charnock Richard Football Club	68	Charnock Richard FC	The Club has plans to install floodlighting and erect a covered stand alongside its main senior football pitch to supplement the existing seating. However, planning permission and external funding is required.	Work with the Club to identify suitable external funding opportunities i.e. Football Foundation for facility development plans.	Club Site	S
Chorley Cricket Club	79 & 218	Chorley Cricket Club	The Club has plans to increase the number of changing rooms at the site to accommodate women's cricket and enhance the existing changing facilities. It has submitted a funding application to Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund and is awaiting a decision.	<i>Option 1:</i> If funding application is successful work to support the Club as part of its facility development plans. <i>Option 2:</i> If funding is not secured support the Club to identify other suitable external funding opportunities.	Key Centre	M
			Cricket pitch is significantly overplayed.	Increase community use at school sites such as Parklands High School, Southlands High School and St Michaels High School to accommodate junior teams.		S
			Brinscall Village Junior FC has plans to secure external funding for the redevelopment of a pitch at the site. It currently accommodates two mini pitches assessed as good quality.	Support the Club to secure external funding for the redevelopment of a pitch i.e. Sport England's Protecting Playing Fields.		M

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Brinscall Cricket Club	81	Brinscall Cricket Club	The Club report the overall quality of its home pitch is unacceptable.	In partnership with ECB, undertake a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS) to assess the quality of the square to identify improvements needed to enhance the quality.	Club Site	M
Chorley RFC	226	Trust	<p>There are aspirations to improve the pitches and clubhouse facilities and The Trust is currently negotiating with a housing developer. However, a formal planning application has not yet been submitted.</p> <p>Proposals include mitigating the loss of rugby provision with a 4th generation turf pitch (4G) and a full size grass rugby pitch. This also includes relocating and replacing the clubhouse elsewhere on the site (which should accommodate at least four changing rooms, an official's room, medical room and a large function room).</p>	Partners should work with the Club to ensure any loss of rugby provision is mitigated and that the club's current and future needs can be accommodated through any facility development.	Club Site	M
Chisnall Lane Playing Fields	174	Chorley Panthers ARLFC	Site is overplayed. Home ground to Chorley Panthers ARLFC it has received funding from the RFL and private funders for facility development. This includes improvements to pitch drainage, floodlighting, fencing, improvements to the clubhouse including replacing the changing facilities.	Support the Club with facility development plans in order to reduce levels of overplay expressed.	Club Site	S

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Astley Park	185	Chorley Borough Council	Good quality site providing five senior football pitches with spare capacity to accommodate additional senior/junior teams at peak time (Sunday).	To address the shortfall of junior pitches the Council should work with clubs in the area to establish the need for junior pitches and consider the conversion of two senior pitches to accommodate four 9v9 junior football pitches. ⁹	Club Site	S
St Michaels High School	228	Education	No community use of the cricket pitch.	Increase community use of the school (including access to changing).	Club site	S
Parklands High School	229	Education	No community use of the cricket pitch.	Increase community use of the school (including access to changing).	Club site	S
Southlands High School	213	Education	Good quality site which has some spare capacity to accommodate additional senior/junior teams at peak time (Sunday).	The site could cater for growing mini/junior demand from Chorley Wanderers FC which expresses latent demand for three mini and six junior teams.	Club Site	S
Wigan Lane Playing Field	187	Chorley Borough Council	Site could be surplus to requirements for competitive football provision as use can be catered for elsewhere.	Transfer current use to Fairview Fairview Farm Community Centre, Adlington and explore alternative recreational use.	Strategic Reserve	S
King George V Playing Fields, Adlington	186	Chorley Borough Council	Good quality site providing three senior football pitches with spare capacity at peak time (Sunday).	Accommodate play from Wigan Lane Playing Fields.	Club Site	S

⁹ Requirement of 9v9 pitches in 2014 (estimated) in Chorley equates to six 9v9 pitches

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

South Ribble

Summary of surplus and deficiency in South Ribble										
	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Rugby league		Total area converted into hectares
	Senior	Junior	Mini		Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior	Junior	
Current	20.5	1.0	-10.5	-1.4	-	-	-	2.0	-3.0	-8.04
2026	17.9	-0.6	-12.8	-2.3	-0.1	-	-	1.9	-3.3	-10.97

There is a current and future shortfall of mini football pitches in South Ribble which is predominately as result of the large number of teams playing on the mini pitches at Penwortham Holme Recreation Ground. The shortfall could be satisfied through reconfiguration of the existing stock or through provision of a third generation turf pitch. The Council should seek to maintain at least ten senior pitches to accommodate overplay, two for latent demand and at least two pitches as strategic reserve (i.e. 10% of the stock in the area).

In terms of cricket, the Council should support clubs to increase the availability of artificial wickets for seniors or as appropriate demand for second home grounds is supported to accommodate current and future demand in the Leyland area.

At peak times (Sunday) there is a current shortfall of junior rugby league pitches. Although increased community use at school sites at peak times could satisfy demand although there is still demand for new rugby league pitches to be provided in the Bamber Bridge area.

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Holland House Road	128	South Ribble Borough Council	Currently used by Walton North End FC and Walton le Dale FC but has no access to changing rooms. Spare capacity at peak times (Sunday). Site could be surplus to requirements for competitive football provision as use can be catered for elsewhere	Transfer current use to Walton- le – Dale High School and explore alternative recreational use of the site.	Strategic Reserve	S

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Unidentified land in Lostock Hall	-	South Ribble Borough Council	Lostock Hall Junior FC has identified an area of land in Lostock Hall which is suitable to accommodate a senior football pitch and has access for car parking. Latent demands for one senior team and a junior girls' team.	Support the Club to secure external funding to develop a new home ground for the Club i.e. Football Foundation or Sport England's Protecting Playing Fields. Latent demand expressed at this site could be accommodated.	Club site	L
New Longton Village Hall	202	Longton Parish Council	The site is played to capacity. New Longton Rovers FC has facility development plans which include drainage and levelling its pitch and repairs to the perimeter fencing.	Improving pitch quality would increase the capacity of the site to accommodate current and future growth expressed.	Club Site	M
Gregson Lane	197	South Ribble Borough Council	Site provides one senior football and a cricket pitch. The changing rooms are considered to be poor by Gregson Lane Cricket Club. Pitch drainage is also a reported issue. Peak time (Sunday) spare capacity on senior football pitch which could accommodate additional senior/junior teams.	Support Gregson Lane Cricket Club to gain funding to improve the changing accommodation and pitch quality. Transfer football teams using Fishwick Recreation Ground to this site.	Club Site	L

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club	93	Housing developer	Plans in place to build 450 dwellings on land previously accommodating factory buildings (with no impact on the loss of playing pitches). Clubs using the site; Vernon Carus Cricket and Penwortham Town FC do not have security of tenure which is restricting eligibility for applying for external funding.	<i>Stage 1:</i> Work with users to secure appropriate tenure of the site (at least 25 year lease). <i>Stage 2:</i> In partnership with ECB, undertake a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS) to assess the quality of the square to identify improvements needed. <i>Stage 3:</i> Support the clubs to access external funding for site improvements including upgrading the clubhouse facility/changing rooms.	Club Site	M
Penwortham Sports & Social Club	89	Penwortham Sports & Social Club	The Club's facility development plans include options for the redevelopment of its existing clubhouse, including provision of an indoor spectator area and installing a kitchen facility.	Support the Club to secure external funding i.e. Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund for its facility development plans.	Club Site	M
Fox Lane Sports Club	92	Fox Lane Sports Club	Drainage on the cricket pitch is poor. In order to accommodate current, future and expressed latent demand, Leyland Cricket Club is seeking opportunities to develop a second home ground facility in the Leyland area. It has identified potential sites.	Support Fox Lane Sports Club to secure external funding to improve the cricket pitch. Work with Leyland Cricket Club to identify suitable sites to accommodate a second home ground to help address the current shortfall of cricket pitches in South Ribble. Furthermore, the site could potentially accommodate multi sports (thus helping to address deficiencies in other sports i.e. mini football or rugby league).	Club Site	L

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Withy Grove Park	150	South Ribble Borough Council	Changing accommodation is considered by users to be poor and the showers do not provide hot water due to a leaking boiler.	Work with users of the site to upgrade the interior of the changing rooms and repair the boiler to enable access to hot water.	Club Site	M
Moss Side Recreation Ground	94	South Ribble Borough Council	Good quality site which is played to capacity. The changing rooms are in a poor state of repair which further impacts on overall site capacity.	Maintain current levels of quality and play. Work with users of the site to upgrade both the interior and exterior of the changing facilities (including showers) and ensure there is access to hot water.	Club Site	S M
St Mary's Catholic College	211	LEA	The artificial grass pitch (AGP) is deteriorating in quality and it is likely that the carpet will need to be replaced within the next five years.	Work with the College to ensure there is a sinking fund in place to replace the carpet as and when required.	Key Centre	M
Runshaw College	298	LEA	The artificial grass pitch (AGP) is deteriorating in quality and it is likely that the carpet will need to be replaced within the next five years.	Work with the College to ensure there is a sinking fund in place to replace the carpet as and when required.	Key Centre	M
Priory Technology College	233	Education	Spare capacity (on senior football pitches) to accommodate additional senior/junior teams at peak time (Sunday). The artificial grass pitch (AGP) is poor quality.	Any mitigation for the loss of playing fields (or AGP) should seek to fund improvements to Penwortham Holme Recreation Ground.	Club Site	M
Penwortham Holme Recreation Ground	154 & 95	South Ribble Borough Council	Central venue site for the Mid Lancs Colts League and is significantly overplayed due to the large number of fixtures. In order to accommodate the large number of fixtures the League staggers kick off times.	Further determine the demand to provide a third generation turf pitch at the site to cater for greater levels of competitive play.	Regional Site	M

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Worden Sports College	244	Education	No community use of the rugby league pitch.	Increase community use of the school (including access to changing).	Club site	S
Wellfield Business & Enterprise College	348	Education	No community use of the rugby league pitch.	Increase community use of the school (including access to changing).	Club site	S

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Preston

Summary of surplus and deficiency in Preston										
	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Rugby league		Total area converted into hectares
	Senior	Junior	Mini		Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior	Junior	
Current	11.5	-8.0	-7.0	-6.9	-2.5	-	2.3	-	-	-22.20
2026	9.2	-9.5	-7.6	-7.9	-3.0	-	2.1	-0.1	-	-25.82

There is a current and future shortfall of junior and mini football pitches in Preston. This deficiency is due to the large number of junior teams playing on senior sized pitches¹⁰ and the fewest (two) mini pitches in Central Lancashire. The Council should aspire to increase community use at school sites (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate mini teams and latent demand.

As mirrored with football, cricket pitch provision in Preston shows a current and future shortfall. The undersupply of cricket pitches can generally be met through provision of artificial wickets at existing sites.

There is a current and future shortfall of rugby union pitches in Preston (due to the rugby union pitches being overplayed at Preston Grasshoppers RFC). This shortfall can be accommodated by increasing community use at school sites (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate junior teams.

Although the future shortfall of rugby league provision is marginal, it should be noted that Preston is regarded as a potential growth area for rugby league and therefore it is likely there will be greater demand in the future.

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Millennium Field	-	Longsands Community Association/ Preston City Council	The pitch has not been used for approximately five years and demand is expressed by Longsands Lynch Community FC to accommodate its teams.	Bringing the pitch back into use could help to address the shortfall of junior/mini pitches in Preston. Support the club/partners to access external funding to reinstate the pitch.	Club Site	L

¹⁰ Note that in this instance this is fully accepted by the leagues/teams

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Ribbleton Park	51	Preston City Council	Good quality site which is overplayed due to its popularity. Overplay is not affecting pitch quality therefore the site can sustain the current level of play.	Maintain current maintenance regimes in order to sustain current levels of use.	Key Centre	S
Tower Lane	55	Preston City Council	Poor quality site with no access to changing and which is overplayed due to its quality.	Site could be surplus to requirements for competitive football provision as use can be catered for elsewhere. Transfer current use to Corpus Christi High School or Archbishop Temple High School (both sites have spare capacity at peak time) and explore alternative recreational use.	Strategic Reserve	M
Goosnargh Village FC	60	Goosnargh Village FC	Good quality site which is played to capacity.	Ensure current quality is maintained in order to sustain current levels of play.	Club Site	S
Moor Park	42	Preston City Council	Good quality site which has some spare capacity to accommodate additional senior/junior teams at peak time (Sunday).	To address the shortfall of junior football pitches the Council should work with clubs/leagues to develop the site as a dedicated football site with mixed provision offering a 9v9 centre based on demand. Consider the conversion of four senior pitches to accommodate eight 9v9 junior football pitches. ¹¹	Key Centre	S

¹¹ Requirement of 9v9 pitches in 2014 (estimated) in Preston equates to eight 9v9 pitches

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club	10	Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club	The Club is currently applying for outline planning permission to develop an area of land adjacent to its home ground to accommodate a second pitch, three bay practice net facility and a small pavilion facility. The land is currently not in use but is identified by Preston City Council as future amenity greenspace.	Support the Club to identify funding opportunities to enable facility development. This will help to address current and future shortfalls of cricket provision in Preston.	Club Site	M
Preston Grasshoppers RFC	26	Preston Grasshoppers RFC	The Club has recently submitted a funding application to Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund to install and erect floodlighting to a senior grass rugby pitch (decision due in December 2012). Demand is also identified for additional changing rooms to accommodate teams at peak times.	<i>Option 1:</i> If funding application is successful support the Club with the necessary planning requirements. <i>Option 2:</i> If funding is not successful support the Club to identify other funding opportunities. Support the Club to identify funding opportunities and planning guidance to develop additional changing provision.	Key Centre	S M
Preston Sports Club	24	Preston Sports Club	Home ground to Preston Hockey Club which has plans to install a seated stand on one side of the pitch. It also has aspirations to enhance the clubhouse facility and install dugouts.	Support the Club with planning guidance and identify potential funding opportunities for site enhancements.	Key Centre	M
Fishwick Recreation Ground	46	Preston City Council	Site is surplus to requirements for competitive football provision as use can be catered for elsewhere.	Transfer current use to Gregson (located in South Ribble) Lane and explore alternative recreational use.	Strategic Reserve	S
Frenchwood Recreation Ground	45	Preston City Council	Although there is spare capacity to accommodate additional play this is not at peak time.	Maintain current levels of play.	Club Site	S

PART 7: CONCLUSIONS

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for planning decisions made across Central Lancashire in the eleven years up to 2026. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Central Lancashire can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. The Strategy is intended to be flexible and regularly updated using the accompanying database tools provided.

PART 8: MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is important that there is regular monitoring (i.e. quarterly) and review against the actions identified in the Strategy.

Each Council can monitor on an annual basis changes in the supply and demand for facilities by updating the assessment database with changes to site and team information.

This is important as regular monitoring of changes in supply and demand can avoid the need for a complete review of the Strategy after three years.

A Playing Pitch Strategy should be subject to a full review every three years under Sport England recommendations. However, regular monitoring of key supply and demand data can extend the life of the Playing Pitch Strategy to five years.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Facilities Fund • Sportsmatch • Small Grants • Protecting Playing Fields • Inspired Facilities • Iconic Facilities http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Loans Scheme http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=loans.home	The Loans Scheme helps finance projects that contribute to the retention and recruitment of rugby players. Projects eligible for loans include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Club House Facilities: General structural improvements, general refurbishment, storerooms and offices, kitchen facilities, training areas. 2. Grounds (other than pitches): Car parking facilities, ground access improvements, fencing, security measures.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=groundmatch.home	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
Biffaward http://www.biffa-award.org/	Biffaward is a multi-million pound fund which awards grants to community and environmental projects across the UK. The fund's money comes from landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Waste Services. Biffaward is managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) on Biffa's behalf. Under the Main Grants Scheme, grants are awarded to projects that provide or improve community spaces, cultural facilities and places for outdoor recreation.
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.

Protecting Playing Fields

SE has recently launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over the next three years (2011-2014).

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

Sport England's 'Inspired Facilities' funding programme will be delivered via five funding rounds and is due to launch in Summer 2011 where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

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

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Iconic Facilities Fund

The Iconic Facilities fund is part of the £135m Places People Play initiative which will deliver an Olympic and Paralympic legacy of increased sports participation by bringing the magic of a home Games into the heart of local communities. It is being delivered by Sport England in partnership with the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association, with the backing of The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

It will direct capital investment into a small number of strategic facility projects that will significantly contribute to an increase in mass participation in sport across England. These facilities will be promoted as best practice and will provide a network of regional sports facilities delivering mass participation across a number of sports.

Iconic Facilities will prioritise funding to projects that provide:

- ◀ Strategic facilities in England for at least two National Governing Bodies of Sport
- ◀ Large scale capital developments resulting in facilities of regional significance for two sports or more; but also demonstrating local delivery
- ◀ Multi-sport facilities, but with a focus on sporting activities that will drive high participant numbers
- ◀ A mix of facility provision to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Indoor and/or outdoor facilities
- ◀ An enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build
- ◀ Confidence in their ability to deliver with detailed designs and planning permission secured
- ◀ A strong project team, led ideally by a Local Authority (providing capital funding)
- ◀ A long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Operating models, which may include an emphasis on community ownership (e.g. social enterprises, trusts)

This may present opportunities to invest in its outdoor sports facilities although will require additional research to identify suitable sites.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Funder's requirements

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

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

Indicative costs

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

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance.aspx

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility for the 2nd Quarter 2011. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices for 1st Quarter 2010 provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.

New work output is forecast to fall a little in 2011 as the cuts in public sector spending start to make their mark, partly mitigated by private sector output starting to recover more strongly. It is anticipated that there will be a return to sluggish growth in 2012, as public sector cuts deepen. The BCIS forecast is for tender prices to rise by 2.8% in the year to 4th quarter 2011, rising by 3.1% over the following year.