

# Mansfield District Council

## Final Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plans

January 2016



**Mansfield**  
District Council



*Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:  
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA139AH  
A limited company, registered in  
England and Wales no. 616528*

# Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 1
Methods	Page 3
Context	Page 5
Summary of sport specific issues and needs	Page 13
Lapsed Sites (currently disused sites)	Page 24
Action Plans	Page 26
Implementation	Page 74

# Introduction

- 1.1 These Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plans draw upon the issues identified within the Mansfield District Council Playing Pitch Assessment Report, which evaluated the adequacy of provision for football, cricket, rugby union and rugby league, hockey, tennis, bowls and athletics across the district. The action plans set out the priorities for the delivery of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches in the district up to 2025.

## Key Drivers

- 1.1 The action plans (and the assessment report, which supports this action plan document) seeks to support Mansfield District and its partners in attaining its vision for outdoor sports, specifically;

“Mansfield will be an area where;

- accessible, affordable and high quality opportunities are provided for all ages and abilities to experience and adopt a sporting habit for life;
- outdoor sport is recognised and makes its contribution to addressing health inequalities and supporting people to live longer through healthier lifestyles, encouraging active lifestyles through participation in sport and tackling obesity.;
- outdoor sport contributes positively to the image and economy of the area, raising the profile as a sports friendly district; and
- sports facilities are well maintained and managed and are viable and sustainable.”

- 1.2 To achieve the strategic vision, the plans therefore seek to deliver the following objectives;

- to ensure that the amount of pitches is sufficient to meet current and projected future need;
- to provide facilities of appropriate quality;
- to support increasing participation in the pitch sports and sustainable club development; and
- to consider the rationalisation of sports pitches where appropriate to facilitate higher quality, viable and accessible facilities.

- 1.3 To do this, it is essential that provision for each sport continues to evolve and improve to meet with changing needs and aspirations. This assessment and strategy will therefore guide the delivery of facilities for the relevant sports across Mansfield district for the next ten years. Ongoing monitoring and review will be essential to ensure that action plans remain up to date and reflective of current and projected need.

# Methodology

- 1.4 This strategy and action plans have been developed in line with guidance set out in 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy' (Sport England 2013).
- 1.5 The priorities have been established through the preparation of a full evidence based assessment which included extensive consultation and analysis. Please see the Mansfield District Playing Pitch Assessment (2015) for more information on how the assessment was carried out, who was consulted and detailed site and sport analysis information.
- 1.6 The key phases of the methodology and the consultation and engagement with key partners is summarised in the diagram below;

**Figure: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach**



1.7 The playing pitch assessment and related actions have been informed through consultation with local clubs, schools, key Mansfield District Council officers and members from planning, parks and leisure, and national and county sports bodies including:

- The Football Association
- Nottinghamshire Football Associations
- English Cricket Board
- Nottinghamshire Cricket Board
- Rugby Union
- National Lawn Tennis Association
- England Athletics (Midlands and Southwest)
- Sport Nottinghamshire
- England Hockey
- Rugby Football League and
- Bowls England.
- UK Athletics

- 1.8 In addition to the achievement of specific objectives relating to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, the strategy and action plans contribute to the delivery of many other national, regional and local strategic targets as follows.

## **National Level**

- 1.9 At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this document:

**The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation are set out in paragraphs 73 and 74 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application.

**Sport England** has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This assessment will support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches across the district.

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

- The Football Association – The National Facilities Strategy (2013 - 2015)
- Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)
- The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013 - 2017)

- Community Rugby League Facilities Strategy (2011)
- The National Hockey Facility Strategy – The Right Facilities in the Right Places (2012)
- British Tennis Strategic Plan (2015 - 2018) and
- UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-19)

1.10 The action plans build upon the priorities set out in these national documents and seeks to implement them in Mansfield District.

### **Local Context**

1.11 More locally in Mansfield District, the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key documents. These include;

- The emerging Mansfield District Local Plan (2013- 2033) and related supporting evidence documents such as a community open space assessment.
- Mansfield District Corporate Plan (2016 -2019)
- Emerging Mansfield District Parks and Greenspaces Strategy.

1.12 The preparation of this playing pitch assessment will contribute directly to the national and local policy agenda, providing foundations for the Mansfield District Local Development Plan, in particular site allocations and policies. The provision of an effective network of sports facilities will also contribute to the objectives of the Mansfield District Corporate Plan.

1.13 Several contextual issues must also be taken into account when evaluating current and projected future need across the district. These are;

- Access to community sports facilities is generally good for most people living within the greater Mansfield urban area. These are located within a mixture of public parks, school, college and academy playing fields, and private sports complexes or premises. However, there are areas in the district in which residents lack nearby access (5 minute walk) to public parks which may impact on those people taking up physical activity such as sport. The effective access to a range of sports provision (facilities and playing pitches) for the more rural communities in Warsop Parish is generally more challenging due to limited access to facilities nearby. Residents in the Warsop Parish are more likely to access facilities closer to their home and Market Warsop rather than travelling to sites located in the Mansfield sub-area.



- The district has been heavily influenced by its industrial past, with coal mining and textiles thriving until their decline in the 1980's. Residents are proud of the district's industrial and textile past but also share a need to look positively to the future. Most former mining sites (e.g. collieries, quarries) have been restored to informal public open space for walking and cycling, developed for housing or have been identified for regeneration in the emerging Mansfield District Local Plan. Sport has played an important role in the district's industrial past and has the potential to contribute to the district's regeneration, including improving health and well-being.
- There is some deprivation within the district and unemployment is higher than national and regional averages. Deprivation is a major factor in the health of the population and in nearly all instances; people living in the most deprived areas have worse health indicators than those in the most affluent areas. Reflecting this, the health of people in Mansfield is generally worse than the England average. Access to opportunities to undertake sport and physical activity will be a key means of delivering improvement and in enhancing the health of the population. The creation of an effective network of sports facilities driven by this strategy will be central to this.
- The district demonstrates an ageing population, meaning that the propensity of residents to participate in outdoor sports is comparatively low. There have been particular declines in the number of people in the district aged appropriately to participate in adult pitch sports. This may impact upon the location and type of facilities that are required.
- Despite this, the Active People surveys (2006 - 2015) suggest that there are strong foundations for participation in sport and recreation in the district and the provision of effective facilities will be key to promoting activity and to subsequently improving health.
- Based on 2012 Subnational Population Projections, Mansfield District is expected to see some population growth (3.41% up to 2025). The ageing population however means that growth in the number of people in age groups most likely to participate in pitch sports will be lower (0.5%). Population growth in older age segments will however be higher. While this means that the impact on demand for playing fields and outdoor sports facilities may not be as high as initially appears, the increase in older residents may see changing demands for facilities. Population growth will therefore have ramifications for the number of pitches and other outdoor sports facilities that are needed.

- When preparing this assessment, the Mansfield District Local Plan was still being prepared; therefore the location of new developments is not yet confirmed. Large areas of committed planning approval for housing may however impact upon demand, with 1700 houses to be provided at Lindhurst (southern extremity of Mansfield), 430 near to Abbott Road (north western Mansfield) and 329 already built in Forest Town. The remaining sites are yet to be determined but are likely to impact the urban area. The influx of new development may impact upon the location of demand (and the adequacy of existing provision) for pitches and outdoor sports facilities. This will need to be monitored and consideration will be given as to how this may affect future demand through the creation of a separate document and as part of the playing pitch strategy's review process.

1.14 In line with national priorities and this strategy's vision, objective and overall findings, key strategic priorities for the district have also been identified and which the actions support:

- Maximise the potential for sports development to provide positive contributions towards further regenerating in the district
- Use sport to help support the health and well-being benefits for residents, including increasing participation in sports
- Use sport to help support the health and well-being benefits for residents, including increasing participation in sports
- Support the shared connections for provision between neighbouring local authority areas such as, Ashfield district, Newark and Sherwood district and also areas slightly further afield such as Worksop and Chesterfield
- Better understand and support the multi-use of grass and artificial grass pitches
- Explore how sites can be better sustained into the future through a partnership approach.

### **Role of the Playing Pitch Strategy**

1.15 The end goal of this strategy and action plans is to deliver the overarching vision and achieve the specific aims and objectives set out on the previous pages. To do this, it is essential that provision for each sport continues to evolve and improve to meet with changing needs and aspirations.

1.16 The principles and findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy can be applied to support a variety of different outcomes, including;

- Sports development planning;
  - highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas;
  - identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for sports and how they are played;
  - inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area including NGBs;
  - identifying facilities where there is scope to increase usage;
  - informing planning policy
  - outline facilities that are to be protected and inform site allocations;
  - inform contributions and facilities required as part of new development;
  - develop new and review existing policies within local planning frameworks;
  - inform planning applications;
  - inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or propose new pitch provision;
  - inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to pitch sports and are developed in line with national (e.g. NPPF paragraph 74) and local planning policy;
  - enable Local Planning Authorities and others to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposing new playing pitch provision
  
- Supporting funding bids;
  - this document and accompanying assessment report provide evidence of strategic need for facilities and facility improvements
  
- Facilitating decision making relating to facility and asset management;
  - ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of pitches and outdoor sports facilities;
  - inform the current management, strategies and plans of providers
  - share knowledge and good practice
  - ensure any proposed asset transfers are beneficial to all parties
  
- Informing capital programmes and related investment;

- provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision;
  - influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes
  - ensure that there is no duplication in provision and maximise the benefits of investment.
- Informing the role of facilities and participation in associated sports on public health and contributing towards the achievement of wider aims and objectives;
    - the strategy provides an understanding of how the community currently participates in pitch sports and the need for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities
    - raise awareness of barriers to maintaining and increasing participation, particularly in relation to facilities
    - address any inequalities of access to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities
  - Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

1.17 The Council is facing increased pressures across all service areas including those anticipated to arise from changes to welfare benefits, greater need for social care and a new duty to improve public health, as well as considerable constraints on local authority budgets. The strategy and associated action plans therefore seek to promote the provision of appropriate accessible community infrastructure and to deliver on the aspirations of the local sporting community within this context.

1.18 As such, action plans have been developed with the following principles in mind;

- **The strategy actions seek to promote and facilitate participation in pitch and outdoor sports** – it is essential to ensure that the types of facilities provided are those that are needed to both sustain existing participation and to encourage new participants into the game.
- **Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision** – the strategy seeks to ensure that Mansfield district contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and type and in the right place. It promotes the protection of existing provision and the disposal of surplus sites. It also supports the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and recognises the impact that qualitative improvements can have on capacity, as well as the long term sustainability of the facility stock.

- **The strategy will seek to maximise sustainability** – it will seek to build relationships between partners, promote good practice and deliver sustainable solutions for sport and recreation across the district taking into account the challenging financial context in which facilities must be provided. It will promote investment on larger hub sites which provide a more effective and long term solution than the creation of small sites and will seek to maximise the use of existing resources.
- **Pitch provision 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.
- **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. Disposal of sites can help deliver this.

1.19 An overall framework is provided for provision across the district as a whole and then building upon this framework, key priorities are explored on a sport by sport basis. These priorities have been developed following detailed scenario testing, which included;

- The impact of population growth and potential impact of housing development
- The impact of growth aspirations of clubs
- The impact of improving the quality of existing sites
- The impact of securing community use to key sites that are currently unsecured or unavailable.

1.20 The results of this scenario testing are incorporated into the justifications for the recommendations where relevant.

1.21 The framework for the strategy seeks to deliver upon five key strategic objectives. These are to;

- ensure that all valuable playing fields are protected for the long term benefit of sport;
- seek to release sites that are deemed surplus to requirements based on the application of the assessment report;
- provide enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand;

- enhance existing facilities to ensure that they are *fit for purpose* and promote participation in pitch sports; and
- promote sustainable sport and club development and maximise participation across Mansfield District.

1.22 It should be noted that sites not required to meet current and future demand for playing fields are not necessarily surplus to requirements as green space and should be viewed in the context of the evidence the up-to-date community open space assessment of the district and the emerging Mansfield District Green Space Strategy, as well as other relevant documents.

# Summary of Sport Specific Issues and Needs

- 1.23 Set out below are the summaries of the individual sport provision needs from the assessment report. Further detail can be found in the supporting assessment report. Appendices C & F of the assessment provide a summary of all sites and their related provision/facilities and a summary of clubs and schools in the district.

## **Rugby League**

### **Summary of assessment findings (i.e. supply, demand, capacity, quality, participation, and future needs)**

There is one rugby league team, Sherwood Wolf, playing at Debdale Park. The club have two teams. There is spare capacity both at peak time and across the week. Taking into account training activity, as the pitch is standard quality, additional match equivalents could be accommodated during the week, but just 0.25 at peak time (the existing development team play twice monthly).

The existing rugby league pitch stock is therefore sufficient to accommodate current demand.

Population growth will have no impact upon the demand for rugby league, with a decline in the number of people in age groups likely to play adult forms of the game and no existing junior teams. Future growth in the sport is therefore likely to be driven by the efforts of the club to spread interest in rugby league across Mansfield.

Without growth of the club, the existing provision is therefore sufficient to meet projected future need.

The club are however currently in the process of finalising a development plan and are looking to improve the standard of play for the senior team (which places greater emphasis on pitch quality) as well as the creation of 3 - 4 junior teams.

While some of this activity could be accommodated on the existing pitch, further provision may be required longer term. The club are exploring opportunities (along with other partners at Debdale Sport and Recreation Club) for the provision of a 3g pitch. If this was not delivered, additional grass pitches may be required to accommodate the junior activity.

## Key Action Areas

There is a need to **protect** the existing capacity for rugby league pitches to ensure that existing and projected future demand can be met.

The ongoing **enhancements** to pitch quality at the existing site should be continued.

The long term growth of the Sherwood Wolf club (including the development of a junior section) may see a requirement for further pitch **provision** - either through the creation of additional grass pitches and / or access to a rugby compliant 3g pitch. The location of any new pitches should be discussed with the club, who are currently located at Debdale Park Sports and Recreational Club. Any new site should be of sufficient size to meet demand and should include appropriate ancillary provision.

## Cricket

### Summary of assessment findings (i.e. supply, demand, capacity, quality, participation, and future needs)

There are five sites containing grass facilities for cricket and a total of 6 pitches available for community use. All are available for community use. There are also five sites containing non turf wickets but no grass pitches. A total of 22 teams are located across the district.

Adequacy of provision for cricket is measured across the season rather than weekly as with other sports. All clubs in the district have capacity for additional play across the season.

There is only limited spare capacity at Debdale Park Sport and Recreation Centre (Sherwood Colliery CC) although site visits indicate that further strips could be prepared on this square if required. Spare capacity at the John Fretwell Centre is influenced by the use of the facility by representative teams, but there is also spare capacity at Clipstone CC, as well as at Chesterfield Road Recreation Ground and Queen Elizabeth Academy.

Across the district as a whole, spare capacity equates to circa 17 strips, which could accommodate around 8 further adult teams (or equivalent junior teams).

Spare capacity at peak time is more restricted, with just 1 match equivalent available on the currently active sites (at Queen Elizabeth Academy, due to the loss of the fourth team in Mansfield CC). Both Racecourse Park and Forest Road have however previously contained cricket pitches and are no longer used for this purpose.

Changes to the population profile alone will have no clear impact on



the demand for cricket, with a slight decline in the number of people in the age groups most likely to play senior cricket and only a very small increase in the number of junior residents. This is likely to only contribute towards improving player numbers rather than creating additional teams.

None of the cricket clubs within Mansfield District indicate that they are actively looking to increase participation currently and instead, most are seeking to remain stable and / or reverse the decline that they have recently experienced. The only known aspirations relate to a new team that are hoping to start playing on a Council pitch within the district. The requirement for new pitches will therefore be dictated by any increases in participation that can be driven through sports development initiatives, whether through the current league channels or through changing formats to the game.

Adult participation in cricket in the district is declining and foundations for junior cricket are also limited. Local research demonstrates that there is a need to explore opportunities to remove barriers and to develop alternative opportunities for cricket to attract a new demographic for the sport. There is little appetite for growth within the existing club structure however, with most clubs focused on sustainability and the retention of existing players.

There is no non-turf wicket at Clipstone Cricket Club and the existing facility at Chesterfield Road Recreation Ground is in poor condition. This impacts on ability to grow and develop and can also create extra demand on grass squares.

The quality of existing cricket pitches is adequate, although there is an ongoing requirement to ensure that maintenance procedures are retained to ensure pitch quality.

### Key Action Areas

**Protect** current cricket sites and **enhance** quality at poor sites across the district (both in terms of pitch quality and facilities provided). A new team are currently seeking a site and there is a need to **provide** a new facility to accommodate them. This may be delivered through the reinstatement of one of the two sites that are currently disused.

Address participation in cricket (retention and improvement to) within the district

## Hockey

### Summary of assessment findings (i.e. supply, demand, capacity, quality, participation, and future needs)

There is one full sized AGP in the district suitable for hockey, located at Manor Sports and Recreation Centre as part of the Manor Academy in Mansfield Woodhouse.

There are two hockey clubs associated with Mansfield District running a total of 13 adult teams and a junior section. North Notts Hockey Club are based in the district at Manor Sports Centre and operate male and female teams, as well as a junior section, meaning that there are opportunities for progression in hockey in the district. Mansfield Hockey Club are displaced, playing at Kingsway Park in Ashfield District.

There is some spare capacity at Manor Sports Complex however this is primarily on Sunday, and in earlier or late slots midweek. This means that there is limited scope to increase the amount of activity that takes place on this site. The use of the facility for football as well as hockey midweek provides further pressure. If training requirements were to increase significantly, capacity to accommodate this increase would be limited.

England Hockey indicates that an AGP should be considered able to sustain a maximum of four games per day. As peak time demand from North Notts Hockey Club is equivalent to 4.5 match equivalents, this means that the pitch at Manor Sport and Recreation Complex is already at capacity. This is reflected in the use of the overspill pitch in Worksop by the club. The club have also negotiated with the league this season to play some fixtures on a Sunday morning in order to ensure that all required matches can be accommodated on the club pitch.

If Mansfield HC is also to be accommodated within the district there is insufficient capacity, and unmet demand equivalent to circa 2 match equivalents taking into account displacement for both Mansfield HC and North Notts HC.

Population growth will have no impact upon the demand for hockey, with a decline in the number of people in age groups to play adult forms of the game and insufficient junior foundations to generate growth. Future growth in the sport is therefore likely to be driven by the efforts of the clubs and their success in achieving development aspirations.

As existing provision is already insufficient to meet demand (2 match equivalents) within the district, further growth in participation would see this exacerbated.

### Key Action Areas

There is therefore a need to **protect** and retain the existing sand based AGP at Manor to maintain a level of provision for North Notts HC. The pitch will however require **enhancement** and further resurfacing work over the course of the strategy period.

Mansfield HC are displaced and looking to relocate back into the district and North Notts HC are also at capacity at their existing site. Across the district, there is a deficit of 2 match equivalents and this will increase further if club development aspirations are achieved.

Further growth in hockey is therefore likely to require additional pitch **provision** if any additional provision can be sustained financially. This is supported by

England Hockey. Any new site should be in a location appropriate for Mansfield HC, who would prefer a site in the vicinity of the Vision West Notts College area of town.

## **Bowls**

### **Summary of assessment findings (i.e. supply, demand, capacity, quality, participation, and future needs)**

There are 9 active greens on eight sites across Mansfield. All sites have active clubs.

Just over half of all clubs are dissatisfied with provision. There are no clear patterns to the dissatisfaction (with clubs using both public and private greens responding in both ways, although some refer to grounds they must play on away from home) but all clubs that are dissatisfied attribute this to the perception that there are not enough greens of appropriate quality. This also links with the membership statistics, which suggest that players are travelling to facilities deemed to be higher quality.

There is therefore no demand for additional facilities based upon current participation, with recent membership numbers declining and all clubs having spare capacity. The quality of greens and the recruitment of additional players to ensure sustainability of clubs are viewed as being of much greater priority by both clubs and providers.

Population growth is likely to have a greater impact on the supply and demand for bowls than for other sports due to the ageing population. Low existing participation levels however means that this is only likely to increase by 6 players as a direct result of population growth. Assuming that membership of all greens is even, this would mean average membership remaining static. If higher participation rates were used (source: Active People, (2015), this growth would increase to 86 players per green and provision would still be sufficient to meet demand (optimum membership 80 – 100).

The location of housing growth and / or changing patterns of membership are unlikely to cause one club to reach capacity, with the exception of Mansfield Bowling Green (located at Queen Elizabeth Academy), which is already approaching capacity and is located in close proximity to large developments. This site is popular due to the quality of facilities and social opportunities provided.

Future participation in bowls is therefore only likely to grow significantly if a more pro-active approach to recruitment is taken by clubs. Most clubs do little marketing of existing opportunities outside of word of mouth and leafleting and there has been little growth in the sport, with some who have been involved in the sport in the area for years expressing concerns about the decline in the number of members, and in the number of teams entered into league and cup fixtures. Clubs also demonstrated an aspiration for support in this area and the

Bowls Alliance are keen to work with proactive clubs to develop membership.

Without participation increases, or in the event of further decline in participation, sustainability of existing club sites will remain the key challenge to address. Clubs highlight the importance of increasing support and the challenges that they face with sustainability and this will be a key issue moving forwards. The retention of existing bowling greens and increasing the usage of these facilities therefore represents the key priority.

The quality of facilities is also a concern at some sites, in particular with issues relating to the maintenance of greens identified. It is clear that the number of members is higher at clubs with better quality facilities and offering social facilities and members are travelling further to reach these sites. This highlights the importance of improvements to other facilities to ensure that they are able to attract similar membership numbers.

### Key Action Areas

While all bowling greens currently have active clubs, the number of players at each site is low. To ensure that this infrastructure remains sustainable, there is a need to increase participation and to raise awareness of opportunities that are available. While all clubs have capacity for new members, there is little targeted activity taking place other than flyers and leaflets.

The importance of **protecting** and **enhancing** the quality of existing facilities is clear, with higher memberships evident at club sites where facilities are better. There are several quality issues that need to be addressed - these include improvements to the green surface and the toilet wash facilities. Improvements to the maintenance regimes are also required.

There is no demand for additional bowling greens currently and if participation does not increase, the existing network of facilities may become unsustainable. Any future green closures should be considered on a case by case basis at the time. There is no requirement to reinstate any of the existing disused bowling greens.

## Tennis

### Summary of assessment findings (i.e. supply, demand, capacity, quality, participation, and future needs)

There is one club located within the district – Mansfield Tennis Club who have 9 courts.

There are 33 active tennis courts available for community use located at a combination of public parks, schools/academies/college and the Mansfield Tennis Club site. 10 of these are floodlit.

There are no formal models for evaluating supply and demand for tennis. LTA research indicates that on average 65% of those playing during the summer will

use public facilities, while 50% playing all year round will choose to play at community sites rather than as part of a club. Based on this, and using indicative LTA court capacity parameters, analysis suggests that there is capacity within the existing club base to accommodate both current and projected participation, assuming that the proportion of residents playing tennis (0.3%) doesn't change. The existing stock of facilities can accommodate circa 1680 players, while existing participation equates to circa 310. There is also capacity in the existing club base, with space for up to 295 new members.

Active People however indicates that there is significant latent demand for tennis, suggesting that there is an opportunity to increase participation above current levels. If this latent demand was realised, provision would fall below levels required. There is however no real evidence for the provision of additional tennis courts to meet current needs, as there is scope to increase activity levels within the existing infrastructure.

The degree of spare capacity therefore indicates that there is no requirement for additional courts to meet current demand. Indeed, to ensure the sustainability of the existing network in facilities, there is a need to increase participation and maximise usage.

Overall therefore, there is capacity to increase tennis activity across the district without new provision, with scope to increase usage of all types of facility. While there is significant capacity within the Mansfield Tennis Club, to ensure a balanced offer for tennis, it is important that a range of opportunities with different access arrangements are provided. Not all existing or potential players would wish to be in a formal club environment and this is reflected in the range of groups that are attracted to tennis according to Sport England Market Segmentation (date). Facilities at schools and parks are therefore a key component of the overall tennis infrastructure in the district.

The quality of existing provision is however varied, and some quality issues are identified with public courts and school sites which may inhibit aspirations to grow the game. Mansfield LTC also identify some improvements that they believe are required to support increased activity. These are supported by the LTA whose priorities include:

- potential facility developments at Mansfield Tennis Club, increasing the number of floodlit courts and replacing the existing clubhouse, would help to increase membership numbers and improve customer experience;
- parks provision is suitable for the Mansfield population however improvements to access and booking procedures would help to encourage greater usage; and
- access to educational courts outside school hours should also be an important part of the provision mix going forward across the district.

The evidence is in line with the LTA views that there are sufficient tennis courts overall offering a variety of access arrangements and no evidence of a

requirement for additional facilities. There is however insufficient awareness, promotion and use of many of these facilities and as a consequence, there is a need to drive tennis participation to ensure that facilities remain sustainable. Insight into tennis participation suggests that all three tiers of provision are required. There is particular scope to make better use of school facilities which are currently heavily underused.

The condition of facilities in public parks is limited and the courts are underused. Quality of facilities is a key deterrent to usage. As set out there are also some quality issues that need to be addressed at the club (new pavilion) as well as at school sites if use is to increase.

The distribution of existing facilities is poor, with little provision to the south or west and no facilities in Mansfield Woodhouse.

### Key Action Areas

Tennis provides a strong opportunity to increase participation across the district, with a high quantity of latent demand evident. The key barriers to the development of tennis will need to be overcome if this is to be addressed. If participation does not increase, it may become more difficult to sustain the existing network of facilities. Any future court closures should be considered on a case by case basis at the time.

**Protect** and **enhance** the current court network.

## Athletics

### Summary of assessment findings (i.e. supply, demand, capacity, quality, participation, and future needs)

The track at Berry Hill is important strategically and should be protected in policy terms. The quality of the track is however poor and the facility needs investment. The NGB are keen to protect it and as a resource for the athletics club it is a critical facility if the sport is to flourish.

The view of the club to move back to Berry Hill will be critical as without a home club the track will struggle. Equally as important is the view of the Trust to accommodate them, at present this is unclear. The Council's view on supporting and investing in athletics will also be crucial as whilst the track can be protected in the local plan this will not address the quality issues nor the availability for longer-term community use as it is owned and managed by the trustee group.

If investment and access to Berry Hill track is not forthcoming then it could be argued that investment in an equivalent alternative site should be sought where opportunity arises.

Continued investment in and support for Parkruns, etc. is also beneficial for supporting the on-going development of athletics in the district. Parkruns

currently take place at Manor Park in Mansfield Woodhouse and cross country races at Berry Hill Park as they are large urban parks that can accommodate such events.

### Key Action Areas

The athletics track at Berry Hill is important strategically and should be **protected** in policy terms. The quality of the track is however poor and the facility needs **enhancement**. The England Athletics are keen to protect it and as a resource for the athletics club it is a critical facility if the sport is to flourish.

If investment and access to Berry Hill track is not forthcoming then it could be argued that investment in an equivalent alternative site should be sought where opportunity arises.

Continued investment in and support for Parkruns, etc. is also beneficial for supporting the on-going development of athletics in the district.

## Rugby Union

### Summary of assessment findings (i.e. supply, demand, capacity, quality, participation, and future needs)

There are three clubs that play and train on 10 pitches over eight sites. Three sites are fully secured for community use.

There is no remaining spare capacity at Mansfield RUFC, even with the use of the AGP for both training and midi matches and there is therefore a need for additional pitches for the club.

There is also a lack of spare capacity at Welbeck Miners Welfare (Meden Vale Rugby Club). This is caused not by match play however (there is spare capacity at peak time) but by the training that takes place on the rugby pitch by both the rugby club as well as two football training nights per week. This occurs because the rugby pitch at the club is the only pitch to offer floodlights (although they are poor). Relocation of football training would remove this capacity issue and would mean that the one pitch would be sufficient for the rugby club needs (without taking into account any aspirations for growth). The maintenance of this pitch is also particularly influential, with the poor maintenance regime limiting the starting capacity of the pitch.

While there is sufficient capacity at the Lords Ground based upon the specification of maintenance, the actual appearance of the pitch indicates that overall capacity is lower, potentially down to 0.5 match equivalents. The use of the pitch for one match equivalent per week therefore means that pitch is at or approaching capacity.

The poor quality of the facility is restricting usage and again there are no opportunities for the growth of the club within the existing facility infrastructure. Although there are no permanent floodlights to support onsite training there is

access to mobile floodlights (and no on site changing accommodation), pitch quality means that in its current capacity, additional use may not be sustained.

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 four rugby pitches in the district (Samworth Academy, The Brunts School, Meden School and Queen Elizabeth Academy that are not used. Increased access would add to the supply and help to address capacity issues.

### Key Action Areas

The key issues for rugby therefore include the need to address capacity issues at club sites, address quality issues and the potential to seek to establish new joint-working / partnerships with schools to help address capacity issues, as noted above.

All rugby sites should be **protected** and **enhanced** to increase capacity. Access to additional pitches is required to support the activities of Mansfield RUFC.

## Football

### Summary of assessment findings (i.e. supply, demand, capacity, quality, participation, and future needs)

Overall analysis has demonstrated that there is spare capacity across Mansfield District, with few examples of overplay and capacity to increase participation in all forms of the game both across the week and at peak time within the existing infrastructure.

There are very few facilities that are not used at all but there is a small amount of spare capacity at most sites in the district.

Added to this, some sites have been closed by the Council to reflect a lack of demand. There are several sites that have reduced provision this season due to a lack of demand. With potential provision at The Carrs as well as others including Carr Lane Park also in Market Warsop, the stock of facilities could be increased significantly without new sites.

There is however limited spare capacity remaining at many of the home venues for larger clubs, specifically Debdale Sport and Recreation Centre, Forest Town Arena, the John Fretwell Centre and Welbeck Colliery.

There is also a reliance on unsecured pitches at school sites, particularly for facilities for the younger age groups. Removal of access to these pitches would ensure that supply would be much more closely matched with demand.

Added to this, the quality of football pitches is relatively low and levels of maintenance are limited on many sites. Many pitches achieved site scores of below 60% relatively early in the season and issues with maintenance were



confirmed in IOG professional quality assessments. This raises concern about quality deterioration later in the season and the impact that this may have on pitch capacity.

FA data modelling evaluates the baseline requirement for 3g pitches taking into account the training requirements of clubs. It assumes that one 3g pitch is required per 42 teams and that based on FA policy, all football training should take place on 3g pitches (as opposed to sand). In Mansfield District, the FA modelling indicates that there is a requirement for 4.6 3g AGPs to meet current demand.

Although there is just one full sized AGP, the presence of smaller pitches at Garibaldi College, Mansfield Rugby and two at Mansfield Town go some way to meeting this demand and FA data suggests that there is a shortfall of just 31 training slots. There is a new pitch opened at West Notts College (September 2016), although with limited community use. The provision of 3g pitches will be broadly in deficit by 1-1.5 full-sized 3g pitch equivalents. It should be noted however that this does not take into account the poor condition of the pitch at Debdale Sport and Recreation Ground.

While the population of Mansfield District is likely to increase slightly, changes to the population profile mean that the proportion of people within the age groups most likely to play football will increase at a much slower rate. This alongside the participation trends (which show a decline) suggests that the future position will not change markedly. Mansfield therefore has sufficient pitch stock to meet existing and future needs without the need to bring lapsed or disused sites back into use. This is reflected in the existing surpluses that exist across the board, as well as the scope to accommodate additional play at existing sites. Added to this, there is also potential to provide pitches at sites that are not currently used but which have playing field capacity e.g. The Carrs.

### Key Action Areas

**Protecting** and **enhancing** current pitch sites in use and those not currently marked but which provide active playing fields, this includes Woburn Lane. There is no requirement to reinstate any lapsed football pitches at the current time. Improvements in quality and maintenance regimes across the pitch stock, including training support

**Enhancing** and increasing capacity at key hub sites

**Provision** of increased 3g pitch capacity (one pitch) in possible partnership with the larger clubs

Improvements in pitch booking policies and procedures

Working with academies to protect access to school sites

The development of an effective multi way communications between Mansfield District Council, Football Clubs and the FA is critical in Mansfield

## Lapsed Sites (currently disused sites)

- 1.24 The findings of the playing pitch assessment suggest that certain lapsed (i.e. former) or disused playing pitches are required and others are not needed to meet current or future needs.
- 1.25 Consultation with the Football Association (FA) on football sites has revealed that certain sites don't have any sporting significance or football value. For example, the location and size of the sites are also not in line with the need to support the development of larger hub sites (e.g. three or more pitches) since they are small single pitch sites which are less sustainable. The strategy however requires the protection of all current football pitch sites.
- 1.26 As set out, there are also no significant shortfalls or provision issues which match the lapsed sites in any other sports. There is however a requirement to provide one cricket pitch to accommodate a new cricket team and the two disused sites (Racecourse Park and Forest Road Recreation Ground) should be considered for this purpose.
- 1.27 There is no requirement to reinstate any former bowling greens.
- 1.28 In line with the assessment findings the following former playing pitches can therefore be considered surplus to requirements;
- Chesterfield Road AGP
  - Abbey Primary School, Abbey Road
  - Former Ravensdale Middle School, Ravensdale Road
  - Former Sherwood Hall School, Stuart Avenue
  - Former Victoria Street Flats, Moor Lane
  - Bellamy Road Recreation Ground
  - Abbott road / Brick Kiln Lane
  - Hall Barn Lane
  - Sandy Lane / Garratt Avenue
  - Ladybrook Lane / Tuckers Lane
  - Sherwood Rise (adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Academy), Mansfield Woodhouse

- Wood Lane (miners welfare), Church Warsop
- Sherwood Street / Oakfield Lane
- Former bowling green at Church Warsop Sports and Social Club
- Former bowling green at Welbeck Colliery Miners Welfare
- Former bowling green near Clumber Street.

1.29 It is important to note that the development or change of use of any of these sites must be assessed alongside wider open space needs as supported through the relevant community open space assessment and Mansfield District Parks and Green Space Strategy. Further detailed recommendations on former and disused pitch sites can be found in Appendix F of the Playing Pitch Assessment. This appendix will be continually updated as needs changed in line with the monitoring process outlined later in this document.

# Action Plans

1.30 To support the implementation of the key issues and priorities set out, the tables overleaf set out an action plan for playing pitch and outdoor sports provision across Mansfield District. They briefly summarise the recommendations, identify the sites that should be considered for the delivery of the recommendation (where appropriate) and provide an indication of the timeframe and the lead responsibility. These action plans have been developed in conjunction with key partners and therefore represents a joined up approach to the delivery of an improved stock of playing fields across the district. Actions require either immediate, short term (1 – 2 years) medium term (3 years+) or long term action.

1.31 Set out overleaf are the individual action plans.

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
<b>General (G1)</b>	<b>All</b>	Ensure there are appropriate systems in place for communications with sports clubs and other organisations	All outdoor sports clubs	Undertake a review of the successes and learning points from the current sports forum structure and use this to develop a new system for communication and networking	Short Term	MDC (Leisure)
<b>General (G2)</b>	<b>All</b>	Monitor and review of the playing pitch strategy	All outdoor club sports	Establish a system for monitoring the progress of actions and the review of key supporting information informing the strategy (e.g. supply, demand and condition of provision).  This will need to include, for example: identification of trigger points; database development; and channels of communication both internally and externally.	Short term	MDC (Planning, Parks and Leisure)
<b>General (G3)</b>	<b>All</b>	Establish a system for collecting contributions from new	All sites	Establish a process for ensuring that appropriate contributions from new developments are secured through Section 106	Short Term	MDC (Planning)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		developments		<p>contributions, as informed by this strategy. Monitor the effectiveness of this process in relation to the Local Plan.</p> <p>This should include use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.</p>		
<b>General (G4)</b>	<b>All</b>	<p>Some sites can be protected in Local Plans, but this doesn't address the protection of these sites for use of sports. For example, a school can change days/times facilities are open to clubs or the site put up for sale and leases terminated.</p> <p>Work with key providers and National Governing Bodies</p>		<p>Engage with all key providers to agree long term usage of sites for sports pitches and to formalise a mechanism of protection for ongoing community use.</p> <p>Newark and Sherwood District Council have addressed this and this approach should be used to inform work in Mansfield DC.</p>	Short Term	Sport England / MDC / All pitch providers

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		to explore the protection of pitch use on sites owned by private providers such as CISWO and schools.				
<b>General (G5)</b>	<b>Hockey, Football, Rugby</b>	Ensure a coordinated approach to the multi-use demand for AGP in the district	All related clubs and sites	Establish partnership approach to multi-use of AGP.		FA, England Hockey, RFU, RFL
<b>General (G6)</b>	<b>All</b>	Continue to support the improvement of health and well-being in the district through a coordinated partnership approach	Relevant site/areas of greatest identified need in relation to health improvements (e.g. areas or demographic groups with greatest health inequalities exist)	Where feasible, available and appropriate, the Council will work with partners to seek opportunities, through a variety of means, to address health inequalities in the district, as part of its wider health and well-being agenda. This may include a combination of informal fitness activities and formal sport (i.e. club based) activities.	On-going based on priorities and available resources	MDC Leisure and Parks departments with relevant partners
<b>General (G7)</b>	<b>All</b>	As part of the monitoring process (G2), work	District wide	Agree with each individual NGB the resources that can be provided to support updates to	Short Term	MDC / All NGBs

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		with Representatives of National Governing Bodies of Sport to clarify the resources that can be provided to support ongoing updates to data to ensure that the strategy and action plan remains a live document		the document and a schedule for required input.		
	<b>Football</b>			Work with the FA, initially through the set up of a meeting to discuss additional modelling required and prioritise updates to football calculations, specifically in relation to scenario testing for AGPs. Ensure that additional work undertaken is used to inform an update to the action plan and strategy document. IT has been agreed that this will be in the form of an addendum to the PPS	Short Term	MDC / FA
<b>General (G8)</b>	<b>All</b>	Work with neighbouring authorities to ensure a joined up approach to sports facility provision	All, but Ashfield District Council in particular	Regularly engage with Ashfield DC as part of the PPS monitoring process to explore any issues or opportunities arising from the crossover of sports usage and to ensure that the impact of any changes to pitch provision in neighbouring authorities on demand in Mansfield is fully evaluated.	Ongoing	MDC / Neighbouring Authorities



Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
R1	Rugby Union	Ensure that all clubs have secured access to sufficient pitches and ancillary facilities initially through the <b>protection</b> and retention of the existing sites.	All existing rugby pitches	<p>Ensure that the list of sites that are suitable for protection and disposal that accompanies this strategy is up to date (PP Assessment Appendices C &amp; F). Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable rugby pitches This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur.</p> <p>Ensure that the findings of this assessment are considered when making decisions relating to playing fields.</p>	Short Term and Ongoing	MDC (Planning)
R2		Work with Mansfield RUFC to secure access to additional land, enabling the provision of further pitches for the use of the rugby club.	Mansfield RUFC	<p>Support Mansfield RUFC in negotiations with Welbeck Estates to extend the current boundaries of the rugby club to provide at least 2 additional pitches. This should include support with finalising lease and access arrangements.</p> <p>In the event of negotiations being</p>	Short - Medium Term	RFU/ Mansfield RUFC / Welbeck Estates

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		Additional changing facilities may also be required longer term to future proof the club and facilitate the provision of rugby for girls and female teams.		<p>unsuccessful, support the club to identify further opportunities for additional pitch provision to meet current and projected future demand.</p> <p>Once agreement has been reached, work with Mansfield RUFC to develop and deliver an appropriate pitch specification to meet club needs.</p>		
<b>R3</b>		<p>Work with Meden Vale Rugby Club and Welbeck Welfare to address current capacity issues on the floodlit rugby pitch.</p> <p>Support the club in <b>enhancements</b> to pitch maintenance and overall quality.</p>	Meden Vale RUFC - Welbeck Welfare	<p>Support Meden Vale Rugby Club in discussion with Welbeck Miners Welfare and football clubs to secure security over the usage of the site (on-going) and develop a solution that meets needs of all sports and protects the use of the existing rugby pitch.</p> <p>This will need to link with recommendations for football, as the pressures on the rugby pitch are caused by a lack of training facilities for football.</p>	Short Term	RFU / FA / Clubs

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
				Support the club in undertaking a review of grounds maintenance procedures to ensure that pitch capacity is maximised and procedures are tailored to club needs and ground conditions.	Short Term	RFU / Club
<b>R3</b>		Support a review of grounds maintenance procedures at Lords Ground to ensure that pitch quality is sufficient to meet club needs as well as to ensure long term sustainability of the pitch.	Lords Ground / Woodhouse RFC	Work with MDC to undertake a review of grounds maintenance procedures to ensure that pitch capacity is maximised and procedures are tailored to club needs and ground conditions.	Short Term	RFU / MDC (Parks)
				Support improvements to pitches where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative improvements.	Ongoing	RFU / MDC (Parks and Leisure)
<b>R4</b>		Support ongoing activities for rugby development, including the creation of links between local	Mansfield RUFC	Continue to support clubs in the delivery of rugby in schools and work to improve transition between introductory sessions and club membership. This may include the creation of a satellite	Ongoing	RFU / Clubs / School Games Coordinators / Notts Sport

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		clubs and schools.		rugby club at school sites.		
			n/a	Regularly review rugby across the district to ensure ongoing success of both clubs and also other forms of the game (such as touch). This should include a review of the offer to ensure that it evolves to meet changing demand.	Ongoing	RFU / clubs
<b>R5</b>		Seek to influence schools and Academies to open sites for community use for rugby.	All	Previously usage links between schools and clubs had been quite prevalent and helped to forge strong links. Opportunity exists to bring this back to meet some of the identified pitch shortfalls.	Ongoing	MDC (Leisure)/RFU/ School Games Coordinators
<b>C1</b>	<b>Cricket</b>	<b>Protect</b> and retain the existing quantity of grass cricket pitches across Mansfield District.	All sites	Ensure that the list set out reflecting sites that are suitable for protection and disposal in this strategy is up to date (PP Assessment Appendices C & F).  Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable cricket pitches. This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account	Short Term	MDC (Planning)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
				<p>the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur.</p> <p>Ensure that the findings of this assessment are considered when making decisions relating to playing fields. The strategy indicates that one additional cricket pitch is currently required to meet a new team. Sites previously accommodating a cricket pitch should be retained and considered for this purpose and are required until an additional pitch has been provided.</p>		
C2		Support the new cricket club in securing a new cricket pitch in the district. This should either be through the short term rent of an existing club base, or the <b>provision</b> of	Options include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School facility</li> <li>• Rent of an existing site</li> <li>• Reinstatement of grass pitch (potentially at Racecourse</li> </ul>	Work with club to identify potential suitable venue and site based provision needs (e.g. facilities, quality, etc.) and availability of potential sites	Short Term	NCB / MDC (Parks - where resources allow)
				Undertake required square and outfield works to ensure initial standard meets with required specifications. In particular, the grass sward of a cricket square will		

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>a new site.</p> <p>Linking with recommendation C3, this facility should be of appropriate standard to sustain play in the required League (either Bassetlaw or Mansfield and District, depending upon team requirements).</p>	<p>Park although this has recently been considered inappropriate by the league)</p>	<p>need some work on it to make it suitable for use for cricket next season. Weed eradication, aeration, top dressing and overseeding as a minimum followed by regular rolling to ensure the bounce of the cricket ball. If site is to be a football and cricket site, the outfield will need decompaction and aeration if the ground is to sustain all year round use for both cricket and football and the maintenance must be undertaken and prove effective to ensure the sustainability of the pitch.</p> <p>This should include the provision of a non turf wicket to enable training as well as the grass square.</p>		
				<p>Agree appropriate ongoing maintenance schedule for any new site to ensure that standard is maintained and that pitch provided is fit for purpose.</p>	<p>Short Term and Ongoing</p>	<p>NCB / Club</p>

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
				Work with new club to agree targets to be achieved linking with the new ground to be provided and the best way to achieve the growth objectives (C5).	Medium Term	NCB/ Club
C3		<p>Maintain and <b>enhance</b> the quality of existing cricket pitches to ensure that they continue to meet standards required for the local cricket leagues. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that grounds maintenance schedules meet with ECB guidance and learning from best practice examples</li> </ul>	Groundstaff on all pitches including MDC sites and club bases.	Work with ECB/ Notts Cricket Board to review existing grounds maintenance procedures against ECB Best Practice Specifications and update to ensure that pitches are receiving appropriate maintenance and that best use is made of available budget.	Short Term and ongoing	NCB/Clubs/MDC (Parks)
				Support clubs to regularly review their maintenance schedules in line with best practice.	Ongoing	NCB / Clubs
				Ensure that all relevant groundsmen maintaining cricket pitches receive up to date and appropriate training and have ongoing input from IOG and / or local cricket board advisors. This should include attendance at training sessions and support from ECB specialist pitch advisors. This	Ongoing	NCB / Clubs/MDC (Parks)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>elsewhere in the county, as well as local Cricket Board support in maintenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carrying out / supporting required groundworks to improve quality of existing squares and outfield where issues are identified. This is likely to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outfield levelling</li> <li>Work to improve condition of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p>should provide an important support and mentoring network that will be beneficial to the clubs both in terms of succession planning, and to the long term quality of cricket pitches. The Nottinghamshire Cricket Board are currently exploring an apprentice scheme opportunity which should be explored.</p>		
			No immediate priorities identified, although outfield at Chesterfield Road would benefit from decompaction.	Work in partnership with providers to identify the improvements required through the use of detailed professional quality assessments and analysis of local league reports.	Ongoing	NCB/MDC (Parks)
				Provide ongoing support to improve quality of existing facilities. This should include support to identify opportunities for capital investment to address existing identified issues and then ongoing appropriate maintenance techniques.	Ongoing	NCB/MDC (Parks)



Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		square – Improvements to the standard of club pavilions.		Explore the potential to lease the Chesterfield Road Club to Mansfield CC (or come to an alternative partnership arrangement) to enable the club to receive greater control over the management and maintenance of the facility.	Ongoing	NCB/MDC (Parks)/Club
			Clubhouse Facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chesterfield Road</li> <li>• Clipstone Miners Welfare</li> </ul>	Support improvements to clubhouses where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative improvements.  Note that there is potential that improvements to facilities at Clipstone Miners Welfare could be linked to developments at this site for football.	Medium Term	NCB/ / FA
<b>C4</b>		Support cricket clubs in the improvement of training facilities to enhance club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chesterfield Road (non turf wicket)</li> <li>• Clipstone Miners</li> </ul>	Support improvements to training facilities where need is identified through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative	Short Term	NCB/MDC (Parks and Leisure)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>sustainability and improve overall performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This should include improvements (or provision of) both appropriate training nets and artificial wickets for all clubs. The aspiration is for all clubs to have;</li> <li>At least one artificial wicket</li> <li>Access to appropriate training nets</li> </ul>	Welfare (non turf wicket)	<p>improvements.</p> <p>Support improvements to training facilities where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative improvements</p>	Ongoing	NCB/MDC (Parks and Leisure)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
<b>C5</b>		<p>Support the growth of cricket across Mansfield through ongoing support for development opportunities, including the facilitation of appropriate forums and networking opportunities, as well as the promotion of new forms of the game to continue to grow. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing support for the Mansfield and Ashfield Cricket Development Committee</li> </ul>	District Wide	Reinvigorate the Ashfield and Mansfield Cricket Development Committee and ensure that this includes regular engagement with all clubs, cricket board, the Council.	Ongoing	NCB / Clubs
				As a group, set targets for the cricket development committee to achieve and monitor progress and challenges arising. This should seek to address the poor junior development structures as well as declining participation levels and club sustainability.	Ongoing	NCB / Clubs
				Through the development committee, continue to promote cricket across the district including the development of improved school club links.	Medium - Long Term	NCB / Notts Sport / Clubs
				Work with local leagues and clubs to support the introduction of new forms of the game in terms of both marketing and promotion but also in ensuring that appropriate facilities are available for delivery.	Medium Term	NCB / Clubs / leagues

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for the growth of cricket in schools</li> </ul> <p>Linking with research undertaken by the Bassetlaw and District Cricket League, support for the delivery of new forms of cricket in the district, including the potential to attract midweek cricket and / or Last Man Stands.</p>		Work with clubs to raise awareness of the Get the Game on initiative ( <a href="http://getthegameon.co.uk">http://getthegameon.co.uk</a> ) to influence existing participation and ensure that participants are retained once attracted.		
<b>RL1</b>	<b>Rugby League</b>	Ensure that Debdale Park is <b>protected</b> as a venue for Sherwood Wolf Hunt. Longer term,	Debdale Park	Ensure that Debdale Park is retained and protected through the Mansfield District Local Plan. Monitor this need accordingly in consultation with RFL / Trustees / Club.	Short term	MDC (Planning)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		Further pitches may be needed if all to enable club growth aspirations to be realised.		Work with Sherwood Wolf Hunt and Trustees of Debdale Park to ensure that facilities at Debdale Park are retained for rugby league.	Short Term	RFL / Trustees / Club
				Monitor club growth and update pitch requirements once aspirations for the creation of additional teams are achieved. Creation of a junior section is likely to require an additional rugby league pitch (either grass or conversion of existing pitch to 3g). This will need to be managed in conjunction with requirements for football and cricket.  Any new AGP created at this site should take into account the needs of the rugby league club (ensuring that the facility is compliant).	Short Term and Ongoing	RFL / MDC (Leisure and Planning) / Trustees / Club
<b>RL2</b>		Support the club and provider in the ongoing <b>enhancement</b> and	Debdale Park	Continue to address minor pitch quality issues that have been identified (grass cover / pot holes and drainage).	Short Term and Ongoing	RFL / Trustees / Club

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		maintenance of the existing club site to ensure that facilities remain fit for purpose for rugby league and the other sports that the site accommodates.		Work with club to monitor pitch quality. This may include undertaking professional pitch quality assessments to inform and support investment as well as providing advice and training on maintenance procedures.		
<b>RL3</b>		Support Sherwood Wolf Hunt with ongoing development initiatives to grow the club, and more generally to grow rugby league in Mansfield and the surrounding area.	District wide, but particularly in close proximity to identified new site.	Support the club in their work with other Midlands Rugby League clubs to enhance junior development and improve rugby league structures across the region.	Short Term	RFL
				Identify opportunities for rugby league development particularly within secondary schools and with West Notts College through the Embed the Pathway Project.	Short Term and Ongoing	RFL / Club / MDC MDC(Leisure) / Schools Sports Organiser
				Support the club with marketing and promotional initiatives.	Short Term and Ongoing	RFL / Club / MDC (Leisure)
<b>H1</b>	<b>Hockey</b>	Ensure that the pitch at Manor	Manor Sports Complex	Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting	Ongoing	MDC (Planning)/ EH

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		Sports Complex is <b>protected</b> and remains sand based to fulfil the current and projected future needs of hockey in the district.		valuable AGPs.  Ensure full consultation is carried out with providers and NGBs prior to the change of any existing surfaces		
<b>H2</b>		Ensure that the quality of the existing facility at Manor Academy are <b>enhanced</b> and remain fit for purpose by investing in appropriate maintenance regimes and addressing quality issues as they arise.  Support the creation of a sinking fund in order to ensure	Manor Academy	Review existing maintenance procedures in conjunction with England Hockey and ensure appropriate routine maintenance procedures and sinking funds are in place to enable timely replacement of the surface.	Short Term	EH / Manor Sports Complex
				Address quality issues in existing surface as they arise.	Short Term	Manor Academy

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		that timely resurfacing can take place.				
H3		Support the <b>provision</b> of a new full sized sand based AGP at a school site in the district if the opportunity arises. The specification of the facility should be sufficient to enable competitive hockey to be played on the site and a full community use agreement should be negotiated to enable long term use for existing	All Saints Academy (upgrade to existing small sided pitch)  Samworth Church of England Academy	Identify any opportunities for the provision of a sand based pitch at relevant community accessible school sites. This should be driven by curricular need and should ideally link with an aspiration for hockey development. Support the school in the development of a specification that will be appropriate for competitive hockey as well as curricular activity.  Funding for this provision through the planning system will be dependent upon the location of and relevance to future development sites and through the ability to secure funding agreements for community accessible sites located on non-MDC owned sites.	Medium Term	EH / FA / School / MDC (Leisure and Planning).



Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>hockey clubs.</p> <p>Any proposed new facility should be subject to extensive financial viability testing to ensure that target incomes from community use are realistic. It is likely that the primary purpose of such a facility may need to be to support curricular activity rather than commercial gain.</p>		<p>Where new provision is to be provided, negotiate with the provider to ensure a long term community access agreement is developed for any new facility. This should support access for both hockey clubs.</p> <p>Support the provider in detailed financial viability modelling to ensure that the risks are fully understood and that appropriate practices are put in place to manage the sustainability of the facility.</p> <p>This should include analysis of the impact on other facilities (in particular the facility currently used in Ashfield) as well as the viability of a new facility. The impact of proposals for football (including new AGPs) should also be taken into account in this analysis.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p> <p>Medium Term</p>	<p>EH / FA / School / MDC (Planning where part of planning obligations agreement)</p> <p>EH / FA / MDC / School</p>
<b>H4</b>		Work with the two clubs (Mansfield	North Notts HC	Engage with clubs to provide sports development support and	Short - Medium	EH / MDC (Leisure)/ School sports games

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>HC and North Notts HC) to grow membership numbers and support initiatives to introduce new participants to the game and to raise awareness of the sport.</p> <p>This may include rush hockey and sports development initiatives as well as greater marketing of opportunities if available.</p>	Mansfield HC	<p>advice on promotion and marketing.</p> <p>Support the clubs in engaging with local schools to promote growth in participation in hockey at an early age. Initial focus should be placed on Manor Academy (due to availability of AGP) but other schools should also be encouraged to participate in smaller forms of the game, as well as in district wide competition.</p> <p>Work to reinvigorate school curricular hockey activity through the implementation of new competitions and the potential long term development of a satellite club.</p>	<p>Term</p> <p>Short - Medium Term</p> <p>Short - Medium Term</p>	<p>organisers</p> <p>EH / MDC (Leisure) / School sports games organisers</p> <p>EH / MDC (Leisure)/ School sports games organisers</p>
<b>T1</b>	<b>Tennis</b>	Retain and <b>protect</b> all existing public, school based and private tennis courts to maximise opportunities to	All existing sites	Ensure that the list set out reflecting sites that are suitable for protection and disposal is up to date (as detailed in the PP Assessment and relevant monitoring systems)).See Appendices C & F of assessment	Short Term	MDC (Planning and Parks)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>increase the amount of tennis played in the district.</p> <p>While it is important to retain the number of sites containing tennis courts, there are opportunities to reduce the number of courts provided at some sites, due to insufficient use to warrant retention.</p>		<p>for up to date table.</p> <p>Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable tennis courts. This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur.</p> <p>Ensure that the findings of the Playing Pitch Assessment are considered when making decisions relating tennis courts.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>MDC (Planning)</p> <p>MDC (Parks)</p>
<b>T2</b>		Support initiatives to increase awareness of opportunities to play tennis across Mansfield in line with LTA	District Wide	<p>Engage with Mansfield LTC to provide sports development support and advice on promotion and marketing.</p> <p>Support Mansfield LTC in engaging with local schools and West Notts College.</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term</p>	<p>Notts Sport / LTA</p> <p>Notts Sport / LTA</p>

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		recommendations		Work with schools to increase curricular activity in tennis, potentially through the creation of new interschool competitions. This may need an innovative approach which allows higher number of pupils to be involved in the activities.	Medium Term	Notts Sport / LTA / School Games
				Maximise promotion of existing public tennis courts by enhancing awareness of facilities in existing parks through effective signage and marketing. This may include the creation of events and activities at public park sites, linking with LTA coaches and Mansfield Tennis Club.	Short Term	MDC / LTA / Club
<b>T3</b>		<b>Enhance</b> the quality of public tennis courts in the district by rectifying the issues that have been identified.	Car Bank Park - surface improvements Racecourse Park - improved markings	Explore opportunities to support improvements to existing tennis courts at Carr Bank Park and Racecourse Park through initial capital investment and ongoing maintenance improvements.	Medium Term	MDC (Parks) in partnership with relevant organisations to secure funding

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		Create a sustainable model for the provision of public tennis courts by evaluating innovative means of providing access to these facilities linking with the emerging LTA Strategy and Council health initiatives, where feasible.	and fencing	Linking and working with the LTA strategy, identify appropriate access and management solutions for the successful delivery of the public facilities. This may include the use of key fobs, online booking systems etc (all while retaining the free to access nature of the facilities).	Short - Medium Term	MDC / LTA
				As part of health and well-being initiatives to increase physical activity of residents in the district, explore the most appropriate means for promoting use of tennis facilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake relevant marketing and promotion to increase awareness of the facilities</li> <li>• implement sports development initiatives to encourage take up of tennis and use of the new facility. This should include a range of targeted development opportunities as well as links with schools.</li> </ul>	Short - Medium Term	MDC (Leisure)/ LTA

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
<b>T4</b>		<p>Work with schools to develop more structured opportunities to participate in tennis. The following school sites are located in areas where access to public and club bases is more limited and should therefore be treated as priority;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meden Vale Sports Centre</li> <li>• Manor Park Sports Complex</li> </ul> <p>Qualitative enhancements may be required to support the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meden Vale Sports Centre</li> <li>• Manor Park Sports Complex (requires qualitative improvements). Rationalisation of existing courts may be supported if this facilitates improvement to quality of facilities (currently 8 courts).</li> </ul>	<p>Work with schools to identify potential opportunities to develop satellite clubs at their site and agree management arrangements. Both priority sites have existing dual use arrangements, however other sites would require more formal discussions and negotiations.</p> <p>There are also opportunities to link tennis courts at Manor Sports Complex with the learning and training centre located directly opposite and this would require detailed negotiation of community access arrangements. There is also potential to link this with coach training opportunities and the creation of a learning environment.</p>	Medium Term	LTA / MDC (Leisure)/ Notts Sport/Schools
				<p>Support improvements to the sites to maximise attractiveness to the local community. This may include line marking and resurface at Manor Sports Complex.</p>	Medium Term	LTA Notts Sport/Schools

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		development of more structured activity.		Undertake relevant marketing and promotion to increase awareness of the facility.	Medium Term	LTA / MDC (Leisure) / Notts Sport/Schools
				Implement sports development initiatives to encourage take up of tennis and use of the new facility both for pupils within the school and the surrounding community.	Medium Term	LTA Notts Sport/Schools
				Monitor the success of the schemes at the two priority sites and negotiate opportunities for implementation at other school courts to support further tennis development and increase use of available resources.	Medium Term	LTA / MDC (Leisure) / Notts Sport/Schools
<b>T5</b>		Support Mansfield LTC in the <b>enhancement</b> of facilities where issues have been identified. This should include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of signage to maximise</li> </ul>	Mansfield LTC	Support improvements to changing facilities through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative improvements.	Short Term	MDC (Leisure)/ LTA/Club
					Carry out minor qualitative improvements both in the short term and on an ongoing basis.	Short Term and Ongoing

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor qualitative improvements including rust removal and painting</li> <li>Upgrade of existing changing pavilion.</li> </ul>				
<b>BG1</b>	<b>Bowls</b>	<p>Support initiatives to increase participation in bowls. This should include work to remove several key barriers to participation in the sport including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor marketing and promotion and lack of</li> </ul>	<p>All clubs, but focusing particularly on those with lower membership numbers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longden Terrace Bowls Club</li> <li>Bull Farm Bowls Club</li> </ul>	<p>Undertake relevant marketing and promotion to increase awareness of bowls. This should include Nottinghamshire wide initiatives; as well club based support including arranging training and discussion forums in relation to direct marketing and the creation of an online presence. In the first instance, this should include running a Mansfield specific development session within the district, open to all bowls clubs. Individual work with specific clubs</p>	Short Term	Sport Nottinghamshire / Bowls Development Alliance / MDC (Leisure)



Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The lack of online presence of the sport</li> <li>Rigorous competition structures</li> <li>Perceptions and connotations of bowling.</li> </ul> <p>Club engagement with this process will be essential to the successful delivery of this recommendation.</p>		<p>should then follow, based on identified needs at the first meeting.</p> <p>Drive participation increases through other initiatives to attract new players and address the existing imbalance in participants. This may include engagement with GP referral schemes as well as other community groups.</p> <p>Linking with Bowls England reviews of the sport, work with the Nottinghamshire Bowls Federation to provide greater flexibility within competition structures across Nottinghamshire ensuring that a wider range of residents are able to access bowling greens.</p> <p>Support clubs in engaging with junior schools to stimulate interest in the sport at a younger level.</p>	<p></p> <p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term</p>	<p></p> <p>Clubs/ Nottinghamshire/ Sport Development Alliance/ MDC(Leisure)</p> <p>Sport Nottinghamshire / Bowls Development Alliance / MDC (Leisure)</p> <p>Sport Nottinghamshire / Bowls Development Alliance/ School Sports Organiser/ MDC (Leisure)</p>
<b>BG2</b>		<b>Protect</b> all existing valuable facilities to support the	Protection of greens at all club bases.	Ensure that the list set out reflecting sites that are suitable for protection and disposal in this	Short Term and Ongoing	MDC (Planning and Parks)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		implementation of BG1, as well as to ensure that there are sufficient greens to accommodate future demand.	There is no requirement to reinstate disused greens.	strategy is up to date (PP Assessment Appendices C & F).  Ensure that the findings of this assessment are considered when making decisions relating to the future of bowling greens.		
				Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable greens. This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur.  Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable greens. This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur.	Short Term and Ongoing	MDC (Planning and Parks)
				Regularly review demand for existing bowling greens based upon the success of driving	Ongoing	MDC Planning in partnership with the PPS

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
				participation increases (BG1).		steering group
<b>BG3</b>		<p>Support clubs in the <b>enhancement</b> of existing bowling greens where issues have been identified. All bowling greens should include access to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A green of appropriate standard</li> <li>• Adequate pavilion (including toilets) and shelter. Social facilities are desirable but not essential.</li> </ul>	<p>Playing surface / maintenance improvements; Racecourse Park, Queensway Park, John Fretwell Centre.</p> <p>Pavilion / clubhouse improvements - Longden Terrace Miners Welfare Bowling Green.</p> <p>Maintenance improvements at all sites.</p>	<p>Undertake appropriate quality assessments / masterplanning to establish works required.</p> <p>Where opportunities arise, support improvements to facilities where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative improvements. It should be noted that only those clubs affiliated to Bowls England are eligible for support from the Bowls Development Alliance.</p>	Medium Term	MDC (Parks)/ Club / Bowls Dev Alliance
				<p>Provide support and guidance for clubs in the compilation of funding bids to support required improvement work for existing greens. It should be noted that only those clubs affiliated to Bowls England are eligible for support from the Bowls Development Alliance.</p>	Medium Term	MDC (Leisure)/ Club / Bowls Dev Alliance / Bowls Federation
				<p>There are some colonies of weeds</p>	Short Term	MDC(Parks) / Club / Bowls

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
				to a greater or lesser extent on the greens. Bowling greens need intensive maintenance to sustain the quality and provide the autumn and winter maintenance of scarifying and top dressing and application of autumn fertiliser is undertaken this will help to sustain the greens. Review green maintenance programmes to ensure maximum benefit of the investment made.		Dev Alliance / Bowls Federation
			Review of social facilities for all parks sites, but potential opportunities to combine with other sports.	Undertake a review of opportunities to support further social opportunities for parks clubs. This should include evaluation of best practice elsewhere, as well as an assessment of opportunities to provide social facilities for existing parks clubs. It should be noted that this will not be possible for every site and that opportunities to provide a district wide solution should be considered.	Medium Term	Club / Bowls Dev Alliance / Bowls Federation

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
F1	Football	<p><b>Protect</b> all football pitches that are required to meet current or projected future demand. This includes sites containing active playing fields but not currently marked out and sites that have previously functioned as playing fields but not identified as suitable for disposal.</p> <p>As there are no quantitative deficiencies identified focus should be on enhancing quality of existing sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sites listed in Table 10.7 of the assessment report</li> </ul> <p>Recommended Football pitch provision for disposal;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Ravensdale School</li> <li>Former Sherwood School</li> <li>Rosebrook Primary</li> <li>Forest Road Recreation Ground</li> <li>Land adjacent to Newgate Lane Primary School</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the list set out reflecting provision that are suitable for protection and disposal in this strategy is up to date (PP Assessment Appendices C &amp; F).</p> <p>Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable football pitches. This should link with the priorities of the assessment and take into account the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur.</p> <p>Ensure that the findings of this assessment are considered when making decisions relating to playing fields (including through the allocations and development policies).</p> <p>Use this information in combination with the relevant community open space assessment and other relevant background evidence, to</p>	Short Term and Ongoing		MDC (Planning and Parks)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandy Lane Playing Fields</li> <li>Littleworth former school playing field</li> <li>Westfield Lane</li> <li>Chesterfield Road AGP</li> </ul>	help inform the allocation of development sites, within the Mansfield District Local Plan.			
<b>F2</b>		<p>Address current and potential longer term issues with the quality of football provision by <b>enhancing</b> the existing pitch stock as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investing capital in</li> </ul>	Improvements should be supported to those rated as poor or standard in table 10.7 of the assessment report. Linking with F4,	Linking with F4 (maintenance improvements) work to address identified quality issues to ensure capacity is improved and / or retained. Integrate requirements within MDC Parks Maintenance Schedule and on-going review process.	Short Term and Ongoing		MDC (Parks)/ Clubs

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
		<p>improving existing poor quality football pitch sites. Given the interrelationship between quality and capacity, improvements should focus firstly on sites sustaining higher levels of usage (to ensure that benefits to capacity are felt) and multi pitch sites. Football pitches should be fit for the standard of play that they accommodate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality by addressing existing quality issues</li> </ul>	<p>many quality issues should be addressed through maintenance improvements.</p> <p>Key priorities should focus initially on sites where quality is currently, or may in the near future if issues are not addressed, impact on capacity. These are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decompaction of pitches used by Kickstart League - Brunts Academy, Queen Elizabeth's Academy,</li> </ul>	<p>Identify any additional issues that are created through any changes made to pitch stock (for example additional of extra pitches on site) (for example lack of parking due to higher number of pitches being provided on site).</p>	Short Term		MDC (Parks)
				<p>Undertake appropriate quality assessments / masterplanning to establish works required at sites where significant quality / maintenance issues have been identified. This should link with Recommendation F4 (Improvements to maintenance procedures as capital investment will be of limited value if pitch maintenance is not adequate).</p>	Short Term		MDC (Parks)/ FA
				<p>Support improvements to pitches where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative</p>	Ongoing		MDC (Parks and Leisure)/ FA

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities	
		<p>with associated ancillary accommodation and parking. All sites containing senior pitches should offer full changing accommodation, while sites for mini and junior teams should include a minimum of toilet and wash facilities. Changes to the configuration of pitches are likely to have a knock on impact on the demand for parking and ancillary accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where clubs require higher grade facilities to enable</li> </ul>	<p>Manor Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King George Recreation Ground Carr Lane Park / Racecourse Park/Bull Farm Park / Queensway Park - initial focus on maintenance procedures (linking with F4). May also require investment in drainage etc</li> <li>Berry Hill Park (maintenance procedures, linking with F4)</li> <li>Debdale Park Sport and Recreation</li> </ul>	<p>improvements. This should link with Recommendation F4 (Improvements to maintenance procedures as capital investment will be of limited value if pitch maintenance is not adequate).</p> <p>Work as a partnership between MDC, the FA, Football Forum, leagues and clubs to strategically improve facilities across the district</p>				
					Ongoing		MDC (Parks)/ FA / Football Forum	



Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
		<p>them to play within a specific league, this should be facilitated.</p>	<p>Ground drainage -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welbeck Colliery Welfare Drainage and maintenance improvements (F4)</li> <li>• All Saints Academy (drainage)</li> </ul> <p>Changing Ancillary Accommodation /</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clipstone Miners Welfare (potential to link with recommendations for cricket)</li> <li>• Forest Town Arena</li> </ul>				

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
			All clubs in football pyramid currently meet baseline ground grading requirements but improvements are required at Welbeck / Debdale Sports Ground if promoted and as above, other issues are also identified impacting these clubs.				
<b>F3</b>		<b>Protect</b> the quality of pitches by addressing current Council booking procedures and ensuring that usage is in line with site capacity and that play is evenly spread across pitches. Consideration should be	District wide	Review pitch booking arrangements and create a new proactive system that addresses the issues raised.  Clearly communicate any changes in pitch booking procedures / policies to clubs and league secretaries.	Short term and ongoing		MDC (Parks)/ Leagues

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
		<p>given to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controlling bookings to ensure that quality is taken into account when allocating matches and that matches are spread across pitches rather than focused on more popular sites</li> <li>Resting pitches during a season where possible – teams should be allocated to ensure even use of pitches, rather than to meet with specific location requests</li> <li>Differentiated costs according to pitch quality and</li> </ul>					

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
		<p>maintenance procedures assigned to the pitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of consequence for teams that do not follow procedure</li> <li>• The allocation of preseason training pitches to reduce the unofficial use on formal pitches</li> <li>• Improving cancellation procedures and internal communications</li> </ul>					

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
F4		<p>Improve the short and longer term quality of pitches by securing levels of investment to ensure that maintenance regimes appropriate to the pitch and its' usage are adopted. This should involve investment in both weekly maintenance work and pitch reinstatement procedures. Investment in maintenance regimes will be necessary if any capital investment into pitch condition is to be successful. Reviews of the maintenance regime should include consideration of both the activities</p>	District wide	<p>Undertake review of grounds maintenance arrangements to ensure specification is achieving required outputs and that pitches are at the standard required. Review of contract should see increase in out of season reinstatement and weekly maintenance works to prevent deterioration.</p>	Immediate		MDC (Parks)
				<p>Ensure that regular reviews of the suitability of maintenance arrangements are undertaken throughout the course of this strategy. 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</p>	Ongoing		MDC (Parks)

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
		undertaken and the machinery used		not to take place.			
			<p>Key clubs with existing maintenance issues / and or where maintenance is central to retaining or improving capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welbeck Colliery Welfare</li> <li>• Clipstone Miners Welfare</li> <li>• Debdale Sports and Recreation Club</li> </ul>	Support key clubs to monitor and continually improve maintenance procedures. This should include the activities undertaken and the equipment used.	Short Term and Ongoing		FA / Key clubs

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
<b>F5</b>		<p>Support the growth and development of football clubs by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improving access to 3g AGPs for football clubs across the District. The provision of an additional 3g pitch should be considered.</li> </ul> <p>To maximise the role of this facility and to ensure it can be used for competitive fixtures as well as training, it should be (as a minimum) of sufficient size to accommodate junior football fixtures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting extensions / reconfiguration to</li> </ul>	<p>Potential at Forest Town Arena and / or Debdale Park (improvement / replacement of existing poor quality facility). Mansfield Town FC Woburn Road site provides another potential opportunity.</p> <p>Potential link to RL1.</p>	Undertake a feasibility study to evaluate potential. Any facility should meet quality requirements of FA register.	Medium		FA / Club
				Prepare action plan and business plan for delivery of new AGP, to include key sports club partners.	Medium		FA
			MDC should identify a strategic contact to work with the FA and neighbouring authorities on the provision of AGPs	Short Term		MDC	
			Work with key clubs to draw up plans for extension where club growth targets are achieved.	Medium		FA / Club	
			<p>Dependent upon location of 3g pitch above, which will impact upon level of supply for clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Town Arena (potential site extension) -</li> </ul>				

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
		existing club sites to ensure that demand at these specific sites is not inhibited by supply.	<p>limited further capacity at current site for club growth (club also wish to lease Queensway Park)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mansfield Town (Woburn Road Playing Fields) - provision of facility for club will address issues of displacement, as well as free up capacity at other sites.</li> </ul>				
<b>F6</b>		In order to drive forward football development, support the establishment of a football forum. This	District wide	MDC to engage with Football Forum and regularly attend meetings, where needs are identified for MDC partnership working.	Short Term and ongoing		MDC (Leisure and Parks) / Football Forum / FA



Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
		<p>group should own and implement the football recommendations in this PPS and should include the Notts FA, all interested clubs, leagues as well as MDC. The football forum should link with the Mansfield District Sports Forum.</p> <p>The focus of the group should be on the delivery of FA priorities in the context of the local needs and evidence set out in the PPS. The group should also provide a forum for feedback. This group should also work to increase participation through a joined up</p>		<p>As a forum, set targets for the football development forum to achieve and monitor progress and challenges arising</p> <p>Awareness and understanding of funding opportunities and processes was highlighted as a key issue for football. This forum should seek to upskill the volunteer sector.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>		<p>Football Forum</p> <p>Football Forum</p>

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
		approach.					
<b>F7</b>		Seek to influence schools and Academies to protect and open sites for community use for football. Link with R5.	All	Previously usage links between schools and clubs had been quite prevalent and helped to forge strong links. Opportunity exists to bring this back to address some of the identified capacity issues.	Ongoing		MDC/FA/ School Games Coordinator
<b>A1</b>	<b>Athletics</b>	The athletics track at Berry Hill is important strategically and should be <b>protected</b> in policy terms.  The quality of the track	District wide	The England Athletics are keen to protect it and as a resource for the athletics club it is a critical facility if the sport is to flourish.  Seek to get athletics club to move	Ongoing		MDC / England Athletics

Recommendation	Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Identified Resources (if known)	Responsibilities
		is however poor and the facility needs <b>enhancement.</b>		back to the site.  If investment and access to Berry Hill track is not forthcoming then it could be argued that investment in an equivalent alternative site should be sought if and where opportunity arises.			
<b>A2</b>		Continued investment in and support for Parkruns, etc. is also beneficial for supporting the on-going development of athletics in the district.	District wide	Continue to support current parkrun sites and explore expansion of athletics / running initiatives on park or other flexible sites	Ongoing		MDC / England Athletics

# Implementation

- 2.1 Where resources are available, Mansfield District Council will seek to use assets innovatively and work on a partnership approach to address the facility and sport development requirements in this playing pitch strategy.
- 2.2 It will be for all organisations identified in the action plan to integrate these actions into appropriate management systems, investment programmes, and any other relevant processes in order to ensure that actions are kept relevant - helping to inform future updates and other requirements. For example, actions in relation to Mansfield District Council will be integrated into Parks, Leisure and Planning departmental service plans and project management programmes. Promoting the up-take of sport will be integrated with the Council's wider health and wellbeing agenda which aims to promote increased activity through a variety of means including informal exercise like walking and other organised group sporting activities in addition to formal club sport participation.
- 2.3 It is important to note that the actions themselves are not necessarily a reflection of the resources available, both financially and in capacity terms, to undertake these. Therefore, prioritisation of the actions will be required by all of those identified as responsible partners in the action plan.
- 2.4 Given the potential level of funding required, it is likely that investment will only be achieved through a combination of opportunities and funding sources as well as partnership opportunities.
- 2.5 Local authority finances are currently under pressure and previous major national funding programmes are no longer available. Some funding opportunities, however, still remain; for example, individual school capital grants have replaced BSF and Sport England now has more clearly defined capital available through its new funding streams. Also NGB funding is likely to be much reduced.
- 2.6 While the education capital funding programmes will continue to change over time, there will still be a need for investment to take place on school sites during the strategy period and opportunities for joint projects may arise.
- 2.7 The main funding delivery mechanisms for Mansfield District Council and others in delivering this strategy are:
  - **Section 106 developer contributions** – The Council's existing approach to planning contributions is through Section 106. this is applicable when new development and population growth generates additional demand for playing pitch provision and additional sports facilities.

S106's are typically associated with funding provision needs in relation to Council owned land and facilities. It can be used to

finance provision on non-MDC sites; however, this would depend upon a particular site's circumstances in terms whether community access can be guaranteed and legal arrangements regarding the recouping monies should activity subsequently cease to occur on site.

If deemed appropriate, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) may also be used to fund further future infrastructure needs.

- **Capital Grant funding:** From schools and national agencies such as Sport England and National Governing Body (NGB) support;
- **Council funding:** capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within the council's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets i.e. sites deemed surplus. The Council's capital monies will be subject review in relation to the Capital Programme and any budget constraints.
- **Education and Further Education sector:** while the previous sources of funding (including BSF and Primary Schools Programme) have changed and the scale of the education capital programmes have been reduced, the education sector is still likely to be a key funding stream.

### **New facilities**

- 2.8 In addition to the overarching strategy principles outlined earlier in this section, the following should be considered when providing any new facilities.

#### **Location**

- 2.9 When planning new facilities, the existing sporting infrastructure (demand) should be taken into account. Facilities should only be provided where they are in an appropriate location to meet the needs of a club and clear demand is identified. In particular, club bases for cricket and rugby should be retained and the provision of single pitch sites with limited facilities should be avoided. The assessment outlines the actions that are required to meet future provision needs. Evidence of open space needs may also be considered to help inform the location of new provision.

## Quality

2.10 Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below). The following general criteria must also be met:

- a high standard of design, construction and maintenance, enabling the pitch to be played at least twice per week without detrimental impact and ensuring that sites are clean and attractive facilities;
- adequate changing facilities that:
  - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes;
  - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act;
  - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort; and
  - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines.
- managed community access;
- accessible by public transport and by car
- sufficiently adaptable to meet varying accessibility needs;
- sufficient car and coach parking;
- size of pitches and run offs complies with NGB specification;
- located in a no-flood zone;
- security of tenure (at least 25 years) if a club is to be based at the site; and
- for rugby clubs in particular, sites should include floodlit training facilities.

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

2.12 Sport England's web site [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org) contains a range of current guidance documents which provide detailed specifications and information regarding the design of sporting and ancillary facilities. These include, for example:

- Accessible Sports Facilities – formally known as access for disabled people (Updated 2010 guidance) This provides a link to the NGB's supported by Sport England, and to the guidance on the respective National Governing Body (NGB) websites:

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

- Natural Turf For Sport - Guidance on the Preparation of Natural Turf Pitch Layouts

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

- Clubhouses - Guidance on the design and build of clubhouses for sport

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

### **Impact of this Playing Pitch Strategy for New Development**

- 2.13 This strategy sets out the facility requirements for playing pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens in Mansfield, taking into account the population growth that is anticipated to take place in the area, as well as the impact of the ageing population.
- 2.14 The action plan that accompanies this strategy seeks to address the surpluses and deficiencies identified and key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. As such, it takes into account the anticipated trends in participation and known changes in supply. New development and the associated population growth will mitigate the impact of the ageing population and will generate demand for playing pitches that would not have otherwise been there
- 2.15 Increased use of playing pitches also places greater need for improved quality and capacity of existing pitches and their related facilities. As a consequence, contributions towards playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities should be required from new developments. Where applicable, contributions should be made towards the delivery of the strategic objectives of this document and the priority projects set out in the action plan.

### **Funding through new development**

- 2.16 Mansfield District Council's existing approach to funding infrastructure needs in relation to new development is made possible through Section 106 (S106) agreements. Three tests are used to scrutinise the applicability of the financial obligation being sought:
- *Necessary to make development acceptable in planning terms*
  - *Directly related to the development; and*
  - *Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development*

- 2.17 S106 contributions should be used for site specific projects, specifically to secure capital and maintenance contributions for the adoption of any open space or sports provision provided within or nearby a new development as a part of required planning obligations.
- 2.18 On-site provision will only be required if a new development is sufficiently large enough to accommodate appropriate provision. The action plan requires Mansfield District Council (through General Recommendation G2) to monitor progress on the playing pitch strategy and to identify trigger points where new provision may be required. as identified within the playing pitch strategy, Sport England design guidance and through the Sport England facility calculator used for working out contributions - see the New Development Calculator (source or web link).
- 2.19 The Mansfield District Playing Pitch Assessment however indicates that few additional facilities will be required, and instead many priorities relate to improving existing facilities and increasing the capacity of sites. This is most likely to be provided for by S106.
- 2.20 The assessment of need for sports and recreational provision will inform the preparation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to help identify existing and future needs and demands throughout the local plan period. This will also inform whether Mansfield District Council should adopt a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) approach to funding future development in the emerging Local Plan.

### **Calculating the Impact of New Development**

- 2.21 This Playing Pitch Strategy forms site and project specific evidence to underpin the development contribution requirements for the sports included within its scope. It may be supplemented by further updates and additional guidance as necessary to take account of progress in delivering the site and sport specific objectives for the sports covered by the strategy and to reflect any changes in circumstances. These updates and any supplementary guidance will form an integral part of the comprehensive monitoring and review process for this strategy (outlined overleaf).

### **Monitoring and Review**

- 2.22 The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust to fulfil the above roles.
- 2.23 Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step E of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (Sport England 2013) -Deliver the Strategy and Keep it Robust and Up to Date
- 2.24 The steering group are therefore committed to keeping the strategy and action plan alive through;
- monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action;



- recording changes to the pitch stock in the district and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information;
- assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport;
- assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / housing growth;
- ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for new or improved facilities in the area;
- analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities;
- reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development; and
- ensuring that the strategy continues to provide an up to date and robust evidence base to underpin planning contributions (e.g. S106 obligations).

2.25 The ongoing monitoring of the strategy and action plan will be led by Mansfield District Council and it is anticipated that it will constitute;

- support for the introduction of new multi agency communication channels – the council will seek to develop systems for communication with interested parties to discuss issues arising and to lead the delivery of the strategy in conjunction with key partners;
- establishment of a working group that meets twice annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising;
- production of an annual progress summary on the delivery of the PPS. This will include;
  - a review of participation with support from National Governing Bodies, to identify any key changes to participation trends in the District, and the likely implications of these changes for the strategy;
  - an assessment of changes to the pitch stock (including a full review of Active Places Power); and

- review of sites identified for improvement / disposal / other key actions.
  - an overall summary appraisal of progress made in the delivery of the strategy
  - a full annual steering group meeting, individual annual meetings with National Governing Bodies of Sport, or other appropriate means of consultation to inform and discuss the annual progress summary and agree next steps; and
  - a review of the effectiveness of Section 106 funding arrangements through new development in supporting implementation of the strategy and consideration of any need to prepare further guidance to secure delivery against objectives.
- 2.26 The steering group will also be responsible for agreement of the requirement for a full update of this playing pitch assessment.



*Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:  
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13  
9AH*

*A limited company, registered in  
England and Wales no. 6165280*