



CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS.....	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION.....	2
PART 2: VISION.....	9
PART 3: AIMS	10
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	11
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS	33
PART 6: ACTION PLAN	58
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS.....	84
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE.....	88

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bowls Club
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TC	Tennis Club

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Cherwell District Council. Building upon the preceding updated Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. It delivers:

- ◀ A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations.
- ◀ A series of strategic objectives and recommendations.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritises and can address key issues.
- ◀ Guidance as to how the PPOSS can be delivered.

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

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

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

Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where and when the opportunity arises.

The PPOSS is being undertaken in conjunction with an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy. The inter-relationship between the two needs to be recognised as some sports covered by the PPOSS also use indoor facilities for matches or training as well as informally.

Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities are covered by the PPOSS:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Golf courses
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Netball courts
- ◀ Athletics tracks
- ◀ Cycling facilities

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Other grass pitch sports are also included, where there is a presence within the District. Where no activity has been identified, the sports are not included, although that is not to say that they are not played informally.

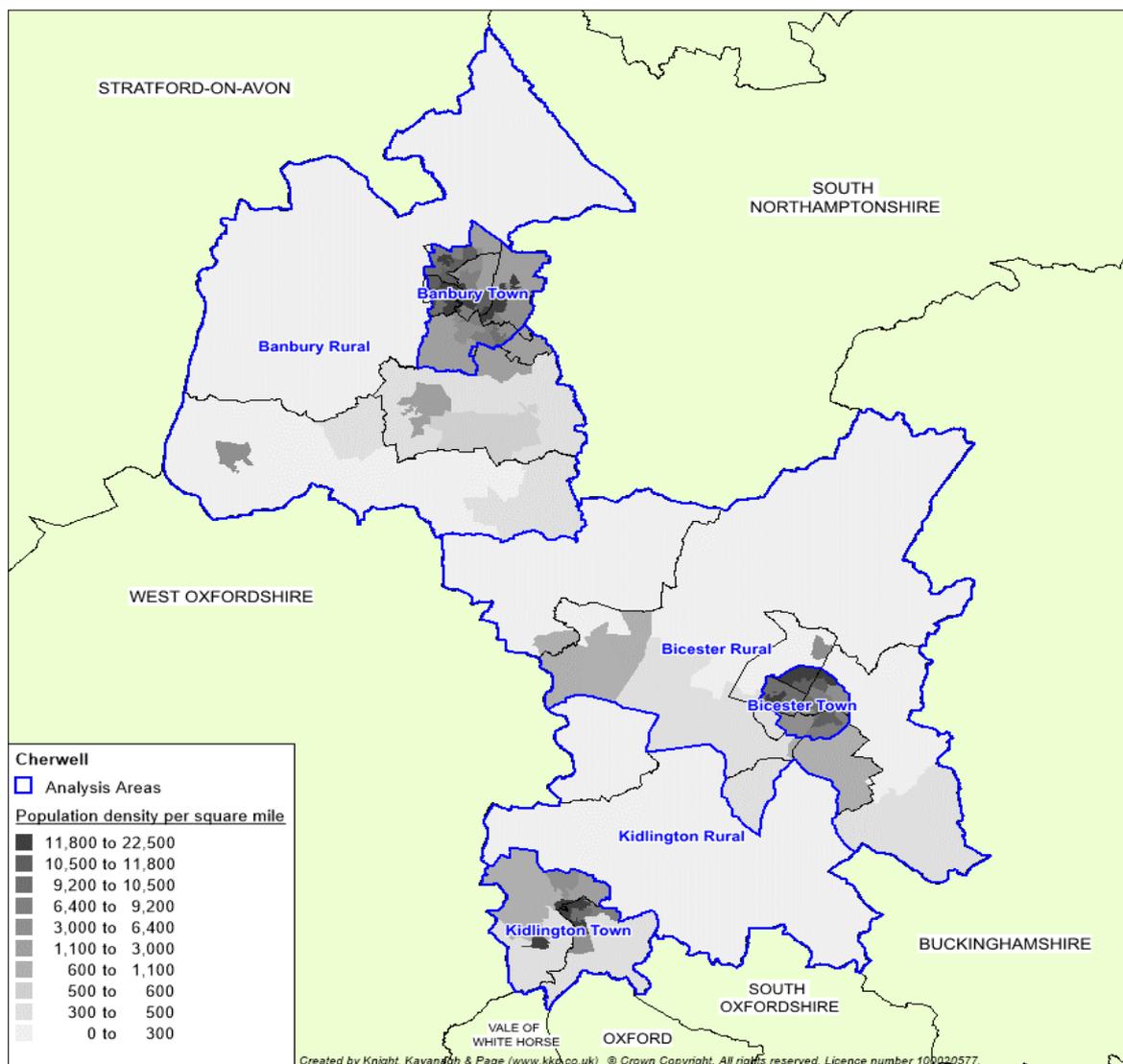
Sport England’s PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are “non-pitch”).

Study area

The study area comprises the whole of Cherwell District Council’s administrative area. Moreover, to allow for a more localised assessment of provision, analysis areas (or sub areas) have been established. These vary by sport based on how they are played and the travel patterns of users.

For football and cricket, six analysis areas have been created, with these broadly aligning with other sub areas that are used for planning purposes. These are based on grouping wards and parishes together, as shown in the following figure.

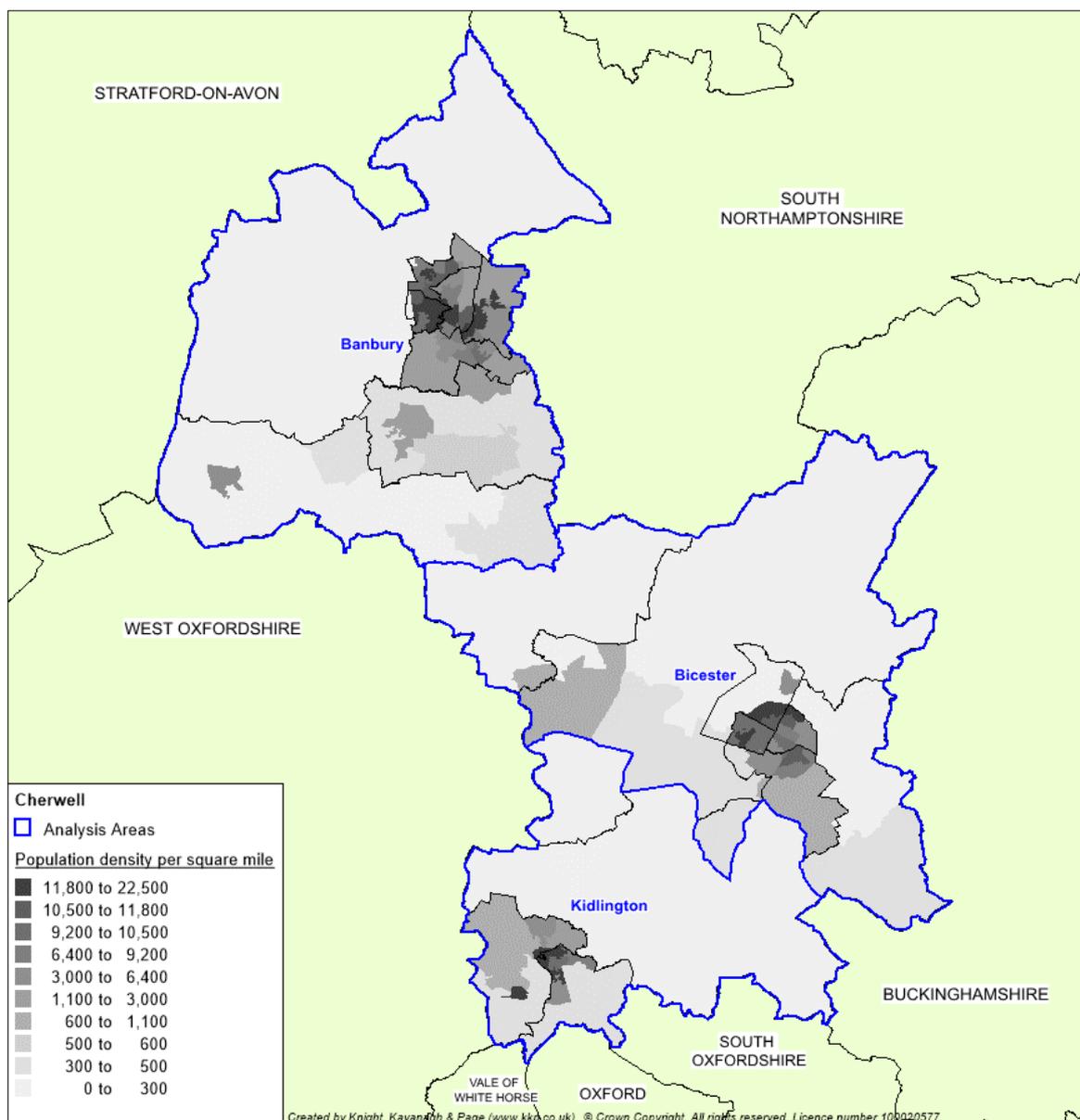
Figure 1.1: Analysis areas for football and cricket



CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

For the remaining sports, only three analysis areas are used, with Banbury Rural and Banbury Town areas combined as well as the Bicester Rural and Bicester Town areas and the Kidlington Rural and Kidlington Town areas. These areas are shown in the figure below.

Figure 1.2: Analysis areas for remaining sports



In addition, cross-boundary migration to and from neighbouring authorities is also accounted for. Some demand from within Cherwell is recognised as exporting out of the District and, vice versa, some demand from outside of Cherwell is recognised as importing into the District.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

1.1: Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative shortfalls for each included pitch sport within the PPOSS and within each analysis area, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
Football – grass pitches			
Banbury Rural	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
Banbury Town	Adult	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
Bicester Rural	Adult	Actual spare capacity 1.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
Bicester Town	Adult	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Kidlington Rural	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	Actual spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session
	Youth 11v11	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Youth 9v9	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
Kidlington Town	Adult	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
	Youth 11v11	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Rugby union – grass pitches			
Banbury	Senior	Shortfall of 9.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 11.75 match equivalent sessions
Bicester	Senior	Shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 6.25 match equivalent sessions
Kidlington	Senior	Shortfall of 4.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions
3G pitches			
Banbury Rural	Full size	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 2 pitches
Banbury Town	Full size	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 1 pitch
Bicester Rural	Full size	Shortfall of 2 pitches	Shortfall of 2 pitches
Bicester Town	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Kidlington Rural	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Kidlington Town	Full size	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 1 pitch
Hockey – sand based pitches			
Banbury	Full size	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 1 pitch
Bicester	Full size	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 1 pitch
Kidlington	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Cricket squares			
Banbury Rural	Senior	Shortfall of 8 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 44 match equivalent sessions
Banbury Town	Senior	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Bicester Rural	Senior	Actual spare capacity of 46 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 46 match equivalent sessions
Bicester Town	Senior	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Kidlington Rural	Senior	Actual spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions
Kidlington Town	Senior	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions

What the above means for Cherwell as a whole can be seen in the following table.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (District-wide)

Sport	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 10 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 8.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 13.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 4 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 18 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 24.5 match equivalent sessions
3G pitches	Full size	Shortfall of 5 pitches	Shortfall of 6 pitches
Hockey	Full size	Shortfall of 2 pitches	Shortfall of 2 pitches
Cricket	Senior	Actual spare capacity of 56 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions

For non-pitch sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal activity. The current and future picture for each sport across Cherwell is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Headline findings
Golf	Supply is seemingly good in quantitative terms; however, with high levels of demand also recorded, the level of provision is servicing a clear need and any further loss could not be sustained. Furthermore, there is a lack of variety in what is provided, likely leading to elements of the golfing market not being catered for.
Tennis	There are current capacity shortfalls for three clubs and a future capacity shortfall for four, resulting in an overall level of insufficient provision. For non-club courts, whilst none are identified as having capacity issues, there is a clear need to improve the existing supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users.
Netball	The overall quantity of courts does not seem to be a problem, although access to them and the quality of them is. All of the courts that are in use are poor or standard quality and there is a lack of alternative options due to community use not being offered and/or sports lighting not being provided.
Bowls	Whilst there are clearly some pressures on the bowling greens, no clubs report any capacity issues. As such, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, although with each green in use, it is also clear that each green requires protection to ensure that demand can continue to be accommodated.
Athletics	The current supply of provision is considered to be sufficient to meet demand.
Cycling	Whilst most demand is being satisfied, there is an aspiration for more regular access to traffic-free provision.

Conclusions

The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met.

Where spare capacity exists or where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing playing pitch and outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with national planning policy (e.g., at Oxford Road Sports Ground).

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

For the most part, the shortfalls identified could be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, pitch re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting and/or enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. That being said, there is likely to be a need for some new provision in specific areas to completely alleviate existing and future deficits given the considerable shortfalls identified, particularly for rugby union (i.e., in Banbury and Bicester). This will also be necessary where other forms of eradicating the shortfalls are not possible (e.g., financially) or where they are not the preferred approach.

In relation to football and hockey, there is also a shortfall of 3G and sand-based artificial pitches respectively that can only be met through increased provision.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 2: VISION

2.1: Vision

The vision for the Cherwell PPOSS (in conjunction with the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy) is to:

“Protect, enhance and provide accessible, high quality and sustainable sport and leisure facilities to serve both the current demand and future needs of the Cherwell District; in recognition of the key contribution they make to sports participation and physical activity.”

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 3.1 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all relevant stakeholders.

AIM 1

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

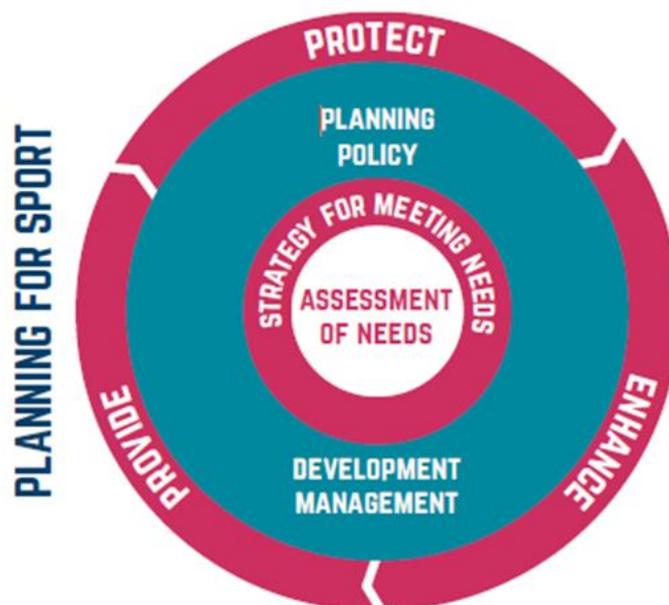
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England objectives



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

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Football – grass pitches

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ In total, 34 pitches display some level of actual spare capacity across 16 sites, equating to 14 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There are 30 overplayed pitches across 15 sites, with total overplay equating to 24.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is current spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches but a shortfall of youth adult, 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity.
- ◀ After factoring in future demand, the shortfall worsens on adult and youth pitches and a shortfall is also created on mini 5v5 pitches, with only mini 7v7 pitches having spare capacity.

Supply summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 155 football pitches across 68 sites in Cherwell, with 140 pitches available at some level for community use across 64 sites.
- ◀ Oxford Road Sports Ground is now closed and no longer accessible having previously provided an adult Step pitch, whilst lapsed pitches are identified at MOD Garrison albeit Launton FC is to re-establish these.
- ◀ Oxford United FC and Woodstock Town FC are pursuing plans to relocate into Cherwell due to development pressures at their sites outside of the District.
- ◀ The need for new football pitches and a pavilion has been identified in Kidlington, with land at South East Kidlington, close to Stratfield Brake, allocated for new pitch provision in the adopted local plan.
- ◀ Other proposals in Cherwell could impact on provision at Banbury United Football Club (Spencer Stadium), Easington Sports Football Club, Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground and Blessed George Napier School as well as in Graven Hill.
- ◀ The main operators of football pitches in Cherwell are parish/town councils, followed by schools.
- ◀ Most pitches are assessed as standard, with 94 being rated as such, compared to 19 that are good quality and 27 that are poor.
- ◀ Arncott Village Playing Fields, Banbury United Youth Football Club (Ironsides), Bicester Fields, Bletchindon Sports Ground, Bodicote Sports Ground, Easington Sports Football Club and Lucy Plackett Field are sites identified as being serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.

Demand summary

- ◀ A total of 328 teams across 64 clubs are identified within Cherwell, consisting of 82 senior men's, six senior women's, 130 youth boys', 24 youth girls' and 88 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ Participation has seemingly increased in recent years with 70 more teams identified currently compared to 2016/2017 data.
- ◀ Three clubs currently export demand outside of Cherwell (Banbury Irish FC, Banbury United FC and Longford Park FC), whilst no affiliated teams are imported.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- 14 clubs report latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitches were available to them, whilst the same number report latent demand linked to ancillary provision.
- Team generation rates predict an increase amounting to four adult and one youth 11v11 team, whereas future demand expressed by clubs equates to six adult, 10 youth 11v11, 10 youth 9v9, four mini 7v7 and 12 mini 5v5 teams.

Scenarios

These scenarios focus on how the pitch shortfalls identified can be overcome. However, whilst each can improve the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out a scenario to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of the actions will therefore be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.

Improving pitch quality

In total, there are 30 pitches in Cherwell across 15 sites that are overplayed by a combined total of 24.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls in the District.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that the large majority of existing overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

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

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
10	Banbury United Youth Football Club (Ironstone)	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	2	0
15	Bicester Fields	Adult	1	Poor	1	1
		Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1	2
21	Blessed George Napier School	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
25	Bloxham Recreation Ground	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
43	Easington Recreation Ground	Adult	2	Poor	1	3
45	Exeter Close	Adult	1	Poor	1	1
50	Fritwell Playing Fields	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
59	Heyford Park Free School	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1	2
		Youth (9v9)	2	Poor	1	5
77	Launton Playing Field Association	Adult	1	Standard	1	0
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
82	Moorfields Park	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
85	North Oxfordshire Academy	Adult	2	Standard	1	1
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
91	Pingle Field	Adult	1	Poor	1	1
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1	2
105	Stratfield Brake	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
106	Sunderland Drive	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
119	Wykham Park Academy	Adult	3	Standard	2	1
		Youth (9v9)	3	Standard	2	4

As seen, all overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good, and spare capacity would be created on all pitches except for two (at Banbury United Youth Football Club and Launton Playing Field Association). Whilst this would not constitute actual spare capacity at most sites, due to peak time usage it could enable increased access outside of the peak period.

In addition, 6.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity per week are currently discounted across Cherwell due to poor pitch quality, with this equating to 4.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and one match equivalent session on both youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch types. Improving quality at these sites, in addition to the overplayed sites, would further aid with relieving capacity issues.

Improving quality as set out above will eradicate all existing pitch shortfalls across Cherwell, with overall spare capacity created on each pitch type. This shown in the table below.

Table 4.2: Impact on supply and demand if quality improved to good across Cherwell

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1.5	11.5
Youth 11v11	5	1.5
Youth 9v9	8.5	1.5
Mini 7v7	4	4
Mini 5v5	0.5	1.5

In addition, the future shortfall of adult pitch capacity would be eradicated, whilst youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 deficits would be reduced.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.3: Future supply and demand if quality improved to good across Cherwell

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	4.5	8.5
Youth 11v11	10	4.5
Youth 9v9	13.5	3.5
Mini 7v7	2	2
Mini 5v5	5.5	4.5

Securing community use

Currently, 15 pitches in Cherwell are unavailable for community use, whilst a further 3.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity per week are discounted from in use pitches due to no security of tenure being provided. Enabling secured access to all of these pitches would alleviate current shortfalls on adult pitches, reduced shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches and increase spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.4: Current supply and demand balance with security of tenure provided

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1.5	7
Youth 11v11	5	4
Youth 9v9	8.5	1.5
Mini 7v7	4	6
Mini 5v5	0.5	5

The future shortfall of adult pitch capacity would also be alleviated, whilst the future deficits of youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches would be reduced.

Table 4.5: Future supply and demand balance with security of tenure provided

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	4.5	4
Youth 11v11	10	9
Youth 9v9	13.5	4.5
Mini 7v7	2	4
Mini 5v5	5.5	1

Most of the unavailable and unsecured sites are education sites. Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the longer-term. Where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB or Sport England, there are potential opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement.

Loss of access to education sites

Linked to the above scenario, the majority of education sites, even those used by the community, do not currently provide security of tenure. As such, the table below identifies what the supply and demand picture would be if access to all such provision was lost to evidence the negative effect that this would have and to highlight the importance of securing access.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.6: Current supply and demand balance with loss of education site access

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1.5	9.5
Youth 11v11	5	16
Youth 9v9	8.5	14.5
Mini 7v7	4	1
Mini 5v5	0.5	2.5

As seen, shortfalls would exist for each pitch type. The existing shortfalls for adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches significantly worsen, whilst shortfalls would be created for mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

The future shortfalls identified would also be significantly exacerbated.

Table 4.7: Future supply and demand balance with security of tenure provided

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	4.5	12.5
Youth 11v11	10	21
Youth 9v9	13.5	19.5
Mini 7v7	2	3
Mini 5v5	5.5	8.5

A combination of pitch quality improvements and securing community access

Carrying out quality improvements in addition to securing community use across pitches in Cherwell would eradicate all current shortfalls of provision and establish significant spare capacity for some formats of play. This is set out in the following table.

Table 4.8: Current supply and demand balance with quality improved and secured access

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	1.5	19
Youth 11v11	5	0.5
Youth 9v9	8.5	8.5
Mini 7v7	4	6
Mini 5v5	0.5	6

Furthermore, the majority of future shortfalls would also be eradicated, with only a deficit of youth 11v11 pitch capacity remaining.

Table 4.9: Future supply and demand balance with quality improved and secured access

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	4.5	16
Youth 11v11	10	4.5
Youth 9v9	13.5	3.5
Mini 7v7	2	4

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Mini 5v5	5.5	1

To remove the remaining shortfall, the overall spare capacity for adult pitches could be used to enable pitch re-configuration i.e., through converting under-utilised adult provision to youth 11v11 provision. This would also have the added benefit of better accommodating some youth 11v11 teams that are already utilising adult pitches due to a lack of youth 11v11 pitches.

The focus when exploring pitch conversion should be on multi-pitch sites where adult pitches would still remain and/or where adult pitches are already being used by youth 11v11 teams. As such, pitches at sites such as Bicester Sports Association, Easington Recreation Ground, Jubilee Park Village Hall (Bloxham), North Oxfordshire Academy and Wykham Park Academy provide potential options.

Converting five adult pitches to youth 11v11 would enable all current and future shortfalls to be overcome (in combination with pitch improvements and securing community access).

Table 4.10: Future supply and demand balance with sufficient pitch reconfiguration

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	4.5	11
Youth 11v11	10	0.5
Youth 9v9	13.5	3.5
Mini 7v7	2	4
Mini 5v5	5.5	1

New pitches

As improving quality and securing community access at all sites with such a requirement is unlikely, another approach to alleviating the shortfalls is to create new pitch provision.

The table below explores the number of pitches that would be required for each format of play, on the basis that no other methods to reducing the shortfalls are undertaken. This is carried out on an area-by-area basis and considers the need both currently and taking future demand into account.

Table 4.11: Potential new pitch requirements by analysis area and pitch type

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current total	Number of pitches required	Future total	Number of pitches required
Banbury Rural	Adult	2	-	2	-
	Youth 11v11	0.5	1	1.5	2
	Youth 9v9	0.5	-	1.5	2
	Mini 7v7	0.5	-	0.5	1
	Mini 5v5	0	-	2.5	3
Banbury Town	Adult	4	4	4	4
	Youth 11v11	2	2	2.5	3
	Youth 9v9	2.5	3	2.5	3
	Mini 7v7	0	-	0	-
	Mini 5v5	0	-	0.5	1

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current total	Number of pitches required	Future total	Number of pitches required
Bicester Rural	Adult	1.5	-	1	1
	Youth 11v11	1	1	3	3
	Youth 9v9	4	4	6	6
	Mini 7v7	3.5	-	3.5	-
	Mini 5v5	0.5	-	2.5	3
Bicester Town	Adult	1	1	1.5	2
	Youth 11v11	1.5	2	1.5	2
	Youth 9v9	2	2	2	2
	Mini 7v7	0	-	0	-
	Mini 5v5	0	-	0	-
Kidlington Rural	Adult	1	-	1	-
	Youth 11v11	0	-	0	-
	Youth 9v9	0	-	0	-
	Mini 7v7	0	-	0	-
	Mini 5v5	0	-	0	-
Kidlington Town	Adult	1	1	1	1
	Youth 11v11	0	-	0.5	1
	Youth 9v9	0.5	1	1.5	2
	Mini 7v7	0	-	1	2
	Mini 5v5	0	-	0	-

In total, 22 additional pitches would be required across Cherwell to alleviate all current shortfalls, whilst a further 22 pitches (meaning 44 pitches in total) would be required to alleviate all future shortfalls. The largest requirement is in the Banbury Town Analysis Area (nine pitches currently and an additional one when accounting for future demand), whereas no new provision is needed in the Kidlington Rural Analysis Area.

By pitch type, the greatest need is for new youth 9v9 provision (10 pitches currently and 15 when accounting for future demand), whilst the lowest need is for mini 7v7 pitches (no pitches currently and two when accounting for future demand).

Whilst the above figures may seem significant, as set out in the previous scenarios, any pitch improvements or any community access that is secured will lessen the need for new provision. However, there may also be a need for increased provision linked to large-scale housing developments, or a group of developments, given the localised future demand that may arise from them (see Part 7 of this report for further information).

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches and ensure any existing and future proposals provide replacement provision in line with national planning policy.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality with a focus on overplayed pitches and pitches assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Review Cherwell's Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) using the findings of this study to update where investment into pitch quality improvements should be directed.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites and support negotiations with private landowners and schools to secure appropriate access (e.g., via community use agreements).

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, particularly where a large quantity of pitches are provided.
- ◀ Consider pitch re-configuration where the capacity of one pitch type can be used to reduce shortfalls of another and where it can better accommodate what demand is received (i.e., converting adult pitch provision to youth 11v11 provision).
- ◀ Explore creation of new pitch provision in areas where quality cannot be sufficiently improved and where community access cannot be sufficiently secured, or as an alternative method to alleviating shortfalls (as identified in Table 4.9).
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls.

Rugby union - grass pitches

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ Whilst eight pitches are identified as having potential spare capacity, none have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand, either due to peak time availability or a lack of security of tenure.
- ◀ There are 11 pitches across three sites that are overplayed by a combined total of 18 match equivalent sessions (at Banbury Rugby Club, Stratfield Brake and Whitelands Farm Sports Ground). These are the main sites used for community rugby in the District.
- ◀ There is a current overall shortfall of 18 match equivalent sessions per week on grass rugby union pitches, with future demand exacerbating this to 24.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ A current and future shortfall is identified in each analysis area.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are 28 grass rugby union pitches identified across 15 sites in Cherwell, with 21 pitches available for community use across 12 sites.
- ◀ All the pitches are senior pitches (all junior and mini rugby takes place on senior provision).
- ◀ Oxford Road Sports Ground is now closed, with two senior pitches at the site previously accessed by Bicester RUFC.
- ◀ Of the pitches that are available for community use in Cherwell, two are good quality, eight are standard quality and 11 are poor quality.
- ◀ Both Gosford All Blacks RUFC and Bicester RUFC report a need for ancillary provision improvements, at Stratfield Brake and Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, respectively.
- ◀ Banbury RUFC is attempting to acquire the land at its site that it does not currently own (approximately one third) in order to improve its security of tenure.
- ◀ Bicester RUFC is without a long-term agreement for use of the provision at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Demand summary

- ◀ There are four rugby clubs considered to be based in Cherwell (Alchester, Banbury, Bicester and Gosford All Blacks rugby clubs), collectively providing a total of 48 teams (eight senior men's, two senior women's, 13 youth boys', seven youth girls' and 18 mini teams).
- ◀ Participation has increased substantially over recent years, with ten more teams recognised currently compared to 2018 findings.
- ◀ Alchester RUFC (at Fritwell Playing Fields), Banbury RUFC (at Banbury Rugby Club) and Gosford All Blacks RUFC (at Strafield Brake) utilise match pitches to accommodate all training demand, whereas Bicester RUFC (at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground) splits across the 3G pitch on site and other grass areas.
- ◀ Although no future demand is predicted based on population growth, Banbury RUFC, Bicester RUFC and Gosford All Blacks RUFC all have demand to grow, collectively by 15 teams.

Scenarios

Of the four clubs playing within Cherwell, three of them have a shortfall of pitch capacity. As such, these scenarios focus on these three clubs and how the deficits can be overcome on a club-by-club basis. A more wholesome approach is not considered appropriate due to the club-centric nature of the sport within the District.

Banbury RUFC

At Banbury Rugby Club, all six pitches are overplayed by 9.25 match equivalent sessions collectively. This could be alleviated by improving quality from M0/D01 to, as a minimum, M2/D1 or M1/D3, as set out in the following table.

Table 4.12: Impact of quality improvements on overplayed pitches at Banbury Rugby Club

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Potential capacity rating
7	Banbury Rugby Club	Senior	M0/D0	0.5	2
		Senior	M0/D0	2.5	0
		Senior	M0/D0	2.5	0
		Senior	M0/D0	1.5	1
		Senior	M0/D0	1.5	1
		Senior	M0/D0	1.25	1.25

In addition, the Club aspires to increase its demand by one senior men's, one senior women's, one junior boys' and one junior girls' team, which equates to two match equivalent sessions of match play demand and likely two match equivalent sessions of training demand. This would significantly increase shortfalls at the site, as evidenced in the following table (and on the assumption that no additional play will access the first team pitch).

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.13: Potential impact of future demand across Banbury Rugby Club

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Future capacity rating
7	Banbury Rugby Club	Senior	M0/D0	0.5	0.5
		Senior	M0/D0	2.5	3.5
		Senior	M0/D0	2.5	3.5
		Senior	M0/D0	1.5	3
		Senior	M0/D0	1.5	3
		Senior	M0/D0	1.25	1.75

Improving quality across the site could reduce the future overplay, although it would not eradicate it entirely as the training demand would need to remain on the pitches with sports lighting. The impact of maximising quality is shown in the table below.

Table 4.14: Impact of improving quality on future demand across Banbury Rugby Club

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Future capacity rating	Potential capacity rating
7	Banbury Rugby Club	Senior	M0/D0	0.5	2.5
		Senior	M0/D0	3.5	0.5
		Senior	M0/D0	3.5	0.5
		Senior	M0/D0	3	1
		Senior	M0/D0	3	1
		Senior	M0/D0	1.75	0.75

To fully eradicate the future shortfall, an additional, existing pitch will require sports lighting, with this then enabling training demand to be further dispersed. The following table details the impact of this on the basis that the Club's fourth pitch has sports lighting installed.

Table 4.15: Impact of improving quality and installing additional sports lighting

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Future capacity rating	Potential capacity rating
7	Banbury Rugby Club	Senior	M2/D1	0.5	2.5
		Senior	M1/D1	3.5	0
		Senior	M1/D1	3.5	0
		Senior	M1/D1	3	0
		Senior	M1/D1	3	1
		Senior	M1/D1	1.75	0.75

To summarise, for Banbury RUFC to accommodate all of its current and future demand, quality needs to improve across the site, and one additional pitch requires sports lighting.

In addition, the Club is currently attempting to acquire the part of the site that it does not presently own (approximately one third). This should be supported to maximise security of tenure and to consequently aid with the achievement of the above.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Bicester RUFC (Whitelands Farm Sports Ground)

Bicester RUFC currently overplays the two grass pitches Whitelands Farm Sports Ground by a combined total of 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week, despite also having access to the 3G pitch and unmarked areas on site for training. Even if quality at the site was maximised (M2/D3), some level of shortfall would remain.

Table 4.16: Impact of quality improvements at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Potential capacity rating
117	Whitelands Farm Sports Ground	Senior	M1/D3	1.5	1
		Senior	M1/D3	2	1.5

For the current shortfalls to be fully eradicated, there is a requirement for access to at least one additional senior pitch (with capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions), in conjunction with quality improvements also taking place on the existing provision.

When accounting for future demand (one senior men's, one senior women's, two junior boys', one junior girls' and one mini team), the existing shortfalls will significantly increase, as evidenced below.

Table 4.17: Impact of future demand at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Future capacity rating
117	Whitelands Farm Sports Ground	Senior	M1/D3	1.5	3
		Senior	M1/D3	2	3.5

This growth will increase the need for additional provision, with a further pitch required to ensure that all demand can be accommodated. This means that four senior pitches are required to accommodate both current and future demand, although this could be reduced through greater access to 3G provision.

In addition, Bicester RUFC expresses an aspiration for sports lighting to be installed at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground in order to service the grass pitches as it is considered that this will better accommodate its training demand, given that access to the 3G pitch is limited. However, if this was to happen, or if the Club was to fully lose access to the 3G pitch on site, the overplay across the grass pitches would significantly increase, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.18: Impact of transferring training demand at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Potential capacity rating
117	Whitelands Farm Sports Ground	Senior	M1/D3	1.5	4.5
		Senior	M1/D3	2	5

If all training demand was to be accommodated on the grass pitches, it would further increase the need for new pitch provision, meaning up to three new pitches could be required, in addition to sports lighting at least two of them. Providing this number of pitches should not be considered as a priority, with greater access to 3G provision instead considered to be a solution to reducing the grass pitch deficits.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Given the current capacity issues on the existing 3G pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, and given the 3G pitch shortfalls in the area, the creation of an additional 3G pitch on site should be sought to enable the above. This should be World Rugby compliant, with Bicester RUFC seen as the primary user, although any spare capacity can be utilised by football clubs.

If the required solutions are not possible at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, access to alternative or new provision needs to be sought. Linked to this, the ongoing development proposals around Oxford Road Sports Ground could provide a means to delivering some of what is needed through mitigation requirements as the Club previously used the site and therefore could be open to using replacement provision. However, as a minimum, four senior grass pitches would be required, with at least two supported by sports lighting, whereas the existing site only provides two senior pitches.

In summary, the following applies:

- ◀ The Club requires an additional pitch based on its current demand, in addition to quality improvements.
- ◀ It requires a further additional pitch based on its future demand (meaning four pitches are required in total), with two of these serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ It would require a further additional pitch to transfer all of its training demand onto grass, which should therefore not be seen as a priority, with greater access to 3G provision on instead to be sought.
- ◀ The addition of another World Rugby compliant 3G pitch on site should be pursued to reduce the grass pitch requirements, and the Club should be seen as the primary user of this (with any spare capacity then available for additional football access).
- ◀ If the above is not viable at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, an alternative venue that can provide the Club with what it requires is needed (minimum four senior pitches with two serviced by sports lighting).

In addition, long-term security of tenure is required (minimum 25 years). If this cannot be gained at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, access to an alternative suitable site should again be sought.

In full, it is considered that the following will meet the Club's requirements both currently and in the long-term:

- ◀ The addition of one senior grass pitch (in place of the existing unused cricket square), meaning the Club would have access to three grass pitches in total.
- ◀ Providing sports lighting on two of the grass pitches so that they can accommodate some level of training demand.
- ◀ The addition of another World Rugby compliant 3G pitch on site, with the Club seen as the primary user of this (in effect providing it with four pitches).
- ◀ A long-term lease agreement (minimum 25 years) to provide security of tenure and to aid site and club development.
- ◀ An alternative site that can provide the above if it is not possible at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground.

Gosford All Blacks RUFC (Stratfield Brake)

Three of the four pitches at Stratfield Brake are overplayed by a combined total of 4.75 match equivalent sessions per week by Gosford All Blacks RUFC (with the remaining pitch played to capacity). This shortfall could be alleviated through maximising quality across the site (to M2/D3).

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.19: Impact of quality improvements on overplayed pitches at Stratfield Brake

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Potential capacity rating
105	Stratfield Brake	Senior	M1/D0	0	2
		Senior	M1/D0	2	0
		Senior	M1/D0	2	0
		Senior	M1/D0	0.75	1.25

Notwithstanding the above, the Club aspires to increase its demand by one senior women's, one junior girls' and three mini teams, which will exacerbate existing shortfalls if realised. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.20: Potential impact of future demand at Stratfield Brake

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Future capacity rating
105	Stratfield Brake	Senior	M1/D0	0	1
		Senior	M1/D0	2	2.25
		Senior	M1/D0	2	2.25
		Senior	M1/D0	0.75	1.25

Improving quality across the site could reduce the overplay, although it would not eradicate it entirely as the training demand would need to remain on the pitches with sports lighting. The impact of maximising quality is shown in the table below.

Table 4.21: Impact of quality improvements on future demand at Stratfield Brake

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Future capacity rating	Potential capacity rating
105	Stratfield Brake	Senior	M1/D0	1	0.5
		Senior	M1/D0	2.25	0.25
		Senior	M1/D0	2.25	0.25
		Senior	M1/D0	1.25	0.5

To fully eradicate the shortfall, an additional, existing pitch will require sports lighting, with this then enabling training demand to be further dispersed. The following table details the impact of this on the basis that the Club's fourth pitch has sports lighting installed.

Table 4.22: Impact of improving quality and installing additional sports lighting

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Future capacity rating	Potential capacity rating
105	Stratfield Brake	Senior	M1/D1	1	0.5
		Senior	M1/D1	2.25	0
		Senior	M1/D1	2.25	0
		Senior	M1/D1	1.25	0

In summary, for Gosford All Blacks RUFC to accommodate all of its current and future demand, quality needs to be maximised across the site, and one additional pitch requires sports lighting (the fourth pitch). In addition, the Club's ancillary facilities also require improvement, including both its changing provision and its social provision.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches and ensure any existing and future proposals provide replacement provision in line with national planning policy (e.g., at Oxford Road Sports Ground).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems.
- ◀ Provide Banbury RUFC and Gosford All Blacks RUFC with additional sports lighting to enable training demand to be further dispersed.
- ◀ Provide an additional grass pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground to reduce overplay for Bicester RUFC and provide sports lighting on two of the Club's pitches to better accommodate training demand.
- ◀ Enable and encourage Bicester RUFC to increase its access to 3G provision at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground and pursue the installation of a second World Rugby compliant pitch on site to enable this.
- ◀ Improve the ancillary facilities servicing the clubs.
- ◀ Support Banbury RUFC in its aspirations to purchase the land at its site that is currently in the Council's ownership in order to increase its security of tenure.
- ◀ Seek to provide Bicester RUFC with increased security of tenure at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground via extending its licence agreement (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ Provide Bicester RUFC with access to an alternative suitable site if its requirements at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground cannot be met.
- ◀ Retain the stock of pitches at education sites for continued curricular and extra-curricular usage and encourage improved club links where possible.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

3G pitches

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ For football, there is a clear shortfall of 3G provision in Cherwell to meet training requirements, with at least five additional full size pitches required to meet the unmet demand identified and a further full size pitch needed to meet future demand.
- ◀ The current requirement equates to one pitch in each of the Banbury Rural, Banbury Town and Kidlington Town analysis areas in addition to a requirement of two pitches in the Bicester Rural Analysis Area, whereas the additional future demand results in an increase of the shortfall in Banbury Rural Analysis Area.
- ◀ For rugby union, there is insufficient demand to warrant the creation of an additional World Rugby compliant pitch; however, additional usage of provision at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground may be needed, which cannot happen without an increase in the number of pitches.

Supply summary

- ◀ There is one full size 3G pitch in Cherwell, located at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground; it is serviced by sports lighting and available for community use.
- ◀ There are also three smaller sized 3G pitches across two sites in Cherwell, with one indoor pitch at 5Core (Bicester) and two outdoor pitches at Bicester & Ploughley Sports Centre.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ There are several plans in place for new 3G pitches, including at North Oxfordshire Academy (linked to an existing mitigation requirement) and Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground as well as part of relocation plans for Oxford United FC, Easington Sports FC and Banbury United FC should they go ahead.
- ◀ The full size pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground is both FA approved and World Rugby compliant, whilst the smaller sized pitches are neither.
- ◀ The pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground is assessed as standard quality having been installed in 2017.
- ◀ The smaller sized pitch at 5Core is assessed as good quality, whereas the pitches at Bicester & Ploughley Sports Centre have exceeded their recommended lifespans.

Demand summary

- ◀ The full size 3G pitch in Cherwell at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground is reported to be operating at capacity at peak times with it being well used for both training and match play, with significant usage from several clubs, including Bicester RUFC and Bure Park FC.
- ◀ Significant unmet demand for 3G provision is expressed in Cherwell, with 24 out of 43 responding football clubs stating that additional pitches are required to meet training requirements and with 218 teams from these clubs not currently accessing a pitch.
- ◀ Unmet demand for 3G training access is also expressed by Bicester RUFC.
- ◀ 11 football clubs express latent demand linked to a lack of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Kidlington Youth FC exports some training demand outside of the District due to a lack of 3G provision, whilst Banbury United Youth FC identifies that it may soon need to do likewise.
- ◀ Future demand expressed by football clubs, equating to 42 teams, may further increase 3G pitch demand, whilst Bicester RUFC's growth aspirations for six additional teams would likely result in requiring increased access to the pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground.

Scenarios

These scenarios explore the number of 3G pitches that may be required to accommodate certain formats of play and specific levels of demand, before existing proposals and other options to alleviating the shortfalls are explored.

Accommodating football training demand

As identified in the proceeding Assessment Report, based on current levels of unmet demand and on an analysis area basis, there is the need for five additional full size 3G pitches for football training within Cherwell, which increases to six when factoring in future demand. This equates to a current shortfall of two pitches in the Bicester Rural Analysis Area and of one pitch in each of the Banbury Rural, Banbury Town and Kidlington Town analysis areas, whilst future demand increases the shortfall in the Banbury Rural Analysis Area.

The above is summarised in the table below and is based on the FA's model of one full size pitch being able to cater for 38 teams.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.23: Unmet demand for 3G pitches by analysis area for training

Analysis area	Current unmet demand	3G requirement ¹	Future demand	Future 3G requirement ²
Banbury Rural	48	1	61	2
Banbury Town	44	1	48	1
Bicester Rural	70	2	72	2
Bicester Town	4	-	5	-
Kidlington Rural	6	-	-	-
Kidlington Town	46	1	51	1

It must also be noted that the above modelling presumes that all 3G capacity will be available for football clubs. As such, with the only existing full size pitch (at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground) also being used for rugby union, it may be that the shortfall is slightly above what has been identified, particularly in the Bicester analysis areas.

Should all existing demand require access to 3G provision for training purposes, which is an FA aim, the shortfall would significantly increase. Eight pitches would be required across Cherwell based on current demand, increasing to nine pitches when factoring in future demand.

As shown in the table below, breaking down current demand, the shortfall would equate to two pitches in the Banbury Rural, Banbury Town and Bicester Rural analysis areas, in addition to one pitch in the Bicester Town Analysis Area and Kidlington Town Analysis Area. Future demand would increase the shortfall in the Kidlington Town Analysis Area to two full size pitches.

Table 4.24: 3G shortfalls if every football team accessed provision for training demand

Analysis area	Current demand	3G requirement	Future demand	Future 3G requirement
Banbury Rural	72	2	84	2
Banbury Town	62	2	66	2
Bicester Rural	94	2	96	2
Bicester Town	38	1	39	1
Kidlington Rural	9	-	9	-
Kidlington Town	53	1	58	2

First and foremost, priority should be placed on providing a sufficient number of pitches to meet the unmet demand identified. However, the above scenario shows that there may also be a need to develop further provision following this.

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

In addition to 3G pitches accommodating football training demand, they can also accommodate match play demand, which should be encouraged as it can relieve grass pitches of use and therefore also assist in overcoming grass pitch shortfalls. With only one full size 3G pitch currently provided in Cherwell, there is limited scope for this as things stand.

¹ Rounded to the nearest whole number

² Rounded to the nearest whole number

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches (or town/parish council pitches) be transferred. The number of teams currently utilising council provision is summarised below, based on peak time usage.

Table 4.25: Number of football teams currently using council pitches at peak time

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Saturday PM	23
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	32
Youth	9v9	Saturday AM	24
Mini	7v7	Saturday AM	18
Mini	5v5	Saturday AM	16
Total			125

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, which is shown in the table below.

Table 4.26: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No. of teams at peak time	No. of matches at peak time	3G units required per match ³	Total 3G units required	3G pitches required
Adult	23	11.5	32	368	5.75
11v11	32	16	32	512	8.00
9v9	24	12	10	120	1.88
7v7	18	9	8	72	1.13
5v5	16	8	4	32	0.50

Transferring all matches currently played on council pitches would equate to the need for eight full size 3G pitches due to peak time differing for different formats of play (demand is cumulatively highest at Sunday AM). Whilst this is higher than the 3G pitch requirements identified as being needed to meet unmet training demand, it is below the number required to accommodate all football training demand, suggesting that it could be achievable.

An alternative approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football to 3G provision, which is also a priority for the FA and which can maximise the usage of pitches due to the number of matches that can be played at one time and on one day. As such, the table below tests a scenario to enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Saturday AM).

Table 4.27: Moving all mini football matches to 3G pitches

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

³ Based on how pitches are split on a full size 3G pitch

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for six full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 45 teams playing mini 5v5 football and 43 teams playing mini 7v7 football. As such, it is considered that the supply of pitches required to meet unmet training demand could also accommodate all existing mini match play demand.

The table below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football.

Table 4.28: Moving all youth 9v9 football matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	2 x 9v9	2/4
Noon – 2pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
2pm – 4pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

This demand could also be accommodated on number of pitches required to meet unmet training demand as it equates to the need for only five full size 3G pitches based on 57 teams currently playing this format within Cherwell. It is also worth noting that if all youth 9v9 football was moved to a Sunday and all mini football was retained on a Saturday (or vice versa), it is feasible that all current demand for mini and youth 9v9 football could be accommodated on six full size pitches.

Meeting rugby union requirements

The existing full size 3G pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground is World Rugby compliant and is used by Bicester RUFC to accommodate some of its training demand, although capacity is limited by football usage. As such, the Club would benefit from a second World Rugby compliant pitch being provided at the site, with it then able to be a primary user of this provision (with any spare capacity available for football users).

No other rugby union clubs in Cherwell have grass pitch shortfalls that cannot be alleviated through grass pitch solutions (i.e., quality improvements and increased sports lighting). As such, there is no clear need for additional World Rugby compliant 3G provision to be established away from Whitelands Farm Sports Ground.

Meeting 3G pitch shortfalls

Based on the above, there is a minimum requirement to provide five additional 3G pitches in Cherwell to meet current demand, with another pitch then required to meet future demand. This equates to an overall need for three pitches in Banbury, two pitches in Bicester and one pitch in Kidlington (the more localised analysis areas are not used for this as it is considered feasible for demand to travel further to access 3G provision).

In Banbury, an existing mitigation requirement exists for a 3G pitch to be established at North Oxfordshire Academy. This would provide one of the three pitch required.

For the remaining two pitches that are required in Banbury, the FA is keen to explore the creation of a hub site. The strongest possibility of this is via the Banbury 12 allocation, linked to Banbury United FC's proposed relocation, where the Club aspires to establish a stadia 3G pitch in addition to a community 3G pitch. However, it is considered that a stadia pitch would not contribute to reducing the shortfalls due to the level that the Club plays at and the type of 3G pitch that would need to be installed (FIFA Quality Pro). The hours of recommended usage for this specification are significantly limited.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Given the above, to fully eradicate the 3G pitch shortfalls in Banbury, establishing two community 3G pitches as part of the allocation should be explored as a priority (in addition to the proposed stadia 3G). However, if only one community 3G pitch was able to be provided as part of the allocation (e.g., due to funding or planning issues), an alternative option is to also support plans for a 3G pitch to be established at Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground, which is approximately two miles from the allocation site and can therefore cater for a similar demand base. This would also support aspirations for an indoor tennis centre to be created and would contribute towards the mitigation of the grass football pitches currently on site.

In Bicester, limited options for new 3G pitches have been identified. However, Graven Hill or the development in Chesterton may provide potential options, subject to an appropriate management model being established.

Another option to be pursued is the creation a second 3G pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, which would have the added benefit of directly assisting with ensuring increased 3G usage for rugby union. In effect, one pitch would prioritise rugby union use and the other would prioritise football use. Any impact this could have on grass pitch provision could be offset through the development plans at Graven Hill.

In Kidlington, the development plans in and around the South East of Kidlington provide the most feasible solution, with 3G aspirations already existing. This relates to both Oxford United FC's aspiration to relocate to a parcel of land known as "The Triangle" and the allocation of new playing pitch provision on land close to Stratfield Brake.

Elsewhere within the Kidlington area, Woodstock Town FC also has an aspiration to develop 3G provision as part of its relocation into Cherwell, from West Oxfordshire. Whilst the FA model used above would not support this in addition to plans elsewhere, it must be noted that the Club's own demand has not been included within the calculations (as it is not currently located in Cherwell). Furthermore, the relocation site is closely located to the West Oxfordshire border, which would mean that any 3G development would be able to also cater for additional West Oxfordshire-based demand (such as from Stonesfield Strikers FC), where shortfalls are also present (there is a shortfall of one full size pitch within the analysis area where Woodstock Town FC currently resides).

In full, the Club plans to develop two full size 3G pitches as part of the proposals (consisting of one stadia pitch and one "community" pitch). Whilst evidence does not exist currently to support a double-pitch site, a second pitch could be seen as part of a long-term planning exercise if usage of one pitch was to be maximised and a sustainable business and revenue plan was put into place. Alternatively, a smaller sized second pitch could be established to help meet different forms of demand and free up capacity of the full size pitch.

Please see the table below for a summary of the above.

Table 4.29: Summary of 3G pitch requirements and proposed locations

Analysis area	3G pitches to be developed	Proposed locations
Banbury	3	One pitch at North Oxfordshire Academy and two community pitches (in addition to a potential stadia pitch) as part of the Banbury 12 allocation. If only one community pitch is possible as part of the allocation, an alternative is to provide one pitch at Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Analysis area	3G pitches to be developed	Proposed locations
Bicester	2	One pitch at Graven Hill or as part of the Chesterton development and an additional pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground. One pitch at the site would then primarily be for rugby union, and the other for football.
Kidlington	2	One pitch in the area of Stratfield Brake and one pitch as part of Woodstock Town FC's relocation in order to meet additional demand from the Club and from West Oxfordshire.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches and seek to resurface provision when it is required.
- ◀ Develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls, with priority placed on establishing pitches at North Oxfordshire Academy, Banbury 12 and/or Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground, Graven Hill or Chesterton, Whitelands Farm Sports Ground and in the area of Stratfield Brake as well as to support Woodstock Town FC's proposed relocation.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are World Rugby compliant are re-tested every two years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- ◀ Seek to maximise rugby union usage of the existing pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground to alleviate Bicester RUFC's grass pitch shortfalls, providing an additional pitch is established at the site or in the locality for football.
- ◀ Encourage more football match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible, particularly from council sites and for mini and youth 9v9 demand.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ For match play, there is a shortfall of provision for both Bicester HC and Banbury HC, with both clubs requiring access to one additional AGP.
- ◀ Kidlington Ladies HC is adequately provided for in terms of quantity, although the pitch at Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre (Gosford Hill School) requires resurfacing.
- ◀ For training, none of the pitches are considered to have capacity for additional hockey activity, although this could be resolved via the creation of additional 3G pitches as this would enable the transfer of football demand from the sand-based pitches.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are eight full size, floodlit AGPs suitable for competitive hockey in Cherwell, located across seven sites (two pitches are provided at Dewey Sports Centre).
- ◀ Of the pitches, six are serviced by sports lighting (the two at Dewey Sports are not), whilst seven are available for community use (the pitch at Tudor Hall School is not).

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ In addition, there are seven smaller-sized AGPs located across the District, although none are suitable for purposeful hockey demand.
- ◀ Blessed George Napier School has submitted a planning application to rotate and resurface its sand-based AGP; conversations had taken place around converting the pitch to 3G, although it is now believed that a sand-based pitch is instead to be retained.
- ◀ Bicester HC reports that it is exploring the creation of new pitch provision, with a proposal existing for two full size AGPs to be provided at Wretchwick Farm.
- ◀ Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, the pitches at Blessed George Napier School, Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre (Gosford Hill School), Tudor Hall School and Wykham Park Academy have exceeded their recommended lifespans.
- ◀ Banbury HC and Bicester HC report ancillary provision issues at North Oxfordshire Academy and Cooper School, respectively.

Demand summary

- ◀ There are three hockey clubs in Cherwell (Banbury HC, Bicester HC and Kidlington Ladies HC), which collectively provide ten senior men's, ten senior women's, 16 junior teams as well as four teams of other varieties.
- ◀ Banbury HC with 20 teams is based across two sites, using the pitch at North Oxfordshire Academy for all training activity and the majority of its match play, whilst also using Dewey Sports Centre (Bloxham School) as an overspill venue.
- ◀ Bicester HC with 20 teams uses the pitch at Cooper School, although the pitch at Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre (Gosford Hill School) is occasionally required for overspill.
- ◀ Kidlington Ladies HC fields a solitary women's team and is solely based at Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre (Gosford Hill School).
- ◀ There has been a small reduction in senior demand across the clubs in recent years but a significant growth of junior demand.
- ◀ Banbury HC exports demand in the form of its veteran's team, which plays in North Northamptonshire or Warwick due to lack of capacity within Cherwell.
- ◀ Both Banbury HC and Bicester HC report that they could field more teams and accommodate more members if they had access to increased pitch capacity and both also express future demand to increase their number of teams.

Scenarios

These scenarios focus on the three clubs playing with Cherwell and how their key issues can be overcome. A more wholesome approach is not considered appropriate due to the club-centric nature of the sport within the District and the distance between pitches.

Banbury HC

For Banbury HC to adequately field all of its current and future demand, it requires a good level of access to at least two full size sand-based pitches with sports lighting. It currently utilises the pitch at North Oxfordshire Academy as well as the two pitches at Dewey Sports Centre (Bloxham School), the latter of which is not ideal as community use is limited and the pitches are not serviced by sports lighting. Furthermore, the site is located a considerable distance from where the Club is based.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

To better provide for the Club, enabling access to an alternative sand-based pitch should be pursued, in addition to ensuring continued access to the pitch at North Oxfordshire Academy. As such, there is a clear need to resurface the existing sand-based pitch at Wykham Park Academy and to enable secured community access for Banbury HC during and throughout weekends (as it is not currently available). That being said, this will also entail the need to transfer some football demand from the site in order to free up capacity for hockey, and long-term access for the Club would need to be guaranteed.

In addition, the sand-based pitch at Blessed George Napier School would also require protection for hockey usage as this provides further potential capacity for Banbury HC if it cannot get sufficient access at Wykham Park Academy. However, this would again need football demand to be transferred away from the pitch and a secured access agreement being implemented.

Bicester HC

As with Banbury HC, Bicester HC requires access to two full size sand-based pitches, with sports lighting, in order for all of its demand to be accommodated. As it currently only accesses the pitch at Cooper School, and with no other supply provided within the Bicester Analysis Area, it therefore requires the provision of a new pitch.

As referenced in the proceeding Assessment Report, the Club has an aspiration to develop two new full size pitches at Wretchwick Farm, which would meet all of its needs. As such, this should be supported.

It must also be noted that the sand-based pitch at Cooper School will need to be retained to service the School's own hockey demand and to continue to support the club-school links that have been established (meaning that a 3G conversion is not an option).

Kidlington Ladies HC

Kidlington Ladies HC only requires one full size pitch in order to meet its demand, with this requirement currently being met through the provision at Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre (Gosford Hill School). As such, no new facilities are required, although the pitch does require resurfacing to improve its quality and to ensure long-term access for the Club.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the pitches at North Oxfordshire Academy, Dewey Sports Centre (Bloxxham School), Cooper School and Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre (Gosford Hill School) to ensure that they can continue to accommodate hockey demand.
- ◀ Resurface the pitch at Wykham Park Academy and ensure its protection for hockey usage, alongside the pitch at Blessed George Napier School, whilst seeking to maximise and secure Banbury HC's use of the provision.
- ◀ Establish at new full size sand-based pitches at Wretchwick Farm to provide for Bicester HC.
- ◀ Resurface the pitch at Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre (Gosford Hill School) to ensure its long-term suitability for Kidlington Ladies HC.
- ◀ Ensure all providers have sinking funds in place to ensure the long-term sustainability of pitches.
- ◀ Look to improve security of tenure for all clubs through long-term community use agreements.
- ◀ Explore options to improve the ancillary facility offer, especially at North Oxfordshire Academy and Cooper School.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

Cricket squares

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ There are 10 squares with actual spare capacity for demand on Saturday's, whilst 11 have actual spare capacity on Sunday's and midweek.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on seven squares across six sites and equates to 112 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is overall spare capacity for all forms of cricket across Cherwell as a whole, although localised shortfalls exist in the Banbury Rural and Kidlington Town analysis areas.

Supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 28 grass cricket squares in Cherwell located across 25 sites, with 25 squares available for community use (three squares across Bloxham School sites are not).
- ◀ Seven squares are currently unused by the community, including six that are not at education sites, which is uncommon.
- ◀ There is an NTP accompanying one of the grass wicket squares at Stratfield Brake in addition to six standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Oxfordshire Cricket is actively pursuing the creation of a cricket venue that it can use as a base to operate from as well as for its representative matches, community programmes and club engagement.
- ◀ Kidlington CC has established plans to relocate to a new site with two cricket squares and an all-encompassing pavilion, although at this stage this proposal is indicative and has therefore not as of yet been formalised.
- ◀ Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground has been identified as a possible site for the development of a tennis centre and, if this was to go ahead, it could entail the removal of cricket square on site.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found six to be good quality, 17 to be standard quality and two to be poor quality (at Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground and Horton View Sports Ground).
- ◀ Three sites with community available squares are serviced by good quality facilities and 20 by standard quality facilities (none are assessed as poor).

Demand summary

- ◀ There are 14 affiliated cricket clubs in Cherwell which collectively provide 81 cricket teams, equating to 36 senior men's, three senior women's and 43 junior teams.
- ◀ Demand has seemingly remained relatively static in recent years, with some clubs reporting minor increases and others reporting minor decreases.
- ◀ Banbury, Bicester & North Oxford and Kidlington cricket clubs all report unmet and latent demand in that they could field more teams if pitch capacity/availability improved.
- ◀ Oxford & Bletchingdon CC accesses OUP Sports Ground, in Oxford, as a secondary venue to a lack of Saturday capacity at Bletchingdon Sports Club (exported demand).

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Six clubs in Cherwell form part of the All Stars initiative, whilst two are running Dynamo's sessions and three are running women's and girls' softball sessions.
- ◀ Future demand of one senior men's team is predicted via population growth, whilst five clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation, equating to three senior men's, three senior women's and six junior teams.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay

There are currently seven squares in Cherwell overplayed by 112 match equivalent sessions, combined. Of these, five are assessed as standard quality, meaning that improvements would reduce the overuse through the increased capacity that it would create. The impact of improving the squares to good is shown in the table below.

Table 4.30: The impact of improving overplayed squares

Site ID	Site name	Current quality	Current overplay (match equivalent sessions)	Potential overplay (match equivalent sessions)
6	Banbury Cricket Club	Good	8	8
18	Bicester Sports Association	Standard	10	-
		Standard	4	-
22	Bletchington Sports Club	Standard	26	16
62	Hook Norton Sports & Social Club	Standard	14	4
63	Horley Cricket Club	Good	22	22
105	Stratfield Brake	Standard	28	20
Total			112	70

As can be seen, overplay would be eradicated on two squares (both at Bicester Sports Association) and reduced overall to 70 match equivalent sessions. Of the squares that will remain overplayed, only one is currently accompanied by an NTP, with this being the square at Stratfield Brake. Installing NTPs at Banbury Cricket Club, Bletchington Sports Club, Hook Norton Sports & Social Club and Horley Cricket Club therefore provides a resolution, with all five currently used substantially by junior teams that could transfer their demand.

For the overplayed sites in Banbury (Banbury Cricket Club, Hook Norton Sports & Social Club and Horley Cricket Club), utilising the currently unused square at Horton View Sports Ground provides another potential solution. The square is currently poor quality, but quality improvements could help attract demand from a club (or clubs) to utilise the provision as an overspill venue.

At Stratfield Brake, improvements to the second square on site, which is also assessed as standard quality, should provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the demand received in addition to greater use of the in situ NTP. Conversely, the Club's aspirations to relocate to a new venue would also provide a viable solution providing two good quality squares are established as part of this.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Accommodating future demand

Across the clubs in Cherwell, five have future demand aspirations, as summarised below.

Table 4.31: Club future demand aspirations

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Banbury CC	Banbury Rural	1	-	1
Broughton & North Newington CC	Banbury Rural	1	1	1
Cropredy CC	Banbury Rural	-	1	-
Deddington CC	Banbury Rural	1	1	1
Hook Norton CC	Banbury Rural	-	-	3

Of these, Broughton & North Newington CC has capacity at Broughton & North Newington Sports Club to accommodate the demand, whilst Banbury CC can also realise its aspirations if the demand is directed to its secondary venue; Banbury Twenty Cricket Club.

Hook Norton CC cannot realise its aspirations without exacerbating existing overplay at Hook Norton Sports & Social Club; however, if quality improvements are carried out and an NTP is installed, as set out above, sufficient capacity would exist.

Similarly, Deddington CC cannot realise its aspirations at The Windmill Centre without overplay being created. However, if the site was improved to good quality and an NTP was installed, enough capacity would be created.

For Cropredy to achieve its aspirations without overplay being established at Cropredy Sports Field, an NTP would need to be installed on of the squares and some junior demand would have to transfer. The site is already good quality.

As set out above, another alternative for all the clubs, given that they are all located in the Banbury Analysis Area, is to utilise Horton View Sports Ground as an overspill venue. This, however, would be subject to quality improvements being carried out and sustained.

Unused squares

Several grass wicket squares are currently unused by the community. This applies to provision at the following sites:

- ◆ Begbroke Sports & Social Club
- ◆ Charlton-on-Otmoor Playing Fields
- ◆ Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground
- ◆ Horton View Sports Ground
- ◆ Kirtlington Sports Field
- ◆ Sibford School
- ◆ Whitelands Farm Sports Ground

Of these, sufficient demand exists to warrant the retention of at least some provision in the Banbury Analysis Area and the Kidlington Analysis Area, given the overplay identified on other squares and the future demand that exists. For example, the square at Horton View Sports Ground can be utilised to relieve capacity issues at Banbury Cricket Club, whilst the squares at Begbroke Sports & Social Club, Kirtlington Sports Field and Charlton-on-Otmoor Playing Fields could be used to relieve capacity issues at Stratfield Brake.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

If the square at Horton View Sports Ground is retained, there is no clear requirement to retain the square at Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground given plans for the creation of a tennis centre on the site. However, this is subject to quality improvements taking place at Horton View Sports Ground.

Only minimal overplay is identified in the Bicester Analysis Area, which can be overcome through quality improvements, and no future demand is identified. As such, there is no clear requirement for the square at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, meaning the area of land could be utilised to reduce shortfalls for rugby union given Bicester RUFC's issues at the site.

The square at Sibford School should be retained to continue to accommodate the School's own demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares where use is recorded or where shortfalls are evident in the area.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard and poor quality, and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Create additional NTPs as a means to fully eradicate overplay and to support the recreational and informal game.
- ◀ Encourage usage to transfer to currently unused sites, subject to quality improvements, where overplay remains an issue.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place (e.g., Deddington CC and Cropredy CC).
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so.
- ◀ Improve existing and provide additional training facilities where there is demand (e.g., for Broughton & North Newington, Cropredy, Hook Norton and Horley cricket clubs).
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Support Oxfordshire Cricket's aspiration to establish a cricket venue in Cherwell or the wider area that it can use as a base and for community engagement and club activity.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing or new cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).
- ◀ Where provision is not used and no demand is perceived to exist, consider utilising the land to accommodate other sports.

Golf courses

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ With six golf facilities provided in Cherwell, supply is seemingly good in quantitative terms; however, with high levels of demand, the provision is servicing a clear need and further loss could not be sustained, meaning all remaining sites require protection or appropriate mitigation.
- ◀ Despite the number of facilities provided in the District, there is a lack of variety in what is offered and therefore segments of the golfing market are not being catered for.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Supply summary

- ◀ There are currently six golf sites in Cherwell.
- ◀ All six of the sites provide at least one standard hole course, with five providing one 18-hole course, Bicester Hotel, Golf & Spa providing one 9-hole course and Kirtlington Golf Club providing both an 18-hole and a 9-hole course.
- ◀ A development at Bicester Hotel, Golf & Spa has seen its standard hole course reduced from 18 to 9 holes meaning that it cannot accommodate the same volume of demand.
- ◀ North Oxford Golf Club is allocated for residential development in the Local Plan and is subject to a development proposal.
- ◀ There are no Par 3 golf courses provided, although one is to be established at Bicester Hotel, Golf & Spa on the outfield of its practice ground.
- ◀ Two provide a driving range, with Kirtlington Golf Club providing eight bays and Studley Wood Golf Club providing 13.
- ◀ Banbury Golf Club, Hillside Farm Driving Range and Drayton Lodge Farm previously provided additional golf facilities before closing (disused/lapsed provision).
- ◀ Of the six operational sites, four are members clubs and two are proprietary facilities.
- ◀ Membership packages at all six sites are more costly than the national average and significantly so at five of the sites (Rye Hill Golf Club has the cheapest pricing).
- ◀ All six sites are high end, with no significant quality issues identified.

Demand summary

- ◀ The average membership across the clubs is 473, which is significantly above the national average (363 members).
- ◀ When last recorded, membership was highest at Tadmarton Heath Golf Club (724 members) and lowest at Rye Hill Golf Club (165 members).
- ◀ Whilst pay and play usage levels are unknown it would be expected that demand would be highest at Bicester Hotel, Golf & Spa given its other onsite amenities and at Rye Hill Golf Club due to its lower price point and lower membership numbers.
- ◀ Cross-boundary demand for golf is common nationally due to the nature of the sport and high levels of imported demand are reported in particular by Kirtlington Golf Club, North Oxford Golf Club and Studley Wood Golf Club due to their proximity to neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ The lack of variety across the facilities is likely to result in higher levels of exported and unmet demand, particularly from less affluent residents, beginners and casual players.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand for golf access amounting to 1,842 people within Cherwell, whilst an England Golf mapping tool identifies significant potential demand for access to golf provision in the District.

Scenarios

The potential loss of North Oxford Golf Club

There is currently an average membership base of 453 people per golf club in Cherwell, which is 67 people more than the national average. This suggests that no provision should be lost without appropriate mitigation as the courses that remain are unlikely to have sufficient capacity to absorb the demand that would be displaced.

If plans to develop on North Oxford Golf Club came to fruition, without the provision being replaced, its 437 members would need access to another site. This would likely increase the average membership across the remaining Cherwell sites, although it is recognised that some users could disperse to sites outside of Cherwell.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing golf provision, including North Oxford Golf, unless appropriate mitigation is secured in line with planning policy.
- ◀ Re-assess supply and demand following the redevelopment of Bicester Hotel, Golf & Spa to understand the impact it has had.
- ◀ Explore other opportunities to cater for a wider golfing market given the current lack of shorter, more affordable courses as well as standalone driving ranges, potentially linked to development proposals at North Oxford Golf Club.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.

Tennis courts

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ Three clubs have current and future capacity issues, with these being Banbury West End, Bicester and Cropredy tennis clubs, whilst Banbury TC has a future capacity shortfall.
- ◀ Whilst the remaining clubs have some levels of spare capacity, it is suggested that there is overall insufficient capacity on existing club-based tennis courts, in addition to the site-specific shortfalls identified.
- ◀ Away from clubs, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand as there is instead a clear need to improve the supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users.

Supply summary

- ◀ There is a total of 83 tennis courts identified in Cherwell across 24 sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 67 are categorised as being available for community use at 18 sites compared to 16 that are unavailable at six sites.
- ◀ One disused tennis court has been identified at Folly Field House as it has not been maintained since 2019, whilst four courts were also previously provided at Cooper School.
- ◀ David Lloyd is soon to open a centre in Bicester that will feature three covered tennis courts and three outdoor padel courts, although these will not be considered as community available due to restricted access.
- ◀ Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground has been identified as a possible site for the development of a tennis centre, with provisional plans setting out that this will include the creation of three standard indoor courts, three indoor padel courts and four outdoor courts.
- ◀ Of the existing courts, 40 are operated by schools, 15 by clubs, nine by the Council or a parish/town council and 19 by other providers (trust, private and commercial operators and the MoD).
- ◀ Most courts have a macadam surface, with 65 being of this type (the remaining 18 have an artificial surface).
- ◀ In total, 42 of the 83 tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing 51% of the provision, which is a high amount when compared to other local authorities nationally.
- ◀ Neither Cropredy TC nor Horton-cum-Studley TC have access to courts with sports lighting.
- ◀ 11 courts are assessed as good quality, 35 as standard and 37 as poor, with all of the good quality courts, 31 of the standard quality courts and 25 of the poor quality courts available for community use.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ The majority of clubs have or report issues with their ancillary facilities (with the only exception being Deddington TC at The Windmill Centre), whilst such provision is also considered to be problematic at non-club sites.

Demand summary

- ◀ There are seven tennis clubs in Cherwell; across the clubs, there is an overall membership of 1,241 members.
- ◀ The average club membership is 177, which represents substantial demand.
- ◀ In line with a national increase in club-based participation, four clubs report an increase in demand in recent years, whilst none report a decline.
- ◀ Away from club courts, no providers report high levels of community access, with only Bloxham School reporting any regular external tennis demand at its Dewey Sports Centre site.
- ◀ A recreational tennis league, known as the Banbury Tennis League and operated by Local Tennis Leagues, is in operation in Cherwell, with Bloxham School, Banbury Tennis Club and People's Park listed as primary venues.
- ◀ Latent/unmet demand for tennis is generally high, both nationally and locally, whilst it is also reported by both Banbury West End TC and Bicester TC.
- ◀ All responding clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 250 potential additional members (130 senior and 120 junior), whilst the LTA also expects future growth away from clubs via its insight tools.

Scenarios

Accommodating club demand

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit court can accommodate 60 members. Based on this, three clubs in Cherwell have current capacity issues, with these being Banbury West End TC (at Banbury West End Lawn Tennis & Squash Club), Bicester TC (at Bicester Lawn Tennis Club) and Cropredy TC (at Cropredy Sports Field).

Of the clubs operating above the capacity guidance, one is without sports lighting (Cropredy TC), whilst Banbury TC is only serviced on four of its six courts. Installing additional lighting at these sites would eradicate the shortfalls that are present.

Table 4.32: Impact of providing sports lighting at sites with capacity issues

Site ID	Site name	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Current capacity rating (members)	Capacity rating with sports-lit courts (members)
11	Banbury West End Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	4	Yes	14	26
		2	No		
19	Bicester Lawn Tennis Club	3	Yes	70	70
39	Cropredy Sports Field	2	No	20	20

For Bicester RC, the only way to alleviate the capacity issue is to provide it with access to additional provision. To that end, it would require two additional courts (with or without sports lighting)

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

When accounting for future demand expressed by the clubs, the capacity issues are projected to worsen for the three aforementioned clubs, whilst Banbury TC (at Hornton View Sports Ground) is predicted to develop a capacity issue. At this point, additional sports lighting would reduce deficits but not eradicate them entirely.

Table 4.33: Impact of providing sports lighting at sites with future capacity issues

Site ID	Site name	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Future capacity rating (members)	Future capacity rating with sports-lit courts (members)
11	Banbury West End Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	4	Yes	74	34
		2	No		
19	Bicester Lawn Tennis Club	3	Yes	110	110
39	Cropredy Sports Field	2	No	50	10
66	Hornton View Sports Ground	2	Yes	122	42
		4	No		

To fully alleviate the shortfalls, the table below summarises would be required in terms of additional court access.

Table 4.34: Additional provision required to satisfy future demand

Club name	Potential future capacity rating (members)	No. of additional courts required
Banbury TC	42	One additional court with sports lighting or two without
Banbury West End TC	34	One additional court (with or without sports lighting)
Bicester TC	110	Three additional courts (with or without sports lighting)
Cropredy TC	10	One additional court (with or without sports lighting)

Where additional courts are required, this does not necessarily mean that new courts need to be established. Instead, enabling access to existing or planned provision at local authority sites or at school sites could be explored.

The creation of provision at Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground

Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground has been identified as a possible site for the development of a tennis centre, with provisional plans setting out that this will include the creation of three standard indoor courts (as well as three indoor padel courts) and four outdoor courts with some form of sports lighting.

With four clubs experiencing current and/or future shortfalls, evidence supports the creation of the facility. This is especially the case when considering that three of the clubs with capacity issues (Banbury, Banbury West End and Cropredy tennis clubs) reside in the Banbury Analysis Area, where Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground also sits.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

It is considered that an indoor court can provide capacity for up to 200 members, meaning that three courts proposed, in addition to the outdoor courts, will sufficiently be able to accommodate the excess demand that is currently recorded across Cherwell. Furthermore, this will leave ample capacity for wider community demand e.g., from recreational and informal users.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are (or could be) well used for recreational demand.
- ◀ Explore the installation of sports lighting where it is not currently provided to increase the capacity of courts.
- ◀ Explore the possibility of clubs with capacity issues utilising additional courts that are already provided or planned, where required.
- ◀ Support plans for the creation of a tennis centre at Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground as a means to relieving club capacity issues and to better accommodate recreational demand, providing it does not have a negative impact on other sports already at the site (i.e., football and cricket).
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing courts where demand is, or could be, high.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via further utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Support opportunities to provide padel courts and see to maximise activity given its growing demand.

Netball courts

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ With relatively high demand for netball in the District, the overall quantity of courts does not seem to be a problem; however, access to them and the quality of them is, leading to demand being under-provided for.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are 53 netball courts identified across 27 sites in Cherwell, although only 27 courts at 10 sites are available for community use.
- ◀ Most of the courts are operated by schools, with 46 of the 53 courts falling under this management type.
- ◀ The large majority of the courts have a macadam surface, with 43 being of this type (the remaining courts all have an artificial surface).
- ◀ Only 19 of the courts are serviced by sports lighting, although all of these are available to the community.
- ◀ All but 17 of the courts are over marked by other provision, predominately tennis courts.
- ◀ Of the courts, five are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard quality and 27 as poor quality, with three of the good quality courts available for community use, compared to 10 of the standard quality courts and 14 of the poor quality courts.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Demand summary

- ◀ There are six netball clubs based in Cherwell.
- ◀ The clubs field teams in the Oxfordshire Netball League, the Cherwell Netball League or the Oxfordshire Junior Netball League, all of which use central venues for matches.
- ◀ The Cherwell Netball League uses courts at The Warriner School, whereas the others operate outside of the District on account of covering a wider region.
- ◀ The courts at Bicester Hotel, Golf & Spa, Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre (Gosford Hill School), North Oxfordshire Academy, The Warriner School and Yarnton Park are used by the clubs for training activity.
- ◀ There is one Netball Now session operating in Cherwell at Bicester Hotel Golf & Spa, whilst there are no other England Netball initiatives (e.g., Back to Netball, Bee Netball, or Walking Netball) currently taking place in the District.
- ◀ Totally Netball operates a commercial league, utilising the courts at North Oxfordshire Academy, although this is still in its infancy.
- ◀ The use of central venues by the Oxfordshire Netball League, the Cherwell Netball League and the Oxfordshire Junior Netball League results in high levels of exported and imported demand for match play purposes, although this is not noted as an issue.
- ◀ Banbury Blues NC reports latent demand in that its future growth is not possible based on the current level of provision available to it, whereas Bicester Bullets NC and Kidlington Kites NC also report latent demand but both link this to a lack of coaches rather than facilities.
- ◀ Yarnton NC, Bicester Bullets NC and Bicester Foxes NC all report future demand to increase their number of teams in the future.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs and for England Netball initiatives.
- ◀ Consider establishing additional sports lighting at venues in use for netball or at venues that could attract netball demand following installation.
- ◀ Seek to improve access to educational sites, particularly where quality is good and sports lighting is or could be provided.

Bowls greens

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ One of the greens is known to be currently operating above the recommended capacity limit, with this being at Banbury Central Bowling Club.
- ◀ When accounting for future demand, the greens at Banbury Chestnuts Bowls Club and Bicester Bowling Club are also predicted to be operating above the capacity threshold, whereas the green at Exeter Close is at the capacity limit.
- ◀ Whilst there are clearly some pressures on the greens, no clubs report any capacity issues, suggesting that supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, although it is also clear that each green requires protection.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Supply summary

- ◀ There are eight flat green bowling greens in Cherwell provided across the same number of sites.
- ◀ Security of tenure is an issue for Bicester BC as its lease agreement has come to an end and requires renewing.
- ◀ Overall, four greens are assessed as good quality and four are assessed as standard quality (none are poor quality).
- ◀ In terms of clubhouse facilities, three greens are serviced by good quality provision, with the remaining five serviced by standard quality provision.
- ◀ The green at Exeter Close is serviced by sports lighting which allows for increased usage, especially outside of summer months.

Demand summary

- ◀ There are nine clubs using bowling greens in Cherwell.
- ◀ Of the five clubs that have responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 254 members, equating to 179 senior men, 72 senior women and three juniors.
- ◀ The average membership across the clubs is 51.
- ◀ In contrast to a national trend of declining membership, no clubs report a reduction in participation over recent years and two report an increase (Kiddlington BC and Banbury Chestnuts BC).
- ◀ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2040), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years and all five responding clubs report an aspiration to grow.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all existing greens.
- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Seek to improve ancillary facility quality where it is necessary.
- ◀ Improve security of tenure for Bicester BC.
- ◀ Support clubs operating with a high membership to ensure demand continues to be met on their existing provision.

Athletics tracks

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is high demand for athletics and running in Cherwell, although with only one club accessing a purpose-built facility (Banbury Harriers Athletics Club), the current supply of provision is considered to be sufficient.
- ◀ It is imperative that activity can continue to be accommodated at North Oxfordshire Academy as well as at sites such as Bicester School and Bicester Heritage, where there may also exist an opportunity to explore the creation of alternative forms of provision.
- ◀ Away from the formal facilities, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities that are taking place, particularly in Kidlington.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Supply summary

- ◀ There is one full size purpose-built outdoor athletics track provided in Cherwell, located at North Oxfordshire Academy.
- ◀ In addition, there is also a small track facility provided at The Bicester School measuring approximately 45 metres.
- ◀ The facilities at North Oxfordshire Academy are operated by the District Council, whereas the track at The Bicester School is managed internally.
- ◀ Both tracks are assessed as standard quality, with the track at North Oxfordshire Academy TrackMark accredited.
- ◀ The jump pit at The Bicester School has issues with tree roots growing under it, whilst the throwing cage is not built to specification, which limits the activity that can take place.

Demand summary

- ◀ Eight clubs have been identified in Cherwell that have a focus on athletics and/or running activity.
- ◀ Banbury Harriers Athletics Club is based at North Oxfordshire Academy, whereas Bicester Athletics Club utilises The Bicester School.
- ◀ Bicester Triathlon Club hosts its running sessions at Caversfield Park and Bicester Heritage, whereas all remaining clubs are road running clubs that utilise local road networks rather than specific sites and facilities.
- ◀ There is one Run Together Group in Cherwell, known as Bicester Striders.
- ◀ Two different Park Run events are held weekly across Cherwell, with one in Bicester (Langford Fields) and one in Banbury (Spiceball Country Park), as well as a junior Park Run event at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground.
- ◀ Various other running events are held in Cherwell across the year, with many organised by the local clubs.
- ◀ Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in Cherwell, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity.
- ◀ Five clubs express an aspiration to grow membership, whilst England Athletics believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to continue to increase in the future.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the track at North Oxfordshire Academy for continued activity.
- ◀ Sustain quality and look to make improvements when necessary to ensure that demand can continue to be met.
- ◀ Ensure continued access to other sites used for activity, such as The Bicester School, Bicester Heritage and Caversfield Park.
- ◀ Ensure gliding activity can continue to take place at Bicester Heritage regardless of future developments.
- ◀ Explore if an opportunity exists at such sites for the creation of alternative forms of provision, linked to England Athletics' current priorities.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs/groups continue to have home bases to operate from and pursue improved security of tenure where it is required.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Cycling tracks

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ Whilst most of the relatively high demand for cycling in Cherwell is being satisfied, an aspiration exists for more regular access to traffic-free provision and this is therefore something that should be further explored to better accommodate the sport.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are no dedicated cycling facilities in Cherwell.
- ◀ Various multi-purpose paths are provided that are suitable for cycling activity and are signposted as cycling routes by the Council, whilst the Cherwell Valley Ride also passes through the District.
- ◀ The perimeter path at Bicester Heritage is also being used for cycling activity by both Bicester Millennium Cycling Club and Bicester Triathlon Club.

Demand summary

- ◀ There are two cycling clubs in Cherwell that affiliate to British Cycling, with these being Banbury Star Cycling Club and Bicester Millennium Cycling Club.
- ◀ Banbury Star Cycling Club currently has 201 members and holds five rides each weekend, ranging from 25-55 miles in length and utilising the local road network.
- ◀ Bicester Millennium Cycling Club currently accommodates 164 members and holds various sessions each week, predominately utilising the local road network but also accessing Bicester Heritage for closed circuit activity.
- ◀ Bicester Triathlon Club also participates in significant cycling activity in the District, regularly holding road cycling sessions as well as some closed circuit sessions at Bicester Heritage.
- ◀ Both Bicester Millennium Cycling Club and Bicester Triathlon Club have an aspiration for more regular access to traffic-free provision and have proposed that this should be enabled via the provision at Bicester Heritage.
- ◀ Bicester Millennium Cycling Club is a Go-Ride accredited club, whereas no UK Breeze rides are currently organised in or around Cherwell.
- ◀ Both Banbury Stars Cycling Club and Bicester Millennium Cycling Club have an aspiration to increase their demand in the future and both intimate that capacity is not an issue.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies significant latent demand for cycling amounting to 6,754 people; however, it is likely that the large majority of this is for recreational cycling.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure continued access to sites and routes used for formal cycling.
- ◀ Consider creation of a Cycling Network that can link up with school and park sites.
- ◀ Explore the creation and/or more regular access to traffic free provision, such as that provided at Bicester Heritage.
- ◀ Ensure gliding activity can continue to take place at Bicester Heritage regardless of future developments.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs/groups have home bases to operate from and pursue improved security of tenure where it is required.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed across Cherwell. They apply across outdoor sports facilities in the District and may not be specific to just one sport or one area.

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Recommendations:

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

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

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

NPPF paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Should facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g., council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by a review of the PPOSS or a separate needs assessment), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality. Sport England's statutory powers will support this requirement.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Development Management

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

Sport England's Playing Field Policy exception E1 only allows for development of provision if a PPOSS shows a clear excess in quantity both presently and in the future across all relevant sports facilities. This means that, even if there is a surplus of provision for a particular sport, provision for that sport cannot be deemed surplus to requirements and developed upon as the area could be used to reduce shortfalls for another sport through re-configuration/re-purposing.

Policy Exception E1:

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

Given the presence of shortfalls in Cherwell, particularly for football and rugby union, exception E1 cannot currently be met for any proposals, unless the proposal is for ancillary provision (exception E2) or relating to land that is incapable of forming part of a pitch (exception E3).

Policy Exception E2

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

Policy Exception E3

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

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

Where a PPOSS cannot demonstrate that a site, or part of a site, is surplus to requirements, and where the development is not for ancillary provision or relating to land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch, then replacement will instead be required in order for an application to be supported. This would comply with Sport England policy exception E4.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

The only other case where proposals may be successful is where the development is for alternative sports provision which would be of an overall benefit to sport, as per exception 5 of Sport England's Playing Field Policy. Examples of this may include the development of a sports hall on playing field land.

Policy Exception E5

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

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

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Cherwell for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of such facilities has been classified as secure; however, it is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use.

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

Given current budgetary pressures, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds for the acquisition and development of sites, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

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

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop business and sports development plans to show how facilities can be sustainable and to maximise income generation.

Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁴. They should also be signposted to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain so that extensions can be secured, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site development. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into).

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of council sport sites to clubs/organisations

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

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

- ◀ Increasing participation, particularly in target areas such as women's and girls' activity.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

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

⁴ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large education sites offering several pitches, with focus therefore placed predominately on secondary schools rather than primary schools. Securing access to such sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

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

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

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

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g., the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement.

With pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

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

Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

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

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues). Where this occurs, it is vital that the improvements are advertised and marketed towards potential users as their perception of the provision may need altering.

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer (although other provision can be key for income generation) and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

For rugby union, the RFU is now also utilising Pitch Power, with reports also being produced similar to those for football.

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

Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

For the improvement/replacement of 3G and hockey provision, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Where pitches are provided, sinking funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required.

Addressing overplay

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

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

Table 5.1: Carrying capacity of pitches

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

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

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

For rugby union, additional sports lighting, in conjunction with quality improvements, can further reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it allows clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting can be provided as an alternative.

Similarly, additional sports lighting can help resolve capacity issues for both tennis and netball as it can allow for greater court usage, especially during winter months.

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

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

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for a proposed hierarchy.

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

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPOSS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the PPOSS Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

In order to address the needs of the community, as well as to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a co-ordinated approach to the strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners as well as through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector.

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions

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

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development (or group of developments) on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for contributions to be put towards improvements to increase the capacity of existing provision, or if new provision is required (or a combination of both).

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Where development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

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

The preference from Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

Where new provision is not required but where contributions to existing sites is instead to be sought, the PPOSS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from the housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives which should be implemented to enable best use of the Calculator:

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

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Recommendations:

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

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

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6). First and foremost, it is imperative that the current levels of provision are protected and maintained to ensure that the overall picture does not worsen in the future.

To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity and/or to artificial surfaces.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g., converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure.
- ◀ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- ◀ Establishing additional sports lighting.
- ◀ Installing artificial surfaces (e.g., NTPs).

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome. This is done on a site-by-site basis in the preceding Action Plan.

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

Better utilising the stock of provision across Cherwell will lessen the need for new provision. Although there are identified shortfalls, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, beyond what is currently planned for, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority solution (although potentially still required), except for 3G and hockey pitches, the shortfalls for which cannot be completely overcome without new stock.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

For football, whilst the shortfall of grass pitches can be overcome via the existing supply, increasing the number of grass pitches (such as those planned for South East Kidlington) will lessen the need for District-wide quality improvements as well as the requirement to secure access to a considerable number of school sites, the achievement of which may be considered unrealistic. As such, it is something that should be explored, in conjunction with other approaches, providing that any new provision is well located and established to a good quality in order to attract sufficient demand. Multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites with good ancillary provision are likely to be more sustainable than single pitch sites, demand for which can be low.

For rugby union, Bicester RUFC requires additional pitch provision. To that end, if new rugby union pitches are to be established, it is imperative that they are provided at a location that will be accessed by the relevant club/s. Typically, rugby union demand can be very club-orientated, which can make the use of secondary venues unlikely and can lead to pitches in the wrong location becoming unused and unsustainable.

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

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

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

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

Site hierarchy

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

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a District-wide context. As such, this, for example, takes into account the level of demand accommodated and the potential impact the recommended actions will have on addressing the identified shortfalls/issues. The proposed site-hierarchy is summarised in the following table.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

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

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Hub sites are of District-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. Actions at these sites are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the issues identified in the PPOSS.

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

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

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

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

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

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

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

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

Priority

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

Medium priority actions have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The **low** priority actions tend to be where little work is required, or where the status quo can be maintained, or they are for single pitch or single sport sites with only local specific importance. However, the actions may still contribute to addressing issues for specific users and there may also be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

Costs

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

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

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

Timescales

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

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

Aim

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

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

BANBURY ANALYSIS AREA – BANBURY RURAL

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Adderbury Bowls Club	OX17 3JB	Bowls	Sports Club	A standard quality green leased by Adderbury BC from the Parish Council. Clubhouse dated. Membership figures unknown.	Improve green and ancillary facility quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Seek to engage with the Club to understand its membership details and any issues connected with this.			M	S	L	
6	Banbury Cricket Club	OX15 4BN	Cricket	Sports Club	A good quality square that is overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality and install an NTP to alleviate overplay through the transfer of junior demand.	Club ECB	Local	L	M	L	Protect
7	Banbury Rugby Club	OX15 4AF	Rugby union	Sports Club	Six senior pitches assessed as poor quality. Two of the pitches are sports-lit and are overplayed, primarily due to concentrated training demand. The club owns the majority of the site, whilst the remainder is owned by the District Council (and licenced to the Club). Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Improve quality to reduce overplay.	Club RFU	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Provide sports lighting across a greater number of pitches to spread out training demand and to fully eradicate pitch shortfall.			H	S	M	
						Pursue asset transfer of land not under club ownership to improve security of tenure.			M	S	L	
10	Banbury United Youth Football Club	OX15 6ED	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed, whilst the remaining pitches are played to capacity. The Club reports that it only has a 10-year lease agreement for use of the site, from Trinity College, and that this contains a six-month break clause. A PitchPower assessment has been undertaken.	Improve quality, aligned to PitchPower recommendations, to reduce overplay and seek to transfer some demand to fully alleviate it.	Club FA/FF	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
						Explore options to provide greater security of tenure, ideally via a lease extension and the removal of any break clauses.			H	S	L	
11	Banbury West End Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	OX17 3LY	Tennis	Sports Club	Four standard quality macadam courts with sports lighting and two good quality macadam courts without sports lighting. The Club has aspirations to install additional lighting and to continue refurbishing its ancillary provision. The courts are oversubscribed.	Improve standard quality courts to better accommodate demand.	Club LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Seek to install additional sports lighting to alleviate capacity issues.			M	S	M	
						Continue to improve ancillary provision.			L	S	L	
23	Bloxham Bowls Club	OX15 4LW	Bowls	Sports Club	A good quality green leased to Bloxham BC from the Parish Council. Membership data is unknown.	Seek to engage with the Club to understand its membership details and any issues connected with this.	Club Bowls England	Local	M	S	L	Protect
24	Bloxham C of E Primary School	OX15 4HP	Netball	School	One standard quality macadam court that is neither sports lit nor available for community use.	Retain for continued internal usage.	School England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect
25	Bloxham Recreation Ground	OX15 4HJ	Football	Trust	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed, whereas the adult pitch has actual spare capacity discounted due to the quality issues.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay and to provide actual spare capacity.	Trust FA/FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
26	Bloxham School	OX15 4PE	Cricket	School	A standard quality square that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued internal usage and explore future community use potential as a community use agreement has been negotiated by Sport England.	School ECB	Local	L	M	L	Protect
27	Bloxham School (Courtington Lane)	OX15 4PQ	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Ensure no additional play unless quality improvements take place in order to avoid future overplay.	School FA/FF RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		A standard quality pitch; available for community use but unused.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.			L	L	L	
			Cricket		A standard quality square that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued internal usage and explore future community use potential as a community use agreement has been negotiated.			L	M	L	
			Tennis		Three poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use but without sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and to encourage community use as a community use agreement has been negotiated.			M	S	L	
			Netball		Three poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use but without sports lighting.	Improve poor quality to better accommodate internal demand and to encourage community use as a community use agreement has been negotiated.			M	S	L	
28	Bloxham School (Park Close)	OX15 4QP	Cricket		A standard quality square that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued internal usage and explore future community use potential.	School ECB	Local	L	M	L	Protect
29	Bodicote Sports Ground	OX15 4BN	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both standard. The youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity, whereas the adult pitch is played to capacity. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand. Improve ancillary facilities.	Club FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A standard quality square used by Bodicote CC that has actual spare capacity.	Improve square quality and seek to utilise actual spare capacity to accommodate future demand.			Club ECB	M	S	
30	Broughton & North Newington Sports Club	OX15 6AA	Football	Community	A standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		A standard quality square used by Broughton & North Newington CC that has actual spare capacity.	Improve square quality and seek to utilise actual spare capacity to accommodate future demand.	Club ECB		M	M	L	
37	Christopher Rawlins C of E Primary School	OX17 3NH	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to the quality issues in addition to unsecure tenure.	Improve quality. Provide security of tenure to users via the implementation of a community use agreement.	School FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Netball		Two courts, one artificial and one macadam, that are neither available to the community nor sports lit. Standard quality.	Retain for continued internal usage.			School England Netball	L	L	

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
39	Cropredy Sports Field	OX17 1PG	Football	Sports Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. A PitchPower assessment has been undertaken.	Explore opportunities to improve quality, aligned to PitchPower findings, to further increase pitch capacity.	Club FA/FF	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		Two good quality squares. Used by Cropredy CC, which is without a long-term usage agreement. Played to capacity at peak time. The Club wants to install additional practice nets.	Seek to secure tenure via a long-term usage agreement. Install additional practice nets.	Club ECB		M	S	L	
			Tennis		Two standard quality macadam courts without sports lighting. Used by Cropredy TC and oversubscribed.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand. Explore installation of sports lighting to relieve capacity issues.	Club LTA		M	S	L	
							M		S	M		
40	Deddington C of E Primary School	OX15 0TJ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Provide security of tenure to users via the implementation of a community use agreement.	School FA/FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
41	Dewey Sports Centre (Bloxham School)	OX15 4NJ	Rugby union	School	A standard quality senior pitch that is available but unused.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA/FF RFU EH	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Hockey		Two full size sand-based pitches that are without sports lighting. Used as a secondary venue by Banbury HC, despite limited opening hours during weekends. Both are assessed as standard quality.	Protect the existing provision as hockey suitable. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability and resurface the pitches when it is required (circa 2024). Explore options to increase community availability in order to provide additional capacity to Banbury HC.			H	L	L	
									H	M	M	
									H	S	L	
			Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts that are available to the community but not sports lit. The School has an aspiration to establish two additional courts to help drive community demand. It has also previously looked to install lighting but planning applications have been rejected.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and support plans to establish additional courts. Further explore possibility of sports lighting to increase capacity and look at implementing LTA products e.g., Clubspark.	School LTA		M	S	L	
							M		S	M		
			Netball		Three standard quality macadam courts that are available to the community but not sports lit.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and further explore possibility of sports lighting to increase capacity.	School England Netball		M	S	M	
62	Hook Norton Sports & Social Club	OX15 5PB	Football	Sports Club	One youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch, both good quality and played to capacity. A PitchPower assessment has been undertaken.	Explore opportunities to improve quality, aligned to PitchPower findings, to further increase pitch capacity.	Club FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A standard quality square used by Hook Norton CC, which wants to improve the practice nets on site. The square is overplayed.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and install an NTP to fully alleviate it. Improve practice nets.	Club ECB		M	S	L	
							M		S	L		

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Tennis		Three standard quality artificial courts with sports lighting, used by Hook Norton TC.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Club LTA		M	S	L	
63	Horley Cricket Club	OX15 6BH	Cricket	Sports Club	A good quality square used by Horley CC, which is without practice nets. Overplayed.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and install an NTP to fully alleviate it. Provide practice nets on site.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
64	Horley Path Playing Fields	OX15 6QD	Football	Community	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all standard quality and played to capacity.	Explore opportunities to further enhance pitch quality.	FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A standard quality square with six grass wickets. Currently used for recreational and social cricket, but too small for competitive play.	Protect for current use.	ECB		L	L	L	
65	Hornton Playing Field	OX15 6BD	Football	Town Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Tennis		One poor quality macadam court that is without sports lighting.	Improve quality to attract demand.	Town Council LTA		L	S	L	
			Netball		One poor quality macadam court that is without sports lighting.	Improve quality to attract demand.	Town Council England Netball		L	S	L	
68	Jubilee Park Village Hall	OX15 4NJ	Football	Community	Two adult and one mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality. The adult pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time; the mini 5v5 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the adult pitches via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
						Consider re-configuring one of the adult pitches to youth 11v11 provision to reduce youth 11v11 pitch shortfalls.			M	S	L	
80	Lucy Plackett Playing Field	OX17 3EE	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of standard quality and played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve ancillary facilities.	Club FA/FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
83	Nickling Road Playing Field	OX16 1AR	Football	Community	A poor quality and unused adult pitch.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity and seek to attract demand to the site.	FA/FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
96	Sibford School	OX15 5QL	Football	School	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of which are standard quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity, whereas the mini 7v7 pitch is unavailable for use.	Provide security of tenure to users via the implementation of a community use agreement and explore possibility of making the 7v7 pitch available as part of this.	School FA/FF RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		Three senior and three junior pitches of standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Cricket		A standard quality square that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality to better accommodate internal usage and to create capacity for community.	School ECB		L	M	L	

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Tennis		Three standard quality artificial courts with sports lighting. Available to the community.	Retain as community available and seek to maximise demand, potentially through LTA products e.g., Clubspark.	School LTA		L	M	L	
110	The Warriner School	OX15 4LJ	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and four mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are standard quality but are unavailable for community use.	Seek to establish secure community use at the School in order to provide actual spare capacity across the pitch types.	School FA/FF RFU	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		A poor quality senior pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Cricket		A poor quality standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Replace the NTP for internal usage.	School ECB		M	S	L	
			Netball		Three standard quality artificial courts that are sports lit and available to the community. Used by the Cherwell Netball League and local clubs. Poor quality ancillary provision is problematic.	Improve court and ancillary facility quality to better accommodate demand.	School England Netball		H	S	M	
111	The Windmill Centre	OX15 0QH	Football	Community	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of which are assessed as good quality. Actual spare capacity exists on the mini 7v7 pitch, whilst the adult and youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. A PitchPower assessment has been undertaken.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the mini 7v7 pitch via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA/FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Continue to improve quality in line with PitchPower recommendations.			M	S	L	
			Cricket		A standard quality square that is used by Deddington CC and played to capacity at peak time. The Club reports an issue with only changing rooms being provided (i.e., no function/social space).	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and to increase capacity.	ECB		M	S	L	
						Explore opportunities to provide more all-encompassing ancillary facilities to the Club.			M	M	M	
		Tennis	Three good quality macadam courts, used by Deddington TC. The Club reports an issue with only changing rooms being provided (i.e., no function/social space).	Explore opportunities to provide more all-encompassing ancillary facilities to the Club.	LTA	M	M	M				
115	Wardington Cricket Club	OX17 1SL	Football	Sports Club	A standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the pitch via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Club FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		A good quality square with actual spare capacity.	Seek to actual spare capacity to accommodate future demand.			Club ECB	L	L	
124	Rye Hill Golf Club	OX15 4RU	Golf	Sports Club	An 18-hole golf members course with 165 members.	Protect course and work with the Club to increase membership to more sustainable levels.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
126	Tadmarton Heath Golf Club	OX15 5HL	Golf	Sports Club	An 18-hole golf members course with 724 members.	Protect and ensure it can continue to cater for its high membership.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
-	Milton Road	OX17 3HN	Football	Parish Council	Two pitches being established as part of a proposal for a wider sporting development. Adderbury Park FC reports that it will utilise the provision once it has bedded in.	Provide the pitches to a good quality. Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are in place to support the provision.	Parish Council	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

BANBURY ANALYSIS AREA – BANBURY TOWN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Banbury Chestnuts Bowls Club	OX16 9RS	Bowls	Sports Club	A good quality green owned by Banbury Chestnuts BC. The Club is part-way through a three-year plan to improve its green and it has aspirations to improve its clubhouse. If future growth is realised, capacity pressures may be felt.	Support the Club with its facility improvement aspirations and ensure it can accommodate its future growth if realised.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
8	Banbury Twenty Cricket Club	OX16 4AE	Cricket	Town Council	A good quality square used by Banbury CC as an overspill venue via a rental agreement from Banbury Town Council. Actual spare capacity exists.	Utilise actual spare capacity to accommodate future demand and as a mean to relieve Banbury Cricket Club of overuse.	Town Council ECB	Local	L	M	L	Protect
						Explore establishing a longer term agreement with Banbury CC.			L	S	L	
9	Banbury United Football Club	OX16 5AB	Football	Sports Club	A good quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. The site is allocated in the Local Plan, with the Club having just over one year remaining on its current lease agreement. Land at Oxford Road is being put forward for mitigation. The Club has recently been promoted to Step 2 and has a 12-month grace period to bring its facilities up to standard.	Ensure the pitch is replaced in accordance with national planning policy requirements, with replacement provision to equal or better quantity and quality required in a suitable location.	Club FA/FF	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide
						Ensure the Club can sustain and improve upon its place within the football pyramid, both at the current site and in any relocation.			H	S	L	
						Ensure the Club can remain at its current site until any development is complete and ready to be appropriately used/accessed.			H	S	L	
			The potential exists for the creation of 3G provision as part of Banbury United FC's proposed relocation and as part of the wider Banbury 12 allocation. This would include a stadia 3G pitch and one or two community 3G pitches (if only one is provided, another pitch within the Banbury Analysis Area would be required).	Provide two full size community 3G pitches on site (in addition to a potential stadia 3G), or one full size 3G pitch in addition to supporting 3G proposals at Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground.	H	S			H			
20	Bishop Loveday C of E Primary School	OX15 4BN	Netball	School	A poor quality macadam court that is neither sports lit nor available to the community.	Improve quality to better accommodate internal use.	School England Netball	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
21	Blessed George Napier School	OX16 9DG	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality. The youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed, whilst the mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches are at capacity.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	School FA/FF RFU EH	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Provide security of tenure to users via the implementation of a community use agreement.			H	S	L	
			Rugby union		A standard quality pitch; available for community use but unused.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.			M	L	L	

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Hockey		A full size sand-based pitch with sports lighting. Assessed as poor quality and currently unused for hockey, with all access being football-related.	Resurface pitch and ensure quality is sufficient.			H	S	M	
						Ensure the pitch can be used as a secondary venue by Banbury HC if the second pitch at North Oxfordshire Academy is not provided as sand-based.			H	S	L	
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is unavailable to the community.	Retain for internal usage.			School ECB	L	L	
33	Chandos Cattle Market Ground	OX15 4TL	Football	Town Council	One adult and youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are poor quality.	Improve quality to increase capacity.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
35	Cherry Fields Primary School	OX16 2DF	Tennis	School	A standard quality macadam court without sports lighting that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for internal usage.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Netball		A standard quality macadam court without sports lighting that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for internal usage.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
43	Easington Recreation Ground	OX16 9JP	Football	Town Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
44	Easington Sports Football Club	OX16 9DH	Football	Sports Club	A good quality stadia adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. The Club is looking to relocate and the existing provision is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. Sports lighting restrictions are also in place. The Club has 38 teams, providing a pathway from junior through to adult participation, and has outgrown its existing site, both in terms of pitch space and ancillary provision, and is therefore seeking a larger space to operate from.	Support relocation plans providing replacement provision meets planning policy requirements. It is anticipated that this would need to include a grass stadia pitch, suitable ancillary provision, and additional training pitches, potentially supplemented by 3G pitch if it could be supported by a suitable business plan and an up-to-date assessment of local need at the time of the relocation	Club FA/FF	Local	H	S	H	Protect Provide
						Should no relocation take place, improve ancillary facilities and explore resolution to sports lighting limitations.			H	S	M	
56	Hanwell Fields Recreation Ground	OX16 1EL	Football	Town Council	One adult and youth 9v9 pitch, both of standard quality and with actual spare capacity. It has been identified as a possible site for the development of a tennis centre, the provision of which could entail the removal of the pitches.	Consider tennis centre proposals against Sport England's Playing Field Policy exception E5 and explore appropriate mitigation options to help enable the above and to ensure that football is not negatively affected.	Town Council FA/FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Provide
			3G		The creation of a full size 3G pitch has been proposed to mitigate the loss of the grass pitches on site.	Support 3G proposal if two pitches cannot be established as part of the Banbury 12 allocation, providing that the rest of the development proposal meets national planning policy.	Town Council FA/FF		H	M	H	
						As part of any operational agreement, seek partner community clubs, that appropriate community use is received and ensure that costing is affordable.			H	M	L	

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Cricket		A poor quality square that is currently unavailable to the community. Development plans exist for the development of a tennis centre, the provision of which could entail the removal of the pitch.	Consider tennis centre proposals against Sport England's Playing Field Policy exception E5 to determine if the development would be of an overall benefit to sport, and explore appropriate mitigation options to help enable the above and to ensure that cricket is not negatively affected.	Town Council ECB		H	M	H	
			Tennis		Identified as a site for the development of a tennis centre, with plans setting out that this will include the creation of three standard indoor courts, three indoor padel courts and four outdoor courts with sports lighting. However, it must be noted that this would entail the removal of one of the two grass football pitches and the cricket square on site.	Consider proposals against Sport England's Playing Field Policy exception E5 to determine if the development would be of an overall benefit to sport, and explore appropriate mitigation options to help enable the above and to ensure that other sports are not negatively affected. Given local tennis shortfalls, evidence exists to support the plans.	Town Council LTA		H	M	H	
57	Harriers Banbury Academy	OX16 9JW	Netball	School	Two poor quality macadam courts that are neither available to the community nor sports lit.	Improve quality for internal use and then explore community use options.	School England Netball	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
66	Horton View Sports Ground	OX15 4NJ	Football	Town Council	A standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A poor quality square that is currently unused.	Improve quality to an appropriate standard for play and attract demand, either from overplayed sites or via future demand.	Town Council ECB		M	S	M	
			Tennis		Six macadam courts; two good with sports lighting and four standard without sports lighting. Used by Banbury TC. Future demand may result in capacity pressures.	Improve standard quality courts and explore installation of additional sports lighting to ensure future demand can be better accommodated.	Town Council LTA		M	S	M	
82	Moorfields Park	OX16 3NE	Football	Town Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
85	North Oxfordshire Academy	OX16 0UD	Football	School / District Council	Two adult, one youth 11v11, two youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all standard. The adult and youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed, whilst the remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	School FA RFU EH	Hub	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
			Rugby union		A standard quality pitch; available for community use but unused.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.			M	L	L	
			3G		An existing mitigation requirement exists for the creation of a full size 3G pitch on site.	Establish the 3G pitch on site as per the mitigation requirements and ensure this is provided to a good quality and with secured community access.			H	S	H	

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Hockey		A full size sand-based pitch with sports lighting and assessed as standard. Used to capacity by Banbury HC and for football training, although a three-year agreement for access has expired.	Protect the existing provision as hockey suitable.			H	S	L	
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability and resurface the existing pitch when it is required (circa 2027).			H	S	M	
						Provide Banbury HC with improved security of tenure via a long-term usage agreement.			H	S	L	
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is unavailable to the community.	Retain for internal usage.	School ECB		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Six poor quality macadam courts that are available to the community and with sports lighting.	Improve quality to better cater for demand and given the quantity of courts and the presence of sports lighting, consider implementation of LTA products e.g., Clubspark.	School LTA		H	S	M	
			Netball		Six poor quality macadam courts that are available to the community and with sports lighting. Used by clubs and commercial leagues.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	School England Netball		H	S	M	
			Athletics		A 400-metre athletics track that is TrackMark accredited. Used by Banbury Harriers Athletics Club. Serviced by a dated clubhouse.	Improve track in the near future to ensure it retains its TrackMark status. Modernise ancillary facilities.	School England Athletics		H	M	M	
									M	M	M	
86	Orchard Fields Community Primary School	OX16 0QT	Netball	School	A standard quality court that is neither floodlit nor available to the community.	Retain for internal use.	School England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect
90	People's Park	OX16 0AD	Tennis	District Council	Two poor quality macadam courts with sports lighting.	Improve court quality and consider implementation of LTA products e.g., Clubspark.	District Council LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Bowls		A standard quality green used by both Banbury Borough BC and Banbury Borough Ladies BC. Membership data is unknown.	Improve green quality. Seek to engage with the Club to understand its membership details and any issues connected with this.	District Council Bowls England		M	S	L	
93	Queensway Primary School	OX16 9NH	Netball	School	Two poor quality courts that are neither floodlit nor available to the community.	Improve for internal use.	School LTA	Local	S	L	L	Protect Enhance
98	Spiceball Country Park	OX16 2RD	Football	Town Council	A poor quality and unused adult pitch.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity and seek to attract demand to the site in order to utilise this.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
109	The Grange Community Primary School	OX16 9AY	Tennis	School	A standard quality court that is neither floodlit nor available to the community.	Retain for internal use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
112	Tudor Hall School	OX16 9UR	Hockey	School	A full size sand-based pitch that is with sports lighting but that does not offer community availability. Assessed as poor quality.	Resurface pitch to improve its quality and explore potential of opening up the provision for community use as a potential secondary venue for Banbury HC.	School EH	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts that are available to the community and with sports lighting.	Consider implementation of LTA products e.g., Clubspark.	School LTA		M	M	L	
			Netball		Three good quality macadam courts that are available to the community and with sports lighting.	Ensure quality is sustained to support usage levels.	School England Netball		M	L	L	
119	Wykham Park Academy	OX16 9HY	Football	School	Three adult, three youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of standard quality. The adult and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed, whereas the mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	School FA/FF RFU EH	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
						Provide security of tenure to users via the implementation of a community use agreement.			H	S	L	
			Rugby union		A standard quality senior pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.			M	L	L	
			Hockey		A full size sand-based pitch which is assessed as poor quality and currently unused for hockey, with all access being football related.	Resurface pitch and ensure quality is sufficient to attract demand.			H	S	M	
						Ensure the pitch can be used as a secondary venue by Banbury HC if the second pitch at North Oxfordshire Academy is not provided as sand-based and seek to transfer football demand away to free up capacity for such access.			H	S	L	
						If the pitch is to be accessed at by Banbury HC, ensure long-term security of tenure via a robust community use, licence or lease agreement.						
					Support opportunity for the pitch to be converted to 3G should the second pitch at North Oxfordshire Academy be provided as sand-based.	M			M	H		
Cricket	A standalone NTP that is unavailable to the community. In a state of disrepair.	Improve quality for internal usage.	School ECB	L	S	L						
128	Banbury Central Bowling Club	OX16 9HR	Bowls	Sports Club	A standard quality green leased by Banbury Central BC in an agreement that ends in 2030. The Club is operating over capacity but reports no issues.	Improve green quality to ensure demand levels can be sustained.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	
						Extend lease agreement to provide improved security of tenure.			L	M	L	

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

BICESTER ANALYSIS AREA – BICESTER RURAL

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Ardley Playing Fields	OX27 7PA	Football	Community	One adult, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are standard quality and provide actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the pitches via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
4	Arncott Village Playing Fields	OX25 1PL	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time and with poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve ancillary facility quality.	Parish Council	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
16	MOD Garrison	OX25 1TW	Football	Private	A disused site where up to seven pitches were provided. Launton FC is currently working to bring the site back into use, with a PitchPower assessment identifying required work. It has a one-year rolling contract for access but is exploring a long-term agreement.	Re-provide pitches to a good quality, using the recommendations from the PitchPower assessment.	FA/FF	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
						Secure long-term security of tenure for Launton FC.			M	S	L	
						Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are provided.			M	S	M	
17	Bicester Hotel, Golf & Spa	OX26 1TH	Golf	Private	Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of part of the golf course to provide a new leisure resort. This has resulted in the reduction of its course to a 9-hole offering, although second tees are to be installed to enable it to be played through twice. In addition, the practice ground at the site will be upgraded to make it more closely resemble a driving range and a separate 9-hole Par 3 course will be established on its outfield.	Ensure demand can continue to be accommodate following the development and assess the impact it has on wider golf supply and demand.	England Golf	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Netball			Four standard quality macadam courts, with two sports lit. Used for club activity.			Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	England Netball	M	
18	Bicester Sports Association	OX26 1TH	Football	Community	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and three mini 7v7 pitches, all of which are assessed as good quality. The mini 7v7 pitches provide actual spare capacity, whereas the remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the mini 7v7 pitches via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA/FF	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Provide
			Cricket			Two standard quality squares used by Bicester & North Oxford CC. Both are overplayed.			Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	ECB	H	
31	Bruern Abbey School	OX26 1UY	Tennis	School	Two standard quality macadam courts that are neither sports lit nor available to the community.	Retain for school use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
36	Chesterton Playing Fields	OX26 1BJ	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. The adult and mini 5v5 pitches are assessed as good quality, whereas the mini 7v7 pitch is assessed as standard, and a PitchPower assessment has been undertaken. Each pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Continue to improve quality in line with PitchPower recommendations.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
46	Finmere Playing Fields	MK18 4AT	Football	Community	A poor quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to the quality issues.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA/FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Cricket		A standard quality square used by Finmere CC. Actual spare capacity is provided.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	ECB		L	M	L	
48	Fringford Cricket Club	OX27 8EB	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square used by Fringford CC. Actual spare capacity is provided.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	ECB	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
49	Fritwell C of E Primary School	OX27 7PX	Football	School	A youth 9v9 pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Provide security of tenure to users via the implementation of a community use agreement.	School FA/FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
			Netball		A standard quality artificial court without sports lighting that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for internal usage.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
50	Fritwell Playing Fields	OX27 7QA	Football	Community	One youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which are standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed; the mini 5v5 pitch has spare capacity discounted due to rugby union usage / over markings.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	FA/FF RFU	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		A standard quality senior pitch that is played to capacity by Alchester RUFC. Partially sports-lit.	Improve quality to increase capacity and to ensure dual use can be sustained.			M	S	L	
51	Gagle Brook Primary School	OX27 8ED	Netball	School	A standard quality macadam court without sports lighting that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for internal usage.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
58	Hethe Recreation Ground	OX27 8EY	Football	Parish Council	A poor quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
59	Heyford Park Free School	OX25 5AB	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of poor quality. The youth pitches are overplayed, whereas the mini pitch is at capacity at peak time.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	School FA/FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Provide security of tenure to users via the creation and implementation of a secure community use agreement.			M	S	L	
77	Launton Playing Field Association	OX26 5DP	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are standard quality and overplayed. A PitchPower assessment has been undertaken.	Improve quality, aligned to PitchPower findings, to eradicate overplay.	Club FA/FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
79	Lower Heyford Playing Field	OX25 5PG	Football	Community	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Explore opportunities to further enhance pitch quality.	FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
97	Souldern Playing Fields	OX27 7JB	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is unused by the community and therefore provides actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the pitch via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
104	Steeple Aston Sport & Recreation Ground	OX25 4SF	Football	Trust	A standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the pitch via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Trust FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
117	Whitelands Farm Sports Ground	OX26 1AJ	Football	Town Council	A good quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Ensure no additional usage in order to avoid future overplay.	FA/FF RFU	Hub	H	L	L	Protect Enhance

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
			Rugby union		Two standard quality senior pitches that are used by Bicester RUFC and overplayed. The Club has a licence to use the site until 2024 and therefore is without long-term security of tenure. It reports issues with the management of the ancillary facilities on site.	<p>Pursue the creation of a long-term usage agreement between the Town Council and Bicester RUFC (minimum 25 years).</p> <p>Improve quality to reduce overplay and provide sports lighting.</p> <p>Create an additional grass pitch (via cricket square conversion) to reduce overplay.</p> <p>Pursue the creation of a second World Rugby compliant 3G pitch on site to fully eradicate overplay and ensure the Club is a primary user.</p> <p>Explore resolution to ancillary facility management issues and consider providing the Club with greater control.</p> <p>Consider securing contributions from Oxford Road Sports Ground development to enable investment.</p> <p>If the Club cannot gain a long-term agreement for site use within a reasonable timeframe (i.e., five years), ensure it is adequately provided for at an alternative (and potentially new) site. Four good quality senior pitches, appropriate ancillary facilities, sports lighting and long-term security of tenure will be required.</p>	Town Council Club		H	S	L	Provide	
								H	S	M			
								H	S	L			
								H	S	H			
								H	S	L			
								H	S	L			
								H	M	H			
			3G		A standard quality full size 3G pitch with sports lighting that is both FA approved and World Rugby compliant. Currently used close to capacity during peak time, predominately from Bicester RUFC and football club users.	<p>Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability and resurface the provision when it is required (circa 2027).</p> <p>Seek re-testing every three years for football and every two years for rugby union.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to maximise rugby union use of the pitch as a means to reducing grass pitch shortfalls for Bicester RUFC, particularly for matches.</p> <p>Install a second full size pitch on site to reduce localised 3G shortfalls. One pitch should then be primarily for football and the other primarily for rugby union.</p>		H	M	M			
								H	M	L			
								H	S	L			
								H	S	H			
			Cricket		A standard quality square that is currently unused. An issue has been reported relating to the distance of the changing facilities from the provision.	Utilise the area to relieve other sporting shortfalls given lack of demand (i.e., rugby union).	ECB		M	M	M		

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
121	Whitelands Academy	OX26 1AY	Football	School	One adult and youth 9v9 pitch that have recently been provided and which are good quality. No community use is currently received, although the School has plans to make the pitches available in the near future.	Seek to utilise the actual spare capacity of the pitches once they are made available to the community and provide security of tenure to users via the implementation of a community use agreement.	School FA/FF RFU	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		A standard quality senior pitch that is unavailable to the community.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.			L	L	L	
			Netball		Two good quality courts that are not available to the community or sports lit.	Consider installing sports lighting, if possible and if community use can be secured and attracted.			M	S	M	
125	Studley Wood Golf Club	OX33 1BF	Golf	Sports Club	An 18-hole members course with a driving range. Currently caters for 724 members, which is substantially high compared to national averages.	Protect and ensure it can continue to cater for its high membership.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
135	Skimmingdish Lane (Caversfield)	OX27 6AA	Tennis	MOD	Three poor quality macadam courts without sports lighting. Only available to service personnel.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
-	Graven Hill	OX26 6JP	Football	District Council	There is an obligation for a developer to establish pitches at the site, with the creation of two adult and two youth pitches proposed.	Provide football pitches on site to reduce local shortfalls, with an emphasis on provision most in need (e.g., youth 11v11 pitches).	FA/FF	Key centre	M	M	H	Provide
						Consider inclusion of a full size 3G pitch given local shortfalls, subject to an appropriate operating model being established.						
						Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are provided to support the provision.			M	M	M	
-	Wretchwick Farm	OX26 6HE	Hockey	District Council	A proposal is in place to provide two full size sand-based pitches, with sports lighting, for use by Bicester HC.	Support proposals given hockey pitch shortfalls in the area.	Club EH	Key centre	H	S	H	Provide
						Ensure an appropriate management structure and business plan is in place to ensure the long-term sustainability of the provision.			H	S	L	
-	Bicester Heritage	OX27 8AL	Athletics	Private	Used by Bicester Triathlon Club for traffic free activity and also a national centre for gliding.	Ensure continued access and seek to formalise usage whilst ensuring gliding activity can continue as required.	England Athletics	Local	M	S	L	Protect
			Cycling		Used by Bicester Millenium Triathlon Club for traffic free activity and also a national centre for gliding.	Ensure continued access and seek to formalise usage whilst ensuring gliding activity can continue as required..	British Cycling	M	S	L		

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

BICESTER ANALYSIS AREA – BICESTER TOWN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	5Core	OX26 4LA	3G	Commercial	A smaller sized (60 x 40 metre) indoor 3G pitch with sports lighting. Assessed as good quality.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place to sustain quality and to ensure future refurbishment (circa 2030).	FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
13	Bicester & Ploughley Sports Centre	OX26 2NR	3G	Trust	Two smaller sized (35 x 17 metre) 3G pitches with sports lighting. They have reached the end of their lifespan having been installed in 2011.	Resurface pitches to ensure continued use for recreational play.	FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
14	Bicester Bowling Club	OX26 6BU	Bowls	Sports Club	A standard quality green that is used by Bicester BC via a lease agreement that requires renewal. Future demand may result in capacity pressures.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Club Bowls England	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Extend lease agreement to improve security of tenure.			M	S	L	
15	Bicester Fields	OX26 6UU	Football	Town Council	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are overplayed and assessed as poor quality. Also serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Improve ancillary facility quality.			M	S	M	
19	Bicester Lawn Tennis Club	OX26 6BU	Tennis	Sports Club	Three standard quality macadam courts with sports lighting. Used by Bicester LTC and currently oversubscribed.	Explore options to relieve capacity issues, potentially via access to additional courts.	Club LTA	Local	M	M	L	Protect
38	The Cooper School	OX26 4RS	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch that is unavailable for community.	Seek to establish secure community use at the School in order to provide actual spare capacity.	School FA/FF RFU EG	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect
			Rugby union		A standard quality senior pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.			L	L	L	
			Hockey		A full size sand-based pitch with sports lighting. Assessed as standard quality and used to capacity by Bicester HC as well as local football demand. The Club accesses the provision on a seasonal basis only.	Protect the pitch as hockey suitable, even if plans to provide new pitches at Wretchwick Farm go ahead, to continue to provide for curricular usage and to support school/club links.			H	L	L	
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability and resurface the provision when it is required (circa 2027).			H	M	M	
						Provide with the Club with greater security of tenure via a long-term usage agreement.			H	S	L	
47	Five Acres Primary School	OX25 2SN	Netball	School	A poor quality macadam court that is neither available to the community nor sports lit.	Improve quality for internal use.	School England Netball	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
53	Glory Farm Primary School	OX26 4YJ	Netball	School	A standard quality macadam court that is neither available to the community nor sports lit.	Retain for internal use.	School England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect
69	Kata Sports Ground	OX26 2BH	Football	Town Council	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of standard quality and played to capacity at peak time.	Explore opportunities to enhance pitch quality.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
70	Keble Road	OX26 4TP	Football	Town Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the pitch via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
88	Oxford Road Sports Ground (Bicester Rugby)	OX26 6BT	Football	Private	A closed site that provided one adult step pitch, although more recently it has only provided for rugby union.	As a minimum, mitigate on a like-for-like basis (i.e., equivalent playing pitch hectareage and the provision of one adult step pitch). This is to ensure that any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements and conforms with the findings of the PPOSS and the recommendations set out.	FA/FF	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide
			Rugby union		A closed site that provided for Bicester RUFC prior to its closure, with two senior pitches previously marked out.	As a minimum, mitigate on a like-for-like basis (i.e., equivalent playing pitch hectareage and the provision of two senior pitches). This is to ensure that any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements and conforms with the findings of the PPOSS and the recommendations set out.	RFU		H	S	H	
91	Pingle Field	OX26 6WB	Football	Town Council	One adult, one youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and five mini 5v5 pitches. The adult and youth 9v9 pitches are poor quality, as are one of the mini 7v7 and one of the mini 5v5 pitches (all remaining pitches are standard quality). The adult and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed, whilst all the remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. A PitchPower assessment has been undertaken.	Improve quality, aligned to PitchPower findings, to eradicate overplay.	Town Council FA/FF	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
106	Sunderland Drive	OX26 4FJ	Football	Town Council	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of poor quality. The youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed, whilst the mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. A PitchPower assessment has been undertaken.	Improve quality, aligned to PitchPower findings, to eradicate overplay.	Town Council FA/FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
108	The Bicester School	OX26 2NS	Football	School	Two adult pitches that are standard quality. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Provide security of tenure to users via the implementation of a community use agreement.	School FA/FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		A standard quality senior pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is unavailable to the community.	Retain for internal usage.	School ECB		L	L	L	

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Tennis		Six poor quality macadam courts that are neither sports lit nor available to the community.	Improve court quality and explore installing sports lighting if community access can be secured.	School LTA		M	S	M	
			Netball		Six poor quality macadam courts that are neither sports lit nor available to the community.	Improve court quality and explore installing sports lighting if community access can be secured.	School England Netball		M	S	M	
			Athletics		A small track used by Bicester Athletics Club.	Consider creation of a bigger, better quality track, linked to England Athletics' new approaches.	School England Athletics		M	S	M	
118	Bardwell School	OX26 4RZ	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Seek to establish secure community use at the School in order to provide actual spare capacity.	School FA/FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
						Consider converting at least one of the pitches to youth 11v11 given local shortfalls and to better accommodate internal usage.			M	S	L	
133	The Tythe Barn	OX26 4SR	Tennis	Private	A standard quality courts with a macadam surface that is only available to wider site users.	Retain for current purpose.	LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

KIDLINGTON ANALYSIS AREA – KIDLINGTON RURAL

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
22	Bletchingdon Sports Club	OX5 3BS	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch provides actual spare capacity, whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. The pitches are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the adult pitch via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand. Improve ancillary facilities.	Club FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
						M			S	M		
			Cricket		A standard quality square used by Oxford & Bletchingdon CC. Currently overplayed.	Improve quality and consider installation of an NTP to relieve capacity issues.	Club ECB		M	S	M	
34	Charlton-on-Otmoor Playing Fields	OX5 2UL	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. Charlton United FC reports that the ancillary facilities require improvement, particularly in terms of disabled access.	Improve ancillary facilities.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A standard quality square that is unused by the community.	Improve quality and seek to utilise as a secondary venue for the transfer of demand from overplayed sites, or to accommodate any future demand.			Parish Council ECB	M	M	
52	Gallos Brook Playing Field	OX25 3GW	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Explore opportunities to enhance pitch quality.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
67	Church Lane (The Rise)	OX5 2TA	Football	Parish Council	A poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is currently unused. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to the quality issues.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and then seek to attract demand to the site.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
71	Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre (Gosford Hill School)	OX5 2NU	Hockey	School	A full size sand-based pitch with sports lighting that is assessed as poor quality. Used by Kidlington Ladies HC.	Resurface the pitch, ensure its protection for hockey usage and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Provide Kidlington Ladies HC with improved security of tenure via a long-term usage agreement.	School EH	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
						H			S	L		
			Tennis		Three poor quality artificial courts that are available to the community and sports lit.	Improve quality through resurfacing.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		Three poor quality artificial courts that are available to the community and sports lit.	Improve quality through resurfacing.	School England Netball		M	S	L	
75	Kirtlington Sports Field	OX5 3HJ	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality pitch with actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity of the pitch via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Cricket		A standard quality square that is unused by the community.	Improve quality and seek to utilise as a secondary venue for the transfer of demand from overplayed sites, or to accommodate any future demand.	Parish Council ECB		M	M	L	
81	Merton Village Playing Fields	OX25 2NL	Football	Parish Council	A poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is currently unused. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to the quality issues.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and then seek to attract demand to the site.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
126	Tadmerton Heath Golf Club	OX15 5HL	Golf	Sports Club	An 18-hole members course. Currently caters for 703 members, which is substantially high compared to national averages.	Protect and ensure it can continue to cater for its high membership.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
137	North Oxford Golf Club	OX2 8EZ	Golf	Private	An 18-hole course. Currently caters for 437 members, which is above the national average. Allocated for residential development in the Local Plan and subject to a development proposal that, if it goes ahead, will result in the loss of its provision.	Given high membership, ensure appropriate mitigation in line with planning policy (i.e., replacement provision to an equal or better quantity and quality).	England Golf	Local	H	L	L	Protect
-	Woodstock Town Football Club	OX20 1PD	Football	Sports Club	The Club is exploring the possibility of relocating into Cherwell due to development pressures in relation to its existing site, in West Oxfordshire. It previously played within the football pyramid but was demoted due to a lack of sports lighting as planning permission could not be granted.	Support the Club's aspiration to relocate into Cherwell given wider benefits of the proposal and ensure it is adequately provided for in line with national planning policy requirements.	Club FA/FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
Ensure any relocation provides the Club with the opportunity of re-joining the football pyramid.						H			M	H		
Initial plans for the relocation of the Club include an aspiration for a full size 3G pitch to be provided.			Support the aspiration for a full size 3G pitch to be provided in order to meet the Club's own demand as well to reduce shortfalls both in Cherwell and in neighbouring West Oxfordshire.		H	M			H			

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

KIDLINGTON ANALYSIS AREA – KIDLINGTON TOWN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
12	Begbroke Sports & Social Club	OX5 1RN	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality square that is unused by the community.	Improve quality and seek to utilise as a secondary venue for the transfer of demand from overplayed sites, or to accommodate any future demand.	Club ECB	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Bowls		A good quality green used by Begbroke BC, which has 25 members.	Sustain quality and ensure club is supported given its relatively low membership.	Club Bowls England		L	L	L	
45	Exeter Close	OX5 1AB	Football	Trust	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed and a standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is played to capacity at peak time.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	Trust FA/FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Tennis		Three standard macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Explore sports lighting installation to better accommodate and encourage recreational demand.	Trust LTA		M	S	M	
			Bowls		A good quality green used by Kidlington BC via a lease agreement that is nearing expiry.	Extend lease agreement to provide greater security of tenure.	Trust Bowls England		M	S	L	
54	Gosford Hill School	OX5 2NT	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Provide security of tenure to existing and future users via the implementation of a long-term community use agreement.	School FA/FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
			Rugby union		A standard quality senior pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use. In a state of disrepair.	Replace wicket to accommodate internal use.	School ECB		L	S	L	
72	Kidlington Football Club	OX5 1AT	Football	Sports Club	A standard quality adult pitch which is played to capacity.	Improve quality to ensure future demand from the Club can be accommodated without the creation of overplay and associated shortfalls.	Club FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
74	Kirtlington Park Polo Club	OX5 3JQ	Tennis	Sports Club	A poor quality macadam court with no sports lighting.	Improve quality.	Club LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
78	Little Marsh Sports Ground	OX5 1QE	Football	Parish Council	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both are which are standard quality and played to capacity at peak time.	Explore opportunities to enhance pitch quality.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
87	Orchard Recreation Ground	OX5 2HX	Football	Trust	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both are which are good quality and played to capacity at peak time. A PitchPower assessment has recently been undertaken.	Continue to improve quality in line with PitchPower recommendations.	Trust FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
94	Ron Groves Park	OX5 1ES	Football	Trust	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are assessed as standard quality. The adult and mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity, whereas the youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve quality to ensure future demand from users can be accommodated without the creation of overplay.	Trust FA/FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
105	Stratfield Brake	OX5 1UP	Football	District Council	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed, whilst the remaining pitches are at capacity. Oxford United FC is exploring relocation to a parcel of land adjacent to the site, known as "The Triangle", which could include the development of a stadium, fanzone, hotel and shops. In addition, there are six development sites in Kidlington that have been allocated for housing and it has been identified, from the previous PPS, that new football pitches and a pavilion are required to support these. Land has been allocated at South East Kidlington, close to Stratfield Brake, to enable this.	Improve quality of existing provision, where it is to be retained, to eradicate overplay.	FA/FF RFU ECB	Hub	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
						Support Oxford United FC's relocation proposal providing that there is no negative impact on community sport and explore opportunities for the proposal to provide betterment of provision.			H	S	H	
						Provide additional pitches on land at South East Kidlington in line with existing proposals as a means to reducing pitch shortfalls and to meet resultant future demand from the associated developments.			H	S	H	
						Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are provided to support the new pitch provision.			H	S	M	
			Rugby union		Four senior pitches of poor quality that are used by Gosford All Black RUFC. Two of the pitches are serviced by sports lighting and three are overplayed (including the two sports lit pitches). Ancillary provision requires improving.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay.			H	S	M	
						Provide additional sports lighting (on the fourth pitch).			H	S	M	
						Improve ancillary facility offer, both in terms of changing and social provision.			M	S	M	
						Explore betterment of provision should any development take place in the locality of the site in line with (and to achieve) the other recommendations set out here.			H	S	L	
			3G		Outline proposals in the area of the site include the establishment of full size 3G pitch provision.	Support the 3G pitch proposals providing a management model and business plan is in place and providing full community access can be secured.			H	S	H	
			Cricket		Two standard quality squares used by Kidlington CC and overplayed. The Club has aspirations to relocate to a new site with two squares and all-encompassing pavilion.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and encourage greater use of the on site NTP, or support relocation plans as a means to better providing for the Club.			H	S	M	
						Explore betterment of provision should any development take place in the locality of the site in line with (and to achieve) the other recommendations set out here.			H	S	L	

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
116	West Kidlington Primary School	OX5 1EA	Netball	School	A standard quality court that is neither sports lit nor available to the community.	Retain for internal use.	School England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect
120	Yarnton Park	OX5 1NG	Football	Parish Council	One youth 11v11 and two mini 7v7 pitches, both of standard quality and played to capacity at peak time.	Explore opportunities to enhance pitch quality.	Parish Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Netball		A poor quality court that is sports lit nor available to the community.	Improve quality to better accommodate and attract demand.	Parish Council England Netball		L	S	L	
134	Edward Feild Primary School	OX5 2LG	Netball	School	A poor quality court that is neither sports lit nor available to the community.	Improve for internal use.	School England Netball	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
136	Millennium Hall	OX33 1AD	Tennis	Trust	Two standard quality courts without sports lighting.	Explore sports lighting installation to better accommodate and encourage recreational demand.	Trust LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2040 (in line with the Cherwell Local Plan Review). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual provision required. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision and splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required.

The scenarios below are based on proposed draft housing figures in the emerging Local Plan Review, meaning that they are subject to change. However, they are only being used as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from the growth, thus with the intention of showing how the calculator works and what it can provide/support. A scenario is provided for all growth in Cherwell as well as for growth in each PPOSS analysis area.

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

Scenario One – Overall projected housing growth in Cherwell (3,500 dwellings)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 3,500 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 people per household (based on a national average) is 8,050 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from overall housing growth

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand per week	Training demand
Adult football	2.31	17.32 hours
Youth football	4.03	
Mini soccer	2.32	
Rugby union	0.91	1.03 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.53	1.58 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.42	0.67 hours
Cricket	38.20	N/A

The table below translates the estimated demand above into new pitch provision, if it was required, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. The capital cost equates to £1,631,152, whereas the lifecycle costs amounts to £234,481. This is in addition to changing rooms costs of £2,580,828.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision from overall housing growth

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁵	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁶	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	2.31	£240,751	£50,798	4.63	£830,951
Youth football	4.03	£335,035	£70,357	5.05	£906,534
Mini soccer	2.32	£60,210	£12,644	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	0.91	£132,194	£28,290	1.82	£325,764
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.83	£254,244	£51,257	1.66	£297,337
Sand based AGPs	0.16	£137,399	£4,259	0.32	£57,112
3G	0.46	£471,518	£16,775	0.91	£163,491

Scenario Two – Projected housing growth in Banbury (930 dwellings)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 930 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 people per household (based on a national average) is 2,139 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth in Banbury

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand per week	Training demand
Adult football	0.62	4.60 hours
Youth football	1.07	
Mini soccer	0.62	
Rugby union	0.24	0.27 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.14	1.42 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.11	0.18 hours
Cricket	10.15	N/A

The table below translates the estimated demand above into new pitch provision, if it was required, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. The capital cost equates to £433,499, whereas the lifecycle costs amounts to £62,309. This is in addition to changing rooms costs of £685,821.

⁵ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁶ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision from overall housing growth

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁷	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁸	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.62	£63,969	£13,497	1.23	£220,693
Youth football	1.07	£89,039	£18,698	1.34	£240,693
Mini soccer	0.62	£15,999	£3,360	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	0.24	£35,126	£7,517	0.48	£86,561
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.22	£67,560	£13,647	0.44	£79,010
Sand based AGPs	0.04	£36,508	£1,132	0.08	£15,175
3G	0.12	£125,299	£4,458	0.24	£43,455

Scenario Three – Projected housing growth in Bicester (1,650 dwellings)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,650 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 people per household (based on a national average) is 3,795 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth in Bicester

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand per week	Training demand
Adult football	1.09	8.16 hours
Youth football	1.90	
Mini soccer	1.09	
Rugby union	0.43	0.48 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.25	0.74 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.29	0.32 hours
Cricket	18.01	N/A

The table below translates the estimated demand above into new pitch provision, if it was required, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. The capital cost equates to £769,033, whereas the lifecycle costs amounts to £110,536. This is in addition to changing rooms costs of £1,216,562.

⁷ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁸ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision from overall housing growth

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ¹⁰	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	1.09	£113,496	£13,497	2.18	£391,560
Youth football	1.90	£157,929	£18,698	2.38	£427,291
Mini soccer	1.09	£28,386	£3,360	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	0.43	£62,317	£7,517	0.86	£153,566
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.39	£24,211	£13,647	0.78	£140,169
Sand based AGPs	0.08	£2,008	£1,132	0.15	£26,924
3G	0.21	£7,908	£4,458	0.43	£77,071

Scenario Four – Projected housing growth in Kidlington (670 dwellings)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 3,500 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 people per household (based on a national average) is 1,541 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

Table 7.7: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth in Kidlington

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand per week	Training demand
Adult football	0.44	3.31 hours
Youth football	0.77	
Mini soccer	0.44	
Rugby union	0.17	0.20 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.10	0.30 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.08	0.13 hours
Cricket	7.31	N/A

The table below translates the estimated demand above into new pitch provision, if it was required, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. The capital cost equates to £312,302, whereas the lifecycle costs amounts to £44,888. This is in addition to changing rooms costs of £494,051.

⁹ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

¹⁰ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.8: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision from overall housing growth

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ¹¹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ¹²	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.44	£40,862	£9,724	0.89	£159,002
Youth football	0.77	£13,469	£13,469	0.97	£173,533
Mini soccer	0.44	£2,421	£2,421	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	0.17	£5,416	£5,416	0.35	£62,363
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.16	£9,832	£9,832	0.32	£56,922
Sand based AGPs	0.03	£815	£815	0.06	£10,933
3G	0.09	£3,211	£3,211	0.17	£31,299

Summary

For the scenarios above, the tables show that, through proposed housing growth in Cherwell, there will be demand generated for pitch sports. However, this is relatively minimal, especially when broken down by analysis area.

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

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

¹¹ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

¹² Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for Cherwell based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group.

Delivery

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Cherwell in relation to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as well as supporting ancillary facilities. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and by using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the District can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this moving forward.

The creation of this document should be regarded as only part of the planning process. The success of the Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. To that end, each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as a key document within the study area, guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision, being used to attract and distribute both internal and external investment, and being used as an evidence base to support or oppose any development proposals. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand.

The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in several benefits that will help with its application. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, the pooling of resources, and the strengthening of relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work undertaken to develop the overarching recommendations and the Action Plan will have also highlighted the key areas to which it needs to be applied and how it can be delivered.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the PPOSS. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by all members of the Steering Group.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust. This makes it less likely to be able to be used as an evidence base for any funding bids or development proposals.

To extend the lifespan of the PPOSS for as long as possible, it is advised that regular Steering Group meetings take place to review the study. Ideally, these should take place twice yearly, aligned to the split of summer and winter sport seasons.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

- ◀ Actions undertaken since the adoption of the PPOSS or since the last review, as well as any actions that have been attempted but have been unsuccessful (and for what reason).
- ◀ Any changes required to the priority afforded to each remaining action (as the priority of some may change following the delivery of others or for more general reasons e.g., alterations in participation trends or focus areas).
- ◀ Any significant changes to supply and demand information and what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues (e.g., development pressures) and opportunities (e.g., S106 contributions or club aspirations).
- ◀ Priority actions to be focused on before the next review.
- ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied to date and the lessons learnt.

The Council should also keep the database behind the PPOSS and the background supply and demand information up to date to assist with the review/update process. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when there could be significant changes to demand.

Checklist

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the Steering Group can refer to Sport England's Stage E Checklist, as shown below.

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