

Amber Valley Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan

October 2017



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Introduction

- 1.1 In July 2016, Amber Valley Borough Council commissioned naa to review the 2013 Sports Playing Pitch Strategy and produce a new document for the period 2017 - 2020. This new document therefore sets out the strategic direction and site specific priorities for the future delivery of sports facilities across the Borough for this period.

Strategic Vision

- 1.2 The existing Sports Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy has successfully driven improvement and investment into the sporting infrastructure across the Borough. Successes include;
- investment in the quality of cricket grounds across the Borough, in particular drainage and pavilion improvements;
 - improvement of the amount of capacity available to cricket clubs through the creation of second grounds;
 - ongoing work seeking to build capacity for rugby union clubs;
 - the creation of a new 3g AGP at Belper Leisure Centre; and
 - an improved balance between supply and demand for football.
- 1.3 This assessment seeks to understand how things have changed and the impact that this has on the actions set out in the 2013 document. Most importantly, it seeks to build upon the successes of the previous document and to deliver the sporting vision for the Borough up to 2028. The vision for the strategy remains the same, specifically;
- 1.4 The strategy seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of:
- 'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities which provides and promotes local opportunities for participation by all residents at all levels of play from grassroots to elite'.*
- 1.5 To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy seeks to ensure that;
- the amount of pitches is sufficient to meet current and future need;
 - the quality of pitches meets current and future need; and
 - the network of facilities supports increasing participation and sustainable club development.
- 1.6 It considers the adequacy of provision for football, cricket, rugby and hockey. Bowls and tennis were not included in the scope. It was felt that little had changed with these sports since 2013 and the previous strategy still largely applied.

Key Drivers

- 1.7 The 2013 strategy document highlighted the importance of ongoing monitoring and updating of the strategy document to ensure that it remains representative of current and projected future need. This refresh of the 2013 document is therefore required to;

- take account of the changing methodologies for the evaluation of the adequacy of sports playing pitches;
- understand any changes in the supply of playing pitches and demand for playing pitches and the impact that this may have on the actions that are required; and
- take account of the challenging financial climate.

1.8 Specifically, it seeks to;

- provide an understanding of the adequacy of playing fields in each area of the Borough both at the current time and projecting forwards as the population grows and its profile changes;
- guide the creation of a network of playing pitches that will both support current and future population and promote increased physical activity amongst the Boroughs residents;
- inform both strategic and site specific decision making on the need for new and enhanced pitch provision both now, and as the population grows and in future years;
- support the creation of appropriate policy within the Local Plan to protect playing fields and provide new pitches where they are required; and
- guide a strategic and innovative approach to the delivery of playing pitches and sports facilities linking with local, regional and National Governing Body priorities and in the context of the challenging financial environment.

Wider Links

- 1.9 In addition to the achievement of the playing pitch specific objectives set out above, the strategy also contributes to the delivery of many other national, regional and local strategic targets. Links between this Playing Pitch Strategy and other national, regional and local strategies and policies are summarised in Table 1.1 overleaf.

Table 1.1: Contribution of PPS towards national and local priorities

Objectives for the future delivery of Playing Pitches			
	Ensure the quantity of pitches is sufficient to meet local needs.	Ensure the quality of pitches meets current and future need.	Ensure facilities support increasing participation and promote sustainable club development.
Strategic Documents			
National Planning Framework	✓	✓	✓
Sport England – Policy on Playing Fields	✓	✓	✓
Sport England: Towards an Active Nation	✓	✓	✓
The Football Association - National Game Strategy for Participation and Development (2015 - 2019)	✓	✓	✓
Cricket Unleashed – Strategic Plan (2016)	✓	✓	✓
The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2017)	✓	✓	✓
England Hockey National Facilities Strategy	✓	✓	✓
Amber Valley Borough Corporate Improvement Plan (2016 - 2019)	✓	✓	✓
Emerging Amber Valley Borough Local Plan	✓	✓	✓

Strategic Direction

- 1.10 The end goal of this strategy is to build upon the previous document, continuing to deliver the overarching vision and achieve the specific aims and objectives set out on the previous page.
- 1.11 To do this, it is essential that provision for each sport continues to evolve and improve to meet with changing needs and aspirations. The strategy seeks to promote the development of each sport and to ensure that the facilities provided stimulate growth in grass roots participation in all sports and in all areas of the Borough.
- 1.12 Sections 2 – 5 summarise the current situation, priorities and the recommendations for each sport that will contribute to these goals. Section 6 sets out the action plan including site specific priorities, indicative timeframes and responsibilities for delivery.

1.13 The recommendations and related actions have been refreshed from the 2013 Sports Playing Pitch Strategy and are based on the key issues identified for each sport, as well as successes of the previous document. As with the previous strategy, they are derived from the following principles:

- **Pitch provision in Amber Valley will be delivered in partnership.** The strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community. Included within this, the strategy promotes;
 - Partnership working and knowledge sharing
 - Community involvement
 - Community Asset Transfer
- **Investment will focus upon interventions that will have the greatest impact** – the strategy seeks to prioritise investment into sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit. It will seek to increase participation in sport and activity in terms of both numbers and standards. To support this, impact will be monitored and targets for growth will be established at the outset of each project
- **Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision** – the strategy seeks to ensure that Amber Valley Borough contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and in the right place. While it promotes protection of current provision, it recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the subsequent investment required
- **The strategy will seek to build relationships between sports through the creation of sporting hubs and multi-sport sites** – recognising the benefits and long term sustainability of sites providing for multiple sports, the strategy will promote the co-location of facilities and links between clubs
- **Sustainability of provision is central to the success of playing fields in the Borough** – all recommendations seek to deliver new and improved facilities in a sustainable manner, supporting well established clubs, promoting sustainability and promoting good practice
- **We will regularly respond to change** – the action plan seeks to have impact in the short, medium and long term. The importance of monitoring and update is recognised and the preparation of the strategy represents the start of a partnership and not the end.

Methodology

1.14 The priorities set out in this strategy were established through the preparation of a full evidence base including extensive consultation and analysis. This document presents a summary of findings and priorities only – full detail is provided within the evidence based assessment. The methodology adopted in the preparation of the strategy is briefly summarised below.

Evidence Base

1.15 The strategy has been produced in line with guidance 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013). This

methodology supersedes Towards a Level Playing Field (Sport England 2001) which was used to produce the previous Amber Valley Borough Sports Playing Pitch Strategy.

1.16 The key phases of the approach included;

- a full audit of teams for football, cricket, rugby and hockey derived from, playing or wishing to play within the authority boundary;
- identification of all sites containing formal playing fields and quality assessments of all community use pitches in the Borough;
- a full programme of consultation with local clubs, league secretaries, National Governing Bodies of Sport and external stakeholders; and
- application and interpretation of the supply and demand information in line with the Sport England methodology to;
 - understand the situation at individual sites;
 - develop the current and projected future pictures for each sport; and
 - identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.

Strategy Development

1.17 This is the strategy document, which draws upon the issues set out in the assessment report and sets out a strategic framework for the future delivery of sports playing pitches up to 2028.

1.18 As was the case in 2013, recommendations and priorities have been developed following extensive scenario testing and in conjunction with the following key stakeholders;

- Amber Valley Borough Council;
- Derbyshire Sport;
- Representatives of the Derbyshire County FA, Derbyshire Cricket Board, the RFU and England Hockey; and
- Sport England.

1.19 The views of these groups have been used to shape this strategy and to finalise the action and implementation plan. The consultation process does not stop here - many of the identified short term actions involve consultation with wider groups, ensuring that any priorities implemented are reflective of the needs and aspirations of current pitch users.

Structure

1.20 The remainder of this strategy is set out as follows;

- Section 2 – Football
- Section 3 – Cricket
- Section 4 – Rugby
- Section 5 – Hockey
- Section 6 – Implementation, monitoring and review.

Context

Supply

- 2.1 Since the 2013 strategy was completed, a review of youth football has been completed by the FA. As a result a number of pitches of different sizes are needed to accommodate play for teams of different ages and the variety of pitches provided in Amber Valley in 2017 is therefore greater than it was in 2013.
- 2.2 There are now 59 individual formal football pitches currently available for community use across Amber Valley. This represents a significant decline on the total number of pitches in 2013, where 86 pitches were available (secured or unsecured for community use). This reduction in provision can be attributed to pitches not requested at the start of the season no longer being prepared.
- 2.3 There is just one large 3g AGP in the Borough, located at Belper Leisure Centre (although this facility is not quite full size). There are smaller sized 3G facilities at Swanwick Hall School as well as Ecclesbourne School.
- 2.4 The quality of almost all pitches in the Borough is standard and there are very few high quality sites. The quality of facilities is broadly comparable with that in 2013 and the key issues raised were drainage, poor grass coverage, compaction, issues with informal use and the provision of poor goalposts.

Demand

- 2.5 There are 215 teams in total based in Amber Valley and this represents an increase from the number of teams identified in 2013 (192). There is a small amount of displacement amongst adult teams, with AFC Lea Holloway and Belper United both travelling out of the Borough to find appropriate facilities. For younger teams, the league structures in and around the Borough mean that not all teams based in Amber Valley play their home fixtures in the area – most mini soccer teams and youth teams aged up to the age of 12 travel into Derby City or Matlock to play matches at central venues.
- 2.6 Peak time demand is well spread across the weekend, with all forms of the game taking place on both Saturday and Sunday.

Adequacy of Current Provision in Amber Valley

- 2.7 A detailed consultation programme and modelling reveals the following issues for football in Amber Valley;
 - there are slightly increasing levels of dissatisfaction with quality concerns the most commonly raised issue. More clubs cite challenges securing appropriate pitches (particularly those with junior teams) than was evident in 2013. This may be a consequence of the number of sites that have been taken out of use, but equally is likely to be reflective of the impact of the FA Youth review, which requires teams to play on appropriately sized pitches;
 - a lack of facilities for training and youth football are perceived to be the key barriers to football development. The cost of hiring facilities and challenges recruiting coaches are also issues for clubs, as well as issues attracting funding. Not all barriers to football development are therefore directly related to facilities;

- modelling reveals that the majority of pitches are able to sustain additional play across the week. Although several sites are used in more than one time slot, there remains spare capacity on almost all pitches. Despite this, many sites demonstrate evidence of wear and tear, particularly compaction;
- overplay is primarily concentrated on pitches at the home of private clubs, specifically Heanor Town, Holbrook St Michaels, Holbrook Welfare, Sleetmoor Lane (ADASC) and Eyes Meadow (Duffield Dynamos). Outside of The Heanor Town Ground, there is no overplay at any Council managed facility. In some instances, the clubs owning / managing sites are permitting additional usage of their facility in order to secure additional income;
- there are only four sites which contain pitches that are played to the level that they can sustain with no capacity for further play. Two of these are also key club bases - Kilburn Miners Welfare and Eyes Meadow. Alton Manor is the most heavily used Council venue;
- following the decision not to prepare pitches on some sites when current demand for their use is not currently evident there are few pitches that are available to the community with limited use. Some sites however do not have any clear regular usage (more likely acting as ad hoc overspill). These include Alfreton Welfare Recreation Ground, some pitches at Nottingham Road Recreation Ground (although new drainage and levelling was completed in 2016 and pitches are currently resting prior to being brought back for the 2017/18 season), some pitches at Riddings Park and Swanwick Welfare Recreation Ground. There is also relatively limited use (less than one match equivalent per week) at Codnor Recreation Ground, Crayshill Park, Dobholes Lane, Ironville, some pitches at Lockton Avenue and Manor Road Recreation Ground;
- the spread of play means that peak time demand is more dispersed and as a consequence, most sites are able to fit in more matches at the peak time for their respective type of football;
- Alton Manor Recreation Ground, Swanwick Highfield Road, Heanor Town, Eyes Meadow, Holbrook St Michaels and Holbrook Welfare are the only sites where adult pitches are at capacity at peak time. All of these sites currently host teams playing at a high standard. It is clear however that there are almost two tiers of football pitches, with those accommodating pyramid teams busy on a Saturday afternoon, while sites catering largely for the grass roots teams are more heavily played on a Sunday. As these two types of uses rarely cross, few pitches are used in all time slots, despite the spread of play. Spare capacity in Ripley, Belper and Heanor is particularly limited on a Sunday;
- for youth football, most sites can sustain further play on a Sunday morning, with only ADASC, Eyes Meadow, Heanor Miners Welfare, Thornton Playing Field and Thomas William at capacity. There are few pitches of smaller size, but only those at ADASC, Eyes Meadow and Ripley Academy are unable to sustain more games at peak time. Reflecting the level of use across the week, in general therefore there is good availability of pitches at peak time;
- there are almost no pitches for 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 football with most teams travelling to central venues. While this is primarily attributable to the league structures, consultation however clearly demonstrates that in some instances, teams believe that they are forced to select central venues due to a lack of pitches (or lack of pitches of the desired quality) in Amber Valley and that this then creates the apparent lack of demand - culminating in a vicious circle. Consideration could

potentially be given to providing a suitable venue/or venues within Amber Valley in order to reduce exported demand, subject to viability testing;

- site by site analysis therefore indicates that there is a good supply of pitches in relation to the demand. This echoes the situation in 2013, where it was found that surplus adult pitches outweighed shortages of junior and mini pitches;
- it should however be noted that while the quality of pitches was rated overall as standard, many pitches achieved scores close to a poor rating. A small fall in quality would therefore see a significant reduction in the overall capacity in the Borough and mean that pitches could only sustain one game per week. This would reduce spare capacity across the weekend and may have particular impact given the spread of play (although this will be reduced somewhat by the two tiers of provision). In this instance, spare capacity would be very closely matched with demand across the Borough. Making this a greater concern, financial and budget pressures were highlighted as one of the key worries by many clubs, and local authorities are also facing an era of budgetary cuts and pressures to reduce services;
- added to this, some sites offering spare capacity in reality are unsecured - ie the long term availability of these pitches for community use cannot be guaranteed. This is true of both Ripley Academy and Swanwick Hall School, as well as Woodbridge Junior School. There is scope to increase use of almost all pitches on these sites, but removal of access to the pitches would cause relocation of existing teams, as well as removal of the spare capacity;
- while some steps have been taken to reduce the number of pitches that are available, it is clear that overall, there remains sufficient capacity in the pitch stock to meet demand. This does however disguise localised pressures, quality issues and heavy use of some pitches. These include;
 - although there is sufficient provision in Alfreton, there are quality issues on several pitches. This may impact on the overall capacity of facilities in future years. Much of the spare capacity is also evident at school sites which are not secured for long term use;
 - all pyramid clubs playing in Belper are at capacity and there is a degree of overplay. There is no spare capacity on youth or 9v9 pitches and some growth aspirations cannot be met. Belper United are also displaced due to a lack of appropriate facilities;
 - pitch provision is also fairly closely matched in Heanor. While there is some spare capacity at the current time, again there are quality concerns which may see a reduction in capacity in future years. There are also no facilities for younger teams, driving all to play outside of the Borough;
 - provision in Ripley is reliant on facilities at a school site. There would be gaps in the provision and displacement if access to this site was withdrawn. There are also some qualitative improvements required; and
 - there is no provision in the western parishes and one team is displaced as a result.
- analysis of the impact of population change indicates that the number of teams is likely to remain similar (increasing population is negated by the impact of the ageing population, who are less likely to play football). There is predicted to be a slight increase in participation in mini soccer. Several clubs however have significant

aspirations for growth and if these are achieved, provision in Duffield, Codnor and Heanor may be particularly compromised;

- AGPs are becoming increasingly important for football and are used for both matchplay and training as well as more recreational / informal games. The FA facility strategy (2013 – 2015) sought to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches. The FA vision (November 2014) which is the result of extensive analysis on the facilities used for football (including grass roots) placed greater emphasis on the benefits of 3g pitches and their importance for the future delivery of football. This is also reflected in the FA National Game Strategy 2015 - 2019 which seeks to provide better training and playing facilities. In particular, the FA cite the additional capacity that AGPs offer compared to grass and their ability to sustain play during periods of inclement weather, resulting in a reduced number of cancellations;
 - there is only one full sized AGP in Amber Valley currently, but demand modelling, as well as local contextual analysis provides an understanding of the potential requirement for additional facilities. It can be concluded that;
 - theoretical modelling suggests a requirement of between 2.6 and 5 3g AGPs;
 - currently there is only one pitch that is large enough to be included within these totals, however there are two 3g small sized pitches. Theoretically therefore, there is a need for at least one and up to four further AGPs;
 - modelling and business planning for AGPs requires use for both training and matches. The presence of the small sided pitches however reduces the potential requirement for training provision. The majority of clubs currently have access to a training venue (although this may be sand and / or small sided) and new 3g pitches would likely see this use displaced, rather than new users generated. Impact on other facilities is therefore an important consideration when determining the need for further pitches; and
 - local league structures mean that the majority of teams travel out of the Borough for match play using central venues in other authorities. There is no clear evidence of demand from any of these leagues for venues in Amber Valley at the current time and unless new leagues are created therefore, there is limited opportunity to host match fixtures for younger teams on 3g AGPs in the Borough. There may however be an opportunity to accommodate youth or adult teams on 3g AGPs.
- 2.8 The overall position could, indeed, change should a central venue be advanced within Amber Valley. However, it would be important to test the long-term viability of such an approach, and have regard to the possibility of expanded AGP provision in Derby City in conjunction with the Parklife initiative potentially being taken forward as referenced below.
- 2.9 Analysis therefore suggests that with most teams able to access a training venue (although some displacement is evident that could be reduced) and limited potential demand for match play, the need for AGPs is probably at the lower end of the spectrum identified (2.6 and 5.3). This is further supported by the potential creation of Parklife venues in Derby, which could see further play migrated to these sites.
- 2.10 Baseline evidence therefore concludes that there is potentially a requirement for one further 3g AGP within the timeline of this strategy document. Other opportunities (including further pitch provision to support clubs at / approaching capacity) should however be

taken, giving full consideration to the potential and desired impact on other facilities and the sustainability of business modelling in the context of local league structures.

- 2.11 Table 3.1 summarises the key issues for football in each of the specific areas of Amber Valley.

Table 3.1: Key Issues for Football

Area	Adequacy of Provision	Issues Identified
<p>Alfreton</p>	<p>For all types of pitch, supply meets demand and indeed, it is in Alfreton where the greatest quantities of spare capacity exist. Growth aspirations also limited in this area, except at ADASC.</p> <p>Much of the spare capacity is found at Swanwick Hall School, which currently offers community use, but is not used. This site is only secured until 2018 and withdrawal of community access to this site would see much of the spare capacity removed.</p> <p>A higher number of pitches in Alfreton than in other areas achieve scores in the lower echelons of standard, meaning that they are in danger of becoming poor in the event of heavy usage and / or a reduction in maintenance. This would see an overall reduction in the capacity of sites and a subsequent reduction in spare capacity. For adult pitches, this could see spare capacity reduce to 9 match equivalents per week (6 at peak time) and for youth provision 3 match equivalents per week (four at peak time).</p> <p>Reflecting the quality issues, the majority of concerns raised by clubs focused on the quality of facilities and the associated maintenance practices. Sites are perceived to suffer from their status as publicly accessible recreation areas (dog fouling etc) and several sites are perceived to be poorly maintained and with other challenges, particularly uneven surfaces. If quality is not addressed in the area, there is potential that supply could become much more closely matched with demand, particularly for youth football. If also linked with the withdrawal of access to Swanwick Hall School, provision could become very tight in relation to demand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity at ADASC (the largest club) is becoming limited for younger players, although there is scope to tailor pitches on the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision sufficient overall based on current position Quality issues at most sites, particularly drainage and uneven surfaces. Several sites achieving quality scores below 60% - includes Alfreton Welfare, some ADASC pitches, Ironville, Riddings Park, Crayshill Park, Swanwick Welfare Evidence of wear and tear on many sites including compaction, despite low levels of use. Ongoing deterioration of quality would lead to supply becoming more closely matched with demand Poor drainage on ADASC site and club seeking to achieve Step 7 team, which current site does not meet regulations for Unsecured access to Swanwick Hall School and Woodbridge Junior School ADASC approaching capacity for younger teams (although there is scope to address by reorganisation utilising wider capacity for growth on existing site) Lack of 7v7 / 5v5 pitches with the only provision being at school sites / ADASC (across other pitches) Several sites out of use at present but currently no clear evidence of demand for these pitches.

Area	Adequacy of Provision	Issues Identified
	<p>site to ensure that demand is not inhibited.</p>	
<p>Belper</p>	<p>For adult football, supply meets demand however there are pressures on youth and 9v9 pitches and some key sites are overplayed. There is no spare capacity at peak time on 9v9 or youth pitches and in addition, there is a complete lack of provision for younger age groups.</p> <p>There are however two tiers of quality in Belper, with pitches serving pyramid teams of a higher standard than other facilities targeting lower level teams. While there is spare capacity for adults overall (7 match equivalents and 5.5 at peak time), Belper United are displaced due to a lack of facilities of appropriate standard for their league. The only spare capacity actually exists at Manor Recreation Ground / Thornton Playing Fields / Whitemoor Recreation Ground - all of which target lower level teams. There is overplay at other key sites, including Eyes Meadow, Holbrook St Michaels and Holbrook Miners Welfare.</p> <p>The pressures on the existing stock of pitches means that youth teams in Belper are using adult pitches, which further intensifies the use of these facilities. Clubs indicate that they travel outside of the Borough to use central venues by necessity rather than choice.</p> <p>There are opportunities to increase usage of the existing 3g pitch at Belper Leisure Centre for formal play as this site is currently only used as an overspill venue. There are also facilities at school venues that are currently unused which may offer opportunities, as well as former pitches that are no longer available (Bargate Rec and Milford). There is potential that the Belper Leisure Centre pitch may become a central venue for Derby Junior League in future years.</p> <p>Aspirations of clubs will place further pressures on pitches and as there is already insufficient capacity, it is unlikely that these can be met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sites accommodating pyramid teams at capacity. Belper United displaced due to lack of appropriate facilities • Existing youth and 9v9 pitches at capacity. Lack of smaller sized pitches means clubs are particularly restricted if they wish to enter home / away leagues. No school sites available to access and clubs indicate lack of venues is a key issue. Calculations demonstrate significant pressures on 9v9 and youth pitches • Presence of 3g pitch at Belper Leisure Centre provides further potential capacity subject to accessibility and affordability but is currently underused (although it may become a central venue for Derby Junior League in future years) • Eyes Meadow used extensively for training as well as matches - impacts upon capacity of pitches for match play. Site at capacity particularly for younger teams • Evidence of wear and tear on many sites including compaction, impacts on overall quality. Quality higher than other areas, but Eyes Meadow showing evidence of heavy use as well as some other sites. Manor Recreation area and Thornton Playing Fields are poorer quality sites and quality is key complaint from club • Growth aspirations that cannot be met in Duffield and for Belper Ladies (if not playing in central venue leagues).

Area	Adequacy of Provision	Issues Identified
Heanor	<p>The supply of pitches is relatively limited in Heanor, with only adult and youth pitches provided. Supply is very closely matched with demand. There are only 2 match equivalents available (1.5 if removing unsecured pitches) on adult pitches across the week, and just 2.5 at peak time. For youth football, there is greater spare capacity, with 3 match equivalents available at peak time.</p> <p>The quality of pitches however means that some sites are close to being in poor condition and this is a key concern for clubs. If deterioration occurred, spare capacity across the week would reduce further.</p> <p>Heanor Town is the only site that is overplayed and all others have capacity to sustain additional play, with most also able to accommodate play at peak time.</p> <p>The lack of pitches for younger teams however is raised as an issue, with clubs forced to travel to central venues out of necessity rather than choice.</p> <p>This will be exacerbated if club growth aspirations are met, as there are only 3 match equivalents available on youth pitches at peak time and teams in the area are seeking increases to youth football.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch provision closely matched with demand • Lack of pitches 9v9 and below and youth pitches approaching capacity. Likely to be over capacity if growth aspirations of clubs are achieved • Clubs consider there to be insufficient facilities in town, particularly smaller sized pitches. Clubs indicate that they have no choice but to play central venue leagues. (This links back to 2.7 above.) • ALM FC and Bargate Kestrals looking to lease pitches • Aldercar High School used for community use but currently unsecured • Quality of Codnor Recreation Ground, Dobholes Lane and Heanor Miners Welfare Trust. Insufficient maintenance undertaken and facilities poor. Clubs raise significant concerns about pitch quality as well as amount of pitches.
Ripley	<p>Supply is closely matched with demand, echoing the situation in the 2013 PPS and that quality of pitches also remains an issue.</p> <p>For adult football, both sites have spare capacity at peak time and across the week. Youth football is more restricted however, with 2 match equivalents available only and 1 match equivalent at peak time. There is reliance on Ripley Academy as an unsecured venue and no spare capacity would remain if this site was withdrawn and teams would become displaced.</p> <p>This would also be the situation for 9v9 football.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch provision closely matched with demand, despite a lack of overplay in the area • Reliance on Ripley Academy for smaller sized pitches - an unsecured venue. Withdrawal of community use at this site would have significant implications for overall provision and teams would become displaced • Quality issues at all sites in the area with weeds and undulation as well as compaction evident. Athletics track overmarked on grass pitches at school causing trip hazard. Poor drainage on sites • Clubs believe there to be a lack of small sized pitches in the area, forcing teams to play in central venue leagues. (This links back to 2.7

Area	Adequacy of Provision	Issues Identified
		above.)
Western Parishes	No existing supply. AFC Lea Holloway play out of the Borough and are seeking facility nearer to their home.	Exported demand of AFC Lea Holloway against their preference

Key Priorities

2.12 The strategic priorities for addressing the above issues are set out below. The implications for each area are explored in more detail in Section 9. Full evidence of the issues identified (and to support the priorities selected) is provided in the assessment of need.

Ensure that there are enough facilities to meet current and future demand

F1: Maximise the efficiency of pitch provision across the Borough by;

- protecting important football sites;
- reflecting the rural nature of the Borough and dispersed nature of demand, retaining locally important sites (even where they are underused);
- continuing to balance the needs of adult and junior teams through flexible pitch provision that is tailored annually to local need;
- continuing to implement a policy of rest and recovery of adult pitches (linking with F9) to ensure that only pitches that are currently required are marked out. Monies saved from this activity should be ringfenced for pitch improvements and a strategic reserve of pitches should be retained; and
- securing long term community use agreements with schools that are already offering full community access.

F2: Ensure that existing and projected future capacity issues are addressed by;

- supporting clubs to improve maintenance and subsequently improve quality of sites;
- securing community use of additional school sites;
- maximising the use of existing 3g pitch for match play (Belper Leisure Centre); and
- creating at least one new 3g pitch and ensuring that this is used for both training and matches (linking with F3). Opportunities for the creation of further AGPs should be taken where a sound business case and programming model can be demonstrated.

F3: Linking with F2, support the growth and development of football clubs by improving access to training facilities for football clubs across the Borough through the provision of 3g pitches approved for use for both matches and training.

Ensure that facilities are of appropriate quality to meet current and future demand

F4: Seek to provide changing facilities of appropriate quality at all sites accommodating adult football and a minimum standard of toilets and wash facilities at sites for junior and mini football.

- undertake a condition survey audit of ancillary facilities;

- continue to improve facilities on a rolling programme through the capital programme; and
- prioritise sites where quality is poor and usage is high.

F5: Maximise the capacity of pitches and seek to ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality by addressing existing quality issues at key pitch sites. These include;

- pitch maintenance regimes;
- de-compaction;
- drainage;
- pitch surface improvements; and
- improvements to equipment (i.e. goalposts)

F6: Ensure facilities are tailored to the needs of clubs by supporting clubs with specific requirements to, particularly where a lack of appropriate facilities will impact upon club development and / or progression through the FA pyramid. Care should be taken to strike an appropriate balance between recreational and formal playing pitch requirements and where possible, clubs requiring fenced facilities should be located in spaces that do not impinge on public recreational activities.

Promote increased participation and sustainable club development

F7: Regularly review Council pitch booking procedures to ensure that the following policies are retained;

- each pitch can be booked a maximum of twice per week;
- pitches are rested during the season ;
- teams are allocated to ensure even use of pitches, rather than to meet with specific location requests. This is particularly important if the amount of marking out is to be reduced;
- there are consequences for teams that do not follow formal procedures; and
- a joined up service is provided between pitch bookings and those that prepare the pitches.

F8: Establish clear routes of communication with pitch users ensuring that all decisions are taken with a full understanding of needs and aspirations. Maximise channels of communication by establishing formal forums consisting of key clubs and league secretaries.

F9: Retain existing participants and deliver increased participation in line with the national game strategy by developing interventions that seek to;

- retain and supporting the existing affiliated male, female and disability teams;
- boost youth female football;
- increase the number of over 16s playing every week; and
- provide innovative programmes and grants to provide a range of playing opportunities in education, clubs, leagues and other community settings.

This may include;

- promoting links between junior and senior football clubs to facilitate the transition between junior and senior football;
- provide support to existing and new leagues; and
- facilitate development of football across the Borough in a variety of settings.

F10 Support clubs in their growth and sustainability by implementing a policy of asset transfer / management agreements where clubs are able to demonstrate long term development plans and have achieved appropriate accreditations.

Context

Pitch supply

- 3.1 There are 28 cricket grounds across Amber Valley Borough and these pitches are located at 24 sites. The amount of pitches remains consistent with 2013. Further capacity has been developed within the club sector, while a Council venue (Charles Hill Recreation Ground) has closed and a school pitch (David Nieper School) is under reconstruction. There is a strong reliance on the voluntary sector, with most sites managed by clubs.
- 3.2 Five of the cricket facilities are located at school sites. These are all poor quality non turf wickets and none are currently available for community use.
- 3.3 The 2013 SPPS indicated that pitch quality for the remaining cricket sites in the Borough was high, with all sites sufficient to accommodate the standard of cricket that was being played on them. Since the completion of this document, almost all clubs have sought to improve their grounds further and significant investment has been made. The quality of facilities therefore remains good, although some issues remain. Key areas for improvement continue to be drainage and the quality of training facilities.

Demand

- 3.4 Cricket in Amber Valley is thriving both in terms of participation, but also in terms of facility development and partnership working. As in 2013, there are strong foundations in place for senior and junior cricket.
- 3.5 The number of teams has remained broadly static and all clubs in existence in 2013 continue to play today. In total, there are 56 adult cricket teams and 52 junior cricket teams across Amber Valley, with a further 17 teams playing Kwik Cricket. There are also 6 teams playing friendly cricket, a slight decline on the number in 2013. The majority of participants are male.
- 3.6 Since the previous PPS, Last Man Stands, a shorter form of the game run globally as a franchise, now runs in Derby City, with overspill activity taking place at Denby CC. Some clubs within Amber Valley Borough also participate in this activity.
- 3.7 Nationally, there is a strong drive on increasing participation in cricket through the new ECB Strategy Cricket Unleashed. Key priorities include support for clubs, providing opportunities for children through schools and breaking down barriers to access, including the provision of indoor, small sided and new formats of the game. Numerous cricket clubs in Amber Valley Borough have expressed an appetite for continued growth.

Adequacy of Provision

- 3.8 The adequacy of facilities for cricket is measured by comparing the amount of wickets available against the level of use of these wickets across the season, as well as peak time patterns of play. This differs from the methodology used to undertake the 2013 assessment (based on Towards a Level Playing Field) which focused solely on peak day participation using average patterns of play. The assessment is also informed by a detailed consultation programme. This assessment reveals the following:
 - when measuring play across the season, the majority of sites can sustain further play;

- there are five sites that are overplayed - Hurt Arms (Ambergate CC), GB Barrington Playing Fields (Kirk Langley CC) , Langley Mills United (all have small squares), The Field - Shipley Hall CC and South Wingfield CC (both have high levels of use). South Wingfield CC are currently in the process of creating a second ground which is due to open next season;
 - there are no sites receiving no play and only Whitemoor Recreation Ground (an overspill venue) receives limited play; and
 - Alfreton CC, Duffield CC, Belper Amateurs CC and Shipley Hall CC control use of their grass pitches by using non turf wickets for junior play. Non turf wickets are also used for friendlies and Last Man Stands at Denby CC.
- while use of the grass square is managed by some clubs using non turf wickets, several clubs are lacking in training facilities (no non turf wickets or nets or facilities in poor condition) and therefore there is perhaps greater pressures placed on the existing square than initially appears. This is evident at Ambergate CC, Belper Meadows CC, Codnor CC, GB Barrington Playing Fields, Langley Mills CC, Maryfield Ground (Mareshay CC), Riddings CC, Sam Heath Playing Fields (Mugginton CC), South Wingfield CC and Crayshill Park (Swanwick Hall CC). This is particularly critical at sites that are already at capacity taking into account just competitive fixtures (GB Barrington Playing Fields, Langley Mills Cricket Club, South Wingfield CC) as it exacerbates pressures further
 - while across the season there is scope for a small amount of additional play, capacity is much more restricted at peak time. Denby CC and Swanwick Hall CC (Crayshill Park) are the only sites that are able to accommodate an additional team, but there are constraints around the use of the facilities at Denby and in reality their fifth team is already travelling to Whitemoor Recreation Ground. Teams from South Wingfield CC, Mareshay CC, Alfreton CC and Stainsby Hall CC are already displaced. There is no further capacity at Duffield CC, but one slot here is filled by Darley Abbey CC, a team travelling in from outside of the Borough
 - the impact of population growth will be limited, as there is a slight reduction in the number of people in target age groups. This may generate a reduction of 3 adult teams
 - work to increase participation driven through local implementation of the national strategy is therefore most likely to be influential and most likely to result in additional facility demands. Many clubs have growth aspirations and capacity would be insufficient to accommodate these at Codnor CC, Butterly United CC and Ambergate CC. Aspirations of Mugginton CC and Swanwick Hall CC would also cause further displacement. Table 3.1 illustrates the key issues and site specific issues raised in each area of Amber Valley.

Table 3.1: Key Issues for Cricket in each area of Amber Valley

Area	Supply	Demand	Adequacy of Provision	Peak Day Capacity	Quality Issues
Alfreton	4 cricket pitches all at separate sites. Pitch at David Nieper School under reconstruction.	12 senior teams and 7 junior teams, 3 kwik cricket teams. Number has declined since 2013, with junior participation almost halving. Key clubs: Alfreton CC, South Wingfield CC, Swanwick Hall CC and Riddings CC.	<p>Spare capacity across the season fairly limited.</p> <p>Some spare capacity at two fairly small clubs, although both are of lower quality than other grounds in the Borough.</p> <p>South Wingfield CC is currently overplayed, however the club are currently constructing a second ground, which will alleviate this issue when complete.</p> <p>Swanwick Hall, South Wingfield CC and Riddings CC are all however lacking in appropriate non turf and training facilities, which increases the reliance on grass wickets. There is little spare capacity to accommodate this. This is particularly critical at South Wingfield (overplayed) although this will be rectified through the provision of an additional ground.</p>	At peak time, Swanwick Hall CC is the only site with capacity and Alfreton CC are displaced out of the Borough. Alfreton CC have indicated that their preferred second ground would be the Swanwick Hall CC site. Use of this ground would see all clubs meeting baseline demand.	No major quality issues identified - lack of non turf wickets at key sites (see capacity) are key priority.

Area	Supply	Demand	Adequacy of Provision	Peak Day Capacity	Quality Issues
Belper	6 cricket pitches at five sites. Whitemoor Recreation Ground is a public facility that acts as overspill Duffield CC is the only club that has access to two on site pitches. One pitch(non turf) is at Belper School. There is no agreement for use of this site and no known use of the pitch.	8 senior teams and 13 junior teams 4 kwik cricket teams. Proportion of teams slightly lower than may be expected based upon the population and number has declined since 2013. key clubs: Duffield CC, Belper Amateurs CC and Belper Meadows CC.	All three club sites currently have a degree of spare capacity and Duffield CC are currently accommodating a team from outside the Borough at peak time (Darley Abbey CC). Unused capacity is the highest in the Borough (although still relatively low). Whitemoor Recreation Ground is used only as an overspill for Denby CC (Ripley area) who have 3 grounds but cannot always use all three at one time. There is no clear evidence of demand from teams within Belper area. Lack of training facilities at Belper Meadows CC increases use of grass pitches which may impact upon adequacy of provision longer term.	Capacity at Whitemoor Recreation Ground for 0.5 match equivalents. Duffield CC accommodating team from outside Borough.	Provision good overall with only minor issues identified. Other than minor maintenance issues (Duffield CC Fairy Ring) and drainage (Packhorse Ground) key priorities are updating existing sites and enhancing maintenance. Quality of pitch and square at Whitemoor Recreation Ground more limited and reduced ancillary facilities prevents use in many competitions.

Area	Supply	Demand	Adequacy of Provision	Peak Day Capacity	Quality Issues
Heanor	6 pitches, all club bases. The non turf pitch at Heanor Gate School is used for curriculum purposes only currently.	13 senior and 12 junior teams alongside 5 kwik cricket teams. Clubs; Codnor CC, Heanor Town CC, Langley Mill United CC, Shipley Hall CC and Stainsby Hall Cricket Club.	<p>After Belper, unused capacity is the highest in the Borough (although still relatively low). Both Langley Mills United and Shipley Halls CC experience overplay. Added to this, Langley Mills United (which suffers overplay) also has no training / non turf facilities which exacerbates the issue. Codnor CC are also lacking in this provision but have a small degree of spare capacity across the season.</p> <p>Charles Hill Playing Field remains unused. While there is no clear evidence of demand for this site across the season, there is a lack of alternative options for Stainsby Hall CC at peak periods currently. All sites are however key for cricket in the area.</p>	There are no sites with spare capacity at peak time and Stainsby Hall CC travel outside the Borough. Provision is more tightly balanced with supply than appears therefore through theoretical capacity analysis.	<p>Quality of Heanor Town Ground impacted by use for football - cricket sidelined for football and ground is bare in parts with issues for storage and changing. Drainage issues also evident at Langley Mills United.</p> <p>Lack of training facilities evident at some sites and this is a priority, particularly where there is also a lack of capacity (see capacity comments).</p>

Area	Supply	Demand	Adequacy of Provision	Peak Day Capacity	Quality Issues
Ripley	Eight pitches six of which are at club bases, Denby CC has 3 pitches and all sites in the area have one. Two pitches are at school sites - Ripley Academy and John Flamsteed Community School.	16 senior teams, 14 junior teams and 4 kwik cricket teams. Participation has increased. Several large clubs in the area including Denby CC, Ambergate CC and Marehay CC.	Two of the four grounds have spare capacity across the season. There is overplay at Ambergate CC (and team closed due to lack of capacity) and Butterly United CC use facilities at Greenwich Park to the level that can be sustained. Added to quality concerns, Maryfield Ground and Butterly United are also lacking in appropriate non turf and training provision. This is particularly key at Butterly United where grass wickets are already used to the level that they can sustain. Further work is also required to ensure that facilities at Denby CC are functional.	Marehay CC are displaced to Western Parishes (third team) but Denby CC are able to accommodate an additional match at peak time, meaning that supply is able to sustain demand in theory. In practice however, many existing matches from Denby CC are displaced (to Whitemoor Recreation Ground) as third pitch cannot be used alongside 1st pitch and there is no changing accommodation for the third pitch. Peak time capacity is therefore restricted.	All sites in Ripley require drainage improvements (installation and maintenance including earthquaking and vertidrainning. Quality is more compromised in Ripley than in any other area due to drainage. Condition of pitch and changing accommodation at Greenwich Park also requires improvement. Lack of training facilities evident at some sites and this is a priority, particularly where there is also a lack of capacity (see capacity comments).
Western Parishes	Four pitches all located at club sites. Quarndon Cricket Club is the largest club, with two pitches.	7 adult and 6 junior teams along with 1 kwik cricket team. Participation fairly static although smaller clubs in the area have become more sustainable between 2013 and 2017.	Spare capacity is fairly limited, with no site having 2 or more strips available. At Quarndon CC and Mugginton CC supply is sufficient to meet demand while overplay is evident at Kirk Langley due to the small size of the square. Kirk Langley CC have no	There are no teams within the western parishes displaced and indeed, Mugginton CC accommodate a team from elsewhere at peak time indicating that more capacity could be released should demand grow.	All pitches suffer from uneven outfield and some refurbishment works required to pavilions. Lack of training facilities is key priority relating to quality.

Area	Supply	Demand	Adequacy of Provision	Peak Day Capacity	Quality Issues
			<p>training facilities and given the overplay of the current site this is a key priority. There is also a lack of training facilities and non turf wicket at Mugginton CC.</p>		

Key Priorities

3.9 The strategic priorities for addressing the above issues are set out below. Site specific issues and actions leading from these priorities are explored in Section 9 – Action Plan.

Ensure that there are enough facilities to meet current and future demand

C1: Reflecting the pressures on existing club bases across Amber Valley, protect all existing cricket grounds through the inclusion of appropriate planning policy. Any cricket grounds that are lost to development should be replaced, in conjunction with the club.

There are currently no grounds that are not required to meet current or future demand, but this should be regularly reviewed as part of the strategy monitoring process.

C2: Although there has been some success in delivering additional capacity for key clubs, the pitch stock remains constrained. In partnership with the Derbyshire Cricket Board, ensure that the amount of cricket facilities available does not impact on the opportunities to grow participation. Many clubs are nearing capacity and there is evidence of displacement, particularly on a Saturday afternoon. New facilities for use by these clubs should be sought through;

- the ongoing development of relationships between larger and smaller clubs. This has already proved successful in the Borough, with many larger clubs using facilities owned by smaller clubs;
- the provision of a new satellite ground for clubs at capacity where this represents a sustainable option for growth;
- the development of school club links and the establishment of a relationship between schools and cricket clubs. Facilities could be developed at school sites and used by the cricket club as the club expands. Note improvements to the quality of facilities are likely to also be required (in line with recommendation (C3); and
- linking with C5, building capacity and enhancing sustainability by adding a non turf wicket to existing squares and considering the provision of non turf wickets as an alternative to grass where this is the most sustainable option (for example on a public recreation ground).

C3: Secure the use of school facilities currently used to support community cricket. The challenges in achieving this are recognised, however guidance provided by Sport England <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/> will help to maximise opportunities.

Ensure that the quality of facilities is sufficient to meet current and future demand

C4: Recognising the high levels of demand that are evident and the need for pitches to sustain high levels of use, work in partnership with the Derbyshire Cricket to support clubs in improving the quality of pitches, and in accessing funding through the ECB Grant and interest free loan schemes. Key areas for improvement relate to;

- grounds maintenance skills – qualifications and education, as well membership of the Institute of Groundsmen. Clubs should be sufficiently skilled to manage and maintain their own facilities;
- appropriate machinery;
- changing pavilions;
- equipment; and
- drainage.

Any improvements undertaken should seek to ensure that facilities are in line with ECB standards as well as meeting specifications for the Derbyshire Cricket League.

C5: Support cricket clubs in the development of training nets and non-turf wickets to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance. This might include;

- the provision of non turf wickets (linking with C2) to support training as well as competitive play;
- the provision of outdoor cricket nets at all club bases with a variety of teams; and
- an additional indoor cricket venue.

Promote increases in participation and the creation of sustainable clubs

C6: Support the sustainable growth of cricket and clubs in the Borough by promoting communication between all of those involved in cricket through the continuation of the cricket development forum. Clubs should be encouraged to join and share good practice and the forum should support accurate forward planning for all clubs. Amber Valley Borough Council should also attend the forum in order to fully understand the challenges faced and aspirations of clubs in the Borough.

C7: Linking with the National Strategy, Cricket Unleashed, support the introduction of development initiatives to increase participation in cricket. This may include;

- support for clubs and leagues in line with the national strategy;
- providing more opportunities for children to play through schools;
- initiatives to break down barriers to access - including indoor, small sided and new formats of the game;
- promoting best practice and sustainability;
- supporting and recognising the roles of volunteers and staff within the game; and
- supporting talent development pathways in cricket.

C8 Support clubs in their growth and sustainability by implementing a policy of asset transfer / management agreements where clubs are able to demonstrate long term development plans and have achieved appropriate accreditations.

Context

Pitch supply

Rugby Union

- 4.1 There are 7 sites containing 9 rugby union pitches in Amber Valley. This is a similar level of pitch provision as in 2013, although the composition of facilities has changed slightly. The pitch at David Nieper School has now closed while construction work takes place, while works at the Police HQ site have been completed and the rugby pitch is now open, although it is not available to the community. The rugby pitch at Heanor Gate School no longer exists as a formal pitch, having been transformed into several rugby training squares.
- 4.2 Two of the sites containing rugby pitches are club bases - At Amber Valley Rugby Club and Belper Rugby Club. Both sites contain two pitches each and quality issues are identified at each. Both sites demonstrate evidence of compaction and a need for aeration. As well as maintenance, this is also influenced by drainage issues. There is also evidence of heavy usage and wear and tear at both sites, particularly those areas that are floodlit and used for training. Clubhouses and pavilions would also benefit from refurbishment.

Rugby League

- 4.3 There are no dedicated rugby league facilities.

Demand

Rugby Union

- 4.4 There are only two rugby clubs in Amber Valley Borough, namely Amber Valley Rugby Club and Belper Rugby Club. This represents a decline from 2013, when there were three clubs. The Ripley Rhinos folded at the end of the 2015 season because of a dwindling number of members. They previously played at Ripley Academy and there was only one pitch which was not in good condition and had no room for expansion. It was thought that this contributed towards the club's downfall.
- 4.5 In contrast, both Amber Valley Rugby Club and Belper Rugby Club have maintained and / or increased their membership over the recent years. Amber Valley RUFC have developed a junior section and both clubs now have female members. This growth may in part be attributed to the collapse of Ripley Rhinos RUFC.
- 4.6 A key target of the RFU is to increase the number of state schools playing rugby union. School participation in rugby is currently progressing well within Amber Valley, especially within the junior age groups where several tag rugby events have been hosted at Belper Rugby Club.
- 4.7 Increasing activity at a schools level is likely to have a knock on demand to membership within the clubs. Amber Valley RUFC is engaged with the RFU 'All Schools Programme' which seeks to ensure players transition from playing at school to the local rugby club i.e. Amber Valley RFC.
- 4.8 Belper Rugby Club are linked into the targeted work programme known as Broadening Reach Schools. The club has benefited last year with support through the RFU's targeted work programme 'Holding on Club' which assists with resources to support the transition of players from youth to adult levels. Belper Rugby Club directly engage with schools

with a view to growing membership, and have actively promoted through the School Sports Partnership, running primary and secondary school tag competitions as well as senior coaches delivering rugby training sessions directly into secondary schools.

Rugby League

- 4.9 There are no rugby league teams in Amber Valley and no plans to introduce rugby league into Amber Valley in the near future, meaning that there are no facility requirements for this sport at the current time.

RFU National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2017)

- 4.10 Effective and efficient facilities are seen as a key component of achieving growth in rugby. The strategy indicates that the key priorities of the RFU in relation to rugby clubs are as follows;

- increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child- friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club;
- improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches (including maintenance);
- improve the quality and quantity of floodlighting; and
- increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development outcomes.

- 4.11 The document indicates that investment in the following will also be prioritised;

- social, community and catering facilities, that can support diversification and the generation of additional revenues;
- facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs; and
- pitch equipment, including quality rugby posts and pads.

Adequacy of Provision

- 4.12 The adequacy of pitch provision for rugby is measured through the use of match equivalents. The ability of the pitch stock to service both training needs and competitive requirements is taken into account. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both;

- the adequacy of pitch provision over the course of a week; and
- capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.

- 4.13 Evidence collated reveals that;

- there is no community use of any of the school sites by rugby clubs – all of these facilities just accommodate curricular use. This means that there are two pitches that are available but not used. Taking into account the impact of curricular use, spare capacity at school sites is therefore equivalent to 2 match equivalents. While the pitch at Ripley Academy is available at weekends, there are no longer any clubs in Ripley and therefore limited demand this site. The facility at Swanwick Hall School could be of benefit to Amber Valley RUFC who are based in Alfreton, but this pitch is not available at weekends and is not floodlit and therefore has little role to play during the winter weeks

- there is no remaining spare capacity at Belper RUFC; even just taking into account the use of pitches for matches (-1.75). One pitch is also used for training (2.5 match equivalents) meaning that pitch in particular is heavily overplayed. Capacity at this site is however influenced significantly by the limited maintenance that is undertaken (M0/D1) and the drainage issues experienced. Improving maintenance to standard would see small shortfalls in provision remain, while a good maintenance programme would see supply match demand (assuming that midi play takes place off the main pitches). The club have recently secured a lease for additional land to create further pitches, which would spread the impact of play a little
- at Amber Valley RUFC, there is also no remaining spare capacity, with pitches overplayed (1.25 match equivalents) even just taking into account match play. Training takes place on a side area meaning that the main pitches are not subjected to further wear and tear, but if this was to take place on the pitches, overplay would increase more. As is the situation for Belper Rugby Club, maintenance at this site is however influenced significantly by the limited maintenance that is undertaken (M0/D1) and the drainage issues experienced. Improving maintenance to standard would see small shortfalls in provision remain, while a good maintenance programme would see supply match demand (assuming that midi play takes place off the main pitches). All training takes place in a small floodlit area off the pitches and so this does not impact pitches further. This part of the site however demonstrates heavy wear and tear and the training area is perceived to be insufficient to accommodate the needs of the club
- for both clubs, the limited capacity at their club bases is compounded by the challenges faced with drainage and compaction of pitches. Both Amber Valley RFC and Belper RFC are currently part of the Local Rugby Partnership that is involved with a proposed AGP at Derby RFC. Either of both clubs may therefore look to secure access to this facility for training from September. If training slots were secured, this would reduce levels of usage on the respective grass pitch sites and therefore the requirement for further provision
- strong maintenance is required to offset these issues, and maintenance at both sites is limited at the current time. The number of teams run by each club means that in order for all activity to be accommodated on two pitches, a good maintenance schedule (giving capacity of at least 3 match equivalents per week) is required. For each club, scenario testing indicates that three to four pitches would ensure that growth aspirations could be accommodated
- while population change is likely to have only limited impact on demand for rugby, both clubs have aspirations for further growth, and it is clear that these cannot be accommodated within existing structures.

Rugby League

- 4.14 There is no existing participation in rugby league and no evidence of demand for the sport in the district. Any club should seek to develop and grow in partnership with an existing rugby union club, benefiting from the infrastructure and tenure.

Key Priorities

- 4.15 The key priorities for rugby are set out overleaf. The implications for pitch provision in each area are discussed in Section 8.

Ensure that there are enough facilities to meet current and future demand

R1: Ensure that all rugby union clubs have secured access to sufficient pitches and ancillary facilities to meet current and projected requirements. All existing club bases should be protected and any loss of sites should result in replacement facilities.

R2: Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate training facilities. The adequacy of training facilities at each club site should be monitored.

Ensure that facilities are of sufficient quality to meet current and future demand

R3: Support clubs in the improvement of quality of existing club facilities. This may include;

- maintenance improvements;
- pitch and site improvement works; and
- improvement to existing pavilions.

Promote increases in participation and the creation of sustainable clubs

R4: Facilitate increases in participation in rugby through the existing club structure and improvement of links with potential participants.

Context

Pitch supply

- 5.1 Hockey is now almost exclusively played on Artificial Grass Pitches. Artificial pitches that are suitable for hockey include water based, sand filled, sand dressed and short pile. Both of the two full sized pitches in Amber Valley are suitable for hockey (Belper Meadows is water based, Ripley Academy is sand based).

Demand

- 5.2 There two hockey clubs playing in Amber Valley;
- Belper Hockey Club – based at Belper Meadows; and
 - Amber Valley Hornets Hockey Club – based at Ripley Academy

Adequacy of Existing Provision

- 5.3 Analysis of the adequacy of the current supply to meet demand, drawing upon consultation, as well as calculations and scenario testing reveals the following;
- both hockey clubs are dissatisfied with the current levels of provision in Amber Valley for hockey. Concerns are raised in relation to access to facilities both for training and matches. The quality of facilities is also highlighted as problematic
 - modelling demonstrates that there is spare capacity at sites that are suitable for hockey across the week, although the spare capacity during the week is in timeslots that are generally undesirable. Indeed some training for Belper Hockey Club is carried out in Derby due to a lack of available space at Belper Meadows Sports Club
 - England Hockey indicates that an AGP should be considered able to sustain a maximum of four games per day at peak time. Based on this, there is scope to increase the amount of play at Ripley Academy, while the pitch at Belper is oversubscribed. The quality of the pitch at Ripley Academy means that Belper Hockey Club deem the site unsuitable to use and the club are travelling outside of the Borough to play instead. The total requirement to meet all peak time demand for hockey in Amber Valley is 2 pitches
 - across both sand based and 3g pitches, the Sport England Facility Planning Model supports the need for an additional AGP within the Borough. While 82% of demand is currently met, existing sites are at capacity. Further analysis however indicates that any new facility should be a 3g pitch and not a sand based pitch, which is suitable for hockey. Any further hockey pitches in the Borough would therefore be justifiable on the basis of club development requirements only. While England Hockey wish to support the growth of both clubs, the importance of sustainability is highlighted and it is vital to ensure that there will be sufficient use of pitches prior to the creation of new / refurbishment of existing facilities
 - while changes to the population profile of the Borough are likely to mean that increasing numbers of residents are likely only to negate the decline in the proportion of residents in age groups most likely to play hockey, other schemes designed to increase participation in hockey may generate demand for further facilities in the longer term

- the existing facility stock is already insufficient to adequately accommodate demand, with the equivalent of two good quality facilities required (only one of the existing two pitches is good). Any increases in participation will therefore create further pressure
- if two good quality pitches were provided this would be sufficient to accommodate current and projected growth - two pitches could accommodate an additional 1.5 matches (3 teams) at peak times over and above current requirements, which is within the targeted growth levels of Belper Hockey Club
- the England Hockey Facility Strategy sets criteria for hockey clubs and provides a clear rationale to determine where multi pitch sites should be placed. Belper Hockey Club do not meet these target levels currently, however longer term there may be potential to do so if their growth aspirations can be achieved.

Key Priorities

5.4 The key priorities for the future delivery of hockey across the Borough are set out below.

Ensure that there are enough facilities to meet current and future demand

H1: Ensure that existing strategically important facilities for hockey in Amber Valley are protected for hockey usage and retained as water based / sand pitches.

H2: Maintain ongoing dialogue with clubs relating to the capacity of existing facilities. Successful achievement of recommendation H4 may see the requirement for an additional sand based AGP in the Borough in the longer term.

Ensure that facilities are of sufficient quality to meet current and future demand

H3: Ensure that the quality of AGPs is sufficient to sustain the required levels of hockey by working with providers to ensure timely refurbishment of facilities (including both pitches and clubhouses) and promote the use of sinking funds.

Promote increases in participation and the creation of sustainable clubs

H4: Support increases in participation in hockey through the existing club structure through both the introduction of new forms of the game (Rush Hockey and Back to Hockey) and improvement of links with potential participants to address latent demand.

6: Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Introduction

- 6.1 Sections 2-5 outline the context for each sport and the key future priorities across Amber Valley, drawing upon supply and demand modelling, consultation and site visits. The full assessment of issues identified, modelling and evaluation of options using site specific modelling is set out under separate cover (assessment report).
- 6.2 While to date and for clarity, each sport has been considered separately within this strategy, recommendations should be implemented strategically, considering opportunities for partnerships between sports. There are some good examples of sustainable clubs and multi sport partnerships already and these provide foundations for a successful future delivery model. It will be essential to ensure that good practice and insight from these successful ventures is spread across the Borough through knowledge sharing and effective training and guidance.
- 6.3 In addition to proactive improvement of pitches, this also relates to the allocation of S106 / CIL funding, which should consider the strategic need for playing fields.
- 6.4 To support the implementation of the key priorities and recommendations, Table 6.1 sets out an action plan for delivery of the recommendations listed in Sections 2-5. It briefly summarises the recommendation, identifies the sites that should be considered for the delivery of the recommendation (where appropriate) and provides an indication of the timeframe and the lead responsibility.
- 6.5 Table 6.2 provides an outline of the sites in the Borough and the action required at each.

Table 6.1: Action Plan

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
C1	Cricket	<p>Reflecting the pressures on existing club bases across Amber Valley, protect all existing cricket grounds through the inclusion of appropriate planning policy. Any cricket grounds that are lost to development should be replaced, in conjunction with the club.</p> <p>There are currently no grounds that are not required to meet current or future demand, but this should be regularly reviewed as part of the strategy monitoring process.</p>	<p>Capacity analysis suggests supply and demand remains closely balanced and all club bases are well used and should be protected.</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate policy requiring the protection of cricket pitches is included within emerging local plan.</p>	Short Term	AVBC
			<p>There are questions surrounding the future of some cricket grounds in the Borough. These include;</p> <p>Heanor Town Ground - valuable for cricket - scope to sustain additional play but at capacity at peak time. Ground should be included under C1 as protected site. If this ground was lost for cricket however, there is no capacity within the remaining facility stock in Heanor (or wider in Amber Valley) to accommodate Heanor Town CC.</p>	<p>Work with Heanor Town CC to ensure ongoing security for the cricket club. If the existing site is no longer available for cricket, support the club in finding a new ground and ensure that all possible options are reviewed. This may include building a relationship with Heanor Gate School / developing Charles Hill Recreation Ground, or an alternative (Lockton Avenue may provide a potential). A new site should be provided before cricket is no longer played on the existing site.</p>	Short Term	AVBC / Club
			<p>Charles Hill - site not currently used for cricket but limited capacity in the stock of pitches in Amber Valley means that the site may be required to address identified capacity issues. Site to be retained until capacity issues are addressed and requirement for long term retention monitored as part of next strategy.</p>	<p>Review requirement for Charles Hill Sports Ground to retained for cricket once capacity issues have been addressed (See C2).</p>	Long Term	AVBC

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
C2	Cricket	<p>Although there has been some success in delivering additional capacity for key clubs, the pitch stock remains constrained. In partnership with the Derbyshire Cricket Board, ensure that the amount of cricket facilities available does not impact on the opportunities to grow participation. Many clubs are nearing capacity and there is evidence of displacement, particularly on a Saturday afternoon. New facilities for use by these clubs should be sought through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ongoing development of relationships between larger and smaller clubs. This has already proved successful in the Borough, with many larger clubs using facilities owned by 	<p>Clubs with capacity issues and requiring access to second grounds;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Wingfield CC - Alfreton CC Marehay Stainsby Hall CC Shipley Hall CC 	<p>Work with clubs to establish appropriate second grounds including identification of location, building of relationships and developing agreements where appropriate. It should be noted that use of the facilities of smaller clubs by larger clubs is important for the sustainability of smaller clubs and should therefore be considered as a first alternative rather than the last.</p> <p>Key actions and potential solutions for each of the capacity issues addressed are outlined as follows;</p>	Medium Term	Club / DCC / AVBC
			<p>Clubs needing additional capacity on their home ground;</p> <p>Shipley Hall CC, Kirk Langley CC, Langley Mill United CC, Ambergate CC and Butterly United CC</p>	<p>Support final works to second ground for South Wingfield CC which are already ongoing (and scheduled for completion for season 2017).</p>	Short Term	Club / DCC / AVBC
			<p>Work with the ECB to explore opportunities to install non turf wickets on key sites across the Borough. Opportunities should be explored in the context of the issues identified in this strategy document and the other actions identified below. Non turf wickets could be used as second grounds for clubs with an identified shortage of provision as well as to promote more informal cricket across the Borough. The installation of non turf wickets is currently a key priority of the ECB.</p>	Short Term		
			<p>Alfreton CC - support club to build short term relationship with Swanwick Hall CC who have spare capacity at peak time. Longer term, build relationship between club and David Nieper School (where cricket facilities are planned on site). Work with the school and the club to ensure that these facilities are of sufficient quality</p>	Short Term	Club / DCC / AVBC	

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>smaller clubs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the provision of a new satellite ground) for clubs at capacity where this represents a sustainable option for growth; and the development of school club links and the establishment of a relationship between schools and cricket clubs. Facilities could be developed at school sites and used by the cricket club as the club expands. Note improvements to the quality of facilities are likely to also be required (in line with recommendation (C3) linking with C5, building capacity and enhancing sustainability by adding a non turf wicket to existing squares and 		<p>standard. In the event that the use of the pitch at David Nieper School is not viable, review opportunities at the club base and / or potential to use other sites linking with opportunities for non turf wickets (above action).</p>		
				<p>Support Marehay CC in evaluating the potential to provide a second pitch at their current home ground. There is also scope for Charles Hill Recreation Ground to provide this overspill venue (if not used in C1). The creation of a partnership with Ripley Academy should also be considered. Charles Hill could also be considered as a potential second ground for Shipley Hall CC (potentially linking with ECB non turf initiative).</p>	Medium Term	Club / DCC / AVBC
				<p>Work with Kirk Langley CC, Langley Mill United, Ambergate CC and Butterley United CC to install non turf wickets to provide further capacity on the square, as well as to improve training facilities (C4).</p>		No organisation listed?

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		considering the provision of non turf wickets as an alternative to grass where this is the most sustainable option (for example on a public recreation ground).				
C3	Cricket	Secure the use of school facilities currently used to support community cricket. The challenges in achieving this are recognised, however guidance provided by Sport England https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/ will help to maximise opportunities.	David Nieper School Heanor Gate School Ripley Academy	Negotiate with school to secure formal use of the cricket facilities, linking with C2 above. This should include building relationships between clubs and schools.	Short - Medium Term	DCC / AVBC / Clubs
				Work with schools and clubs to support improvement to school cricket facilities where a relationship with a club with capacity issues can be established and where existing facilities are of insufficient quality to meet with required standards for local leagues.	Short Term / Medium Term	DCC / AVBC / Clubs
C4	Cricket	Recognising the high levels of demand that are evident and the need for pitches to sustain high levels of use, work in partnership with the Derbyshire Cricket to support clubs in improving the quality of	Grounds maintenance skills – all. 50% of clubs are now members of the Institute of Groundsmen and this trend should continue. It will be essential to ensure that training and development is a continuous process – to ensure that succession planning occurs and that skills are spread across the	Continue Work with IOG to provide a programme of training on grounds maintenance issues. Promote and encourage attendance at training for clubs across the Borough.	Ongoing	DCC / AVBC
				Support pitch improvements where there is evidence of need and provide support and guidance in relation to the submission of external funding bids.	Ongoing	AVBC / DCC / Club

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>pitches, and in accessing funding through the ECB Grant and interest free loan schemes. Key areas for improvement relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grounds maintenance skills – qualifications and education, as well membership of the Institute of Groundsmen. Clubs should be sufficiently skilled to manage and maintain their own facilities; • appropriate machinery • changing pavilions • equipment • drainage. <p>Any improvements undertaken should seek to ensure that facilities are in line with ECB standards as well as meeting specifications for the Derbyshire Cricket</p>	<p>club.</p> <p>Cricket facilities are heavily used and the quality of facilities is important. Key priorities are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement pavilion for Duffield CC • Ongoing importance of membership of IOG • Drainage improvements - Belper Meadows CC, Belper Amateurs CC, Langley Mill United CC, Marehay CC, Ambergate CC, Denby CC • Maintenance issues - Duffield CC (Fairy Ring), Belper Amateurs CC, Whitemoor Recreation Ground (weeds), Greenwich Park (condition of ground), Mugginton CC (machinery) • Pavilion - Kirk Langley CC, Butterley United CC, Belper Amateurs CC, South Wingfield CC, Heanor CC, Quarndon CC <p>Quality issues - Whitemoor Recreation Ground (levelling), Shipley Hall CC, Heanor CC</p>			

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		League.	(outfield condition, balance between football and cricket)			
C5	Cricket	<p>Support cricket clubs in the development of training nets and non turf wickets to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance. This might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the provision of non turf wickets (linking with C2) to support training as well as competitive play; the provision of outdoor cricket nets at all club bases with a variety of teams an additional indoor cricket venue. 	<p>Lack of (or lack of appropriate) practice facilities has been raised as key concern for many clubs relating to both nets and non turf wickets. As outlined in C2, appropriate non turf facilities can also be used to address capacity issues. Key priorities are:</p> <p>To help address capacity issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shiplely Hall CC - high level of use. May also benefit from second ground to reduce play on existing ground as none turf wickets are already used. GB Barrington Kirk Langley (overplay due to small square). Non turf wicket would provide extra capacity Langley Mill United (overplay due to small square). Improvements to non turf wicket would provide extra capacity Hurt Arms Ambergate - overplay. Growth aspirations cannot be met. Non turf 	Work with clubs to provide appropriate training facilities where there is evidence of need. This may include the provision of support and guidance in relation to the submission of external funding bids.	Ongoing	DCC / AVBC

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
			<p>wicket improvements would provide extra capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenwich Park - growth aspirations cannot be accommodated. May benefit from refurbished non turf wicket • Codnor CC - to ensure growth aspirations could be accommodated <p>To provide / improve training facilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wingfield CC (refurbishment of non turf and nets) • Swanwick Hall CC (nets and non turf wicket) • Belper Meadows CC (non turf wicket, refurbishment of nets) • Riddings CC - (repair to non turf wicket) • Heanor CC - (non turf wicket) • Stainsby Hall CC - (non turf wicket) • Marehay CC - (non turf 			

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
			<p>wicket, refurbishment of nets)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirk Langley CC (non turf wicket) • Mugginton CC (non turf wicket and nets) 			
C6	Cricket	Support the sustainable growth of cricket and clubs in the Borough by promoting communication between all of those involved in cricket through the continuation of the cricket development forum. Clubs should be encouraged to join and share good practice and the forum should support accurate forward planning for all clubs.	N/A – Boroughwide.	Continue the Amber Valley Cricket Development Forum.	Ongoing	Amber Valley Cricket Development Forum / DCB
				Continue to use this group as a key support mechanism for the delivery of priorities of this strategy document.	Ongoing	Amber Valley Cricket Development Forum/ DCB
C7	Cricket	Linking with the National Strategy, Cricket Unleashed, support the introduction of development initiatives to increase participation in cricket. This may include;	<p>All cricket clubs. In particular, target increases in participation at smaller clubs in order to ensure that clubs remain sustainable.</p> <p>In particular, schools with a potential to provide cricket facilities and develop links with a</p>	<p>Support clubs in providing a range of activities to encourage new players to the game as well as to retain existing members. This should include the introduction of new initiatives for women and girls as well as implementation of the All Stars Scheme and ongoing participation in Chance to Shine.</p> <p>Heanor is a particular priority for encouraging junior participation due to the lack of junior</p>	Ongoing	ECB/ DCC / Clubs

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for clubs and leagues in line with the national strategy Providing more opportunities for children to play through schools Initiatives to break down barriers to access - including indoor, small sided and new formats of the game Promoting best practice and sustainability Supporting and recognising the roles of volunteers and staff within the game Supporting talent development pathways in cricket. 	club should be targeted.	<p>cricket activity within the town.</p> <p>Work with the DCC to support the introduction of new and informal forms of the game. This may include the supply of appropriate facilities.</p> <p>Support clubs in the training of coaches and guidance on running a club sustainably through the ongoing discussions held by the Amber Valley Cricket Development Forum (see C6).</p>		
					Ongoing	DCC / Clubs
					Ongoing	DCC / Clubs
C8	Cricket	Support clubs in their growth and sustainability by implementing a policy of asset transfer / management agreements where clubs are able to demonstrate long term development plans and have	<p>Clubs demonstrating an ability to manage their own facilities.</p> <p>Clubs with issues relating to tenure include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heanor Town CC Belper Meadows CC 	<p>Work with clubs to secure long term leases / management agreements for clubs who demonstrate that they would benefit from the award of such a lease and provide ongoing support in their development.</p> <p>Educate clubs on the prerequisites to be considered for asset transfer through club forums and knowledge transfer.</p>	Ongoing	AVBC

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		achieved appropriate accreditations.		Support clubs in the renegotiation of existing leases where required to ensure the ongoing availability of appropriate facilities for cricket.	Ongoing	AVBC / DCC
H1	Hockey	Ensure that existing strategically important facilities for hockey in Amber Valley are protected for hockey usage and retained as water based / sand pitches.	<p>Belper Meadows Sports Club - important site that should be protected for hockey uses.</p> <p>Ripley Academy is also currently used for hockey. This pitch is however poor and with Belper HC travelling to Derby to play, there is no clear strategic rationale for the retention of the pitch based solely on the needs of hockey as usage is too low.</p> <p>While there is no strategic rationale for retention of the sand based pitch at Ripley Academy for hockey use, the importance of the site to the existing clubs means that the retention of the pitch would be supported if a business case can be made.</p>	Work with Belper Meadows Hockey Club to ensure that the existing water based pitch at the site is protected and retained.	Ongoing	AVBC / England Hockey AVBC / England Hockey
				Work with Belper HC on pitch programming and business modelling to ensure that hockey access to the facility is maximised.	Short Term	England Hockey / Belper HC
				In the event of the loss of the pitch at Ripley Academy for hockey (through either quality deterioration or the conversion of the site to 3g) work with Amber Valley Hornets to secure access to an appropriate alternative site.	Ongoing	England Hockey
H2	Hockey	Maintain ongoing dialogue with clubs relating to the capacity of existing facilities in the context of growth aspirations. Successful achievement of recommendation H4 may see the requirement	Belper Hockey Club is currently at capacity at peak time and some teams are already displaced to Derby for both training and matches. There is a club development rationale for new facilities, but a second pitch is unlikely to be sustainable based	Linking with H4, monitor activity at Belper Hockey Club. The National Facilities Strategy provides guidance on the club size and structure required to justify a second pitch and these should be monitored as Belper HC grows. Successful growth in participation at the club base may see sufficient membership to justify the provision of a second pitch.	Ongoing	EH / Club / AVBC EH / Club / AVBC

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		for an additional sand based AGP in the Borough in the longer term.	upon current activity.	Work with clubs to produce development plans in order to ensure ongoing understanding of current and potential future requirements.	Ongoing	
H3	Hockey	Ensure that the quality of AGPs is sufficient to sustain the required levels of hockey by working with providers to ensure timely refurbishment of facilities, installation of clubhouses and promote the use of sinking funds.	Belper Meadows Sports Club.	<p>Work with providers to ensure that a sinking fund is in place for the refurbishment of existing facilities. Ongoing improvements will be needed to ensure that the site remains fit for purpose.</p> <p>Provide support and guidance in relation to the submission of external funding bids. This may include refurbishment of pitches / club houses etc. Discussions are already underway at the club as to the improvements required to ancillary facilities.</p>		EH / AVBC EH / AVBC
H4	Hockey	Support increases in participation in hockey through the existing club structure through both the introduction of new forms of the game (Rush Hockey and Back to Hockey) and improvement of links with potential participants to address latent demand.	Boroughwide. Led through key clubs – Belper Hockey Club and Amber Valley Hornets	<p>Work with Belper Hockey Club to increase developmental hockey activity during the week and outside peak times, as well as to continue to increase the number of playing club members.</p> <p>Work with clubs to produce development plans in order to ensure ongoing understanding of current and potential future requirements</p>	Ongoing	EH / Club EH / Club

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
R1	Rugby	Ensure that all rugby union clubs have secured access to sufficient pitches and ancillary facilities to meet current and projected requirements. All existing club bases should be protected and any loss of sites should result in replacement facilities.	Amber Valley Rugby Club - site currently over capacity. At least 3 pitches required to meet current and projected future need alongside appropriate ancillary facilities.	Support Amber Valley RUFC in the relocation of their facility. Any new site should include at least three pitches and should meet NGB design standards. Targets should be set for the development of participation in rugby following the relocation.	Short Term	RFU / AVBC / Club
			If relocation is not achieved for Amber Valley Rugby Club, improvement to the quality of existing facilities will be required (see R3) and an additional pitch will be needed on the site to ensure that demand is met.	If relocation is not achieved, work with Amber Valley Rugby Club to extend the existing playing facilities to provide a third pitch. It is likely that requirements will include levelling works and pitch layout.	Medium Term (if above is not achieved)	RFU / AVBC / Club
	Belper RUFC - calculations demonstrate that provision at the club is at capacity. The club hold a lease for the adjacent site although works will be required to ensure that facilities can be used for rugby. Works will include levelling and clearing. Initial focus should however be on maintenance improvements at Belper as this is the key factor currently influencing and limiting capacity.		Linking with R3, support Club in review of maintenance programme and implementation of new procedures. This may include support on machinery and equipment required.	Short Term	RFU / Club	
			Work with club to provide a minimum of one additional grass pitch on site (using neighbouring land already leased by the club). This is likely to include levelling and pitch layout works. New facilities should meet with appropriate design specifications.	Medium - Long Term	RFU / Club	
R2	Rugby	Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate training facilities. The adequacy of training facilities at each club site should be monitored	Belper Rugby Club Amber Valley Rugby Club For both clubs, the heavy use caused by limited capacity is compounded by the use of one	Linking with R1, ensure that appropriate facilities are provided to support both training and match play for rugby clubs. This is likely to include floodlights on a second pitch at each site. Such decisions should however be considered in	Medium - Long Term	RFU / AVBC / Club

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
			pitch / area for training as it is the only floodlit area. Longer term, floodlights should be considered on second pitches to spread the impact of play.	the context of events at Derby RFC, where a 3g pitch is currently under consideration. If this pitch is built, one or both clubs may secure access to training slots at this site, reducing the requirement for floodlighting at their home ground.		
R3	Rugby	<p>Support clubs in the improvement of quality of existing club facilities. This may include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance improvements Pitch and site improvement works Improvement to existing pavilions. 	<p>Belper RUFC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance programme review is a priority - the current rating of M0/D1 means that capacity is restricted by the maintenance programme. <p>To ensure pitch quality enables the desired level and quality of play to be sustained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline repairs are needed to security and perimeter fencing Aeration to improve surface quality Reinstatement of old pavilion 	<p>Support Club in review of maintenance programme and implementation of new procedures. This may include support on machinery and equipment required.</p> <p>Provide support and guidance in relation to other required improvements. This may include guidance on the submission of external funding bids.</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term and Ongoing</p>	<p>RFU</p> <p>RFU and AVBC</p>
			<p>Amber Valley Rugby Club - condition currently poor. Pitches are currently compacted, training area heavily mudded and pavilion condition poor.</p>	<p>Support Amber Valley Rugby Club in relocation. This should include ensuring that new facilities are compliant with appropriate NGB design guidance.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>RFU / AVBC/Club</p>
				<p>Work with Amber Valley Rugby Club to ensure that appropriate maintenance techniques are implemented at any new ground. This should include a review of the machinery and</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>RFU / AVBC/Club</p>

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
				<p>equipment available and required.</p> <p>If relocation for AVBC is not delivered, improvements will be required to existing site. These should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the maintenance procedures and practices • Decompaction and drainage works • Renovation of pavilion. 	Medium Term	RFU / AVBC/Club
R4	Rugby	Facilitate increases in participation in rugby through the existing club structure and improvement of links with potential participants.	Amber Valley Rugby Club Belper Rugby Club	<p>Work to maintain strong ongoing relationship between clubs and RFU with a view to retaining existing players and attracting new ones. Both rugby clubs work closely with RFU and are part of schemes to increase participation including;</p> <p>Belper RUFC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening Reach Schools • Holding on Club (support transition from junior to adult membership). <p>Amber Valley RUFC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFU All Schools programme. 	Ongoing	RFU / Clubs
F1	Football	Maximise the efficiency of pitch provision across the Borough by;	Strategically important sites – listed in Table 9.2	Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable football pitches. The list of strategically important sites should be reviewed and updated as part of monitoring procedures for this strategy document, ensuring that it	Short Term	AVBC

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting existing valuable grass pitches through the planning system Continuing to balance the needs of adult and junior teams through flexible pitch provision that is tailored annually to local need. Continuing to implement a policy of rest and recovery of adult pitches (linking with F9) to ensure that only pitches that are required are marked out. Monies saved from this activity should be ringfenced for pitch improvements and a strategic reserve of pitches should be retained Securing long term community use agreements with schools currently 		remains relevant.		
				Following receipt of club requirements, review AVBC pitch stock in advance of each season to better tailor pitch stock to teams that wish to use it. Work with local leagues to agree facility requirements and to explore opportunities to maximise the use of available resources (this may include staggered kick offs etc).	Ongoing	AVBC
				Retain a strategic reserve of pitches to enable rest and rotation in the event of quality issues and other concerns. Table 9.2 outlines sites with potential to be rested.	Ongoing	AVBC
			Key School Sites; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swanwick Hall School Ripley Academy Aldercar High School 	Work with schools to secure long term community access agreements that offer stability for clubs and ensure access to pitches and changing accommodation of appropriate quality.	Short Term and ongoing	AVBC / DCC / DFA / Sport England

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		offering community use:				
F2		Ensure that existing and projected future capacity issues are addressed by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVBC • Parish Councils • Local Clubs • Schools 	Work with key providers to evaluate existing maintenance practices and provide guidance on potential improvements. This should include regular review of Council grounds maintenance procedures.	Short Term and ongoing	DFA
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting providers to improve maintenance and subsequently improve quality of sites 	Support clubs in applying to access FA machinery grants in order to maximise the quality of maintenance undertaken.	DFA		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing community use of additional school sites • Maximising use of existing / former sites • Maximising the use of existing 3g pitch for match play (Belper Leisure Centre) • Creating at least one new 3g pitch and ensuring that this is used for both training and matches (linking with F3). Opportunities for the 	<p>Some school sites in the Borough offer significant potential, with several pitches available that are currently unused by the community. Key school sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (David Nieper School when built • Ecclesbourne School to support provision in Duffield and offset issues at Eyes Meadow • Discussions should also be held with Heanor Gate School and Belper School and Sixth Form (both indicate not currently interested)). 	Secure the use of school facilities that have potential to address current and future capacity issues. The challenges in achieving this are recognised, however guidance provided by Sport England https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/ will help to maximise opportunities. Improvement to school facilities (in line with F7) may also likely to be required if this policy is to be successful.		AVBC

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		creation of further AGPs should be taken where a sound business case and programming model can be demonstrated.	There is scope to increase provision at Manor Recreation Ground in Belper, and also opportunity for the creation of a small football hub at Charles Hill.	Work with clubs to review opportunities to increase the number of football pitches that are available in response to demand. Opportunities should be considered in the context of requirements for cricket.	Medium Term	AVBC
			Belper Leisure Centre	Work with Belper Leisure Centre, clubs and local leagues with a view to increasing use of the pitch for match play. Discussions have already taken place with a local league and this should be encouraged to continue. This pitch offers a potentially important resource for clubs in the area.	Short Term	DFA / Belper Leisure Centre
			Priority area for new AGP - Heanor (due to lack of existing facilities and more limited access to provision). Ripley is also identified as an area that may benefit from further provision. AGPs may also address other capacity issues identified.	Work with the DFA to identify an appropriate location for at least one new 3g AGP. This should include detailed business modelling and financial viability testing.	Short Term	AVBC / DFA
		F3	Linking with F2, support the growth and development of football clubs by improving access to training facilities for football clubs across the Borough through the provision of 3g pitches approved for use for both matches	Other potential sites; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alfreton Town FC (small scale 3g training facility) ADASC (small scale 3g training facility) Holbrook Sports 	Support the provision of a new 3g AGP in Heanor. Targets for development and participation increases should be set. Support applications to provide a small all weather surface and provide support and guidance in relation to the submission of external funding bids. Targets for development and participation increases should be set.	Short Term Medium Term

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		and training.				
F4		Seek to provide changing facilities of appropriate quality at all sites accommodating adult football and a minimum standard of toilets and wash facilities at sites for junior and mini football.	Thornton Recreation Ground – well used site without any appropriate facilities.	Provide a minimum of toilets and wash facilities at Thornton Recreation Ground to support the use of the facilities.	Short Term	Club
			Holbrook Welfare - poor quality changing accommodation only just meeting league requirements.	Support club in creation of new facilities through support in applications for external funding and planning.	Short Term	AVBC / DFA
			Alfreton Welfare, Heanor Miners Welfare / Watchorn also lacking in appropriate facilities.	Work with clubs and football development forum to regularly review need for changing accommodation at other sites.	Ongoing	AVBC
F5		<p>Maximise the capacity of pitches and seek to ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality by addressing existing quality issues at key pitch sites. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch maintenance regimes. • De-compaction. • Drainage. • Pitch surface improvements. • Improvements to 	<p>Boroughwide - All providers but key priorities are;</p> <p>Pitch maintenance - sites at or approaching capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heanor Town, Holbrook St Michaels, Holbrook Welfare, Sleetmoor Lane and Eyes Meadow. Kilburn Miners Welfare • Review of Council maintenance procedures (line marking / grass cutting etc) in particular Crayshill Park • Sites with maintenance issues - Ironville (thatching), Crayshill Park (weeds) Riddings Park (weeds), Swanwick Welfare 	<p>Linking with F2, Regularly review grounds maintenance contracts to ensure specification is achieving required outputs and that pitches are at the standard required. Specification may change once pitch requirements have changed (not all pitches may be required each season) and improvements have been made and it should be ensured that this is taken into account. It is essential that maintenance regimes are maintained and improved if longer term deterioration of the pitches is not to take place.</p> <p>Support clubs in applying to access FA machinery grants in order to maximise the quality of maintenance undertaken.</p>	Ongoing	AVBC / DFA

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		equipment (i.e. goalposts).	<p>(weeds), Eyes Meadow (weeds), Manor Recreation Area (weeds), Greenwich Park (weeds), Thomas William (weeds), ADASC, Codnor Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codnor Recreation Ground (increased attention required) 			
			Clubs eligible for Pitch Improvement Programme	Work with clubs to establish works required (using action points below as basis) and provide support in application to FA pitch improvement programme.	Short Term	Ongoing
			<p>Decompaction:</p> <p>Alton Manor, Eyes Meadow, Holbrook St Michaels, Holbrook Welfare, Heanor Town, Dobholes Lane, Lockton Avenue, Sleetmore Lane (ADASC), Riddings Park, Watchorn, Codnor Sports.</p>	Support Providers in undertaking decompaction work at key sites	Short Term	DFA, AVBC and all providers
			<p>Address identified drainage issues at existing pitches focusing firstly on sites where improvements will have maximum impact and where cancellations have been abundant due to drainage issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heanor Miners Welfare, Thomas William, ADASC, Eyes Meadow, Greenwich Park. 	Investigate the potential to install drainage into these sites in order to improve the capacity of the pitches and ensure that they are able to sustain at least two matches per week without the requirement to remove pitches from consideration.	Medium Term	DFA, AVBC and all providers

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
			<p>Surface of pitches arose as a key issue for clubs (in some instances linked to compaction). Key priorities for improvement include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crayshill Park, • ADASC, • Watchorn, • Alton Manor Recreation Ground, • Eyes Meadow, • Holbrook St Michaels, • Aldercar Recreation Ground, Dobholes Lane, • Ripley Academy 	Support improvements to pitches where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or support for clubs to gain external grants.	Medium Term	DFA, AVBC and all providers
			<p>Goalposts considered to be in poor condition include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alton Manor Rec, • Ironville, • Alton Manor Recreation Ground, Eyes Meadow, • Manor Recreation Area, • Aldercar Recreation Ground • Greenwich Park 	<p>Undertake a review of equipment provided at key sites, focusing particularly on goalposts.</p> <p>Replace equipment at sites where it is dangerous immediately and ensure that the quality of equipment is monitored continually.</p>	Short Term and ongoing	AVBC and all providers
F6		Ensure facilities are tailored to the requirements of clubs, particularly where a lack of appropriate facilities will impact upon club development and / or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belper United - currently displaced • Belper Town - spectator area • ADASC - seeking promotion and will require pitch improvements to reach step 7 (barriers / floodlights) 	Support clubs in applications to improve their facilities (on the assumption that impact on recreational areas is minimised). Targets for development and participation increases should be set.	Ongoing	DFA / AVBC

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		progression through the FA pyramid. Care should be taken to ensure that an appropriate balance between recreation and formal playing pitch requirements and where possible, clubs requiring fenced facilities should be located in spaces that do not impinge on public recreational activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holbrook Sports - pavilion 			
F7		<p>Regularly review Council pitch booking procedures to ensure that the following policies are retained;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each pitch can be booked a maximum of twice per week Pitches are rested during the season Teams are allocated to ensure even use of pitches, rather than to meet with specific location requests. This is particularly important if the amount of marking out is to be reduced There are 	Boroughwide	Review pitch booking procedures and address any issues raised.	Ongoing	AVBC

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>consequences for teams that do not follow formal procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A joined up service is provided between pitch bookings and those that prepare the pitches. 				
F8		<p>Establish clear routes of communication with pitch users ensuring that all decisions are taken with a full understanding of needs and aspirations. Maximise channels of communication by establishing formal forums consisting of key clubs and league secretaries.</p>	<p>Boroughwide</p> <p>Should include key clubs in each area and a sample of grass roots senior football teams.</p> <p>Work undertaken in the period 2013 / 2017 suggests that these forums may be best split into areas to maximise productivity and relevance.</p>	<p>Establish a football forum to include all key partners. As well as facilities, these forums should consider football development and roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined, both between AVBC / the Derbyshire County FA / Clubs and between clubs.</p> <p>Set targets for the football development forum to achieve and monitor progress and challenges arising.</p>	Short Term	AVBC / DFA
F9		<p>Retain existing participants and deliver increased participation in line with the national game strategy by developing interventions that seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and support the existing affiliated male, female and disability teams. Boost youth female 	Boroughwide	This should be led through the football forum	Short Term / Ongoing	DFA plus all partners

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>football.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of over 16s playing every week. • Provide innovative programmes and grants to provide a range of playing opportunities in education, clubs, leagues and other community settings. <p>This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting links between junior and senior football clubs to facilitate the transition between junior and senior football. • Provide support to existing and new leagues. <p>Facilitate development of football across the Borough in a variety of settings.</p>				
F10		Support clubs in their growth and sustainability by implementing a policy of asset transfer /	Clubs demonstrating an ability to manage their own facilities. Interested clubs include ALM FC.	Provide long term leases / management agreements to clubs who demonstrate that they would benefit from the award of such a lease and provide ongoing support in their	Ongoing	AVBC

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs (and justification where appropriate)	Action (and justification where appropriate)	Timescales	Responsibilities
		management agreements where clubs are able to demonstrate long term development plans and have achieved appropriate accreditations.	There is also a need to address ongoing issues with clubs playing at the Town Ground, Heanor.	development. Educate clubs on the prerequisites to be considered for asset transfer through club forums and knowledge transfer. Suitability is currently assessed against an established set of criteria and this should be shared with potential interested clubs.		
				Work with clubs using the Town Ground, Heanor, to establish a site action plan for both cricket and football.	Short Term	AVBC / DFA / ECB / Club

Table 6.2: Headline actions by Site

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
ADASC - Sleetmore Lane	Football	Heavily used site accommodating large club. Would benefit from decompaction and drainage works, as well as improvements to maintenance regime. Pitch surface also poor. Club seeking promotion to Step 7 leagues and further upgrades would be needed if this was to be achieved - including barriers, floodlights etc. Seek to reorganise site better accommodate younger teams.	Protect and improve
Aldercar High School	Football hockey	Key site for community use - ensure that long term community access is negotiated.	Protect, improve? and negotiate long term access
Aldercar Recreation Ground	Football	Site receives some fairly limited use for football but interest in use of site from some clubs. Requires surface improvements and new goalposts.	Protect and improve
Alfreton Cricket Club	Cricket	Important site for cricket. Club at capacity and requiring second ground - relationship to be investigated with David Nieper School as well as on site provision at club base.	Protect, provide second ground. Investigate relationship with school
Alfreton Welfare Park	Football	Ad hoc use for football and lack of changing facilities. Scope to improve .	Protect and improve
Alton Manor Recreation Ground	Football	Important site for football - retain. Requires decompaction works, surface improvements and change to goalposts.	Protect and improve/enhance

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Amber Valley Rugby Club	Rugby	Existing site poor quality. Decompaction works, pavilion and improvements to maintenance regime required. Club currently seeking relocation to new facility to address the above issues. Existing two pitch site overcapacity and a minimum of 3 pitches is required to meet demand. Heavy use of training pitch.	Protect existing site unless replacement site (at least 3 pitches) is provided. Any new site should meet quality design criteria for both pitches and pavilion. If relocation is unsuccessful, quality improvements needed at existing site. Longer term, second floodlit pitch may be needed to spread the impact of training.
Ambergate Cricket Club	Cricket	Important cricket facility, at capacity and requires non turf wicket to support additional play. Club also requires drainage improvements.	Protect, enhance.
Bargate Rec	Football	Not available this season due to lack of demand. Potential for rest and recovery.	Rest and Recovery programme. No demand identified currently or overall requirement for pitch sports use over this strategy period.
Belper Hockey Club	Hockey	Important strategic hockey venue. Heavily used and currently good quality. May benefit from reprogramming to maximise access for hockey club midweek and to ensure that extensive football usage is not damaging the pitch. Improved changing facilities needed.	Protect, enhance.
Belper Meadows Cricket Club	Cricket	Important venue for cricket, Requires improvement to training facilities and investment into drainage.	Protect and enhance
Strutts Playing Field (Belper Rugby Club)	Rugby	Existing site poor quality. Decompaction works, pavilion and improvements to maintenance regime required. Existing two pitch site overcapacity and a minimum of 3 pitches is required to meet demand. Capacity currently however constrained by limited maintenance regime. Heavy use of training pitch.	Protect existing site. Improve quality of site through maintenance enhancements as well as decompaction and pavilion works. Longer term, provide third pitch by levelling land on adjacent site. Monitor need for second floodlit pitch to spread the impact of training.
Belper School and Sixth Form Centre	Football, cricket, rugby	Potential to secure community use. No existing use of grass pitches and site located in an area where there are pressures on the existing pitch stock.	Protect and negotiate community access
Belper Town FC	Football	Important site for high level football. Requires improved spectator fencing. Has planning permission for small sided 3g training pitch.	Protect and enhance
Charles Hill Playing Fields	Football and cricket	Potential investment opportunity to provide higher quality multi site football pitch and AGP. Partnership between AFC Loscoe and Heanor Juniors. Cricket facility that is currently unused. No clear immediate role for site but offers	Protect and review role of site for cricket as part of next strategy review. Opportunities for football should also be evaluated.

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
		potential solution for many capacity issues identified and should be retained until these are addressed. Role should be re-evaluated as part of next strategy review.	
Codnor Welfare	Miners Football, cricket.	Important site for football - retain. Requires improvement to drainage and decompaction works. Also valuable site for cricket. Non turf wicket required to support training and competitive play.	Protect and enhance
Codnor Rec	Football	Important second site for Codnor Boys. Suffers from poor maintenance.	Protect and enhance. Has S106 monies from Coppice Farm planning permission to deliver.
Crays Hill Park	Cricket and football	Important site for cricket and football. Cricket has some capacity and links with other clubs should be encouraged. Improved training facilities required. Also requires maintenance issues to be addressed and would benefit from surface levelling.	Protect, enhance
David Academy	Nieper Temporarily Closed	Site currently closed but anticipated to reopen following redevelopment of school. Potentially important site for football and cricket. Cricket facility currently under construction - former pitch to be re-provided as part of planning condition. Potential to link with club to function as community venue.	Protect, enhance and negotiate long term access
Denby Cricket Club	Cricket	Proactive cricket club. Drainage issues require improvement.	Protect, enhance
Denby Institute	Football	Not available for football this season. No clear evidence of demand for this football pitch at current time but potential longer term requirements due to location in small village.	Protect. Rest and Recovery programme
DobHoles Lane, Smalley	Football	Important local site for small local club but limited use and some quality concerns (decompaction work and levelling required).	Protect and improve
Eyes Meadow Playing Fields	Football and Cricket	Important site for both football and cricket. Changing rooms are key priorities. Replacement pavilion for Duffield key priority. Heavy use of facilities, some issues with fairy ring on cricket site. Pitch surface, posts and decompaction works also required.	Protect and improve
GB Barrington Playing Fields - Kirk Langley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club at capacity due to small size of wicket. Non turf wicket required to support training and competitive play. Pavilion requires improvement. Site formerly accommodated football pitch. No current requirement for use for football.	Protect. Enhance
Greenwich Park	Cricket, Football	Important club base for cricket. Non turf wicket required to create additional capacity for match play as well as training due to small size of square. Pavilion requires improvement. Site also important club base for football - requires maintenance improvements, drainage issues resolving and new goalposts for health and safety purposes.	Protect, enhance

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Hammersmith Recreation Ground	Football	Not available this season due to lack of demand. Potential for rest and recovery.	Rest and Recovery programme. No demand identified currently or overall requirement for pitch sports use over this strategy period.
Heanor Gate Science College	Football, cricket	Longer term potential to secure use. Site may offer opportunity to accommodate cricket club if existing non turf wicket was refurbished and relationship built with club. Also offers potential to increase football supply in Heanor.	Protect. Secure long term community use. Enhance
Heanor Welfare Miners	Football	Important venue for key club. Drainage issues and lack of appropriate ancillary facilities means would benefit from upgrade.	Protect and improve
Heanor Town Sports Ground	Football, cricket	Important site for football and cricket. Very heavily used. Required to accommodate both sports unless alternative provision can be found. Site quality suffers due to use for both football and cricket and pavilion is poor. Concerns over longevity of provision for both sports at this site. Any loss of cricket from this site should see replacement elsewhere at a facility meeting key quality criteria for Heanor Town CC. Site also would also benefit from pitch maintenance improvements and decompaction works.	Protect, address tenure issues, enhance
Holbrook St Michaels	Football	Important site for Holbrook St Michaels FC. Site at capacity and heavily used. Would benefit from improved maintenance programme to increase capacity as well as surface levelling and decompaction works.	Protect and enhance
Holbrook Welfare - Shaw Lane, Holbrook Miners	Football	Heavily used site functioning at capacity. Pavilion of limited quality and becoming unsuitable for level team play at. Would benefit from increased maintenance to increase capacity, but also decompaction works.	Protect and improve
Impact Arena	Football	Alfreton Town FC	Protect
Ironville	Football	Football site currently used, but issues with quality (thatching). Poor condition of goalposts	Protect and enhance
John Flamsteed Community School	Football, Cricket	Potential for community use longer term	Protect and negotiate community access

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Kilburn Welfare Miners	Football	Well used football venue. At capacity and would benefit from enhanced maintenance programme to increase site capacity.	Protect and improve
Langley Mill Cricket Club	Cricket	Concerns about drainage. Club at capacity due to small square and would benefit from none turf wicket for both training and match play.	Protect, enhance drainage and provide non turf training facility.
Lea Conference Centre Green	Football	Former cricket pitch. No existing requirement to reinstate. Site also used to accommodate football pitch but recent closure has seen team displaced.	Protect
Lichfield Group	Disused	No clear evidence of demand.	No currently identified requirement for pitch sports use over this strategy period, but has been enquiry about potential use since 2013. .
Lockton Ave	Football	Important site for football with potential to improve. Requires decompaction works. Potential site for cricket provision to meet new demand.	Protect and improve s106 monies secured to deliver.
Loscoe Welfare Miners	Disused	Potential to function as a satellite facility to Charles Hill or other facilities in Heanor. Pressures on pitches in Heanor mean that the facility should be retained until issues in the area are addressed.	Protect S106
Manor Rec	Football	Scope to increase the usage of the site and potential for additional pitches. Poor condition of goal posts means that they require replacing and site also has some maintenance issues.	Protect and enhance
Marehay Cricket Club (The Mary Field)	Cricket	Large cricket club at capacity. Provision of second ground at site to be reviewed.	Protect. Review opportunities for second ground
Milford	Football	Not available this season due to lack of demand. Potential for rest and recovery.	Rest and Recovery programme. No demand identified currently or overall requirement for pitch sports use over this strategy period.
Mugginton Cricket Club	Cricket	Important venue for overspill cricket, as well as club base. Requires training facilities and improved maintenance equipment to maintain standards.	Protect, enhance, provide
Pit Lane Football Field, Shipley	Football	Not available for football this season. No clear evidence of demand for this football pitch at current time but potential longer term requirements due to location in small village.	Protect. Rest and Recovery programme
Quarndon Cricket Club	Cricket	Important club base.	Protect and enhance?
Riddings Park	Football, cricket	Scope to increase the usage of the site. Requires decompaction works and improved maintenance programme (issues with weeds).	Protect, enhance

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
		Important site for cricket hosting club. Repairs required to non turf wicket.	
Ripley Academy	Cricket, hockey, Football	Important community use venue and vital for football activity. Potential for site to be used for cricket. Would require quality improvements. Sand based AGP in poor condition currently used for hockey. Facility benefits local club and should be retained if opportunity arises, any change of surface should be appraised in conjunction with both the FA and EH.	Protect. Negotiate formal long term access for site.
Shiple Hall Cricket Club	Cricket	Club nearing capacity. Quality improvements required to outfield. Access to additional ground may be required longer term.	Protect and enhance
Sitwell Recreation Ground, Church Lane, Woodhouse		Not currently available for use due to lack of demand.	Rest and Recovery programme. No currently identified requirement for pitch sports use over this strategy period.
Smedleys Sports Ground	Football	Not currently available for use due to lack of demand.	Rest and Recovery programme. No currently identified requirement for pitch sports use over this strategy period, but..?.
Somelea Park Community Centre	Football	Small sized sand based pitch - important for football training with limited available capacity.	Protect.
South Wingfield Cricket Club	Cricket	Club nearing capacity. Second ground currently under construction on site. Training nets and non turf wicket require refurbishment.	Protect, provide and enhance
Stainsby Hall Cricket Club	Cricket	Club at capacity and require access to second facility. Training facilities also require improvement.	Protect. Provide, enhance
Swanwick Hall School	Football /Cricket	Key site for community use - ensure that long term community access is negotiated.	Protect and negotiate long term access
Swanwick Pentrich Road FC	Football	Important site for community football. Well used.	Protect
Swanwick Welfare	Football	Currently underused. Larger site however offers greater potential, but requires quality improvements (weedkilling). Potential that site could become poor and see a reduction in capacity if improvements are not made.	Protect and improve
The Ecclesbourne School	Football, cricket,	Site currently offers small sized AGP. Potential key site for community use with scope to increase access through use of grass pitches.	Protect and negotiate full community access

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
The Packhorse Ground - Belper Amateurs CC	Cricket	Important site for club requiring drainage and pavilion improvements as well as further investment into maintenance.	Protect and enhance
Thomas William	Football	Drainage concerns but potentially important site. One of the more frequently used sites.	Protect and improve
Thornton Playing Fields	Football	Well used site functioning as satellite facility for Belper Clubs. Ancillary facilities required.	Protect and improve
Watchorn	Football	Some spare capacity and requires decompaction works. Poor condition of pitch surface.	Protect and improve
Whitemoor Rec	Cricket, Football,	Important playing fields for cricket and football. Currently functions as overspill for cricket only but greater role to play next season. Some maintenance issues (weeds) and requires levelling.	Protect, enhance

Planning Issues

- 6.6 As well as supporting and guiding proactive improvements to sports facilities across Amber Valley, this Sports Playing Pitch Strategy and the associated evidence base provides evidence to guide and support policies within the Local Development Plan,. Specifically, this strategy will provide an evidence base for the new Amber Valley Local Plan and will also guide requirements for new and improved provision as a result of housing growth.
- 6.7 Planning policy will be a key means of delivering many of the recommendations set out in this section and it is essential that the key principles of this strategy are embraced within emerging policy.
- 6.8 This sub section considers the implications of the strategy for planning specifically in relation to;
- protection and disposal of playing fields; and
 - impact of new developments

Protection and Disposal of Playing Fields

- 6.9 Analysis set out earlier in this strategy indicates that while there are enough pitches overall in the Borough, there are some pitches that are not up to the standards that are required and some additional capacity is needed for specific clubs. Building on recommendations from 2013, the action plan recommends a series of activities to address capacity issues and to re-establish an effective network of pitches, including;
- negotiation of formal access agreements to school sites;
 - improvements to pitch quality and maintenance procedures;
 - potential reinstatement of some currently disused pitch sites; and
 - the provision of additional 3g pitches and some further facilities for cricket.
- 6.10 While the stock of facilities is primarily sufficient, there remain some issues that need to be addressed and as a consequence, the site specific table (6.2) indicates that existing playing field sites should be afforded protection within specific policies in the Amber Valley Local Plan. Pitches should be protected unless it can be proven through local needs analysis (and interpretation of this strategy) that facilities are not required and that qualitative improvements would be of greater local value. The action plan highlights pitches that are part of the rest and recovery programme and those that are not anticipated to play an active role in pitch provision over this strategy period.
- 6.11 There is a need to ensure that policies are flexible and that decisions relating to pitch provision are made in the best interests of both the local community and in sporting activity in the Borough. This is particularly important when considering the replacement of one or more single pitch sites with a large multi pitch venue.
- 6.12 Sites should not be considered for disposal where they;
- currently provide more than three pitches;
 - offer the potential to provide more than three pitches;

- are identified as valuable sites within this strategy; and
 - provide an opportunity to meet an identified priority of the strategy.
- 6.13 The loss of any pitches should result in proceeds being reinvested into qualitative improvements and this should be required by policy.

Impact of population growth

- 6.14 The population growth that is forecast in and around Amber Valley will play a significant role in negating the impact of the ageing population in terms of demand for playing pitches. This means that ensuring appropriate contributions from new developments will be essential if the facility stock is to continue to meet local need.
- 6.15 The key priorities for the delivery of playing pitches are set out in Tables 6.1 and 6.2. Table 6.1 summarises the actions that are required to ensure that provision meets current and future requirements in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility, while Table 6.2 outlines the action needed at each site.
- 6.16 While on the whole there is sufficient provision across the Borough currently, the ageing population profile means that without population growth (and assuming that participation rates in each age group remain constant), total participation would actually decline.
- 6.17 Strategic housing growth will generate additional participation and an increased requirement for playing pitches. Increased use of playing pitches also places greater importance on the quality and capacity of existing pitches.
- 6.18 The NPPF does not advocate the expression of needs in the form of local standards (meaning that those that were included in the 2013 Strategy Document are not required), but instead advises that specific evidence of the need for provision should be provided alongside clarity of what provision is required. The most recent Sport England guidance and advice indicates that local authorities should;
1. develop and maintain a robust and up to date evidence base for sporting provision;
 2. use the evidence base to;
 - estimate the nature and level of needs that may be generated from new development(s) for sporting provision; and
 - establish clear deliverable actions (with associated costs) that have the potential to help meet the needs that will be generated from new development in the area;
 3. based on the nature of the actions, the level of new development in an area, and the realistic ability to secure investment into sport through CIL or planning obligations, decide how best to use the CIL and planning obligations alongside one another to deliver sporting infrastructure and to support development.
 4. where CIL is in place ensure that any sporting provision to be placed on the Reg 123 list is;

- project specific so it does not unnecessarily restrict the use of planning obligations;
 - focused on high level priority projects of a strategic nature that CIL has potential to deliver rather than a long list of projects that CIL will never be able to fund. This will allow the potential for other projects to be funded by planning obligations; and
 - backed by strong high level officer and political support within the LA so that there is some confidence that CIL funds will be directed to the sporting provision.
5. Where CIL is not in place, or where the wording of a Reg 123 allows for the use of planning obligations, ensure that;
- any obligations sought are based on a tailored approach to each development, using the robust evidence base to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met;
 - a proactive approach is taken to planning for the use of planning obligations in the context of the current pooling restrictions (i.e. as far as is practical matching contributions to specific projects) ; and
 - a Planning Obligations SPD or Development Contributions Protocol is devised that ensures S106/CIL contributions are underpinned by evidence relating to potential projects from a playing pitch strategy or sports facility strategy that could help meet the need arising from planned developments in a Local Plan.
- 6.19 This Playing Pitch Strategy outlines the facilities that are needed and the works that are required to ensure that provision continues to meet current and projected future need. Planning obligations should be based upon an understanding of;
- the type of facility needs generated by the development - this should be a local judgement depending, in part, on the population profile of the proposed development;
 - quantified need for facility types - Sport England indicate that although the population of a single development (eg a small site) may not in itself generate the needs for a full facility, it will still generate additional demand which should be quantified and met; and
 - whether the need for the identified facility types can be met by existing facilities.
- 6.20 To support local authorities, Sport England has developed a draft Playing Pitch Calculator which can be used to indicate how much demand will be created by a proposed development and the cost associated with this. The use of this facility calculator is only possible in conjunction with an up to date playing pitch strategy (which this document is) as it relies upon information development as part of the assessment process. Use of the calculator is through contact with the Sport England Planning Manager and ongoing consultation therefore represents a key action of this strategy document.

6.21 The Sports Facility calculator is reliant on the Team Generation Rates calculated as part of the Playing Pitch Assessment (which identify how many people in each age group it takes to make one team). For ease of reference, these are set out in Table 6.3 below;

Table 6.3: Team Generation Rates

Sport and Age Groups	Current TGR
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	396
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	7262
Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	80
Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	1298
Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	44
Football 9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	169
Football Mini Soccer 5v5 and 7v7 (mixed)	63
Cricket Open Age Mens (18-55yrs)	531
Cricket Open Age Womens (18-55yrs)	29982
Cricket Junior Boys (7-17yrs)	109
Cricket Junior Girls (7-17yrs)	0
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	2696
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	9794
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	701
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	697
Rugby League Primary Mixed (7-11yrs)	0
Senior Men (16-55yrs)	3062
Senior Women (16-55yrs)	5240
Junior Boys (11-15yrs)	485
Junior Girls (11-15yrs)	1067

6.22 It should be noted that in almost all instances, the amount of participation generated by each new development is likely be insufficient to require complete pitches or to justify the creation of only one or two further pitches. In the majority of instances, there are already significant pitches available to accommodate this demand and investment should therefore be directed towards improvements of quality of existing pitches instead. Where new pitch provision is required, the principles of the strategy should be adhered to (and single pitch sites for example should be avoided).

Ensuring the Quality of Pitches

6.23 When determining the required quality of pitches, it is important to consider;

- the standard of play at the site and expectations of users (including league requirements);
- the demand on the site (the number of games played per week);
- the need to facilitate concurrent usage by young people, women and other;

- target groups through appropriate ancillary facilities; and
- facility specifications from National Governing Body (NGB) strategies.

6.24 Reflecting this, there are several factors integral to the successful delivery of a network of high sports facilities, stating that;

'Quality depends on two things: the needs and expectations of users, on the one hand, and design, management and maintenance on the other'.

6.25 To ensure a high quality playing experience, all pitches in Amber Valley should be;

- of a high standard of maintenance, enabling the pitch to be played at least twice per week without detrimental impact and ensuring that sites are clean and attractive facilities;
- have adequate changing facilities that:
 - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes;
 - which fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act;
 - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort; and
 - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines.
- managed community access;
- easily accessible by public transport and by car;
- supported by sufficient car parking;
- of a size that ensures pitches and run offs must meet NGB specification;
- located in a no flood zone;
- supported by security of tenure (at least 10 years) if a club is to be based at the site; and
- for rugby clubs in particular, supported by floodlit training facilities.

6.26 Sport England provides detailed guidance on the design of facilities and changing accommodation as follows;

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

6.27 and this, alongside specific guidance from relevant Governing Bodies of Sport (The FA / ECB / RFU and England Hockey) will be used as guidance for both new facilities and improvements to existing sites.

6.28 All new sites within the Borough and any modifications to existing facilities should be undertaken in line with this guidance.

Implications for Planning

6.29 P1: Planning policy should protect existing playing fields from development but should offer a flexible approach where developments would be of benefit to sport. This may include the reinvestment of funds generated from the loss of a playing field into qualitative improvements to nearby sites.

- 6.30 P2: Incorporate the key findings of this assessment and strategy into the local plan and ensure that these documents are considered material at any planning stage. The action plan for this document should be continually updated and the plan should refer to the most recent version of this.
- 6.31 P3: To take into account the impact of new population growth on the demand for playing fields and the location of this demand, planning policies should ensure that contributions towards pitch sports are gained from all new developments. Amber Valley Borough Council should work with Sport England to develop an agreed approach, using the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator as a starting point.

Monitoring and Review

- 6.32 The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document. This is evidenced by the changes made in this document relative to the original 2013 Strategy. To keep the strategy alive it is therefore proposed that;
- the outcomes achieved from site / club specific investment will be monitored against targets established at the outset of the project;
 - changes to the pitch stock in the Borough both qualitative and quantitative will be monitored and recorded annually;
 - an annual review of participation will be undertaken with support from National Governing Bodies, to identify any key changes to participation trends in the Borough, and the likely implications of these changes for the strategy;
 - a working group meets quarterly to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery, identify additional priorities and draw on the data collated as part of the above two actions to ensure the strategy remains relevant and current;
 - all proposals involving changes to pitch provision will be considered by a small working group consisting of representatives of different departments Amber Valley Borough and National Governing Bodies, with links to the development forums to be established (or retained) as part of this strategy; and
 - the amount of funding for pitches or provision of additional pitches delivered in association with new development is monitored through the Planning Divisions AMR (Annual Monitoring Report).
- 6.33 It is proposed that a periodical full refresh of the strategy will be undertaken every three-five years.

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