

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

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FINAL

*Subject to NGB and SE
endorsement*



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Contents

| | |
|---|---------|
| Section 1 – Introduction | Page 1 |
| Section 2 – Context | Page 3 |
| Section 3 – Strategic Priorities | Page 17 |
| Section 4 – Site Specific Priorities and Delivery | Page 21 |
| Section 5 – Implementation | Page 46 |

1. Introduction

This strategy sets out the key priorities for the future delivery of outdoor sports facilities across Warwick District from 2013 to 2031. It is based on the detailed needs and evidence outlined in the playing pitch assessment report (under separate cover) and outlines the future facility requirements for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.

The strategy is linked with the Indoor Sports and Leisure Strategy, which guides the future provision and management of built sporting facilities in the district. Together, these strategies provide a coordinated and long-term approach to sports facility provision and planning across Warwick for both indoor and outdoor sport.

Key Drivers

The strategic drivers for outdoor sports facility provision across Warwick are to ensure that:

- Long-term, sports facilities deliver health and economic priorities;
- Sports facilities are tailored to meet both current and future demand, taking into account both the amount and location of future population growth; and
- Priorities take account of both the demand for facilities, and the condition of existing facilities.

The strategy will also;

- ensure that knowledge and understanding is available to support and drive forward the delivery of the public health agenda;
- inform sport and physical activity development projects and initiatives; and
- inform local plan policy and potential developer contributions.

Of particular note, the preparation of this strategy provides an opportunity to ensure that housing development is sustainable in terms of infrastructure provision for outdoor sport. This strategy will directly feed into the preparation of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) document and S106 agreements. The contents of this strategy therefore represent a starting point for discussions with developers, as well as outlining areas where proactive improvements to sports facilities are required.

Methodology and Approach

The evidence to inform this strategy has been developed in line with 'Towards a Level Playing Field: A Manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy' (Sport England, 2003) (TaLPP) as well as guidance by Sport England (Playing Pitch Guidance, An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy) 2013. The new guidance was released and approved during the preparation of this document and as far as possible; the principals of this new methodology have been embraced.

Both the assessment and strategy have been developed through extensive consultation and site analysis across the district. This included engagement with;

- Key users of facilities (clubs and leagues) by telephone and email
- Relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport
- Warwick District Council planning, leisure and maintenance officers
- Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sports Partnership

The assessment therefore represents a robust and comprehensive evaluation of the adequacy of outdoor sports facility provision.

The strategy priorities seek to bring together the sporting community across Warwick District. Delivery of this strategy will require partnership working and inter – agency coordination and will seek to achieve the goals, aims and objectives of wider partners, as well as those of Warwick District Council. Key partners in the preparation of this strategy and action plan include;

- The Football Association (FA)
- Rugby Football Union (RFU)
- England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)
- England Hockey (EH)

Structure

The remainder of this strategy document is set out as follows:

- Section 2- Context - Summary of Key Issues Arising from the Needs Assessment
- Section 3 – Strategy Framework – Aims and Objectives
- Section 4 – Action Plan for Delivery.

2. Context

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This section summarises the national and local context for the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Warwick District.

National Level

At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy. In brief:

- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation are set out in paragraphs 73 and 74. Paragraph 73 requires there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application, stating specifically that; *planning policies are based upon robust and up-to-date assessments of needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.....* The production of the needs assessment is in line with this paragraph. Paragraph 74 indicates that existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless;
 - an assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the site 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; and
 - the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

The needs assessment and strategy document will support decision making in this respect.

- **Sport England** has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. Sport England set out a series of five criteria outlining the circumstances in which a playing field can be built on. Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This assessment will support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches across the district. Sport England's National Strategy, (Creating a Sporting Habit for Life 2012) also underpins this outdoor sports and playing pitch assessment.

National Governing Body Facility Strategies: The Football Association (FA), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Rugby Football Union (RFU), Rugby Football League (RFL) and England Hockey all set out strategies guiding the provision of facilities for their specific sport as follows;

- The Football Association – FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)
- Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)
- The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy
- Community Rugby League Facilities Strategy
- The National Hockey Facility Strategy – The Right Facilities in the Right Places (2012)
- Places to Play – The Lawn Tennis Association.

The strategy builds upon the priorities set out in these national documents and seeks to implement them across Warwick District.

Local Context

Locally, the strategy contributes to and is informed by the following key document.

- The Warwick Partnership – Sustainable Community Strategy (2009 – 2026)
- Warwick District Local Plan
- Warwickshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Population and Demographic Profile

The population profile, trends and overall participation in sport underpin the requirement for outdoor sports facilities across Warwick District. The key issues and their impact on demand for outdoor sports facilities can be summarised as;

Population Profile and Growth

- The population of the district is likely to rise by 17% between 2011 and 2031. The increase between 2011 and 2021 and 2021 and 2031 will be broadly even, with just slightly higher growth in the second ten year period.
- There will be an increase in the amount of people in all age groups, with only those in the 20 – 24 age group demonstrating an overall decline. The highest proportional growth will however be in the older age groups, with more than a 30% increase in current population levels seen in age groups 64 and above.
- the number of people in the ‘active’ age groups (i.e. mainly 5-44) is estimated to rise by 8561 people, but this only represents a 9% increase compared with the 17% increase in the overall population. Notably, while the number of people in the active age groups is currently higher than those in the inactive groups (71962 compared to 65774), by 2031, this trend will reverse and there is anticipated to be 80,523 residents in age groups that are likely to participate, which is lower than the number of people in groups that are inactive (81,071).

- This suggests that overall while there is likely to be a large increase in the number of people living in the district, the growth in the number of people playing pitch sports is likely to be lower. The decline in the number of residents in the 20 – 24 age group typifies this. Increases in the population of the district will however continue to have a significant impact upon demand for playing pitches and tennis courts. In contrast, it is clear that the amount and proportion of residents in the district in older age groups will increase more significantly than the overall growth level. This may potentially impact more greatly upon the demand for bowls, which traditionally has an older profile of participants.

Sports Participation Profile

- There is a rising population, which is generally healthy and active.
- While nationally, participation is declining and locally, only football is in the top 5 sports played by residents of Warwick District, many of the population have a profile that suggests that they are likely engage with pitch and court sports. The overall participation profile of residents in the district is however generally matched to community recreation and activity based opportunities, i.e. swimming and health and fitness, as opposed to formal sport – this may influence the type of facilities that are required.

Supply and Demand – Adequacy of Provision

The supply and demand analysis for each of the facility types (set out in the assessment report under separate cover) concluded with a variety of issues for each sport that need to be addressed if provision is to meet current and projected future need.

These are set out below by facility type and take into account the changing population profile and current levels of participation set out on previous pages.

Football

- There are strong foundations for football in Warwick District, with many clubs offering a pathway from junior to senior sport and large numbers of big clubs. Nationally, Active People surveys reveal that participation in football has declined. Despite this, most local clubs have remained static or experienced growth, particularly larger clubs running junior and mini teams.
- 68% of pitches available to the community in Warwick District are secured for community use. This means that there is a relatively significant level of pitch provision that does not have long term, secured community access. Some of these pitches are currently used by community teams
- There is a high reliance upon the District Council for the supply of football pitches. Unsecured pitches are primarily in the education sector, and the education sector is actually the second largest provider of football pitches.
- 28% of the 257 teams in the district are adult football teams, while 30% are mini soccer teams. 42% of the pitch stock is however adult football pitches, suggesting that there is a slight imbalance between supply and demand.
- On the whole, the stock of football pitches is characterised by larger multi pitch sites and the overall average size of both secure and unsecured pitches is 3 pitches. Pitch

sites are therefore on the whole relatively large, which means that management and maintenance programmes can be more effective.

- Site specific capacity analysis demonstrates a clear imbalance in the levels of usage across the district and reveals that while some sites are heavily used and overplayed, there are some sites which receive more limited use although there are no sites that are clearly underused. It is evident that much of the spare capacity is located in the more rural parts of the district and facilities in the urban areas are more constrained and demand is more closely matched with supply. Added to this, peak time across all forms of the game except mini soccer is Sunday morning, meaning that there is a particularly high demand at this time.
- The majority of sites that are overplayed are associated with larger clubs, in particular Kenilworth Wardens, Acre Close, Kenilworth Town, Warwick County Council Sports Ground. Building up site specific analysis to look at the adequacy of facilities across the district, it is clear that there are some issues evident.
- Looking specifically at adult pitches, there is relatively extensive spare capacity available, although this is influenced by large numbers of pitches at Warwick University that are underplayed, as well as by school sites that are not used. There are enough adult pitches overall and there is spare capacity in all geographical areas of the district. Quality is perhaps the main issue for adult pitches, with many matches interrupted by poor drainage and many clubs expressing issues with the quality of facilities.
- For junior pitches, the opposite situation occurs, with limited spare capacity available, particularly at peak time. Excluding pitches that are not secured for community use, supply is equivalent to demand. This highlights the role that these sites play in meeting community demand and also raises concern about the impact on junior football participation if these pitches were no longer available. Demand is particularly constrained at peak time. Added to this, only one public site (Castle Farm) contains any spare capacity for junior matches, meaning that there are limited opportunities for the growth of clubs that are reliant upon Council facilities.
- Demand is also relatively constrained for mini teams at peak time, although there are significant levels of spare capacity during the week.
- Even within sites, there is imbalance of play, with some pitches (particularly those closer to changing accommodation at large sites) receiving high levels of use and others being used much less frequently.
- While analysis demonstrates that there is limited spare capacity across the district, user and provider consultation highlighted issues with both quality and quantity of pitches. Many pitch sites suffer from poor drainage, which can limit play, but also can damage the quality of the pitch surface. Just 33% of clubs are happy with the football pitches that are provided. Maintenance programmes as well as drainage issues are thought to particularly contribute towards the overall pitch quality and there is a requirement for increased out of season reinstatement of pitches.
- Compounding these problems, in addition to match play, many pitches are located on public recreation grounds and are used for informal recreation as well as competitive play. This impacts on the wear and tear of the pitches. Concerns do not focus exclusively on public pitches, but it is clear that users are less satisfied with pitches managed by the Council and Parish Councils than those at club bases.

- Looking to the future, the population of the District is ageing, and the propensity of residents to participate in football is likely to reduce as a consequence. While the District will see population growth of around 17% up to 2031 it is likely that growth in participation in football will be more limited due to the ageing population structure and will equate to circa 9%. This is still relatively significant growth and in addition to this, many clubs have aspirations to continue to grow the sport and plan to develop at least 22 new teams in the next five years.
- Population growth will itself cause significant changes to the number of teams (it is likely to generate 2.5 adult match equivalents, 11 junior match equivalents and 7.5 mini soccer match equivalents. While the existing stock of adult pitches will be able to accommodate additional play, it is likely that new provision will be required to meet junior and mini soccer needs (capacity equivalent to 6 pitches and 3 pitches respectively), unless sites currently operating unsecured community use access arrangements can be secured for long term access. Much of the growth is likely to take place in areas at or near capacity (Whitnash / Leamington / Warwick /Kenilworth).
- Added to this, simultaneous increases in participation, as well as the achievement of existing club development goals will mean that more pitches will become overused. This is particularly true of junior football, where there is already no spare capacity and it is in this age group where clubs have the greatest aspirations to increase participation (potential additional 9 match equivalents – 4- 5 pitches). Several large clubs also highlight the need for continued improvement of facilities to enable them to progress through the sporting pyramid.
- In addition to issues identified relating to grass pitches for competitive fixtures, 22 clubs believe there to be insufficient AGPs for training and have difficulty accessing such facilities. FA demand modelling suggests that there is a requirement for 6.5 3g AGPs however there are currently only two. AGPs meeting with FA standards are also able to sustain match play and offer an alternative to grass to accommodate competitive fixtures.

Cricket

- Cricket is a popular sport in Warwick District and there is a strong network of proactive cricket clubs. Almost all clubs have aspirations to continue to grow. There is currently a total of 111 cricket teams across the district, 60% of which are adult cricket teams and the remainder predominantly junior male teams.
- There are 26 cricket pitches in total, ten of which are located on school sites. Five of the pitches on school sites are situated at Warwick School and for private use only. The remaining pitches are at schools that offer a degree of community use, but there is no use of these facilities by clubs currently. While Kenilworth Wardens CC and Leamington Cricket Club have two pitches, all of the remaining clubs have access to one pitch each.
- The quality of club based cricket facilities is high overall and this was confirmed through both club consultation and site visits. There are however some issues with drainage, particularly at sites in Kenilworth, and the quality of pitch surfaces is also a recurring theme. The quality of drainage at Kenilworth Wardens and Rowington CC in particular was highlighted as a concern.

- In contrast to the high quality of club based cricket pitches, facilities at school sites are considered to be of insufficient quality to sustain community use, with the exception of Warwick School, where facilities are high quality but are for private use only. There are no longer any public facilities available as a decision was taken to remove these from use due to the poor condition of the grounds available, and the lack of bookings meaning it was not sustainable to maintain.
- Reflecting the quality concerns identified, analysis of current site specific activity demonstrates very little use of the public facilities (ad hoc occasional use of one pitch with the other not used at all last season) and no community use of school facilities either. All cricket is therefore currently focused upon the cricket club bases. The poor quality of other facilities means that there is little potential role for these sites in community cricket without improvement or investment.
- Site specific modelling reveals that several clubs are currently operating at capacity, with Leamington Spa CC, Kenilworth Wardens CC, Kenilworth CC all being overplayed or played to the level that the site can sustain (assuming optimum levels of 5 adult matches / 7 junior matches per strip). Reflecting this, several clubs highlight challenges in accommodating their current levels of play, and this view is also shared by the ECB who believe that facilities are at or approaching capacity. The remaining cricket clubs have capacity to accommodate additional teams. Warwick CC are largely dependent upon the artificial wicket to continue to host junior activity, as there is little scope for further use of the grass wicket.
- Amalgamation of the site specific view to a district wide picture reveals therefore that there is significant theoretical capacity within the existing infrastructure for cricket (575 matches). This is however primarily located at school and public facilities, which are considered inappropriate for use by the majority of users. The capacity for further play at clubs is restricted, although most village clubs do have space for further play. Added to this picture, Leamington Khalsa CC are currently displaced, playing their home fixtures at Lighthorne Sports Club in Stratford upon Avon District – the club are from Leamington originally and are seeking to relocate back into the district both to increase the capacity of their site and also because they believe that the displaced location is inhibiting club growth. Calculations demonstrate that the number of wickets at this site is also insufficient to accommodate club demand (9 wickets compared to a requirement for a minimum of 13) and consequently the facility that the club use is also overplayed.
- Population growth will generate an additional 122 games by 2031, meaning that spare capacity will reduce further. If the requirements of Leamington Khalsa CC were to be accommodated within the existing facility infrastructure (currently 65 matches), this spare capacity would further reduce.
- Clubs have significant aspirations for future growth, although several indicate (and reflected in calculations) that a lack of facilities is inhibiting growth. Indeed all clubs that are currently at capacity would like to develop more teams, and in total, there is potential for 148 additional matches to be played if growth plans are achieved. When adding this to the potential impact of population growth (9 junior and 5 senior male teams up to 2031), it can be seen that spare capacity in the existing club base is very minimal and at this point there would be a reliance upon the use of existing public and school facilities which are currently not used due to the quality of facilities provided. While these facilities in theory have capacity, in practice they do not currently provide a realistic alternative or opportunity for clubs to use the facilities.

- Adding to pressures, there are several sites that do not include either an artificial wicket or training nets, or where a requirement for new or replacement facilities is identified. A lack of appropriate facilities for training is likely to place further pressures upon facilities for matches.

Rugby

- Participation in rugby is strong in Warwick District and there are five clubs, as well as the University of Warwick. Most clubs offer the opportunity to make a full transition from midi rugby into adult rugby, and participation in schools is also relatively strong. Warwick School has several amongst the leading school teams in the country and most of the other schools participate in at least some rugby, meaning that there are strong foundations for growth.
- As a club based sport, the adequacy of facilities at a club specific level is perhaps the most important determinant of how well current facilities meet demand. Calculations and modelling reveal that at most sites, there is capacity both over the week and at peak time, even when taking into account the fact that the majority of rugby training takes place on the grass pitches at the club base. For both Warwickians and Leamington RUFC however, quality concerns (particularly drainage) relating to the pitches limit their capacity to sustain matches and as a result, supply is closely matched with demand. Recent RFU funding has however improved this situation to some degree. For Leamington RUFC, even with improvements to the quality of provision, supply and demand remains closely balanced and reinforcing this, the club highlight challenges with accessing appropriate facilities at peak times. There are also more minor quality issues at other sites that impact upon the capacity of the facility.
- Looking wider at provision across Warwick District as a whole, outside of the club bases, there is little use of other facilities, all of which are located at school sites, except for curricular use. The only exception to this is the pitches at North Leamington School, which are frequently used as overspill facilities for Leamington RUFC who as highlighted above, are operating at capacity at their club base. There is therefore capacity to accommodate additional demand outside of the club bases and most schools with rugby pitches would be willing to accommodate community use if this was required.
- Future population growth will have an impact upon the demand for rugby pitches, with an additional male team, up to 4 junior teams and 4 midi teams being generated by 2031 (4.5 match equivalents per week – one to two pitches). Added to this, the majority of the clubs have club development aspirations and are seeking to introduce new teams. Assuming that growth is spread, this can be accommodated within the existing club infrastructures except at Kenilworth and Leamington RUFC, where the limitations caused by quality will inhibit club growth aspirations and use of external facilities would be required.
- The RFU National Facility Strategy emphasises the importance of facilities, and recommends the use of an activity v facility continuum. This enables an evaluation of where club facilities are inhibiting participation and also provides guidance as to the type and extent of facilities that are required to support clubs of varying sizes and aspirations. This highlights the importance of sourcing appropriate facilities for rugby clubs. It is clear that at Leamington RUFC, the amount of activity currently taking place exceeds the overall capacity of the facilities. A similar situation also arises at Kenilworth.
- a lack of floodlighting at sites across the district is also exacerbating wear and tear on training pitches at all sites, with only Kenilworth having more than one floodlit pitch.

- Although there are no known issues with security of tenure, both Kenilworth RUFC and Trinity Guild RUFC will be potentially relocating to aid development aspirations in the district. The overall stock of facilities means that replacement facilities will be required. These replacements will also offer the opportunity to better tailor facilities to meet current and projected future demand.

Hockey

- There are 7 AGPs in Warwick District of which 5 have a suitable surface for hockey. Warwick School has a double pitch facility whilst the remaining sites have one facility each.
- There are four hockey clubs in the district, with Leamington Spa Hockey Club and Warwick Hockey Club both having junior and senior sections, while Khalsa Hockey Club and Shipston Hockey Club focus upon senior teams. Khalsa Hockey Club are the highest performing team in the district, playing at national league level.
- The existing stock of facilities is ageing and there is a potential requirement to resurface several of the pitches over the strategy period. Despite this, clubs express relatively few concerns over the quality of provision, instead highlighting issues accessing facilities for matches and training. Only Khalsa Hockey Club highlight the need for particular improvements in the facility stock – they have aspirations to own and manage their own facility and have recently gained planning permission for a new site.
- Despite concerns about access to AGPs, analysis of use of the facilities at a peak time confirms that there are enough pitches overall to accommodate demand within Warwick District. More in depth analysis of the use of specific sites for hockey suggests that while Warwick School, North Leamington Spa High School and St Nicholas Park are valuable sites for hockey, the pitch at Aylesford School is less well used currently for matches. All sand based AGPs are currently used for hockey for training however.
- Reflecting the findings of the hockey specific usage analysis, the Sport England Facility Planning Model indicates that there are sufficient pitches overall across Warwick District, with almost no unmet demand, although pitches are used to capacity. Further work however indicates that there are not enough 3g pitches and a potential over supply of sand based facilities. While this is confirmed by the modelling of existing hockey usage to an extent, without the reconfiguration of hockey usage across the district, there are no pitches that are clearly surplus to hockey requirements currently, as all are used for training. At least 4 sand based hockey surfaces will be required to satisfy demand for hockey by 2022 and if clubs are to have their own facilities, at least 5 facilities would be required.
- While Khalsa Hockey Club are seeking their own new facility, modelling suggests that there is little justification for the provision of a new pitch from a purely supply and demand perspective, although there are clear club development arguments to support this requirement.
- The significant population growth that is projected to occur will have minimal impact on the demand for hockey although up to 5 teams may be created up to 2031. While this additional participation could be accommodated within the existing sand based infrastructure, the spatial distribution of growth may mean that increased demand would be higher in Warwick and Leamington. Most of the unused sand based pitch space is currently in Warwick District, however provision is more limited in Leamington

Spa and linked with the growth in the club, the existing infrastructure is likely to be tightly matched with demand.

- While population growth alone will have limited impact, schemes designed to increase participation in hockey may generate demand for further facilities in the longer term. In addition, both Leamington Hockey Club and Khalsa Hockey Club have significant aspirations for growth.

Bowls

- All bowling greens in Warwick District are flat green bowls
- In quantitative terms, there are no supply and demand models for bowling greens and it is therefore not appropriate to assess demand by applying the methodology used by other sports. For indicative purposes however it is possible to compare provision with the historic Sports Council standard. This standard advocates 10 greens per 60,000 people (*Planning for Sport 1970*) and therefore gives a requirement of circa 24 greens across Warwick District based upon a population of 144,500. Current provision of 11 greens means that provision falls below this standard.
- Despite quantity standards suggesting that there is a requirement for additional greens, analysis of capacity of existing clubs suggests that while greens are well used and all clubs have a strong membership base, all clubs have capacity for additional members, and there is scope to accommodate additional teams on all greens.
- The quality of existing bowling greens is excellent and the five greens at Victoria Park are of international standard, having hosted national ladies competitions as well as county championships for several years, it is now the home of Bowls England hosting the male national championships from 2014 and also plays host to international matches. Other club based facilities are also of good quality and few areas for improvement were identified. There are plans in place to invest further in the quality of facilities at Victoria Park to ensure that the high standards are maintained but in general, all clubs are happy with the quality of facilities currently and the challenge therefore will be to maintain these levels. The existing high (and potential higher) levels of use that the bowling greens are required to sustain however means that the quality of facilities is important.
- The quality of facilities is also important if participation is to increase further. Although current participation is high, there is no evidence of increasing membership in clubs in recent years and there is limited latent demand (235 people) and very few junior members. In contrast to pitch sports however, the ageing population of the district is likely to generate higher numbers of participants in future years as market segmentation demonstrates that it is the older age groups who have a higher propensity to participate in bowls in Warwick. Added to this, the profile of bowls in the area is likely to increase, particularly due to the relocation of Bowls England to Leamington Spa, as well as the prominence the hosting the national championships will bring to the sport. While it is likely that increases in the proportion of residents playing bowls can be absorbed within the current stock of facilities, significant increases in participation may require the creation of additional facilities.

Tennis

- Tennis offers a significant opportunity to increase overall participation in sport and physical activity in the district – the sport has a wider participation base than any other

outdoor sport and the Active People Survey indicates that there is significant latent demand at present, with more people wanting to play tennis than currently play.

- The current stock of tennis courts is diverse, with both club bases and public free to access facilities located in each of the main settlements in the district. In addition, there are numerous tennis courts at school sites that are not accessible to the public currently. Just over 50% of courts accessible to the community are floodlit.
- There are nine tennis clubs in Warwick District. There are over 2000 members of these clubs, suggesting that participation in tennis is high. This is also supported by an active network of school club links and there are strong foundations for participation in tennis within schools in Warwick. Use of the free to access facilities is not monitored. LTA research however indicates that on average 65% of those playing during the summer will use public facilities, while 50% playing all year round will choose to play at community sites rather than as part of a club.
- The quality of tennis courts is good, and club based facilities are of noticeably higher quality than public and school facilities. Key issues at club sites focus upon changing provision and pavilions as well as the surface of courts, while the surface of courts is a greater issue at other sites.
- Analysis of the adequacy of provision using indicative court capacity calculations suggests that current provision is sufficient to meet demand, although if latent demand was realised, demand would be closely balanced with, and perhaps exceed, supply. In this event, access to school facilities would become essential.
- Reflecting this, all responding clubs indicate that they have capacity for additional members and calculations support this. Only two clubs (Leamington Spa Lawn Tennis and Squash Club and Warwick Boat House Tennis Club) are close to capacity for the number of courts that they have. The facilities at St Nicholas Park are located in close proximity to the courts at Warwick Boat House Club
- If latent demand was realised, future population growth added to this may mean that existing provision is insufficient. Without significant increases in participation however, there remain opportunities within the current stock of tennis courts to promote tennis development.
- Levels of activity at none club sites are not monitored but anecdotal evidence suggests that there is scope to increase the use of these facilities, particularly taking into account the current balance of usage between club and community facilities (80% club, when research would usually see this nearer 50%. Reflecting this, some clubs indicate that they believe demand for social (none club based) tennis is growing, meaning that there may be greater levels of use of these facilities in future years.
- There is however clear latent demand and potential to grow participation in tennis, supported by Active People surveys and Market segmentation. Targeted development programmes, potentially structured around public facilities could help to both increase the usage of these sites, and at the same time to channel new participants into clubs.

Specific Location of Growth

As set out in the summary above, the assessment report takes into account both the current and projected need for playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. Future participation is projected by using Team Generation Rates (TGRS) (for pitch sports) while for tennis and bowls

current participation can be used to predict the amount of additional players that population growth will produce.

Analysis indicates that population growth will have the following impact;

- For football - an increase of 5 senior teams (2.5 match equivalents) 22 junior teams (11 match equivalents and 15 mini teams (7.5 match equivalents).
- For cricket, demand will increase by circa 50 adult home games (5 teams) and 72 junior matches (10 teams).
- For rugby, participation increases are likely to equate to circa 5 adult teams and 4 midi teams.
- Five additional hockey teams will be created.
- The number of people playing bowls will increase by 307.
- Tennis players will increase by 476 people.

With regards the adequacy of provision, taking into account the projected growth that will arise through participation increases, it is suggested that;

- For football – new provision will be required to accommodate youth, 9v9 and mini play. The demand is equivalent to at least 6 junior pitches and 3 mini pitches (or equivalent in terms of capacity. Significant participation growth may see increases equivalent to an additional 9 match equivalents (5 – 6 pitches).
- For cricket – clubs in the areas most closely impacted by population growth are already approaching capacity. Without improvements to the quality of overspill (school facilities), new cricket pitches associated with the large clubs will be required.
- Rugby clubs in Leamington and Warwick will struggle to accommodate the anticipated growth without improvements to the facility stock and new pitches.
- There would remain sufficient sand based AGPs for hockey to accommodate current and projected future demand although ongoing investment into these facilities will be required to ensure that facilities are fit for purpose.
- Future population growth is likely to support the sustainable development and growth of existing bowling clubs, although new provision may be required in the event of significant increases in participation.
- There is scope to increase the use of existing tennis courts and population growth is therefore unlikely to require any further provision unless there are significant increases in participation.

The Warwick District Local Plan allocates several large key sites for housing. The focus of new dwellings on these sites will generate a concentration of pitch needs. The demand generated by each individual development is summarised below. It indicates that the majority of additional growth will be focused on the large housing development sites. The location of these primarily in the Warwick, Leamington and Kenilworth areas means that participation growth will be particularly focused in these areas and that this will be where the greatest impact on demand for sports facilities will be felt.

Table 2.1 – Demand Generated by Individual Housing Developments

| Development | Dwellings | Impact Football | Impact Cricket | Impact Rugby | Impact Hockey |
|--|-----------|--|---|---------------|----------------------|
| Land to West of Europa Way | 1300 | Just over 1 adult team, 2 youth male teams and 1 - 2 mini soccer teams | 1 senior cricket team, 1 youth cricket team | No full teams | 1 junior hockey team |
| Land South of Harbury Lane, inc. Former Sewage Works | 1720 | 2 adult teams, 3 youth male teams and 2 mini soccer teams | 2 senior cricket teams, 2 youth cricket teams | No full teams | 1 junior hockey team |
| Whitnash East | 300 | 1 youth boys team | No full teams | No full teams | No full teams |
| Red House Farm | 250 | No full teams | No full teams | No full teams | No full teams |
| Thickthorn | 760 | 1 youth football, 1 adult football, 1 mini football | 1 senior cricket team, 1 youth cricket team | No full teams | No full teams |
| Kenilworth School Sites | 380 | 1 youth boys team, 1 mini soccer team | No full teams | No full teams | No full teams |

Supply and Demand - Summary

In short, across Warwick, to meet with both current and projected future need, there are some issues with the existing stock of facilities that need to be addressed. These include;

Football

- The pressures on the existing stock of junior and 9v9 football pitches, which is exacerbated by the use of pitches at unsecured school sites.
- Spare capacity for football is particularly limited at peak time and at the sites of large clubs and Council Facilities
- Exacerbating this, poor quality facilities (particularly drainage and pitch surface) impact upon the ability of the pitch stock to meet demand (reducing capacity) and affect user perceptions of provision.
- There is a requirement for additional capacity to meet demand from junior and mini teams arising as a result of population growth as well as to facilitate increases in participation. This equates to at least 5 junior pitches and 3 mini pitches (and more if participation increases are generated)
- There is a strong network of clubs and many clubs have aspirations to manage and improve their own facilities and create / improve their own venues to comply with league requirements, meet aspirations for progression through the football pyramid and increase capacity of their facilities.

Cricket

- A lack of facilities is beginning to restrict club and cricket development – several clubs are at or approaching capacity. There is therefore limited scope to grow the sport of cricket within the existing infrastructure. Leamington Khalsa CC are displaced and looking to relocate back into Warwick District. Khalsa Hockey Club have recently secured planning permission which provides for the creation of a new cricket site within Warwick as well as a hockey pitch on the same site
- School venues are of poor quality and as a result, these sites have a limited role for community cricket in their current condition. The requirement for additional pitches may however see an increased.
- Quality issues, in particular drainage, as well as a lack of training facilities are further impacting upon pitch capacity and the growth of cricket.

Rugby

- Several clubs are at or approaching capacity. The activities of Leamington RUFC are particularly high given the facilities that they have available and Kenilworth RUFC are also at capacity.
- Quality issues, in particular drainage, are currently impacting upon the capacity of pitches. The clubs with drainage issues are the same clubs that have limited scope to accommodate additional play.
- There is limited community use of rugby pitches outside of club bases, largely due to the traditional focus of rugby clubs on the club base. School sites may however provide an opportunity to increase participation in the sport.
- Training on grass pitches has a significant impact on the capacity of pitches and all clubs in the district use grass pitches to train. Pitches used for training need to be floodlit to enable use on a dark evening – as no clubs in Warwick District have more than one floodlit pitch, wear and tear is focused on the one pitch, which has a further impact on quality.
- Both Trinity Guild RUFC and Kenilworth RUFC are currently seeking relocations with a view to investing resulting capital to improve the facilities that they have available. These relocations are also likely to be necessary in order to fulfil the vision of the Warwick District Local Plan
- Population growth will see further increases in demand for rugby and it is likely that clubs located in close proximity to high growth areas will have insufficient pitches based on current levels of provision.

Hockey

- The five sand based pitches that are currently located within the District in quantity terms are able to accommodate existing demand, as well as demand generated by potential population growth (5 teams). Leamington Spa HC are however already approaching capacity at their site (North Leamington School).
- Leamington Khalsa HC, who play in the national league, are seeking a new higher quality AGP which they believe is required for the standard of hockey that is played at

the club. They have recently secured planning permission for the creation of a new site, linked with the new facility to be provided potentially for Khalsa Cricket Club.

- The quality of pitches is average, but carpets are ageing and replacement will be required at several sites in the new future to ensure that surfaces remain fit for purpose.

Tennis

- 80% of tennis activity takes place at club bases. There is capacity to accommodate additional players in all but two clubs and over 1000 further members could be accommodated across the district. Notably, both Kenilworth LTC and Warwick Boat Club are at or approaching capacity and these clubs are located in close proximity to areas of growth. Further provision may be necessary at these sites.
- There is significant latent demand for tennis, particularly for community based / pay and play activity. Public facilities are currently of poorer quality than club sites.
- There is scope to increase the use of existing facilities, but while existing facilities can accommodate all demand, if latent demand is realised, access to further facilities is likely to be required, particularly taking into account the impact of population growth.

Bowls

- There is capacity at existing clubs and therefore an opportunity to continue to grow the sport of bowls.
- The age profile of bowls players is different from other sports in that it is predominantly residents aged 60 and above that take part. The ageing population will see a higher proportion of residents in groups most likely to take part in future years – 27% compared to 22% now, meaning that demand is likely to grow. Population growth is likely to further exacerbate the existing demand and club membership could increase to almost 100 players per green on average, meaning that facilities will be constrained.
- The as yet unknown impact of the relocation of Bowls England to Leamington Spa may provide opportunities to increase participation in bowls and to raise the profile of the sport in the district – it will be necessary to ensure that any resulting increases in participation can be accommodated.

The needs and evidence therefore suggests that there is a need for some *additional provision to meet current needs and also some facilities require improvements if they are to remain sustainable.*

3. Strategic Priorities

This strategy seeks to deliver an infrastructure of outdoor sports facilities which provides broad health and activity opportunities for all residents across the district and provides facilities that are fit for purpose. Whilst the Council is a key provider, it is not the only provider and partnership working with others, particularly clubs and the education sector will be increasingly important both to protect and enhance current access levels and to deliver future needs.

03

This strategy will therefore seek to provide;

- Sufficient facilities for all pitch and court sport participants
- Modern facilities that are fit for purpose
- Sustainable provision models

By ensuring that;

- Valuable facilities are protected
- There are enough facilities in the right places to meet current and projected demand
- Facilities are of appropriate quality to meet need.

Reflecting this, the strategy is based on the following principles;

- **Focus will be placed on maximising resources** – the strategy will seek to maximise the capacity and function of facilities and to ensure that provision is adapted to meet with future requirements.
- **The strategy will seek to build relationships between sports through the creation of sporting hubs and multi-sport sites** – recognising the benefits and long term sustainability of sites providing for multiple sports, the strategy will promote the co-location of facilities and links between clubs, as well as build relationships between clubs and schools.
- **Sustainability of provision is central to the success of playing fields in the District** – all recommendations seek to deliver new and improved facilities in a sustainable manner, focusing on large sites that are efficient and effective to maintain, maximising the capacity of sites, supporting well established clubs and promoting good practice.
- **Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision** – the strategy seeks to ensure that Warwick District contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and in the right place. While it promotes protection of current provision, it recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the subsequent investment required.
- **Investment will focus upon interventions that will have the greatest impact** – the strategy seeks to prioritise investment into sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit. It will seek to increase participation in sport and activity in terms of both numbers and standards.

Based on the needs and evidence set out, the strategic objectives for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Warwick District are therefore set out below. These objectives are set out under the following headings:

- Key Overarching objectives
- Football objectives
- Cricket objectives
- Rugby objectives
- Hockey objectives
- Tennis objectives
- Bowling Green objectives

Section 4 draws upon the objectives and sets out the recommendations for each sport and the justification for these recommendations. It also outlines the strategic site specific priorities and the justification for these priorities. Local priorities (issues that need to be addressed but are not considered to be of strategic priority) are also highlighted.

Objectives

Key Overarching Objectives

For all sports, Warwick District Council and Partners will seek to;

- Safeguard all existing playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in line with Paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework, irrespective of ownership and the degree of access and use. This strategy will clearly define any pitches that are not required to meet current or projected future needs.
- Maximise the role that school facilities play in the provision of community facilities through strong partnership working.
- Ensure that the most efficient use is made of available space within existing and new playing field sites.
- Ensure that new developments contribute towards playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in the district.
- Ensure that the quality of facilities provided is appropriate to the level and standard of play that is sustained and that it promotes participation in pitch and outdoor sport.
- Ensure that pitches / outdoor sports facilities are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. sports lighting and changing provision).
- Ensure that all pitches / outdoor sports facilities are maintained using maintenance regimes appropriate for the level of use that they sustain and the activities that are undertaken to ensure the long term future of the pitch stock.
- Support clubs in the management and development of facilities.

Building on the overarching strategic objectives, the following sport specific objectives set out the framework into which the site specific priorities for each sport will fit. They take into account the specific issues raised for each sport as well as the evidence collated.

Football

- F1: The current level of provision is to be maintained and protected. Improvements to the overall pitch stock will be supported (including relocation of pitches where they are replaced) and multi pitch sites may be created at the expense of single pitches. The strategy recommendations seek to focus on the delivery of a network of important strategic sites.
- F2: The identified pressures on junior and mini pitches (and future shortfalls in pitch provision) will be alleviated through the provision of 3g pitches to be used for both matches and training. As a preference, these will be located at sites that are of strategic significance for football in the district
- F3: Secured community access will be sought at school sites containing two or more football pitches and offering significant potential, or where sites are currently important in meeting the needs of local football clubs. This will help address capacity issues as well as maximise the use of existing resources and ensure a strategic reserve exists.
- F4: Qualitative improvements will focus on multi pitch sites and those particularly important in sustaining football in the area. This will include ensuring that they have effective drainage and appropriate pitch surface.
- F5: The strategy will support the requirements of clubs progressing through the football pyramid

Cricket

- C1: The current level of provision is to be maintained and protected
- C2: A new pitch will be required to address existing deficiencies and increases in capacity will also be needed to ensure that the pitch stock can accommodate participation increases and projected population growth. This will be created either through the improvement of pitches on school sites if opportunities arise, or through the creation of satellite sites for existing clubs. Any new or improved facilities will be created in conjunction with existing clubs
- C3: Pitch quality improvements will focus on ensuring that all cricket pitches are of a quality suitable for the standard of play that is undertaken and that grounds meet with league regulations. They should include full changing and ancillary facilities
- C4: Improvements will seek to ensure that all clubs have at least one artificial wicket and access to appropriate training nets.

Rugby

- R1: The current level of provision is to be maintained and protected. Improvements to the overall pitch stock will be supported (including relocation of pitches where they are replaced)
- R2: New pitches required to address existing capacity issues as well as projected participation increases arising from population growth will be created either through the extension and / or relocation of existing club sites, the improvement of facilities on school sites or through the creation of satellite sites for existing clubs and in conjunction with existing clubs

- R3: Pitch quality and surface should be sufficient for the quality and quantity of rugby sustained. Quality should not negatively impact the number of games that can be played – each pitch should be capable of accommodating at least two games week
- R4: All rugby clubs should have appropriate access to training facilities, either in the form of 3g pitches or floodlit grass pitches.

Hockey

- H1: At least 4 sand based AGPs are required for hockey usage across the district
- H2: All pitches should be of suitable quality for the level of hockey played and clubs should have access to appropriate ancillary accommodation (changing facilities, clubhouse etc).

Bowls

- B1: The current level of provision for flat green bowls is to be maintained and protected
- B2: Facilities will be maintained and improved to ensure that all clubs have access to greens of an appropriate standard (according to the level of bowls played) and with appropriate ancillary facilities.

Tennis

- The existing quantity of tennis courts will be protected and maintained
- The quality of facilities at public sites will be improved to maximise the likelihood of retaining existing players and attracting new participants. Improvements will link with the priorities of the emerging LTA strategy
- Improvements to club facilities will be supported to ensure that all clubs have access to courts of an appropriate standard as well as an adequate pavilion, toilets and shelter.

Section 4 sets out the site specific priorities relating to these actions for each sport.

4. Priority Sites and Delivery

Section 2 summarised the context for each sport across Warwick District, highlighting the issues that need to be addressed, while Section 3 outlined the strategic objectives.

04 Table 4.1 overleaf details the priority site specific recommendations that will be undertaken to support the delivery of playing pitches across the district and to create a stock of playing fields that meets current and projected future need. These priorities have been developed in conjunction with the National Governing Bodies of Sport and will require an inter-agency approach to ensure delivery.

Section 5 sets out how the strategy will be implemented and delivered, including the approach that will be taken to monitoring and review.

Table 4.1 – Priority Site Specific Actions

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|--------|---|--|---|
| Hockey | <p>H1a: At least four sand based AGPs are required for hockey usage across the district.</p> <p>The following facilities should be retained:</p> <p>North Leamington School</p> <p>Warwick School (2)</p> <p>Aylesford School</p> | <p>The identified pitches are sufficient in quantitative terms to meet current and projected future need for hockey. The selected sites are located in appropriate locations for existing sites and are currently important facilities for hockey.</p> <p>Facilities at North Leamington School (Leamington HC) and Warwick School (Warwick HC) are important club bases.</p> | Retention of facilities – Ongoing |
| | <p>H1b: Khalsa Hockey Club are looking to develop a community club base. The club are now working towards an ambitious but achievable 5 year development plan, which will see the requirements of the club increase and ensure the long term sustainability of a new facility. The club currently use the facility at St Nicholas Park, which is no longer suitable for their requirements. To ensure the sustainable future of hockey club;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions should be held with Aylesford High School with a view to negotiating access to the site for Khalsa HC - Support creation of new site for Khalsa HC to enable club to deliver on | <p>The existing pitch at St Nicholas Park does not meet with club requirements and conversion of the sand based pitch at St Nicholas Park to a 3G pitch is a key priority to deliver football need. Khalsa HC are an important club in the district and have significant community development aspirations.</p> <p>A new home (sand based pitch) for Khalsa should however be provided before the facility at St Nicholas Park is refurbished</p> <p>There is currently limited hockey activity at Aylesford School. Increased access to this site for the hockey club could secure a short term home for the club and enable continued growth in participation of</p> | <p>1) Immediate – negotiate access to Aylesford School for Khalsa HC</p> <p>2) Short – Medium Term - New facility for Khalsa HC</p> |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|---------|--|---|--|
| | community objectives. | hockey across the district . Access to the site would ensure ongoing access to an appropriate facility for the Khalsa Club while the club development plan is delivered to enable the club to relocate to their own ground longer term. | |
| | H1c: Support Leamington HC in securing access to second facility | Leamington HC are an expanding club requiring a second ground. Use of a second facility will ensure the ongoing sustainability of the club and facilitate the growth of hockey in the district. | Short Term |
| | H2: Develop Warwick School as a strategic site for hockey in the district. Within the lifetime of this strategy, this is likely to include resurfacing the pitch and potentially improving on site facilities for the hockey club. | The site is an important site for Warwick Hockey Club currently and as a double pitch site has the potential to become strategically important for hockey in the midlands. The presence of such a facility in Warwick District may also have positive impact on participation in hockey as a whole. | Medium Term |
| Cricket | C1: Retain all existing cricket club based cricket pitches. | The evidence base demonstrates that all existing club based cricket pitches are required to meet current and projected future growth. | Ongoing |
| | C2a: Support Khalsa CC in their relocation back to Warwick District. The new facility should include appropriate match and training facilities as well as access to a clubhouse. A site has been identified and planning | Evidence base identified requirement for new facility for club as existing site is overplayed and club are displaced. There are no appropriate existing facilities where the club could be accommodated. | Short Term |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|--|--|--|
| | <p>permission secured, but further work is required to bring this forward</p> | | |
| | <p>C2b: Relocate Kenilworth Wardens to Castle Farm Recreation Ground as part of the development of this site as a sporting hub. The site should have 2 pitches and should include a higher number of strips than currently available at the club (at least 20 required) as well as artificial wickets and an appropriate clubhouse.</p> | <p>The existing facilities are overplayed and an additional pitch is required to facilitate current and projected future use.</p> <p>Pitch conditions at the existing Kenilworth Wardens site are of poor quality. The site regularly floods and existing wickets are overused and the club therefore require access to increased facilities. A minimum of 18 strips is required to meet current demand and further increases will allow for growth of the club. New provision should also be accompanied by appropriate changing and ancillary provision.</p> | |
| | <p>C2c: Support Kenilworth Town and Leamington Spa CC in improving capacity, either through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the provision of further artificial wickets, • and / or improvements to school sites in partnership with the school and club (and securing community use). Target school sites would be Kenilworth School and Campion School (Leamington Spa) • potential partnership with other sports clubs (for example there are opportunities to provide an artificial | <p>Both clubs are at capacity currently with limited scope to expand team numbers (in terms of both peak time and play across the season on the wicket) The location of both clubs within the high growth area means that additional teams generated by this growth are likely to be attracted to these clubs. Additional capacity is therefore required to meet projected future demand.</p> | |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|--|---|--|
| | <p>wicket at Warwickians RFC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer term, additional facilities may be required if club growth continues and school facilities do not represent a feasible opportunity. | | |
| | <p>C3: Improve pitch quality where pitches do not meet required standards;</p> <p>Kenilworth Wardens (Linked to C2)</p> <p>Alvis CC</p> <p>Hunningham CC</p> <p>Rowington CC</p> | <p>Quality of cricket pitches is essential to ensure play can take place particularly where clubs are playing in leagues where pitches have to meet certain criteria.</p> <p>Quality of cricket pitches is also essential for the playing experience.</p> | |
| | <p>C4: Improve training facilities at Warwick Cricket Club and Leamington Cricket Club.</p> <p>There is also a requirement for improvement of training facilities for Leek Wootton CC, Offchurch CC, Hunningham CC, Rowington CC and Norton Lindsey CC</p> | <p>A lack of training facilities can lead to additional use of the grass wicket, or reduce the attractiveness of the site to potential participants. The provision of effective training facilities will maximise the function of the site and the quality of cricket played.</p> | |
| Rugby | <p>R1: Retain the existing quantity of club based rugby pitches. Pitches may be relocated to facilitate improvement as outlined in R2.</p> | <p>Capacity analysis indicates that the existing quantity of club pitches is required to meet current and projected future demand.</p> | Ongoing |
| | <p>R2a: Support Kenilworth RUFC in their relocation to a new site. Pitch provision should as a minimum represent an increase</p> | <p>Kenilworth RFU currently suffer from poor drainage and poor quality facilities and are spread across two sites. The existing</p> | |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|---|--|--|
| | <p>on current levels of provision (6 pitches and 2-4 midi pitches required). The site should include pitch provision that meets with RFU specification, as well as changing and clubhouse accommodation in line with RFU guidance. It should include sufficient floodlit pitches to meet with midweek demand (in this instance a minimum of 3 floodlit pitches).</p> | <p>pitches are also overplayed and calculations suggest at least 6 adult pitches and opportunities for midi play are required. The relocation of the club onto one site, with appropriate ancillary accommodation and improved drainage would enhance club development opportunities and future proof the club, ensuring it can accommodate current and projected future growth.</p> | |
| | <p>R2b Support Trinity Guild RUFC in their relocation to a new site. A new site has been identified within Coventry City Council boundaries. Facilities provided should be equivalent or better to those currently provided and should meet with RFU specifications in terms of both pitch and ancillary provision.</p> | <p>There is a need to secure the long term future of the club given the likelihood of significant economic development on their existing site.</p> | <p>Short Term</p> |
| | <p>R3 Seek opportunities for Leamington RFC to extend their existing site.</p> <p>In addition (and following the installation of floodlights in line with R4), to maximise the capacity of their current facility, work with Leamington RFC to install drainage systems as well as carry out reinstatement and renovation works. Improvements to social facility quality (including works to ensure compliance with DDA) are also required – a grant has recently been awarded to address these concerns.</p> | <p>Leamington RUFC is currently operating over capacity and additional provision should therefore be secured.</p> <p>The drainage of the current site directly impacts the capacity of the existing facility and installing appropriate drainage solutions would enable a greater number of games to be sustained per pitch.</p> | |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|----------|--|---|--|
| | <p>R4: Provide additional floodlighting to add capacity for training at Leamington RUFC and Old Leamingtonians to ensure that there are sufficient floodlit pitches to accommodate midweek demand.</p> <p>A minimum of one – two additional sets of floodlights will be required at each site.</p> | <p>Training is focused on the floodlit areas and these parts of the ground are becoming particularly compromised. The installation of further floodlights will allow a better spread of play across all pitches available and will improve capacity for training.</p> | |
| Football | <p>F1: Retain the existing quantity of grass football pitches. Pitches may be relocated to facilitate improvement or converted to 3g to increase capacity in line with F2 below.</p> <p>Existing and former pitch sites will be required unless it can be demonstrated that they meet with exception criteria listed in Sport England Policy at the time of decision making. The exception to this is the former Ridgeway School, Montague Road, Warwick. This site is a single pitch site and therefore does not meet with strategy direction to focus on the improvement of multi pitch sites only.</p> <p>Sites that are of strategic importance to sport in Warwick District (current or future) and are prioritized for improvement in the actions that follow are:</p> <p>Castle Farm Recreation Ground (Kenilworth)</p> | <p>Capacity analysis indicates that the existing quantity of pitches is required to meet current and projected future demand and indeed, that future population growth will require existing capacity.</p> <p>Single pitch sites (unless currently valuable in the more rural parts of the district) do not meet with strategy priorities. Given the overall pressures of pitches in the district, any loss of this facility should however contribute towards the improvement of other sites in line with strategy priorities.</p> | |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|--|--|---|
| | <p>Harbury Lane (Leamington)</p> <p>Newbold Comyn</p> <p>St Nicholas Park</p> <p>Kenilworth School</p> <p>Myton School</p> | | |
| | <p>F2:Address issues with capacity for football (particularly junior and mini) to meet current and future demand through the provision of 3g pitches in the following locations, as well as additional pitches where noted below. All sites should be fully quality tested to ensure listing on FA register and suitability for both competitive and training uses.</p> <p>The proposed improvements focus on enhancing the pitch capacity across key strategic sites in the district. The following is required:</p> <p>Retention of existing provision</p> <p>Myton School - Leamington (note this site will require refurbishing within the lifespan of this strategy. The site is not also registered currently on the FA register)</p> <p>Retention (or relocation) of existing 3g AGP at Kenilworth School, provision of additional</p> | <p>3g AGP listed on the FA register can be used for both matches and training and therefore provides additional capacity for matches in areas where existing capacity is limited and where future growth will see this become more so.</p> <p>Current position at peak time (excluding unsecured sites)</p> <p>Junior – Warwick (0), Leamington (0)</p> <p>9v9 – Warwick (0), Leamington (1.5)</p> <p>Mini – Warwick (2), Leamington (0).</p> <p>Population growth will see circa 6 match equivalents unmet, and four mini match equivalents. The assessment report highlights a requirement for at least 6 junior pitches (or equivalent) and 3 mini, as well as potential additional facilities to allow for aspirational participation increases.</p> | <p>The provision of new AGPs / additional capacity will be prioritised as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Leamington Community Stadium (new) 2) Castle Farm (new) 3) St Nicholas Playing Fields (assuming short term relocation of hockey to Aylesford School) = resurface 4) Myton School AGP (resurface) 5) Newbold Playing Fields <p>This list will be reviewed twice annually in line with monitoring processes set out in Section 5 as there are numerous interdependencies and priorities may change.</p> |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|--|--|--|
| | <p>pitches at this site if relocation is secured.</p> <p>New provision</p> <p>3g AGP (stadium) at Leamington Community Stadium (part of wider improvements linked with Myton School to develop football hub).</p> <p>New 3g AGP at Castle Farm, linking to creation of sporting hub at this site. Provision of additional grass pitches to further increase capacity (3 – 4 youth pitches).</p> <p>3g AGP at Newbold Playing Fields (as part of improvement scheme to this key site)</p> <p>Resurface</p> <p>Conversion of sand based AGP at St Nicholas Park to 3g pitch (conversion from existing sand based).</p> <p>Myton School – this will require resurfacing to ensure that the site carpet remains in an appropriate condition. Site is located adjacent to Leamington community stadium and therefore offers chance to create a large hub including AGPs and grass pitches. Note this links with the requirement to secure community use of grass pitches at this site outlined in F3.</p> | <p>There are pitch quality issues as well as a shortage of football training facilities and the use of AGPs for matches will address both of these issues. Within the more rural areas, local access to pitches remains important and it is therefore assumed that match play on AGPs will primarily focus in the urban areas (Kenilworth, Leamington and Warwick). Modelling suggests that to accommodate all matches on AGPs in the urban area (except adults) at least 9 would be required (and this would increase with population growth). The same pitches can be used by mini teams (Sat AM), junior (Sun AM) and 9v9 teams (Sun PM).</p> <p>The potential location of pitches however suggests that not all play will take place on AGPs and indeed, increasing amounts of grass pitches will also be provided to facilitate the creation of local club bases. The strategy will however focus on providing AGPs at key strategic sites.</p> <p>The sites selected are chosen due to their potential to become sporting hubs. All are currently important sites for large clubs and therefore these developments provide opportunities for strong club development.</p> <p>While the recommended AGPs will not accommodate all junior / mini play, they will significantly increase capacity and reduce reliance on grass pitches. The</p> | |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|---|---|---|
| | | <p>additional 4 pitches will address the shortfalls in both junior and mini pitch provision identified (due to improved flexibility for scheduling) on the assumption that F3 is also delivered. The additional provision at Castle Farm will support additional growth.</p> <p>The programme of improvements to the stock of AGPs will be delivered through a phased approach.</p> | |
| | <p>F3a: Secure access to strategic sites currently valuable to large clubs and / or with potential to increase capacity of the existing community based pitch stock.</p> <p>It should be ensured through qualitative improvements that these facilities are of appropriate quality to sustain community play (Linked to F4)</p> <p>Leamington & Warwick</p> <p>Campion School – secure access to site that is currently used by club</p> <p>North Leamington School - secure access to site that is currently used by club</p> <p>Myton School – pitches to be secured for use as part of Leamington Community Stadium development</p> | <p>These school based sites offer important community facilities and are currently well used by clubs. As larger sites, they provide an important club base. Securing access and improving quality of these facilities will ensure long term use of these sites. They will add an additional 6 full size pitches, 4 junior pitches and 2 mini pitches, alongside the AGPs, future proofing the area for population growth and participation increases. These configurations are also likely to be flexible, reacting to both curricular and club need.</p> <p>Meadow Sports Centre in Kenilworth also contains a 3g pitch and therefore has the potential to function as a secondary hub site in this area if pitch quality is improved. This may be possible through either improvement of existing facilities or relocation of the school site and subsequent improved pitches.</p> | <p>Access to school sites is prioritised as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Myton School 2) Kenilworth School 3) Campion School |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|--|---------------|--|
| | <p>Kenilworth</p> <p>Meadows Sports Centre (Kenilworth School) (grass pitches not currently secured for use. Pitches have drainage issues. There are currently proposals for the relocation of the school site. This facility is required for community use and any relocation should ensure that the facilities therefore are of the same or better quality, that the existing pitch provision is as a minimum replaced and that a community use agreement is secured as part of the relocation strategy. The retention (or replacement) of the existing 3g pitch is also essential.</p> | | |
| | <p>F3b: Secure access to small sites that have an important role to play in existing club activity, specifically:</p> <p>Leamington</p> <p>Telford Primary School, Sydenham Primary School, and Lillington Primary School</p> <p>Warwick</p> <p>Woodloes Primary School</p> <p>Whitnash</p> <p>Whitnash Primary School</p> | | |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|---|---|---|
| | <p>Other</p> <p>Radford Semele School</p> | | |
| | <p>F4: Football in Warwick District will be delivered in the form of high quality hub sites, supported by satellite sites. To achieve this, and to maximise capacity in the playing field stock and to ensure a high quality playing experience, invest in pitch quality improvements to strategic sites as follows;</p> <p>Warwick</p> <p>Changing improvements at St Nicholas Park – additional of at least one changing room</p> <p>Leamington</p> <p>Newbold Playing Fields – drainage and playing surface, changing facilities not fit for purpose</p> <p>Harbury Lane – drainage and playing surface</p> <p>Kenilworth</p> <p>Meadow School – drainage issues</p> <p>Key Club Sites</p> | <p>Quality of facilities is a key determinant of capacity and poor quality pitches have a limited capacity to sustain matches. While AGPs will be provided to add further capacity to the pitch stock, the grass pitch stock will also be key to retaining sufficient capacity across Warwick District to meet current and projected future demand.</p> <p>The strategy seeks to establish a network of high quality strategic hub sites. All sites identified for improvement are considered strategic hub sites offering a range of facilities.</p> | <p>Key priorities for improvements to playing fields and associated ancillary provision are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Harbury Lane Playing Fields 2) St Nicholas Playing Fields (linked with new AGP) 3) Newbold Playing Fields (linked with new AGP) 4) Meadow School |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|--------|---|---|--|
| | Whitnash Town FC (pitch surface) Central Ajax FC – drainage | | |
| F5 | <p>As well as supporting community hubs for football, the strategy also seeks to support the needs and development requirements of community football pyramid teams.</p> <p>Within Warwick District these are as follows;</p> <p>Leamington FC – Level 6, step 2</p> <p>Alvis Sporting Club – Level 10</p> <p>Leamington Hibernian – Level 12</p> <p>Racing Warwick – Level 10</p> <p>Kenilworth Town KH – Level 11</p> | There are specific requirements in relation to facilities as clubs move through the football pyramid. Progression through the football pyramid is a key component of the development of football in Warwick District and adjustments to facility provision to facilitate this development (and league promotion) will therefore be supported. | Ongoing |
| Tennis | T1: Retain the existing quantity of tennis courts. | Capacity analysis indicates that the existing quantity of tennis courts is required to meet current and projected future demand. | Ongoing |
| | <p>T2: Improve the condition of public tennis courts to increase the role that they play in meeting demand. Focus should be on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Park (key parks development site for LTA) | The quality of public tennis courts is lower than that of club bases and in some instance restricts the activity that can take place. Existing participation is skewed towards club membership and there is therefore significant scope to increase the number of people using pay and play facilities in the district. The LTA and Warwick | <p>Key priorities are:</p> <p>1)Victoria Park</p> <p>2) St Nicholas Park</p> |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|--|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadow Sports Centre (Kenilworth) • St Nicholas Park (Warwick) • Abbey Fields (Kenilworth) • Facilities at Champion School and Beauchamp Square also require improvement longer term. <p>Improvements to public facilities should link with activities to increase participation at these sites and the key priorities in the emerging LTA facility strategy.</p> | <p>District Council are currently working to increase participation at the Victoria Park.</p> <p>The courts identified as priority for improvement are those located in close proximity to clubs that are at and / or approaching capacity.</p> | |
| | <p>T3: Invest in improvements to the quality of associated ancillary facilities, ensuring that the club environment facilitates participation and club growth. Clubs requiring improvement to the changing / clubhouse facilities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenilworth LTC • Warwick Boat Club tennis • Warwick County Council Sports Club • Whitnash Tennis Club. | <p>Improved quality of courts is essential both to retain capacity of courts but also to encourage and promote participation in tennis.</p> | |
| Bowls | Retain all existing greens | The existing quantity of bowling greens is required to meet current and projected future demand. | Ongoing |

| Sport | Recommendation | Justification | Prioritisation / Phasing of Priorities |
|-------|--|---------------|--|
| Bowls | Invest in quality improvements as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Park, Leamington – ongoing maintenance and refurbishment to maintain and improve the quality of the facility, which is currently international standard Whitnash – improvements to pavilion (links with other sports clubs) | | Key priority – Victoria Park |

Many of the actions are interrelated by sport and indeed the strategy seeks to co-locate sports and create sporting hubs and strategic sites. Table 4.2 therefore brings together the recommendations in Table 4.1 and summarises the key priorities by geographical area. This table will be updated twice annually as part of the monitoring process.

Table 4.2 – Key Priorities by Geographical Area

| Area | Priorities |
|------------|---|
| Kenilworth | Key Priorities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of Sporting hub at Castle Farm, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3g AGP Extended grass football provision (meeting with NGB specification) 2 cricket pitches for Kenilworth Wardens Associated changing and ancillary accommodation (all meeting with NGB specification) Relocation of Kenilworth RFC to new site, including additional provision and appropriate ancillary facilities. Site should also |

| Area | Priorities |
|------------|--|
| | <p>include sufficient floodlit pitches to meet with midweek demand (likely to be at least 3).</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured use of Kenilworth School Grass Pitches and improvement to site quality. There are currently proposals for the relocation of the school site. This facility is required for community use and any relocation should ensure that the facilities therefore are of the same or better quality, that the existing pitch provision is as a minimum replaced and that a community use agreement is secured as part of the relocation strategy. The retention (or replacement) of the existing 3g pitch is also essential. Kenilworth Town CC - Improved capacity (new non turf wicket / and /or improved facilities at Meadow Sports Centre (Kenilworth School), improved training facilities for club |
| Leamington | <p>Key Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate access to Aylesford School for Khalsa HC (Immediate) New facility for Leamington Khalsa HC and Leamington CC Leamington RFC – extension of existing site and provision of additional floodlights to meet midweek demand. Installation of drainage systems (a key priority if site extension is not feasible). <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Leamingtonians – provide additional floodlights to meet midweek demand Retention of North Leamington School as sand based AGP Secure access to Champion School / North Leamington School Secure access to Telford Primary School, Sydenham Primary School and Lillington Primary School |

| Area | Priorities |
|---------|---|
| Warwick | <p>Key Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate access to Aylesford School for Khalsa HC and Shipston Ladies • Development of Leamington Community Stadium to include 3g AGP • Linked to community stadium, secured access to Myton School grass pitches to enhance site capacity. Retention and resurface of existing 3g AGP and longer term potential 2nd AGP • Conversion of AGP at St Nicholas Park to 3g • Develop Warwick School as strategically important site for hockey(including resurfacing and new clubhouse within next five years) <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of drainage (Central Ajax FC) • Improved training facilities at Warwick Cricket Club • Retain AGP at Aylesford School |
| Rural | <p>Key Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Trinity Guild RUFC in their relocation to a new site <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved training facilities and pitch quality at Leek Wootton CC (training), Offchurch CC (training and quality), Hunningham CC (training and quality), Rowington CC (training and quality) and Norton Lindsey CC • Community use at small school sites – Radford Semele Primary School |

| Area | Priorities |
|----------|---|
| Whitnash | <p>Key Priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved pitch quality at Whitnash Town <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure access to Whitnash Primary School |

Table 4.3 summarises all of the sites across Warwick District and highlights the key areas for improvement. Where excluded from Tables 4.1 and 4.2 above, these represent local, rather than strategic priorities.

Table 4.3: Key Areas for Improvement – all sites across Warwick District

| Area | Site Name | Sports | Comments | Actions | Priority Level |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Whitnash | Acre Close (Whitnash Town) | Football | Site overplayed and suffers from drainage issues. Work on changing accommodation underway. Club also reliant on use of Whitnash School which is unsecured | Drainage improvements. | Strategic – Medium priority level |
| Warwick | Ajax Park | Football | Pyramid Site. Poor drainage in parts. Limited spare capacity. Potentially important club. | Drainage improvements. Potential small sized AGP | Strategic - Medium priority level |
| South of Coventry | Alvis Sports and Social Club Cricket | Football | Pitch surface quality improvements required. One of poorer quality pitches in district, with little scope to accommodate further play due to already high levels of use. | Pitch quality improvements | Local |
| Warwick | Aylesford School | Football, hockey and cricket | Hockey – site offers potential for hockey use but currently functions only as an overspill facility Football - Spare capacity for adult teams (non for junior / mini). Site | Negotiate access to school site for hockey | Strategic – High Priority |

| Area | Site Name | Sports | Comments | Actions | Priority Level |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| | | | accommodates some of Racing Club Warwick's teams Cricket - Site of average quality and well drained, but unsuitable for club use. Facility does not currently offer community use. AGP required for hockey in the short term. | | |
| Rural | Baginton Playing Fields | Football | Site informal recreation ground used for pitches. Requires pitch surface work and improvements. Club also reliant on adjacent school | Pitch improvements | Local |
| Rural | Bishops Tachbrook | Football | Spare capacity, requires improvement to changing | Changing improvements | Local |
| Rural | Bubbenhall Village Playing Field | Football | Limited peak period capacity, poor drainage | Drainage improvements | Local |
| Rural | Budbrooke Primary | Football | No further capacity. Small facility | Secure for community use | Local |
| Leamington | Campion School | Football | Football - Mini pitch overplayed but capacity on other pitches. Average quality. Important site for Leamington Brakes. Cricket - Site of average quality and well drained, but unsuitable for club use. Facility does not currently offer community use | Football and Cricket – Secure for community use Pitch improvements (football). Potential role for cricket pitch (would require improvements) | Strategic – medium priority |
| Kenilworth | Castle Farm Recreation Centre | Football (and to relocate cricket) | Limited availability at peak time. Poor drainage and insufficient changing if all pitches are in use Site to become important strategic hub site | New AGP Quality improvements - Changing / Drainage Relocation of cricket club – site expansion | Strategic – High Priority |
| Rural | Church Lane Playing Fields, | Football | No use. No changing accommodation, poor pitch quality | Improved Pitch | Local |

| Area | Site Name | Sports | Comments | Actions | Priority Level |
|------------|--|----------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Whitnash | Barford Harbury Lane | Football | Site of strategic importance for football. Poor drainage, junior pitches overplayed, changing rooms of limited quality | Quality improvements - Drainage, parking, pitch surface | Strategic |
| Rural | Hunningham Cricket Club | Cricket | Wicket slightly uneven but site is potentially able to accommodate more play. | Improvements to wicket | Local Priority |
| Warwick | John Atkinson Sports Centre / Myton School | Football | Site to become strategic hub site No current usage of grass pitches., Location of one of the 3g pitches | Secure access to grass pitches. Necessary quality improvement and AGP requires resurface to ensure suitability for FA AGP register. Close proximity to proposed Leamington Community hub means site has an important future role to play in pitch provision. | Strategic – high priority |
| Kenilworth | Kenilworth Cricket Club | Cricket | Site of good quality through high levels of maintenance, high standard of changing and playing facilities. Site currently being overplayed. | Support improvements to capacity – new artificial wicket (or use of Meadow Community Centre / Kenilworth School) | Strategic – medium priority |
| Kenilworth | Kenilworth Rugby Club (Glasshouse Lane) | | Club currently based on two sites. One site has no permanent changing accommodation. Club have recently had RFU investment into pitch quality. | Relocation of club. Provision of additional floodlights and appropriate changing at new site | Strategic – high priority |
| Kenilworth | Kenilworth Town FC | | Site overplayed and club displaced across several pitch sites | New and increased provision in Kenilworth (Castle Farm and Kenilworth School) to address this issue | |

| Area | Site Name | Sports | Comments | Actions | Priority Level |
|------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| Kenilworth | Kenilworth Wardens | Football and Cricket | <p>9 v 9 pitches overplayed and limited further capacity. Club spread across multiple sites and limited scope to expand</p> <p>Cricket - Poor subsoil and inadequate drainage causes flooding in severe rain. A few years of average care and poor weather mean squares need major revival work. Remainder of pitch average. Pitch and wickets overused meaning no capacity for club growth. Quality of facilities is essential if pitches are to sustain level of activity that the club requires.</p> | <p>Site relocation to Castle Farm which is to become important strategic hub site.</p> <p>Extension to amount of pitches available for both cricket and football.</p> <p>New AGP</p> | Strategic – high priority |
| Leamington | Leamington Cricket Club | | <p>Good quality facilities, average grass cover. Practice net is in Cricket poor condition and will require renovation soon. Site being played to the level it can sustain and no capacity for growth</p> | <p>Practice nets and additional non turf wicket. Potential longer term access to Champion School (requires facility improvements)</p> | Strategic |
| Leamington | Leamington RUFC | | <p>Site at capacity with little scope for expansion.</p> <p>Poor drainage and grass cover. Pitches also uneven meaning they are poor quality overall. This impacts on site capacity.</p> <p>Changing room requires improvement</p> <p>Requirement for additional floodlighting to meet midweek demand.</p> | <p>Additional floodlights</p> <p>Drainage and changing accommodation</p> <p>Potential extension (depending on ability to secure land)</p> | Strategic – high priority |
| Rural | Leek Wootton Cricket Club | Cricket and Football | <p>Football - Mini pitch overplayed. Limited gradient</p> | <p>Cricket - Practice net</p> | Local |

| Area | Site Name | Sports | Comments | Actions | Priority Level |
|----------------|--|-------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | Cricket - Good quality facilities with scope to accommodate further play (30 adult matches or 42 junior matches). Practice net is in poor condition and will require renovation soon | | |
| Leamington Spa | Lillington Primary School | Football | Important site for Cubbington Albion, some drainage issues | Secured community use | Local |
| Kenilworth | Meadow Community Sports Centre (Kenilworth School) | Football and Cricket | Site to become strategic hub site Football - Some drainage issues - site prone to flooding Cricket - Poor pitch surface and pitch prone to flooding. No community use - accommodates curricular activity only. This may be influenced by poor quality of facility which makes it unattractive to clubs | Improved drainage (Football and cricket) Potential role for cricket pitch following drainage improvements - secure community use | |
| Rural | Melson Memorial Cricket Ground | Cricket | Good quality facility with few issues. Club identify requirement to install tarmac surface onto car park. Scope to accommodate further play | Car park | Local |
| Leamington | New Windmill Ground | Football | Pyramid Club with requirement for additional capacity | Site relocation to community hub. New 3g stadium pitch to support club activity. | Strategic - high priority |
| Leamington | Newbold Comyn | Football | Site of strategic importance for football - strategic hub site Junior and adult pitches overused. Poor condition, particularly drainage and changing | New 3g pitch Drainage / changing improvements | Strategic - high priority |
| Leamington | North Leamington School | Football, hockey, rugby | Unsecured site. Further capacity to accommodate additional play | Secure access and retain as sand based | Strategic - medium priority |

| Area | Site Name | Sports | Comments | Actions | Priority Level |
|------------|--|----------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| | | | Site also used for rugby | facility for hockey | |
| Rural | Norton Lindsey Village Recreation Ground | Cricket | Football - Damage to the surface. Scope to accommodate additional play Cricket - Some additional capacity, quality limited | Pitch improvements | Local |
| Rural | Offchurch Cricket Club | Cricket | Outfield uneven in places and pitch amongst lowest in league rankings. No training facilities or artificial wicket | Training facilities and artificial wicket Pitch quality | Local |
| Rugby | Old Leamingtonians | Rugby | Good quality facilities. Additional Floodlights required to meet midweek demand | Additional Floodlights | Strategic – medium priority |
| Warwick | Racing Club Warwick | Football | Pyramid Club. No further capacity for junior teams. Poor drainage and uneven pitches. Club have concern over facilities | Pitch improvements required. | Local |
| Rural | Radford Semele Community Centre | Football | No further availability at peak time. | | |
| Rural | Radford Semele School | Football | Site unsecured and some overplay evident. Used by Radford Semele FC | Secure community access | Local |
| Warwick | Round Oak School | Football | No existing use of site | | |
| Cricket | Rowington Cricket Club | Cricket | Improvements required to outfield which requires levelling. Some uneven parts which hold water. Scope to accommodate more play | Site quality improvements and drainage | Local |
| Warwick | St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre | Football | Site of strategic importance for football Poor drainage, waterlogging, issues with changing accommodation. | Replacement AGP – resurface from sand to 3g (following relocation of hockey) | Strategic – high priority |
| Leamington | St Peters FC | Football | Club approaching capacity. Poor changing accommodation and pitch in poor quality. | Changing accommodation | Local |
| Rural | Stonehouse Close, | Football | Additional capacity at peak time, but | Pitch improvements | Local |

| Area | Site Name | Sports | Comments | Actions | Priority Level |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| | Cubbington | | pitches poor quality and uneven | | |
| Rural | Stoneleigh Cricket Club | Cricket | Significant potential to sustain additional play | | |
| Rural | Stoneleigh Village Hall | Football | No existing use of site | | |
| Leamington | Sydenham Primary School | Football | Important site for Khalsa Junior FC. Not secured | Secure community use | Local |
| Leamington | Telford Junior School | Football | No further capacity on 9v9 pitch, some available on mini pitch. Used by Leamington Juniors FC | Secure community use | Local |
| South of Coventry/Rural | Trinity Guild RUFC | Rugby | Club currently seeking relocation due to situation of site within Coventry Gateway Development. Existing site has poor quality clubhouse and any relocation should match as a minimum existing provision | Relocation of club | Strategic – high |
| Other | University | Football / Cricket / Rugby | Limited community access. | To be discussed | |
| Warwick | Warwick Cricket Club | Cricket and Football | Cricket - Excellent facilities but more nets required to meet the needs of the club. All junior matches played on artificial surface, some capacity to sustain additional play on grass wicket Football - Capacity available for additional play on mini pitch | Improved training nets | Local |
| Warwick | Warwick School | Rugby, Cricket and AGP | Rugby, Cricket - Private but high quality facilities. Not currently available for community use but quality of facilities mean that site offers potential for community use Hockey - important site for Warwick Hockey Club, potential to increase site to strategic venue of regional value | Secured community use Hockey – strategic venue for hockey. Likely to include pitch resurface, clubhouse. | Strategic |
| Warwick | Warwickians RUFC | Rugby | Poor drainage and uneven pitch leads to overall poor quality facilities. Club | Pitch quality improvements | Local |

| Area | Site Name | Sports | Comments | Actions | Priority Level |
|----------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| | | | have recently accessed RFU pitch improvement fund. Good quality changing pavilion. Club believe that the pitches all require draining and relaying. Full facilities including new clubhouse and training lights needed. | | |
| Warwick | Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground | Football and Cricket | Football - Adult pitch overplayed but some capacity for 9v9 and junior play. Good quality facility with occasional drainage issues Cricket - Pitch quality limited but able to sustain small amount of additional play | Pitch improvements | Local |
| Rural | Warwickshire Police HQ | | Some additional capacity and pitches of good quality | | |
| Whitnash | Whitnash School | | At capacity and waterlogged | Secure for community use | |
| Warwick | Woodloes Primary | | Unsecured for community use. Limited scope for additional play. Used by Racing Club Warwick | | |

5. Implementation

New Facilities

In addition to the overarching strategy principles outlined earlier in this section, the following should be considered when providing any new facilities (or new sites to facilitate club relocation).

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- Location - When planning new facilities, the existing sporting infrastructure should be taken into account. In particular, club bases for cricket and rugby should be retained and the provision of single pitch sites with limited facilities should be avoided.
- Quality - Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below). The following general criteria must also be met:
- A high standard of design, construction and maintenance appropriate to the standard of play.
- Adequate changing facilities that:
 - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes
 - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act
 - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort
 - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines
- Managed community access.
- Accessible by public transport and by car.
- Sufficient car parking.
- Size of pitches and run offs complies with NGB specification.
- Security of tenure (at least 25 years) if a club is to be based at the site.

All new and enhanced sports facilities must be designed in accordance with the relevant Sport England and (where applicable) National Governing Body (NGB) design guidance in order to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose and of a suitable quality.

To ensure sustainability, new sites should include a minimum of two pitches. New single pitch sites will not be supported and new provision associated with any development of insufficient size to warrant more than one pitch should be located off site as part of a multi pitch development.

Sport England's web site www.sportengland.org contains a range of current guidance documents which provide detailed specifications and information regarding the design of sporting and ancillary facilities.

This provides a link to the NGB's supported by Sport England, and to the guidance on the respective NGB websites:

<http://www.sportengland.org/our-work/national-work/national-governing-bodies/sports-we-invest-in/>

Funding

Local authority finances are stretched and previous major national funding programmes such as Building Schools for the Future (BSF) are no longer available. However, whilst major national strategic pots of money may no longer be in place there are still significant opportunities. Individual school capital grants have replaced BSF and Sport England now has more clearly defined capital available through its *Protecting Playing Fields fund*.

Using assets innovatively will be a key feature of the next few years and working in partnership on a multi-agency approach will be important. The government is also seeking to ease planning red tape and encourage local communities to realise assets to deliver community benefits. This could mean the sale of surplus land and sites for housing and commercial uses, with receipts being released to fund prioritised community assets, which could include sports provision. The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides opportunities for investment through the Community Infra-structure Levy (CIL).

The main funding delivery mechanisms for Warwick District are likely to be:

- Capital Grant funding: From schools and national agencies such as Sport England, including its Strategic Facilities, Improvement Fund and Inspired Facilities programmes as well as Protection of Playing Fields Funds;
- National Governing Body (NGB) support;
- Council funding: capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within the council's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets; and
- Education and Further Education sector: while the previous sources of funding (including BSF and Primary Schools Programme) have changed and the scale of the education capital programmes have been reduced, the education sector is still likely to be a key funding stream.

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), introduced in March 2012 provides further funding opportunities. The objectives are:

- to make the planning process more accountable/led by local organisations in determining what is needed and best for local areas;
- to streamline and simplify planning policies and the planning process. There were over 40 free standing National Planning Policy documents, these are now all condensed into one National Planning Policy Framework; and

- PPG 17 was the planning policy framework for sport, open space and recreation and was 14 pages long. PPG 17 is now absorbed into the NPPF and it has just 3 specific paragraphs on the same subject matter as PPG 17.

Conclusion

The strategy sets out key projects and priorities based on the *needs and evidence*, to deliver now and in the future. Delivery through the planning system and future procurement can help to deliver the priorities set out.

Monitoring and Review

The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust.

Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).

The steering group are therefore committed to keeping the strategy alive through;

- monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action;
- recording changes to the pitch stock and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information;
- assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport;
- assessing the impact of demographic changes and any changes to forecasted plans for housing growth;
- ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for new or improved facilities in the area;
- analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities;
- reviewing budgetary constraints and opportunities for different delivery models to ensure pitch provision remains sustainable
- reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development; and
- ensuring that the strategy continues to provide an up to date and robust evidence base to underpin CIL / S106 obligations.

The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led by Warwick District Council through establishment of a working group that meets twice annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising.

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