



**WIGAN COUNCIL:
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

**STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2025**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kkp.co.uk www.kkp.co.uk



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

CONTENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION	1
PART 2: VISION AND AIMS	5
PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS.....	7
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	10
4.1: Football – grass pitches	10
4.2: Rugby union - grass pitches	24
4.3: Rugby league – grass pitches	31
4.4: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches	38
4.5: Cricket pitches	44
4.6: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)	48
4.7: Tennis courts	50
4.8: Bowls	53
4.9: Netball.....	54
4.10: Athletics	56
4.11: Golf courses	58
4.12: Other Sports / Archery.....	60
4.13: Education sites.....	61
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS	66
PART 6: ACTION PLAN.....	80
CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA	83
EAST ANALYSIS AREA	94
WEST ANALYSIS AREA	108
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS	126
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP-TO-DATE	137
APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT	141
APPENDIX TWO: HOUSING SCENARIO MAPS.....	154
APPENDIX THREE: TAILORED APPROACH FOR WIGAN STAGE E.....	156

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
LCT	Leigh Community Trust
LDRL	Learning Disability Rugby League
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
MES	Match equivalent session
MUGA	Multi use games area
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NLS	National League System
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PDRL	Physical Disability Rugby League
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFC	Rugby Football Club
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RFL	Rugby Football League
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
U	Under
WC	Wigan Council
WNLS	Women's National League System

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been appointed by Wigan Council (WC) to deliver a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) covering all formal playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the Authority to assist it to strategically plan for the future.

Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, this Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2041 (in line with the current expectations for the emerging Local Plan). It has been developed to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it updated.

A PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, highlighting particular local demand issues.
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
- ◀ Supporting funding applications.
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects relating to sports provision which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement all aspects, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

Partner organisations in Wigan Borough have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), sports organisations and education establishments. In some instances, Wigan Council will not be the organisation which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not solely just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:

- ◆ Football.
- ◆ Rugby union.
- ◆ Rugby league.
- ◆ Hockey.
- ◆ Cricket.
- ◆ Tennis.
- ◆ Padel.
- ◆ Netball.
- ◆ Crown green bowls.
- ◆ Athletics.
- ◆ Golf.
- ◆ Archery.
- ◆ American football.

In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league).

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

Study area

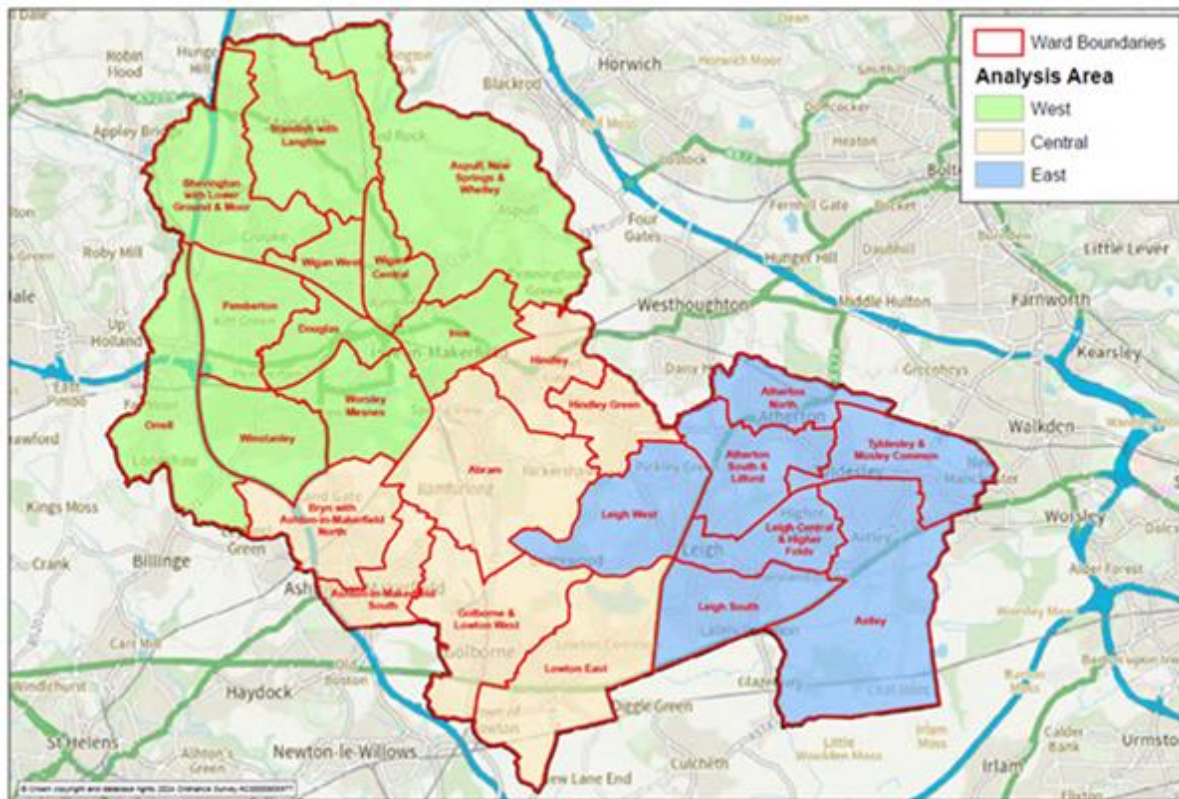
The study area comprises the Wigan Council administrative area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for the Borough as a whole.

There have been some alterations in ward boundaries since the previous study in 2017 which has led to the analysis areas changing for this document. The former analysis areas known as Wigan Town, Ashton and Leigh are now West, Central and East, respectively. The changes have been made in order for the PPOSS to align with other strategic documents such as the Open Space Report.

The analysis areas are shown in Figure 1.1.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Figure 1.1: Map of Wigan Borough with analysis areas



Context

The Council is in the process of preparing a new Local Plan to around 2040 with a need to have a current PPOSS to inform its strategic framework. It should also be noted that it is also concurrently updating its Open Space dataset as an evidence base as this is outdated having been completed in 2017. The emerging Wigan Local Plan (WLP) will set out the Council's policies for the use and development of land in the Authority. It will also sit alongside the Places for Everyone Plan, subject to its adoption, as a key component of its development plan.

More broadly, the PPOSS will ensure that Wigan conforms to requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of this is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 103 stating that “planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.”

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Paragraph 104 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

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

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the PPOSS:

'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities that supports promoting community self-reliance, increasing the health and wellbeing of residents and communities, providing opportunities for young people and fostering belief in the Borough through increased sports participation by all residents, at all levels of play, from grassroots to elite'

To achieve this vision, the PPOSS will deliver the following objectives:

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

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

AIM 1

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

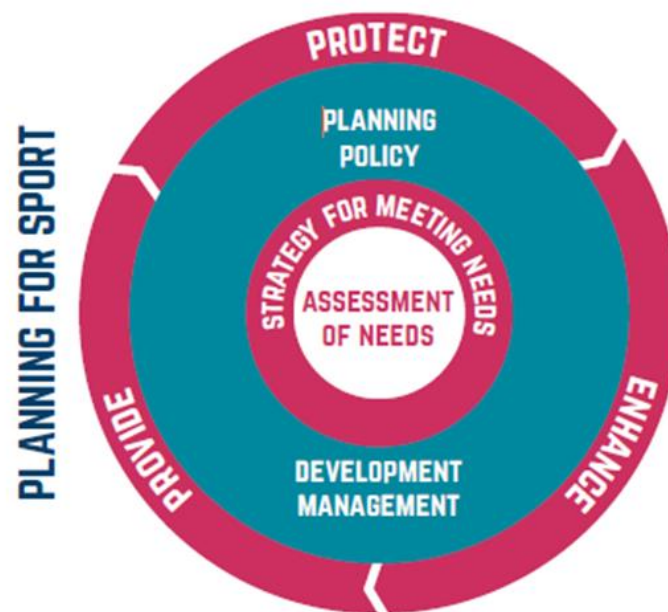
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 2.1: Sport England planning objectives



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (April 2024)

PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

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

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

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

The Sport England PPS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed.

For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan (contained in a separate document).

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

Future demand in the Assessment report has been determined by using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator which looks at population change over a predetermined period. For Wigan this has been set to forecasted population rates in 2041 in line with the emerging Local Plan. It should be noted that it is expected that the growth of football teams will exceed what is projected through population growth. Evidence of this can be found in Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios.

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES) ¹
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 6.5
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12	Shortfall of 16.5
Football	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 10.5
Football	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 6
Football	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 5

¹ It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Boroughwide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES) ¹
Football	3G 11v11	Shortfall of 3.75 pitches	Shortfall of 4.75 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 82	Shortfall of 106
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 42	Shortfall of 42
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 16
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 17	Shortfall of 18.25
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 33.25	Shortfall of 33.75
Rugby league	Junior	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 6
Rugby league	Mini	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 5.5
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Table 3.2: Headline findings (remaining sports)

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	For club-based tennis, where known through consultation, both Winstanley Tennis Club and Tyldesley Tennis Club has sufficient capacity to accommodate its membership both now and in the future. Away from clubs, no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the amount of unmet and latent demand evident both nationally and in Wigan Borough. There is instead a clear need to improve the current supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users at sites such as Morley Street and Jubilee Park, Wigan.
Padel	Additionally, there are no padel tennis courts in Wigan Borough, however, there are plans for a potential four new padel sites located at Fives Wigan, Robin Park Leisure Centre, Wigan Sports Club and near Wigan Athletics' Training Ground. It is currently unknown how many courts will be located at each site. (It should be noted that this position has changed since the collation of the Assessment Report data with an updated position identified in Part 4.)
Netball	There are 31 outdoor netball courts identified across 11 sites in Wigan Borough. Of these, 19 courts at seven sites are available for community use. There is a need to protect the current number of outdoor netball courts within Wigan Borough in order to sustain current levels of demand. There is also a need to improve the quality of courts in order to accommodate additional demand. Additionally, exploration should be given to opening up unavailable sites for community use.
Bowls	Four clubs within Wigan Borough (Butts Park BC, Spring View Bowling Club, St Matthews, Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club, Trinity and Highfield Gardens Pensioners) are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate. Overall, future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens.
Athletics	In Wigan Borough, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand at both Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium and Robin Park Arena with one community track and field club based at each site (Leigh Harriers AC and Wigan Harriers AC). Leigh Harriers AC currently accommodate 283 members with Wigan Harriers AC currently accommodating 511 members, of which both are above the recommended membership figures. There is an immediate need to resurface the track at Robin Park Arena within the next three years.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Headline findings
Golf	With eight golfing sites in Wigan Borough and a mix of 18-hole courses, 9-hole course, Par 3 courses and two driving ranges, the Authority is well placed to meet demand. This is especially the case given the various operational structures in place, with some facilities offering high price points and others offering low price points, and with some prioritising membership and other focusing on pay and play usage. This suggests that all types of golfers can be collectively catered for.
Archery	Archery within Wigan Borough is well catered for through facilities such as Wigan RUFC, Brunswick Bowling Club in Hindley Green, Standish High School and Leigh Spinners Mill, meaning that archery is particularly well catered for when it comes to both indoor and outdoor venues.
American Football	There is sufficient supply to meet demand for American Football in Wigan Borough for both competitive and training demand. As a result, it is essential that Leigh Miners AFC continues to have access to the provision at Tyldesley Rugby Football Club to meet its demand. In addition, Wigan Bandits need to continue to access St John Rigby College for its training demand.

Conclusions

The existing position for all outdoor sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. For most sports played on natural turf grass pitches there are identified shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing playing pitch provision so that all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision. Instead, any spare capacity should be considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls.

Most of the current identified grass pitch shortfalls can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, increasing match play on 3G pitches, and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. However, future demand needs to be monitored as the need for new provision or need to bring disused provision back into use may be greater given the growth of football is expected to exceed what is projected through population growth.

Notwithstanding the above, in regard to artificial pitches, there is a clear quantified shortfall of 3G pitches for football training that can only be rectified through the installation of new facilities. The development of 3G pitches could also help to alleviate identified grass pitch shortfalls via the transfer of play. Additionally, quality improvements alone will not address all the current shortfalls on rugby league and rugby union pitches, as such there is a need for additional pitch provision to accommodate demand.

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop recommendations and actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This will then inform sport specific recommendations.

4.1: Football – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- ✦ **There are currently shortfalls across all pitch types in Wigan Borough amounting to 25.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is largely due to high levels of demand combined with poor pitch quality across these pitch types.**
- ✦ **When considering future demand shortfall amounts to 44.5 match equivalent sessions per week with a shortfall identified across each pitch type.**

Supply summary

- ✦ In total, there are 227 pitches across 105 unique sites in Wigan Borough, of which, 197 across 85 sites are available for community use. All pitches that are not available for community use are either located at education sites of elite sports clubs' facilities such as The Brick Community Stadium and Christopher Park Training Ground.
- ✦ Most community available pitches can be found in the West Analysis Area with 74 pitches provided (38%). This is followed by the East Analysis Area with 62 pitches (31%) respectively.
- ✦ There are 15 sites, which were not marked as formal pitches for the 2024/25 season.
- ✦ Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Wigan Town FC are currently in conversations with the Council regarding reinstating provision at disused site Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field, known locally as Imperial Fields. **Update since the Assessment Report - Subject to DfE consent for a surrender from Deans Trust and lease to the clubs.**
- ✦ Standish Panthers FC is currently in the process of exploring options to develop a site within the locality of Standish in order to centralise demand, increase levels of participation and provide an additional capacity for wider community clubs and groups in the locality.
- ✦ Hindley Town FC plans to extend its site, of the same name, to establish more pitches. It currently accommodates four pitches and states it can potentially establish three more pitches of various sizes.
- ✦ Most large clubs (such as Astley & Tyldesley, Wigan Junior Latics, Winstanley Warriors FC and Atherton Town FC) have freehold/long term leases or licence agreements for their respective sites. East Leigh Juniors states it's close to securing a long-term lease at Queensway Playing Fields from the Council.
- ✦ The quality of football pitches across Wigan Borough has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in November 2024, PitchPower reports, and user consultation. Most pitches are assessed as either standard or poor quality (81%), with only 19% pitches assessed as good quality.
- ✦ Eight sites are considered to have overall poor quality ancillary facilities including changing facilities.
- ✦ **Update since the Assessment Report - Eastleigh AFC plans for a 3G pitch and clubhouse at Hesketh Meadow and Shevington High School plan for grass pitch improvements and 3G pitch.**

Demand summary

- ✦ In total there are 776 football teams across 80 clubs which currently play within Wigan Borough. This is made up of 115 men's, 15 women's, 185 youth 11v11 boys', 30 youth 11v11 girls', 126 youth 9v9 boys', 19 youth 9v9 girls', 162 mini 7v7 and 124 mini 5v5 teams.
- ✦ Growth can be seen across all age groups and demographics since 2017 with an overall growth of 32% or 189 teams. Increases are noted within the women and girls' segments which have seen a progression of eight teams (133%) and 24 team (96%) respectively.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Four teams from four clubs play within the NLS, as seen in the table below. This is in addition to professional club, Wigan Athletic FC, which plays within the EFL League One.
- ◀ In Wigan Borough, both Wigan Athletic Ladies & Girls FC and Hindley Juniors FC have teams that play within the Women's NLS.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, 20 indicate they could field additional teams if they had access to better training provision such as 3G, however, none of the clubs quantify a specific amount.
- ◀ According to affiliation data from 2024/25 season, there are 18 teams training in Wigan Borough but playing matches on venues outside of the Borough.
- ◀ Daisy Hill Juniors, Bolton Wanderers Girls FC and Salford United FC all currently import demand into Wigan Borough for match play demand.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, eight report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide within the next two seasons, totalling a predicted growth of 27 teams.
- ◀ In Wigan Borough, 42 pitches across 30 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 54.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality

In total there are 42 pitches overplayed in Wigan across 30 sites, equating to 54.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of these pitches (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and consequently reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved by one increment at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating as detailed in the table below:

Adult pitch quality	Adult matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Youth matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Mini matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were improved by one increment (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Improved quality (by one increment)	Capacity rating (MES)
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	Good	(11v11)	1	3	Good	3
8	Bee Fold Lane	East	Poor	Adult	4	0.5	Standard	3.5
24	Golborne High School	Central	Poor	(5v5)	1	1	Standard	1
24	Golborne High School	Central	Poor	(7v7)	1	2.5	Standard	0.5
24	Golborne High School	Central	Poor	(11v11)	2	3	Standard	1
24	Golborne High School	Central	Poor	(9v9)	2	2.5	Standard	0.5
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Central	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Central	Poor	Adult	1	1	Standard	0
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Central	Poor	(9v9)	2	2.5	Standard	0.5
34	Howe Bridge New Pitches	East	Standard	Adult	4	1.5	Good	2.5
35	Kingsdown Road Playing Field	Central	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
36	Legh Street Playing Fields	Central	Poor	Adult	2	0.5	Standard	1.5
40	Leyland Park	Central	Poor	(11v11)	2	1	Standard	1
40	Leyland Park	Central	Poor	(9v9)	1	1	Standard	0
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Central	Standard	Adult	3	1	Good	2
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Central	Standard	(9v9)	1	0.5	Good	1.5
43	Marsh Playing Fields	East	Poor	Adult	2	0.5	Standard	1.5
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	West	Poor	Adult	3	0.5	Standard	2.5
53	Shevington Recreational Ground	West	Standard	(11v11)	1	2	Good	0
62	St John Rigby College	West	Standard	Adult	2	0.5	Good	1.5
66	St Wilfrids Catholic Primary School	Central	Poor	(9v9)	1	2	Standard	1
69	The Convent Playing Fields	West	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	Standard	(11v11)	1	0.5	Good	1.5
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	Standard	(9v9)	1	0.5	Good	1.5
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	West	Standard	(11v11)	2	3	Good	1
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Standard	(11v11)	2	0.5	Good	3.5
98	Britannia Bridge Primary School	West	Poor	(9v9)	1	1	Standard	0
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Used to be Abraham Guest Academy)	West	Standard	(11v11)	1	0.5	Good	1.5

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Improved quality (by one increment)	Capacity rating (MES)
109	Holy Family Catholic Primary School Platt Bridge	Central	Poor	(11v11)	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
111	King George V Playing Fields (Ashton-In-Makerfield)	Central	Poor	(11v11)	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields (Hindsford Junior FC)	East	Standard	(11v11)	1	1	Good	1
124	R L Hughes Primary School	Central	Poor	(5v5)	1	0.5	Standard	1.5
124	R L Hughes Primary School	Central	Poor	(7v7)	1	1	Standard	1
131	St James' C Of E Primary School	West	Poor	(9v9)	1	2	Standard	1
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	West	Standard	Adult	1	6	Good	5
153	Round Ash Park	East	Poor	(5v5)	1	2	Standard	0
153	Round Ash Park	East	Poor	(7v7)	1	2	Standard	0
153	Round Ash Park	East	Poor	(11v11)	1	1	Standard	0
153	Round Ash Park	East	Poor	(9v9)	1	0.5	Standard	0.5
167	St Oswalds Catholic Primary School	Central	Poor	(5v5)	1	0.5	Standard	1.5
170	Atherton St George's C Of E Primary School	East	Poor	(9v9)	1	1.5	Standard	0.5
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	Standard	Adult	1	1	Good	0

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The impact of improving overplayed pitches by one increment is shown in the table above. In the main, overplay would be alleviated across 22 sites providing 41 pitches, leaving eight pitches played to capacity located at Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields, Leyland Park, Shevington Recreation Ground, Britannia Bridge Primary School, Round Ash Park and Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane). Although the quality improvements increase the capacity, no additional peak time spare capacity is created for additional play.

Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand in match equivalent sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	12	14.5	2.5	4	6.5
Youth 11v11	4.5	16.5	12	4.5	16.5
Youth 9v9	7	14	7	3.5	10.5
Mini 7v7	3.5	5.5	2	4	6
Mini 5v5	2	4	2	3	5
If improvements are made					
Adult	12	5	7	4	3
Youth 11v11	4.5	4	0.5	4.5	4
Youth 9v9	7	3.5	3.5	3.5	0
Mini 7v7	3.5	0.5	3	4	1
Mini 5v5	2	-	2	3	1

As seen in the table above, if quality was improved by one increment, overplay would be reduced resulting in actual spare capacity identified across all pitch types. Shortfalls would still remain when factoring in future demand however these would be less, particularly on youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types.

This table below illustrates the position if all overplayed pitches in Wigan Borough, were improved to good quality. This is the highest threshold a pitch can score. As can be seen, overplay would be alleviated across all 28 sites providing 40 pitches.

Table 4.3: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Good quality rating (MES)
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	Good	(11v11)	1	3	3
8	Bee Fold Lane	East	Poor	Adult	4	0.5	7.5
24	Golborne High School	Central	Poor	(5v5)	1	1	3
24	Golborne High School	Central	Poor	(7v7)	1	2.5	1.5
24	Golborne High School	Central	Poor	(11v11)	2	3	3
24	Golborne High School	Central	Poor	(9v9)	2	2.5	3.5
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Central	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	1.5
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Central	Poor	Adult	1	1	1
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Central	Poor	(9v9)	2	2.5	3.5
34	Howe Bridge New Pitches	East	Standard	Adult	4	1.5	2.5

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Good quality rating (MES)
35	Kingsdown Road Playing Field	Central	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	1.5
36	Legh Street Playing Fields	Central	Poor	Adult	2	0.5	3.5
40	Leyland Park	Central	Poor	(11v11)	2	1	5
40	Leyland Park	Central	Poor	(9v9)	1	1	2
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Central	Standard	Adult	3	1	2
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Central	Standard	(9v9)	1	0.5	1.5
43	Marsh Playing Fields	East	Poor	Adult	2	0.5	3.5
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	West	Poor	Adult	3	0.5	5.5
53	Shevington Recreational Ground	West	Standard	(11v11)	1	2	0
62	St John Rigby College	West	Standard	Adult	2	0.5	1.5
66	St Wilfrids Catholic Primary School	Central	Poor	(9v9)	1	2	1
69	The Convent Playing Fields	West	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	1.5
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	Standard	(11v11)	1	0.5	1.5
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	Standard	(9v9)	1	0.5	1.5
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	West	Standard	(11v11)	2	3	1
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Standard	(11v11)	2	0.5	3.5
98	Britannia Bridge Primary School	West	Poor	(9v9)	1	1	2
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Used to be Abraham Guest Academy)	West	Standard	(11v11)	1	0.5	1.5
109	Holy Family Catholic Primary School Platt Bridge	Central	Poor	(11v11)	1	0.5	2.5
111	King George V Playing Fields (Ashton-In-Makerfield)	Central	Poor	(11v11)	1	0.5	2.5
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields (Hindsford Junior FC)	East	Standard	(11v11)	1	1	1
124	R L Hughes Primary School	Central	Poor	(5v5)	1	0.5	3.5
124	R L Hughes Primary School	Central	Poor	(7v7)	1	1	3
131	St James' C Of E Primary School	West	Poor	(9v9)	1	2	1
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	West	Standard	Adult	1	6	5
153	Round Ash Park	East	Poor	(5v5)	1	2	2

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Good quality rating (MES)
153	Round Ash Park	East	Poor	(7v7)	1	2	2
153	Round Ash Park	East	Poor	(11v11)	1	1	2
153	Round Ash Park	East	Poor	(9v9)	1	0.5	2.5
167	St Oswalds Catholic Primary School	Central	Poor	(5v5)	1	0.5	3.5
170	Atherton St George's C Of E Primary School	East	Poor	(9v9)	1	1.5	1.5
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	Standard	Adult	1	1	0

The impact of improving overplayed pitches to good quality is shown in the table above. In the main, overplay would be alleviated across 27 sites and 57 pitches, leaving two pitches played to capacity located at Shevington Recreation Ground and Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane). Although quality improvements increase the capacity by either reducing or eliminating overplay, no peak time spare capacity is created to accommodate additional play.

Table 4.4: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand in match equivalent sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	12	14.5	2.5	4	6.5
Youth 11v11	4.5	16.5	12	4.5	16.5
Youth 9v9	7	14	7	3.5	10.5
Mini 7v7	3.5	5.5	2	4	6
Mini 5v5	2	4	2	3	5
If improvements are made					
Adult	12	5	7	4	3
Youth 11v11	4.5	3	1.5	4.5	3
Youth 9v9	7	-	7	3.5	3.5
Mini 7v7	3.5	-	3.5	4	0.5
Mini 5v5	2	-	2	3	1

As seen in the table above, if quality was improved to good quality, overplay would be reduced resulting in actual spare capacity identified across all pitch types. Shortfalls would still remain when factoring in future demand, however, these would be less, particularly on youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types.

Grass pitch shortfalls in the Standish area

There is an identified need to improve the quality/quantity of grass football pitches in the locality of Standish in order to better accommodate current and future levels of demand. The table below summarises the playing pitch sites within the ward of Standish and Langtree.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.5: Summary of grass pitch football sites in the ward of Standish and Langtree

PPS ID	Site	Postcode	Provision comments
2	Ashfield Park	WN6 0EX	Two adult and two youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are poor quality. No ancillary provision. Used by Pine Villa / Standish Park Rangers / Standish Sabres FC
55	Southlands Avenue Playing Fields	WN6 0TH	One poor quality adult pitch with no ancillary provision. Currently unused.
67	Standish Community High School	WN6 0NX	One youth 11v11 pitch and one full size hockey suitable AGP which is sports lit. Both poor quality and offer unsecure tenure. Used by Leigh HC and Standish Panthers FC
69	The Convent Playing Fields	WN6 0UJ	One adult and one mini 7v7 both of which are poor quality. No ancillary provision. Used by Standish St Wilfrid's FC and Gidlow Athletic
135	St Marie's Catholic Primary School	WN6 0LF	No formal pitches marked on playing field land however potential space for a youth 11v11.
143	Wood Fold Primary School	WN6 0TS	One poor quality mini 5v5 not available for community use.

It should be noted that Standish Leisure Centre is also situated within the area and provides a good quality small size 3G pitch available to accommodate training and competitive demand up to mini 7v7 football. It is currently used by Pine Villa FC at the weekend and offer some level of capacity for training demand within this age group.

Ashfield Park

The site currently accommodates two adult and two youth 11v11 all of which are poor quality and currently being used by a selection of teams from Pine Villa FC, Standish Park Rangers and Standish Sabres FC. It is not recommended that any additional play takes place on the pitches until they are improved in quality, additionally even if they were to improve the site offers little spare capacity at peak time to accommodate additional demand and also does not offer any ancillary provision.

Southlands Avenue Playing Fields

The site is currently unused due to its poor quality and offers no ancillary provision. If the site were to improve in quality, it could offer potential capacity, however, this is only a single pitch site and is not identified as a strategic priority for investment due to its limitations on its size.

Standish Community High School

The poor quality hockey suitable AGP is used by Leigh HC and Standish Panthers FC to accommodate training demand. As it is currently used for hockey it is anticipated that there will be a strategic recommendation to retain this as a hockey suitable surface, despite aspirations from the School to convert it to a 3G surface. If it remains as a hockey suitable AGP it is advised that the training demand for football be relocated to a more suitable surface. The School also does not offer security of tenure for users as clubs rent on a seasonal basis.

The Convent Playing Fields

A single adult pitch that is already used to capacity at peak time through usage from Standish St Wilfrid's offering no spare capacity for additional demand.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

St Marie's Catholic Primary School / Wood Fold Primary School

Neither site currently has community accessible provision to be utilised by Standish Panthers FC. Even if they did, provision would not be accompanied by ancillary provision and not offer security of tenure.

Supply and demand analysis

It is identified that there is not a sufficient supply of grass pitch football provision within Standish to sufficiently accommodate current and future demand from local clubs. Current provision has several issues including being utilised at peak time, not offering secure tenure, not offering accompanying ancillary provision and is generally being poor quality. Ashfield Park could potentially be utilised as an overspill facility if issues regarding poor pitch and ancillary provision could be addressed.

There is also a prominent lack of club managed sites in the area which would be identified as a priority for investment by footballing NGBs.

The largest club in the area, Standish Panthers Juniors, due to a lack of provision locally use several sites across the Authority including Leigh Sports Village Arena (East Analysis Area), Leisure United Laithwaite Park, Leisure United William Fosters and Winstanley College Sports Centre all in the West Analysis Area.

Therefore, based on identified shortfalls there is a need for a new site within Standish which accommodates youth pitches (9v9 and 11v11). There is no shortfall of adult pitch in the area with no immediate requirement for mini provision either due to the two hub sites: Leisure United Laithwaite Park and Leisure United William Fosters, catering for this demand (central venues for mini demand). Any new site should be managed by a suitable club/s such as Standish Panthers Juniors with accompanying purpose-built ancillary provision.

It should also be noted that any new playing field site could also establish pitches for other sports such rugby league and rugby union to alleviate shortfalls. Alternatively, options could be explored to create a multi-sport 3G pitch, as well as grass pitches, to reduce identified shortfalls as explored later in the document.

Reinstating disused / unused pitches

As mentioned in the proceeding Assessment Report there are a number of disused sites across Wigan Borough. All disused provision is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.6: Summary of disused / unused provision within Wigan Borough

Site ID	APP ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Comments
16	1041448	Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field	WN2 2HP	West	The playing field previously had three rugby league pitches marked last used circa 2012. It has also had football marked on it (one adult pitch). There are plans to reinstate this site.
22	6007384	Furlong Close Playing Fields	WN2 5JW	Central	Previously marked with an adult football pitch and goalposts remain in place, though last recorded pitch marked was youth sized 60x40 metres.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	APP ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Comments
					Upon site assessment the pitch was not actively line marked despite having goalpost in situ meaning it cannot be classified as disused and is therefore unused.
41	6009323	Lodge Lane Playing Fields	WN7 2NU	East	Previously marked with four football pitches of adult, youth and mini (two) sizes. No longer in use or marked and often waterlogged. One pitch still has goalposts in place, but the site has no changing provision and car parking provision is poor. Site is retained for future cemetery expansion.
73	6007437	Watsons Field (Heath Lane)	WN7 4RL	East	Former primary school site which provided two adult pitches located off Heath Lane on land south of Watson's Field. School playing field last known to be maintained circa 2016, now overgrown.
127	1040666	Spa Road Recreation Ground	M46 9SP	East	Youth 9v9 pitch not presently used or marked. The site neighbours Crilly Park (Atherton Labernum Rovers FC).
144	1040631	Alexandra Park Playing Fields	WN5 9BN	West	One mini 7v7 pitch which is no longer actively marked.
148	6007417	Ellesmere Street Playing Fields	M29 7QP	East	Youth 11v11 pitch previously marked as recent as 2013. No onsite changing provision. Adjacent scout building and play area also onsite.
152	1040634	Central Park Playing Fields	M46 0AL	East	Two mini pitches previously used for either mini football or mini rugby union. Opposite Atherton Community School.

The table below examines what the impact would be on the overall supply and demand analysis if all these pitches were brought back into use established to a minimum of standard quality with secured tenure.

Table 4.7: Impact on supply and demand balance from reinstating disused / unused provision

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Shortfall of 2.5 MES per week	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 MES per week
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12 MES per week	Shortfall of 10 MES per week
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 7 MES per week	Shortfall of 6 MES per week
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	Actual spare capacity of 1 MES per week
Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	Played to capacity

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As seen in the table above, if all disused pitches were to be reinstated, this would alleviate shortfalls on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Shortfalls will remain on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches but would reduce to 16 match equivalent sessions per week.

Future demand

This scenario considers the impact that future demand derived from club ambitions will have on the supply and demand balance (as identified via consultation with clubs throughout the Borough). Please note that the Assessment Report only considers future demand derived from population projection growth.

Table 4.8: Summary of participation growth by analysis area

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Totals
Central	1	1	1	-	0.5	3.5
East	1	0.5	0.5	-	-	2
West	2	2	1	-	3	8
Wigan	4	3.5	2.5	0	3.5	13.5

Future demand from club ambitions totals 27 teams from eight clubs and the table below shows the potential impact on the supply/demand balance by analysis area.

Table 4.9: Impact of future demand from clubs

Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance	Potential future demand (club aspirations)	Potential future supply/demand balance
Adult	2.5	4	6.5
Youth 11v11	12	3.5	15.5
Youth 9v9	7	2.5	9.5
Mini 7v7	2	-	2
Mini 5v5	2	3.5	5.5

If achieved, future demand from clubs will exacerbate shortfalls on adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Continuation of growth trends

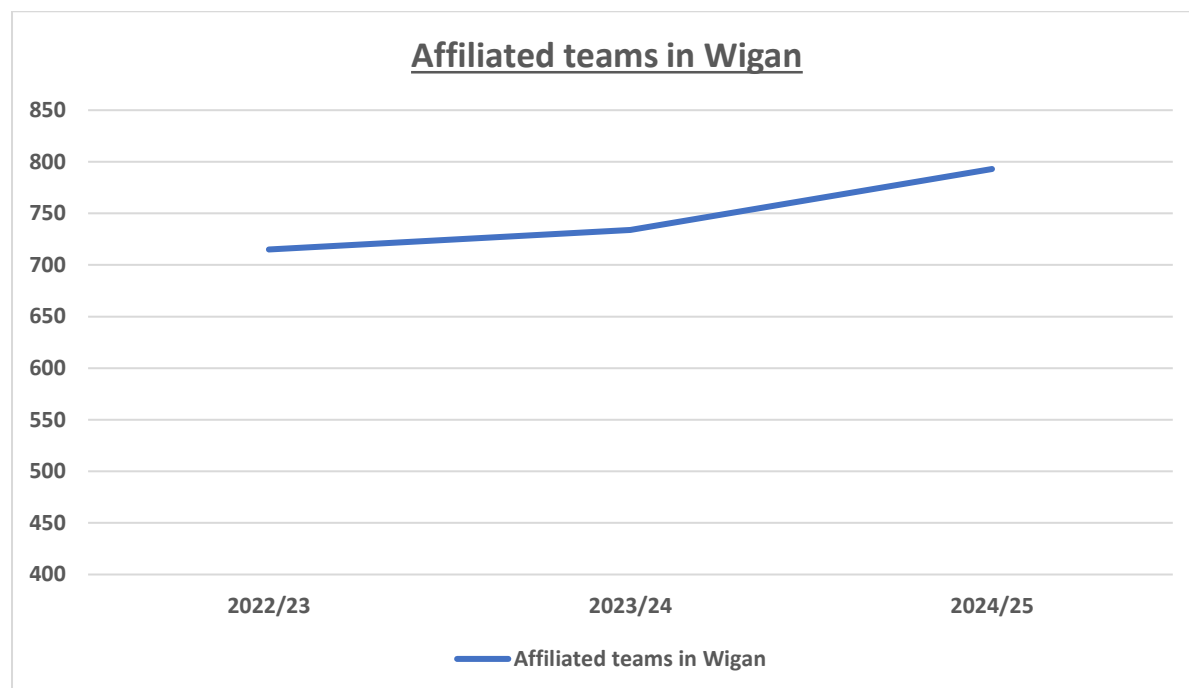
This scenario examines the impact of future demand for pitches based on potential growth from historical FA affiliation data. Figure 4.1 below plots the forecasted increases for the upcoming 2025/26 season, considering the following demand from previous seasons:

- ◀ 2022/23: 715 teams.
- ◀ 2023/24: 734 teams.
- ◀ 2024/25: 793 teams.

With an average yearly increase of 5.5% in Wigan between 2022 and 2025, this would result in an additional 244 teams and 122 match equivalent sessions per week over the next five years. On this basis, participation increases reported by clubs during consultation is significantly lower than those identified through forecasting growth via this method.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Figure 4.1: Annual growth in football teams across Wigan (2022-2025)



If the above future demand through forecasted growth was to be realised over the next five years, this would exacerbate existing shortfalls on adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches, whilst a deficit would also be established mini 5v5 pitches. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.10: Current supply and demand if growth trends continued (to 2030)

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	2.5	23.5
Youth 11v11	12	46
Youth 9v9	7	29
Mini 7v7	2	28
Mini 5v5	2	21

It should be noted that the future demand has been accredited to the pitch type based on the overall percentage of that type of demand playing within Wigan Borough. For example, currently 17% of all demand in the Authority plays on adult pitch types therefore 17% of 122 match equivalent sessions (21 match equivalent sessions) has been attributed.

Given the current shortfalls identified for grass football pitches, this further evidences the need to improve pitch quality at overplayed and poor quality sites and to potentially develop more pitches (which could include 3G pitches) to better support this anticipated growth in demand.

Given the differing levels of future growth identified, actual growth should be further monitored regularly via Stage E updates to fully understand which growth scenario (population forecasts, continuation of growth trends or club aspirations) is likely to be the most accurate.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Loss of access to unsecure sites

The table below outlines sites in Wigan Borough which are accessed by community clubs where tenure is unsecure.

In instances where clubs do not have formal tenure agreements in place, clubs could theoretically be asked to vacate at any time which would result in each requiring alternate provision to service existing levels of demand.

Table 4.11: Demand taking place on grass pitches at unsecure sites

Site	Club	Teams
Atherton St George's C of E Primary School	Atherton Cols Junior	Seven teams
Britannia Bridge Primary School	F.C Britannia (Wigan)	Four teams
Dean Trust Wigan (Formerly Abraham Guest Academy)	Pemberton FC Wigan Athletic Ladies & Girls	One team Three teams
Golborne High School	Golborne Sports Junior	28 teams
Hindley Green Community Primary School Playing Fields	Hindley Green	Two teams
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	F.C Britannia (Wigan)	One team
Orrell Holgate Primary School	FS Coaching Academy	One team
Orrell Lamberhead Green Community Primary School	Highfield Grange	Two teams
R L Hughes Primary School	Ashton Park J.F.C	Seven teams
St Aidan's RC School	Hawkley	One team
St James' C of E Primary School	Hawkley	Four teams
St John Rigby College	Bryn FC Robin Park St John Rigby College	One teams 14 teams Three teams
St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	Astley & Tyldesley JFC	12 teams
St Oswald's Catholic Primary School	Ashton Park J.F.C	Five teams
St Peters Catholic High School	Golborne Sports Junior Wigan Junior Latics	One team Two teams
St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School	Ashton Park J.F.C	Four teams
Winstanley College Sports Centre	Standish Panthers Juniors	10 teams
Winstanley Community Primary School	FC Wigan	One team

There are 114 teams from 17 clubs accessing 19 sites with unsecure tenure of which all are located at education sites. The impact on removal of 19 sites for community access is highlighted in the table below.

Table 4.12: Current supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Adult	Shortfall of 2.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 5.5 MES per week
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12 MES per week	Shortfall of 22 MES per week
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of seven MES per week	Shortfall of 13.5 MES per week
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of two MES per week	Shortfall of 12 MES per week
Mini 5v5	Shortfall of two MES per week	Shortfall of 7.5 MES per week

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As can be seen, if all access to unsecure sites was to be lost, shortfalls increase across all pitch types. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure the grass pitches at unsecure sites continue to stay open to community use, given the reliance upon these sites for community football. Site owners should also be encouraged and supported to formalise longer term lease agreements with clubs to further secure long-term access and opportunities to secure community use agreements with education providers should be explored and maximised to seek greater security and reduce risk for these users.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision meets NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of offering specific strategic sites for long term lease or CUA if agreeable with relevant stakeholders such as Football Foundation and the relevant County FA.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity.
- ◀ Work to alleviate identified overplay on grass football pitches, particularly those at youth 11v11 pitch format through improvement of pitch quality.
- ◀ Explore options to reinstate disused / unused provision in order to alleviate identified shortfalls / provide capacity for future growth.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, prioritising club-led sites, multi-pitch sites and sites which play key strategic roles for adult football and women and girls' participation.
- ◀ Given the substantial number of teams accessing sites with unsecure tenure (114 teams from 17 clubs), where appropriate, help to formalise long term usage agreements with clubs to further secure long-term access especially at education sites.
- ◀ Monitor future growth levels to determine when and where new grass pitches may be required.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of creating new onsite football provision, as part of a hub site, to service the developments at North Leigh Park / South Hindley as identified in Part 7: Housing growth Scenarios.
- ◀ Support clubs currently competing within the Regional Feeder League to Step 6 (Astley & Tyldesley, Atherton Town, Hindsford AFC, Leigh Genesis and Pennington Football Club) with facility developments when required to meet league requirements.

4.2: Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is a current shortfall of 17 match equivalent sessions per week to meet current demand. This equates to a shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions in the East Analysis Area and nine matches equivalent sessions in the West Analysis Area. The Central Analysis Area is played to capacity.
- When factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases to 18.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

Rugby union – supply summary

- There is a total of 16 rugby union pitches across six sites in Wigan Borough. All provision is available for community use and evenly split between the East and West analysis areas, with no rugby union at all in the Central Analysis Area.
- All clubs are considered to have secure tenure at their primary venue through either freehold or a long-term agreement such as Orrell RUFC at St John Rigby College.
- Of the community available pitches in Wigan Borough, ten are assessed as standard quality and seven are assessed as poor quality. The poor quality pitches are located at Coronation Park, St John Rigby College, Round Ash Park and Aspull Rugby Football Club.
- Four sites have poor quality changing rooms: St John Rigby College, Round Ash Park, Aspull Rugby Football Club and Douglas Valley.
- Both Leigh RUFC & Aspull RFC have invested, along with the RFU, to refurbish social spaces to make them more welcoming environments to everyone.
- Orrell RUFC aspires to create its own dedicated ancillary provision and changing rooms at St John Rigby College.

Rugby union – demand summary

- Across Wigan Borough there are five clubs providing a total of 72 teams which equates to 13 senior men's, two senior women's, 26 age grade boys, four age grade girls and 27 age grade mixed teams.
- This is split between the East Analysis Area which accommodates 34 teams and West Analysis Area with 38 teams. There is no current rugby union demand in the Central Analysis Area.
- In Wigan Borough, only two out of the five clubs are training on sports lit grass pitches at their home venues, these are Tyldesley RUFC and Wigan RUFC. The remaining clubs are utilising 3G pitches to meet their training demand with most of this being non-contact.
- Although not quantified by a specific number of teams, Leigh, Aspull and Orrell rugby clubs all reference latent demand at their clubs. This is linked to the quality of ancillary provision and access to training facility with each club stating that if they had access to better facilities, they would be able to accommodate more teams, particularly women and girls' demand.
- In total, club aspirational future demand amounts to 14 teams with five in the East Analysis Area and nine in the West Analysis Area.
- In total there is 17 match equivalent sessions per week of overplay with nine being located in the West Analysis Area and eight within the East Analysis Area.

Scenarios

For ease of reference for the scenarios outlined below the capacity rating table has been include for rugby union which can be found in more detail in the proceeding Assessment Report.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.13: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

The table illustrates the RFU pitch quality scoring methodology which ascertains the capacity of pitches based on the scoring criteria.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Aspull RFC (Aspull Rugby Football Club)

The below table examine the current levels of overplay on pitches at Aspull Rugby Football Club and what improvements would be required to alleviate the shortfall. This does not include the shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on the mini pitch on the site which equates to 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week on a senior pitch.

Table 4.14: Improving maintenance on all sites/pitches by one increment (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	1	M0 / D0	Poor	No	2.5	0.5	2	M2 / D1	Good	0.5
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	1	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2.5	2	0.5	M2 / D1	Good	0.5

As seen in the table above, if both pitches were improved to a M2/D1 rating, all overplay would be alleviated from the site creating 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week on each pitch. It should be noted that this would not create enough capacity for the clubs' future demand aspirations (two age grade boys, one age grade girls and one age grade mixed), nor to return its training demand to the site. It should be noted that even if the pitches were improved to the maximum quality rating of M2/D3 this would not provide enough capacity.

The Club aspires to create a 3G pitch provision in order to alleviate grass pitch shortfalls, centralise training demand and create capacity for future growth. It is in the initial stages of this with no initial plans established as yet. Based on the site's location and accessibility, in addition to the poor quality ancillary provision, a substantial amount of investment would be required to establish such provision at Aspull Rugby Football Club. With this being said, site options should be explored to provide some form of multi-sport artificial provision to service the rugby club, rugby league and football clubs in the surrounding areas given the identified shortfalls in the West Analysis Area. This would be in addition to the grass pitch improvement required to both pitches.

Aspull RFC - creation of new pitch

An alternate method to alleviating shortfalls would be to create an additional pitch on the site. This could be located on the land neighbouring the current pitches. If a third senior pitch were to be created to a minimum standard quality (M1/D1) this would create a total of two match equivalent sessions which would alleviate a significant level of overplay on the site leaving. Therefore, this should be explored in addition to improving the current poor quality pitch.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Leigh RUFC (Round Ash Park)

Due to substantial levels of demand, in cohesion with poor pitch quality and overmarking for football (Leigh United FC), accumulatively the pitches used by Leigh RUFC at Round Ash Park are overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.15: Improving drainage on all sites/pitches by 1 increment (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
153	Round Ash Park	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1.5	2	0.5	M2 / D1	Good	1.5
153	Round Ash Park	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1.5	2	0.5	M2 / D1	Good	1.5
153	Round Ash Park	1	M1 / D0	Poor	No	1.5	1.5		M2 / D1	Good	1.5
153	Round Ash Park	1	M1 / D0	Poor	No	4 ²	1.5	2.5	M2 / D1	Good	1
153	Round Ash Park	1	M1 / D0	Poor	No	4.5 ³	1.5	3	M2 / D1	Good	1.5

If all pitches were improved to a minimum quality rating of M2/D1, in conjunction with demand being more evenly distributed across the pitches, all shortfalls would be alleviated. In addition, actual spare capacity would be established for the Club's future demand aspirations of one women's and two age grade girls' teams.

Similar to Aspull RFC, Leigh RUFC aspires to create a multi-sport World Rugby complaint 3G pitch at Round Ash Park as well as creating a new clubhouse. However, this is more progressed, with the Club creating initial layout plans. It also understands it will need external funding to move the project forward. There is currently no identified shortfall of 3G pitches within the East Analysis Area, in addition the Club uses nearby 3G pitches at Leigh Sports Village Arena to meet its training demand. Therefore, further feasibility is required to understand what the impact would be if a 3G pitch were to be established to ensure it does not negatively impact on the overall supply and demand as well as the sustainability of provision at Leigh Sports Village Arena.

² Two match equivalent sessions added to account for football demand.

³ 2.5 match equivalent sessions added to account for football demand.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Tyldesley RUFC (St George's Park)

St George's Park is currently overplayed by a total of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week due to pitches accommodating both training and competitive demand from Tyldesley RUFC. Training demand is isolated to only one of the pitches which is accompanied by sports lighting.

Table 4.16: Improving both maintenance and drainage to M2/D3 at all sites/ pitches (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
59	St George's Park	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	M2 / D1	Good	2
59	St George's Park	1	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	4 ⁴	2	2	M2 / D1	Good	1
59	St George's Park	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2.5	2	0.5	M2 / D1	Good	0.5

In order to fully alleviate shortfalls, in addition to creating capacity for future demand, there is a need to improve each pitch by one maintenance increment to a M2/D1 rating. There would also be a need to install sports lighting on at least one other pitch to greater disperse of training demand across the pitches.

Wigan RUFC (Douglas Valley)

Douglas Valley is currently overplayed by a total of five match equivalent sessions from both training and competitive demand from Wigan RUFC. Training demand is isolated to only pitch on the site which is accompanied by sports lighting.

Table 4.17: Improving both maintenance and drainage to M2/D3 at all sites/ pitches (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
183	Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC)	1	M2 / D0	Standard	Yes	6 ⁵	2	4	M2 / D2	Good	2.75

⁴ Includes two match equivalent sessions of training demand.

⁵ Includes four match equivalent sessions of training demand.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
183	Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC)	1	M2 / D0	Standard	No	3	2	1	M2 / D2	Good	0.25
183	Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC)	1	M2 / D0	Standard	No	2	2		M2 / D2	Good	1.25

If pitches were improved to a M2/D2 quality rating, two would establish spare capacity with overplay on the sports lit pitch reducing from four to 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Even if all pitches were to be improved to the maximum quality rating of M2/D3 there would still be an overall shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

As a result, as well as drainage improvements there is also a need to remove some demand off the pitches in order to fully alleviate the overplay on the site. The easiest solution would be to relocate a minimum of two match equivalent sessions worth of training demand to a World Rugby complaint 3G pitch. Therefore, options should be explored on potential avenues on how to achieve this whether this is through accessing existing provision or creating a dedicated pitch as part of a wider sporting development. This will be explored later in the section.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Orrell RUFC

Orrell RUFC indicate a long-term ambition to find a dedicated home venue in addition to access to its own clubhouse. This was also referenced in the previous PPS with plans being delayed due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. It is currently searching for potential sites.

In order to accommodate its current level of competitive demand, the Club requires access to a minimum of two standard quality (M1/D1) pitches as well as relevant ancillary provision. This is on the assumption it continues to access 3G provision for its training requirements. It should be noted that the current 3G pitch it uses at St John Rigby College needs refurbishment.

If the Club can move forward on the project, it is recommended that the grass pitch provision it accesses at St John Rigby College and Winstanley College Sports Centre is improved. The pitch at the former site would need to be improved from M1/D0 to a M1/D2 or M2/D1 quality rating to alleviate shortfalls. In comparison the pitch at the latter would need to be M2/D2 to removed overplay. Both these pitches are overplayed as they are also used for curricular and extracurricular demand.

World Rugby (WR) 3G pitches in Wigan Borough

In Wigan Borough, there is currently one 3G pitch which is WR compliant located at Leigh Sports Village Arena (WN7 4GY, East Analysis Area). The pitch at Sutton Park was also previously accredited, however, this has now expired.

There is a clear need for the creation of additional WR complaint 3G provision across Wigan Borough with both Aspull RFC and Leigh RUFC expressing aspirations to create a full-size pitch. There is evidence that there is a need specifically within the West Analysis Area, however, further research is required to understand the strategic need for one within the East Analysis Area. There is no identified need for such provision within the Central Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect the existing quantity of rugby union pitches including those used for curricular and extra-curricular demand, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ✦ Support clubs in taking part in the GMA pitch advisory service to explore technical requirements to improve pitch quality to address overplay.
- ✦ Explore options to creating an additional senior pitch at Aspull Rugby Football Club to assist in alleviating overplay.
- ✦ Improve accompanying ancillary facilities to better accommodate all demographics including women and girls, particularly at Round Ash Park, Aspull Rugby Football Club and Douglas Valley.
- ✦ Explore the options of establishing a suitable dedicated home site for Orrell RUFC with relevant pitch and ancillary provision.
- ✦ Explore the feasibility of creating a WR complaint 3G pitch at Round Ash Park and what impact that would have on the wider supply and demand analysis.
- ✦ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.
- ✦ Any potential new development of a 3G pitch in the West Analysis Area should be explored for WR compliance to support training and partial competitive demand particularly for Wigan RUFC, Aspull RFC and Orrell RUFC.

4.3: Rugby league – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- There is insufficient supply of senior, junior and mini rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough to meet demand which is further worsened when accounting for future demand from population increases.

Supply summary

- There are 64 rugby league pitches identified in Wigan Borough across 21 sites. Of these, 62 pitches across 30 sites are available for community use, with the pitches at Golborne High School and Westleigh High School Playing Fields unavailable.
- There are three disused sites namely Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field, Hemsfield Road and Leigh Road Playing Field. There are plans to bring the former site back into use from Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC.
- Ashton Bears ARLFC is in the process of creating an additional senior pitch at Bear Park, which currently accommodates one senior and junior pitch.
- Orrell St James ARLFC indicates plans for both a clubhouse redevelopment and improvements to drainage on two of its pitches at Bankes Avenue Playing Fields, in addition to continues pitch maintenance through the grass pitch maintenance fund.
- Tenure of sites in Wigan Borough is generally secure i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years, with most sites ensuring community use is available.
- In Wigan Borough, 10 rugby league sites have received a PitchPower assessment.
- Overall, based on a percentage analysis, the quality of grass rugby league pitches has improved with a higher percentage of good quality pitches in 2024 and fewer number of poorer quality pitches.
- A key issue at several of the community club sites in Wigan Borough is unauthorised access, dog fouling and acts of vandalism which is affecting ancillary and pitch quality. Sutton Park, Clarington Grove Playing Field, Bear Park, Parsons Meadow, Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club have all suffered from these issues with the relevant clubs exploring avenues to reduce the problem

Demand summary

- A total of 190 teams are identified as playing competitive rugby league in Wigan Borough. This consists of 24 senior men's, eight senior women's, 55 junior boys' teams, 25 junior girls' team and 78 primary teams.
- There are also two professional clubs in Wigan Borough namely Wigan Warriors and Leigh Leopards.
- There has been an increase in demand since the 2017 PPS with an increase in senior women's, junior boys, junior girls and primary teams, despite a minor decrease in senior men's teams.
- Shevington Sharks ARLFC is the only club known to export demand outside of Wigan Borough. Approximately two of its mini teams a week play their matches at Parbold Playing Fields (WN8 7HZ – West Lancashire).
- There are significant levels of latent demand expressed from clubs surrounding both pitch and ancillary provision.
- Eight teams expect to be generated (equating to four match equivalent sessions per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any analysis area.
- Of responding clubs, 11 clubs highlight plans to increase membership amounting to 44 teams in total.
- Despite eight sites indicating they have potential spare capacity at peak time only three have actual spare capacity at peak time.
- The total amount of overplay amounts to 45.25 match equivalent sessions which is a reduction from the 2017 study which had shortfalls amounts to 56.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Both Wigan Warriors and Leigh Leopards have PDRL and LDRL teams using Robin Park Arena and Leigh Sports Village Stadium.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

In Wigan Borough, the total amount of overplay amounts to 45.25 match equivalent sessions per week. This is a result of sites accommodating more demand than is recommended based on quality. The scenario below looks at the impact of improvements to the pitches at each of the sites through enhancing pitch quality.

As a guide, the RFL has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, set out below.

Table 4.18: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

Category	Capacity
Good	3 matches per week
Standard	2 matches per week
Poor	1 match per week

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.19: Improvements to existing maintenance regimes to reduce overplay

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Improved quality rating	Theoretical capacity rating (MES per week)
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	Senior	1	Good	1	Good	1
47	Parsons Meadow	Junior	2	Poor	1	Good	3
47	Parsons Meadow	Senior	1	Poor	4	Good	2
47	Parsons Meadow	Senior	2	Poor	0.5	Good	1.5
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	Senior	1	Poor	1.5	Good	0.5
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	Senior	3	Good	1	Good	1
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	Senior	1	Good	2	Good	2
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	Senior	1	Good	2	Good	2
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	Senior	1	Standard	3.25	Good	2.25
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	Senior	1	Standard	2	Good	1
149	Bear Park	Junior	1	Good	2.5	Good	2.5
149	Bear Park	Senior	1	Good	4	Good	4
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club	Mini	1	Poor	2.5	Good	0.5
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club	Senior	1	Good	6	Good	6
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Senior	1	Standard	2.5	Good	1.5
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	Senior	1	Good	3.5	Good	3.5
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	Senior	1	Standard	2	Good	1
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	Mini	1	Standard	1	Good	
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	Senior	1	Standard	1	Good	
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	Junior	1	Good	1	Good	1
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	Senior	1	Good	1	Good	1

The impact of improving overplayed pitches to good quality is shown in the table above. In the main, overplay would be alleviated across two pitches, however, five pitches across two sites would still have overplay due to heavy usage. The overall impact of this results in shortfalls being reduced from 45.25 match equivalent sessions per week to 32.25.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Moving all training demand to 3G

As seen in the scenarios above, pitch improvements can not solely alleviate shortfalls on grass rugby league pitches. This scenario looks at the impact of moving all training demand of match pitches to 3G pitches, if pitches remained the same quality. It should be noted that Leigh East ARLFC (Leigh Sports Village Arena), Leigh Miners ARLFC (Sutton Park) and Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC (Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club) already utilise some form of 3G pitch provision for training demand.

Table 4.20: Moving all training demand to 3G

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions of play (per week)	Training demand	Capacity rating	Match demand only (MES)	Theoretical capacity rating (MES per week)
25	Golborne Parkside Sport And Community Club	Central	Senior	1	1	1		1	1
25	Golborne Parkside Sport And Community Club	Central	Senior	1	1	3	1	1	2
47	Parsons Meadow	West	Senior	1	1	4	4	1	
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	West	Senior	1	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	0.5
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	Senior	3	5	5	1	5	4
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	1	4	2	1	2
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	3	2	2	3	
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	1.25	4	3.25	1.25	0.75
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	2	2	2	2	
149	Bear Park	Central	Senior	1	4.5	1	2.5	4.5	1.5
149	Bear Park	Central	Senior	1	4	3	4	4	1
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	West	Senior	1	4	4	6	4	2
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	Senior	1	0.5	4	2.5	0.5	1.5
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	Central	Senior	1	2	1	1	2	
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC	West	Senior	1	2	2	1	2	1

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Across the pitches which are overplayed and used for training there is a total shortfall amounting to 33.75 match equivalent sessions per week. If all the training demand (41 match equivalent sessions per week) was removed off these pitches and placed on 3G pitches this would reduce overplay to just five match equivalent sessions per week. It should be noted this would greatly benefit the clubs within the West Analysis Area including Wigan St Jude's ARLFC, Wigan Bulldogs ARLFC, Orrell St James ARLFC, Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC, Wigan St Patricks ARLFC and Shevington Sharks ARLFC. Despite there being nine 11v11 size 3G pitches in the West Analysis Area none are currently accredited as being RFL/WR compliant. In addition, most are operating close to capacity.

Creation of new provision / reinstating disused and unused provision

New provision

In addition to improving pitch quality and increasing 3G utilisation for training demand, shortfalls can be alleviated through the creation of new match pitches or dedicated training areas. All of which are on currently active or disused playing fields as outlined below.

Ashton Bears ARLFC is in the process of creating an additional senior pitch at Bear Park, which currently accommodates one senior and junior pitch. The pitch will be located to the top of the site with an additional training space next to the new pitch.

Wigan St Patricks ARLFC (Clarington Grove Playing Fields) aspires to convert a current unused area of hardstanding into a dedicated grass pitch to provide additional capacity, however, it indicates current costs to accomplish this is too prohibitive. Therefore, it would require external funding to complete this development.

Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Wigan Town FC are currently in conversations with the Council regarding reinstating provision at disused site Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field, known locally as Imperial Fields. The clubs have been successful in obtaining funding via the Home Advantage Program (FF initiative) which should see one senior rugby league pitch, one adult football pitch and three dual use junior/youth rugby league and football pitches established. Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC indicates it is waiting for the agreement to be finalised for work to commence.

Reinstating disused and unused provision

Since the previous study there have been a loss of a number of rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough. This includes one senior and one primary pitch that are disused and one senior and seven primary pitches that are no longer actively marked, primarily at Primary School sites. This does not include the senior pitch permanently lost due to the development at Leisure United William Fosters. The RFL report that this is a significant reduction in provision which has only compounded the shortfall for grass rugby league.

- ◀ Disused pitches – Leigh Road Playing Field (East Analysis Area) one senior pitch and Hemsfield Road (West Analysis Area) one primary pitch⁶.
- ◀ Unused pitches
 - ◀ Central AA – Hindley Green Community Primary School Playing Field (Three primary pitches) and one primary pitch at R L Hughes and St Luke's C of R primary schools.
 - ◀ East AA - Marsh Playing Fields (One senior pitch), Holy Family Catholic Primary School (One Primary pitch).
 - ◀ West AA - St Judes Catholic Primary School (one primary pitch).

⁶ For reference for the table below one primary pitch equates to 0.25 equivalents of a senior pitch.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The table below examines what the impact would be if all the above developments take place on the assumption that they are created to a minimum standard quality and demand is transferred off clubs' main pitches to alleviate overplay. It also examines the impact of reinstating disused and unused provision to a minimum of standard quality with secure tenure.

Table 4.21: Impact of new provision at existing sites, and reinstating disused and unused provision on the supply and demand of senior rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	1	7.5	6.5
East	3	1	2
West	-	28.75	28.75
Total	4	37.25	33.25
New provision			
Central	1	3.5	2.5
East	3	1	2
West	-	18.75	18.75
Total	4	23.25	19.25
Disused / unused			
Central	2.25	7.5	5.25
East	5.25	1	4.25
West	0.75	28.75	28
Total	8.25	37.25	29.5

As shown, the creation of new provision, could assist in reducing overplay by a total of 14 match equivalent sessions per week equating to four in the Central Analysis Area (three match equivalent sessions on a pitch and one match equivalent sessions on a training area) and ten match equivalent sessions per week in the West Analysis Area (creation of two senior and three junior pitches).

If disused and unused provision was also reinstated this could reduce the shortfall by an additional 4.25 match equivalent sessions. In the Central Analysis Area if new provision is creating and disused/unused pitches reinstated the shortfall could be fully alleviated.

It should be noted that further reduction could be made through the creation of more pitches or the reinstatement of disused pitches, however, only the above have been factored into the scenario as these are the identified as potential priority projects through the consultation process.

Ancillary provision

As well as creating capacity on the pitch there is a requirement to also ensure that current and future levels of demand can be accommodated off the pitch, more specifically regarding ancillary provision and changing rooms.

As outlined in the Assessment Report, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls', disability and junior/mini demand.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- ◆ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- ◆ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- ◆ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- ◆ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience.

Specifically in Wigan Borough, demand for the following clubs maybe affected due to the poor quality of their changing provision:

- ◆ Parsons Meadow (Wigan St Judes ARLFC).
- ◆ Wigan St Cuthberts and Norley Hall Sports Club (Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC).
- ◆ Sutton Park (Leigh Miners ARLFC).
- ◆ Cardinel Newman Playing Fields (Hindley ARLFC).

Without improvements to facilities these clubs could struggle to attract new participants and teams, particularly women and girls, and may even have issues retaining current levels of demand.

Bankes Avenue Playing Fields (Orrell St James ARLFC)

There is an ongoing development at Bankes Avenue Playing Fields regarding the creation of a link road which may result in the loss of land on the site, albeit not playing field land. However, if the development takes place there would be a need to install ball stop netting to ensure all pitches can continue to be available for competitive usage. The site is already overplayed by 9.25 match equivalent sessions per week. If only one pitch is removed for utilisation this shortfall could increase to 12.25 match equivalent sessions per week and further compound capacity issues.

Conclusion

Due to significant overplay on rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough there is no single option available to fully alleviate shortfalls. As a result, there is a need for a varied approach including grass pitch improvements, greater utilisation of 3G pitches for training, creation of new provision, reinstatement of unused and disused pitches where possible and the enhancement of accompanying ancillary facilities where needed.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect existing quantity of rugby league pitches and areas used for rugby league activity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◆ Look to improve pitch quality on all overplayed pitches to alleviate overplay.
- ◆ Explore options to reinstate disused and unused provision, where possible, to alleviate shortfalls if tenure and quality can be secured.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ✦ Support Orrell St James ARLFC with the installation of a ball stop netting around its current facilities if the development of a link road takes place at Bankes Avenue Playing Fields.
- ✦ Assist in the creation of new match pitches and training areas particularly at heavily overplayed sites such as Clarington Grove Playing Field (Wigan St Patricks ARLFC).
- ✦ Explore the feasibility of any new 11v11 size 3G pitch, particularly within the West Analysis Area, to provide World Rugby/RFL Community Standard compliancy to support RFL training demand.
- ✦ Look to transfer training demand off grass pitches to suitable 3G provision in order to alleviate shortfalls.
- ✦ Support clubs with improvements to ancillary facilities where the facilities are not currently meeting club requirements or are assessed as poor quality.
- ✦ Explore the feasibility of creating new onsite rugby league provision, as part of a hub site, to service the developments at North Leigh Park / South Hindley as identified in Part 7: Housing growth Scenarios.
- ✦ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.4: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- ✦ **In Wigan Borough, there is insufficient supply of 3G pitches (11v11 size) to meet football training demand (based on the FA training model of one 11v11 pitch accommodating 38 teams) with a shortfall of 3.75 11v11 3G pitches identified currently and an anticipated future shortfall of 4.75 11v11 3G pitches for football.**

Supply summary

- ✦ There are 14 11v11 3G pitches in Wigan Borough across 10 sites. All 14 pitches are sports lit and available for community use.
- ✦ Nine 11v11 3G pitches are in the West Analysis Area, four located in the East Analysis Area and one 11v11 3G pitch is in the Central Analysis Area.
- ✦ As well as the 11v11 3G pitches, there are also 32 smaller size outdoor 3G pitches across 18 sites in Wigan Borough. Of these, 29 pitches are available to the community and are sports lit.
- ✦ The following sites/clubs have ambitions to create 3G provision; Standish Panthers FC, Leigh RUFC, Aspull RFC, Golborne Sports & Social Club, Winstanley Warriors FC, Standish High School, Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, Hesketh Meadow, Standish Leisure Centre, Shevington High School, Hindley Leisure Project and Winstanley College Sports Centre.
- ✦ In Wigan Borough, 13 11v11 3G pitches are on The FA 3G Pitch Register of which five are FA approved and seven are FIFA approved. Additionally, six smaller size 3G pitch are on The FA 3G Pitch Register all of which are FA approved.
- ✦ In Wigan Borough, there is currently one 3G pitch which is WR compliant located at Leigh Sports Village Arena (WN7 4GY, East Analysis Area).
- ✦ Both Leigh RUFC and Aspull RFC highlight aspirations to develop a 11v11 WR compliant 3G at their respective sites with both clubs looking into funding opportunities.
- ✦ In Wigan Borough, there is currently one 3G pitch which is RFL compliant located at Sutton Park (WN7 2LZ, East Analysis Area).
- ✦ In Wigan Borough, there are seven 11v11 3G pitches assessed as good quality located at Leisure United Laithwaite Park, Lowton Church of England High School, Sutton Park and Leisure United William Fosters. Additionally, there are six 11v11 3G pitches assessed as standard quality and one assessed as poor quality located at St John Rigby College.
- ✦ In addition to above, there are nine good quality, seven standard quality and seven poor quality smaller size 3G pitches. The poor quality pitches are located at Parson Meadow, Robin Park Arena, Newbridge Learning Community and Wigan Youth Zone.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ All midweek and weekend availability are currently at capacity or close to capacity in Wigan Borough.

Demand summary

- ◀ Given there is a total of 794 football teams which originate in Wigan Borough (including 18 exported teams), there is a theoretical need for 21 11v11 3G pitches. As there are currently 17.25 pitch equivalents provided, this means that there is a potential need for 3.75 additional 11v11 3G pitches to meet all current training demand.
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional 38 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is a theoretical future shortfall of 4.75 pitches.

Scenarios

Alleviating 3G pitch shortfall in Wigan Borough

Due to the popularity of specific sports within Wigan Borough there is a need to analyse the need for 3G pitch provision based on the shortfalls for football, rugby union and rugby league together. This is because the creation of 3G pitches can assist in alleviating identified deficits for all three sports.

It should be noted that the scenarios above have explored options for each of the three sports, including the installation of sports lighting on grass pitches and the creation of new grass pitches, where relevant, to help address existing shortfalls. While these measures would partially reduce the current deficits, there remains a clear need for the provision of new 3G pitches, as outlined in this scenario.

The table below outlines the need for 3G pitches (based on football training demand) and the shortfalls for grass rugby union and rugby league pitches. In addition to the below, there are overall grass pitch shortfall across all football pitch types, particularly for youth 9v9 and youth 11v11 in the Central and West analysis areas.

Table 4.22: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Current shortfall 3G provision (FA training model)	Shortfalls on grass senior rugby union (MES)	Shortfalls on grass senior rugby league (MES)
Central	3.75		6.5
East	1.5	8	2
West	1.5	9	28.75

As seen, there are clear shortfalls within the Central and West analysis areas for 3G pitches (just for football) in addition to grass pitch shortfalls for rugby league. There are also shortfalls for rugby union in the West Analysis Area, as well as in the East.

Based on the above there is evidence to suggest a need for four 11v11 size 3G pitches to service the Central Analysis Area with one pitch needing to be suitable for rugby league demand. Additionally, if there is a shortfall of suitable locations within the Central Analysis Area options should be explored within the East and West areas for suitable strategic locations such as Howe Bridge Leisure Centre.

Regarding the West Analysis Area there is scope for the creation of three pitches based on football and rugby union shortfalls. These pitches would also be sufficient to assist in alleviating the substantial rugby league shortfalls.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Currently, there is not enough evidence to suggest the development of 3G pitch provision to solely service the East Analysis Area, however, future growth should be closely monitored (especially around the Bolton/Salford borders) as part of the Stage E process to understand if there would be a future requirement.

The below summarises the 3G aspirations from the proceeding Assessment Report.

Table 4.23: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

Site ID	Site name/alias	Comments
Central Analysis Area		
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	A football lead development (East Leigh AFC) which includes an aspiration for a 11v11 3G pitch, new pavilion and creation of additional car parking.
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	Primarily for football demand but would potentially free up capacity for hockey growth. Options could also be explored for rugby league certification, through community engagement, to service clubs within the locality of Hindley and Golborne.
N/A	Hindley Leisure Project	Potential 11v11 size 3G to link with a dual use Leisure and School development.
East Analysis Area		
33	Howe Bridge Leisure Centre	Aspirations to create a second 11v11 size 3G pitch on the site, primarily for football demand.
153	Round Ash Park	Potential to service Rugby union and Football demand.
West Analysis Area		
N/A	Standish Panthers	Potential to service Football, Rugby union and Rugby league demand. Anticipated to be privately funded.
N/A	Aspull RFC	Potential to service Rugby union and Football demand however issues identified with the sites access.
52	Shevington High School	Potential to service football, rugby union and rugby league demand.
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	Potential to service football, rugby union and rugby league demand.

Further analysis is required as part of the Stage E process to understand which of the above might be better suited for 3G pitch development including relevant feasibility and viability assessments and business plans.

Refurbishing current provision

Alternative options could be sort on how to alleviate shortfalls for rugby union and rugby league, rather than creating new provision. For example, as the pitches at St John Rigby College and St Peters Catholic High School, both of which are in the West Analysis Area, need refurbishing. These pitches could be renovated to meet the relevant specification for both rugby code with relevant community use agreements to assist in alleviating grass pitch shortfalls. Additionally, it should be noted that when the pitches at the two Leisure United hubs need refurbishment, options should be explored to make these WR / RFL compliant.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Accounting for future demand via anticipated future growth rate (5.5% growth rate to 2030)

The table below shows the total need for 3G pitches when accounting for the growth rate trend for football in Wigan to 2030. This growth rate achieves a higher participation total than when compared to the population change information which has been applied in this report.

Table 4.24: Future demand (5.5% growth rate to 2030) for 3G pitches in Wigan (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
1,037	27.28 – 27.25	17.25	10

When considering this anticipated future demand for an additional 38 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for 27.25 full size pitches overall (rounded up from 27.25), which means a theoretical future shortfall of 10 pitches.

Moving football mini match play demand to 3G pitches

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities and providers within local authorities to understand the potential demand for 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitches to cater for different formats of match play.

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

Table 4.25: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

Of the 794 teams which originate in Wigan Borough, if all 162 teams playing 7v7 football and 124 teams playing 5v5 football, based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 15.5 11v11 size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand.

Therefore, with 14 11v11 size pitches in Wigan Borough, this scenario cannot currently be achieved with a need for an additional 1.5 pitches.

World Rugby compliant/RFL Community Standard 3G pitches

WR produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. Additionally, pitches of this nature can be tested to support rugby league activity.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

RFU

The RFU generally support the development of 3G pitches which support rugby union where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

In Wigan Borough, there is currently one 3G pitch which is World Rugby compliant located at Leigh Sports Village Arena (WN7 4GY, East Analysis Area). The pitch at Sutton Park was also previously accredited, however, this has now expired.

There is a current shortfall of 17 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand. This equates to a shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions in the East Analysis Area and nine matches equivalent sessions in the West Analysis Area. It's likely that an additional 3G pitch will be required to help alleviate these shortfalls and with both Aspull RFC and Leigh RUFC expressing aspirations to create a full-size pitch. There is evidence that there is a need specifically within the West Analysis Area, however, further research is required to understand the strategic need for one within the East Analysis Area. There is no identified need for such provision within the Central Analysis Area.

RFL

3G pitches for rugby league are classed as either RFL Community or RFL Stadium. RFL Community is suitable for Tiers 4-6 and training. If used for competitive games they should be tested every two years, and if it is used for training only then every three years. RFL Stadium pitches are considered suitable for match play use in Tiers 1-3 and should be retested annually if used for competitive games. More information can be found in Section five here [Materials Science Consultants Ltd.](#)

The WR22 test complies with the RFL Community element of this, but the frequency of retest is different should the 3G be used for competitive rugby league. The RFL Stadium criteria requires an additional test.

There are currently two World Rugby/RFL Community Standard compliant 3G pitches in Wigan Borough (Leigh Sports Village Arena and Sutton Park) both of which are in the East Analysis Area.

There is currently a shortfall of 3G pitches within Wigan Borough (for football training training) and more specifically a shortfall is identified in the West and Central analysis areas with no additional pitches required in the East Analysis Area. As seen above, quality improvements alone will not address all the current shortfalls on rugby league pitches, as such there is a need for additional pitch provision to accommodate demand.

In meeting the shortfalls for football, it should also be explored to see whether provision of a new 11v11 size 3G pitch, could support rugby league through World Rugby/RFL Community Standard compliancy to enable contact rugby league training to take place on the pitch.

All responding clubs, apart from Leigh East ARLFC, indicate a need for additional training provision with Hindley, Orrell St James, Wigan Spring View, Golborne Parkside, Wigan St Cuthberts, Shevington Sharks and Wigan St Jude's rugby league clubs specifically referencing a need for more affordable and accessible 3G provision.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Standish Panthers FC is currently in the progress of exploring options to develop a site within the locality of Standish in order to centralise its demand, increase levels of participation and provide an additional capacity for wider community clubs and groups in the locality. The Club is in discussions with various clubs including Shevington Sharks ARLFC to understand their aspirations for artificial training provision.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches in the Borough to cater for demand, specifically the Central and West analysis areas.
- ◀ Work with partners such as the FA, FF, RFL, RFU, Sport England and other NGBs as applicable to identify the most suitable locations to build new 3G pitches to alleviate known shortfalls using the findings from the PPOSS.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of any new 11v11 size 3G pitch to provide World Rugby/RFL Community Standard compliancy to support both RFL and RFU training demand.
- ◀ Aim that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place through engagement with operators of pitches and the Council with assistance provided by relevant NGBs as required.
- ◀ Aim that all 11v11 and small size pitches of substantial area are on the FA register where they meet criteria and are re-tested when required to sustain certification, through engagement with operators of pitches not currently registered and when existing certification is nearing expiry.
- ◀ Ensure that all current and future providers have in place a pitch replacement fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Aim that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA quality performance standards.
- ◀ Engage with 3G providers to replace halogen sports lighting to LED systems to improve energy efficiency, reduce costs and reduce light spill.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for multi-sport use and cross sport compliancy of 3G pitches where new are required / in need of refurbishment to help meet shortfalls for rugby league, rugby union and other pitch sports where present.

4.5: Cricket pitches

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a Borough wide level across all peak times.
- When accounting for future demand for senior and junior cricket in Wigan Borough shortfalls are exacerbated further for Saturday and Midweek cricket.

Supply summary

- In total, there are 14 grass wicket cricket squares in Wigan Borough, provided across 14 sites, of which all are available for community use.
- Exactly half of the provision is in the West Analysis Area (seven square or 50%), followed by the East Analysis Area with four squares (29%) and the Central Analysis Area with only 21% or three squares.
- The site known Westleigh Methodists Cricket Club, which previously accommodated a 14-wicket grass square, is considered disused. The site was classified as unused in the 2017 study due to quality issues with the square. Anecdotal evidence indicates the square has not been brought back into use since the previous study with the users, Westleigh Methodists CC, folding shortly afterwards.
- There are 11 non turf pitches (NTPs) in Wigan Borough. Five accompany existing squares at club sites, with all others being standalone NTPs.
- Within Wigan Borough all but one club, Winstanley Park CC, is considered to have security of tenure. The Club, despite negotiating a new lease, is considered to have unsecure tenure as there is a break clause in situ which allows the landowner to remove the Club from the site with only two years notice.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Wigan Borough found nine (64%) to be good quality and five (36%) to be of standard quality. There are no poor quality squares within the Authority.
- The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Wigan Borough determines that eight squares (57%) are accompanied by good quality provision, four squares (29%) are accompanied by standard quality provision, and two squares (14%) have poor quality supporting ancillary provision located at Standish Cricket Club and Higham Park.
- The audit of training facilities in Wigan Borough three to be poor quality, 10 to be standard quality and two to be of poor quality.

Demand summary

- In Wigan Borough, there are 14 clubs generating a total of 106 teams broken down as 41 senior men's, five senior women's, 57 junior boys' and three junior girls' teams.
- Most demand (57 teams or 53%) is in the West Analysis Area, followed by the East Analysis Area (32 teams or 31%). The least amount of demand is in the Central Analysis Area with just 17 teams (16%) from the three clubs of Hindley St Peters CC (two teams), Golborne CC (seven teams) and Spring View CC (eight teams).
- In Wigan Borough, there are five women, and three junior girls' dedicated teams provided across six clubs. These clubs are Atherton, Leigh, Spring View, Wigan and Winstanley Park cricket clubs. With this being said many of the remaining clubs do have some level of girls participating within their junior teams, although specific numbers were not provided.
- There are four additional teams expected to be generated by population growth alone for Wigan Borough generating demand for 36 match sessions per season. This equates to one men's and one boys' team each in the West and East analysis area.
- Of the responding clubs in Wigan Borough, seven quantified its aspirations to increase levels of participation. This equates to a total predicted growth of two senior men's, six senior women's, five junior boys' and three junior girls' team.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

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

In Wigan Borough, overplay is identified on eight squares at eight sites. The scenario below looks at the impacts of quality improvements as a solution to reducing or alleviating overplay. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play. No squares are rated as poor in Wigan Borough.

PitchPower (a technical assessment of quality) for cricket began to be used in 2024 with the initial reports being produced towards the end of the season. In Wigan Borough, five cricket sites have received a PitchPower assessment. It should be noted that more assessments are planned to be carried out, therefore, there is a need to review quality as part of the Stage E process.

Of the overplayed squares, five are assessed as standard quality, which means the position will improve. The impact of improving quality to good, where each wicket has a theoretical capacity of five match equivalent sessions per season is considered in the table below.

Table 4.26: Impact on overplay if all overplayed squares were improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (matches per season)	Potential position (matches per season)
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	Astley & Tyldesley CC	1	Standard	10	16	6
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Golborne CC	1	Standard	12	4	8
80	Higham Park	Atherton CC	1	Standard	14	8	6
87	Standish Cricket Club	Standish CC	1	Standard	13	11	2
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	Westleigh CC	1	Good	8	13	13
90	Wigan Sports Club	Wigan CC	1	Good	12	10	10
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	Winstanley Park CC	1	Good	12	12	12
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Spring View CC	1	Standard	12	8	4

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As seen in the table above, overplay would be alleviated at Golborne Sports and Social Club, Higham Park, Standish Cricket Club and Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club if improved to good quality. As the remaining sites are already at the highest level of quality then no additional capacity can be established through pitch improvements. As a result, alternative methods should be examined to alleviate shortfalls.

Cricket squares can be accompanied by non-turf pitches (NTPs), made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on natural turf wickets (grass wickets). By the nature of its design, an NTP can accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares.

The squares located at Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute, Westleigh Cricket Club and Wigan Sports Club are not serviced by an NTP, and all could theoretically benefit from such provision as a way of reducing identified overplay. It should be noted that that qualitative improvements would also still be required at Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute as well as the installation of a NTP to alleviate all shortfalls.

Winstanley Park Cricket Club has an accompanying NTP provided, meaning it should look to increase the use of its existing NTP for junior teams as to reduce overplay.

The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance⁷ on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets. Typically, however, play would be more suited to junior teams as senior leagues typically stipulate the use of natural turf wickets.

Accommodating future demand

In Wigan Borough, 11 clubs expressed aspirations to increase teams at specific ages. As seen in the table below.

Table 4.27: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Astley & Tyldesley CC	East	1	1	-	1
Golborne CC	Central	-	-	1	-
Goose Green CC	West	-	-	1	-
Norley Hall CC	West	-	1	1	-
Orrell Red Triangle CC	West	-	1	-	1
Spring View CC	Central	-	-	-	1
Standish CC	West	1	1	1	-
Westleigh CC	East	-	-	1	-
Wigan CC	West	-	1	-	1
Winstanley Park CC	West	-	1	-	-
-	Total	2	6	5	3

For reference, and as identified in the Assessment Report, the average number of matches for senior men's cricket (Saturday) is 12 match equivalent sessions per season, for senior women's cricket (Sunday) it is eight match equivalent sessions per season and for junior cricket (Midweek) it is six match equivalent sessions per season.

⁷ <http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-ts6-final-328.pdf>

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Only future demand reported by Norley Hall CC and Goose Green CC can be accommodated as both their home grounds, Norley Hall Cricket Club and Goose Green Cricket Club respectively have spare capacity at the relevant peak times.

As seen in the previous scenario, if the quality is improved at Golborne Sports & Social Club this would create enough capacity to accommodate its future demand aspirations of an additional junior team, as well as alleviating overplay.

Highfield Cricket Club (West Analysis Area) has spare capacity to accommodate one team on a Sunday and one team midweek. Based on its location and accessibility, realistically this could be used by any of the clubs also located in the West Analysis Area (such as Orrell Red Triangle CC, Wigan CC or Winstanley Park CC) that do not have capacity at their home sites for additional demand.

In comparison, High St Peters Cricket Club (Central Analysis Area) has spare capacity to accommodate one team on a Sunday and six teams midweek, up to the capacity of 37 match equivalent sessions per season. Due to its more centralised location the site could potentially accommodate demand from any of the three surrounding analysis areas.

Even if all spare capacity is utilised across Wigan Borough there would be a shortfall of capacity to cater for all club aspirational demand particularly for women and girls. This is further compounded with the need to improve most of the ancillary provision at cricket sites in the Authority to better accommodate this demographic including such things as individual showering cubicles and segregated changing rooms.

As only five club sites have a NTP (Higham Park (Atherton CC), Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club, Standish Cricket Club, Westleigh Cricket Club, Winstanley Park Cricket Club) a potential option to increase capacity for future growth would be to install a NTP, particularly for junior demand. This could assist in providing additional capacity at Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute and Wigan Sports Club.

Further to the above, there is no capacity at all for additional senior men's cricket (Saturdays) in Wigan Borough. The only options for growth, further to those listed above, would be reinstating disused provision at Westleigh Methodists Cricket Club (East Analysis Area) or the creation of entirely new provision. Further investigation is required to understand the feasibility of creating new provision and whether or not there is/will be enough demand to sustain its longevity.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ✦ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard quality and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good through partnership working with LCF particularly at Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute, Golborne Sports And Social Club, Higham Park, Standish Cricket Club and Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club.
- ✦ Install additional NTPs to accompany grass wicket squares (where space allows), particularly at Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute and Wigan Sports Club.
- ✦ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place, particularly those engaging in lease renewals.
- ✦ Improve the changing and ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so, especially to cater for women & girls demand.
- ✦ Explore the feasibility of reinstating disused provision or creating new provision to assist in alleviating overplay and creating future capacity for growth in Wigan Borough.
- ✦ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities to support the growth of demand especially women & girls.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ✦ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ✦ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.6: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Assessment Report summary

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- ✦ Overall, it is determined that current provision can accommodate 13 senior teams on a Saturday, even with the pitch at Standish Community High School discounted due to poor quality. The pitches at The Deanery C of E High School and Golborne Sports & Social Club therefore need protecting long term as hockey suitable surfaces.
- ✦ When considering future demand there may be a need to utilise the pitch at Standish Community High School as there is limited capacity available at the other two sites.

Hockey – supply summary

- ✦ The number of full-size AGPs has not changed since 2017 with there still being three with one in the Central Analysis Area (Golborne Sports and Social Club) and two in the West Analysis Area, with one each at Standish Community High School and The Deanery C of E High School.
- ✦ The quantity of small size pitches has reduced significantly with a total of seven having been converted to 3G since the previous study in 2017. This results in six small size AGPs all being located at educational sites.
- ✦ Standish Community High School currently provides a poor quality AGP with the School stating aspiration to convert the surface to 3G with relevant provision to make suitable for rugby usage (shock pad). It should be noted this pitch is currently used by Leigh HC.
- ✦ Referenced within the previous study (2017), there are still aspirations to convert one of the grass football pitches to a 11v11 size 3G pitch at Golborne Sports & Social Club. Additionally, Wigan HC has an aspiration to refurbish the pitch at The Deanery C of E High School within the next five years as the playing surface is reaching the end of its recommended lifespan.
- ✦ Tenure of sites in Wigan Borough is generally secure with all, but Leigh HC (Standish Community High School) considered to have security of tenure.
- ✦ Of the full-size hockey suitable pitches in Wigan Borough, two are assessed as standard quality and one as poor quality located at Standish Community High School.
- ✦ Wigan HC report the changing rooms it utilises at the Deanery C of E High School are standard quality with no immediate issues.
- ✦ Golborne & Prescott HC indicate changing rooms at Golborne Sports & Social Club are poor quality as they are not suitable for demand on the site or to meet the requirements for women and girls. The Club state improving the provision requires substantial work and it needs to obtain relevant funding to complete the project.

Hockey – demand summary

- ✦ Across Wigan Borough there is a total of 34 dedicated hockey teams across the three community clubs with the most prominent being senior men's teams with 10, followed by senior women's and six each for junior boys, junior girls and four dedicated mini teams. The senior team numbers include veteran and U21 teams.
- ✦ There has been a significant level of growth in hockey demand across Wigan Borough since the 2017 study. This is mainly due to the merger of Golborne and Prescott hockey clubs to create Golborne & Prescott HC, which has led the newly formed club to have a total of 13 teams compared to six in the original PPS.
- ✦ Neither Wigan HC nor Golborne & Prescott HC indicate dedicated plans to increase teams, with their main goal to sustain current levels of demand.
- ✦ Golborne & Prescott HC currently exports demand (one senior team) to the hockey suitable AGP at Sutton Leisure Centre (St Helens) as on an overspill venue, however, it primarily uses the provision at Golborne Sports & Social Club.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Golborne & Prescott HC is the only club in Wigan Borough to report of latent demand. The Club report that if it had access to more time on its pitch, particularly for training.

Scenarios

Meeting demand for hockey suitable AGPs

The PPS Guidance suggests that a pitch with sports lighting can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday. With teams playing on a home and away format, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are currently three full size hockey suitable pitches in Wigan Borough, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 24 senior teams at peak time across the Authority. However, the provision at Standish Community High School is discounted resulting in an actual capacity of just 16 teams. The pitch is extremely poor quality with some fixtures postponed particularly in periods of bad weather.

Table 4.28: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for peak time match play (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity in teams	Actual capacity in teams	Number of hockey teams using the provision at peak time	Capacity balance
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	Central	1	8	8	8 ⁸	
67	Standish Community High School	West	1	8	-	1	1
162	The Deanery C of E High School	West	1	8	8	4	4
-	-	Total	3	24	16	13	3

Based on the above, there is a clear need to protect the pitches at both Golborne Sports and Social Club and The Deanery C of E High School to accommodate current levels of hockey demand across Wigan Borough. As there is spare capacity at The Deanery C of E High School, Leigh HC could relocate to the site if Standish Community High School becomes unusable (its current home ground) due to its quality, in addition to potentially returning the exported team from Golborne & Prescott HC, St Helens.

With the above being said, it is still strategically recommended to protect the pitch at Standish Community High School as a hockey suitable surface long term. This is due to the pitch still being actively used by Leigh HC for competitive demand. Also protecting the pitch would provide additional capacity for the future growth of hockey in Wigan Borough as well as offering as a strategic replacement pitch if any issues arose with the other two pitches. Therefore, it is recommended that the pitch at Standish Community High School is refurbished as soon as possible to better accommodate curriculum, extracurricular and community demand. Options for the exact surface type should be explored as long as hockey demand can take place.

⁸ It should be noted that the Club has nine senior teams and currently exports demand (one senior team) Sutton Leisure Centre (St Helens) to accommodate its overspill demand.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect the AGPs at Golborne Sports and Social Club (Golborne & Prescot HC) and The Deanery C of E High School (Wigan HC) continued hockey use.
- ◆ Look to refurbish both pitches with suitable hockey surfaces when required based on their age, accessibility and quality.
- ◆ Look to protect and refurbish the pitch at Standish Community High School as a hockey suitable surface long term to accommodate current demand from Leigh HC, the return of exported demand and potential future growth for the sport in Wigan.
- ◆ If a 3G is created at Golborne Sports and Social Club look to transfer football demand off the hockey suitable AGP in order to create capacity for growth.
- ◆ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.7: Tennis courts

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- ◆ **For club-based tennis, where known through consultation, both Winstanley Tennis Club and Tyldesley Tennis Club has sufficient capacity to facilitate club demand both now and in the future. It should be noted further investigation needs to be carried out with the two outstanding clubs to further understand any capacity issues.**
- ◆ **Away from clubs, although no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving the supply in ways that can meet unmet and latent demand identified.**

Supply summary

- ◆ There are 66 tennis courts identified in the Borough across 15 sites. Of these, 49 courts are available for community use.
- ◆ The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the West Analysis Area, with 26 courts in total. In contrast, the Central Analysis Areas offer the least amount of tennis courts with 16 courts.
- ◆ All tennis courts identified as being unavailable for community use are located at school sites.
- ◆ Most tennis courts are either operated by sports clubs or the Council. There are 17 (25%) tennis courts which are managed by education providers which are all unavailable for community use.
- ◆ Most outdoor tennis courts in the Wigan Borough have a macadam surface, with 47 being of this type and 34 of these being available for community use.
- ◆ In the Wigan Borough, 30 of the community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 46% of the provision.
- ◆ Of the courts in Wigan Borough, 37 (55%) are assessed as good quality, 14 (21%) as standard quality and 16 (24%) as poor quality. Of the good quality tennis courts, all 37 are available for community use.
- ◆ Of the responding clubs, ancillary facilities servicing Winstanley Tennis Club are serviced with good quality facilities with Tyldesley Tennis Club report to be provided with standard quality ancillary facilities.

Demand summary

- ◆ There are four tennis clubs in the Wigan Borough.
- ◆ Of the two clubs in the Wigan Borough which responded to consultation, Tyldesley Tennis Club and Winstanley Tennis Club there is a total of 246 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 198 senior and 48 junior members.
- ◆ In the Wigan Borough, Tyldesley Tennis Club report that demand has increased over recent years. Conversely, Winstanley Tennis Club report that demand has decreased over recent years due to the recent cost of living crisis.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- Three clubs in the Wigan Borough; Bellingham Tennis Club, Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club and Winstanley Tennis Club use ClubSpark with Tyldesley Tennis Club not currently using ClubSpark.
- Sport England's Segmentation tool identifies latent demand of 5,521 people within Wigan Borough, which represents approximately 1.6% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 1.7%.
- Of the responding clubs, only Tyldesley Tennis Club plans to increase membership by 25 seniors and 20 junior members.

Scenarios

Improving the recreational tennis offer

Increasing recreational tennis demand is currently a priority for the LTA, with twice as many people playing casually rather than at clubs. To enable this, it has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

In the Wigan Borough, Pennington Hall Park (East Analysis Area) has recently been improved as part of the LTA Parks Investment Strategy, including repainting four courts, new nets and posts and gate access technology. Additionally, the tennis courts located at Mesnes Park (West Analysis Area) are identified for potential improvement.

Although not currently identified for improvement, options should be explored to invest in provision at Jubilee Park as this is situated within the Central Analysis Area. If these courts are improved, in addition the aforementioned Mesnes Park this would result in each analysis area having good quality community available courts not in a club environment.

It should be noted that the courts at Jubilee Park and Morley Street are going to be overmarked with Pickleball in order to meet growing demand.

Padel

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, whereas there were 350 at the end of 2023 and 129,000 identified participants, with this illustrating significant growth. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will continue to increase substantially in the next five years, with the LTA identifying an aim to grow the number of courts to 1,000 and the number of players to 400,000.

There are currently no padel tennis courts in Wigan Borough, however, there are plans in progress to develop provision.

Planning has recently (May 2025) been approved to create six courts at Fives Wigan. These will be from the conversion of two small size 3G pitch and managed commercially.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Likewise in June 2025 planning was approved (A/25/098536/FULL), with conditions, for the construction of three courts with associated means of enclosure and sports lighting. These do not affect any playing field provision as the development is located on an industrial estate (Eckersley Mill, Swan Road).

Finally, a recent application (A/25/099122/FULL) has been submitted in August 2025 for the development of four courts with canopy roofs and sports lighting on shrub land adjacent to Crilly Park.

Additionally, there are aspirations to create provision at Wigan Sports Club (managed by the sports club), Robin Park Leisure Centre (managed by Be Well Wigan), and near Wigan Athletics' Training Ground with the latter being a private development.

It's currently unknown how many courts will be located at Robin Park Leisure Centre and near Wigan Athletics' Training Ground. It should be noted that these four sites are all located in the West Analysis Area and approximately 15-minute drive time from each other. With the need for 25 courts identified within Wigan Borough, the LTA does not foresee this to be problematic.

If all the current applications are completed this would see the creation of 13 courts meaning there would still be a shortfall of 12 in the Wigan Borough.

As a result, developments at Robin Park Leisure Centre should also take place in order offer potential users a variety of accessibility options as long as they do not impede the accessibility or utilisation of other sporting provision. These courts would be managed by the Council whereas the former at Fives Wigan would be commercially controlled.

As there is limited knowledge surrounding the proposed private development near Wigan Athletics Training Ground it is not advised that this moves forward before more precise detail emerge as it could potentially affect the viability of those developments referenced above.

More information is also required surrounding plans at Wigan Sports Club as it is understood that courts should not be created to the detriment of cricket.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ✦ After investment into Pennington Hall Park, explore options to invest in community accessible tennis courts at Mesnes Park and Jubilee Park in order to provide suitable provision accessible provision in each Analysis Area in Wigan Borough.
- ✦ Look to understand membership information at both Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club and Leigh Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club to identify any capacity issues.
- ✦ Support the development of Padel courts within Wigan Borough, as long as they do not impede on other sporting provision.
- ✦ Linked to the above, improve the park courts highlighted as part of the LTA Parks Investment Strategy as a priority to create a year-round recreational tennis option to meet local demand.
- ✦ Ensure Pickleball demand is met appropriately.
- ✦ Aim to put sinking funds in place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ✦ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.8: Bowls

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- ▶ **Four clubs within Wigan Borough (Butts Park BC, Spring View Bowling Club, St Matthews, Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club, Trinity and Highfield Gardens Pensioners) are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.**
- ▶ **Overall, future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens.**

Supply summary

- ▶ There are 59 crown bowling greens identified in Wigan Borough across 50 sites, all of which, are available for community use. Most of this provision is in the West Analysis Area (26 greens).
- ▶ It should be noted that since the previous study nine crown bowling sites are now disused located at Great Acre (Whelley), Coronation Park, Dootson Park, Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Social Club, Mesnes Park, Holt Arms Crown Green Bowls Club, Pools Street, Pemberton Central Working Men's Club and Whelley Labour Club.
- ▶ In Wigan Borough, a total of 23 greens (39%) are assessed as good quality, 24 greens (41%) as standard quality with the remaining 12 being poor quality (20%).
- ▶ Furthermore, in Wigan Borough, 22 (47%) sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, with 19 (40%) sites having standard quality facilities and six (13%) sites having poor quality facilities.
- ▶ In Wigan Borough, 31 greens across 29 sites are serviced by sports lighting.

Demand summary

- ▶ There are 26 bowling clubs identified as playing in Wigan Borough although only 13 have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals 475, resulting in an average of 37 members.
- ▶ The largest club according to known membership in Wigan Borough is currently Spring View Bowling Club, with 78 members.
- ▶ Of responding clubs in the Wigan Borough, nine clubs (Alexandra Park St Jude's, Trinity BC, Atherton Park, Butt Park BC, St James BC, St Matthews BC, St Thomas BC, Highfield Gardens Pensioners and Spring View BC) highlight plans to increase membership, however, only six clubs quantify an amount equating to 39 members collectively.

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

British Crown Green Bowling Association does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green operating with a membership of close to or over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. Of the responding clubs, four are currently operating above this threshold in Wigan Borough, as follows:

- ▶ Butts Park BC (Butts Park Bowling Club).
- ▶ St Matthews BC (Highfield Cricket Club).
- ▶ Hindley Platt Lane BC Hindley Community Sports and Social Club).
- ▶ Spring View BC (Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club).

Of the clubs listed above, currently no capacity issues are highlighted in addition to no quality issues identified.

Conversely, both Trinity BC and Highfield Gardens Pensioners BC (both at Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club) are operating below the recommended threshold to be suitable and therefore need to be monitored to ensure the long-term survival of the clubs.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect existing quantity of currently used greens and, as a minimum, sustain quality.
- ◆ Look to improve all utilised poor quality greens to a minimum standard quality.
- ◆ Ensure that any proposed development of currently used greens is in line with NPPF and local planning policy.
- ◆ Assist clubs, where possible, with any future ancillary provision improvements.
- ◆ Monitor capacity levels of highly supported clubs such as Butts Park BC, St Matthews BC, Hindley Platt Lane BC and Spring View BC to ensure they have sufficient capacity.
- ◆ Monitor capacity levels of low supported clubs such as Trinity BC and Highfield Gardens Pensioners BC to ensure the provision is sustainable.
- ◆ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◆ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.
- ◆ Update the documentation as part of the Stage E process with any new information provided by the relevant bowls NGB.

4.9: Netball

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- ◆ **In summary, there is a need to protect the current number of outdoor netball courts within Wigan Borough in order to sustain current levels of demand. There is also a need to improve the quality of courts in order to accommodate additional demand. Additionally, exploration should be given to opening up unavailable sites for community use.**

Supply summary

- ◆ There are 31 netball courts identified across 11 sites in Wigan Borough.
- ◆ Of these, 19 courts at five sites are available for community use.
- ◆ The West Analysis Area provides the largest number of courts, with 15. The East Analysis Area provides the least number of courts with just four courts.
- ◆ Most courts are operated by schools, with 25 of the 32 courts falling under this management type. The remaining six courts are located at Council sites.
- ◆ The majority of outdoor netball courts in Wigan Borough have a macadam surface, with all 27 being of this type and 15 of these being available for community use. The remaining four have an artificial surface.
- ◆ In Wigan Borough, 18 netball courts (59%) are over marked. The only standalone courts are located at Dean Trust Wigan (West Analysis Area), Golborne High School (Central Analysis Area) and Outwood Academy Hindley (Central Analysis Area).
- ◆ Only six netball courts (22%) are serviced by sports lighting with all seven being available for community use located at Ashton Leisure Centre and Robin Park Leisure Centre.
- ◆ Of the courts in Wigan Borough, four (15%) are assessed as good quality, 12 (38%) as standard quality and 15 (47%) as poor quality. Of the good quality courts, all four are available for community use.

Demand summary

- ◆ Diamond Netball Club, Lions Netball and Tyldesley are the key netball clubs in Wigan Borough utilising both indoor and outdoor courts located at Robin Park Leisure Centre.
- ◆ There is a Wigan Back to Netball league which is currently hosted indoors at Leigh Leisure Centre, with fixtures being played once a month.
- ◆ Walking Netball Sessions are held every Tuesday 11am until 12pm at Robin Park Leisure Centre and every Thursday 11am until 12pm at Leigh Leisure Centre.
- ◆ There is a Netball Now session held every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 7pm until 8pm in Wigan Borough located at both Robin Park Leisure Centre and Standish Leisure Centre using both indoor and outdoor courts.

Scenarios

Improving court quality

As mentioned in the preceding Assessment Report a substantial number of netball courts in Wigan Borough are rated as poor quality. This represents 15 court or nearly half of all provision (47%). The poor quality courts are located at Dean Trust Wigan, Golborne High School, Hawkley Hall High School, Meadowbank Primary School And Nursery Education Centre, The Westleigh School and Outwood Academy Hindley. Problems recorded during site assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss and worn line markings, with maintenance also considered to be basic.

It should be noted that nine of the 15 poor quality courts are not available for community use with many of the providers stating that they are unavailable due to their quality and/or lack of demand to use the provision (again due to perceived quality). There is a risk that if the currently available courts remain poor quality, or even worsen, may become unusable.

Therefore, it is recommended that all poor quality courts are improved with attempts made to create community access at those sites which are unavailable once enhancements have been carried out.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect existing courts in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◆ Secure community use at sites that are currently in use or that could be used in the future.
- ◆ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs and for England Netball initiatives.
- ◆ Consider establishing additional sports lighting at venues in use for netball or at venues that could attract netball demand following installation.
- ◆ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.10: Athletics

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- ◆ In Wigan Borough, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, as the two community track and field club currently based in the Authority, (Leigh Harriers AC and Wigan Harriers AC) totalling 794 members, is above the recommended membership figure.
- ◆ All other clubs are primarily road running clubs that do not access the track facilities.

Supply summary

- ◆ There are two formal athletics track in Wigan Borough located at Robin Park Arena and Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium, of which both are eight lane, synthetic 400 metre tracks.
- ◆ Both tracks are provided with sports lighting to support activities on both the track and infield and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a throws cage (hammer, discus & club), javelin, high jump, long/triple jump and shot put area.
- ◆ Additionally, there is an indoor athletics facility (60m sprint straight with jumps and throws) located at Robin Park Area and covered 110 metre straight at Leigh Sports Village.

Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium

- ◆ The track at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium is owned by the Council and managed by Leigh Harriers AC.
- ◆ The non-technical assessment undertaken in July 2024 by KKP identifies the track and accompanying track and field facilities at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium as good quality with good quality accompanying ancillary facility.

Robin Park Arena

- ◆ The athletics track at Robin Park Arena is owned by the Council and managed by Wigan Warriors.
- ◆ The athletics track located at Robin Park Arena failed its TrackMark inspection on the 22.04.25 and is no longer accredited for track events and therefore cannot host licensed competitions until such a time as necessary track repairs or a track resurface are carried out. As per the independent inspection report, the track is now near to reaching end of life and will require a full resurface by 2028.
- ◆ There are good quality ancillary facilities at the site.

Demand summary

- ◆ Three clubs have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Wigan Borough.
- ◆ Leigh Harriers AC and Wigan Harriers AC are the only track and field Club in Wigan Borough using Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium and Robin Park Arena.
- ◆ There are two ParkRuns located at Haigh Country Park and Pennington Flash Country Park. Furthermore, there is one junior ParkRuns located at Leigh Sports Village which is held every Sunday at 9am.
- ◆ Both Leigh Harriers AC and Wigan Harriers AC report to be operating a waiting list which currently includes 56 potential new members collectively due to the lack of volunteers.
- ◆ Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 6,626 people in Wigan Borough, which represents approximately 2% of the Borough's population with aligns with the national average of 2%.
- ◆ Wigan Harriers AC highlights plan to increase number of members by 35 senior male, 30 senior female and 40 junior members. additionally, Leigh Harriers AC reports an aspiration in increase the number of members, however, does not quantify the amount.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenarios

Improving track quality at Robin Park Arena

It is considered that for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of circa 200 is required. This is based on figures and consultation provided by England Athletics. Wigan Harriers AC, that currently use the track at Robin Park Arena, has 511 members which is significantly over the recommended figure.

If the track fell out of use due to its poor quality the Club would not have sufficient supply to meet its demand. The other track in Wigan Borough, Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium, is also over its recommended figure (283 members) meaning it would struggle to accommodate all of Wigan Harriers AC. This would either result in the decrease in participation or exporting demand to a neighbouring authority.

As a result, the priority is to refurbish the track at Robin Park Arena and to regain its TrackMark Accreditation to ensure the long term athletics demand in Wigan Borough.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect existing indoor and outdoor facilities.
- ◆ As a priority resurface the track at Robin Park Arena before 2028 and once refurbished look to regain its TrackMark accreditation lead by the Council and Wigan Warriors.
- ◆ Ensure the track at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium remains TrackMark accredited.
- ◆ Look to protect the good quality track at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium.
- ◆ Continue to increase participation within affiliated clubs and the wider running market, building on the success of Parkrun and looking to increase other initiatives not currently operating in Wigan Borough.
- ◆ Consider the need to include ActiveTracks (walk/jog/run/cycle loops) within parks and open spaces or as part of future housing developments.
- ◆ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.11: Golf courses

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- With eight golfing sites in Wigan Borough and a mix of 18-hole courses, 9-hole courses, Par 3 courses and two driving ranges, the Authority is well placed to meet demand.

Supply summary

- There are currently eight golf sites in Wigan Borough.
- Across Wigan Borough, there are four standard 18-hole courses and one standard 9-hole courses across five sites.
- There are two driving ranges located in Wigan Borough, Astley Golf Driving Range and The Sycamores Golf Centre collectively providing 47 dedicated driving range bays.
- Quality of the golf facilities in Wigan Borough is relatively good, with no significant issues identified.

Demand summary

- In Wigan Borough, there are eight golfing sites, Astley Golf Driving Range, Haigh Hall Golf Course, The Sycamores Golf Centre, Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club, Hindley Park Golf Club, Pennington Golf Course and Porters Wood Golf Course.
- Of the eight golfing sites in Wigan Borough, three operate as members clubs, three are proprietary sites and two are municipal golf courses.
- England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1,071. In Wigan, average membership fees, where known, are below this national average at £856. One of the main reasons for this is the low membership fees at Haigh Hall Golf Course (municipal course).
- The most expensive membership offerings are identified at Haydock Park Golf Club; whereby full membership fee amounts to £1,227 with an additional £500 joining (which can be spread over five years). In comparison, the lowest full membership fee is identified at Haigh Hall golf Course, amounting to just £100, which accounts for it being a municipal course.
- Green fees in Wigan for Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club and Hindley Park Golf Club are broadly similar ranging from £25 to £40 midweek and £30 to £50 at the weekend. The two cheaper offers are the municipal course, Haigh Hall Golf Course and Pennington Gold Course (9-hole course) which are £15 and £6.50 midweek and £7.50 and £30 weekend, respectively.
- England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 407, which is based on a central national handicap platform. In Wigan Borough, the average across the clubs that operate a membership is currently 399 and therefore just below national average.
- There is a notable spike in membership from 2018 to 2022/23 which anecdotally can linked to the Covid 19 Pandemic, as the sport was one of first to become accessible whilst in periods of social distancing. The figures have decreased by 8% since 2023 however they are still just below the national average.
- Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 3,574 people within Wigan Borough.
- In Wigan Borough, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth, with membership clubs such as Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club and Hindley Park Golf Club likely to be more satisfied with current usage levels in comparison Haigh Hall Golf Club which requires higher usage due to lower membership costs.

Scenarios

Pennington Golf Course

Since the collation of the Assessment Report data the Council indicates consultation has recently begun on the standard 9-hole course at Pennington Golf Course (Municipal). Initial options are to either improve irrigation and future proof against issues such as climate change, or, to create a smaller family oriented golf offer and develop the remainder of the course into a wetland education centre.

Although England Golf are open to discuss alternative model options for golf sites it should be clearly noted that some form of golfing provision would need to remain on the site. As a result, it is recommended that if the project is to move forward a feasibility study should be undertaken to explore options for Pennington Golf Course with engagement with England Golf and relevant stakeholders.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all sites currently used for continued golf activity in line with national (i.e. the NPPF) and local planning policy. This should also involve Sport England as a non-statutory consultee.
- ◀ Monitor discussions regarding the future of Pennington Golf Course and look to carry out relevant feasibility with engagement with England Golf before any alterations.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and support improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing golf sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).
- ◀ Explore options to improve the mix of facilities in the Borough and offer more entry level style facilities for those who are new to the game, placing particular focus on driving ranges and shorter length courses.
- ◀ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.12: Other Sports / Archery

Assessment Report summary

Archery supply and demand summary

- Archery within Wigan Borough is well catered for when it comes to both indoor and outdoor venues. However, there is a need to ensure continued use of sites through securing tenure for clubs.

Supply summary

- Wigan and Orrell Archers utilise two outdoor facilities in the Summer located at Wigan RUFC and Brunswick Bowling Club in Hindley Green. Additionally, it uses Standish Community High School as a shooting venue in the Winter.
- It should be noted that the Club currently has no lease agreement in place for the use of Wigan RUFC, and this is a concern for the Club with a formal agreement needed for its continued use of the site.
- Spinners Mill Archers currently has its own dedicated indoor venue located at Leigh Spinners Mill which is a fully carpeted 20m range. The Club currently don't use any outdoor venues in the Wigan Borough.

Demand summary

- Spinners Mill Archers currently consists of 80 members of which 18 are junior members, operating at its dedicated indoor venue located at Leigh Spinners Mill. The Club has access to the site Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am. The Club caters for all ages and abilities.
- Additionally, The Club runs yearly championship tournaments as well as regular handicap competitions. It's hosted several successful open tournaments over the years.
- Wigan and Orrell Archers currently consist of 62 members of which 23 are juniors, operating at multiple of venues but its main venue being Wigan RUFC. The Club also use Standish Community High School for indoor usage in winter.
- The Club runs several beginner courses throughout the year, providing a six-week training course.
- In Wigan Borough, currently no unmet demand is identified as both clubs are still actively looking for new members online and through social media.
- Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in archery but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand amounting to 391 people in Wigan Borough.
- Archery GB identifies that it would expect future growth to be high as this would reflect the national picture and recent trends.

American football supply and demand summary

- In Wigan Borough, it is considered that there is sufficient supply to meet the demand for American football in Wigan Borough for both competitive and training demand.

Supply summary

- There are no dedicated American Football pitches in the Wigan Borough, however, there is one dual use pitch which is shared with rugby union located at Tyldesley Rugby Football Club (East Analysis Area). This pitch is used for both training and competitive demand by Leigh Miners American Football Club.
- Wigan Bandits American Flag Football Team is currently utilising the 3G pitch located at St John Rigby College.

Demand summary

- Leigh Miners American Football Club has one adult men's contact team which play on Sunday afternoons at Tyldesley Rugby Football Club. The Club use the 3G pitch at Howe Bridge Leisure Centre for training in the off season.
- Wigan Bandits American Flag Football Team has one senior men's team which competes in a number of tournaments throughout the seasons. The Club uses the 3G pitch located at St John Rigby College for training demand as competitive fixture are played at central venues.

Scenarios

No suitable scenarios have been identified, with the following recommendations instead considered necessary based on the supply and demand findings.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect existing quantity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◆ Improve quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.

4.13: Education sites

There are several educational sites in Wigan Borough that are currently used by community sports clubs (outlined in greater detail in Part 5: Strategic Recommendations). With this being said, there are still a number that currently do not allow community access. These are classified as unavailable due to issues with pricing, access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision.

All existing provision at secondary school sites and higher, dependant on availability, are summarised in the table below. These have been chosen as they accommodate the majority of grass pitch provision within the education sector. It should be noted that there are also primary schools that are used in the Authority primarily used to accommodate mini football demand (7v7 and 5v5).

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.29: Summary of grass pitches at education sites in Wigan Borough

Site Id	Site name	Community use?	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Sport	Pitch type	Quality	Potential match equivalent sessions at peak time
7	Bedford High School	No	East	1	Football	Adult	Standard	1
7	Bedford High School	No	East	1	Football	(11v11)	Standard	1
7	Bedford High School	No	East	1	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	1
7	Bedford High School	Yes	East	2	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	2
11	Cansfield High School	Yes	Central	1	Football	(11v11)	Standard	1
11	Cansfield High School	Yes	Central	1	Football	(9v9)	Standard	1
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge	Yes	West	1	Football	(7v7)	Poor	1
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge	Yes	West	1	Football	(11v11)	Poor	1
21	Fred Longworth High School	No	East	1	Football	(7v7)	Standard	1
21	Fred Longworth High School	No	East	1	Football	(9v9)	Standard	1
24	Golborne High School	Yes	Central	1	Football	(5v5)	Poor	1
24	Golborne High School	Yes	Central	1	Football	(7v7)	Poor	1
24	Golborne High School	Yes	Central	2	Football	(11v11)	Poor	2
24	Golborne High School	Yes	Central	2	Football	(9v9)	Poor	2
24	Golborne High School	Yes	Central	2	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	2
27	Hawkley Hall High School	Yes	West	1	Football	(11v11)	Standard	1
27	Hawkley Hall High School	Yes	West	1	Rugby league	Junior	Poor	1
27	Hawkley Hall High School	Yes	West	1	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	1
29	Hindley High School	Yes	Central	1	Football	(11v11)	Poor	1
29	Hindley High School	Yes	Central	1	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	1
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Yes	Central	3	Football	Adult	Standard	3
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Yes	Central	1	Football	(9v9)	Standard	1
52	Shevington High School	Yes	West	1	Football	(7v7)	Poor	1
52	Shevington High School	Yes	West	1	Football	(11v11)	Poor	1
52	Shevington High School	Yes	West	1	Football	(9v9)	Poor	1
52	Shevington High School	Yes	West	2	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	2

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site Id	Site name	Community use?	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Sport	Pitch type	Quality	Potential match equivalent sessions at peak time
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	No	Central	1	Football	Adult	Poor	1
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	No	Central	1	Football	(11v11)	Standard	1
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	No	Central	2	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	2
61	St John Fisher Catholic High School (Wigan)	No	West	2	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	2
62	St John Rigby College	Yes	West	2	Football	Adult	Standard	2
62	St John Rigby College	Yes	West	1	Football	(7v7)	Standard	1
62	St John Rigby College	Yes	West	1	Football	(9v9)	Good	1
62	St John Rigby College	Yes	West	1	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	1
62	St John Rigby College	Yes	West	1	Rugby union	Senior	M1 / D0	1
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	Yes	East	2	Football	Adult	Good	2
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	Yes	East	1	Football	(7v7)	Good	1
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	Yes	East	1	Football	(11v11)	Good	1
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	Yes	East	2	Football	(9v9)	Good	2
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	Yes	East	1	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	1
65	St Peters Catholic High School	Yes	West	1	Football	(9v9)	Standard	1
65	St Peters Catholic High School	Yes	West	2	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	2
67	Standish Community High School	Yes	West	1	Football	(11v11)	Poor	1
67	Standish Community High School	Yes	West	1	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	1
68	The Byrchall High School	No	Central	1	Football	Adult	Standard	1
74	Westleigh High School Playing Fields	No	East	1	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	1
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	Yes	West	2	Football	(11v11)	Standard	2
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	Yes	West	1	Rugby union	Senior	M1 / D1	1

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site Id	Site name	Community use?	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Sport	Pitch type	Quality	Potential match equivalent sessions at peak time
101	Dean Trust Wigan	Yes	West	1	Football	Adult	Standard	1
101	Dean Trust Wigan	Yes	West	1	Football	(11v11)	Standard	1
101	Dean Trust Wigan	Yes	West	1	Rugby league	Senior	Poor	1
145	Atherton High School	No	East	1	Football	Adult	Poor	1

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In total if all the above provision were to be readily available for community use, offering security of tenure for community users, as well as being a minimum of standard quality it could potentially create the following amount of match equivalent sessions at peak time:

- ◆ Adult football = 12 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ Youth 11v11 football = 14 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ Youth 9v9 football = 10 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ Mini 7v7 football = 6 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ Mini football = 1 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ Senior rugby league = 21 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ Senior rugby union = 2 match equivalent sessions.

It should be noted that the above scenario does not take into account where specific shortfalls are located and does not take into account sites that are currently overplayed or are already played to capacity at peak time through community use. It is merely used as a scenario to indicate the importance of educational provision.

If all this could be actioned, it would have a substantial impact on alleviating grass pitch shortfalls across Wigan Borough. Therefore, it should be used, in addition to other above-mentioned recommendations, to assist in reducing shortfalls. Options to create additional pitches at strategic sites, where possible, should also be explored particularly for alleviating rugby league and football shortfalls.

Recommendations

- ◆ Look to improve the quality of pitch provision at strategic education sites with relevant NGB partners.
- ◆ The Council to lead on formalising security of tenure for clubs at education sites, through the likes of community use agreements, with assistance provided by NGBs where required.
- ◆ Look for the Council to work with relevant stakeholders to open up additional educational sites for community use and formalise this approach in strategic documents such as the Local Plan.
- ◆ Examine the potential to work with education providers, at strategic sites, to create additional pitches to alleviate rugby league and football shortfalls.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

AIM 1

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes disused (including any which may not have been identified in this document) underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 104 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

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

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years. They will use the PPOSS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields Policy as set out below.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Policy Exception E1:

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

Where the PPOSS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

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

Policy Exception E3

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

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

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

Policy Exception E5

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

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England’s policy exceptions as they may provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused playing fields are included within this Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one or two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger and better quality venues (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed, could be developed for other uses. It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

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

Much like some authorities nationally, there is reliance on the education sector to provide for most of the demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in Wigan Borough. However, where this is the case, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenure for clubs is explored and progressed where possible. The following schools provide community use to clubs.

Table 5.1: Known use of education sites

School	Club	Sport
Atherton St George's C of E Primary School	Atherton Cols Junior	Football
Britannia Bridge Primary School	F.C Britannia (Wigan)	Football
Dean Trust Wigan (Formerly Abraham Guest Academy)	Apply Bridge Pemberton FC Wigan Athletic Ladies & Girls	Football Football (3G)
Golborne High School	Golborne Sports Junior	Football
Hindley Green Community Primary School Playing Fields	Hindley Green	Football
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	F.C Britannia (Wigan)	Football
Lowton Church of England High School	Leigh Genesis	Football (3G)
Orrell Holgate Primary School	FS Coaching Academy	Football
Orrell Lamberhead Green Community Primary School	Highfield Grange	Football
R L Hughes Primary School	Ashton Park J.F.C	Football
St Aidans RC School	Hawkley	Football
Standish Community High School	Leigh HC	Hockey Sand based AGP
St James' C of E Primary School	Hawkley	Football
St John Rigby College	Bryn FC Robin Park St John Rigby College	Football Football (3G)
St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	Astley & Tyldesley JFC	Football Football (3G)
St Oswald's Catholic Primary School	Ashton Park J.F.C	Football
St Peters Catholic High School	Ashtonians Golborne Sports Junior Wigan Junior Latics Robin Park	Football Football (3G)
St Wilfrids Catholic Primary School	Ashton Park J.F.C	Football
The Deanery C of E High School	Wigan HC	Hockey Sand based AGP
Winstanley College Sports Centre	Standish Panthers Juniors	Football

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

School	Club	Sport
Winstanley Community Primary School	FC Wigan	Football

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as England Hockey, Football Foundation and Lancashire FA can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

The Council and private landlords (as relevant) should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council (where relevant), parish and town councils and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported, and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

Alternative management models

The Council could explore possible alternative options for the future management of some sites within its playing field portfolio, including leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT). Potential benefits of this include reducing costs which may allow for the retention and possible improvement of other retained sites within the portfolio, as well as potentially opening up new routes to improvement of sites and access to external funding opportunities through club-led management models.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and National Governing Bodies to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁹. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

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

⁹ [Link to CASC benefits](#)

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

Community Asset Transfer

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

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

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

- ✦ Help local authorities meet policy objectives.
- ✦ Make better use of underused assets.
- ✦ Open and increase opportunities for clubs/organisations to access grant funding for which local authorities cannot apply (e.g. Football Foundation Grass Maintenance Fund).
- ✦ Improve assets through increased time and resource (both financial and volunteer) than what the local authority may be able to contribute.
- ✦ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability and help transition clubs away from being funding dependent. Opens opportunities to revenue generation and greater self-dependence.
- ✦ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces. Reducing costs to the local authority and protection against further budgetary cuts.
- ✦ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit.
- ✦ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers.
- ✦ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets.

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

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

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

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the venues and local clubs, as well as helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

As outlined in the scenarios above the following schools do not allow community access to some or all of their facilities:

- ◀ Bedford High School.
- ◀ Fred Longworth High School.
- ◀ Golborne High School.
- ◀ St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School.
- ◀ St John Fisher Catholic High School (Wigan).
- ◀ St Marys Catholic High School (Astley).
- ◀ The Byrchall High School.
- ◀ Westleigh High School Playing Fields.
- ◀ Aspull Church Primary School.
- ◀ Gilded Hollins Community School.
- ◀ Highfield St. Matthews Primary School.
- ◀ Hindley All Saints C Of E Primary School.
- ◀ Ince C Of E Primary School.
- ◀ Meadowbank Primary School and Nursery Education Centre.
- ◀ Millbrook Primary School.
- ◀ Nicol Mere Primary School.
- ◀ Shevington Vale Primary School.
- ◀ St John's C of E Primary School, Abram.
- ◀ St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School.
- ◀ Wigan St Andrew's C Of E Junior And Infant School.
- ◀ Wood Fold Primary School.
- ◀ Atherton High School.
- ◀ Orrell Holgate Primary School.

Gaining access to some, or all of these sites, could have a significant impact in alleviating shortfalls for a variety of sports. It should be noted this may also include qualitative improvements.

The Council, with assistance from NGBs and SE, needs to work towards gaining secured access to more educational sites in order to provide additional capacity for community sports. This should include ensure relevant policies are contained within strategic documents such as the emerging local plan.

There are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, yet it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

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

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport England's Use our School¹⁰ campaign provides guidance on how the Council could obtain access to educational sites including providing relevant information surrounding potential operating models, legal and governance / finance / marketing and operating information.

Where new schools are provided, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as courts that can accommodate for sports such as tennis.

AIM 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are several ways in which it is possible to improve pitch quality, and these are explored below.

Available support programmes

Ground Management Association (GMA) Pitch Advisory Service

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

¹⁰ <https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/use-our-school>

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower (PP) app. In August 2022, PitchPower was re-launched, with enhanced capability to support use beyond football pitches and is now accessible for the assessment of natural turf pitches for cricket, rugby league and rugby union. It should be noted that with cricket in particular, more PitchPower assessments are planned to be carried out, therefore, there is a need to review quality as part of the Stage E process of this PPOSS

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

Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, the app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

In Wigan the Lancashire FA play a proactive role, as County FA supporting clubs, schools and pitch operators, to engage in the pitch power process, monitoring uptake and new potentials to access funding support, from the Football Foundation.

The tool across web app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

In addition to non-technical assessments, clubs and education sites across Wigan continue to undertake PitchPower assessments as a means of improving the quality of provision. Consequently, it should be recommended through the PPOSS process for the local authority to support delivering any improvement to new sites that undertake PitchPower assessments.

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for funding through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund¹¹, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to improve and sustain quality.

All applicants must have, as a minimum, landowners permission to accept investment or ideally long term security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, charities, community organisations, education providers and town and parish councils. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have landowners permission as stated above.

¹¹ <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

However, the Council, can undertake technical assessment of pitches using the PitchPower app. Opportunities to access the fund to support presently Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT), both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football, rugby league and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

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

Table 5.3: Recommended capacity of pitches

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

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged to transfer to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. Alternatively quality, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use, but which may be in the future.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed adjacent to existing squares.

For rugby union, overplay can be reduced but not resolved through improvements to pitch maintenance. There is a clear need for the creation of additional WR complaint 3G provision across Wigan Borough to transfer some demand off match pitches and alleviate overplay on grass pitches.

For rugby league, quality improvements alone will not address all the current shortfalls on rugby league pitches, as such there is a need for additional pitch provision to accommodate demand.

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

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in Wigan Borough (these are detailed further in the Action Plan), for example, the changing provision at Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields, Hindley Town FC, Howe Bridge New Pitches, Marsh Playing Fields and Winstanley Warriors FC are poor quality with users stating the need to redevelop the ancillary facilities as the current facilities are outdated. As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement such as, multi-sport pitch sites, club managed sites and sites which are strategically important for adult and/or women and girls participation.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan (contained in a separate document) for the proposed hierarchy. Developer contributions, where relevant to the development and appropriate, could be informed by this hierarchy.

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

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

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

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

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

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

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council continue to use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth.

The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

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

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England.

This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the Strategy as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs) as a minimum, the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up-to-date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site, where possible and appropriate.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

AIM 3

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

Recommendations:

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

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

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ✦ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ✦ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ✦ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ✦ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ✦ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

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

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

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

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

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision. Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls for football, cricket, hockey, tennis, netball and bowls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches and the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

However, for rugby union and rugby league it shows that given the amount of demand, if maximum level quality improvements were to take place, shortfalls would still be present. In this instance, other methods of addressing overplay should be explored such as the installation of additional provision, increased sports lighting or using dedicated sports lit training areas and potentially installing a World Rugby compliant/RFL Community Standard 3G pitches to better support training demand.

Notwithstanding the above, large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the school to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is organised by Analysis Area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

Site hierarchy

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

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

Table 6.1: Tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools and clubs
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Hub sites are of borough wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

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

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).

For local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and 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/extend the provision.

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

Partners

The column indicating partners in the Action Plans below refers to the main organisations that the Council (or the relevant provider) would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues), and a supporting role at others (such as private sites/schools etc).

Priority

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

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and are often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

Costs

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

- (L) - Low - less than £150k.
- (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k.
- (H) - High £750k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs¹².

Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to anticipated delivery times and are not priority based:

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

Aim

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

¹² [Facility cost guidance | Sport England](#)

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports¹³

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2041) ¹⁴
Football (grass)	-	-	-
Central	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5 MES per week	-
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4 MES per week	-
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 8 MES per week	-
Central	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	-
Central	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	-
Wigan Borough	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 6.5 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12 MES per week	Shortfall of 16.5 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 7 MES per week	Shortfall of 10.5 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	Shortfall of 6 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	Shortfall of 5 MES per week
Football (3G)	-	-	-
Central	11v11	Shortfall of 3.75 pitches	-
Wigan Borough	11v11	Shortfall of 3.75 pitches	Shortfall of 4.75 pitches
Cricket	-	-	-
Central	Saturday	Shortfall of 12 MES per season	Shortfall of 12 MES per season
Central	Sunday	Shortfall of 4 MES per season	Shortfall of 4 MES per season
Central	Midweek	Actual spare capacity of 24 MES per season	Actual spare capacity of 24 MES per season
Wigan Borough	Saturday	Shortfall of 82 MES per season	Shortfall of 106 MES per season
Wigan Borough	Sunday	Shortfall of 42 MES per season	Shortfall of 42 MES per season
Wigan Borough	Midweek	Shortfall of 4 MES per season	Shortfall of 16 MES per season
Rugby union	-	-	-
Central	Senior	Played to capacity	-
Wigan Borough	Senior	Shortfall of 17 MES per week	Shortfall of 18.25 MES per week
Rugby league	-	-	-
Central	Senior	Shortfall of 6.5 MES per week	-
Central	Junior	Shortfall of 2.5 MES per week	-
Central	Mini	Played to capacity	-
Wigan Borough	Senior	Shortfall of 33.25 MES per week	Shortfall of 33.75 MES per week

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

¹⁴ It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Boroughwide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2041) ¹⁴
Wigan Borough	Junior	Shortfall of 4.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 6 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Mini	Shortfall of 3.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 5.5 MES per week
Hockey	-	-	-
Wigan Borough	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply if quality improvements occur at Standish Community High School	Sufficient supply if quality improvements occur at Standish Community High School

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Bowls	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand in the Central Analysis Area with 18 greens provided. Clubs should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient.
Tennis	With seven community available courts provided in the Central Analysis Area for club-based tennis, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand. Away from clubs, no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, and previously expressed latent demand is likely to have been met. However, it is also likely that informal demand will continue to increase following the improvements to courts at sites such as Jubilee Park, Wigan. For Padel, if all the current applications are completed this would see the creation of 13 courts meaning there would still be a shortfall of 12 in the Wigan Borough.
Netball	With four community available netball courts provided in the Central Analysis Area located across two sites, Outwood Academy Hindley and Ashton Leisure Centre, supply is considered sufficient provision to meet demand. However, there is a need to improve court quality located at Outwood Academy Hindley.
Athletics	No athletics provision is provided within the Central Analysis Area. There are two formal athletics tracks in Wigan with one provided in the East Analysis Area and one provided in the West Analysis Area. Supply is sufficient to meet demand for athletics in Wigan.
Golf	There are two 18-hole course located at Haydock Park Golf Club and Hindley Park Golf Club in the Central Analysis Area. Additionally, there is one driving range located at The Sycamores Golf Centre. Supply is sufficient to meet demand for golf in Wigan.
Archery	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand in the Central Analysis Area with one outdoor facility located at Brunswick Bowling Club. Clubs should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient.

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Hindley Juniors Football Club	6015038	WN2 3SB	Football	Sports club	One poor quality adult and one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch played to capacity and two mini 7v7 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Hindley Juniors had a planning application approved (with conditions) in 2022 for the creation of additional pitches on the field adjoining Hindley Juniors Football Club. The proposal included the reconfiguration of current provision, erection of a spectator stand, sports lighting and formation of a new youth 11v11 and adult pitch in the land South of the playing field area.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore why the development has not take place and assist the Club where possible with its development plans.	Sport club FF LFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
3	Ashton Athletic FC	6015036	WN4 0NR	Football	Sports club	One standard and one poor quality adult pitch both of which are played to capacity. Club plays at Step 6 within the Non-League System.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure the site and accompanying ancillary provision meet relevant Step football requirements.	Sport club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
4	Ashton Town AFC	6021625	WN4 8SL	Football	Sports club	One good quality adult pitch played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
9	Bryn Recreation Ground	1040664	WN4 0AA	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of which are standard quality and have one match equivalent session of spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
11	Cansfield High School	1201714	WN4 9TP	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 both of which are standard quality. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Cansfield High School	1201714	WN4 9TP	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts not sport lit nor available for community use. Overmarked with netball.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Cansfield High School	1201714	WN4 9TP	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts not sport lit nor available for community use. Overmarked with tennis.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
22	Furlong Close Playing Fields	6007384	WN2 5JW	Football	Council	Previously marked with an adult football pitch and goalposts remain in place, though last recorded pitch marked was youth sized 60x40 metres.	Retain and protect as current use and look to reinstate based on levels of demand.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11, two, one mini 7v7, one mini 5v5 all of which are poor quality. Pitches are overplayed by three, 2.5, 2.5 and one match equivalent session respectively. No accompanying changing rooms.	Improve quality with enhanced maintenance to alleviate overplayed. Explore options to gain access to or create relevant accompanying ancillary provision. Explore feasibility and opportunity for potential 11v11 3G pitch development.	Education FF LFA	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	AGP	Education	A poor quality small size (60x40m) sports lit community available AGP. No known hockey usage.	Look to refurbish the pitch with the preferred surface to suit curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education EH	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	Tennis	Education	Six poor quality macadam courts not sport lit nor available for community use. Overmarked with tennis.	Improve quality as required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education LTA	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality senior pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	Netball	Education	Six poor quality macadam courts not sport lit nor available for community use. Overmarked with tennis.	Improve quality as required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EN	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	20000589	WA3 3HG	Rugby league	Sports club	Three junior and one senior which are standard quality and one good quality senior pitch. The good quality pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions with the remaining pitches having no spare capacity at peak time.	Sustain good pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Improve standard pitch quality with enhanced maintenance.	Sports club RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	20000589	WA3 3HG	Crown bowls	Sports club	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	Sports club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	1103396	WA3 2SE	Football (3G)	Sports club	A poor quality adult pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Accompanied by poor quality changing rooms not suitable for women and girls demand. The overarching Sports and Social Club has aspirations to create a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch on the site. This would replace the grass adult pitch. The creation of a 3G would create capacity for hockey growth through the transferal of demand off the AGP.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Examine options to improve the quantity/quality of changing rooms to better accommodate demand. Explore the feasibility of creating a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch on the site in order to alleviate identified shortfalls.	Sports club FF LFA	Hub site	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	1103396	WA3 2SE	AGP	Sports club	A full size (92x55m) sport lit hockey suitable AGP used by Golborne & Prescot HC. The pitch is standard quality having been built in 2015. Accompanied by poor quality changing rooms not suitable for women and girls' demand. Overarching sports club want to create a 3G pitch in order to transfer football demand off the pitch and create capacity for hockey growth.	Refurbish pitch as needed and protect as a hockey suitable surface. Examine options to improve the quantity/quality of changing rooms to better accommodate demand. If a 3G is to be established on the site look to export football demand off the AGP in order to provide capacity for hockey growth.	Sports club EH	Hub site	H	S/M	H	Protect Enhance
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	1103396	WA3 2SE	Cricket	Sports club	A standard quality 12 wicket square overplayed by four match equivalent sessions a season. Accompanying changing rooms are not suitable for the site.	Improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Examine options to improve the quantity/quality of changing rooms to better accommodate demand.	Sports club ECB LCF	Hub site	M	M	H	Protect Enhance
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	1103396	WA3 2SE	Crown bowls	Sports club	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	Sports club BCGBA	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	6009284	WA3 2AH	Football / 3G	Sports club	One adult and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are poor quality and overplayed by one and 2.5 match equivalent sessions, respectively. Two youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 all of which are good quality and are played to capacity at peak time. Leased to East Leigh Juniors. There are plans for a new pavilion as part of a wider exploration into a 3G project. Potential to link and future developments to S106 monies.	Sustain good quality pitches and look to improve poor quality pitches with enhanced maintenance. Explore the feasibility of creating a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch on the site in order to alleviate identified shortfalls. Ensure any site development includes improvements to ancillary provision in quantity and quality for all accessing demographics (e.g. women and girls). This should specifically include additional car parking and a pavilion.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
29	Outwood Academy Hindley	1201702	WN2 4LG	Football / 3G	Education	One poor quality youth 11v11 played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular. Site has potential to be developed as part of a wider creation of a new Hindley Leisure Centre which could include a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch. This would be a dual use facility with the School.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced maintenance. If site is identified for the development of new leisure centre explore the feasibility of establishing a 11v11 size 3G sports lit pitch in order to alleviate identified shortfalls.	Education FF LFA	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
29	Outwood Academy Hindley	1201702	WN2 4LG	Netball	Education	Two poor quality macadam courts not sport lit nor available for community use.	Improve quality as required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EN	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
30	Hindley Town FC	6015081	WN2 3HY	Football	Sports club	One adult, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality and used by Hindley Town FC. Adult pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent sessions at peak time with the other pitches played to capacity at peak time. Clubhouse onsite is basic with limited facilities. The Club aspires to upgrade the facility along with storage provision. It also has plans to extend the site to create more pitches.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand. Assist the Club where possible with its clubhouse improvement plans. Explore the feasibility of creating additional pitches for the Club.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
35	Kingsdown Road Playing Field	6008022	WN2 5RS	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
36	Legh Street Playing Fields	6009329	WA3 3NY	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Accompanied by poor quality basic changing rooms.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options to improve changing rooms.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
40	Leyland Park	6009342	WN2 3RX	Football	Council	Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch both of which are poor quality. Each pitch type is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions. Ancillary facilities are in need of modernisation.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options to improve changing rooms.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	1201597	WA3 1DU	Football	Education	Three adult pitches overplayed by one match equivalent session and one youth 9v9 pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent session. All pitches are standard quality and leased by Leigh Genesis FC.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	1201597	WA3 1DU	3G	Education	One 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch which is FA certified, and one small size sports lit 3G pitch. Both pitches are good quality having been built in 2019.	Sustain pitch quality as appropriate. Ensure a relevant pitch replacement fund is in situ for eventual refurbishment. Retest for FA certification as appropriate.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	1201725	WN4 9PF	Football	Education	One poor quality adult and one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitches as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	1201725	WN4 9PF	AGP	Education	A poor quality small size (80x52m) sports lit community available AGP. No known hockey usage.	Look to refurbish the pitch with the preferred surface to suit curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education EH	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	1201725	WN4 9PF	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality senior pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
63	St John's Street Playing Fields	6009158	WN2 5RH	Football	Sports club	Two adult and one youth 11v11 pitch all of which are standard quality. Adult pitches have actual spare capacity of one match equivalent sessions at peak time with the youth 11v11 played to capacity. Manged under licence by Wigan Cosmos. Poor quality changing provision currently without heating or hot water and would require refurbishment.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand. Explore options to improve changing rooms.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
66	St Wilfrids Catholic Primary School	6014422	WN4 8SJ	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance to better accommodate curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
68	The Byrchall High School	1201581	WN4 9PQ	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand. Community access has stopped whilst School is being rebuilt.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance and ensure it is retained during School rebuild. Ensure that the new playing field is constructed to good quality as per the planning consent, and a CUA is secured for the site and that use is re-established and maximised.	Education FF LFA	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	1208480	WN2 3DN	Cricket	Sports club	A good quality 12 wicket square with spare capacity on Sunday and Midweek. Changing rooms are not suitable for women and girls' demand.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand particularly for women and girls' demand. Explore options to improve changing rooms to be more suitable for female demand.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
94	The Sycamores Golf Centre	1101394	WA3 3UU	Golf	Proprietary	A driving range.	Protect provision for current and future golf demand. Ensure quality is suitable to meet demand.	Proprietary EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
99	Brunswick Park (Hindley)	30003123	WN2 4XW	Football	Sports club	One youth 9v9 pitch played to capacity and one mini 5v5 pitch played to capacity at peak time. Both pitches are poor quality. Changing rooms and showering facilities need improving.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options to improve changing rooms.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
103	Gilded Hollins Community School	6014410	WN7 3PQ	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
106	Hindley All Saints C Of E Primary School	6014595	WN2 3QS	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
107	Hindley Green Community Primary School Playing Field	30007074	WN2 4SS	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
109	Holy Family Catholic Primary School Platt Bridge	6014444	WN2 5JF	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
111	King George V Playing Fields (Ashton-In-Makerfield)	6007336	WN4 8QX	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
117	Miners Welfare Playing Fields	1040668	WN2 5AJ	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has not actual spare capacity at peak time. Platt Bridge FC has plans to create a purpose-built ancillary building on the site and states it has a licence in place for the land.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist the Club, where possible, with its plans to create dedicated ancillary provision.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
120	Nicol Mere Primary School	6014617	WN4 8DF	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all of which are poor quality and not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
124	R L Hughes Primary School	6014447	WN4 9QL	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch both of which are poor quality. Overplayed by one and 0.5 match equivalent sessions, respectively.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
133	St John's Cofe Primary School, Abram	6014553	WN2 5QE	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
138	Thomas Street Recreation Ground	6009906	WN2 4SS	Football	Council	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time whereas the others are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
146	Bickershaw Playing Fields	30010437	WN2 4AD	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has no spare capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
147	Bryn Gates Playing Fields	6019055	WN2 5JZ	Football	Council	One mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet levels of demand.	Council FF, LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
149	Bear Park	30010573	WN4 9RP	Rugby league	Sports club	One senior and one junior pitch both of which are good quality, overplayed by 2.5 and 4 match equivalent sessions, respectively. Ashton Bears ARLFC aspire to create an additional senior pitch. It also wants to add more changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Assist the Club in creating an additional pitch on the site in order to alleviate shortfalls. Examine options to create additional changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Sports club RFL	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
155	Ashton Leisure Centre	1002644	WN4 9TP	3G	Commercial	One standard quality sports lit small size (73x46 metres) 3G pitch built in 2018.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for eventual refurbishment.	Commercial FF LFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect
155	Ashton Leisure Centre	1002644	WN4 9TP	Tennis	Commercial	Three standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and are sports lit. Overmarked for netball.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet levels of demand.	Commercial LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
155	Ashton Leisure Centre	1002644	WN4 9TP	Netball	Commercial	Two standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and are sports lit. Overmarked for tennis.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet levels of demand.	Commercial EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
159	Newbridge Learning Community	30004760	WN2 3TL	3G	Education	One small size (47x30 metres) 3G pitch available for community use but not sports lit. Poor quality having been built in 2012.	Improve pitch quality through refurbishment as it is past its recommended lifespan. Once refurbished look to gain FA certification with relevant testing.	Education FF LFA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
167	St Oswalds Catholic Primary School	6014575	WN4 9AZ	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch both of which are poor quality. Former pitch is played to capacity with the later overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
172	Castle Hill St Philips C Of E Primary School	6014549	WN2 4DH	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	1040633	WN2 3AU	Rugby league	Sports club	Two senior pitches, one of which is sports lit, one junior and one primary pitch all of which are standard quality. Sports lit pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions whereas the other senior pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. Other pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Leased to Hindley ARLFC which has applied for PP funding. Accompanied by poor quality changing rooms.	Assist the Club in obtaining PP funding. Once secured improve pitch quality as appropriate. Examine installing additional sports lights to better disperse training demand. Assist the Club where possible to improve poor quality changing rooms.	Sports club RFL	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	30003585	WN3 4PH	Rugby league	Sports club	One senior (sports lit) and one junior pitch both of which are standard quality. Senior pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions and junior pitch is played to capacity. Used by Wigan Spring View and Spring View rugby league clubs. Pitches suffer from poor drainage.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Sports club RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
186	Haydock Park Golf Club	1101390	WA12 0HX	Golf	Members	A standard 18 hole golf course.	Protect provision for current and future golf demand. Ensure quality is suitable to meet demand.	Members EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
187	Hindley Hall Golf Club	1101391	WN2 2SQ	Golf	Members	A standard 18 hole golf course.	Protect provision for current and future golf demand. Ensure quality is suitable to meet demand.	Members EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
204	Bowling Green next to Angling Direct, Chapel Street		WN2 3AD	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
205	Hindley Community Sports and Social Club		WN2 3LW	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
206	Lord Nelson Hotel		WN2 3LQ	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
209	Brunswick Recreation and Bowling Club		WN2 4XW	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
210	Rear of Red Lion pub		WA3 1HE	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
211	Green opposite All Saints Social Centre		WA3 3BG	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
212	Golborne Community Bowling Club		WA3 3DB	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	1040899	WN2 3TQ	Cricket	Sports club	A standard quality square with 12 wickets overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions a season. Outfield has drainage issues.	Improve square and outfield quality with enhanced levels of dedicated maintenance.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	1040899	WN2 3TQ	Crown bowls	Sports club	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	Sports club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
217	Platt Bridge Community Centre		WN2 5AH	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
221	Behind Ashton Masonic Properties, off Bryn Road		WN4 0AA	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One poor quality crown green	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
222	The Bucks Head		WN2 5RQ	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One poor quality crown green	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
229	Ashton Recreation Society		WN4 9AX	Crown bowls	BCGBA	Two standard quality crown greens.	Improve quality as required to meet demand. Look to renew pavilion lease.	BCGBA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
230	Garswood Hall Bowling and Community Club		WN4 8LU	Crown bowls	BCGBA	Two good quality crown greens.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
233	Our Lady's Crown Green Bowls Club		WN4 0LZ	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
248	Leyland Park	6009342	WN2 3SB	Cricket	Council	A standalone NTP.	Retain as current use and improve in quality when needed based on usage.	Council ECB LCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
249	Jubilee Park, Wigan		WN4 9BH	Football	Council	One mini 5v5 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate based on levels of demand.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
249	Jubilee Park, Wigan		WN4 9BH	Tennis	Council	Four poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use but not sports lit.	Work with the LTA to explore investment opportunities to improve the utilisation of the courts.	Council LTA	Local	M	M	L / M	Protect Enhance
255	Swann Lane Bowling Green		WN2 4HD	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One poor quality crown green	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

EAST ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2041) ¹⁵
Football (grass)	-	-	-
East	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 1 MES per week	-
East	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5 MES per week	-
East	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 MES per week	-
East	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1 MES per week	-
East	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	-
Wigan Borough	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 6.5 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12 MES per week	Shortfall of 16.5 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 7 MES per week	Shortfall of 10.5 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	Shortfall of 6 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	Shortfall of 5 MES per week
Football (3G)	-	-	-
East	11v11	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 pitches	-
Wigan Borough	11v11	Shortfall of 3.75 pitches	Shortfall of 4.75 pitches
Cricket	-	-	-
East	Saturday	Shortfall of 37 MES per season	Shortfall of 49 MES per season
East	Sunday	Shortfall of 37 MES per season	Shortfall of 37 MES per season
East	Midweek	Shortfall of 37 MES per season	Shortfall of 43 MES per season
Wigan Borough	Saturday	Shortfall of 82 MES per season	Shortfall of 106 MES per season
Wigan Borough	Sunday	Shortfall of 42 MES per season	Shortfall of 42 MES per season
Wigan Borough	Midweek	Shortfall of 4 MES per season	Shortfall of 16 MES per season
Rugby union	-	-	-
East	Senior	Shortfall of 8 MES per week	-
Wigan Borough	Senior	Shortfall of 17 MES per week	Shortfall of 18.25 MES per week
Rugby league	-	-	-
East	Senior	Actual spare capacity of 2 MES per week	-
East	Junior	Played to capacity	-
East	Mini	Played to capacity	-

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

¹⁵ It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Boroughwide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2041) ¹⁵
Wigan Borough	Senior	Shortfall of 33.25 MES per week	Shortfall of 33.75 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Junior	Shortfall of 4.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 6 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Mini	Shortfall of 3.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 5.5 MES per week
Hockey	-	-	-
Wigan Borough	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply if quality improvements occur at Standish Community High School	Sufficient supply if quality improvements occur at Standish Community High School

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Bowls	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand in the East Analysis Area with 15 greens provided. Clubs (Butts Park BC) should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient.
Tennis	With 23 community available courts provided in the East Analysis Area for club-based tennis, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand with 13 courts available at club sites. Away from clubs, no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, and previously expressed latent demand is likely to have been met. However, it is also likely that informal demand will continue to increase following the improvements to courts at sites such as Morley Street. For Padel, if all the current applications are completed this would see the creation of 13 courts meaning there would still be a shortfall of 12 in the Wigan Borough.
Netball	With no community available netball courts provided in the East Analysis Area, supply is considered insufficient provision to meet demand in the East Analysis Area. However, supply is sufficient across Wigan overall with all other analysis areas having sufficient supply.
Athletics	There are two formal athletics tracks in Wigan with one provided in the East Analysis located at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium. Supply is sufficient to meet demand for athletics in Wigan.
Golf	Pennington Golf Course provides a 9-hole course with Astley Golf Driving Range providing a 26-bay driving range in the East Analysis Area. Supply is sufficient to meet demand for golf in Wigan.
Archery	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand in the Central Analysis Area with one outdoor facility located at Leigh Spinners Mill. Clubs should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient.

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	1040934	M29 7DW	Football	Sports club	One adult, a youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch all of which are good quality. The youth 11v11 is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions with all others played to capacity at peak time. Astley & Tyldesley FC reports aspiration to increase the number women and girl's teams within its club, however, the current ancillary facilities are not suitable to accommodate women's and girls' demand.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Look to transfer some demand off the youth 11v11 pitch to alleviate overplay. Explore options to improve the ancillary facilities to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Sports club FF LFA	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	1040934	M29 7DW	Cricket	Sports club	A standard quality square with 12 wickets overplayed by 16 match equivalent sessions. Astley & Tyldesley CC is in the process of negotiating a new lease. The Club desires for grass wickets and a mobile net cage.	Improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure the Club has long term security of tenure through extending/renewing its lease. Explore options to create additional grass wickets. Assist the Club in improving practice provision.	Sports club ECB LCF	Key centre	M	S / M	L / M	Protect Enhance
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	1040934	M29 7DW	Tennis	Council	Four good quality macadam courts available for community use and sports lit.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council LTA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	1040934	M29 7DW	Crown bowls	Sports club	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	Sports club BCGBA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
6	Atherton Town Football Club	30003276	M46 0RQ	Football	Sports club	One good quality adult that is played to capacity at peak time. The Club plays within the Regional Feeder League and is a promotion away from joining the football National League System.	Sustain quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure site and accompanying ancillary facilities meet relevant Step requirements for joining the NLS.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
7	Bedford High School	1201590	WN7 2LU	Football	Education	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch both of which are standard quality and not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
7	Bedford High School	1201590	WN7 2LU	AGP	Education	A poor quality small size (82x42m) sports lit community available AGP. No known hockey usage.	Look to refurbish the pitch with the preferred surface to suit curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education EH	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
7	Bedford High School	1201590	WN7 2LU	Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP.	Retain as current use and improve in quality when needed based on usage.	Education ECB LCF	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
7	Bedford High School	1201590	WN7 2LU	Tennis	Education	One standard quality macadam court not sport lit nor available for community use. Overmarked with netball.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
7	Bedford High School	1201590	WN7 2LU	Rugby league	Education	Two poor quality senior pitches played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
7	Bedford High School	1201590	WN7 2LU	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court not sport lit nor available for community use. Overmarked with tennis.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
8	Bee Fold Lane	30008439	M46 0BL	Football	Council	Four poor quality adult pitches overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options to improve changing rooms. Look to complete licence agreement with Atherton Collieries FC and Botanical FC.	Council FF LFA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
14	Crilly Park	6015045	M46 9WW	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch played to capacity by Atherton Labernum Rovers FC which Step 5 in the National League System. The Club has plans to extend its changing rooms.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure site and ancillary facilities meet relevant Step requirements. Explore assisting in the Clubs plans to extend the changing rooms.	Council FF LFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
14	Crilly Park	6015045	M46 9WW	Tennis (Padel)	Council	A recent application (A/25/099122/FULL) has been submitted in August 2025 for the development of four courts with canopy roofs and sports lighting on shrub land adjacent to Crilly Park.	Look to develop Padel courts in order to alleviate identified shortfall. Explore potential management options to ensure wider community accessibility.	Council LTA	Local	H	S	M	Provide
17	Devonshire Road Playing Fields	6007474	M46 9QB	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches that have actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
18	Dootsons Park Playing Fields	6009271	WN7 3AG	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 both of which are standard quality. Actual spare capacity of 0.5 and one match spare capacity at peak time, respectively.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand. Install spectator fencing and complete target hardening measures.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
18	Dootsons Park Playing Fields	6009271	WN7 3AG	Crown bowls (Disused)	Council	One disused crown bowling green.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
19	Douglas Park	6009971	M46 9DZ	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
21	Fred Longworth High School	1002646	M29 8JN	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are standard quality and not available for community use.	Sustain pitch as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
21	Fred Longworth High School	1002646	M29 8JN	3G	Education	A good quality sports lit small size (84x53 metres) 3G pitch built in 2023. Available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Look to carry out the relevant testing for FA certification to allow for competitive match play.	Education FF LFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
21	Fred Longworth High School	1002646	M29 8JN	Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP.	Retain as current use and improve in quality when needed based on usage.	Education ECB LCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
31	Hindsford AFC	30003026	M29 8JH	Football	Sports club	One standard quality adult pitch played to capacity at peak time. The Club aspires to upgrade the facility as part of its development plan, particularly for women and girls' demand. The Club plays within the Regional Feeder League and is a promotion away from joining the football National League System.	Sustain quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure site and accompanying ancillary facilities meet relevant Step requirements for joining the NLS.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
31	Hindsford AFC	30003026	M29 8JH	3G	Sports club	A standard quality sports lit (30x15 metres) 3G pitch that is available for community use. Built in 2016.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ for its eventual refurbishment.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
33	Howe Bridge Leisure Centre	1002649	M46 0PJ	3G	Council	A standard quality (2015) 11v11 size sports lit community available 3G pitch which is FA certified. Howe Bridge Leisure Centre has recently developed a masterplan for the site which includes an upgrade to the current 3G model (adding additional parking and changing facilities) and the creation of an additional 11v11 3G pitch.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Explore the feasibility of creating a second sports lit 11v11 size 3G pitch on the site, in addition to upgrading ancillary facilities, with a view to meet future growth in demand.	Council FF LFA	Local	H	M	H	Protect Provide

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						This development is currently in the planning phase with the Leisure Centre next step to source funding.							
34	Howe Bridge New Pitches	6019027	M46 0PJ	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions and four standard quality youth 9v9 that have actual spare capacity 2.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time. Opportunities to explore creation of a community pavilion as part of the potential development at Howe Bridge Leisure Centre.	Improve adult pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity on youth 9v9 pitches to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand. Explore the creation of a community pavilion as part of a wider site development plan with Howe Bridge Leisure Centre.	Council FF LFA	Local	H	M	H	Protect Provide
37	Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium	1037960	WN7 4GX	Football	Sports club	One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Located within the Athletics track.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
37	Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium	1037960	WN7 4GX	Athletics	Sports club	A good quality synthetic 8 lane 400 metre track with sports lighting. Used by Leigh Harriers AC.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. Look to sustain TrackMark Accreditation. Ensure long term tenure for Leigh Harriers AC.	Sports club EA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	1040939	WN7 4GY	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand.	Council FF LFA	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	1040939	WN7 4GY	3G	Council	Two 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitches both of which are FIFA certified with one also be WR/RFL compliant. Also, three small size community available sports lit 3G pitches were previously FA certified. All pitches are standard quality having been installed in 2017. There are plans to refurbish the pitches in the next few years.	Look to refurbish all the provision with the next few years as they are reaching the end of their recommended lifespan. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Ensure pitches are retested as required to remain FA/FIFA/WR/RFL certified. Look to regain relevant certification for the small sized 3G pitches.	Council FF LFA RFU RFL	Hub	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	1040939	WN7 4GY	Rugby league	Council	A good quality senior pitch considered played to capacity.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.	Council RFL	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
41	Lodge Lane Playing Fields	6009323	WN7 2NU	Football (Disused)	Council	Previously marked with four football pitches of adult, youth and mini (two) sizes. No longer in use or marked and often waterlogged.	Protect and retain as current use and look to bring back into use if demand warrants.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						One pitch still has goalposts in place, but the site has no changing provision and car parking provision is poor.	Protect in line with NPPF and Sport England guidelines.						
43	Marsh Playing Fields	6009132	WN7 5DE	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions and one youth 9v9 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality. Ancillary provision disused as not fit for purpose.	Improve quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Explore options to supply the site with basic ancillary provision.	Council FF LFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
45	New City Road Playing Field	6017869	M28 1XZ	Football	Council	One adult pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality.	Improve quality through an enhanced maintenance regime.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
48	Pennington Football Club	6014782	M46 0SE	Football	Sports club	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are good quality. The youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session with the other pitches played to capacity at peak time. The Club plays within the Regional Feeder League and is a promotion away from joining the football National League System.	Sustain quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure site and accompanying ancillary facilities meet relevant Step requirements for joining the NLS. Look to renew lease.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
49	Queensway Playing Fields	1040667	WN7 2TR	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch played to capacity and one mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality. East Leigh Juniors is also part of the Home Advantage Programme having progressed to year one. Basic storage containers which are used for storage and changing. Not suitable for the variety of demand on the site (male/female).	Formalise a long term lease agreement for East Leigh Juniors. Improve pitch quality through accessing relevant grant funding. Explore options to improve onsite ancillary provision particularly for women and girls' demand, or, if required demolish current provision and create a purpose built facility.	Council FF LFA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
54	Siddow Park	30003500	WN7 3ET	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch played to capacity. There is no dedicated clubhouse with changing rooms being basic with no electricity or running water.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of dedicated maintenance. Explore options to improve onsite changing rooms.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
59	St George's Park	1040665	M29 8HG	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time. Another adult pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of dedicated maintenance.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
59	St George's Park	1040665	M29 8HG	Rugby union	Sports club	Three standard quality (M1/D1) pitches one of which has sports lights. Sports lit pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions with one other pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. The remaining pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. Freehold by Tyldesley RUFC.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of dedicated maintenance. Install additional sports lighting in order to better disperse training demand.	Sports club RFU	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
64	St Marys Catholic High School	1203079	M29 7EE	Football	Education	Two adult, one youth 11v11, two youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of which are standard quality and have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
64	St Marys Catholic High School	1203079	M29 7EE	3G	Education	A good quality sports lit community available small size (82x52 metres) 3G pitch built in 2022.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Look to carry out the relevant testing for the pitch to become FA certified and suitable for competitive match play demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Provide
64	St Marys Catholic High School	1203079	M29 7EE	Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP.	Retain as current use and improve in quality when needed based on usage.	Education ECB LCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
64	St Marys Catholic High School	1203079	M29 7EE	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality senior pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
70	The Ley Recreation Ground	6007350	M29 7BE	Football	Council	Two mini 7v7 pitches that have actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality as needed to meet demand.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
70	The Ley Recreation Ground	6007350	M29 7BE	Cricket	Council	A standalone NTP.	Retain as current use and improve in quality when needed based on usage.	Council ECB LCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
71	The Skuna Stadium	30006297	M46 9DS	Football	Sports club	One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time. Atherton Collieries FC plays at Step 4 within the Non-League System.	Sustain pitch quality as appropriate. Ensure the site and accompanying ancillary provision meet relevant Step football requirements.	Sport club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
73	Watsons Field	6007437	WN7 4RL	Football (Disused)	Council	Former primary school site located off Heath Lane on land south of Watson's Field. School playing field last known to be maintained circa 2016, now overgrown scrub land.	Protect in line with NPPF and Sport England guidelines.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
74	Westleigh High School Playing Fields	1042499	WN7 5HZ	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality senior pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
80	Higham Park	1208474	M46 0PJ	Cricket	Sports club	A standard quality 14 wicket square accompanied by an NTP overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions. Atherton CC is in the process of extending its lease with the Council, once agreed it aspires to rebuild its poor quality clubhouse. Also accompanied by poor quality training provision. The Club is looking for potential funding options for its projects.	Improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist the Club in obtaining a long term lease. Once new lease is secured look to assist the Club in grant funding for both clubhouse and practice provision projects.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	H	M	M / H	Protect Provide Enhance
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	1208482	WN7 3LH	Cricket	Sports club	A good quality 15 wicket square that has no actual spare capacity. Accompanied by good quality training provision.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	1208482	WN7 3LH	Tennis	Sports club	Six good quality macadam courts with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	1208482	WN7 3LH	Crown bowls	Sports club	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	Sports club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	1208507	WN7 4RZ	Cricket	Sports club	A good quality eight wicket square accompanied by a NTP overplayed by 13 match equivalent sessions a season. The Club aspires for a mobile cage for practice.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Assist the Club with its practice facility aspirations. Explore transfer demand to a site with spare capacity to reduce overplay. Explore greater utilisation of onsite NTP.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
89	Westleigh Methodists Cricket Club	1040935	WN7 5RP	Cricket (Disused)	Private	Previously accommodated a 14-wicket grass square, is considered disused. The site was classified as unused in the 2017 study due to quality issues with the square. Anecdotal evidence indicates the square has not been brought back into use since the previous study with the users, Westleigh Methodists CC, folding shortly afterwards.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Private ECB LCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
92	Astley Golf Driving Range	1200172	M29 7FH	Golf	Proprietary	A driving range.	Protect provision for current and future golf demand. Ensure quality is suitable to meet demand.	Proprietary EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
104	Hawkhurst Park	30003369	WN7 2TA	Football	Community organisation	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are standard quality each having one match equivalent session of spare capacity at peak time. There is a current planning application (A/23/96040/MAJOR) for a school rebuild located at Hawkhurst Park which may result in the loss of one pitch and the proposed reduction of the retained pitch.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand. Ensure any loss of provision is appropriately mitigated inline within NPPF and Sport England guidelines. Look to secure a CUA to protect continued community use of the playing field.	Community organisation FF LFA	Local	H	M	M	Protect
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields (Hindsford Junior FC)	30007586	M46 9BN	Football	Sports club	One youth 11v11 pitch overplayed by one match equivalent session, one youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches that have actual spare capacity at peak time of 0.5 and one match equivalent sessions, respectively.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
115	Meadowbank Primary School And Nursery Education Centre	6014587	M46 0HX	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 that is poor quality and not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
115	Meadowbank Primary School And Nursery Education Centre	6014587	M46 0HX	Netball	Education	One poor quality macadam court that is not sports lit nor available for community use.	Improve court quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand	Education EN	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
118	Moseley Common Playing Field	6007386	M28 1AD	Football (Disused)	Council	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch now unmarked due to no local demand, reportedly because the site drains poorly. Now retained as recreational open space and the local Friends group funded the installation of 16x7 feet goalposts for recreational play.	Protect in line with NPPF and Sport England guidelines.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
127	Spa Road Recreation Ground	1040666	M46 9SP	Football (Disused)	Council	Youth 9v9 pitch not presently used or marked. The site neighbours Crilly Park (Atherton Laburnum Rovers FC).	Protect in line with NPPF and Sport England guidelines.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
137	St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School	6014471	M29 7DY	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 that is poor quality and not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
145	Atherton High School	30003560	M46 0AY	Football	Education	One poor quality adult pitch not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
145	Atherton High School	30003560	M46 0AY	3G	Education	A good quality sports lit community available small size (60x40 metres) 3G pitch built in 2023.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							Look to carry out the relevant testing for the pitch to become FA certified and suitable for competitive match play demand.						
148	Ellesmere Street Playing Fields	6007417	M29 7QP	Football (Disused)	Council	Youth 11v11 pitch previously marked as recent as 2013. No onsite changing provision. Adjacent scout building and play area also onsite.	Protect in line with NPPF and Sport England guidelines.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
151	Sutton Park	30011208	WN7 2LZ	Rugby league	Sports club	One sports lit senior pitch, two further senior pitches and five primary pitches all of which are good quality. Senior pitches have actual spare capacity accumulating to three match equivalent sessions whereas mini pitches are played to capacity. Accompanied by poor quality changing rooms not sufficient for women and girls' demand.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Look to use actual spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls or accommodate future demand. Improve changing rooms to better cater for women and girls' demand.	Sports club RFL	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
151	Sutton Park	30011208	WN7 2LZ	3G	Sports club	One 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch that is RFL complaint. WR certification expired 22/01/24. Good quality having been built in 2023. Used extensively to meet training demand by Leigh Miners ARLFC. Accompanied by poor quality changing rooms not sufficient for women and girls' demand.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure the pitch remains RFL complaint. Examine if there is a need to retest it for WR compliancy. Ensure a relevant pitch replacement fund is in place. Improve changing rooms to better cater for women and girls' demand.	Sports club RFL	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
152	Central Park Playing Fields	1040634	M46 0AL	Football / Rugby union (Disused)	Council	Two mini pitches previously used for either mini football or mini rugby union. Opposite Atherton Community School. Proposals for residential development and reprovision of pitches elsewhere.	Protect provision as appropriate in line with NPPF and Sport England guidelines.	Council FF LFA RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
153	Round Ash Park	30007823	WN7 3NA	Football	Sports club	One youth 11v11, a youth 9v9, a mini 7v7 and a mini 5v5 pitch overplayed by one, 0.5, two and two match equivalent sessions respectively. All pitches are poor quality and overmarked on a rugby union pitch. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve all pitches through enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve the poor quality pitches drainage. Assist the Club in its ambitions to create a new dedicated clubhouse to better accommodate all demand demographics.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	H	M / L	H	Protect Enhance Provide

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
153	Round Ash Park	30007823	WN7 3NA	Rugby union (3G)	Sports club	Two standard quality (M1/D1) and three poor quality (M1/D0) pitches none of which have sports lighting. Two of the poor quality pitches are overmarked with football pitches. Standard quality pitches are played to capacity at peak time whereas the poor quality pitches are accumulatively overplayed by 5.5 match equivalent sessions. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision. Owned by Leigh RUFC aspires to create a multi sport World Rugby complaint 3G at Round Ash Park as well as creating a new clubhouse.	Improve all pitches through enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve the poor quality pitches drainage. Assist the Club in its ambitions to create a new dedicated clubhouse to better accommodate all demand demographics. Explore the feasibility/viability of creating a multi sport 11v11 size WR compliant 3G on the site based on the overarching supply and demand balance.	Sports club RFU	Local	H	M / L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
153	Round Ash Park	30007823	WN7 3NA	Crown bowls	Sports club	One poor quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	Sports club BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
155	Meadowbank Primary School And Nursery Education Centre	6014587	M46 0HX	Netball	Education	One poor quality macadam courts that are not sports lit nor available for community use.	Improve court quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand	Education EN	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
163	The Westleigh School	1201586	WN7 5NL	3G	Education	A good quality sports lit community available small size (85x55 metres) 3G pitch built in 2020. Formally on the FA register.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Look to get the pitch back on the FA register.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
163	The Westleigh School	1201586	WN7 5NL	Netball	Education	Two poor quality macadam courts that are not sports lit nor available for community use.	Improve court quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand	Education EN	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
170	Atherton St George's C Of E Primary School	6014518	M46 0HJ	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches that have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. All pitches are poor quality.	Improve pitch quality with an enhanced maintenance regime to better accommodate curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
179	Leigh Leopards (Leigh Sports Village Stadium)	30007541	WN7 4JY	Rugby league	Sports club	Tow senior pitches both of which are good quality. One is a sports lit stadia pitch and the other is situated adjacent to the athletics track. Both are used by professional club Leigh Leopards.	Sustain quality and retain as current usage.	Sports club RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
188	Pennington Golf Course	1101392	WN7 4JY	Golf	Members	A standard nine hole golf course. Consultation has recently begun on the standard 9-hole course at Pennington Golf Course (Municipal). Initial options are to either improve irrigation and future proof against issues such as climate change, or, to create a smaller family oriented golf offer and develop the remainder of the course into a wetland education centre.	Protect provision for current and future golf demand. Ensure quality is suitable to meet demand. It is recommended that if the project is to move forward a feasibility study should be undertaken to explore options for Pennington Golf Course with engagement with England Golf and relevant stakeholders	Members EG	Local	H	S	L	Protect
190	Pennington Hall Park	30010969	WN7 3UA	Tennis	Council	Four good quality macadam courts available for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
190	Pennington Hall Park	30010969	WN7 3UA	Crown bowls	Council	Two standard quality crown greens.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
194	The Gardeners public house		M46 0PG	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
195	Botanical Gardens Bowling Green		M46 9AE	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
196	Morley Street		M46 0BA	Tennis	Council	Six poor quality macadam courts that are not sports lit but are available for community use.	Explore options to improve quality through resurfacing.	Council LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
196	Morley Street		M46 0BA	Crown bowls	Council	Two poor quality crown greens.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
197	Tydesley Subby Club, Haseley Close		M29 8HD	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
198	Butts Park Bowling Club, Sanderson's Croft		WN7 2LA	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
199	Leigh Bowling Club		WN7 2HA	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
203	Leigh Miners Welfare Institute		WN7 4EF	Rugby league	Sports club	One standard quality sport lit senior pitch used by Leigh Miners ARLFC (Senior teams). Played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Sports club RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
203	Leigh Miners Welfare Institute		WN7 4EF	Crown bowls	Sports club	One poor quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	Sports club BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
207	Green at end of Liza Street		WN7 5JB	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
253	Tyldesley Tennis Club		M29 8WD	Tennis	Sports club	Three good quality artificial courts two of which are sports lit.	Sustain quality with appropriate levels maintenance.	Sports club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
258	Hope Park		M29 8JN	Tennis (Disused)	Council	Previously provided three macadam tennis courts which are no longer marked or posted. The site is still actively used for rugby league.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
258	Hope Park		M29 8JN	Rugby league	Council	A poor quality senior pitch played to capacity from curricular / extracurricular demand from Fred Longworth High School.	Improve pitch quality to better meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand.	Council RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
260	Leigh Road Playing Field		WN7 1SN	Rugby league (Disused)	Council	Last actively marked circa 2021 with one senior rugby league pitch. There are also two single sets of football goalposts on the site.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Council RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

WEST ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2041) ¹⁶
Football (grass)	-	-	-
West	Adult	Shortfall of 3 MES per week	-
West	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5 MES per week	-
West	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1.5 MES per week	-
West	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 1 MES per week	-
West	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	-
Wigan Borough	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 6.5 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12 MES per week	Shortfall of 16.5 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 7 MES per week	Shortfall of 10.5 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	Shortfall of 6 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	Shortfall of 5 MES per week
Football (3G)	-	-	-
West	11v11	Shortfall of 1.5 pitch	-
Wigan Borough	11v11	Shortfall of 3.75 pitches	Shortfall of 4.75 pitches
Cricket	-	-	-
West	Saturday	Shortfall of 33 MES per season	Shortfall of 45 MES per season
West	Sunday	Shortfall of 1 MES per season	Shortfall of 1 MES per season
West	Midweek	Actual spare capacity of 9 MES per season	Actual spare capacity of 3 MES per season
Wigan Borough	Saturday	Shortfall of 82 MES per season	Shortfall of 106 MES per season
Wigan Borough	Sunday	Shortfall of 42 MES per season	Shortfall of 42 MES per season
Wigan Borough	Midweek	Shortfall of 4 MES per season	Shortfall of 16 MES per season
Rugby union	-	-	-
West	Senior	Shortfall of 9 MES per week	-
Wigan Borough	Senior	Shortfall of 17 MES per week	Shortfall of 18.25 MES per week
Rugby league	-	-	-
West	Senior	Shortfall of 28.75 MES per week	-
West	Junior	Shortfall of 2 MES per week	-
West	Mini	Shortfall of 3.5 MES per week	-

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

¹⁶ It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Boroughwide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ⁽¹⁾	Future capacity total in MES (2041) ¹⁶
Wigan Borough	Senior	Shortfall of 33.25 MES per week	Shortfall of 33.75 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Junior	Shortfall of 4.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 6 MES per week
Wigan Borough	Mini	Shortfall of 3.5 MES per week	Shortfall of 5.5 MES per week
Hockey	-	-	-
Wigan Borough	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply if quality improvements occur at Standish Community High School	Sufficient supply if quality improvements occur at Standish Community High School

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Bowls	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand in the West Analysis Area with 26 greens provided. Clubs (St Matthews BC) should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient.
Tennis	With 20 community available courts provided in the West Analysis Area for club-based tennis, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand with 15 courts available at club sites. Away from clubs, no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, and previously expressed latent demand is likely to have been met. However, it is also likely that informal demand will continue to increase following the improvements to courts. For Padel, if all the current applications are completed this would see the creation of 13 courts meaning there would still be a shortfall of 12 in the Wigan Borough.
Netball	With 15 community available netball courts provided in the West Analysis Area located across five sites, Hawkley Hall High School, Shevington High School, Dean Trust Wigan, Standish Leisure Centre and Robin Park Leisure Centre, supply is considered sufficient provision to meet demand. However, there is a need to improve court quality at Hawkley Hall High School and Dean Trust Wigan.
Athletics	There are two formal athletics tracks in Wigan with one provided in the West Analysis located at Robin Park Arena. Supply is sufficient to meet demand for athletics in Wigan, however, quality improvements are required.
Golf	There are two 18-hole course located at Haigh Hall Golf Course and Gathurst Golf Club Ltd and one 9-hole course located at Porters Wood Golf Course in the West Analysis Area. There is no driving ranges located in the West Analysis Area. Supply is sufficient to meet demand for golf in Wigan.
Archery	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand in the West Analysis Area with one outdoor facility located at Wigan RUFC. Clubs should be monitored to ensure their existing provision remains sufficient.

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Ashfield Park	6008122	WN6 0EX	Football	Council	Two adult and two youth 11v11 pitches that have spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Not accompanied by any ancillary provision. Pitch improvements due for completion Autumn 2025.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF LFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
10	Cale Lane Playing Fields	1040632	WN2 1HA	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch played to capacity and one youth 9v9 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Not accompanied by any ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
12	Christopher Park Training Ground	30004846	WN6 8LB	Football	Sports club	Four adult and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are good quality. Wigan Athletic FC training Ground.	Retain as current use no action required.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
13	Coronation Park (Wigan)	6007388	WN6 8JP	Football	Council	One mini 5v5 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality as required based on demand.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge	1002652	WN1 3HD	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch played to capacity and one mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge	1002652	WN1 3HD	3G	Education	Two small size (55x30 metres) FA certified sports lit 3Gs. Both good quality having been built in 2023.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure a relevant pitch replacement fund is in situ. Retest as appropriate to remain FA certified.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
16	Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field	1041448	WN2 2HP	Football / Rugby league (Disused)	Education	The playing field previously had three rugby league pitches marked last used circa 2012. It has also had football marked on it. There are plans to reinstate this site. Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Wigan Town FC are currently in conversations with the Council regarding reinstating provision at disused site Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field, known locally as Imperial Fields. The clubs have been successful in obtaining funding which should see one senior rugby league pitch, one adult football pitch and three dual use junior/youth rugby league and football pitches established. Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC indicates it is waiting for the agreement to be finalised for work to commence. Subject to DfE consent to surrender and lease to sports clubs.	Assist the clubs in securing long term tenure on the site. Create pitches in order to provide additionally capacity for Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Wigan Town FC.	Education FF LFA RFL	Local	H	S	M	Protect Provide

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
20	The Brick Community Stadium	30003456	WN5 0UH	Football / Rugby league	Sports club	A dual use adult football and senior rugby league pitch stadia pitch. Used by Wigan Athletic FC and Wigan Warriors.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.	Sports club FF LFA RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect
27	Hawkley Hall High School	1201723	WN3 5NY	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
27	Hawkley Hall High School	1201723	WN3 5NY	AGP	Education	A poor quality small size (70x40m) sports lit community available AGP. No known hockey usage. Built in 2005.	Look to refurbish the pitch with the preferred surface to suit curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education EH	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
27	Hawkley Hall High School	1201723	WN3 5NY	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality artificial courts that are not available for community use nor sports lit. Overmarked with netball.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
27	Hawkley Hall High School	1201723	WN3 5NY	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality senior pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
27	Hawkley Hall High School	1201723	WN3 5NY	Netball	Education	Four standard quality artificial courts and two poor quality macadam courts that are not available for community use nor sports lit. Overmarked with tennis.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	6008034	WN5 0UE	Football	Leisure United	Three adult and one youth 11v11 pitch all of which are good quality that have actual spare capacity at peak time of 2.5 and one match equivalent session, respectively.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand.	Leisure United FF LFA	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	6008034	WN5 0UE	3G	Leisure United	Three 11v11 size sports lit 3Gs all of which are FIFA certified and good quality (2023).	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure pitches are retested as appropriate to remain FIFA certified. Ensure relevant pitch replacement funds are in situ. Consider future opportunity for the development of additional 3G provision within the hub given the underutilisation of adjacent grass pitches.	Leisure United FF LFA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
46	Oldham's Fold	30008460	WN5 8HB	Football	Council	One youth 9v9 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to being poor quality.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF, LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
47	Parsons Meadow	6008058	WN3 5UB	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality. Adult pitches and youth 11v11 have actual spare capacity at peak time of two and one match equivalent session, respectively. Remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Accompanied by poor quality changing rooms not suitable for women and girls' demand.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand. Assist in improving changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Council FF LFA	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
47	Parsons Meadow	6008058	WN3 5UB	3G	Council	A poor quality small size (38x20 metres) that is sports lit and available for community use. Built in 2012.	Refurbish pitch as it is beyond its recommend lifespan. Ensure a relevant pitch replacement fund is in situ.	Council FF LFA	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
47	Parsons Meadow	6008058	WN3 5UB	Rugby league	Council	One sports lit senior pitch, two senior pitches and two junior pitches all of which are poor quality. Overplayed by four, 0.5 and one match equivalent session, respectively. Rented by Wigan St Judes ARLFC. Accompanied by poor quality changing rooms not suitable for women and girls demand.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore relocating some/all training demand off the site to a suitable artificial surface. Assist in improving changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Council RFL	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
50	Robin Park Arena	30009815	WN5 0UH	3G	Sports club	A 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch that is FA and RFL certified. Standard quality built in 2014. Used by primarily Wigan Warriors and football training demand.	Refurbish pitch as required as it is beyond its recommended lifespan. Ensure it is made available for wider rugby league and football community use. Ensure it is retested as required to remain FA and RFL certified.	Sports club FF LFA RFL	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
50	Robin Park Arena	30009815	WN5 0UH	Rugby league / Football	Sports club	One good quality sports lit senior pitch used by Wigan Warriors. Has previously been used for football but not primarily utilised as a rugby league pitch. Located within the Athletics track.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.	Sports club RFL	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
50	Robin Park Arena	30009815	WN5 0UH	Athletics	Sports club	A poor quality 8 lane 400 metre synthetic track with sports lighting. Used by Wigan Harriers AC. The athletics track located at Robins Park Arena needs resurfacing within the next two years and minor repairs are needed to the field facilities. Wigan Harriers AC is currently working with Wigan Warriors RLFC on a facilities development plan.	Look to resurface the track in the immediate future. Once refurbished look to regain TrackMark accreditation. Ensure long term security of tenure for Wigan Harriers AC.	Sports club EA	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	6007920	WN5 0PN	Football	Council	Three adult pitches that are poor quality and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions and one mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality. Two of the adult pitches are managed under licence.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council Sports club FF LFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	6007920	WN5 0PN	Rugby league	Council	One poor quality senior pitch overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Rented by Wigan Bulldogs ARLFC which reports of dog fouling, vandalism and lack of line markings.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore options to reduce dog fouling and vandalism.	Council RFL	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
52	Shevington High School	1201574	WN6 8AB	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 that are played to capacity and one poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
52	Shevington High School	1201574	WN6 8AB	3G	Education	Identified aspirations to create a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch on the site which could potentially be used for both football and rugby league. Potential location could encompass underutilised redgra area with the playing fields.	Explore feasibility and opportunity to develop 11v11 3G pitch to reduce sub-area shortfalls for both football and rugby league.	Education FF LFA RFL	Local	M	M	L	Provide
52	Shevington High School	1201574	WN6 8AB	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are not available for community use nor sports lit. Overmarked with netball.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
52	Shevington High School	1201574	WN6 8AB	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality senior pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
52	Shevington High School	1201574	WN6 8AB	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are not available for community use nor sports lit. Overmarked with netball.	Sustain quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
53	Shevington Recreational Ground	6000342	WN6 8HB	Football	Parish council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality with an enhanced maintenance regime.	Parish council FF, LFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
55	Southlands Avenue Playing Fields	6007419	WN6 0TH	Football	Council	One adult pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality. Plans are in place to improve drainage.	Improve pitch quality with an enhanced maintenance regime. Ensure plans to improve the pitch drainage are carried out.	Council FF LFA	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
56	St Catherines Playing Fields	6007896	WN1 3XJ	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches played to capacity and a mini 7v7 that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality with an enhanced maintenance regime.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
60	St James Park (Wigan Rovers FC)	6019096	WN3 5DP	Football	Sports club	One standard quality pitch played to capacity at peak time. Basic storage containers which are used for storage and changing.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced maintenance. Examine the potential of improving basic ancillary provision.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
61	St John Fisher Catholic High School (Wigan)	1201703	WN6 7RN	AGP	Education	A poor quality small size (56x35m) sports lit AGP. Not available for community use whilst the School is being rebuilt.	Look to refurbish the pitch, as part of the rebuild, with the preferred surface to suit curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EH	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
62	St John Rigby College	1200790	WN5 0LJ	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult pitches overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, one good quality youth 9v9 and one standard mini 7v7 pitch both of which have no spare capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality where possible with enhanced maintenance.	Education FF LFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
62	St John Rigby College	1200790	WN5 0LJ	3G	Education	A poor quality 11v11 size sports lit community available 3G pitch built in 2006.	Refurbish pitch as a priority. Once refurbished look to register the pitch for FA, WR and RFL certification if possible. Ensure a relevant pitch replacement fund is in situ.	Education FF LFA	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
62	St John Rigby College	1200790	WN5 0LJ	Rugby union	Education	One poor quality (M1/D0) overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions. Used by Orrell RUFC.	Look to improve pitch quality through both maintenance and drainage enhancements in order to alleviate overplay and better accommodate curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education RFU	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
62	St John Rigby College	1200790	WN5 0LJ	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality senior pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
65	St Peters Catholic High School	1201722	WN5 8NU	Football	Education	One standard quality 9v9 pitch played to capacity. Available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
65	St Peters Catholic High School	1201722	WN5 8NU	Rugby league	Education	Two poor quality senior pitches played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
65	St Peters Catholic High School	1201722	WN5 8NU	3G	Education	A 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch that is FA certified and standard quality (2010).	Refurbish the pitch as it is beyond its recommended lifespan. Whilst refurbishing explore options to make it RFL compliant as long as it isn't to the detriment to football activity. Once refurbished look to ensure FA certification.	Education FF LFA	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
67	Standish Community High School	1201530	WN6 0NX	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch played to capacity. Available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
67	Standish Community High School	1201530	WN6 0NX	AGP	Education	A poor quality sport lit full size (92x55m) hockey suitable AGP. Used by Leigh HC. Quality is extremely poor with the pitch being close to unusable having been built in 2005.	As the pitch is used currently used for hockey, and based on anticipated future levels of demand, look to refurbish and protect the pitch as a hockey suitable surface. Look to formalise community access through a CUA.	Education EH FF LFA	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
69	The Convent Playing Fields	6018308	WN6 0UJ	Football	Sports club	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are poor quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent session. Spare capacity is discounted on the mini 7v7 due to quality. Recently suffered from vandalism.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to address issues caused by recent vandalism.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	30003063	WN5 9XN	Football	Sports club	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch both of which are standard quality and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Accompanied by poor quality changing rooms not suitable for women and girls' demand.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist in improving changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	30003063	WN5 9XN	Rugby league	Sports club	Three good quality senior pitches overplayed by one match equivalent session. Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC has four years remaining on a lease from the Council. Accompanied by poor quality changing rooms not suitable for women and girls' demand.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore relocating some/all training demand off the site to a suitable artificial surface. Assist in improving changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Sports club RFL	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	1002655	WN5 7XF	Football	Education	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches overplayed by three match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	1002655	WN5 7XF	3G	Education	The school report aspirations to create a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch on the site as part of a wider site development.	Explore potential future aspiration and opportunity as a possible 3G pitch location to reduce sub-area shortfall. This could include addressing shortfalls for rugby league and rugby union.	Education FF LFA RFL RFU	Local	M	M	L	Provide
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	1002655	WN5 7XF	Rugby union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions. Used by Orrell RUFC.	Improve pitch quality through both maintenance and drainage enhancements to better accommodate curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education RFU	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							Explore transferring demand off the pitch in order to alleviate overplay.						
77	Winstanley Warriors FC	6008046	WN3 6PZ	Football	Sports club	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 all of which are good quality and have no spare capacity at peak time. The Club has aspiration to build a new clubhouse including changing facilities to better cater for demand.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Assist the Club with its plans to create a new clubhouse facility.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
77	Winstanley Warriors FC	6008046	WN3 6PZ	3G	Sports club	A small size (60x40 metres) that is FA certified, sports lit and available for community use. Standard quality having been built in 2018.	Sustain pitch quality and refurbish when required. Ensure it is retested for FA certification when required.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
78	Woodhouse Playing Field	6017854	WN6 7RQ	Rugby league	Council	One senior and one junior pitch played to capacity from curricular / extracurricular demand from St John Fisher Catholic High School.	Improve pitch quality to better meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand.	Council RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
81	Highfield Cricket Club	1208477	WN3 6BL	Cricket	Sports club	One good quality square with 17 wickets with spare capacity on Sundays and Midweek. Highfield CC aspires to extend its current lease agreement.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Assist Highfield CC in extending its lease agreement. Utilise spare capacity for future demand.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
81	Highfield Cricket Club	1208477	WN3 6BL	Crown bowls	Sports club	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	Sports club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	1208484	WN5 9XH	Cricket	Sports club	One good quality square with 13 wickets with spare capacity on Sundays and Midweek. Changing rooms are not suitable for women and girls' demand.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand. Explore options to improve changing rooms to better accommodate female demand.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	1208472	WN5 7XE	Cricket	Sports club	A good quality square with 15 wickets, accompanied by a NTP, with spare capacity for additional demand midweek. Outfield is standard quality.	Sustain square quality with appropriate maintenance. Assist the Club in improving outfield quality. Utilise spare capacity for future demand.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	1208472	WN5 7XE	Crown bowls	Sports club	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	Sports club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
87	Standish Cricket Club	1040927	WN6 0TX	Cricket	Sports club	One standard quality square with 13 wickets, accompanied by a NTP, overplayed by 11 match equivalent sessions a season. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision which does not meet league requirements. A planning application (A/23/95435) was approved in September 2024 for a single storey side extension and external terrace to clubhouse together with a three lane cricket net, following a partial demolition of its existing clubhouse.	Improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist the Club with the development / refurbishment of clubhouse and training provision ensuring they meet relevant league requirements.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	H	S	M / H	Protect Enhance Provide
90	Wigan Sports Club	1036262	WN1 1RU	Cricket / Padel	Sports club	A good quality square overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions. Wigan Sports Club has plans to move the practice nets opposite the pavilion and replace the area with padel courts, which indoor or outdoor. Although no formal plans have been submitted if they are achieved, there could be a potential issue with ball strike if the nets are relocated.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore installing a NTP in order to reduce levels of overplay. Explore the feasibility of practice provision being relocated to provide Padel provision as long it is not to the detriment of the cricket practice facilities.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	1040926	WN3 6BG	Cricket	Sports club	A good quality square with 12 wickets, accompanied by a NTP, overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions a season. Winstanley Park CC has unsecure tenure on the site.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to greater utilise onsite NTP to reduce overplay. Look to provide the Club with secured long term tenure.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
93	Haigh Hall Golf Course	1101389	WN2 1PE	Golf	Municipal	A standard 18 hole course.	Protect provision for current and future golf demand. Ensure quality is suitable to meet demand.	Municipal EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
95	Aspull Church Primary School	6014455	WN2 1QT	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	30006461	WN5 8HU	Football	Sports club	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches that have actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions at peak time and one mini 7v7 pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session at peak time. It does not have separate changing facilities for women and girls demand	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand. Assist in improving changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	30006461	WN5 8HU	Rugby league	Sports club	Two good quality senior pitches, one of which is sports lit, and two standard quality senior pitches, one of which is sports lit. Pitches are accumulatively overplayed by 9.25 match equivalent sessions. Orrell St James ARLFC indicates plans for both a clubhouse redevelopment and improvements to drainage on two of its pitches at Bankes Avenue Playing Fields. It does not have separate changing facilities for women and girls' demand. There is a potential need for ball stop netting is link road developments take place.	Sustain good quality pitches with appropriate levels of maintenance. Assist the Club in drainage improvements on standard quality pitches. Explore relocating some/all training demand off the site to a suitable artificial surface. Assist in improving changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand. If link road development takes place, ensure relevant ball stop netting is installed for continues pitch usage.	Sports club RFL	Local	H	S	M / H	Protect Enhance Provide
98	Britannia Bridge Primary School	30005635	WN3 4SD	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch overplayed by one match equivalent session and one mini 7v7 pitch played to capacity. Both pitches are poor quality.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
101	Dean Trust Wigan	1037812	WN5 0DQ	Football	Education	A standard quality youth 11v11 is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent session and a standard quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
101	Dean Trust Wigan	1037812	WN5 0DQ	3G	Education	A standard quality (2016) 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch that is FA certified.	Sustain pitch quality as required and refurbish once it has reached the end of its lifespan. Ensure a relevant pitch replacement fund is in situ. Ensure pitch is retested as required to remain on the FA register.	Education FF LFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
101	Dean Trust Wigan	1037812	WN5 0DQ	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality senior pitch played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education RFL	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
101	Dean Trust Wigan	1037812	WN5 0DQ	Netball	Education	Two macadam courts that are poor quality that are not sports lit but available for community use.	Improve quality as appropriate to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education EN	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
105	Highfield St. Matthews Primary School	6012263	WN3 6BL	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
110	Ince C Of E Primary School	6014435	WN2 2AL	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
116	Millbrook Primary School	6014619	WN6 8DL	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
121	Orrell Lamberhead Green Community Primary School	6014454	WN5 0AW	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 5v5 and one mini 7v7 pitch that are available community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
126	Shevington Vale Primary School	6014476	WN6 8EW	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
128	St Aidans RC School	30003271	WN3 6EE	Football	Education	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
131	St James' C Of E Primary School	6014445	WN3 5XE	Football	Education	A poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
141	Wigan St Andrew's C Of E Junior And Infant School	6014607	WN6 7AU	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
142	Winstanley Community Primary School	6014597	WN3 6JP	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
143	Wood Fold Primary School	6014563	WN6 0TS	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
144	Alexandra Park Playing Fields	1040631	WN5 9BN	Football (Disused)	Council	One mini 7v7 pitch which is no longer actively marked due to a lack of demand.	Protect as current use in line with NPPF and Sport England guidelines.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
144	Alexandra Park Playing Fields	1040631	WN5 9BN	Tennis (Disused)	Council	Previously provided two macadam tennis courts which are no longer marked or posted. Now used as public open space.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
144	Alexandra Park Playing Fields	1040631	WN5 9BN	Crown bowls	Council	One standard quality crown green and one poor quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	20001887	WN2 2DZ	Rugby league / Football	Sports club	One standard quality senior pitch overplayed by six match equivalent sessions and one poor quality mini pitch overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Overmarked with football. Overmarked by football. Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Wigan Town FC plan to create additional pitches offsite.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist the clubs in creating pitches offsite in order to help in alleviating shortfalls. Explore relocating some/all training demand off the site to a suitable artificial surface.	Sports club RFL FF LFA	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	20001887	WN2 2DZ	Crown bowls (Disused)	Sports club	One disused crown bowling green.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision.	Sports club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.						
157	Fives Wigan	1042253	WN5 0UN	3G	Commercial	Six standard (2015) quality small size 3G pitches (40x20 metres) that are sports lit and available for community use. There is a current planning application pending decision (A/24/97981/MAJOR) for the creation of six indoor padel courts which would see the loss of three of the six small sided 3G pitches.	Work with provider to establish padel courts in order to alleviate shortfalls as 3G are considered too small to accommodate meaningful training demand. Sustain remaining 3G provision through appropriate maintenance. Ensure relevant pitch replacement funds are in situ.	Commercial FF LFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
158	Leisure United William Fosters	6008089	WN2 2BU	3G	Leisure United	Two 11v11 size sports lit 3Gs both of which are FIFA certified and good quality (2023).	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure pitches are retested as appropriate to remain FIFA certified. Ensure relevant pitch replacement funds are in situ.	Leisure United FF LFA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
161	Standish Leisure Centre	30009082	WN6 0XB	3G	Council	A good quality (2020) FA certified small size (55x40 metres) 3G pitch that is available for community use and sports lit. Also another smaller size 3G pitch (38x20 metres) with sports lit recently converted from a macadam tennis/netball court (July 2025).	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Ensure pitches are retested as appropriate to remain FA certified. Ensure relevant pitch replacement funds are in situ.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
162	The Deanery C Of E High School	1203075	WN1 1HQ	3G	Education	One standard quality (2018) small size (42x36 metre) sports lit 3G pitch available for community use. Formally FA certified.	Sustain pitch quality as appropriate and look to refurbish when required. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in situ. Look to obtain FA certification.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
162	The Deanery C Of E High School	1203075	WN1 1HQ	AGP	Education	A full size (92x58m) sports lit hockey suitable AGP used by Wigan HC. Standard quality having been refurbished in 2018. The Club aspires to refurbish the pitch within the next five years.	Protect the pitch as a hockey suitable surface and look to refurbish when required base on usage and quality.	Education EH	Local	M	L	H	Protect Enhance
164	Wigan Youth Zone	1041966	WN1 1RU	3G	Community organisation	Four small size (36x18 metres) that are sports lit and available for community use. Poor quality having been built in 2013.	Refurbish pitch as it is beyond its recommend lifespan. Ensure a relevant pitch replacement fund is in situ.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
173	Moor Road Recreation Ground	30008073	WN5 8SH	Football	Council	One mini 5v5 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate based on demand.	Council FF LFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
176	Orrell Holgate Primary School	6014605	WN5 8SJ	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that has actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality as appropriate to meet curricular, extracurricular and community demand.	Education FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
176	Orrell Holgate Primary School	6014605	WN5 8SJ	AGP	Education	A poor quality small size (35x34m) sports lit AGP. Not available for community use.	Improve quality as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.	Education EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	20001585	WN1 3BN	Rugby league	Sports club	One good quality and one standard quality sports senior pitches and one standard quality mini pitch overplayed by 3.5, 2 and 1 match equivalent sessions, respectively. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC (Clarington Grove Playing Fields) aspires to convert a current unused area of hardstanding into a dedicated grass pitch to provide additional capacity. It does not have separate changing facilities for women and girls' demand.	Sustain good pitch quality and look to improve standard quality pitches with enhanced maintenance. Assist the Club, where possible, in establishing additional capacity on the site. Explore relocating some/all training demand off the site to a suitable artificial surface. Assist in improving changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Sports club RFL	Local	M	M	M / H	Protect Enhance
181	Edge Hall Road Community Stadium	30008072	WN5 8TL	Rugby league / Football	Sports club	One good quality sports lit stadia pitch that is used by Wigan Warriors RLFC and Wigan Athletic FC women and girls' teams.	Carry out relative levels of maintenance to sustain the dual use pitch quality. Ensure suitable accompanying ancillary provision meet the requirements for users.	Sports club RFL FF LFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	30008203	WN2 1PJ	Rugby union	Sports club	Two senior pitches, one of which is sports lit, overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions and one mini pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. The sports lit pitch is standard quality (M1/D1) with the other pitches being poor quality (M0/D0). Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision with poor quality changing rooms. Aspull RFC aspires to create a 3G pitch on site.	Improve pitch quality through both maintenance and drainage enhancements. Assist the Club in improving ancillary provision particularly changing rooms to better accommodate all demographics such as women and girls. Explore options to create an additional senior pitch on the site. Assist the Club in accessing a 3G in its locality in order to alleviate shortfalls if the site is deemed unsuitable for development.	Sports club RFU	Local	H	M	M / H	Protect Enhance
183	Douglas Valley	30009247	WN1 2SJ	Rugby union	Sports club	Three standard quality (M2/D0) senior pitches one of which is sports lit. Accumulatively overplayed by five match equivalent sessions. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision with poor quality changing rooms.	Improve pitch quality through both maintenance and drainage enhancements. Assist the Club in improving ancillary provision particularly changing rooms to better accommodate all demographics such as women and girls.	Sports club RFU	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							Look to transfer partial training demand onto relevant local WR 3G provision in order to alleviate shortfalls.						
185	Gathurst Golf Club Ltd	1101388	WN6 8EW	Golf	Members	A standard 18 hole course.	Protect provision for current and future golf demand. Ensure quality is suitable to meet demand.	Members EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
189	Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club	30006864	WN1 2NF	Tennis	Sports club	Six artificial and three macadam courts all of which are sports lit. All macadam and four artificial courts are sports lit.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. If demand increases exploring installing additional sports lights to increase capacity.	Sports club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
191	Robin Park Leisure Centre	1002651	WN5 0UH	Tennis (Padel)	Commercial	Four good quality macadam courts available for community use and sports lit. Overmarked by netball. Identified for potential Padel courts development.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to create Padel courts on the site but not to the detriment to other sports.	Commercial LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
191	Robin Park Leisure Centre	1002651	WN5 0UH	Netball	Commercial	Four good quality macadam courts available for community use and sports lit. Overmarked by tennis.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Commercial EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
192	Winstanley Tennis Club	30006715	WN5 7XN	Tennis	Sports club	Six good quality macadam courts all available for community use. Four of the courts are sports lit.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
201	St. Marie's Bowling Club		WN6 0UR	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
202	St Wilfrid's Bowling Club		WN6 0NH	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
214	St Patrick's Parish Club		WN1 3SA	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
216	Earls Sports and Social Club		WN2 2EN	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
218	Wigan Bowling Green Ltd		WN1 2ND	Crown bowls	BCGBA	Two standard quality crown greens.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
219	Whelly Labour Club		WN1 3PZ	Crown bowls (Disused)	BCGBA	One disused crown bowling green.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground		WN2 1PP	Football (3G)	Sports club	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch both of which are good quality and each have actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session at peak time. Also, one youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch that are all at capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls and/or accommodate future demand. Explore the feasibility of creating a sports lit 11v11 size 3G pitch on the site which could reduce football, rugby league and rugby union shortfalls.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground		WN2 1PP	Tennis	Sports club	Previously provided three macadam tennis courts which are no longer marked or posted. The site is still actively used for football.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground		WN2 1PP	Crown bowls	Sports club	Two poor quality crown greens.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	Sports club BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
224	Behind the Boars Head pub, Wigan Lane		WN6 0AD	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One poor quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
225	Wigan Subscription Crown Green Bowls Club		WN1 1SA	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
226	Mesnes Park		WN1 1TU	Tennis (Disused)	Council	Previously provided seven macadam tennis courts which are no longer marked or posted. Now used as public open space. Identified by the LTA for potential investment.	Work with the LTA and Council to create an investment strategy to improve court quality and utilisation.	Council LTA	Local	M	M	L / M	Protect Enhance
226	Mesnes Park		WN1 1TU	Crown bowls (Disused)	Council	One disused crown bowling green.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
227	St. Paul's Bowling Club		WN3 5XJ	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
228	Pools Street		WN3 5DZ	Crown bowls (Disused)	BCGBA	One disused crown bowling green.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
231	Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club		WN5 8DF	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One poor quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
232	St Aidens Social Club		WN3 6EE	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
234	Pemberton Cons Crown Green Bowling Club		WN5 8HY	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
235	Pemberton Central Working Men's Club		WN5 8DJ	Crown bowls (Disused)	BCGBA	One disused crown bowling green.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
237	Coronation Park		WN6 8JP	Crown bowls (Disused)	Council	One disused crown bowling green.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
238	Shevington Conservative Club		WN6 8EB	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One good quality crown green.	Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
239	Shevington Village Bowling Club (Forest Fold)		WN6 8JG	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
240	Bispham Hall Recreation Crown Green Bowls Club		WN5 7DW	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
241	Holts Arms Crown Green Bowls Club		WN5 7DT	Crown bowls (Disused)	BCGBA	One disused crown bowling green.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
242	St James Social Club		WN5 7AA	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
244	Great Acre		WN1 3NR	Crown bowls	BCGBA	Three standard quality crown greens.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
245	Ravine WMC		WN5 9HF	Crown bowls	BCGBA	One standard quality crown green.	Improve quality as required to meet demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
251	Goose Green Cricket Club		WN3 6FA	Cricket	Sports club	A standard quality square with 12 wickets overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions a season. Goose Green CC has desire for an additional net.	Improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist Goose Green CC with its aspirations for additional training provision.	Sports club ECB LCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
252	Vicarage Lane	30008371	WN6 8HP	Football	Sports club	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed one match equivalent session and the mini 7v7 is played to capacity at peak time. No separate changing for women and girls.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced maintenance to alleviate overplay. Assist in improving changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Sports club FF LFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

WIGAN COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
252	Vicarage Lane	30008371	WN6 8HP	Rugby league	Sports club	One senior and one junior pitch both of which are good quality. Overplayed by one match equivalent session each. No separate changing for women and girls.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Explore relocating some/all training demand off the site to a suitable artificial surface. Assist in improving changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand.	Sports club RFL	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
254	Porters Wood Golf Course		WN5 0LH	Golf	Proprietary	A standard Par 3 nine hole course.	Protect provision for current and future golf demand. Ensure quality is suitable to meet demand.	Proprietary EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2041 (in line with the anticipated Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that housing sites with 1,000 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)¹⁷. The SFC is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas. The model has no spatial qualities or dimension and can only be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations.

The SFC uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area.

The SFC then turns this estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent amount of facility which is needed to meet these visits.

As detailed above, the SFC includes tennis courts, however, it does not calculate a need for netball, athletics, and bowling greens which are also covered in the scope of the PPOSS. Recommendations on need for this type of provision is provided using the evidence base collated within the PPOSS.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, or this is not possible, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Wigan, thus showing how the calculator works and data it provides. Figures are taken from Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan 2024. The occupancy rate of 2.44 has been used which is in line with the national average.

¹⁷<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/sports-facility-calculator>

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

7.1: Scenario One – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 1,400 dwellings at H3 North Leigh Park (3,416 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,400 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.44 people per household (based on a national average) is 3,416 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 4.93 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.17 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 9.61 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 7.93 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 0.80 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and rugby league and 0.32 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 3,416 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week ¹⁸	Training demand ¹⁹
Adult football	0.67	7.96 hours
Youth football	1.85	As above
Mini soccer	1.47	As above
Rugby union	0.27	0.3 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.67	0.77 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.09	0.28 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.08	0.04 hours
Cricket	9.61	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁰	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²¹	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.67	£74,066	£14,591	1.33	£272,698
Youth football	1.85	£177,039	£35,762	2.2	£450,816
Mini soccer	1.47	£44,450	£8,801	0	£0
Rugby union	0.27	£45,575	£8,431	0.53	£108,575
Rugby league	0.67	£102,136	£18,895	1.35	£275,767
Cricket	0.21	£73,819	£13,583	0.41	£84,216
Sand based AGPs	0.02	£22,713	£591	0.05	£9,435
3G pitches	0.21	£248,518	£7,382	0.42	£85,659
Tennis courts	0.44	£49,818	-	-	-
Total	5.81	£838,134	£103,036	6.29	£1,287,166

¹⁸ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

¹⁹ Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

²⁰ [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

²¹ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Overall, an additional 5.81 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 3,416 people living in Wigan Borough. This consist of 5.14 grass pitches, 0.23 of access to artificial pitches and 0.44 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £838,134 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £103,036. To facilitate the increased provision, 6.29 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £1,287,166.

7.2: Scenario Two – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 2,000 dwellings at H4 South Hindley (4,880 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2,000 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.44 people per household (based on a national average) is 4,880 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 7.03 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.25 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 13.77 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 11.37 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 1.54 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and rugby league and 0.46 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 4,880 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week ²²	Training demand ²³
Adult football	0.95	11.37 hours
Youth football	2.64	As above
Mini soccer	2.1	As above
Rugby union	0.38	0.43 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.96	1.11 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.13	0.4 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.12	0.06 hours
Cricket	13.77	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁴	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²⁵	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.95	£105,806	£20,844	1.9	£389,559
Youth football	2.64	£252,891	£51,084	3.15	£643,891
Mini soccer	2.1	£63,493	£12,572	0	£0
Rugby union	0.38	£65,101	£12,044	0.76	£155,093
Rugby league	0.96	£145,897	£26,991	1.93	£393,923
Cricket	0.29	£105,450	£19,403	0.59	£120,302
Sand based AGPs	0.03	£32,447	£844	0.07	£13,478
3G pitches	0.3	£354,992	£10,544	0.6	£122,359

²² As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²³ Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

²⁴ [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

²⁵ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁴	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²⁵	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Tennis courts	0.63	£71,168	-	-	-
Total	8.28	£1,197,245	£154, 326	9	£1,838,605

Overall, an additional 8.28 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 4,880 people living in Wigan Borough. This consist of 7.32 grass pitches, 0.33 of access to artificial pitches and 0.63 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £1,197,245 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £1,197,245. To facilitate the increased provision, nine changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £1,838,605.

7.3: Scenario Three – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 320 dwellings at H5 Remaining land south of Atherton (781 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 320 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.44 people per household (based on a national average) is 781 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 1.12 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.04 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 2.2 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 1.82 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 0.25 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and rugby league and 0.07 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 781 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week ²⁶	Training demand ²⁷
Adult football	0.15	1.82 hours
Youth football	0.42	As above
Mini soccer	0.34	As above
Rugby union	0.06	0.07 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.15	0.18 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.02	0.06 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.02	0.01 hours
Cricket	2.2	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁸	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²⁹	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.15	£16,931	£3,335	0.3	£62,338
Youth football	0.42	£40,477	£8,176	0.5	£103,072
Mini soccer	0.34	£10,162	£2,012	0	£0

²⁶ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²⁷ Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

²⁸ [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

²⁹ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁸	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²⁹	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Rugby union	0.06	£10,418	£1,927	0.12	£24,820
Rugby league	0.15	£23,351	£4,320	0.31	£63,046
Cricket	0.05	£16,876	£3,105	0.09	£19,252
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£5,193	£135	0.01	£2,157
3G pitches	0.05	£56,817	£1,688	0.1	£19,584
Tennis courts	0.1	£11,390	-	-	-
Total	1.33	£191,615	£24,698	1.43	£294,269

Overall, an additional 1.33 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 781 people living in Wigan Borough. This consist of 1.17 grass pitches, 0.06 of access to artificial pitches and 0.1 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £191,615 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £24,698. To facilitate the increased provision, 1.43 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £294,269.

7.4: Scenario Four – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 600 dwellings at H6 East of Atherton (1,464 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 600 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.44 people per household (based on a national average) is 1,464 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 2.11 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.08 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP's and 4.13 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 3.41 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 0.46 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and rugby league and 0.14 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.7: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 1,464 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week ³⁰	Training demand ³¹
Adult football	0.29	3.41 hours
Youth football	0.79	As above
Mini soccer	0.63	As above
Rugby union	0.11	0.13 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.29	0.33 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.04	0.12 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.04	0.02 hours
Cricket	4.13	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

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

³¹ Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.8: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ³²	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ³³	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.29	£31,745	£6,254	0.57	£116,879
Youth football	0.79	£75,883	£15,328	0.94	£193,208
Mini soccer	0.63	£19,048	£3,771	0	£0
Rugby union	0.11	£19,533	£3,614	0.23	£46,534
Rugby league	0.29	£43,774	£8,098	0.58	£118,191
Cricket	0.09	£31,639	£5,822	0.18	£36,096
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£9,735	£253	0.02	£4,044
3G pitches	0.09	£106,509	£3,164	0.18	£36,712
Tennis courts	0.19	£21,350	-	-	-
Total	2.49	£359,216	£46,304	2.7	£551,664

Overall, an additional 2.49 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 1,464 people living in Wigan Borough. This consist of 2.2 grass pitches, 0.1 of access to artificial pitches and 0.19 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £359,216 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £46,304. To facilitate the increased provision, 2.7 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £551,664.

7.5: Scenario Five – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 400 dwellings at H7 Remaining land at Landgate (976 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 400 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.44 people per household (based on a national average) is 976 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 1.41 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.05 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 2.75 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 2.27 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 0.31 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and rugby league and 0.09 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.9: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 976 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week ³⁴	Training demand ³⁵
Adult football	0.19	2.27 hours
Youth football	0.53	As above
Mini soccer	0.42	As above
Rugby union	0.08	0.09 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.19	0.22 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.03	0.08 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.02	0.01 hours
Cricket	2.75	-

³² [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

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

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

³⁵ Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifecycle costs.

Table 7.10: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ³⁶	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ³⁷	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.19	£21,161	£4,169	0.38	£77,910
Youth football	0.53	£50,572	£10,216	0.63	£128,778
Mini soccer	0.42	£12,697	£2,514	0	£0
Rugby union	0.08	£13,021	£2,409	0.15	£31,019
Rugby league	0.19	£29,181	£5,398	0.39	£78,788
Cricket	0.06	£21,090	£3,881	0.12	£24,060
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£6,489	£169	0.01	£2,696
3G	0.06	£70,991	£2,109	0.12	£24,469
Tennis Courts	0.13	£14,234	-	-	-
Total	1.67	£239,436	£30,865	1.8	£367,720

Overall, an additional 1.67 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 976 people living in Wigan Borough. This consist of 1.47 grass pitches, 0.07 of access to artificial pitches and 0.13 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £239,436 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £30,865 To facilitate the increased provision, 1.8 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £367,720.

7.6: Scenario Six – Testing the model for a housing development proposing 420 dwellings at H8 Westwood Park (1,025 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 420 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.44 people per household (based on a national average) is 1,025 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 1.47 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.05 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP's and 2.89 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 2.39 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, and accumulative 0.32 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for the rugby union and rugby league and 0.09 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.11: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 1,025 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week ³⁸	Training demand ³⁹
Adult football	0.2	2.39 hours
Youth football	0.55	As above
Mini soccer	0.44	As above
Rugby union	0.08	0.09 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.2	0.23 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.03	0.08 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.02	0.01 hours

³⁶ [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

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

³⁸ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

³⁹ Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Pitch sport	Match demand per week ³⁸	Training demand ³⁹
Cricket	2.89	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.12: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁴⁰	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁴¹	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.2	£22,226	£4,379	0.4	£81,832
Youth football	0.55	£53,140	£10,734	0.66	£135,309
Mini soccer	0.44	£13,333	£2,640	0	£0
Rugby union	0.08	£13,676	£2,530	0.16	£32,580
Rugby league	0.2	£30,648	£5,670	0.4	£82,750
Cricket	0.06	£22,150	£4,076	0.12	£25,269
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£6,815	£177	0.01	£2,831
3G	0.06	£74,573	£2,215	0.13	£25,704
Tennis Courts	0.13	£14,948	-	-	-
Total	1.73	£251,509	£32,421	1.88	£386,275

Overall, an additional 1.73 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 1,025 people living in Wigan Borough. This consist of 1.53 grass pitches, 0.07 of access to artificial pitches and 0.13 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £251,509 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £32,421. To facilitate the increased provision, 1.88 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £386,275.

The most appropriate way to meet the estimated demand

It is important that the above results are looked at alongside the findings of the Assessment Report, and the recommendations and actions of the Strategy. By doing so, the most appropriate way of meeting the estimated needs can be determined and any resulting proposals justified. This should include:

- ◀ Using the Assessment Report and related Strategy to understand the nature of the playing pitch sites within an appropriate catchment of the new population along with issues, recommendations and actions relevant to that area.
- ◀ Looking at the different ways in which the needs could be met, including for example:
 - ◀ Enhancing existing provision to increase capacity, supported by suitable management and maintenance arrangements to ensure the greater capacity is maintained over the longer term;
 - ◀ Undertaking works, and ensuring long term maintenance and access arrangements, to secure new or greater community use of existing provision;
 - ◀ Providing new pitches as an extension on current sites.
 - ◀ Providing new (natural and/or artificial grass pitches).

⁴⁰ [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

⁴¹ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

If the decision is taken to provide new pitches, then the calculator takes the estimated needs for matches and training activity and converts this into an estimate of the likely pitch provision required to meet the needs of population projections. Indicative costs are also provided to provide this level of pitch provision in addition to costing for associated changing room provision.

Summary (Scenarios one and two)

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created in their own right. For example, in Wigan Borough scenario One (H3 North Leigh Park) and scenario two (H4 South Hindley) are both of sufficient size to warrant on site development being for 1,400 and 2,000 dwellings, respectively.

Where new pitches are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to offer long-term sustainability. As such, if numerous developments in an area warrant new pitch provision, consideration should be given to pooling resources to create one larger site, rather than numerous smaller sites.

Table 7.13: Summary of new provision required from scenario one and scenario two

Pitch sport	Match demand per week North Leigh Park	Match demand per week South Hindley	Total
Adult football	0.67	0.95	1.62
Youth football	1.85	2.64	4.49
Mini soccer	1.47	2.1	3.57
Rugby union	0.27	0.38	0.65
Rugby league	0.67	0.96	1.63
Adult hockey	0.09	0.13	0.22
Junior & mixed hockey	0.08	0.12	0.2
Cricket	0.21	0.29	0.5
Tennis court	0.44	0.63	1.07
Total	5.81	8.28	14.09

As shown above, although there is evidence to suggest each development by itself requires onsite provision, when broken down by pitch sport this often does not equate to one complete pitch, apart for youth and mini football. However, when analysed together there is greater evidence for more pitches.

Taking the above into consideration, in addition to the sites being located adjacent to each other, it is suggested that one hub site is located to service both developments rather than having two separate hubs/sites. This, for example, will reduce the need for two separate clubhouse buildings and will reduce the amount of land needed.

Using evidence from the PPOSS and shortfalls within the Central and East analysis areas it indicates that two adult, four youth, four mini football pitches are created as well as two rugby league pitches. There is also a potential option for the rugby league pitches be located on the same footprint as the football provision as they play at different peak times (Summer/Winter). If this approach is decided then anchor clubs should be sort for both football and rugby league to ensure utilisation with potential links and usage from local education sites.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Regarding 3G pitches, there is not sufficient evidence to support the development of provision with several other options already identified as priority above in Part 4: Sport specific issues scenarios and recommendations.

As for the remaining sports, as there is marginal demand identified than off sites contributions should be sort for hockey, tennis, cricket and rugby union to improve nearby facilities.

It should be noted that based on these scenarios, using current supply and demand data, any future development over 1,000 dwellings should be examined for potential onsite provision using relevant evidence within the PPOSS. This approach would need to be regularly examined with updated data throughout the Stage E process.

Summary (remaining scenarios)

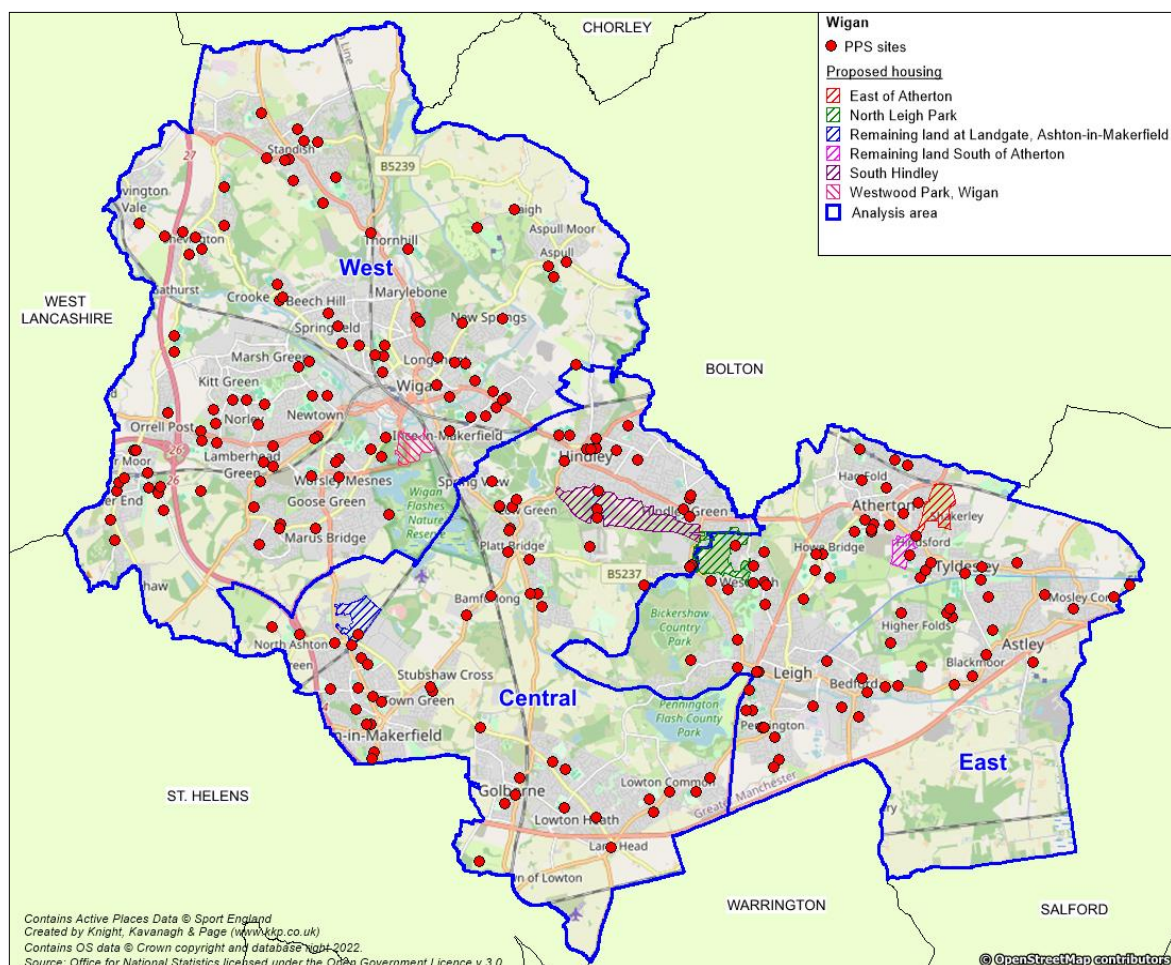
For the remaining scenarios, the tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. It is unlikely there will be a requirement for new provision. Instead, as the demand generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPOSS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g. to select suitable sites).

Please note that the PPC only includes the main pitch sports and tennis but there may also be a requirement to improve facilities for other pitch and non-pitch sports such as other sports, netball, bowls and athletics, for example. Therefore, securing developer contributions to deliver improvements/new provision should be guided by this Strategy and in particular the site-by-site Action Plan and in consultation with the relevant NGB through the PPOSS Steering Group.

The Figure overleaf identifies all the playing pitch locations within the Wigan Borough PPOSS with an overlay of the abovementioned housing sites. This assists in identifying which sites maybe be better suited from off site contributions from specific developments. For a more detailed breakdown via analysis area please see Appendix Two: Housing Scenarios Maps.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Figure 7.1: Summary of playing pitch sites in Wigan Borough with key housing sites overlay



An alternative approach to obtaining contributions for each individual housing development and allocating them to improving localised sporting sites identified for improvement within the PPOSS, is to pool them together. This would allow for greater levels of investment into sites, where needed, for more expensive enhancements such as drainage or ancillary expansions or even the creation of artificial pitches. Additionally, this would allow for the collating of contributions from smaller developments, below 300 dwellings, to maximise the benefit they can provide to sporting sites across the Wigan Borough.

The pooling of contributions could lead to the creation of new provision where strategically relevant to address significant shortfalls identified, such as the following:

- ◆ Central Analysis Area – youth 11v11 and 9v9 football and senior rugby league.
- ◆ East Analysis Area – cricket squares.
- ◆ West Analysis Area – cricket squares, senior rugby union and senior rugby league.

Pooling of contributions should be done strategically and ought to be localised to the analysis area, and even potentially key settlements, of the housing growth to ensure S106 monies are spent on improving the sporting infrastructure for the new population. It is strongly recommended the Council work with Sport England, and NGBs where relevant, to develop a process and guidance to calculate and secure developer contributions which may include onsite, offsite and pooling of contributions.

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

The section below sets out a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up-to-date. However, as agreed by Sport England, a more tailored approach should be considered for Wigan Borough, aligning with the processes adopted by other local authorities in the North West (see Appendix 3).

Delivery

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Wigan Borough. 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 the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and recommends how best to resolve this in the future. This document should be regarded as part of the planning process as a material consideration.

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

The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are needed to improve the situation and meet future demand.

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

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The Council is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up-to-date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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

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

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

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

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up-to-date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy has been prepared which indicates where a step has been completed or if further action may be required.

Stage D <u>Checklist</u> : Develop the Strategy	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan		
1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?		
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?		
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?		
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?		
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?		
6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?		
7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?		
8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?		
9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?		
10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?		
11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?		
12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?		
13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?		
14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?		
15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?		
16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?		
17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?		
18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?		
Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy		
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?		

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

2.	Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?		✓
3.	Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4.	Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5.	Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6.	Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?		✓

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

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date		Tick ✓	
		Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy			
1.	Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2.	Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3.	Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date			
1.	Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up-to-date?		
2.	Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3.	Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4.	Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5.	Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6.	Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (2024)

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

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

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

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

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

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

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The FA: A Thriving Grassroots Game (2024-28)

This new strategy aims to enhance participation, improve facilities and create a more inclusive and enjoyable environment for players, coaches, volunteers and officials.

The strategy focuses on five main areas:

1. **Improving Playing Choice and Opportunity**
Creating diverse and flexible playing options to cater to all individuals.
2. **Delivering Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls**
Ensuring every woman and girl has access to football in a safe and enjoyable setting.
3. **Building and Improving Facilities**
Increasing the quality and quantity of grassroots football pitches and facilities.
4. **Tackling Poor Behaviour**
Reducing incidents of poor behaviour and discrimination, promoting positive conduct.
5. **Developing a Valued Network of Volunteers, Coaches, and Referees**
Growing and supporting the grassroots workforce to sustain the game's future.

To achieve these priorities, the FA has identified three key drivers:

- ▶ **Supporting Thriving Community Clubs**
Assisting clubs to grow sustainably and provide excellent football experiences.
- ▶ **Connecting and Serving Participants**
Enhancing digital services to offer personalized and accessible opportunities.
- ▶ **Progressing the Game's Governance**
Implementing high governance standards to serve all football participants effectively.

These initiatives are developed in collaboration with County FAs to ensure local needs are met.

The FA's strategy aims to transform grassroots football by addressing key challenges, investing in facilities, and promoting inclusivity and positive behaviour.

The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)⁴²

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to 'take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed'.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four 'Game Changer' objectives and four 'Drivers' objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA's plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:

- ▶ Win tournaments
 - ▶ Develop pathways
 - ▶ Support elite players
 - ▶ Enhance environments
 - ▶ Collaborate and influence
- ▶ A game free from discrimination
 - ▶ Boost representation
 - ▶ Drive more inclusion
 - ▶ Tackle discrimination
- ▶ Equal opportunities for women & girls
 - ▶ Increase school participation
 - ▶ Increase club participation
 - ▶ Enhance women's competitions
 - ▶ Support female coaches and referees
- ▶ Transform the pitch landscape

⁴² [FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association](#)

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
- ◀ Deliver new 3G pitches
- ◀ Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities
- ▶ Drivers:
- ▶ Thriving community clubs
 - ◀ Develop club opportunities
 - ◀ Support the current and future generation of club leaders
 - ◀ Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
- ▶ World-class FA cups
 - ◀ Broaden commercial appeal
 - ◀ Evolve the Adobe Women's FA Cup format
- ▶ Participant led
 - ◀ Place participants at the centre of decision making
 - ◀ Create flexible models to meet participants needs
 - ◀ Provide digital tools to improve experiences
- ▶ Progressive governance
 - ◀ Support integration of women's and girls' football
 - ◀ Support governance of the NLS
 - ◀ Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)⁴³

The FA's 2020-2024 strategy, 'Inspiring Positive Change', coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.

This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game:** Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament:** Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition:** Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play:** Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

⁴³ [The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28](#)

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28)^[1]

In October 2024 the ECB released its updated strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'Cricket is a game for me' through its vision:

- ✦ To become the most inclusive team sport
- ✦ To grow and unite the game
- ✦ Lead the game through global transformation

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives

- ✦ Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- ✦ Transform Women's and Girl's cricket
- ✦ Connect communities through play
- ✦ Inspire through winning England teams
- ✦ Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game
- ✦ Win the battle for attention

Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket's Core Values.

The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

^[1]<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7b-f49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf>

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Game Objectives:

- ▶ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ▶ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ▶ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ▶ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives:

- ▶ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ▶ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ▶ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ▶ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)

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

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3rd October.

The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. Lead Positive Change: to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. Meaningful Growth: to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. Drive Visible Impact: to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. Responsible Leadership: to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. Inspirational International Success: inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- ◀ **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- ◀ **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- ◀ **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them
- ◀ **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy and are detailed below. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

- ◀ **Focus Community Clubs**
 - ◀ Ensure the RFL has sufficient capacity and resource to deliver the recommendations identified within this Strategy to support its community clubs.
 - ◀ Ensure all community clubs have the knowledge and resource to provide good quality grass pitches.
 - ◀ Supporting clubs to have good quality changing and social facilities which can support the scale of need at each club. These must be inclusive for all participants and benefit target user groups such as women and girls' participants.
 - ◀ Ensure clubs can accommodate a sustainable operational programme for clubhouses to ensure the longevity of provision.
 - ◀ Work with clubs and key partners to increase the number of clubs with secured tenure of their club facilities.
 - ◀ Develop a dedicated funding programme which is specifically aimed at supporting clubs to gain security of tenure at their respective site.
 - ◀ Highlight success stories and best practices from community clubs to inspire others and showcase the positive impact of these efforts.
- ◀ **Deliver positive social and environmental impact**
 - ◀ Support clubs through training and advice on how to promote facilities for non-rugby league purposes.
 - ◀ Work with Active Partnerships across England to enable higher usage and activation of rugby league assets for non-rugby league activity.
 - ◀ Prioritise clubs for wellbeing hubs which may offer the widest social benefit (relative to local need) – particularly those in high deprivation areas.
 - ◀ Use the activation of club facilities as a prerequisite to capital funding for club house improvements / new development.
 - ◀ Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies
- ◀ **Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies**
 - ◀ Ensure continued working with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of other sports to capitalise on shared investment opportunities.
 - ◀ Work with the Football Foundation to maximise Multi-Sport funding opportunities – utilising the framework provided in this Strategy as the baseline of shared investment.
 - ◀ Work closely with Active Partnerships in areas with high club densities to establish opportunities for pitch access via the Open School Facilities programme.

◀ **Technological solutions**

- ◀ Ensure the RFL gathers greater levels of information from clubs via affiliation. To include (e.g.) security of tenure information and an integrated self-assessment audit of community facilities.
- ◀ Continue expanding the use and application of PitchPower so all clubs can self-assess provision and support clubs to make positive contributions to improving the quality of grass pitches.
- ◀ Promote technological solutions which progress clubs into being more sustainable, energy efficient and ensure their long-term viability as community assets.
- ◀ Create a platform or resource hub where clubs can access information on funding opportunities, facility management, and sustainable operational practices.

◀ **Working with Charitable Community Organisations and Wheelchair Rugby League**

- ◀ Develop an investment package to support the operational delivery of professional club foundation led wheelchair activity focusing on storage and logistical solutions.
- ◀ Prioritise capital investment into community club sites which also accommodate professional club foundations as tenants for community Rugby League activity.
- ◀ Begin work on the feasibility of developing a national wheelchair centre which includes exploring partnership opportunities with other sports to maximise multisport value and return on investment.
- ◀ Consult with professional club foundations, where possible, to understand the need for 3G access and work to ascertain sufficient access hours during peak times of need.

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

Objectives:

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
 - ◀ The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies:

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

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

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023) and Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031). Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

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

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

England athletics strategy plan 2021 – 2032: Athletics and runners at the heart – creating opportunities, enhancing experiences and powering potential

This strategy ensures a robust and clearly defined future direction for the sport which places athletics and runners at the heart of everything we will do over the 12 year period to 2032.

England Athletics overarching purpose and visions are:

Purpose: ‘To inspire more athletics and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport.’

Vision: ‘For athletics to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.’

At the heart of this plan, and the focal point for everything England Athletics do, are the people and communities involved in athletics across the following five areas:

1. Clubs, Club Leaders and facilities
2. Competition
3. Coaches and officials
4. Participation: young people and running
5. Talented athletes

Each has its own unique challenges and opportunities, yet also the opportunity to positively influence the success and growth of the other areas.

There are four key supporting activities that will be essential in enabling us to deliver the strategic priorities and ultimately achieve goals:

- ◆ Provide strong leadership that builds trust and respect by creating an open and positive culture.
- ◆ Embrace technology and reduce our environmental impact by putting digital first and encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ◆ Ensure greater engagement through sharing of high-quality insight, information and content.
- ◆ Develop commercial minds to maximise funding opportunities and diversify income.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

England Netball

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- ◆ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ◆ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ◆ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ✦ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ✦ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ✦ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
- ✦ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ✦ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ✦ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ✦ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ✦ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ✦ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ✦ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

British Crown Green Bowling Association

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

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

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ✦ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ✦ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ✦ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ✦ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ✦ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ✦ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ✦ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ✦ Increase golf's influence
- ✦ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ✦ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ✦ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ✦ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ✦ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ✦ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ✦ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

<https://www.englandgolf.org/englandgolfstrategy/>

Archery GB's Strategic Plan (2021-2026)

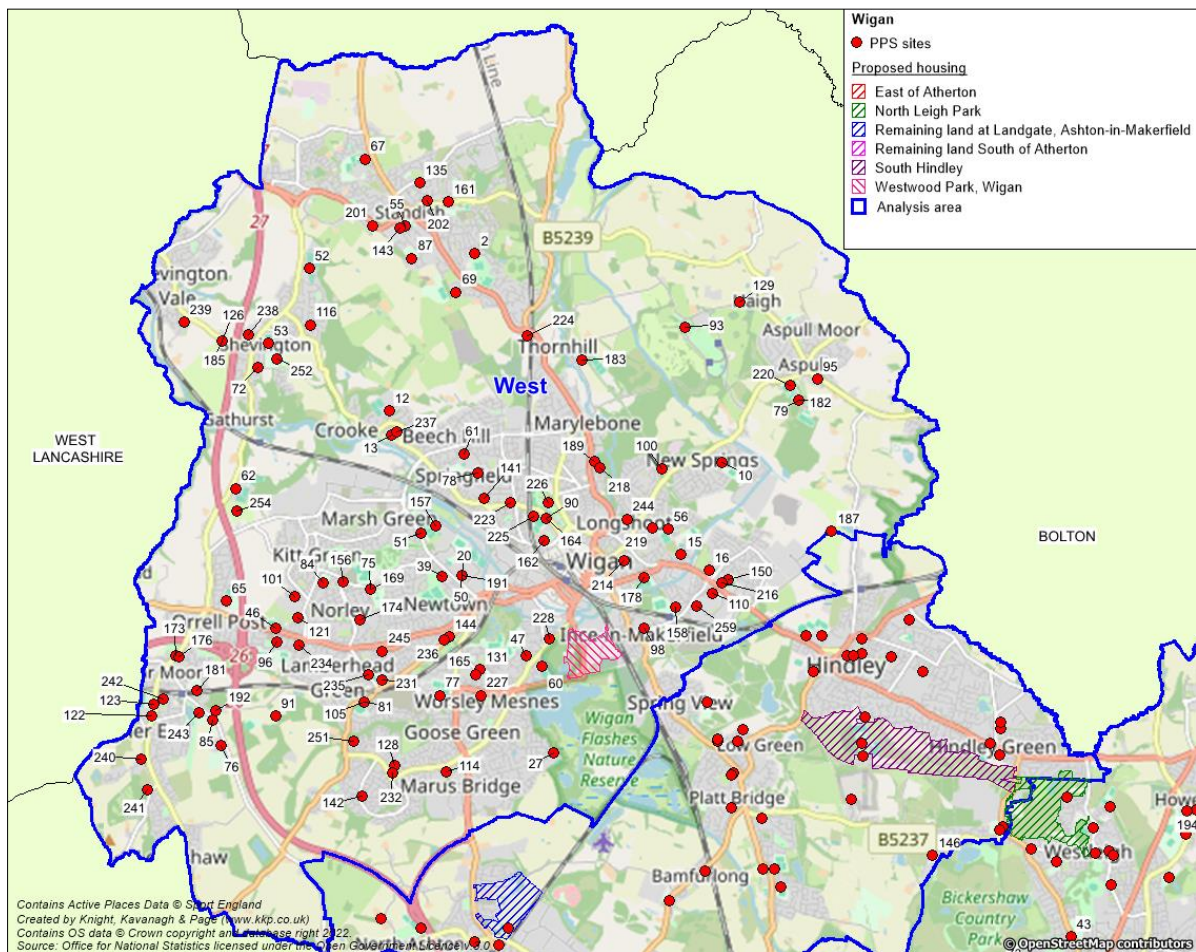
This Strategic Plan aims to enrich lives through archery and rebuild, reimagine and re-present archery in the next five years. To do this, it has six strategic ambitions:

- ◀ Membership structure – an effective and efficient governance and delivery structure for the whole sport, with a member-centric membership offer.
- ◀ Empowering workforce – connections that engage, recruit and support the thousands of people who create opportunities for archery to happen.
- ◀ Diversity throughout – a diverse and inclusive organisation that enables everyone to be themselves and develop in a way that suits them.
- ◀ Archer recruitment – a revitalised club network, rebuilding from the damage of Covid-19, new groups, partnerships, places that increase the breadth of our archery communities.
- ◀ Digital first – putting digital transformation at the heart of the organisation, leveraging technology to modernise systems and resources.
- ◀ Pathway & podium – redefine GB performance archery and be the pioneers on the world archery stage.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

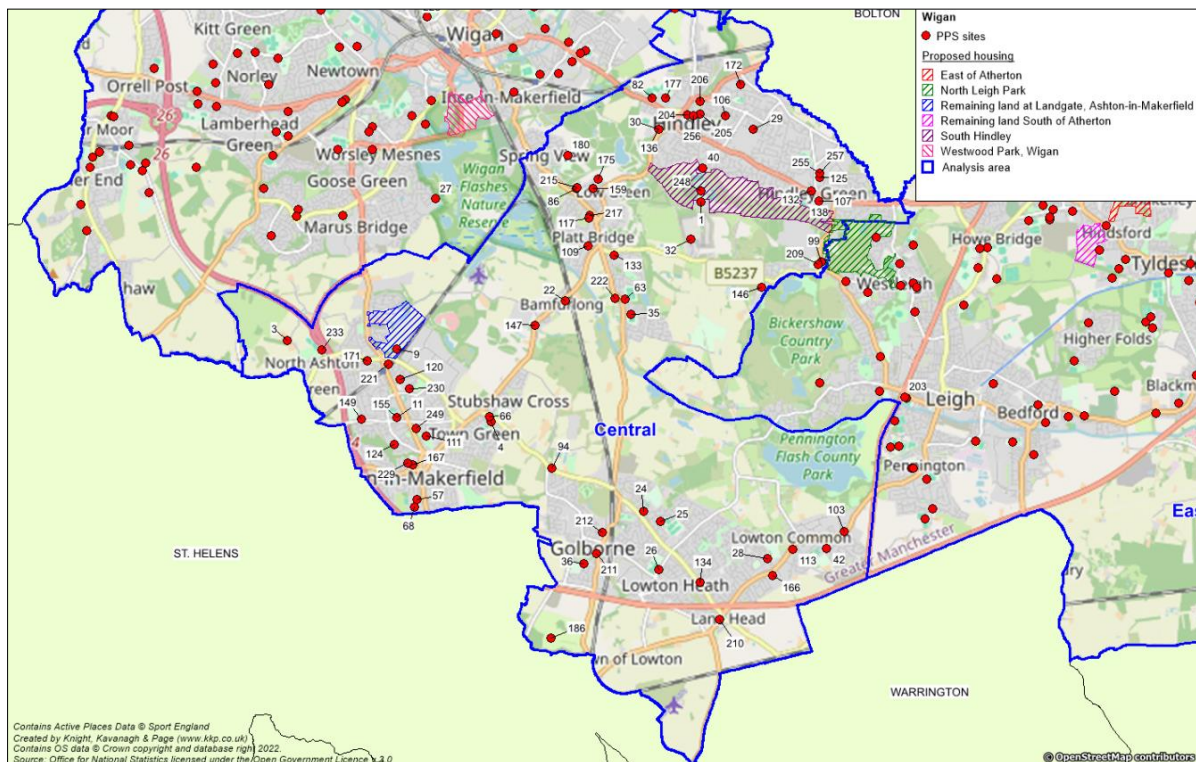
APPENDIX TWO: HOUSING SCENARIO MAPS

WEST ANALYSIS AREA

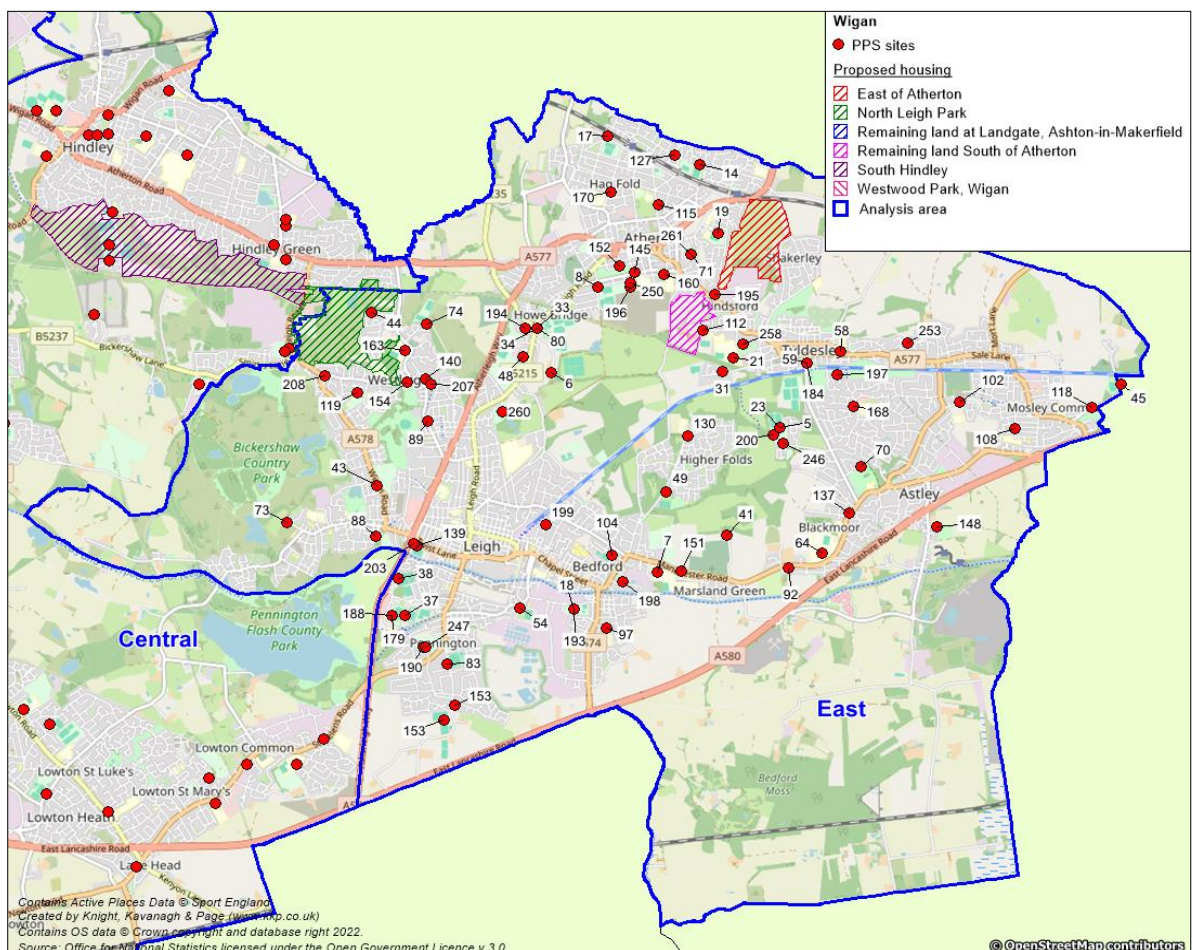


WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA



EAST ANALYSIS AREA



WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

APPENDIX THREE: TAILORED APPROACH FOR WIGAN STAGE E

What?	Who?	When?
1. Internal Steering Group Meeting Meeting between council officers internal Steering Group members to discuss and log key changes in provision, covering: ◀ New pitch provision. ◀ Pitch improvements. ◀ Pitch re-configuration. ◀ Pitch loss/threat. ◀ Community access agreements (e.g. education/private sites). ◀ Plans for future provision. The outcomes from the meeting and updates to documents should be recorded.	Wigan Council	Bi-Annually
2. Sport England and NGB Update Meetings The Council to hold series of update meetings with individual sports NGBs to discuss and log: ◀ Any changes in club and team details. ◀ Any changes in sport format. ◀ Any site specific updates. ◀ Changes to supply and demand data. ◀ The application and use of the PPOSS e.g. in delivery of new or improved provision, funding opportunities, programmes and initiatives. ◀ Any new issues and opportunities.	Wigan Council NGBs Sport England	Annually for each sport, to fit with affiliation process (generally October for winter sports and June for summer sports)

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

What?	Who?	When?
3. Prepare Annual PPS Progress Paper Based on the outcome of actions above, a short Annual PPOSS Progress and Update paper should be produced, highlighting: ✦ The delivery of PPOSS recommendations and any changes in priority; ✦ Changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area and other supply and demand information with implications for PPOSS's key findings; ✦ Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format; ✦ Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities; ✦ Any issues with the application of the PPOSS and lessons learnt; ✦ Actions needed to keep the PPOSS 'live' and up to date. Based on the above, the Annual Progress Paper will also consider if a partial or full update of the PPS is required. Alternatively, both the Assessment Report and the Strategy can be updated to take into account and referencing all of the above.	PPOSS Steering Group	Annually
4. Circulation and Agreement Circulate the Annual Progress Paper or updated PPOSS document to the Steering Group for comment and agreement with opportunity to hold a further meeting to discuss findings and issues.	PPOSS Steering Group	Annually
5. Publish Paper Make Annual Progress paper or updated documents available online; report any significant findings to appropriate committee if considered necessary.	Wigan Council	Annually – following completion of all of the above