

South Worcestershire
Playing Pitch Strategy
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Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA139AH

A limited company, registered in
England and Wales no. 616528



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Introduction

- 1.1 This Playing Pitch Strategy presents an overall framework for the future provision of playing fields across South Worcestershire. It draws upon the issues identified within separate assessment reports for Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District and sets out the priorities for the delivery of playing pitches for football, rugby, cricket and hockey up to 2030.
- 1.2 It updates the strategies produced in 2010 for each authority. These documents have been successfully used to negotiate public open space section 106 contributions with developers, to negotiate and apply provision at the major growth sites in the emerging South Worcestershire Development Plan and to inform the requirements from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This new strategy seeks to build on the successes of these documents and to ensure that the right facilities are in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.

Key Drivers and Vision

- 1.3 The key drivers for the production of the strategy are;
- the need to provide up to date evidence to inform infrastructure requirements in light of the population growth that is expected. In particular, information is required to inform the South Worcestershire Development Plan and to ensure that infrastructure requirements for sport and leisure are fully understood;
 - to inform decision making in relation to CIL and S106;
 - the aspiration to understand and promote participation in pitch sports and to encourage joined up working and solutions both for the Councils and the sporting organisations that are active in the area;
 - the opportunity to provide evidence to help secure external funding; and
 - the need to develop a clear action plan which brings together the priorities of key stakeholders and supports the delivery of sport and health agendas.

Vision and Context

- 1.4 The strategy seeks to support the three Councils and their partners in the creation of:
“a high quality sporting infrastructure that meets the current and projected future needs of players at all levels and promotes participation and physical activity”.
- 1.5 To achieve this strategic vision, it seeks to deliver the following objectives;
- to protect existing playing fields;
 - to enhance existing playing pitches and tailor them to the requirements of users of the facilities; and
 - to provide new playing pitches that are fit for purpose to meet current and future need.
- 1.6 The delivery of these objectives will ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places. This links with the aspirations of Sport England,

who promote the delivery of an effective network of sports provision through the planning system. The three objectives are illustrated below (extracted directly from Sport England, Planning for Sport Aims and Objectives).



Context

- 1.7 As well as the achievement of specific objectives relating to playing pitches and sport and physical activity, the strategy contributes to the delivery of many other national, regional and local strategic targets.
- 1.8 At a national level, there are several key policies / strategies that impact upon the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy:
- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** sets out expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation in paragraphs 73 and 74. It requires there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application and seeks to promote healthy communities by delivering “the social, recreational and cultural services the community needs”
 - Reflecting the principles of the NPPF, **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 strategy will therefore support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches. Sport England's National Strategy, (Creating a Sporting Habit for Life 2012) underpins this playing pitch assessment
 - **National Governing Body Facility Strategies:** The Football Association (FA), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Rugby Football Union (RFU), Rugby Football League (RFL) and England Hockey all set out strategies guiding the provision of facilities for their specific sport.

1.9 The strategy builds upon the priorities set out in these national documents and seeks to implement them locally in South Worcestershire.

Local Level

1.10 Locally in South Worcestershire, the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key documents including:

- South Worcestershire Development Plan
- Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013
- Worcestershire Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2016
- South Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework 2012
- Malvern Hills District Sport & Leisure Strategy 2014-2024
- Town & Parish Neighbourhood / Community Plans.

Geographic and Demographic Characteristics

1.11 The geographical make up of South Worcestershire as a whole means that there are many challenges that need to be taken into account in the development of a strategy to create an appropriate infrastructure for football, cricket, rugby and hockey. These include;

- the challenges of providing appropriate access to facilities for residents living in rural areas, particularly as there may be limitations with public transport and an expectation that facilities are provided local to the home;
- the difficulties in accommodating sport and recreation facilities in more urban areas where land is at a premium and there are significant pressures on green spaces for other uses;
- the proximity of much of South Worcestershire to large water courses, which means that flooding is a regular occurrence and when not underwater, pitch drainage can suffer as a result; and
- the travel patterns of residents and participants in sporting activities, which do not necessarily follow local authority boundaries and may see pressures increase in one area as a result of a lack of provision in another part.

1.12 Added to the challenges created by the geographical profile of an area, the population profile influences the propensity of residents to participate in sport and the challenges that are faced in providing an effective sporting infrastructure, as well as the role that pitches can play in the achievement of national, regional and local goals.

1.13 The South Worcestershire Development Plan is now proposing to deliver at least 28,375 dwellings for the period ending 31 March 2030. This represents an increase of 5,000 dwellings compared with the SWDP when it was submitted for public examination in 2013. This increase will have further impact on the demand for pitches for football cricket, rugby and hockey. It should be noted however that these figures will still be subject to change, as completions and commitments vary.

1.14 The South Worcestershire Councils are very different and as a consequence, face unique challenges in the provision of appropriate facilities for sport and recreation. Table 1.1 therefore summarises the key characteristics and issues in each authority that impact upon the requirement for playing pitches across South Worcestershire as a whole.

Table 1.1 - Population and Participation in Sport

Issue	Malvern Hills	Worcester City	Wychavon District
Geographical Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus of population in Malvern, Tenbury Wells and Upton upon Severn. Remainder of residents in rural settlements - challenges of providing accessible infrastructure for all residents District has limited deprivation Flooding is apparent, particularly around Upton upon Severn and Tenbury Wells - this presents challenges in the provision of playing fields that are fit for purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing population and compact nature of city has led to pressures on land within the city Flooding is a key concern - this presents challenges in the provision of playing fields that are fit for purpose There are six areas in Worcester City that fall into the top most 10% deprived nationally and Worcester City as a whole is ranked 14 out of 39 authorities in the West Midlands for levels of deprivation - affordability may be a key barrier to participation in these areas of the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus of population in Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore. Remainder of residents in rural settlements - challenges of providing accessible infrastructure for all residents District largely affluent with limited deprivation Flooding is apparent, particularly around Evesham and Pershore - this presents challenges in the provision of playing fields that are fit for purpose
Population Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current population - 75,959 The district demonstrates the most ageing population in Worcestershire, meaning that the propensity of residents to participate in pitch sports is comparatively low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current population - 101,950 Population profile in line with the national average, but significantly younger than all of the other districts within Worcestershire. As it is the younger age groups (up to aged 44) that are most likely to participate in pitch sports, this means that the propensity to play pitch sports is the highest in Worcester City of all Worcestershire authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current population - 119,056 Profile older than national and regional averages – lower propensity to participate as people older than age groups most likely to play pitch sports lowest proportion of all South Worcestershire authorities of people aged 44 and below;
Population Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the 2006-2030 plan period the SWDP sets out 5,600 dwellings in Malvern Hills, the largest concentration being at Malvern. 4,550 are also planned for the two principal urban extensions of Worcester which are on land within Malvern Hills District Population anticipated to increase by 24% to 94,105 (18146 additional residents) Proportion of population aged 5 - 60 - increase of just 12% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SWDP sets out a total of 12,200 dwellings for the Wider Worcester Area of which 6,750 are within the administrative area of the city. Population anticipated to increase by 3.5% by 2030 Proportion of population aged 5 - 60 to decrease by 2% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SWDP sets out 10,600 dwellings for Wychavon District. A further 900 are also planned albeit these are by way of small urban extensions of the city to meet Worcester's housing needs. The largest allocations are at Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore Population anticipated to increase by 14% to 135852 (16796 additional residents) Proportion of population aged 5 - 60 - increase of just 1%

Sports Participation Profile (Active People Survey)

- 36.4% of adults (16+) take part in sport at least once per week. This is above both the West Midlands (33.3%) and England (35.7%) averages
 - The highest participation levels are in the age group 16 – 25%. Participation is high despite the skewed age profile towards older residents and a higher proportion of residents in the older groups are currently participating than national and regional averages
 - Just 16.9% of the adult population are members of a sports club. This is much lower than both the West Midlands (19.7%) and England (21%) average and may be reflective of the age profile of participants, who are more likely to participate informally.
- 38.4% of adults (16+) take part in sport at least once per week. Reflecting the younger age structure, this compares positively to both the West Midlands average (33.3%) and the national average (35.7%). These levels of participation are higher than nearest neighbour comparator authorities, emphasising the strong foundations for sports participation in the City
 - Highest participation levels are residents aged 16 – 25 (where 59.5% participate at least once per week). There are comparatively high numbers of residents in this age group and these residents also fall into the age bracket that are most likely to play pitch sports
 - 21.3% of the adult population are members of a sports club. This is slightly higher than both the West Midlands (19.7%) and England (21%) average and again reflects the strong foundations for sports participation.
- 32.4% of adults (16+) take part in sport at least once per week. - This is lower than national and regional averages. A higher than average proportion of residents are members of sports clubs, suggesting that there are strong foundations for growth.
 - Residents of Wychavon are therefore less active than national and regional averages – in all likelihood this is influenced by the ageing population profile, with older residents having a lower propensity to participate. Of the sports included within this assessment only football features within the top five most popular.

Role of this Playing Pitch Strategy

- 1.15 The end goal of this strategy is to deliver the overarching vision. 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 To achieve this, 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 pitch 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;
 - outlines 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; and
 - enable Local Planning Authorities and others to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposing new playing pitch provision.
 - Supporting funding bids;
 - 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;
 - inform the current management, strategies and plans of pitch providers;
 - share knowledge and good practice; and
 - 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 provision;
 - influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes; and
 - ensure that there is no duplication in provision and maximise the benefits of investment.

- Informing the role of playing pitch provision and participation in pitch 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;
 - raise awareness of barriers to maintaining and increasing participation, particularly in relation to facilities; and
 - address any inequalities of access to playing pitches.
- Providing evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

1.17 Section 2 sets out the methodology that has been used to develop this strategy.

Methodology

- 2.1 This strategy has been developed in line with 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy' (Sport England 2013).
- 2.2 The priorities have been established through the preparation of an evidence based assessment which included extensive consultation and analysis. The key phases of the methodology and the consultation and engagement with key partners is summarised below;

Gather Supply and Demand Information and Views:

- 2.3 Information was gathered on both the supply of pitches and the demand for these pitches, specifically;
- supply - details, accessibility and overall quality of current provision;
 - demand - teams and their match and training requirements, casual and educational demand as well as displaced and latent demand; and
 - details of potential changes to the future pitch stock, as well as projected and aspirational increases in participation.
- 2.4 The following tasks were undertaken to compile the supply and demand information;
- analysis of existing information on pitch provision including data collated as part of the previous Playing Pitch Strategies and the Sport England Active Places tool;
 - review of NGB data on pitches and local participation;
 - analysis of local league websites, fixture lists and pitch booking records;
 - use of available technical quality assessment reports;
 - non-technical site visits;
 - a full programme of consultation with sports clubs and league secretaries – over 70% of teams for all sports successfully engaged with the process;
 - engagement with providers of playing pitches including clubs, schools, Town and Parish Councils, Playing Fields Associations, as well as private and commercial operators;
 - engagement with key stakeholders including Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council, Hereford and Worcestershire Sports Partnership, University of Worcester; and
 - face to face and telephone discussions with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities.

Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 2.5 The supply and demand information collated has been used to;
- understand the situation at individual sites;

- develop the current and projected future pictures of provision; and
- identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.

2.6 To provide a further understanding of the spatial distribution of both supply and demand, as well as to add a geographical dimension to analysis, consideration has been given to the adequacy of provision within each of the three authorities of South Worcestershire, as well as in sub areas of each authority. Table 1.2 briefly summarises the sub areas considered in each authority and Map 1.1 illustrates them geographically.

Table 2.1 - Sub Areas of South Worcestershire

Area	Local Authority	Sub Area
South Worcestershire	Malvern Hills District	Tenbury and North Malvern Central Upton and South
	Worcester City	Worcester City East Worcester City West
	Wychavon District	Droitwich and Surrounds Evesham and Surrounds Persore and Surrounds

Map 2.1 - Sub Areas of South Worcestershire

To be inserted in final versions (removed for circulation by e mail).

Develop the Strategy and Deliver the Strategy and Keep it Up to Date and Robust

- 2.7 This strategy document draws upon the key issues identified across the three authorities and sets out a strategic framework for the provision of pitches across the South Worcestershire area. It is the result of extensive consultation, scenario testing of many possible solutions to the issues identified and the detailed evaluation of the impact of the recommendations.
- 2.8 During and following the preparation of the assessment report, which identified the key issues that need to be addressed, a series of consultations have been undertaken to further explore the areas identified and to prioritise actions and agree responsibilities for these actions. Consultees at this phase include;
- Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils;
 - Hereford and Worcester Sports Partnership;
 - Representatives of the FA, ECB and Worcestershire Cricket Board, the RFU and England Hockey; and
 - Sport England.
- 2.9 The views of these groups have been used to shape this strategy and to finalise the action and implementation plan. The consultation process does not stop here - many of the identified short term actions involve engagement and consultation with wider groups, ensuring that any priorities implemented are reflective of the needs and aspirations of current pitch users.

Structure

- 2.10 The remainder of this strategy is set out as follows:
- Section 3 – Context for pitch sports and the adequacy of provision
 - Section 4 – Strategic Framework, general policies and delivery mechanisms and recommendations by sport
 - Section 5 – Delivery and Implementation, including site specific priorities and actions.

3: South Worcestershire Context

Introduction

- 3.1 This section summarises the context for each of the pitch sports and the key issues arising. Drawing on this, Section 4 sets out the strategic priorities for each sport and the general recommendations across South Worcestershire.
- 3.2 Sections 5, 6 and 7 provide specific recommendations and priorities in each of the three local authorities of South Worcestershire.
- 3.3 Reflecting the specific nature of each sport, the type of facilities required and the different issues arising, sports are considered in turn.

Football across South Worcestershire

Context

- There are 210 pitches available for community use, more than half of which are located in Wychavon. Circa half of all pitches are full size. The FA youth review requires younger teams to play on pitches of a specific size for their age group and youth pitches, 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches are required. A comparatively lower proportion of pitches that cater specifically for smaller sided teams are provided in Malvern Hills and Worcester than in Wychavon District. Full details of the size requirements for each type of pitch are provided in the glossary
- In all three authorities there is some reliance on pitches with unsecured community use. This is particularly apparent in Worcester City and in the larger towns in Wychavon, while the proportion of pitches that are secured for community use is higher in Malvern Hills. There are particular concerns about the longevity of the pitch stock in Worcester City, due to issues with security of tenure on several key sites
- Pitches are primarily evenly distributed in line with the population density in each of the three districts, with higher numbers of pitches in the more urban areas and most smaller settlements having access to a small site
- There is limited variation in pitch quality across South Worcestershire, with the vast majority of pitches rated as standard. A high proportion of pitches in all areas are however on the verge of becoming poor (and may do so as quality deteriorates across the season) and there are relatively few pitches of very high standard. This is particularly critical in Malvern Hills, where pitches are used heavily across the weekend, but is also impacting popular sites in Wychavon District and Worcester City, as well as influencing patterns of play and choice of venue
- In all areas, the key issues identified relating to site quality were the need for improved maintenance, decompaction and investment in drainage. Other regularly occurring issues included the poor condition of goalmouths and pitch surface, amount of loose grass cuttings, litter and dog fouling and lack of / poor changing accommodation. Club and league consultation also revealed concerns relating to value for money
- In all parts of South Worcestershire, there has been a recent decline in adult football, while the amount of younger teams has remained static or increased. Much of the growth has taken place in larger clubs with multiple teams and opportunities for progression through the age groups

- There are 504 football teams in total, with the highest proportion of teams being based in Wychavon. Participation in Wychavon is higher than may be expected given the demographic profile and subsequent propensity to participate of the population. In contrast, the amount of teams in Worcester City is poor taking into account the population structure, suggesting that there is latent demand
- The distribution of teams is largely correlated with the location of pitches, however there is evidence of displaced demand, particularly in Worcester City where several teams are travelling out of the city into Malvern Hills to use pitches due to a lack of provision within the city itself
- There are 15 teams in South Worcestershire playing within the national football league system, meaning that that the pitches that they use must meet specific FA Ground grading specifications. This places extra demands on the playing field stock
- Almost all schools have their own facilities and there is therefore limited impact of educational demand on community use. Many schools are however important community venues and curricular requirements must be balanced with this use. School sites are therefore able to sustain fewer community games per week on average than facilities owned and managed by other providers. This can be particularly significant in settlements where there is a heavy reliance upon the use of school pitches.

Adequacy of Provision

- 3.4 Perceptions of the adequacy of the pitch stock in Worcester City are significantly more negative than across the remainder of South Worcestershire, where 35% of clubs are happy with the infrastructure. In the city, this figure reduces to less than 10% of clubs. Poor maintenance, the amount of pitches the right size and the quality of changing accommodation were the key causes of dissatisfaction. Satisfaction is slightly higher in Wychavon than in Malvern Hills.
- 3.5 Across South Worcestershire, there are very few pitches that are not used at all and in each authority there is limited spare capacity and in some areas, provision is insufficient to meet demand and there is a reliance upon unsecured sites. Reflecting the limited stock of smaller sized pitches, it is 9v9 and youth pitches where the greatest pressures on capacity are experienced. There is little spare capacity either across the week or at peak time.
- 3.6 Capacity issues are particularly apparent in Worcester City, as well as in the main towns of Malvern Hills and Wychavon Districts. Across South Worcestershire, overplay is generally focused at grounds associated with large clubs. The majority of pitches that have little or no use are in rural settlements where there are fewer teams.
- 3.7 Added to the capacity issues, the quality of pitches is a key area of concern. While the majority of pitches are classified as standard (able to sustain 2 games per week, 4 for mini soccer), a high proportion of pitches border on a poor rating. If pitches become poor, capacity is reduced (1 game per week, 2 games per week for mini soccer) and ongoing deterioration in pitch quality could therefore lead to a significant reduction in the capacity of the pitch stock, with huge repercussions for clubs. The quality of pitches is also a key determinant of usage, with teams choosing to avoid pitches that they consider to be of poorer quality. The potential capacity of pitches is set out in detail in the glossary.

- 3.8 In Wychavon District, and to a degree in Worcester City, there is a particular focus on peak time demand, with a high number of facilities all required at the same time. In Malvern Hills however, play is spread across the weekend. While this means that pitches can be used for different forms of the game, it places greater pressures on the capacity of each facility.
- 3.9 Projected population growth will see increasing numbers of teams, adding greater pressures to an already compromised stock of playing pitches. Much of the proposed development will take places in areas where the amount of facilities is already limited.
- 3.10 Table 3.1 provides a summary of the adequacy of provision for football across the three authorities of South Worcestershire. It should be noted that quantitative figures include only those sites that are secured for community use and take into account the impact of projected population growth as well as potential increases in participation.
- 3.11 They do not take into account the need for rest and recovery and also do not represent the number of pitches that are required (new pitches may be required to support specific sites that are at capacity and spare capacity may not be appropriately located for areas of high demand). Further site specific detail can be found in the three assessment reports accompanying this playing pitch strategy and the improvements required to address the identified issues are contained in Sections 5 - 7 of this document.

Table 3.1 - Adequacy of Football Provision across South Worcestershire

Authority	Projected Future Position	Localised areas of pressure
Malvern Hills	<p>Pitches in Malvern Hills are heavily used, with many adult pitches overmarked with smaller sized pitches. Quality is particularly important in Malvern as pitches used heavily by different age groups across the weekend. There are pressures on pitches in all areas with limited spare capacity and most available spare capacity is in more rural settlements where there is limited demand. There is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the central area, there is no overmarking and there is capacity to accommodate 4 match equivalents additional across the week for adult and youth play, and 4.5 match equivalents at peak time. There is however no remaining capacity for 9v9 and minimal spare capacity on 5v5 pitches. The key areas of pressure are in Hallow and Powick. Most of the sites with spare capacity are not however in close proximity to the areas of key pressure and where the largest clubs are based and many are currently underused as they are poorer quality single pitch sites. Population growth and achievement of club goals would see shortages of 9v9 pitches (1 match equivalent at peak time) In Malvern, when combining the provision of adult and youth pitches, there is capacity for 1 additional adult match equivalent and 2 youth matches at peak time, and either an additional adult or youth match (both cannot be sustained). The AGP at Dyson Perrins offers further spare capacity if matches are played consecutively. There are no dedicated 9v9 or 7v7 pitches and this is a key contributing factor to the level of overplay. The Malvern area suffers particularly from pitch compaction and issues with the quality of facilities, primarily due to the levels of overplay which can primarily be attributed to the need to overmark pitches due to a lack of available smaller sized facilities. Population growth and achievement of club goals would see shortages of 9v9 pitches (1 match equivalent at peak time), a lack of capacity for youth football (-1 match equivalent at peak time, -2 across the week) and a lack of capacity for 5v5 and 7v7 (1 match equivalent each) at peak time In Tenbury and North, limited provision means that there is little spare capacity, with no remaining spare capacity on youth or 9v9 pitches. The area also suffers with significant drainage problems. Club and population growth would see a lack of facilities for adults (-0.5) and youth teams (-0.5) Upton and South has the highest amount of spare capacity, but several pitches are underused due to poor quality and flood risk. There is spare capacity for 4 additional match equivalents on adult pitches, and 3 at peak time. There is a small amount of spare capacity for 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 but some evidence of overplay at key sites. Clubs are travelling out of the Upton area to play due to the issues experienced with flooding. There are however 	<p>Key pressures located in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malvern Town Welland Tenbury Kempsey Upton (quality of pitches). <p>Evidence of overplay at key sites including Hill Centre, The Langland Stadium, Malvern Vale Community Centre.</p> <p>Pitches with spare capacity are not necessarily located in close proximity to clubs that require additional facilities.</p> <p>Some other site specific issues identified caused by poor quality of pitches.</p> <p>Existing facilities at Langland Stadium do not fit with club (who play in national league pyramid) need in terms of both quality, infrastructure and capacity.</p>

Authority	Projected Future Position	Localised areas of pressure
	<p>significant aspirations for growth in the area, which would generate shortages equivalent to 1.5 youth matches, 0.5 9v9 matches and 1 7v7 match.</p> <p>It should also be noted that many of the pitches with spare capacity are located in more rural settlements outside of the areas of high demand, meaning that additional pitches are likely to be required in areas where population is concentrated.</p> <p>There are also some club sites at capacity, and all remaining spare capacity is at smaller isolated rural sites.</p>	
Worcester City	<p>Capacity is particularly restricted at peak time in Worcester City. Pressures on the pitch stock are also influenced by the high number of pitches that are unsecured for community use and the majority of private pitches are at capacity or are overplayed.</p> <p>Taking into account both club growth aspirations and population growth (as well as displaced demand) and including only pitches that are secured for community use;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be a lack of adult pitches equivalent to 8 matches across the week and 3 at peak time (if excluding club aspirations, shortfalls would remain equivalent to -4 match equivalents) • Shortages of youth pitches may reach -13 match equivalents at peak time and -14 across the week (if excluding club aspirations, shortfalls would remain equivalent to -7.5 match equivalents at peak time and -9 across the week) • Similarly, pressures on 9v9 pitches may reach -12.5 match equivalents at peak time and -13.5 across the week. Excluding club growth aspirations, shortages are equivalent to -6.5 at peak time and -8 across the week • Supply for 7v7 and 5 v5 will be more able to meet demand, but may result in shortfalls of circa 3 match equivalents at peak time • These pressures will be exacerbated by the amount of development taking place on the edge of the city in the Malvern and Wychavon districts. The nearby urban extensions may generate the equivalent demand for 2 adult pitches, 2 youth pitches, 2 9v9 pitches and facilities for 7v7 and 5 v5 	<p>Sites associated with large clubs at capacity - including Battenhall Playing Fields, Little Perdiswell, Old Porcelain Ground, Worcester County Sports Ground.</p> <p>Several key sites are unsecured for community use (Battenhall Playing Fields - although the university has a strong track record of community use and good history with club).</p> <p>More limited play on Council facilities (once per week) due to use as senior pitches and perceived quality.</p> <p>Several displaced teams travelling out of the city- these clubs are primarily based to the west of the city.</p> <p>Lack of facilities for Worcester City FC (team playing in national league system).</p>

Authority	Projected Future Position	Localised areas of pressure
	<p>This highlights the importance of maintaining the quality of existing facilities (to maximise capacity) as well as the role that unsecured sites are currently playing in meeting demand.</p>	
<p>Wychavon District</p>	<p>Peak time pressures are particularly high in Wychavon. The highest pressures are in the larger towns (Droitwich and Pershore) and at sites linked to large clubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Droitwich, Pitch provision is closely balanced, with facilities at capacity and large clubs struggling to access facilities. Taking into account both adult and youth football, there are just 1.5 match equivalents for youth football and 4 at peak time for adult football Provision is therefore constrained. A similar position arises for 9v9 football, with just 2.5 match equivalents available at peak time. There is a reliance on school sites. While there is scope for increased play in mini football, spare capacity at mini pitches equates to 17.5 matches per week, but spare capacity is just 5 match equivalents at peak time. There is a similar picture on 5v5 pitches, with just 4 match equivalents available at peak time. Looking forwards, and taking into account population projections and latent demand, there are insufficient youth pitches (at least 1) as well as pressures on 9v9 pitches. In Evesham, pitch provision is much more able to meet demand than in other areas. The Lenches, Badsey Rangers and Evesham United all offer a variety of pitch sizes and there are fewer teams travelling to different grounds. There are 7 match equivalents available across the week but just one at peak time. There are 6 match equivalents available for adult teams at peak time. While there is scope for increased play in mini football, spare capacity at mini pitches equates to 9.5 matches per week, but spare capacity is just 2 match equivalents at peak time. This means there is much less spare capacity for mini football in Evesham than in other parts of the district. Taking into account population projections as well as club aspirations, facilities for youth teams and 9v9 teams will become constrained (-2 and 2.5 respectively). Pitch provision is closely balanced in Pershore, with a particular lack of pitches in Pershore Town and some quality issues also impacting the sites. Outside of the main town, there is greater provision, but many of the sites accommodating larger clubs are approaching capacity and the majority of spare capacity located at sites in more rural areas. There is no spare capacity on youth pitches at peak time and for adults, there are just 6 match equivalents available on a Sunday morning. Access to 9v9 pitches is restricted, with spare capacity at peak time equivalent to just 1.25 and just over 3 matches across the week. Spare capacity for mini football in Pershore is greatest in the district (10.25 match equivalents at peak time and 23 across the week) but spare capacity is much more limited for 5v5 	<p>Key pressures located in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pershore Droitwich <p>Pitch quality is a key threat in the large towns - deterioration and subsequent reduction in capacity would mean provision becomes insufficient. All pitches are heavily used.</p> <p>Other club bases are also approaching capacity - Droitwich RFC (Westbury Celtic), Wychbold Playing Fields, Pershore Town, Droitwich Spa, Drakes Broughton Playing Fields.</p> <p>Pitches with spare capacity are not necessarily located in close proximity to clubs that require additional facilities.</p> <p>Existing facilities at several pyramid club bases require improvement.</p>

Authority	Projected Future Position	Localised areas of pressure
	<p data-bbox="488 272 1563 360">pitches (2.5 matches at peak time, 6.5 across the week). Taking into account population projections as well as club aspirations, facilities for youth teams and 9v9 teams will become constrained (-1.5 and -2 respectively).</p> <p data-bbox="427 392 1554 448">There are also some club sites at capacity, and all remaining spare capacity is at smaller isolated rural sites.</p>	

AGPs for Football

Context

- AGPs are becoming increasingly important for football. The FA facility strategy (2013 – 2015) seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches. The recently released FA vision (November 2014) which is the result of extensive analysis on the facilities used for football (including grass roots) places greater emphasis on the benefits of 3g pitches and their importance for the future delivery of football.
- There are three 3g AGPs in South Worcestershire, the preferred surface for football. These are located at Dyson Perrins School (Malvern Hills), Worcester University (Worcester City) and Pershore High School (Wychavon District). All are on the FA register of pitches, meaning that they can be used for both matches and training and are of good quality. The 3g surface at the university was laid to also meet rugby specifications, but has not been retested and can not therefore be used for contact rugby.
- The remaining facilities are all sand based pitches which can be used for football training but are not approved surfaces for competitive football or the preferred surface for training. Supplementing the stock of full sized pitches, there is a network of small sized pitches located at key locations across Worcester City. There are no small sized 3g pitches in Wychavon District or Malvern Hills.
- Teams across South Worcestershire travel to use 3g pitches, both within and outside the South Worcestershire area. All three AGPs within South Worcestershire currently accommodate both match play and training activity.

Adequacy of Provision

3.12 FA modelling indicates that the following AGPs are required as a minimum to support training demands:

- Malvern Hills District - 1.63 3g AGPs to meet current demand, meaning that there is an overall shortfall of provision (at least 1 pitch -there is currently one available);
- Worcester City – 3.5 3g AGPs to meet current demand, meaning that there is an overall shortfall of at least 2 - 3 pitches (currently one available); and
- Wychavon District - 4.39 3g, meaning that there is an overall shortfall of at least 3 pitches (there is currently one available).

3.13 Other modelling and scenario testing also demonstrates that a similar number of pitches would help to support the development of football, by accommodating key clubs and reducing the reliance upon grass football pitches. In Worcester City, scenario testing indicates that to accommodate 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 activity on 3g AGPs rather than grass, a minimum of 4 3g AGPs would be required.

3.14 Reflecting the identified need for more pitches, there is very limited spare capacity on any of the 3g pitches across the South Worcestershire area, with no available remaining capacity midweek, and very limited at weekends (on Dyson Perrins and Pershore High).

- 3.15 There are therefore insufficient 3g pitches in South Worcestershire. This is reinforced by the levels of dissatisfaction amongst clubs. This is particularly apparent in Droitwich and Evesham (Wychavon District) and in Malvern and Upton (Malvern Hills District) Clubs across Worcester City also believe that there is a need for additional provision.
- 3.16 In addition to high levels of demand for additional provision within the city and the larger towns of Wychavon and Malvern Hills, there are also several clubs in more rural areas that express demand for smaller sized training pitches. Many of these clubs believe that there is a need for floodlight grass pitch provision and are reluctant to travel to the main settlements for training requirements due to distance and concerns that the cost of AGP hire restricts potential usage.
- 3.17 New pitches can be delivered either through the conversion of existing sand based pitches and / or new facilities. There is an excess of sand based pitches in Malvern Hills but sand based facilities in Wychavon and Worcester City are all required to meet current hockey requirements.
- 3.18 There is therefore clear justification that to meet the needs of football, additional provision is required in each area to meet current demand. This is equivalent to at least 1 pitch in Malvern Hills, 3 in Wychavon and 2 in Worcester City. The lack of adequate provision for football is also impacting upon hockey, with access to sand based pitches for these clubs compromised by their use for football.

Cricket

Context

- There are 51 grass cricket pitches available for community use, 58% of which are located in Wychavon. The majority of the remainder are situated in Malvern Hills meaning that there are few opportunities for cricket in Worcester. There are also several former cricket fields that are not suitable for cricket in their current form
- Unlike other sports, there are fewer cricket pitches in the urban areas of South Worcestershire - a high proportion of cricket pitches are located in more rural settlements
- Most pitches secured for use are either owned or leased by clubs, meaning that the stock of facilities is relatively secure. There are however some issues with security of tenure, particularly in Wychavon, where the long term future of several sites is uncertain
- There is limited provision for cricket on education sites, although some clubs do have strong relationships with local schools. Most clubs have their own grounds and prefer to focus activity on these sites rather than using satellite facilities elsewhere
- Pitch quality is good to standard - quality of facilities is higher in the more populated areas and is primarily associated with the larger clubs. Sites in the more rural settlements are generally of lower quality, accommodating fewer teams and offering a more limited range of facilities (although there are exceptions)
- There are 271 cricket teams, more than half of which are located in Wychavon, reflecting the distribution of pitches. 65% of teams are open aged male teams. Senior teams therefore still dominate the cricket landscape. Junior cricket is focused at a much smaller number of clubs, although most clubs with junior teams

offer a full range of age groups

- Participation is generally high in the urban areas with strong club membership. Clubs in the more rural areas have more limited membership and minimal junior participation. There are greater issues with sustainability at the smaller clubs.

Adequacy of Provision

3.19 The adequacy of provision for cricket in quantitative terms is summarised in brief in Table 3.2 overleaf. It reveals that;

- there is capacity to accommodate current and projected future play across the season, with an ability to sustain the equivalent of 48 further adult teams (or the equivalent junior teams) across South Worcestershire;
- spare capacity across South Worcestershire is much more compromised at peak time, with just 15 match equivalents available. With a potential increase of 6 adult teams (3 match equivalents), this means that projected population growth could theoretically be sustained. There is only 1 match equivalent spare capacity in Worcester City, with 8 in Malvern Hills and 8 in Wychavon District. Almost all of the facilities with spare capacity are however smaller sites, with only basic facilities and therefore offer only restricted opportunities for league play. Facilities may require upgrade if they are to be used for overspill for league play in future years;
- the presence of some spare capacity also disguises locational pressures and issues with displacement at specific clubs. Ombersley CC, Rushwick CC, Martley CC, Worcester Dominies and Guild are all overplayed, and many of the same clubs, as well as Worcester Nomads and Malvern CC have at least one team that is displaced. Added to this, much of the population growth will be focused in the areas where clubs are already at capacity;
- there are very few quality concerns associated with sites that are classified as good and the majority of facilities categorised as standard are adequate, although relatively basic. There are however some examples of sites where high levels of use are causing wear and tear. Quality improvements are required at numerous sites however to ensure that they remain suitable for cricket in the longer term;
- the quality of facilities for training is a key concern in all areas of South Worcestershire. Numerous sites do not have appropriate nets and / or non turf wicket and several more sites have facilities that are of poor quality; and
- ancillary provision at the majority of sites is basic and improvement to ancillary facilities was perceived to be the highest priority in Wychavon. Many have limited facilities, and particularly the larger clubs are struggling to accommodate all of their junior teams, and some clubs have facilities that are outdated and in need of repair.

3.20 Further detail is provided in the separate assessment reports for each local authority.

Table 3.2 - Adequacy of Cricket Provision across South Worcestershire

Authority	Sub Area	Current Spare Capacity	Impact of Population Growth	Likely club based impact	Requirement
Malvern Hills	Central	Capacity for equivalent of 6 adult teams. 2 match equivalents at peak time, but 2 clubs (Rushwick CC and Worcester Nomads CC) already have teams displaced.	2 adult teams - 1 match equivalent. 2 additional junior teams. Capacity to sustain this play, but only 1 additional slot remaining at peak time (and existing clubs already displaced). Spare capacity located at Broadwas CC	Clubs most likely to be impacted are Hallow, Rushwick and Worcester Nomads - due to location. None of these three sites currently have capacity and both Nomads and Rushwick are overplayed with teams displaced.	Additional capacity for Rushwick CC, Malvern CC and Worcester Nomads. Potential further capacity also required for Kempsey CC who are likely to experience growth and also have an aspiration to accommodate the growing Taxi League.
	Malvern	Spare capacity across the week for the equivalent of 1 adult team. No remaining capacity at peak time and one team displaced.	1 additional adult team and 1 junior team. Spare capacity for junior team but unable to accommodate adult play.	Malvern CC / Barnards Green likely to receive additional players. Neither has capacity to do so.	
	Tenbury and North	Spare capacity for equivalent of 4 adult teams. 2 slots available at peak time.	Population growth unlikely to generate additional teams and therefore existing provision is sufficient.	n/a	
	Upton and South	Spare capacity for up to 7 adult teams, with 3 match equivalents available at peak time. Spare capacity at peak time located at Bushley CC and Corse Lawn Common.	2 adult teams and 2 junior teams to be created. Across the Upton and South area as a whole this could be accommodated	Hanley Castle CC and Kempsey CC are most likely to attract new teams due to location. Neither have capacity to accommodate this growth.	
	Worcester East	1 adult team, 1 site at peak time (Cadbury Oval).	No additional teams created through population growth.	Both Old Elizabethans and Worcester Dominies and Guild already at capacity. No scope to accommodate further participation increases. Lack of spare capacity on key club bases and both clubs have	Additional capacity equivalent to one further pitch to maximise club growth opportunities.

Authority	Sub Area	Current Spare Capacity	Impact of Population Growth	Likely club based impact	Requirement
				aspirations for growth.	
	Worcester West	0	No additional teams created.		
	Droitwich	6 adult teams 1 at peak time	1 adult team - 0.5 at peak time.	Population and participation growth most likely to occur in Droitwich. No spare capacity at peak time but scope for further play across week. Only one site with spare capacity at peak time in Droitwich area.	No immediate requirement for additional capacity.
	Evesham	12 adult teams. 3 match equivalents at peak time.	No full adult team, 1 junior team.	Population growth most likely to impact in Evesham. No spare capacity at peak time but scope for further play across week. Evesham CC is currently accommodating other teams and relocation of these could provide further capacity within the town for growth.	
	Pershore	11 adult teams, 4 match equivalents at peak time.	No full teams.	Pershore CC likely to receive additional players but no additional team created. Site has no further capacity although there is spare capacity in the remainder of the Pershore area.	

Rugby

Context

- Rugby pitches in South Worcestershire are distributed slightly unevenly, with 54% of senior pitches and 84% of midi pitches located in the Wychavon area. Provision in Worcester is particularly low. There is only one rugby pitch in Worcester available for community use, while 65% of senior pitches in Malvern Hills and 58% of pitches in Wychavon are available for community use
- Just over 50% of pitches in Wychavon and a third of pitches in Malvern Hills are owned and /or managed by clubs. There are no club owned or managed facilities in Worcester City
- Club bases are primarily located in the main urban areas, with Malvern, Upton, Tenbury, Droitwich, Pershore and Evesham all containing clubs. Worcester Rugby Club is situated within Wychavon District, but immediately on the borders of Worcester City and therefore serves the residents of Worcester as well as those in the north of Wychavon. The remaining club is located in Bredon (Wychavon). Most clubs accommodate the majority of activity on their club base, but half have also sourced additional pitches to supplement the facilities provided at their home ground
- There are 105 teams in total based at eight community clubs and the university. Of these, only Worcester University are based within the Worcester City boundaries. The university run three teams, (two male and one female). Reflecting the distribution of pitches, 71% of community teams are based within Wychavon District and the remainder in Malvern Hills. There are no clear trends in participation, with each club experiencing different issues. It is clear however that retaining older players (colts / seniors) remains a key issue for several clubs. Touch rugby and other forms of the game are also starting to increase in popularity
- The strong club base is underpinned by comparatively high levels of participation in schools, with schools in each of the three local authorities regularly participating in rugby. The high profile of rugby particularly at the independent schools means that there are strong foundations for rugby and significant potential for ongoing growth.

Adequacy of Provision

3.21 Analysis of the adequacy of provision for rugby across South Worcestershire raises several overarching issues:

- the maintenance of club based rugby pitches is poor and in many instances, is limiting the overall capacity of facilities;
- several sites are at capacity with limited opportunity for growth without either maintenance / qualitative improvements and / or new pitches;
- training has a particular impact on pitch quality, and the limited amount of floodlights provided means that this impact is focused on only one pitch. Training is a key contributing factor to levels of overplay identified; and

- there is no community use of any of the school sites in any of the local authorities and Pershore College is the only educational site to be used by a club. This means that there are five rugby pitches in Malvern Hills that are available but not used (5 match equivalents per week), three pitches in Wychavon (3 match equivalents per week) and one in Worcester City (1 match equivalent). There is no real evidence of demand from the community for use of these facilities at the current time, although recent interest in setting up a new club in Martley Town (potential for use at The Chantry School) has been reported to the RFU. Rugby is largely played at a club base and RFU research demonstrates that participation growth is optimised when activity (training and match play) is focused at the club site.

3.22 Table 3.3 summarises the issues arising at each club in South Worcestershire and the ability of the existing stock to accommodate current and projected future growth.

Table 3.3 - Adequacy of Club Based Facilities for Rugby

Local Authority	Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely Growth from Club Development (Club / RFU)	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
Malvern	Malvern RFC	Insufficient capacity at peak time on senior pitches and no remaining capacity across the week. Just sufficient midi pitch provision but when taking into account training (4 match equivalents) this decreases. Lack of spare capacity at peak time and the provision of only one floodlit pitch means that all activity is concentrated in this space.	0.5 match equivalents senior, 0.5 match equivalents youth. 1.5 additional midi matches per week.	Club looking to increase by one team. RFU believe that this can be achieved by retaining the existing U15 team into the colts age group. Longer term, this team should then progress to senior rugby.	Capacity of the existing site is insufficient to accommodate the level of current play.	Additional capacity required through site relocation or purchase of additional land. To future proof the club, requirements would be 4 senior pitches and 4 midi pitches. Additional floodlights (x2) and changing accommodation would also be required.
	Upton-RFC	Overplay (-1 senior and -2 midi) match equivalents. Pitch quality, which inhibits capacity, is directly responsible for overplay. One adult pitch also used for training (circa 4 match equivalents per week), which increases overplay to 4 match equivalents. If overplay was addressed, there would be spare capacity at peak time.	Potentially up to 1 additional match equivalent.	Increase number of players in teams to ensure sustainability. To be achieved through school links and Community RFU team. It is hoped that retention of numbers in U12 – U15 will enable progression through to a colts team within next three years.	Site currently experiencing overplay due to maintenance and drainage issues. Assuming this is improved, capacity is almost sufficient, but problems with flooding means that extra provision may be required to reduce pressures on club site.	Maintenance. Improvement of existing drainage. Exploration of opportunities for additional capacity - either a satellite site or access to a World Rugby approved AGP. Improvement of existing changing accommodation (increased number of rooms)

Local Authority	Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely Growth from Club Development (Club / RFU)	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
	Tenbury RFC	Existing provision inhibited by quality. If maintenance was improved, spare capacity equivalent to 1 pitch. Concern over long term future of training area.	Potentially up to 1 additional match equivalent.	Club looking to recruit U17- U19 players to form colts team.	If maintenance was improved, colts team could play on 1 st pitch. The second pitch would still be required in the event of the further growth of adult rugby, or if the training area was no longer available.	Floodlighting to provide training opportunities – potentially on the second pitch to also benefit football club.
	Droitwich RFC	Spare capacity on both midi and adult pitches. Spare capacity on both pitch types (senior 2.25 match equivalents) and midi (8.5 match equivalents). This however decreases to 0.5 and 2.5 match equivalents respectively at peak time. Training takes place primarily off the pitch, but the small amount of use on the pitch means capacity is insufficient.	Some additional adult / youth participants, likely to add extra numbers to existing teams. Potential growth of one midi team.	Creation of a third male team and successful retention of U16 team into colts age group.	Provision likely to be sufficient to sustain growth although pitch availability will become limited at peak time.	Improved maintenance regime needed to increase pitch capacity – site currently experiencing compaction. Investment into pitch drainage. Additional floodlights to further spread impact of training.
	Worcester RFC / Worcester Wanderers RFC - Westons and Cummins Farm	Spare capacity on senior (6 match equivalents) and midi (16.5) respectively and availability at peak time. Amount of training however generates overplay (5). There remains significant capacity on midi pitches however.	Some additional adult / youth participants, likely to add extra numbers to existing teams. Potential growth of one midi team.	U17 and one senior male team. Would like to retain existing lower age groups. RFU believe that increase at older age group level can be generated in 36 months by widening player recruitment to non-traditional rugby playing schools to avoid drop off later in playing journey.	Provision sufficient to accommodate competitive demand. Flooding issues impact quality of pitch provision however. Further floodlighting required to enable spread of training onto other pitches.	Drainage improvements to address flooding issues. Additional floodlights to further spread impact of training.

Local Authority	Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely Growth from Club Development (Club / RFU)	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
	Evesham RFC	Spare capacity on both midi and adult pitches. Spare capacity on both pitch types (senior 3 match equivalent) and midi (4.5 match equivalents) and 1 match equivalent spare at peak time. Training on pitch places greater pressures on pitches.	Some additional adult / youth participants, likely to add extra numbers to existing teams. Potential growth of one midi team.	Retaining existing numbers is primary objective.	Capacity to accommodate additional play at peak time and across the week. Impact of training unsustainable without provision of additional floodlights to spread midweek pitch usage.	Additional floodlighting required to spread impact of training.
	Bredon Star RFC - Bredon Playing Fields and Hill Close	Overplay (-3) match equivalents on senior pitches and -1 on midi pitches. Pitch quality, which inhibits capacity, is directly responsible for overplay. Club do not have access to any training facilities and therefore travel off site. This does not represent their ideal situation. Club also playing out of two sites and are keen to focus all activity on one site through the purchase of additional land.	Some additional adult / youth participants, likely to add extra numbers to existing teams. Potential growth of one midi team.	One senior team and three midi teams. To be developed with support from the RDO, through advertisements, links with schools and open days.	Existing site cannot support current or additional play without improved maintenance regime. Improvement of site. Increase to pitch capacity of 2.5 (M1/D2) would see capacity for one additional teams and 3 midi teams. Further growth of senior / youth rugby would require additional pitches.	Improved maintenance regime required to increase pitch capacity to at least 2.5 match equivalents per week per pitch. Installation of drainage to support improved maintenance (main site). Relocation of midi pitches longer term to consolidate all play (would enquire land purchase). Installation of 1 x set of floodlights to allow training to take place at home ground.
	Pershore RFC	Overplay (2.5) match equivalents but spare capacity at peak time (1.5). Pitch quality, which inhibits capacity, is directly responsible for overplay. Training area also compacts due to overuse (at	Some additional adult / youth participants, likely to add extra numbers to existing teams. Potential growth of one midi team.	Longer term. 1 male senior, 1 female, 1 youth, 1 midi. (1.5 match equivalents on senior pitch, 0.5 midi pitch).	Existing club base impacted by flooding of both pitches and clubhouse – this affects maintenance procedure and overall quality of site. Site	Pitch quality issues and recurrent flooding – overall club sustainability. Relocation is required to safeguard the future of the club.

Local Authority	Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely Growth from Club Development (Club / RFU)	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
		least 4 match equivalents per week.		RFU indicate that short term growth plans include 3rd male team (currently running on occasion) as well as new U15 team (1 match equivalent). Scope also to increase player numbers in mini teams (U7 – U12).	already overplayed. Location of site and frequency of flooding means sustainability is a key issue. Capital investment into pitch quality is lost each time site floods and match cancellations are impacting upon player retention.	To meet current and projected future demand, club would require circa 3 adult pitches and 2 midi pitches, with appropriate floodlighting (2 pitches) and ancillary facilities.

Hockey

Context

- Sand based AGPs are the approved surface for hockey. There are three full sized sand based pitches in Worcester City (University of Worcester, Nunnery Wood Sports Complex and Bishops Perowne School), five in Malvern Hills (although pitches at Abberley Hall School and one of the pitches at the Chase School are not available for community use) and four in Wychavon (at De Montfort School, Prince Henrys School, RGS The Grange and Droitwich Leisure Centre). All pitches are full sized and with the exception of RGS The Grange, all are floodlit
- These facilities are supplemented by three 3g AGPs (one in each authority) which cater for football. These facilities cannot be used for hockey
- Over half of all hockey in South Worcestershire takes place in Worcester city, with 29 teams. There are 5 teams in Malvern Hills and 23 teams in Wychavon
- Worcester HC is the largest club in the region having recently experienced significant growth. The club are also starting to run extensive coaching and to develop links with schools, meaning that there is significant potential for the future growth of hockey. There are two small clubs in Malvern (one in Malvern and one in Tenbury Wells) and three in Wychavon District (one in each of Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore).

Adequacy of Provision

- 3.23 While there are several sand based hockey pitches in each part of South Worcestershire, several clubs believe that pitch provision is constraining demand. While 3g pitches are the preferred surface for football, the lack of 3g pitches in South Worcestershire means that many use sand based pitches and hockey clubs are therefore forced to compete with football clubs for access to facilities. This is a particular issue midweek.
- 3.24 Added to this, two clubs (Tenbury Hockey Club and Pershore Hockey Club) are unable to access facilities within their home towns.
- 3.25 The quality of pitches is also varying, with some pitches of more limited quality and requiring resurfacing if they are to continue to be fit for purpose. Pitches requiring resurfacing shortly are Malvern St James, The Chase (both Malvern Hills), Droitwich Leisure Centre (Wychavon District) and Nunnery Wood Sports Complex (Worcester City).
- 3.26 Table 3.4 summarises the adequacy of facilities for hockey in each area of South Worcestershire and identifies the issues that need to be addressed to ensure that the pitch stock is fit for purpose.

Table 3.4 - Adequacy of Facilities for Hockey

Local Authority	Area	Sand Based Pitches Provided	Sand Based Pitches Required	Issues
Malvern Hills	Central	0	0	n/a
	Malvern	Malvern College Malvern St James The Chase School	1 (1 match equivalent at peak time and up to 5 hours use for training)	Different facilities are used for training and matches as the pitch surface is deemed to be better at Malvern College but the changing and spectator facilities do not meet league requirements. There is also limited availability at weekends due to school use. The facility at Malvern St James is therefore used for match play but has a poor surface and the pitch at the Chase School is also poor, with no changing or spectator facilities.
	Tenbury and North	0	1 (0.5 match equivalents at peak time and circa 2.5 hours use)	Tenbury HC does not have access to a facility within the district and therefore travel outside to Leominster. The club consider themselves to be displaced and wish to obtain a facility in Tenbury. Overall requirement for hockey in terms of number of hours facility is needed is relatively low.
Worcester City	Upton and South	0	0	n/a
	Worcester City	3 - Nunnery Wood Sports Complex, University and Bishops Perowne.	6.5 match equivalents at peak time – 2 pitches University matches take place outside peak hours for hockey (Saturday).	Club activity requires access to two pitches for the use of the hockey club at peak time, as well as midweek training hours. University matches take place outside peak hours for hockey (Saturday) and the sand based facility at the university can therefore in theory be shared for match play as it currently is. While in theory there is enough capacity, the existing pitch stock does not meet club needs for the following reasons; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideally the club wish to accommodate all activity on one site; • none of the sites offer social facilities and an on-site pavilion • there are no floodlights at RGS • Bishops Perowne is not available for the hockey club. <p>There is therefore a need to reconfigure the existing pitch stock to meet current demand.</p> <p>Added to this, England Hockey have identified Worcester Hockey Club as a key priority to deliver their growth plans, and are seeking to double the size of the club over the next five years. This will have implications for the facilities required.</p>

Local Authority	Area	Sand Based Pitches Provided	Sand Based Pitches Required	Issues
Wychavon	Droitwich	2 - Droitwich LC and RGS	2.5 match equivalents at peak time – 1 pitch	<p>Club activity currently equates to 12 hours per week, and there are 2.5 match equivalents at peak time. The pitch surface is however deteriorating and the quality is now poor. Without resurface, the site is unlikely to be suitable to accommodate hockey longer term.</p> <p>The pitch at RGS is outside of Droitwich Town and is used by Worcester Hockey Club, who travel in to Wychavon to play. This pitch is not floodlit and serves as an overspill venue for matches only. The school have expressed an interest to provide a second facility on the same site. The pitch at RGS is required unless alternative is found however.</p>
	Evesham	2	2 match equivalents at peak time from Evesham based clubs – 1 pitch.	<p>Club activity equates to 13 hours per week, and there are 2 match equivalents at peak time. The pitch at De Montfort School is of adequate quality and currently accommodates two clubs. While this is not ideal, current participation levels mean that there is sufficient capacity within the one site. The pitch at Prince Henrys School is used by Pershore HC, who are looking for their own facility within Pershore.</p>
	Pershore	0	2 match equivalents at peak time, 7 hours per week	<p>Pershore HC does not have access to a facility within Pershore and therefore travel to Evesham. The club consider themselves to be displaced and wish to obtain a facility in Pershore.</p> <p>Overall requirement for hockey in terms of number of hours facility is needed is however low and the relocation of the club has not been identified as a key priority for England Hockey.</p>

Summary of Issues to address across South Worcestershire

Football

A lack of Spare Capacity

- There is limited spare capacity and a subsequent need to improve the existing stock of facilities. Areas where there are particular pressures on existing pitches include Worcester City, Malvern (town), Tenbury (town), Droitwich and Pershore
- Several club bases in more rural areas are also approaching capacity and will have limited opportunities for growth in future years
- There is a lack of 3g AGPs - The lack of 3g pitches inhibits the quality of the training that takes place for football, with many clubs unable to access any or enough slots and means that there are limited opportunities to use AGPs for match play.

Reliance on unsecured pitches

- Some pitches that are currently important venues for football are accessed on an unsecured basis. This means that there is little security in the future pitch stock. This is a particular concern in Worcester City, but evident in each area.

Pitch quality limits capacity

- The quality of pitches is only standard to poor. This is significantly influenced by the overplay that is evident, with many of the sites showing signs of compaction, poor drainage and issues with the surface of the pitch quality. Pitch quality has a direct impact on capacity and if not addressed, the decline in quality will result in facilities becoming further insufficient
- There is heavy use of many popular pitches– this places greater emphasis on the quality of maintenance programmes, which are currently largely insufficient to accommodate the high level of play. Current maintenance issues and pitch quality issues are building year on year and pitch quality is inhibiting demand as well as restricting capacity. Even with investment to bring the quality of pitches up to required standards, the programme of maintenance at pitches is insufficient to cope with the levels of use at many sites.

Cricket

Lack of spare capacity at peak time

- Teams from Rushwick CC, Worcester Nomads CC, Malvern CC, Worcester Dominies and Guild, Pershore CC, Ombersley CC and Bredon CC all travel to other grounds to secure pitches. Additional pitches are required in Malvern, Rushwick, and Worcester City. Many of the sites that have capacity are the more basic facilities with smaller squares and limited (or no) changing accommodation. Many of the sites that are already at or approaching capacity are located in the areas most likely to experience population growth.

Requirement for Improved Ancillary and Training Facilities

- Many sites have a lack of or poor training facilities and many clubs do not have access to an artificial wicket, which places further pressures on the grass squares.

Ancillary facilities are also basic, which can impact upon participation.

Rugby

There are capacity issues at key club bases

- Both Malvern RFC and Bredon Star RFC require new (or extended) provision and pitches at Pershore RFC are seriously impacted by flooding
- Poor quality maintenance limits capacity at several sites.

Training pitches are overused causing wear and tear and compaction

- The limited amount of floodlights at each site means that this impact is focused on only one pitch. Training is a key contributing factor to levels of overplay identified. There are quality issues at existing sites, which are impacting pitch quality and capacity. These include Bredon Star RFC (drainage), Droitwich RFC (drainage) Worcester RFC (Drainage) and Upton RFC (drainage)
- Training has a particular impact on pitch quality, and the limited amount of floodlights provided means that this impact is focused on only one pitch. For some clubs, this pitch is also used for competitive fixture. Worcester Wanderers is the only club to have two floodlit training pitches.

Hockey

Existing pitches are not in the right place or of the right quality

- Clubs must compete with football clubs during the week and as a consequence, hockey clubs are struggling to obtain the number of hours for training on sand based facilities they require
- While there is enough capacity overall, the facilities provided are insufficient to meet the needs of the clubs in both Malvern (due to pitch quality) and Worcester City (due to quality / floodlighting / availability and location) and clubs in Tenbury and Pershore are displaced
- The pitches at Droitwich Leisure Centre, the University, Nunnery Wood Sports Complex, Malvern St James and the Chase School are also nearing the end of their lifespan.

3.27 Section 4 draws upon the key issues identified and provides a framework for the future delivery of pitch provision across South Worcestershire.

3.28 Sections 6, 7 and 8 then set out the key recommendations for each local authority. Section 9 provides a summary of the key priorities across South Worcestershire as a whole and outlines the processes for monitoring and delivery of the strategy document.

4: Strategic Framework & General Recommendations

Introduction

- 4.1 This section sets out a framework for the future delivery of facilities for football, cricket, rugby and hockey.
- 4.2 The strategy seeks to promote a strategic approach to the provision of playing fields both within each individual authority and across boundaries. As such, it is been developed with the following principles in mind;
- **Supply of facilities is tailored to demand** – the strategy seeks to ensure that the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and type and in the right place are provided. It promotes the protection of existing provision and the creation of new facilities where these are required, but also recognises the importance of quality and 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 seeks to promote good practice and deliver sustainable solutions for sport and recreation taking into account the challenging financial context in which facilities must be provided, as well as the varying geographical characteristics of South Worcestershire. It promotes the concept of strategic hub sites for sport, supported by satellite facilities meeting the needs of local communities
 - **Pitch provision will be delivered in partnership.** The strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields
 - **Local action** – the strategy seeks to recognise local resources and to strengthen the ability of communities to develop local solutions to local issues
 - **Empowerment** – the strategy sets out to encourage and enable local communities and organisations to take responsibility for, and improve their own sport and leisure provision
 - **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.

Framework for the future delivery of playing pitches across South Worcestershire

- 4.3 As set out in Section 1, the strategy seeks to deliver upon three key strategic objectives. These are to;
- **protect** existing playing fields;
 - **enhance** existing playing pitches and tailor them to the requirements of users of the facilities; and
 - **provide** sufficient playing pitches that are fit for purpose to meet current and future need.
- 4.4 The remainder of this section sets out the general recommendations to support the delivery of these threes strategic objectives. Linking with the general recommendations, sport specific objectives then follow.

Strategic Objective 1 –Protect existing playing fields

Safeguard all existing playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities in line with Paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework, irrespective of ownership and the degree of access and use.

SW1: Ensure that the South Worcestershire Development Plan contains policies protecting sites containing playing pitches, building upon the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 74) and Sport England's¹ statutory consultee role on planning applications affecting playing field land.

'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England: Policy on Planning Applications for Development on Playing Fields' (Sport England, 1997), indicates that Sport England will oppose any developments that will result in the loss of playing field space in all but exceptional circumstances, whether the land is in public, private or educational use. Exceptional circumstances are defined as;

- an assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport;
- the proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use;
- the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch;
- lost playing fields would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development; and
- the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

Policy in South Worcestershire should seek to build on the above criteria.

Supporting this, Appendix A outlines the proposed actions for each site across South Worcestershire and highlights the sites that should be protected to meet current and future need. All sites where protection is required should be designated as having a special interest for sport through the development plan process (see NPPF paragraphs 76 and 77).

Justification

There are pressures on the stock of facilities in all areas of South Worcestershire and deficiencies identified in some parts. Existing sites (unless identified as not being part of the delivery of this strategy in Appendix A) are therefore valuable for the delivery of sport.

¹ Sport England Policy on Playing Fields is set out in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England – Policy on Planning Applications for development on playing fields

SW2: Facilitate security of tenure to key sites to protect existing access arrangements. This will increase the longevity of the pitch stock and to enable improvements and capital investment to take place.

Justification: There is a need for a partnership approach to be taken in the delivery of the pitch stock across South Worcestershire. To this end, clubs should be supported by NGBs and Hereford and Worcestershire Sports Partnership in negotiations with existing landowners to ensure ongoing security of tenure and in discussion with new landowners where opportunities arise.

Leases should take into account long term club development objectives and sustainability. As non landowners, support is likely to take the form of professional advice and guidance.

Security of tenure is essential both to guarantee that there are sufficient facilities to meet needs and to secure the future of clubs, but also to maximise the opportunities to attract funding and investment.

Strategic Objective 2 - To enhance existing playing pitches and tailor them to the requirements of users of the facilities

The strategy seeks to promote good access to a range of high quality playing pitches and to tailor pitches to the specific requirements of users. The assessment demonstrated that the quality of pitches and maintenance impacts on capacity and the attractiveness of specific pitches and that improvements are required in order to ensure longevity of provision. Pitches should be constructed in accordance with Sport England and National Governing Bodies for Sport guidance on user requirements and accessibility for all.

SW3: Support qualitative improvements and enhancements at sites to maximise compliance with NGB standards and to ensure that facilities are fit for the purpose that they are intended. This should include;

- a) support improvements and enhancement at sites that do not meet NGB quality standards;
- b) ensure that pitches are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. sports lighting and changing provision);
- c) support clubs that require improved and / or specific facilities in order to play at a higher standard; and
- d) work in partnership to secure funding.

Justification

The quality of playing fields is impacted by several things, including;

- the facilities provided;
 - the maintenance regime (and the degree to which this is appropriate for the level of use sustained); and
 - the amount of activity that takes place on the site – some pitches in South Worcestershire are currently of higher quality than they may otherwise be, due to
-

more limited use.

Pitch quality is a key component of the pitch stock and will influence capacity of a pitch as well as attractiveness to users and the ability of a site to be used for play in specific leagues. The role of a playing field in meeting needs is reduced if the pitch is of poor quality.

SW4 Adopt a strategic hierarchy to inform requirements for playing pitch improvements and the facilities provided on site.

Larger sites offer economies of scale and opportunities to focus activity development at a single site, providing greater sustainability in the pitch stock. The same level of maintenance and facility provision is not always possible at single sites and hierarchy therefore focuses investment and ensures a network of facilities of varying standards that can meet needs.

- 4.5 The following hierarchy prioritises the creation of hub sites (multi-sport where possible) and seeks to ensure that these sites are well equipped to meet demand. It requires lower maintenance and quality standards at satellite facilities.

Strategic Hierarchy and Hub Sites

Hierarchy	Definition
Strategic Hub Site	Large Scale Site offering a 3g AGP and at least four grass pitches, provided and maintained to NGB standards with good ancillary facilities and sufficient changing accommodation and parking. Ideally multi-sport site.
Key Centre	Site containing multiple pitches (3 – 4) or site of particular importance for club development. Provided and maintained to NGB standards with good ancillary facilities and sufficient changing and parking. May be managed specifically for the requirements of one club or available for hire by multiple teams.
Satellite Sites	Single pitch site functioning primarily as overspill or secondary sites. More limited maintenance regime. Site should contain appropriate parking and a minimum of toilets. These sites should remain functional despite the more limited role that they play.

SW5: Promote and support a review of maintenance procedures by all providers. This should include;

- **Establishing a variety of forums and / or club specific guidance where detailed advice on maintenance procedures is provided. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes and all Bodies have pitch advisor schemes working in partnership with the Institute of Groundsmanship.**
 - **Investigating the potential to provide an equipment bank where clubs can rent equipment and share knowledge and understanding of maintenance procedures.**
-

Pitch maintenance is a concern in all sports and in all areas of South Worcestershire. In many instances, maintenance regimes are directly limiting the capacity of pitches and longer term, may see the ability of pitches to sustain the required number of games reduce. The level of maintenance directly influences the capacity of pitches – pitches with lower levels of maintenance are able to sustain fewer games per week than those with stronger maintenance regimes. Added to this, without standards of maintenance that are appropriate for the level of activity on each pitch, pitches will deteriorate and the overall capacity will be further reduced and quality issues will increase.

The diagram below illustrates the pattern of decline that will take hold if improvements are not undertaken and or / if an appropriate maintenance regime is not followed. It evidences the interrelationship between the issues identified and demonstrates the long term impact on the capacity of facilities if there is no intervention.

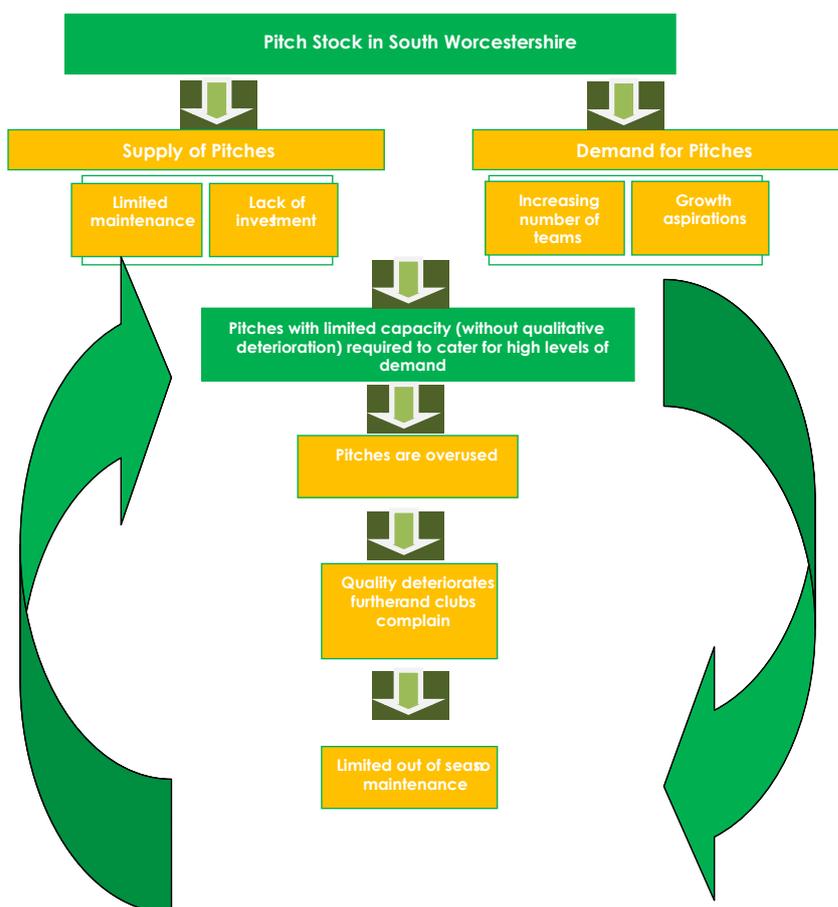
Information on maintenance procedures is available as follows;

<http://www.sportengland.org/media/30865/Natural-turf-for-sport.pdf>

<http://www.worcestershirefa.com/worcestershire-fa/pitch-maintenance-guidance>

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/facilities-funding/facilities-guidance-and-project-development/fine-turf>

<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/rugby-union-grass-pitches/rugby-pitch-maintenance/>



Strategic Objective 3 - To provide sufficient playing pitches that are fit for purpose to meet current and future need.

The assessment has identified pressures on the existing facility stock and a need to increase capacity in some areas. More effective use of existing facilities, including improvements to capacity of existing facilities and new provision will be required to address identified inadequacies in the current facility stock, as well as to meet the needs of changing participation trends and to meet demand from rising population.

SW6: Provide additional capacity where need is identified through:

- a) improving quality and maintenance of existing facilities (linked with SW3);
- b) securing community access to existing facilities (linked with SW5);
- c) ensuring that the most efficient use is made of available space within existing and new playing field sites; and
- d) proactively planning for new playing pitch provision in areas of identified demand.

Justification

The assessment has identified pressures on the existing facility stock and a need to increase capacity in some areas. More effective use of existing facilities, including improvements to capacity of existing facilities, as well as new grass and AGP provision will be required to address identified inadequacies in the current facility stock, as well as to meet the needs of changing participation trends and to meet demand from rising population.

SW 7: Build relationships with target schools and work with relevant clubs to secure community use of the site. This may include;

- securing funding for quality improvements to sites to enable them to sustain curricular and community activity; and
- the creation of a formal agreement for use and ongoing monitoring of the success of the agreement.

Justification

There are many education sites in South Worcestershire that represent important venues for community sport, however many of these are currently operating without long term community use agreements, raising concerns about the sustainability of the pitch stock. In addition, there are several schools with large areas of playing field that are not currently accessible to the local community, meaning that the available resources are not maximised. This is particularly true of independent schools.

The independent ownership of educational facilities (academies, independent schools etc) means that it is important to establish strong relationships with schools and to use this to facilitate formal community use agreements. There are many barriers to the use of school sites, with consultation highlighting particular concerns around the impact on curricular use and the lack of dedicated staff to open and manage the facility outside of school hours. Many of these can however be addressed and Sport England provides such guidance on

managing access to facilities at school sites at the following location;

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/community-use-agreements/>

This playing pitch strategy identifies locations where community use of school sites would be beneficial, as well as schools that are critical to the ongoing provision of playing pitches in the area (Local authority specific sections and action plan).

SW8: Maximise sustainability of the pitch stock by building capacity within the community. Priority should be given to ensuring sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities and the development of volunteers.

To deliver this;

- full dialogue with the playing pitch strategy steering group should be maintained, including 6 monthly meetings (see Section 9, monitoring and review) to maintain a strategic approach to provision; and
- local authorities and NGBs should provide specific support including officer time to help clubs with an identified need. As well as dedicated meetings and guidance for key clubs, this should include workshops on the preparation of funding bids and alternative management and maintenance arrangements to promote knowledge sharing.

As District Councils, both Wychavon District and Malvern Hills Councils have limited direct control of playing fields, and instead, function as enablers. Although Worcester City Council does directly manage facilities, pitches provided by other partners are central to the overall stock of facilities in the city.

With increasing financial pressures, it is essential that local authorities deploy limited resources to maximum affect. An effective network of playing fields can only be delivered if all partners work together and share knowledge and experiences and combine skills to achieve the best outcome.

It is necessary to ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and that this funding is directed to areas of need, informed by this playing field strategy. Linking with the enabling roles of the local authorities, as well as Hereford and Worcestershire Sports Partnership, not much investment will be made directly by the Council and a strategic approach across the whole South Worcestershire area will therefore be vital.

Many decisions including the application for funding, as well as lease arrangements and planning decisions are detailed and complex and to maximise the outcome, specific expertise is required. The enabling role of local authorities and NGBs will be central to on the delivery of on the ground success.

Sport Specific Objectives

- 4.6 Building upon the overarching aims and objectives, as well as the overarching strategy recommendations, the differing issues identified for each sport, as well as the varying nature of facilities provided means that sport specific objectives / delivery mechanisms are also set. These are summarised in brief below and are expanded upon further in the local authority specific sections that follow.

Football

- Objective 1: Retain the current level of provision by protecting all sites or providing an equivalent or better replacement where a site is lost
- Objective 2: Ensure security of tenure to promote long term access to key sites and facilitate funding and investment. This may include asset transfer
- Objective 3: Address deficiencies and pressures on existing provision by;
 - delivering hub sites in each of the key settlements, including the provision of a 3g AGP as well as grass pitches that meet with NGB standards. At least one new AGP is required in Malvern Hills and 2 in Worcester City and 3 in Wychavon District. AGPs will be used to support the stock of existing grass pitches;
 - supporting reviews of maintenance procedures at all football pitches. Priority will be given to those that are currently overplayed and / or where there are shortages in provision;
 - investing in the quality of sites that are important for football and are impacting upon the standard of play. Prioritisation will link with the proposed hierarchy of pitch provision;
 - supporting community and charter standard clubs where additional or improved facilities are required – there should be clear evidence of need and clear understanding of the impact that improvement will have;
 - providing new facilities on new development sites – these should be in the form of multi pitch sites and should be linked to existing clubs; and
 - securing community to use to sites identified as valuable.
- Objective 4: Maximise the quality of the facility stock by implementing the proposed quality hierarchy and identifying where quality improvements are required to either meet NGB or league standards. Adequate ancillary provision should be provided on senior pitches and a minimum of toilets should be provided on all sites catering for youth teams.

Cricket

- Objective 1: Retain the current level of provision by protecting all sites
- Objective 2: Support the provision of new pitches for clubs where teams are displaced, prioritising those where the wicket is also at capacity. This should be created through either extensions to existing sites, satellite facilities (at clubs with

spare capacity - quality improvements may be required or new sites) or through the enhancement of facilities on school sites. Any new sites created as satellite facilities (for example on new developments) should be directly linked to an existing club

- Objective 3: Focus pitch quality improvements on the wicket and outfield, ensuring that all cricket pitches are of a quality suitable for the standard of play that is undertaken and that grounds meet with league ground grading requirements. Club bases should include full changing and ancillary facilities of sufficient size and scale for the number of teams that they are offering
- Objective 4: Ensure that all clubs have at least one artificial wicket and access to appropriate training nets. Clubs with greater pressures on existing grass squares will be prioritised
- Objective 5: Ensure the sustainability of existing sites by maximising partnership working (See SW8).

Rugby

- Objective 1: Retain the current level of provision by protecting all sites
- Objective 2: Support the extension and / or relocation of existing club sites where there are existing / projected future capacity or quality issues that cannot be rectified through improved maintenance and capital investment
- Objective 3: Address overplay and increase spare capacity by investing in quality improvements where these are currently impacting capacity and prioritising the delivery of appropriate maintenance regimes at each site – pitch maintenance procedures should not negatively impact the number of games that can be played – each pitch should be capable of accommodating at least two games week. Specific issues relating to maintenance at each site are included in the local authority sections that follow
- Objective 4: All rugby clubs should have appropriate access to training facilities (either 3g or floodlit grass pitches). At least two floodlit grass pitches should be provided for each club.

Hockey

- Objective 1: Ensure that there are sufficient sand based pitches of appropriate quality within a reasonable drivetime distance of hockey club to accommodate peak time demand. This should include the provision of appropriate ancillary facilities as well as an adequate pitch surface
- Objective 2: Improve access to facilities for clubs for training – this links with the requirement for additional 3g pitches, which if delivered is likely to free up access for hockey clubs to sand based pitches. Decision making relating to pitch surfaces should be taken in conjunction with the FA and need for football and the impact that this will have on access to facilities for hockey.

- 4.7 The policies set out on previous pages outline how the strategic objectives of this strategy will be delivered across the South Worcestershire area. They have been derived from the overview of issues for each sport across South Worcestershire.
- 4.8 Issues are apparent however in each local authority to a greater or lesser extent, and different solutions are appropriate to address the issues identified. Sections 5 – 7 therefore provide the key priorities for action in each local authority.
- 4.9 Section 8 summarises the issues identified and a full overview of all site specific priorities across South Worcestershire is also set out.

5: Malvern Hills: Context & Recommendations

Introduction

- 5.1 This section sets out the priority actions and site specific priorities to meet the objectives set out in the Strategic Framework for Malvern Hills District.
- 5.2 These priorities have been developed in conjunction with the playing pitch strategy steering group and will require an inter-agency approach to ensure delivery.

Recommendations and Priorities

- 5.3 Section 4 outlined the key overarching and sport specific objectives for South Worcestershire as a whole. Using these as a basis, and drawing upon the issues identified, the site specific priorities for each sport are outlined in Tables 5.1 - 5.4.

Table 5.1 – Site Specific Priorities for Football in Malvern Hills

Link to Sites	Detailed Facility Requirements	Justification
Strategic Objective SW1	F1: Protect all sites containing current football pitches.	
Football Objective F1	<p>All sites.</p> <p>Replacement should be required for any facilities lost.</p> <p>The replacement of a grass pitch with a 3g AGP should be supported where the need for the AGP is evidenced within this document.</p> <p>Any replacement facility should be to the same or better quality, should meet NGB specifications and include parking and ancillary facilities.</p>	<p>The evidence base demonstrates that all existing club based football pitches are required to meet current and projected future growth as there is already a need for additional pitches.</p> <p>3G AGPs provide a means of addressing deficiencies in grass pitch provision and accommodating both training and match play. Where need is identified; the creation of such a facility will be of benefit to the sporting community as a whole. However, further 3G AGP pitches could negatively impact upon sustainability and result in the loss of grass pitches. The need for AGPs will be monitored and updated as part of the monitoring process for this strategy document.</p>
Strategic Objective SW1	F2: Retain former playing fields containing football pitches where listed as protected in Appendix A. Former pitch sites will be required unless it can be demonstrated that they meet with exception criteria listed in Sport England Policy at the time of decision making.	
Football Objective 1	Given the overall pressures of pitches in the district, any loss of pitches should contribute towards the improvement of other sites in line with strategy priorities.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Howard Road Playing Fields (as part of West Worcester Development) West Malvern Playing Fields 	<p>This evidence base forms the basis for decision making in relation to pitch provision across South Worcestershire. Decision making in relation to the requirement for specific pitches takes into account the current and projected demand for pitches, as well as site location and characteristics (i.e. single pitch site / large site) etc.</p>
Strategic Objective SW6	F3: Support the provision of a new AGP to create a hub site in Malvern.	
	This will require a full detailed costed feasibility study to evaluate the suitability of the proposed pitch location and ensure sustainability through the	

Football Objective 3	development of a full business case.	
	<p>3G AGP as stadia pitch to be located at Langland Stadium - Malvern (preferred venue) or another suitable site within the Malvern assessment area.</p>	<p>3g stadia pitch should meet NGB specifications set out in the FA Guide to 3g Football Turf Design for the relevant standard of the club. This should include testing every 3 years to ensure facility is listed on the FA register. It should include floodlighting (200 lux).</p> <p>Ancillary provision will also be required and this should also meet Ground Grading Requirements. As a minimum, improvements to existing structures needed will include medical facilities, fencing / infrastructure improvements and functional catering facilities.</p>

<p>Strategic Objective SW6</p> <p>Football Objective 3</p>			<p>primarily on a Sunday, meaning that there may be scope to accommodate 1 -2 match equivalents per week 9v9 / youth play. The provision of an AGP will therefore offset some unmet demand in the district.</p> <p>There is also a need for improved ancillary improvements at the Langland Stadium to ensure that facilities meet with pyramid league requirements as well as enabling the site to function as a sustainable community venue.</p>
	<p>F4: Address deficiencies of grass pitch provision, particularly where capacity is most tightly constrained. This will require a variety of actions including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pitches • Quality improvements • Securing community use of key sites. <p>Recommendations are split between the sub areas of the district, however the proposed improvements will impact across the district as a whole, due to patterns of travel.</p>		
	<p>Central Area</p> <p>Provide football pitches (hub site) on the West Worcester (incorporating Howard Road Playing Fields) development.</p> <p>a) Hollow Playing Fields - improvement to pitch surface</p> <p>b) Invest in drainage improvements at Hospital Lane Playing Fields (Powick) to</p>	<p>Central area</p> <p>West Worcester Development -Facilities on the development should be planned in conjunction with St Johns Colts and Oldbury Park Tigers (both Worcester City based clubs who are dispersed across multiple venues). The relocation of these clubs will provide additional capacity within the central area of Malvern Hills as well as in Worcester City. Pitch requirement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x AGP (to be used for 5v5 / 7v7 as well as other matches when available). The size of this facility should be confirmed based upon planned usage and optimum site layout, as well as the delivery of other strategy recommendations • 2 x 9v9 (some games also to be accommodated 	<p>Central Area</p> <p>There are fewer capacity issues in the central area than in other parts – and there is no overmarking of senior pitches. There are however much greater quantity issues in Worcester City which impact on the central area (teams are currently displaced) and are likely to be further exacerbated by growth. The location of the West Worcester Development (within Malvern Hills) provides an opportunity to address these issues as well as to address the impact of the population growth.</p> <p>Deficiencies in the central area amount to circa 3 pitches, however deficiencies in Worcester City are much greater. The proposed quantities of pitch provision allow for activity of St Johns Colts and Oldbury Park Tigers to be accommodated on the site. Provision will however need to be flexible to adapt to changing demands of these</p>

	<p>increase capacity of site. Site also requires changing accommodation</p> <p>c) Requirement for additional pitches 7v7 / 5 v5 pitches to support Leigh and Bransford Badgers depending upon future of Ralf's Field, which has recently been withdrawn from use.</p> <p>Malvern Town</p> <p>a) The proposed AGP at Langland Stadium will have a small impact in offsetting unmet demand in Malvern (but will largely address issues for Malvern Town). Existing shortfalls in provision mean that further action is required;</p> <p>b) Investigate options to extend Sling Lane site into Haylans Fields</p> <p>c) Provide additional capacity for football through the inclusion of football pitches at the Newlands</p>	<p>on AGP, but peak time is same as 7v7 and 5v5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 youth pitches (some matches to be accommodated on AGP) <p>All pitches should meet with NGB requirements and should be pipe drained. Full NGB compliant ancillary provision should also be provided and car parking should meet with local authority requirements. Note these needs are representative of existing need but final configuration should be agreed based club need at the time.</p> <p>Hallow Playing Fields - surface levelling, decompaction.</p> <p>Hospital Lane - Powick - installation of pipe drainage (2 pitches). No existing changing accommodation - 2 to 4 rooms required.</p> <p>Malvern Town</p> <p>Sling Lane requirements - to provide an additional 1 - 2 pitches (senior) as part of potential housing development. Pitches should be pipe drained.</p> <p>Newlands Development; Pitch Requirements: Circa three 9v9 / youth pitches are required as well as capacity for 5v5 / 7v7. This is however based upon current need and will vary. To ensure maximum flexibility, the layout of the site should include at least 2 adult pitches. All pitches should meet with NGB requirements and should be pipe drained.</p> <p>Full NGB compliant ancillary provision should also be provided and car parking should meet with local</p>	<p>clubs.</p> <p>Hospital Lane, Powick and Hallow Playing Fields have currently achieved poor ratings and both are overplayed, directly as a consequence of the limited capacity that they offer. Enhancement of the quality of these sites will increase the adequacy of provision in the central area by raising total capacity. Powick FC (Pyramid Club) will also be seeking improved provision if they get promoted.</p> <p>Malvern Town</p> <p>Malvern Town is the area where highest pressures currently exist and is also likely to experience the greatest impact of population growth. The proposed AGP will address issues for Malvern Town but will have more limited impact on other areas.</p> <p>Shortages in Malvern in future years will equate to the equivalent of at least 2 -3 additional youth pitches, and 1 9v9 as well as further 7v7 and 5v5 pitches needed (or equivalent capacity). Proposals for new provision seek to offset these deficiencies.</p> <p>Lower Howsell Road currently offers reduced capacity due to poor drainage and pitch surface. Enhancement of the quality of these sites will increase the adequacy of</p>
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	<p>Development site. New pitches should be linked with a club to maximise their role in community football.</p> <p>d) Drainage improvements and surface quality improvements to Lower Howsell Road</p>	<p>authority standards.</p> <p>Lower Howsell Road - installation of pipe drainage and surface levelling.</p>	<p>provision by raising total capacity.</p>
	<p>Tenbury and North</p> <p>a) Improvements to the drainage at Palmers Meadow. Linking with rugby, floodlights to be provided on pitch shared between football and rugby to facilitate training. Changing provision for pitches.</p> <p>b) Secure community access to Tenbury High School</p> <p>c) A masterplanning exercise to evaluate the potential to provide additional capacity and to address issues with flooding of current sites should be undertaken. This should be in</p>	<p>Tenbury and North</p> <p>Palmers Meadow - Facility requirements - pipe drainage required (2 pitches) and one set of floodlights</p> <p>Masterplanning exercise in Tenbury to consider opportunities for additional grass pitches (football - circa 2). Any new site should meet NGB specifications and include ancillary provision and parking in line with local authority standards. The proposed retention of the sand based AGP in Leominster for hockey is likely to address hockey, but masterplanning should take into account both new provision and changes to existing that occur in the interim.</p>	<p>Tenbury and North</p> <p>There are no clear opportunities to provide additional pitches at the current time in Tenbury. The Palmers Meadow site is of limited quality (bordering standard to poor) and deterioration of this site would see a reduction in capacity in an area where demand already exceeds supply (the site is overplayed). Pitch and maintenance improvements therefore will support existing levels of provision.</p> <p>Pitches at Tenbury High would however provide additional opportunities for the existing club to expand and the school may be willing to provide access for the club. Access would increase the number of secured pitches available, which will be essential in spreading use across pitches and help to build school / club relationships. Maximising the use of school facilities is a key theme of the Malvern Hills Sport and Leisure Strategy document.</p> <p>Longer term, further provision may be required. Issues with the facility stock in Tenbury are not isolated to football, and an AGP, linked with other sports, may provide a solution to issues experienced in the Tenbury area. The small number of teams across the pitch sports however means that sustainability may be questionable and will depend upon the impact of other new facilities in the</p>

	<p>conjunction with other sports and in the context of the new facilities that are to be provided elsewhere in the district. This is a longer term priority.</p> <p>Upton and South</p> <p>a) Secure formal use of pitches at Hanley Castle School (requires a review of pitches available and potential redefined layout due to known existing small pitch sizes)</p> <p>b) Potential extension to pitches at Spitalfield</p> <p>c) Kempsey Playing Fields - extension to site.</p> <p>d) Potential additional AGP (longer term) depending upon impact of other proposals to meet the need of football and rugby. This is unlikely to be required if recommendations in the new Hereford PPS to resurface the</p>	<p>Upton and South</p> <p>Spitalfield - Site currently includes 2 changing rooms and additional capacity will be required if extension is provided. Potential extension 1 - 2 pitches. Viability of potential extension (both deliverability and financial viability) to be investigated).</p> <p>Kempsey Playing Fields - Additional capacity equating to 2 pitches (current demand suggests 9v9 / senior required). Site also has insufficient changing accommodation with only 2 rooms. Modernisation and further changing provision (2 rooms) therefore also needed. All facilities should meet with NGB specifications and Local authority parking requirements. Viability to be investigated.</p> <p>Masterplanning exercise in Upton - to consider opportunities for capacity and improved pitch quality in the Upton area. Any new site should meet NGB specifications and include ancillary provision and parking in line with local authority standards. Masterplanning should take into account both new provision and changes to existing that occur in the interim. The feasibility of a new AGP in Upton will be dependent upon the delivery of objectives to provide other 3g pitches both within South Worcestershire and in neighbouring areas. Any 3g pitch provided in this area</p>	<p>district. A masterplanning / financial modelling exercise will therefore need to be undertaken to explore opportunities in the area.</p> <p>Upton and South</p> <p>Spare capacity is highest of all parts of Malvern Hills but several pitches are underused due to poor quality and flood risk. As a result, there is sufficient provision to meet current and projected future demand but clubs are not necessarily where they wish to play.</p> <p>Spare capacity is largely attributed to poor condition of pitches and issues with flooding, many of which are difficult to resolve due to the location of existing facilities and the general flooding issues experienced in the Upton area. These issues cause teams to travel elsewhere.</p> <p>While AGPs may address flooding issues, FA calculations indicate that only two 3g AGPs are required in Malvern Hills District and priority has been given to the Malvern area due to high participation. A 3g AGP may however provide a solution to issues experienced in Upton but sustainability will depend upon the impact of other new facilities in the district.</p> <p>Hanley Castle School offers significant potential for the delivery of sport in the area. Access would increase the number of secured pitches available, which will be essential in spreading use across pitches and help to build school / club relationships. Maximising the use of school facilities is a key theme of the Malvern Hills Sport and Leisure Strategy document.</p>
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	<p>existing sand based pitch to 3g are delivered.</p> <p>e) A masterplanning exercise to evaluate the potential to provide additional capacity and to address issues with flooding of current sites should be undertaken. This should be in conjunction with other sports and in the context of the new facilities that are to be provided elsewhere in the district.</p>	<p>should be both FA and World Rugby compliant.</p>	<p>Calculations demonstrate that Kempsey Playing Fields and Welland FC (Spitalfield) require additional capacity to meet current and / projected future demand at their sites. These localised capacity issues can both be addressed through the extension of existing facilities.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW3, SW6</p>	<p>F5: Address capacity and quality issues to support Pyramid Clubs in the provision of appropriate facilities both to meet ground grading requirements, and to support the growth of associated youth teams.</p> <p>Additional capacity may be provided through the creation of small sized AGPs to meet demand.</p>		
<p>Football Objective 3, 4</p>	<p>Linking with F3, seek to provide a stadium 3g pitch at the Langland Stadium (Malvern Town). Improvements to the overall infrastructure of the site will be required to meet ground grading requirements, as well as a change of surface.</p> <p>Powick</p>	<p>Langland Stadium - 3g stadia pitch should meet NGB specifications set out in the FA Guide to 3g Football Turf Design for the relevant standard of the club. This should include testing every 3 years to ensure facility is listed on the FA register. It should include floodlighting (200 lux).</p> <p>Ancillary provision should also meet Ground Grading Requirements. As a minimum this will include medical facilities, fencing / infrastructure improvements and catering facilities but the site may require reconfiguration to maximise</p>	<p>Pyramid clubs are a key component of the footballing infrastructure across Malvern Hills, providing opportunities for progression in to the higher echelons of the football league.</p> <p>Malvern Town FC is a pyramid club. The current facility at Langland Stadium does not meet needs of Malvern Town FC or the FA ground grading regulations in terms of both capacity and quality (compacting due to overuse, medical facilities, fencing). The site is overplayed due the reliance upon the use of the pitch for both matches (for several teams and training). The inclusion of an AGP on this site will eliminate club based capacity issues and add an</p>

Strategic Objective SW5 Football Objective F3, F4	Monitor activity of Powick Rangers FC and requirement for improved facilities.	opportunities.	additional training venue for clubs in Malvern Hills District. Powick: The club are currently playing at Malvern Vale which meets with existing requirements. If the team is promoted however they will need to find alternative accommodation as the pitch location and facilities would not meet ground grading requirements.
	F6: Support providers in the improvement of maintenance regimes, linking with overarching recommendation SW5.		
Strategic Objective SW3 Football Objective 4	All sites, but in particular; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malvern Vale Community Centre Palmer's Meadow Kempsey Playing Fields Victoria Park, Malvern Hallow Playing Fields Hospital Lane, Powick 	Specific Maintenance Requirements; Malvern Vale Community Centre - decompaction and fertiliser. Remedial action also required to address issues of overplay. Palmer's Meadow - decompaction and levelling, improved weekly maintenance programme. Kempsey Playing Fields - existing maintenance regime basic. Requires decompaction, fertiliser. Victoria Park - Malvern - decompaction required to maximise benefits of maintenance programme. Hallow Playing Fields - requires decompaction. Hospital Lane - requires aeration and fertilisation.	Many pitches in Malvern Hills are on the border between poor and standard. A reduction in the capacity of pitches would have significant consequences in terms of overall capacity, given the degree to which supply is already closely balanced with demand. This is particularly important in Malvern Hills, given the use of most pitches in all timeslots across the weekend, due to the practice of overmarking facilities. Pitches are therefore required to sustain several matches per week, and maintenance programmes must be tailored to this to ensure facilities do not suffer deterioration over the longer term.
	F7: Improve the quality of key sites across the district		
	Improvement to the quality of many facilities is linked to improvements in capacity (F2). Other sites would however benefit from improvements to enhance player experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ralfs Field - toilets Broadwas Playing Fields - toilets The Hill Centre - additional changing accommodation to match number of pitches with ancillary facilities and facilitate club activity (2 further rooms). 	While the quality issues identified at the listed sites is not directly influencing pitch capacity currently, improvements are required to meet with overall strategy objectives.

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Table 5.2 - Site Specific Priorities for Cricket in Malvern Hills

Links to Strategic Objectives	Strategic Sites	Specific Facility Requirements	Justification
Strategic Objective SW1	C1: Protect all existing cricket club based cricket pitches.		
Cricket Objective 1	All sites.		The evidence base demonstrates that all existing club based cricket pitches are required to meet current and projected future growth. There are no sites with grass pitches that are not currently used and spare capacity across the district is very limited (just 4.5 match equivalents at peak time, with several teams displaced). All facilities are therefore valuable in meeting projected future facility needs.
Strategic Objective SW6	C2: Support the provision of second grounds for clubs where evidence indicates that additional facilities are required - where they are currently displaced and / or at capacity.		
Cricket Objective 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rushwick CC - club currently exploring use of site adjacent to existing facility - this should be supported Malvern CC - club third team currently displaced. Club require second ground - opportunity to provide as part of the Newland Development. Barnards' Green CC could also look to use the site as their Newland Ground is poor Worcester Nomads - club currently exploring use of site adjacent to existing facility - this should be supported Kempsey CC – are actively seeking a second ground in and around the Severn Stoke area, to support the ever 	<p>Pitches at all three proposed venues should meet with ECB standards.</p> <p>Additional ancillary provision will be required to support each pitch (2 changing rooms / official room).</p> <p>Car parking should also meet with local authority specifications.</p>	<p>All three clubs are already displaced at peak time and are at / approaching capacity across the week, meaning that there is little scope for further use of the facilities and limited opportunity to build junior participation.</p> <p>While there is a small amount of peak time capacity in Malvern Hills (4.5 match equivalents by 2030), additional provision will add extra capacity to cricket provision in Malvern Hills, which is currently closely matched with demand and will ensure that current and future projections can be met. Pitch provision is particularly compromised in the Malvern area and this will be exacerbated by population growth unless new pitches are provided.</p>

Strategic Objective SW8 Cricket Objective 5	growing taxi premier league		
	C3: Support all clubs and leagues in creating club development plans to enable targeted and accurate forecasting and monitoring of additional pitch requirements. Priority should be given to clubs approaching capacity. Club development plans should also be a priority for clubs with fewer teams and where sustainability is a key concern.		
Strategic Objective SW3 Cricket Objective 3	<p>Key Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rushwick CC • Malvern CC • Worcester Nomads CC • Barnards Green CC • Clubs with fewer teams and issues with sustainability (eg Corse Lawn Common CC, Bushley CC and Knighton on Teme CC) 		<p>Significant increases in participation may impact upon the ability of facilities to sustain activity, particularly if growth is focused on one club. The strategy seeks to ensure that facilities do not inhibit participation growth and long term planning of facilities is therefore essential.</p> <p>Clubs that are prioritised are those that are either currently overplayed or at capacity, meaning that there is little scope for growth without use of appropriate satellite facilities or those where there are issues with sustainability.</p>
	C4: Work with larger clubs to address current quality issues to maximise club based activity and enhance junior development.		
All sites for cricket should include full changing accommodation and shelter as well as appropriate parking.			
	<p>Malvern</p> <p>Barnards Green CC</p> <p>Tenbury and North</p> <p>Tenbury Wells CC (ancillary facilities)</p>	<p>All facilities should meet with ECB design guidance and local league criteria.</p> <p>Barnards Green CC - modernisation and enhancement of existing changing facility for secondpitch. Some minor quality issues (eg wave on square) also identified.</p> <p>Tenbury Wells CC - review requirements to further modernise the pavilion, following recent Sport England funded improvements.</p>	<p>The quality of cricket pitches is a key component of the cricket club and is monitored as part of the Worcestershire Cricket Leagues, where specific quality standards are required. A lack of pitches of appropriate quality will have significant impact on participation. There are some clubs that are of high priority, due to the number of teams that are run and the impact that improvement will therefore have.</p> <p>The quality of the wicket is the key element of a cricket pitch and it is this that most influences the capacity of a facility and its overall condition. A good quality grass wicket is able to sustain 7 adult</p>

			<p>matches per season, whereas poorer quality facilities can take more limited play. To maximise the use of each facility, good quality wickets are essential. Higher quality facilities will increase the number of games that can be sustained without deterioration.</p> <p>Worcestershire Cricket Board research indicates that ancillary facilities are as important as the actual pitch in attracting new players and retaining them. Improvements to facilities where they do not meet needs are therefore essential if aspirations to increase participation are achieved.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW8, SW3, SW6</p>	<p>C4: Support smaller clubs in the provision of improved cricket facilities by working alongside larger clubs to improve sites to enable them to be used in local league play.</p>		
<p>Cricket Objectives 2, 3 and 5</p>	<p>Central Holt and Grimley CC</p> <p>Tenbury and North Knighton on Teme</p> <p>Upton and South Bushley CC</p>	<p>All facilities should meet with ECB design guidance and local league criteria.</p> <p>Holt and Grimley - no existing pavilion - new facility required. Uneven wicket and outfield - requires levelling.</p> <p>Knighton on Teme - requires electricity in pavilion</p> <p>Bushley CC - outfield requires levelling</p>	<p>The quality of cricket pitches is a key component of the cricket club and is monitored as part of the Worcestershire Cricket Leagues. A lack of pitches of appropriate quality will have significant impact on participation.</p> <p>Some smaller clubs have more basic facilities but have spare capacity to accommodate additional teams. The quality of some of these facilities means that currently, they may not meet with specifications required with league play. Improvement to these facilities, facilitated by partnerships with larger clubs (who will benefit from use of the site for their third team) will maximise capacity in the district (particularly where this is at peak time) as well as improve sustainability (through improved income) at smaller clubs.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW3</p>	<p>C5: Support cricket clubs in the improvement of training facilities to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance. This should include improvements (or provision of) both functional training nets and artificial wickets for all clubs. The aspiration is for all clubs to have;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one artificial wicket 		

Cricket Objective 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to functional training nets 		
	<p>Central -Hallow Playing Field, Rushwick CC (key priority)</p> <p>Malvern -Malvern CC</p> <p>Tenbury and North - Martley CC</p> <p>Upton and South - Hanley Castle CC, Kempsey</p>	<p>All training nets and non turf wickets should meet with ECB design and installation guidance. Site specific requirements at priority sites include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hallow Playing Field - no existing nets, non turf wicket not useable due to rips in surface. New provision required Rushwick CC - existing non turf wicket requires replacement Malvern CC - require non turf wicket. Poor condition and limited functionality of existing nets - require replacement Martley CC - site does not have either non turf wicket or training nets - requires new provision Hanley Castle CC - Both non turf wicket and existing training nets poor and require replacement Kempsey CC - No non turf wicket. 	<p>A lack of training facilities can result in increased use of the grass square for training (which reduces capacity for match play). Worcestershire Cricket Board also reveals that clubs with training facilities are also considered to be more likely to attract young players, which is central to the growth of the game.</p> <p>Training facilities are therefore essential in a successful cricket club. Priority should be given to clubs with higher training requirements in order to maximise the impact of intervention.</p>

Table 5.3 - Site Specific Priorities for Rugby in Malvern Hills

Links to Strategic Objectives	Priority Sites and Actions	Specific Facility Requirements	Justification
<p>Strategic Objective SW1</p> <p>Rugby Objective 1</p>	<p>R1: Protect the current level of club based provision by protecting all sites</p>		
	<p>All club bases.</p> <p>Malvern RFC are looking to relocate due to insufficient pitch provision at their existing site. This replacement should be permitted assuming that the new site provides appropriate facilities as identified in R2.</p>		<p>The evidence base demonstrates that all existing club based rugby sites are required to meet current and projected future demand.</p> <p>There is insufficient capacity at the existing site to meet current and projected future demand for Malvern RFC and no opportunities for expansion at the existing facility. Relocation provides the only means of providing an appropriate facility and the loss of the current facility should therefore be permitted in order to provide a new site.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW6, SW3, SW5, SW8</p> <p>Rugby Objective 2</p>	<p>R2: Support the relocation of Malvern Rugby Club. Pitches and ancillary facilities should be provided in line with NGB guidance.</p>		
	<p>Relocation of Malvern RFC explore opportunities to reprovide the site for Malvern RFC at the Newland Development (proposed strategic housing site located on the edge of Malvern) or another suitable location within the Malvern area.</p>	<p>Malvern RUFC requires:</p> <p>At least 4 adult pitches and 4 midi pitches, as well as appropriate floodlighting (2 pitches).</p> <p>Pitches should meet with RFU guidelines and should include full drainage.</p> <p>A pavilion in line with RFU standards should also be provided (at least 6 changing rooms) as well as appropriate car parking in line with local authority standards.</p> <p>An alternative site will be required if proposals at Newlands Development can not be delivered.</p>	<p>There is insufficient capacity at the existing Malvern RFC to meet current and projected future demand for Malvern RFC and no opportunities for expansion at the existing facility. Relocation provides the only means of providing an appropriate facility.</p> <p>Analysis of current and projected future demand through modelling enables the detailed requirements for the site to be calculated. This assumes that pitches are maintained to a standard level (2 games per week minimum) and are provided in line with NGB guidance.</p>

Strategic Objective SW3	R3: Support drainage improvements (linked with recommendations to improve maintenance below) where capacity is impacted by poor drainage.		
	Tenbury RFC	Tenbury RFC - Installation of pipe drainage on two pitches.	Poor drainage directly impacts capacity. To accommodate current and future demand, clubs will require pitches to function at their optimum levels. Modelling and calculations demonstrate that improvements to drainage (linked with maintenance improvements below) will ensure that capacity is sufficient in the long term at Tenbury RFC.
Rugby Objective 3	R4: Work with Upton RFC to identify an appropriate means of addressing flooding issues, linking with other sports.		
	<p>In the short term, Upton RFC should build links with Hanley Castle School to use their facilities and therefore increase capacity in the short term, as well as to develop school club links</p> <p>The creation of an AGP suitable for football and rugby may provide longer term solutions in this area, although the action in the Hereford PPS to provide a 3g pitch at Ledbury is likely to mean that a further pitch in Upton is unsustainable.</p> <p>A masterplanning exercise to evaluate the potential to provide additional capacity and to address issues with flooding of current sites should be undertaken. This should be in conjunction with other sports and in the context of the new facilities that are to be provided elsewhere in the district and outside. This is a longer term priority.</p>	<p>Upton RFC requires investment into modernisation and extension of changing rooms. This should link with masterplanning to ensure that new facilities are provided at sustainable site.</p> <p>Masterplanning exercise in Upton - to consider opportunities for capacity and improved pitch quality in the Upton area. Any new site should meet NGB specifications and include ancillary provision and parking in line with local authority standards. Masterplanning should take into account both new provision and changes to existing that occur in the interim. The feasibility of a new AGP in Upton will be dependent upon the delivery of objectives to provide other 3g pitches both within South Worcestershire and in neighbouring areas. Any 3g pitch provided in this area should be both FA and World Rugby compliant.</p>	<p>The site is currently impacted by poor drainage, as well as poor maintenance. Poor drainage directly impacts capacity. To accommodate current and future demand, all named clubs will require pitches to function at their optimum levels. Modelling and calculations demonstrate that improvements to drainage (linked with maintenance improvements below) will ensure that capacity is sufficient in the long term. The flooding issues in the area however mean that the impact of drainage improvements is questionable and alternative solutions should be considered.</p>
Strategic	R5: Actively promote improved maintenance regimes at clubs where maintenance is impacting capacity. This links with overarching		

Objective SW5	recommendation SW5.		
Rugby Objective 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upton RFC • Tenbury RFC 	<p>Upton RFC - pitches would benefit from aeration and sand dressing and increased fertilisation and weed killing.</p> <p>Tenbury RUFC - pitches would benefit from aeration and sand dressing and increased fertilisation and weed killing.</p>	<p>Poor maintenance regimes directly limit capacity both in the short term and longer term as pitches deteriorate at both Upton RFC and Tenbury RFC. The limited maintenance regime at Upton RFC is directly causing the overplay that has been identified.</p> <p>Pitches at both sites are currently operating below optimum capacity directly due to the maintenance regime. Improvements to the regime will increase the number of games that can be sustained and consequently the number of teams that can be accommodated. To maximise benefits, this will need to be linked to drainage improvements (R3 and R4).</p>
Strategic Objective SW3	R6: Install an additional set of floodlights at each rugby club base to spread the impact of training.		
Rugby Objective 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenbury RFC • Malvern RFC • Upton RFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenbury RFC - floodlights to be provided (to be shared with football) on one pitch • Malvern RFC - two sets of floodlights to be provided as part of new ground (R2) • Upton RFC - additional set of floodlights required <p>All floodlights should meet with RFU specifications in terms of design and installation.</p>	<p>Training is focused on the floodlit areas and these parts of the ground are becoming particularly compromised. The installation of further floodlights will allow a better spread of play across all pitches available and will improve capacity for training.</p>

Table 5.4 - Site Specific Recommendations and Priorities for Hockey in Malvern Hills

Links to Strategic Objectives	Priority Sites and Actions	Site Specific Requirements	Justification
<p>Strategic Objective SW1</p> <p>Hockey Objective 1</p>	<p>H1: Protect the current level of club based provision by retaining a minimum of one sand based hockey pitch for club use in Malvern.</p>		
	<p>One sand based pitch is currently required to support hockey in Malvern town.</p> <p>Due to the availability of appropriate ancillary and changing provision (although the pitch requires refurbishment - see H2) the suggested site is Malvern St James.</p> <p>The pitch at Malvern College is also identified as being strategically important by England Hockey due to the use for training by the development centres and should be retained for this purpose. The site has limited availability at weekends for hockey due to the requirements of school use and boarders.</p>	<p>Retention of sand based surfaces at Malvern St James and Malvern College.</p>	<p>Modelling reveals that current and future demand for hockey in Malvern can be accommodated by one sand based pitch. Just one sand based facility is therefore required to sustain community use.</p> <p>None of the pitches offer all required components however, with facilities at Malvern College restricted due to school requirements and child protection guidelines. Improvement is therefore required to the facility at Malvern St James to ensure that the club continues to have access to appropriate facilities for competitive play.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW1</p> <p>Hockey Objective 1</p>	<p>H2: Refurbish sand based AGPs that are of poor quality to ensure that they remain suitable for league hockey.</p>		
	<p>Malvern St James</p> <p>For any refurbishment to be supported, it should be ensured that there is a long term agreement for community access to the pitch.</p>	<p>Malvern St James - pitch resurface to meet England Hockey and Sport England standards.</p>	<p>The surface at Malvern St James is currently poor and deteriorating. The site does however have strong ancillary facilities and spectator opportunities to support competitive hockey.</p>

Strategic Objective SW1 Hockey Objective 1 and 2	H3: Support the development of Tenbury Hockey Club	
	<p>The Hereford PPS identifies the retention of the site at Leominster as a sand based facility to serve hockey as a key priority. This would ensure that Tenbury HC have ongoing access to facility.</p> <p>A masterplanning exercise to evaluate the potential to support all clubs in Tenbury should be undertaken longer term. This exercise should be in conjunction with other sports and in the context of the new facilities that are to be provided elsewhere in the district and outside.</p>	<p>The provision of a sand based pitch in Tenbury to support Tenbury Hockey Club is not a priority of England Hockey due to the low levels of participation that currently exist. There are however issues with the adequacy of facilities for other sports in the town too and a joined up solution to support all sports should therefore be considered in the longer term.</p>

6: Worcester City: Context & Recommendations

Introduction

- 6.1 This section sets out the priority actions and site specific priorities to meet the objectives set out in the Strategic Framework for Worcester City.
- 6.2 These priorities have been developed in conjunction with the playing pitch strategy steering group and will require an inter-agency approach to ensure delivery.

Recommendations and Priorities

- 6.3 Section 4 outlined the key overarching and sport specific objectives across South Worcestershire as a whole. Using these as a basis, and drawing upon the issues identified in the city, the site specific priorities for each sport are outlined in Tables 6.1 - 6.4.

Table 6.1 - Site Specific Priorities and Recommendations for Football in Worcester City

Links to Strategic Objectives	Site Specific Priorities and Actions	Key Facility Requirements	Justification
<p>Strategic Objective SW1</p> <p>Football Objective 1</p>	<p>F1: Protect key sites containing football pitches</p> <p>Sites listed in Appendix A should be retained as football pitches (linking with recommendation F 1).</p> <p>It should be noted that some of these playing fields are not currently used as sites (and are categorised as former playing fields). They however form part of the strategy to meet future demand (F 3 / F4) and to this end should be protected.</p>	<p>Replacement should be required for any facilities lost (unless identified as not required as part of the strategy moving forwards in Appendix A).</p> <p>The replacement of a grass pitch with a 3g AGP should be supported where the need for the AGP is evidenced within this document.</p>	<p>The evidence base demonstrates that there are pressures on the existing stock of pitches for football in Worcester City, with significant shortages of pitch provision projected in future years. This strategy seeks to better configure the pitches that are provided and maximise the efficiency of pitch provision by the Council, as well as provide facilities tailored to meet the needs of the local clubs. The amount of playing fields assumed to be required has taken into account both current and projected demand and those sites listed in Appendix A form a key part of the delivery plan.</p> <p>The uncertainties around pitch provision in the area with regards security of access means that some sites that are not required to meet demand following reconfiguration, should also be retained in order to ensure supply does not become insufficient longer term. Decision making in relation to the requirement for specific pitches takes into account the current and projected demand for pitches, as well as site location and characteristics (i.e. single pitch site / large site) etc.</p> <p>AGPs provide a means of addressing deficiencies in grass pitch provision and accommodating both training and match play. Where need is identified; the creation of such a facility will be of benefit to the</p>

			<p>sporting community as a whole. Further pitches could however impact upon sustainability of the pitch stock and should not result in the loss of grass pitches. Need for AGPs will be monitored and updated as part of the monitoring process for this strategy document.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW2</p>	<p>F2: Support clubs in obtaining security of tenure on their sites to ensure long term access to club based facilities and to address potential longer term deficiencies.</p>		
<p>Football Objective 2 and 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester County Sports Ground • Archdale 74 • Bilford Corner (Tudor Grange School) • Little Perdiswell • Old Porcelain Ground (new changing accommodation also required) • Battenhall Playing Fields - University of Worcester 		<p>The sites listed all remain importance club bases and facilities are essential if current and projected future demand is to be met. The future of some sites listed is currently under question and short term support with negotiations may be required.</p> <p>The named sites play a key role in the proposed future delivery strategy for pitch provision across Worcester City and securing access to these facilities will reduce projected existing deficits in provision (which exclude unsecured sites). All sites named are currently well used but with long term future unsecure.</p> <p>As well as securing access to key sites, long term leases provide access to funding and capital grants, all of which will be essential if pitch quality is to be retained and improved. Loss of these sites (whether for development or another sport) should see facilities directly replaced.</p> <p>Battenhall Playing Fields owned and managed by university of Worcester have been classified as unsecure although there is a strong history of availability by the</p>

			<p>university and community use is of reciprocal benefit and the community use enhances the student experience and meets with key community engagement agendas. The primary function of the university is however the student need and long term access for the community will always be dependent on this.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW6</p>	<p>F3: To ensure that there is sufficient capacity to meet projected demand, support the delivery of at least two new football hubs.</p>		
<p>Football Objective 3 and 4</p>	<p>Create the following sites as sporting hubs (to provide at least 4 3G AGPs in total (ideally two East and two West). At least two hubs should be provided. The following sites should be considered for delivery of these hubs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perdiswell LC to include at least two new 3g AGPs and grass pitches (thought to be potential to accommodate circa 5). A full business plan and viability assessment should be undertaken to ensure financial deliverability and it should also be ensured that the pitches can be used within the regulations of the leagues for the key pitch users. Note also recommendation F5 Claines Lane /County Sports Ground (recently taken on a one year lease by the Worcestershire FA) provides an opportunity to accommodate one to two AGPs. Revised changing accommodation would also be needed. Creation of a hub at the West Worcestershire development site (also to address issues in Malvern Hills) 	<p>Specific Facility Requirements at Perdiswell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGP (ideally at least 2) and grass pitch specification to meet with NGB requirements, including pipe drainage Reinstatement works to existing grass pitches also required to ensure fit for purpose Changing (at least 2 changing rooms for each AGP, as well as 2 changing rooms for each senior grass pitch provided. There is an existing 6 changing room facility Catering / social facilities (within leisure centre for use by clubs) Adequate car parking in line with local authority standards. <p>Note also recommendation F5 on any site to accommodate Worcester City FC.</p> <p>County Sports Ground - requirements</p>	<p>The deficiencies in provision identified across Worcester City will be exacerbated by population growth and cannot be met by improvements in existing facilities. New provision is therefore required.</p> <p>The proposed Perdiswell Leisure Centre site is set in an area of outdoor space that is already designated as playing fields (but not currently used). Reconfiguration of the site and reinstatement as playing fields would provide the opportunity to link outdoor sporting activity with indoor facilities. As one of only large sites in the city, the site is of significant value from a sporting perspective.</p> <p>There is an identified deficiency in provision of AGPs within Worcester City (with FA modelling and scenario testing revealing that at least 4 are required) and the inclusion of 2 new facilities will go some way to addressing this issue. The location of both facilities at the same site will ensure that the site becomes strategically important for football in Worcestershire and also fits in with recently announced FA Priorities (Parklife) to develop 3g football hubs in cities to accommodate both competitive play and</p>

	<p>It should be noted that if a full FA parklife model is adopted at the proposed football hub at Perdiswell Leisure Centre and 3 or more AGPs are provided, the AGP at the West Worcestershire development / hub at County Sports Ground may not be required (need should be tested based on the situation at that time in conjunction with facilities required in Malvern and usage of other key sites).</p> <p>The fast changing nature of these proposals means that a review should be undertaken on a 6 monthly basis due to the uncertainty of land ownership at each of the proposed hubs.</p> <p>University of Worcester are currently in the process of purchasing 50 acres of land at the Top Barn Activity Centre at Holt Heath, to provide inclusive sport, exercise and outdoor activities. Details as to the types of facilities that will be included on this site have not yet been finalised, but it is likely that the new provision may include grass pitches and AGPs. The primary purpose of the site will be to accommodate university educational programmes and BUCS teams, and community access will be available to subject to programming. Progress on the acquisition of the site and any subsequent masterplanning should be monitored in order to ensure that the implications of the new development are taken into account.</p>	<p>will be dependent on agreed provision at Perdiswell. Site should be considered as opportunity to provide 3G AGPs if required. If not needed as AGP, site should be retained as grass.</p> <p>Specific facility requirements at West Worcester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGP and grass pitch specification to meet with NGB requirements, including pipe drainage. Site to include 1 x AGP (to be used for 5v5 / 7v7 as well as other matches when available), 2 x 9v9 (some games also to be accommodated on AGP, but peak time is same as 5v5 and 7v7 and 3 youth pitches (some matches to be accommodated on AGP). This represents projected need based on the current picture will change annually. Pitch layout should be designed as adult pitches to ensure greatest flexibility as site • Changing and (at least 2 changing rooms for each AGP, as well as 2 changing rooms for each grass pitch provided) • Adequate car parking in line with local authority standards. <p>The fast changing nature of these proposals means that a review should be undertaken on a 6 monthly basis due to the uncertainty of land</p>	<p>training).</p> <p>The West Worcester development will address the impact of development both in Worcester City and also in Malvern Hills, where large quantities of development will take place on the periphery of Worcester City. It should seek to support the requirements of Oldbury Tigers FC and St Johns Colts, who currently use small unsecured pitches within Worcester City and are also forced to travel in to Malvern Hills to obtain pitches for older age groups. This is not conducive to club development and also impacts on the adequacy of facilities in other areas. The location of the West Worcestershire development provides an opportunity to meet the needs of these clubs through a combination of grass pitches and an AGP. The total pitch provision at this site will contribute towards the overall strategy for future pitches across Worcester City.</p> <p>If long term leases for football are not delivered at any of the sites named in F2, replacement provision should be required, ideally through additional provision at the football hubs.</p>
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<p>Strategic Objective SW3, SW6</p>		ownership at each of the proposed hubs. The	
	<p>F4: To further address existing and projected future capacity issues, and linking with the creation of new football hubs, reconfigure the existing pitch stock across Worcester City to maximise efficiencies and provide access to facilities of improved quality.</p>		
<p>Football Objective 3</p>	<p>The following sites should be retained to provide a network of grass pitches across the city;</p> <p>Council Pitch Stock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KGV Brickfields (currently 3 senior) and smaller sized pitches • Nunnery Wood - 1 senior • Pitchcroft (4) - senior • Ronkswood (new pitch almost ready - 1 pitch) • New hub site (Perdiswell) (F3) Existing disused grass pitches will require reinstatement and pitch improvement works • Proposed development at West Worcester • Shap Drive (important site locally). <p>Northwick Park or Diglis may also be required if recommendations under F2 are not delivered and to provide flexibility in the pitch stock.</p> <p>Other Pitches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Perdiswell (linked with F2) - 1 senior pitch for community use plus smaller sized pitches • Neel Park - 1 senior, plus smaller sized pitches 	<p>To support this network of facilities, the following works would be required to the quality of sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Council pitches - ongoing investment into maintenance programme - recent improvements have been made and these should be supported on an ongoing basis • Perdiswell - works in line with commissioned STRI reports • Pitchcroft - improved changing accommodation (modernisation) and installation of pipe drainage • KGV - opening of ancillary facilities on Sunday PM • Old Porcelain Ground - new changing facilities required (4 rooms) 	<p>Using the current demand and projected future demand, modelling has been undertaken as part of the playing pitch assessment to determine the number of pitches that are required now and in future years. The suggested pitch stock would allow all peak time demand to be met (21 senior match equivalents at peak time) with these pitches also used for youth matches on a Sunday PM. It assumes that smaller sized teams will be accommodated through a combination of existing pitches and the proposed new AGPs.</p> <p>The strategy seeks to ensure that as far as possible, pitches are provided on multi pitch sites that are of higher quality and can therefore be maintained more efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>The sites chosen are those that offer the potential to provide larger sites, taking into account the location of facilities and the availability of changing accommodation. Other pitches currently used should be retained as strategic reserve and may be required if participation increases are experienced.</p> <p>This recommendation links with the facilities that are to be retained through securing long term tenure of the site (F2).</p> <p>It should be noted that Worcester University</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battenhall - 3 adult plus smaller sized pitches (linked with F2) • Bilford Corner (1 adult plus 1 youth - linked with F2) • Worcester County Sports Ground (2 senior pitches) - compaction and new changing facilities (4 changing rooms). • Old Porcelain Ground (2 senior pitches) • Archdale 73 • YMCA Henwick. 		<p>are also seeking to relocate their existing sports facilities onto one new site and are currently in the process of purchasing land at Top Barn Activity Centre (Malvern). It is intended the site will provide inclusive sport, exercise and outdoor activities. Details as to the types of facilities that will be included on this site have not yet been finalised, but it is likely that the new provision may include grass pitches and AGPs. The primary purpose of the site will be to accommodate university educational programmes and BUCS teams, and community access will be available to subject to programming. Progress on the acquisition of the site and any subsequent masterplanning should be monitored in order to ensure that the implications of the new development are taken into account. This may impact further on pitch provision in the city and the impact should be investigated once details are known once details are finalised.</p> <p>Consideration as to whether Battenhall was also required to meet demand should be taken at the point at which new land is found.</p> <p>If any of the named sites are required for alternative purposes (eg another sport), replacement provision should be found to ensure that supply meets demand.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW3, SW6</p> <p>Football Objectives 3</p>	<p>F5: Address capacity and quality issues to support Pyramid Clubs in the provision of appropriate facilities both to meet ground grading requirements, and to support the growth of associated youth teams.</p>		
	<p>Worcester City FC - to be accommodated at within city</p> <p>AFC Worcester Olympic - retention of existing</p>	<p>Worcester City FC - any proposed new site should meet with Ground grading requirements for conference North. This should include changing, medical and social facilities as well as</p>	<p>Pyramid clubs are a key component of the footballing infrastructure across Worcester City, providing opportunities for progression in to the higher echelons of the football</p>

<p>and 4</p>	<p>site at County Sports Ground. Quality improvements required to bring up to required standards</p>	<p>capacity for at least 3000 spectators with a minimum of 6 spectator entrances. Floodlights should also be provided (180 lux).</p> <p>AFC Worcester Olympic (County Sports Ground) - site requires drainage, upgrades to ancillary facilities including medical room and officials changing. Depending upon decisions taken at potential hub sites, County Sports Ground has a potential to become key hub site.</p>	<p>league.</p> <p>Worcester City FC - currently displaced across several sites with first team travelling to Kidderminster to play due to a lack of resources. There is a lack of suitable facilities within the existing pitch stock but a new ground should be identified. Ideally, this should include the provision of club requirements within a local community setting.</p> <p>AFC Worcester Olympic - site lease (County Sports Ground) has just been taken over by Worcestershire FA for one year. The club will require new facilities if they become displaced. Existing ancillary facilities out of date and do not meet with requirements. Poor drainage also impacts on club play. This site is also important for teams across Worcester City and not just the Worcester Olympic teams.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW6</p>	<p>F6: Support providers in the improvement of maintenance regimes, linking with overarching recommendation SW6 and regularly review maintenance procedures at Worcester City Council.</p>		
<p>Football Objectives 3 and 4</p>	<p>Review of maintenance procedures at Worcester City Council - this has recently been undertaken with results yet to be seen due to the time taken for improved procedures to take hold. Regular reviews should be undertaken with maintenance given the highest priority.</p> <p>All other sites - Almost all sites would benefit from decompaction works and more regular fertilisation and decompaction works.</p>		<p>Many pitches in Worcester City are on the border between poor and standard and are believed to have fallen into the standard categorisation only due to a relative lack of use. A reduction in the capacity of pitches would have significant consequences in terms of overall capacity, given the degree to which supply is already closely balanced with demand.</p> <p>Procedures at Worcester City Council have however recently been overhauled and that</p>

			<p>the benefits of this are not likely to be seen until a season or two after implementation. Ongoing reviews of the maintenance procedure in line with SW5 should however be a key component going forward.</p> <p>While many quality issues in Worcester City are associated with pitches owned and managed by the Council, compaction is evident on almost all sites and increased maintenance regimes would therefore be beneficial.</p>
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6.4 Building on the recommendations, outlines the model that will be adapted in the city to meet club and community needs.

Hierarchy	Definition	Recommended location
Strategic Hub Site	Large Scale Site offering a 3g AGP and at least four grass pitches, provided and maintained to NGB standards with good ancillary facilities and sufficient changing accommodation and parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perdiswell Leisure Centre (to include 2 x AGP) West Worcestershire Development (located in Malvern Hills but serving Worcester City as well as Malvern) County Sports Ground
Key Centre	Site containing multiple pitches (3 – 4) or site of particular importance for club development. Provided and maintained to NGB standards with good ancillary facilities and sufficient changing and parking. May be managed specifically for the requirements of one club or available for hire by multiple teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KGV Brickfields Pitchcroft Worcestershire County Sports Ground Archdale 73 Battenhall Playing Fields Neel Park
Satellite Sites	Single pitch site functioning primarily as overspill or secondary sites. More limited maintenance regime. Site should contain appropriate parking and a minimum of toilets. These sites should remain functional and fit for purpose despite the more limited role that they play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilford Corner Old Porcelain Ground YMCA Henwick Road Nunnery Wood Sports Complex Ronkswood Community Centre

Table 6.2 - Site Specific Priorities and Recommendations for Cricket in Worcester City

Link to Strategic Objectives	Site Specific Priorities and Actions	Specific Facility Requirements	Justification
Strategic Objective SW1 Cricket Objective 1	C1: Protect all existing cricket club based cricket pitches.		
	All sites.		<p>The evidence base demonstrates that all existing club based cricket pitches are required to meet current and projected future growth. There is already insufficient provision in the area and all pitches are therefore required.</p> <p>The former playing field site at the Cinderella Ground should also be retained as this is required to address</p>

			existing and projected future deficiencies (C2). This includes the former cricket ground at the Cinderella Ground, which is required to meet objectives below.
Strategic Objective	C2: Support clubs in obtaining security of tenure on their sites to ensure long term access to club based facilities.		
Cricket Objective	Cadbury Oval – no current permanent tenant on site.		Although there is no permanent tenant for the Cadbury Oval, the site functions as key overspill facility at peak time and is required to ensure the future for cricket in the area.
Strategic Objective SW6	C3: Support the provision of an additional pitch for Worcester Dominies and Guild through the creation of a new cricket pitch at the Cinderella Ground.		
Cricket Objective 2	<p>Worcester Dominies and Guild - new cricket ground at Cinderella Ground.</p> <p>This new facility will also help to offset the lack of facilities at Evendine Close, which will then become a satellite facility for the club and the home of the third team (who can use social facilities back at the team base).</p>	<p>New facility should include a pitch meeting with ECB standards, as well as none turf wickets and training nets.</p> <p>The new facility should include full pavilion with changing (minimum 2 rooms and officials) as well as social and catering facilities. It should meet with NGB standards in terms of design and delivery and should include sufficient car parking to comply with local authority standards.</p>	<p>There is very limited remaining spare capacity in the city for cricket and a team from Worcester Dominies and Guild is already displaced into Wychavon, highlighting the need for additional provision. This need will further intensify with the anticipated population growth. Participation in cricket is therefore likely to be compromised without additional provision.</p> <p>Work has already commenced to review the feasibility of the project and the creation of this site is considered to be an important component of the future for cricket.</p>
Strategic Objective SW8	C4: Support all clubs and leagues in creating club development plans to enable targeted and accurate forecasting and monitoring of additional pitch requirements.		
Cricket Objective 5	<p>Key Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Elizabethans CC 		<p>Club development plans will be essential in ensuring that capacity does not restrict the growth of cricket in future years.</p> <p>Old Elizabethans Cricket Club is approaching</p>

			<p>capacity, although they already have access to two cricket pitches. While a degree of spare capacity will be evident through the new facility at Cinderella Ground (C2) as well as at Cadbury Oval, ongoing monitoring will be required to ensure that this remains the situation.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective SW6</p>	<p>C5: Work with large clubs to address current quality issues in order to maximise club based activity and enhance junior development.</p> <p>All pitches should be fit for the purposes they are intended and club bases should meet with NGB specifications.</p> <p>All sites for cricket should include full changing accommodation and shelter as well as appropriate parking.</p>		
<p>Cricket Objective C2, C3</p>	<p>Old Elizabethans</p>	<p>Old Elizabethans - require increased size of pavilion (changing and social facilities) to ensure that growing number of junior teams can be accommodated.</p>	<p>The quality of cricket pitches is a key component of the cricket club and is monitored as part of the Worcestershire Cricket Leagues, where specific quality standards are required. A lack of pitches of appropriate quality will have significant impact on participation. There are some clubs that are of high priority, due to the number of teams that are run and the impact that improvement will therefore have.</p> <p>The quality of the wicket is the key element of a cricket pitch and it is this that most influences the capacity of a facility and its overall condition. A good quality grass wicket is able to sustain 7 adult matches per season, whereas poorer quality facilities can take more limited play. To maximise the use of each facility, good quality wickets are essential. Higher quality facilities will increase the number of games that can be sustained without deterioration.</p> <p>Worcestershire Cricket Board research indicates that ancillary facilities are as important as the actual pitch in attracting new players and retaining them. Improvements to facilities where they do not meet needs are therefore essential if aspirations to increase participation are achieved.</p>

Strategic Objective SW3 Cricket Objective C4	C6: Support cricket clubs in the improvement of training facilities to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance.		
	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;		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one artificial wicket • Access to functional training nets 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Elizabethans - • Worcester Dominies and Guild 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Elizabethans - non turf wicket requires replacement due to existing poor condition. Nets also in poor condition and require replacement. • Worcester Dominies and Guild - new facilities to be provided as part of development of Cinderella Ground. 	<p>A lack of training facilities can result in increased use of the grass square for training (which reduces capacity for match play). Worcestershire Cricket Board also reveals that clubs with training facilities are also considered to be more likely to attract young players, which is central to the growth of the game.</p> <p>Training facilities are therefore essential in a successful cricket club. Priority should be given to clubs with higher training requirements in order to maximise the impact of intervention. Both identified clubs in Worcester City are already at capacity and reducing the impact of play on grass squares is therefore essential.</p>

Table 6.3 - Site Specific Recommendations and Priorities in Worcester City for Rugby

Links to Strategic Objective	Site Specific Priorities and Actions	Specific Facility Requirements	Justification
Strategic Objective SW1 Rugby Objective 1	R1: Protect current rugby pitches		
	All sites. Sites not required for the future delivery of the playing pitch strategy are outlined in Appendix A.		<p>The evidence base demonstrates that there are no existing club bases in the city; however several schools do offer rugby pitches which may be of future benefit to the sport.</p> <p>The RFU see potential for the longer term development of a satellite club to be located</p>

			within the city boundaries itself (R2). This could be at a school site or other facility and the retention of potential sites is therefore important. Added to this, other facilities have an important role to play in the development of rugby within schools.
Strategic Objective SW1	R2: Longer term, identify potential site for satellite rugby club in Worcester City. This could be located at a school site or a strategic housing site.		
Rugby Objective 1,3	Community use of existing site or new site as part of new development (to be agreed longer term).	Venue would require appropriately drained rugby pitches (2) and changing and toilets.	<p>The RFU see potential for the longer term development of a satellite club to be located within the city boundaries itself.</p> <p>This would both facilitate participation and reduce pressures on existing rugby clubs, where facilities are likely to be approaching capacity following extensive population growth. The creation of a club within the city centre would also provide access to rugby for people living in the city centre.</p>
Strategic Objective SW3	R3: Support qualitative improvements at Worcester RFC to ensure that the site can accommodate current and projected future demand.		
Rugby Objective 3	Worcester RFC	Worcester RFC - additional set of floodlights required (in line with RFU specifications) to spread impact of training. Improvement to drainage systems on two pitches.	<p>Poor drainage directly impacts capacity and the ability of the site to sustain the required levels of play.</p> <p>To accommodate current and future demand, all pitches will need to function at their optimum levels. Modelling and calculations demonstrate that improvements to drainage (linked with maintenance improvements) will ensure demand can be accommodated.</p> <p>Existing training pitches are also heavily used. Adding further floodlighting will enable a greater spread of activity and a reduction of the impact of training on the small number of floodlit pitches.</p>

Table 6.4 - Site Specific Priorities and Recommendations for Hockey in Worcester City

Links to Strategic Objectives	Site Specific Priorities and Actions	Key Facility Requirements	Justification
<p>Strategic Objective SW1, SW3</p> <p>Hockey Objective 1</p>	<p>H1: Protect the current level of club based activity by retaining access to at least two sand based surfaces for Worcester Hockey Club, as well as the existing facility at the University.</p>		
	<p>University Site (currently used by both the University and Worcester Hockey Club).</p> <p>Existing sites should be retained - Nunnery Wood Sports Complex / RGS to support hockey. The pitch at Nunnery Wood Sports Complex will shortly require resurfacing if it is to continue to be used for hockey.</p>	<p>Resurface to meet with England Hockey and Sport England specifications.</p>	<p>Two pitches are to meet current need for hockey. The selected sites are located in appropriate locations for existing clubs and are currently important facilities for hockey.</p> <p>The university pitch is needed to support university activity, but long term access for the club is not secured and with only one facility on site and a lack of social facilities, is insufficient to meet club needs alone.</p> <p>The above facilities are required to sustain hockey unless a new facility for Worcester Hockey Club is provided. England Hockey believes that there are currently sufficient facilities within the city and that usage of these should be maximised in the first instance. Discussions with the club will however be required to ensure that any future investment into facilities is taken with club support.</p>
	<p>H2: Support the development of Worcester Hockey Club in their aspirations to obtain a home ground.</p>		
	<p>Engage in discussions with Worcester Hockey Club to identify opportunities for a financially viable new site.</p> <p>If a new site is not identified, ensure that facilities listed in H1 are protected and seek to provide social facilities to</p>	<p>New site would require a minimum of 2 pitches that are compliant with EH and Sport England requirements.</p> <p>Appropriate ancillary facilities (4 changing rooms) as well as social</p>	<p>Worcester Hockey Club are a key component of England Hockey growth plans and are a focus club for England Hockey. If the targeted growth is to be delivered, additional facilities will be required by the club. A minimum of two pitches are required to meet current and projected future needs</p>

	support the club.	facilities would also be required. Car parking should be provided in line with local authority standards.	of the club.
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7: Wychavon District: Context & Recommendations

Introduction

- 7.1 This section sets out the priority actions and site specific priorities to meet the objectives set out in the Strategic Framework for Wychavon District.
- 7.2 These priorities have been developed in conjunction with the playing pitch strategy steering group and will require an inter-agency approach to ensure delivery.

Recommendations and Priorities

- 7.3 Section 4 outlined the key overarching and sport specific objectives for pitch sports in South Worcestershire. Using these as a basis, and drawing upon the issues identified in the district, the site specific priorities for each sport are outlined in Tables 7.1 - 7.4.

Table 7.1 - Site Specific Priorities and Recommendations for Football in Wychavon

Links to Strategic Priorities	Site Specific Priorities and Actions	Specific Facility Requirements	Justification
Strategic Objective SW3 Football Objective 1	F1: Protect all sites containing current football pitches.		
	Sites listed in Appendix A should remain designated as playing fields. This list will be regularly updated in line with Strategy monitoring arrangements to reflect changing demands.	<p>Replacement should be required for any facilities lost. The relocation of Broadway FC will be supported, providing that facilities are reprovided in line with this strategy document.</p> <p>The replacement of a grass pitch with a 3G AGP should be supported where the need for the AGP is evidenced and supported within this document.</p>	<p>The evidence base demonstrates that provision is closely balanced with demand and that all existing club based football pitches are required to meet current and projected future growth.</p> <p>Proposals are currently underway for the relocation of Broadway FC Milestone Ground in order to facilitate the development of the area (for none sporting reasons). The existing site is valuable for sport and should therefore be replaced. This strategy evaluates demand in the area and sets out the facilities that will be required at the site to meet current and projected future need.</p> <p>3G AGPs provide a means of addressing deficiencies in grass pitch provision and accommodating both training and match play. Where need is identified; the creation of such a facility will be of benefit to the sporting community as a whole. Further pitches could however impact upon sustainability of the pitch stock and should not result in the loss of grass pitches. Need for AGPs will be monitored and updated as part of the monitoring process for this strategy document.</p>
Strategic Objective SW1	F2: Retain former playing fields containing football pitches in line with actions outlined in Appendix A. Former pitch sites will be required unless it can be demonstrated that they meet with exception criteria listed in Sport England Policy at the time of decision making. Given the overall pressures of pitches in the district, any loss of pitches should contribute towards the improvement of other sites in line		

Football Objective	with strategy priorities.		
F1, F3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davies Road – Evesham • Corporation Meadow – Evesham • Crown Meadow - Evesham • Common Meadow - Evesham • Hanbury Playing Fields, Hanbury • Abbey Park – Pershore • Elmley Castle Playing Field 		<p>This evidence base forms the basis for decision making in relation to pitch provision across South Worcestershire.</p> <p>Decision making in relation to the requirement for specific pitches takes into account the current and projected demand for pitches, as well as site location and characteristics (ie single pitch site / large site) etc.</p>
Strategic Objective SW6	F3: Support the delivery of new sports hubs in Droitwich, Pershore and Evesham – to include new pitches and qualitative improvement to existing sites		
Football Objective F3	<p>Droitwich</p> <p>Hub to be provided at Droitwich Leisure Centre / Droitwich Spa High School – new 3g AGP on site and investment into quality of existing pitches.</p> <p>Pershore</p> <p>Hub to be developed in Pershore. Pershore High is preferred site, but an options appraisal is required to determine the exact works needed, as</p>	<p>Droitwich</p> <p>3g pitch to meet with FA specification, to be tested every 3 years to ensure inclusion on FA register. Consideration should also be given to providing shock pads compliant with World Rugby specifications to enable rugby use.</p> <p>Existing pitches require installation of pipe drainage and levelling, as well as reconfiguration to maximise usage.</p> <p>A steering group has been established and all requirements should be worked through this group.</p> <p>Pershore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconfiguration of existing site and provision of additional pitches • Installation of pipe drainage (or 	<p>Droitwich</p> <p>Droitwich Leisure Centre is an important venue for existing large clubs in the area and is the largest site in the town.</p> <p>Droitwich Spa JFC use St Peters Playing Fields, Chawson Valley Playing Fields and Droitwich Spa Leisure Centre. Also use unsecured sites (Chawson Valley First School / Westacre Middle School). There are enough pitches overall to accommodate the current needs of the club but they are spread across several sites. There is also some use of the school site by other teams, meaning that the overall benefit of investment would be maximised.</p> <p>Demand has been identified for additional 3G AGP pitch in the Droitwich area. The area is also identified as an area lacking in sufficient grass pitches to meet current and projected future demand, with shortages of</p>

	<p>well as the best way to accommodate needs for football, rugby and hockey in the town. The options appraisal may also need to consider other sites for other sports. Creation of hub at Pershore High likely to requires improvement to existing grass pitches and reconfiguration of site to provide additional pitches (detailed improvements to be determined through agronomy survey etc). All existing football pitches are valuable for football. The potential for investment into a second 3g AGP on site (rather than drainage) should also be considered. This may more effectively increase capacity and further financial viability modelling should be undertaken in order to ascertain the sustainability of this proposal.</p> <p>Evesham</p> <p>Evesham United FC is the preferred site to become new sports hub for town. Provision of 3g AGP pitch on site either through creation of stadia pitch or by securing adjacent land. Further modelling and discussion is required to determine the most appropriate approach, but the pitches should be available for full community use, as well as the use of Evesham United. Appropriate due diligence should be undertaken around the management of the site prior to commencement of the provision of a new facility. If not feasible at this site, an alternative site should be identified (De Montfort School may provide an opportunity).</p>	<p>alternative provision of second 3g AGP depending upon financial and viability modelling).</p> <p>Evesham</p> <p>3g pitch meeting with FA specifications at Evesham United. If stadia pitch is to be provided, pitch and surrounds must meet with ground grading requirements.</p> <p>All new AGPs should be fully quality tested to ensure listing on FA register and suitability for both competitive and training uses.</p>	<p>youth pitches and very limited spare capacity, especially at peak time, for any form of the game. The proposed 3G AGP will add additional capacity and address issues arising for both matches and training.</p> <p>Although the site is currently valuable for football, there are drainage issues at the site and pitches border between standard (capacity 2) and poor (capacity 1). They are likely to become poor later in the season and if this was the case, they would be unable to accommodate the level of community activity that is currently sustained and required. If pitches are rated as poor, capacity is 9 match equivalents per week and demand for 16 – unmet demand 7 match equivalents. Pitch quality is therefore key to sustaining activity and this justifies improvement. Without improvement, pitch quality poses a big threat to football development in Droitwich. The provision of a 3G AGP will add additional capacity, helping to future proof facilities in the area.</p> <p>Improvements to the site will support the development of a wider sporting hub which also includes hockey.</p> <p>It should be noted, that even with the creation of an AGP, pitch capacity will remain tight within Droitwich town and further provision may be required. A masterplanning exercise demonstrates limited opportunity to provide this at the current time.</p> <p>Pershore</p> <p>In Pershore Town provision is just sufficient in</p>
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	<p>Following the creation of the hubs identified above, further 3g AGPs may be required at strategic hubs. The use of facilities should be monitored as part of the strategy monitoring process to inform decision making in this instance.</p>		<p>number terms to meet current demand but Pershore Town are spread across several poor venues.</p> <p>Pershore High School is a central venue for play in Pershore, as the largest site in the town. All pitches at the site are currently valuable for football.</p> <p>Pitches at Pershore High are heavily played and potential housing growth will see a further increase in participation, with no remaining spare capacity at peak time for 9v9 football and minimal for youth football. The existing Pershore High School site suffers from drainage issues and improvements to the pitch quality are needed to increase capacity, however modelling suggests that an extension to the site is also required (which would require qualitative improvements) to ensure that facilities meet future demand.</p> <p>The cost and benefit of drainage improvements may mean that the provision of an additional 3g AGP offers greater benefits over the improvement of drainage as well as further increasing capacity. There are however concerns about the sustainability of a second 3g AGP in the town and further financial modelling will be required to evaluate the most appropriate solution.</p> <p>Improvements to the site will support the development of a wider sporting hub which may also includes rugby. There is no scope to provide a sand based pitch on this site to meet the needs of the hockey club due to</p>
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			<p>the need to retain the existing grass pitches.</p> <p>Evesham</p> <p>While grass pitch provision in Evesham is more able to sustain demand than in other parts of the district, there is a requirement for a 3g pitch both to support football development and improve access to sand based AGPs for hockey clubs. There is currently sufficient capacity at the Evesham United site for football, however population growth is likely to generate a requirement for an additional 1 – 2 pitches. The proposed AGP will add additional capacity to this site and support the development of a wider supporting hub to also include cricket.</p>
Strategic Objective SW4	F4: Implement the proposed facility hierarchy (set out in Table 7.2 overleaf) to support prioritisation and delivery of football pitches across Wychavon District.		
Football Objective 3, 4	See Table 7.2		<p>The proposed hierarchy seeks to ensure that sites are sustainable and to support the prioritisation of sites.</p> <p>It takes into account the current and projected future demand for facilities, as well as the characteristics of the site.</p>
Strategic Objective SW3, SO6	F5: Address capacity and quality issues to support Pyramid Clubs in the provision of appropriate facilities both to meet ground grading requirements, and to support the growth of associated youth teams.		
Football Objective F3, F4	Additional capacity may be provided through the creation of small sized AGPs to meet training / small sided needs where appropriate.		
	<p>Broadway United FC- Current proposals involve the relocation of the site (linked with F1) to facilitate non sporting development. This should be supported on the basis of the provision of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadway United FC- pitches required (or small variations of) 1 senior pitch and 1 youth pitch (or 2 senior pitches), 1 x 9v9, 1 x 7v7 and 1 x 5v5. Potential for the smaller pitches to be replaced with a 	<p>Pyramid clubs are a key component of the footballing infrastructure across Wychavon District, providing opportunities for progression in to the higher echelons of the football league. Most also support younger</p>

	<p>suggested new facilities (or small variations of), which replicate existing provision and allow for a small amount of club growth.</p> <p>Badsey Recreation Club – extension to changing facilities. Longer term, additional pitch capacity may be required.</p> <p>Inkberrow FC – Improvements to existing pavilion required and a need to enhance capacity and sustainability of existing pitches</p> <p>Bredon FC – pitch layout improvement and enhancement of capacity. Clubhouse extension to facilitate growth.</p> <p>Pershore Town - require increased storage within their ancillary accommodation</p>	<p>small sized AGP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing provision including at least 4 rooms • Parking to meet local authority standards • Social facilities. <p>Badsey Recreation Club - changing facilities recently refurbished but site only contains 2 rooms, which is insufficient for pitches provided. Additional 2 rooms required.</p> <p>Inkberrow FC - installation of drainage into old pitches (4) and / or creation of small sized AGP that can be used for training. Existing changing accommodation is singular room only with no separate official / female changing and does not meet league requirements - new pavilion required. Drainage could alternatively be resolved through small AGP, although this may not be deliverable. Planning permission has been secured for the additional changing accommodation.</p> <p>Bredon FC - installation of pipe drainage to second pitch. Clubhouse extension.</p> <p>Pershore Town - looking to replace storage containers with permanent structures.</p>	<p>teams, meaning that the clubs are central to the development of football.</p> <p>Broadway United FC -existing site has very little spare capacity and is extensively overmarked with smaller sized pitches. The site also suffers from drainage issues. Overmarking means that there is little scope for growth, as increases in one form of the game will have a knock on impact on other areas. The proposed new facilities (assuming that relocation takes place) would enable club growth to continue while ensuring that facilities are sustainable. The recommended levels of provision are based upon the current activity of the club, allowing a small element of participation growth.</p> <p>The inclusion of a small sized AGP would add capacity for training and support club development. There is no evidence of requirement for a large sized AGP assuming that the recommended sports hubs (F3) go ahead.</p> <p>Many clubs in the pyramid in Wychavon have both a senior team and youth members, making them particularly important venues for the development of football in the district.</p> <p>Badsey Recreation Club – changing provision currently insufficient. Site has only 0.5 match equivalents spare capacity remaining and may require additional provision longer term. No existing issues with capacity raised although club would like on site training facilities. An appropriately sized AGP could also be considered on this site.</p>
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<p>Strategic Objective SW3, SW6</p> <p>Football Objective 3 and 4</p>			<p>Inkberrow FC – Additional pitches have recently been provided but older pitches require investment to bring them up to appropriate quality. Site is an important club in terms of youth development as well as pyramid club. The club have an aspiration for a small sized AGP.</p> <p>Bredon FC – pitch layout would prevent promotion. Spare capacity currently means drainage improvements not a priority, but completion of works would improve site capacity longer term and allow club development. Clubhouse requires extension to facilitate growth.</p>
	<p>F6: Address capacity issues at other key club bases to maximise opportunities for football development and future proof football in the district.</p>		
	<p>Droitwich Area</p> <p>Droitwich RFC. Pitch capacity hampered by maintenance and drainage</p> <p>Wychbold Playing Field - pitch quality limits capacity</p> <p>Crowle - club seeking to extend pitch provision due to current use of two+ sites.</p> <p>Evesham Area</p> <p>De Montfort School - drainage improvements</p> <p>Pershore Area</p> <p>Drakes Broughton Playing Field – decompaction and enhanced</p>	<p>Droitwich RFC - decompaction, installation of drainage, and improved regular maintenance procedures.</p> <p>Wychbold Playing Field - decompaction, improved maintenance procedures (including weed killing) and site levelling</p> <p>Crowle Playing Field - extension of 1 pitch required. This has now been secured. Changing accommodation also limited to 2 rooms.</p> <p>Evesham</p> <p>De Montfort School - drainage improvements. The school have also expressed a requirement for additional showers and changing rooms to service all pitches.</p>	<p>Demand modelling demonstrates that the identified clubs are at or approaching capacity and are likely to require additional capacity to meet current and projected future demand.</p> <p>Some of the identified issues arise from overuse and most of the sites with capacity have limited quality. There are also issues with changing accommodation.</p> <p>Droitwich Spa RFC – site currently at capacity with limited opportunity for growth at the club. Youth pitch overplayed (-2) so no further capacity at peak time. 0.5 match equivalents available peak time on 7v7 pitch and 1 on 9v9 pitch. Limited drainage and grass cover suggests pitches are</p>

	<p>maintenance to improve pitch drainage</p> <p>Eckington Recreation Club – additional capacity within the Eckington area.</p>	<p>Pershore</p> <p>Drakes Broughton Playing Field – decompaction and enhanced maintenance to improve pitch drainage.</p> <p>Eckington Recreation Club - 2 -3 additional pitches. Additional parking likely to also be required to meet with local authority standards. No site has currently been identified.</p>	<p>overused and there is justification for additional facilities. Proposals for 3g pitch at Droitwich KGV (F3) may provide additional capacity for club.</p> <p>Wychbold Playing Field - Pitch capacity issues (-0.5 match equivalents) are directly influenced by quality of the site and improvement would see provision become sufficient. There is also scope to create an additional pitch on site with investment as well as to rectify deficiencies.</p> <p>De Montfort School – important site for adult football. Capacity not currently limiting use but pitches used heavily across the weekend and during the week. Deterioration of the grass pitches and AGP and subsequent reduction in capacity would see overall capacity in Evesham become limited.</p> <p>Drakes Broughton Playing Field – senior pitch overplayed (-1), again influenced by poor quality of pitches arising from flooding and compaction. Improvement to drainage through site decompaction and improved maintenance would see site capacity become sufficient.</p> <p>Eckington Recreation Club – club currently displaced into Pershore, where pitch capacity is already compromised due to lack of capacity at own site. Dedicated pitch provision in Eckington would remove club need to travel and</p>

Strategic Objective SW5 Football Objectives 3 and 4			free up capacity in Pershore.
	F7: Support providers in the improvement of maintenance regimes, linking with overarching recommendation SW6		
	Almost all sites would benefit from decompaction works and improved maintenance. Key priorities include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badsey Recreation Club, Badsey • PershoreTown FC 		Many pitches in Wychavon are on the border between poor and standard. A reduction in the capacity of pitches would have significant consequences in terms of overall capacity, particularly in areas of high demand.
Strategic Objective SW2, SO6 Football Objective 2 and 3	F8: Secure access to sites currently valuable to large clubs and / or with potential to increase capacity of the existing community based pitch stock.		
	It should be ensured through qualitative improvements that these facilities are of appropriate quality to sustain community play		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chawson First School; • Westacre Middle School; • Witton Middle School; • Blackminster Middle School; and • Abbey Park Middle School. 		These school based sites offer important community facilities and are currently well used by clubs. Given the pressures on pitches in the area, they will remain important venues until additional capacity is secured.

7.4 Linking with the recommendations in Table 7.1, Table 7.2 outlines the model that will be adapted in the district to meet the needs of football clubs.

Table 7.2 - Suggested Pitch Hierarchy

Hierarchy	Definition	Recommended location
Strategic Hub Site	Large Scale Site offering a 3g AGP and at least four grass pitches, provided and maintained to NGB standards with good ancillary facilities and sufficient changing accommodation and parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evesham - Evesham United FC Droitwich Leisure Centre Droitwich Spa High School, Droitwich RFC Pershore – Pershore High School
Key Centre	Site containing multiple pitches (3 – 4) or site of particular importance for club development. Provided and maintained to NGB standards with good ancillary facilities and sufficient changing and parking. May be managed specifically for the requirements of one club or available for hire by multiple teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pershore Town FC Crowle Village Hall / Jubilee Field St Peters Playing Fields The Lenches Badsey Recreation Club Five Acres (Littleton FC) Wickhamford Playing Field The De Montfort School Bredon Playing Field Drakes Broughton Playing Fields Eckington Recreation Centre Sands Road, Inkberrow Sheppey Playing Fields
Satellite Sites	Single pitch site functioning primarily as overspill or secondary sites. More limited maintenance regime. Site should contain appropriate parking and a minimum of toilets. These sites should remain functional despite the more limited role that they play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary School / unsecured sites Hindlip Hall Wychbold Playing Fields South Nicholson Recreation Ground Peopleton Offenham Recreation Ground Bow Wood Cherry Orchard Meadow Norton Parish Hall

Table 7.3 - Site Specific Recommendations and Priorities for Cricket in Wychavon

Links to Strategic Objectives	Site Specific Priorities and Actions	Specific Facility Requirements	Justification
Strategic Objective SW1	C1: Protect all existing cricket club based cricket pitches.		
Cricket Objective 1	<p>All sites.</p> <p>It should be noted that Tibberton Taverners (currently use Spetchley Park) are looking to either ground share with another club or to relocate and share with another club due to sustainability issues. The site at Spetchley Park remains valuable for the future of cricket.</p> <p>Evesham Cricket Club are also looking to relocate due to flooding issues. This should be permitted if equivalent new facilities are provided. The existing area containing cricket pitches should be retained for use by the rugby club.</p>	<p>Relocation of Evesham Cricket Club</p>	<p>The evidence base demonstrates that all existing club based cricket pitches are required to meet current and projected future growth. There are no sites with grass pitches that are not currently used and spare capacity across the district is very limited. All facilities are therefore valuable in meeting projected future facility needs.</p> <p>Flooding issues are significantly impacting the sustainability of Evesham Cricket Club and relocation of the pitches provides a means of addressing this situation and continuing to provide for cricket in Evesham.</p>
Strategic Objective SW2	C2: Support clubs in obtaining security of tenure on their sites to ensure long term access to club based facilities.		
Cricket Objective 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neville Arms - Cookhill Cricket Club – site on an annual rolling lease only; the lease for Childswickham CC is only renewed annually • Tibberton Taverners – access to Spetchley Park Cricket Ground is on an annual lease only • St Peters Playing Field, Droitwich – 25 year lease signed in 1998 does not have long to run • Ombersley Cricket Club – lease expires in 2019 but have a right to 		<p>The sites listed all remain importance club bases and facilities are essential if current and projected future demand is to be met.</p> <p>As well as securing access to key sites, long term leases provide access to funding and capital grants, all of which will be essential if pitch quality is to be retained and improved.</p>

Strategic Objective SW6, SW3 Cricket Objective 2, 3 5	14 additional years.		
	C3: Support the relocation of Evesham Cricket Club to a new site		
	Relocation of Evesham Cricket Club to new site – proposed location on new multi sports hub site – Evesham Sports Hub, adjacent to current Evesham United.	Site should include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 cricket pitches meeting with ECB standards • Pavilion with 4 changing rooms appropriately located for cricket pitches • Non Turf wicket • Functional training nets. 	Flooding issues are significantly impacting the sustainability of Evesham Cricket Club and relocation of the pitches provides a means of addressing this situation and continuing to provide for cricket in Evesham. The relocation of the site adjacent to the existing Evesham United will also enable the creation of a multi sports hub.
Strategic Objective SW8 Cricket Objective C5	C4: Support all clubs and leagues in creating club development plans to enable targeted and accurate forecasting and monitoring of additional pitch requirements. Priority should be given to clubs approaching capacity. Club development plans should also be a priority for clubs with fewer teams and where sustainability is a key concern.		
	Key Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overbury CC • Cookhill CC(but impacted by use of facilities by Redditch Club) • Pershore CC • Clubs with fewer teams and issues with sustainability (Birlingham CC, Eckington CC, Fladbury CC) 		Significant increases in participation may impact upon the ability of facilities to sustain activity, particularly if growth is focused on one club. The strategy seeks to ensure that facilities do not inhibit participation growth and long term planning of facilities is therefore essential. Clubs that are prioritised are those that are either currently overplayed or at capacity, meaning that there is little scope for growth without use of appropriate satellite facilities or those where there are issues with sustainability.
Strategic	C5: Work with large clubs to address current quality issues in order to maximise club based activity and enhance junior development.		

Objective SW3	All pitches should be fit for the purposes they are intended and club bases should meet with NGB specifications.		
Cricket Objective 3	All sites for cricket should include full changing accommodation and shelter as well as appropriate parking.		
<p>Require installation of new toilet facilities as well as officials changing and separate team changing. Facilities should meet with ECB guidelines as well as league regulations.</p>	<p>Droitwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droitwich CC • Ombersley CC <p>Evesham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badsey CC • Ashton Hill <p>Pershore</p> <p>Cookhill CC</p>	<p>Droitwich CC - pavilion requires modernisation, including separate junior / senior accommodation. Facilities should meet with ECB guidelines as well as league regulations.</p> <p>Ombersley CC - pavilion requires heating and catering facilities. Also requires 2 additional rooms to serve 2nd pitch. Facilities should meet with ECB guidelines as well as league regulations.</p> <p>Badsey CC - pavilion requires heating and modernisation, including the provision of separate changing rooms. Facilities should meet with ECB guidelines as well as league regulations. Site also has ground maintenance requirements that need to be addressed including fairy rings.</p> <p>Ashton Hill CC - require installation of new toilet facilities as well as officials changing and separate team changing. Facilities should meet with ECB guidelines as well as league regulations.</p> <p>Cookhill CC - pavilion requires development to improve social facilities as the club house is small and outdated, with poor changing rooms.</p>	<p>The quality of cricket pitches is a key component of the cricket club and is monitored as part of the Worcestershire Cricket Leagues, where specific quality standards are required. A lack of pitches of appropriate quality will have significant impact on participation. There are some clubs that are of high priority, due to the number of teams that are run and the impact that improvement will therefore have.</p> <p>The quality of the wicket is the key element of a cricket pitch and it is this that most influences the capacity of a facility and its overall condition. A good quality grass wicket is able to sustain 7 adult matches per season, whereas poorer quality facilities can take more limited play. To maximise the use of each facility, good quality wickets are essential. Higher quality facilities will increase the number of games that can be sustained without deterioration.</p> <p>Worcestershire Cricket Board research indicates that ancillary facilities are as important as the actual pitch in attracting new players and retaining them. Improvements to facilities where they do not meet needs are therefore essential if aspirations to increase participation are achieved.</p>
Strategic	C6: Support smaller clubs in the provision of improved cricket facilities by working alongside clubs to improve sites and to build		

Objective SW3, SW6 Cricket Objectives 3,5	relationships with larger clubs.		
	<p>Droitwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cutnall Green CC Hanbury CC (pitch) <p>Evesham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childswickham CC <p>Pershore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eckington CC Peopleton CC Inkberrow CC Pershore CC 	<p>Cutnall Green CC - outfield requires levelling (mole damage)</p> <p>Hanbury CC - outfield requires levelling</p> <p>Childswickham CC - require upgraded pavilion (additional changing room and officials room, catering facilities)</p> <p>Peopleton - outfield requires levelling (rabbit damage) and decompaction</p> <p>Eckington CC - outfield requires levelling</p> <p>Inkberrow CC - require installation of cricket pavilion (no existing specific facility)</p> <p>Pershore CC - changing rooms and pavilion require enhancement.</p>	<p>The quality of cricket pitches is a key component of the cricket club and is monitored as part of the Worcestershire Cricket Leagues. A lack of pitches of appropriate quality will have significant impact on participation.</p> <p>Some smaller clubs have more basic facilities but have spare capacity to accommodate additional teams. Improvement to these facilities, facilitated by partnerships with larger clubs (who will benefit from use of the site for their third team) will maximise capacity in the district (particularly where this is at peak time).</p>
Strategic Objective SW3 Cricket Objective 4	<p>C7: Support cricket clubs in the improvement of training facilities to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance.</p> <p>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;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one artificial wicket Access to functional training nets 		
	<p>Droitwich Area -Droitwich Spa, Hanbury CC and Himbleton CC. Key priority – Droitwich Spa CC due to high team numbers.</p> <p>Evesham Area The Lenches, Offenham CC and Childswickham CC</p> <p>Pershore Area: Birlingham CC, Cookhill,</p>	<p>Droitwich Spa CC - nets in poor condition and require replacement</p> <p>Hanbury CC - require nets and non turf wicket</p> <p>Himbleton CC - require replacement nets</p>	<p>A lack of training facilities can result in increased use of the grass square for training (which reduces capacity for match play). Worcestershire Cricket Board also reveals that clubs with training facilities are also considered to be more likely to attract young players,</p>

	<p>Elmley Castle, Eckington CC, Peopleton CC and Spetchley Park lack facilities. All are relatively small clubs and are therefore of medium priority.</p>	<p>The Lenches - require non turf wicket</p> <p>Offenham - require non turf wicket and training nets</p> <p>Childswickham CC - require non turf wicket and training nets</p> <p>Birlingham CC - require non turf wicket and training nets</p> <p>Cookhill CC require non turf wicket</p> <p>Eckington - existing non turf wicket and nets require replacement</p> <p>Peopleton CC - require non turf wicket.</p>	<p>which is central to the growth of the game.</p> <p>Training facilities are therefore essential in a successful cricket club. Priority should be given to clubs with higher training requirements in order to maximise the impact of intervention.</p>
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Table 7.4 - Site Specific Recommendations and Priorities for Rugby in Wychavon

Link to Strategic Objectives	Site Specific Priorities and Actions	Justification
<p>Strategic Objective SW1</p> <p>Rugby Objective 1</p>	<p>R1: Protect the current level of club based provision by protecting all sites</p> <p>All sites.</p>	<p>Pershore RFC are looking to relocate the whole club due to flooding issues. This should be permitted if required new facilities are provided in line with (R2).</p> <p>The evidence base demonstrates that all existing club based rugby sites are required to meet current and projected future demand.</p> <p>Flooding issues are significantly impacting the sustainability of Pershore Rugby Club and are impacting on the progression of the club and on participation levels in the area. Relocation of the whole club provides a means of addressing this situation and continuing to</p>

Strategic Objective SW3, SW6 Rugby Objective R2			provide for rugby in Pershore.
	R2: Support the relocation of Pershore Rugby Club. Pitches and ancillary facilities should be provided in line with NGB guidance.		
	<p>Relocation of Pershore RFC to new site – site to be identified. Opportunities at Pershore High School (linked with football) and Pershore College should be explored.</p>	<p>To meet current and projected future demand, club would require circa 3 adult pitches and 2 midi pitches, with appropriate floodlighting (2 pitches).</p> <p>Pitches should be pipe drained and should meet with RFU specification.</p> <p>Appropriate ancillary accommodation should also be provided - 6 changing rooms and officials rooms, as well as social facilities.</p> <p>Car parking should meet with local authority standards.</p> <p>Any 3g pitches provided new at Pershore High School should be World Rugby Compliant.</p>	<p>Flooding issues are significantly impacting the sustainability of Pershore RFC and relocation of the pitches provides a means of addressing this situation and continuing to provide for rugby. The relocation of the club is the only feasible means of safeguarding the future of the club.</p> <p>Analysis of current and projected future demand through modelling enables the detailed requirements for the site to be calculated. This assumes that pitches are maintained to a standard level (2 games per week minimum) and are provided in line with NGB guidance.</p>
Strategic Objective SW3, SW6 Rugby Objective 2	R3: Support the extension of Bredon Star RFC		
	<p>Extension and relocation of Bredon Star RFC to consolidate all activity on one site / two adjacent sites.</p>	<p>Site requires installation of drainage (see R4).</p> <p>At least 2 senior pitches and 4 mini pitches required to accommodate all activity on one site. Further senior pitch required for training.</p> <p>Existing site has adequate recently refurbished clubhouse, although number of changing rooms is</p>	<p>Consolidation of all activity on one site (or second site close by) will maximise club dynamic and provide the best possible setting in which to grow the club. Modelling reveals that additional facilities are required to meet projected future need, particularly if training activity is brought onto site (R6).</p>

		insufficient. Additional parking may also be required in line with local authority standards.	
Strategic Objective SW3, SW6	R4: Support drainage improvements (linked with recommendations to improve maintenance below) where capacity is impacted by poor drainage.		
Rugby Objective3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worcester RFC Droitwich RFC (Drainage) Bredon Star RFC (Drainage) 	<p>Worcester RFC - drainage to 2 pitches</p> <p>Droitwich RFC - drainage to 2 pitches</p> <p>Bredon Star RFC - drainage of site.</p>	Poor drainage directly impacts capacity. To accommodate current and future demand, all named clubs will require pitches to function at their optimum levels. Modelling and calculations demonstrate that improvements to drainage (linked with maintenance improvements below) will ensure that capacity is sufficient in the long term.
Strategic Objective SW3, SW6	R5: Actively promote improved maintenance regimes at clubs where maintenance is impacting capacity. This links with overarching recommendation SO5.		
Rugby Objective 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bredon Star RFC Droitwich RFC 	<p>Bredon Star - would benefit from additional aeration, sand dressing, fertilisation and weed killing. Chain harrowing would also improve pitch quality.</p> <p>Droitwich RFC - would benefit from additional aeration, sand dressing, fertilisation and weed killing. Chain harrowing would also improve pitch quality.</p>	<p>Poor maintenance regimes directly limit capacity both in the short term and longer term as pitches deteriorate.</p> <p>Pitches at both sites are currently operating below optimum capacity directly due to the maintenance regime. Improvements to the regime will increase the number of games that can be sustained and consequently the number of teams that can be accommodated. To maximise benefits, this will need to be linked to drainage improvements (R4).</p>
Strategic Objective SW3, SW6	R6: Install an additional set of floodlights at each rugby club base to spread the impact of training.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bredon Star RFC 	Bredon Star RFC require 2 sets of	Training is focused on the floodlit areas and

Rugby Objective 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droitwich RFC • Evesham RFC • Pershore RFC (as part of relocation package) 	<p>floodlights in line with RFU standard specification</p> <p>Droitwich RFC - one additional set of floodlights in line with RFU standard specification</p> <p>Evesham RFC - one set of additional floodlights in line with RFU standard specification</p> <p>Pershore RFC - in line with RFU standard specification.</p>	<p>these parts of the ground are becoming particularly compromised. The installation of further floodlights will allow a better spread of play across all pitches available and will improve capacity for training.</p>
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Table 7.5 - Site Specific Recommendations and Priorities for Hockey in Wychavon

Links to Strategic Objectives	Site Specific Actions and Priorities		Justification
<p>Strategic Objective</p> <p>SW1, SW6, SW3</p> <p>Hockey Objective 1</p>	<p>H1: Retain sites required to service hockey needs as sand based surfaces;</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince Henrys High School (Persore HC) • De Montfort School (Evesham HC) • Droitwich Leisure Centre (Droitwich HC) • Worcester RGS (Worcester HC) 	<p>Given localised demand for a sand based pitch in Persore, the opportunity should be considered as part of the options appraisal, taking into account the impact on football and rugby if a new pitch was provided as well as the sustainability of any proposed facility. (A clear case should be made to support the development of any sand based pitch, ensuring that there is short or long-term negative impact on football and rugby i.e. that there are other sites in Persore for football and for the potential future re-location of Persore RFC, and that the development of any sand based pitch will not block of these possibilities).</p>	<p>The identified pitches are sufficient in quantitative terms to meet current and projected future need for hockey. The selected sites are located in appropriate locations for existing clubs and are currently important facilities for hockey.</p> <p>The provision of a new 3g pitch in Droitwich and in Evesham will reduce competition for midweek access to sand based pitches and consequently improve opportunities for training for hockey clubs.</p> <p>It is assumed that Persore HC will remain at Prince Henrys High School. While it is acknowledged that the club are keen to relocate to Persore, the existing amount of hours required by the club is relatively small and there are therefore concerns about the sustainability of a new facility (and it is therefore not supported by England Hockey at the current time). If this was however provided, only one sand based pitch would be required in Evesham although the second facility in Evesham would likely be required to meet demand in future years.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective</p> <p>SW1, SW6, SW3</p> <p>Hockey Objective 1</p>	<p>R2: Refurbish sand based AGPs that are of poor quality to ensure that they remain suitable for league hockey.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droitwich Leisure Centre • De Montfort School • Prince Henrys School 	<p>Droitwich Leisure Centre - resurface as sand dressed facility. Site should meet with EH and SE specifications</p> <p>De Montfort School - resurface as sand</p>	<p>All facilities are important sites for hockey. The condition of the pitch at Droitwich LC is currently poor and without immediate improvement will become unsuitable for</p>

		<p>dressed facility. Site should meet with EH and SE specifications</p> <p>Prince Henrys School - resurface as sand dressed facility. Site should meet with EH and SE specifications.</p>	<p>league play.</p> <p>Pitches at De Montfort School and Prince Henrys School are also important sites for hockey and require investment to ensure that this is maintained.</p>
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8: Implementation & Delivery

Introduction

- 8.1 The preceding sections have outlined both the context for playing pitch provision within South Worcestershire and the key issues and sport specific priorities that need to be addressed across each of the three local authority areas.
- 8.2 The full assessment of issues identified, modelling and evaluation of options using site specific modelling is set out under separate cover (there are three assessment reports - one for each local authority).
- 8.3 This section brings together the key site specific priorities identified in each of the local authority specific sections and provides a summary of requirements across South Worcestershire as a whole. Appendix A contains a list of each site in South Worcestershire along with the suggested action for that site.

Delivery and Implementation

- 8.4 Table 8.1 draws together the key recommendations and provides an overall summary of facility requirements across South Worcestershire as a whole. Linking with the action plan, it outlines the degree of priority assigned to each facility requirement. Actions require either immediate, short term (1 – 2 years) medium term (3 years+) or long term action.

Table 8.1 - Facility Requirements across South Worcestershire

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New football pitches at West Worcester Development. Current requirements equate to 1 3g AGP, 3 x youth and 2 x 9v9 pitches 	<p>Facilities on the development should be planned in conjunction with St Johns Colts and Oldbury Park Tigers (both Worcester City based clubs who are dispersed across multiple venues). The relocation of these clubs will provide additional capacity within the central area of Malvern Hills as well as in Worcester City.</p> <p>Pitch requirement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x AGP (to be used for 5v5 / 7v7 as well as other matches when available). The size of this facility should be confirmed based upon planned usage and optimum site layout, as well as the delivery of other strategy recommendations 2 x 9v9 (some games also to be accommodated on AGP, but peak time is same as 7v7 and 5v5) 3 youth pitches (some matches to be accommodated on AGP) <p>All pitches should meet with NGB requirements and should be pipe drained. Full NGB compliant ancillary provision (2 changing rooms per pitch) should also be provided and car parking should meet with local authority requirements.</p> <p>Exact pitch layout requirements should be agreed at the time based on need. The space designed for pitches should be based upon adult pitch layouts to ensure flexibility.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powick Hospital Lane Playing Fields - require investment in pitch condition and ancillary facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of pipe drainage (2 pitches). No existing changing accommodation - 2 to 4 rooms required

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Rushwick CC and Worcester Nomads CC in the creation of second grounds - land adjacent to both sites for this purpose. Rushwick CC also require investment into training facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rushwick CC currently exploring use of site adjacent to existing facility - this should be supported Worcester Nomads currently exploring use of site adjacent to existing facility - this should be supported <p>Pitches should meet with ECB standards.</p> <p>Additional ancillary provision will be required to support each pitch (2 changing rooms / official room).</p> <p>Car parking should also meet with local authority specifications.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hallow Playing Fields - investment in pitch surface improvements Training facilities for Hallow CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football - Surface levelling and decompaction Cricket - no existing nets, non turf wicket not useable due to rips in surface. New provision required. All cricket training facilities should meet with ECB specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Holt and Grimley CC to improve pitch and ancillary provision to enable site to function as satellite facility for larger clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No existing pavilion - new facility required. Uneven wicket and outfield - requires levelling. All facilities should meet with ECB design guidance and local league criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement to ancillary facilities at Ralfs Field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilets to improve player experience
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement to ancillary facilities at Broadwas Playing Fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilets to improve player experience
Malvern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of 3g AGP (assuming detailed business plan confirms feasibility) at Langland Stadium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3g stadia pitch should meet NGB specifications set out in the FA Guide to 3g Football Turf Design for the relevant standard of the club. This should include testing every 3 years to ensure facility is listed on the FA

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
		<p>register. It should include floodlighting (200 lux)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancillary provision will also be required and this should also meet Ground Grading Requirements. As a minimum, improvements to existing structures needed will include medical facilities, fencing / infrastructure improvements and functional catering facilities. Site is likely to require reconfiguration to maximise its potential
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sling Lane - investigate options to provide an additional 1 - 2 pitches as part of housing development on Haylans Fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an additional 1 - 2 pitches as part of potential housing development. Pitches should meet with NGB guidance and should include pipe drainage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newlands Development - provision for cricket, football and rugby required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch Requirements: Based on current projected requirements, circa three 9v9 / youth pitches are required as well as capacity for 5v5 / 7v7. To ensure maximum flexibility, the site should be provided with sufficient space to accommodate at least 2 adult pitches All pitches should meet with NGB requirements and should be pipe drained Full NGB compliant ancillary provision should also be provided and car parking should meet with local authority standards 1 cricket pitch compliant with national ECB standards (including pipe drainage) to support Malvern CC (and possibly Barnards Green CC) also required. Appropriate pavilion required and car parking should meet with local authority standards Relocation of Malvern Rugby Club to Newlands Development. At least 4 adult pitches and 4 midi pitches are required, as well as appropriate ancillary provision (changing accommodation for 4 pitches) and floodlighting (2 pitches). Pitches should meet with RFU guidelines and

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> should include full drainage A pavilion in line with RFU standards should also be provided (at least 6 changing rooms) as well as appropriate car parking in line with local authority standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malvern CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main site requires training nets and non turf wicket. All facilities should meet with ECB design guidance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention and refurbishment of 1 sand based AGP - suggested site Malvern St James School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch resurface to meet England Hockey and Sport England standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement to ancillary facilities for Barnards Green CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernisation and enhancement of existing changing facility for second pitch. Some minor quality issues (eg wave on square) also identified. All facilities should meet with ECB design guidance and local league criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage improvements and surface quality improvements to Lower Howsell Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of pipe drainage and surface levelling
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality improvement works - Malvern Vale Community Centre and Victoria Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decompaction and fertilisation
Tenbury and North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to Palmers Meadow (drainage) for rugby and football. Floodlights to be provided on pitch shared between football and rugby to facilitate training. Changing accommodation to be provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipe drainage required (2 pitches) and one set of floodlights

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further investigation into the potential to provide additional capacity within Tenbury for football / rugby and hockey - to be delivered through masterplanning exercise (longer term) 	Masterplanning exercise to take into account the impact of proposals for new facilities in South Worcestershire and the surrounding area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved training facilities for Martley CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site does not have either non turf wicket or training nets - requires new provision. All facilities should meet with ECB design guidance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved ancillary facilities for Tenbury Wells CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernisation of pavilion. Funds believed to have been secured from Sport England
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved ancillary facilities for Knighton on Teme CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires electricity in pavilion. All facilities should meet with ECB design guidance and local league criteria
Upton and South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure formal use of pitches at Hanley Castle School (requires a review of pitches available and potential redefined layout due to known existing small pitch sizes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal community use agreement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential extension to pitches at Spitalfield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site currently includes 2 changing rooms and additional capacity will be required if extension is provided. Viability of extension on nearby adjacent land to be determined. Potential extension 1 - 2 pitches
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kempsey Playing Fields - extension to site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional capacity equating to 2 pitches (9v9 / senior required). Site also has insufficient changing accommodation with only 2 rooms. Modernisation and further changing provision (2 - 4 rooms) therefore also needed. All facilities should meet with NGB specifications and Local authority parking requirements. Viability for extension to be determined
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of new cricket field to support growth of Kempsey CC and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional pitch sought for Kempsey CC. Existing site also requires non turf wicket. Facilities to be developed in line with ECB requirements

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
	Taxi Drivers League	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of facilities at Upton RFC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upton RFC requires investment into modernisation and extension of changing rooms. This should link with masterplanning to ensure that new facilities are provided at sustainable site Additional set of floodlights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential AGP (longer term) depending upon impact of other proposals to meet the need of football and rugby elsewhere in Malvern Hills. Further investigation into the potential to provide additional capacity within Upton, and to address flooding issues- to be delivered through masterplanning exercise linking with other sports and in the context of the new facilities that are to be provided elsewhere in the district 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional changing facilities at the Hill Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional changing accommodation to match number of pitches with ancillary facilities and facilitate club activity (2 further rooms)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement to training facilities at Hanley Castle CC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both non turf wicket and existing training nets poor and require replacement. New facilities should meet with ECB requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushley CC - improvement to pitch surface. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outfield requires levelling. Pitch provision should meet with ECB and league specifications
East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed football hub at Perdiswell Leisure Centre (football hubs providing 4 AGPs required across 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for site to be explored, including detailed financial viability

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
	Worcester)	<p>and modelling</p> <p>Suggested requirements are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGP (at least 2) and grass pitch specification to meet with NGB requirements, including pipe drainage • Reinstatement works to existing grass pitches also required • Changing (at least 2 changing rooms for each AGP, as well as 2 changing rooms for each grass pitch provided. There is an existing pavilion with 6 changing rooms • Catering / social facilities (within leisure centre for use by clubs) • Adequate car parking in line with local authority standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New site for Worcester City FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester City FC - proposed new site should meet with Ground grading requirements for conference North. This should include changing, medical and social facilities as well as capacity for at least 3000 spectators with a minimum of 6 spectator entrances. Floodlights should also be provided (180 lux)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of Pitchcroft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved changing and toilet accommodation (modernisation) and installation of pipe drainage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of Old Porcelain Ground (and secure lease). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New changing facilities required (4 rooms)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester County Sports Ground - pitch improvements and potential opportunity to provide football hub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site currently secured on one year lease to Worcestershire FA. Site requires drainage, upgrades to ancillary facilities including medical room and officials changing • Site offers potential opportunity to provide football hub, depending

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
		upon proposals and delivery on other sites (Perdiswell / West Worcester). Football hub to include 1 - 2 3G AGPs. Four 3G AGPs required at hubs across the city in total
	Appropriate facilities for Worcester HC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of sand based facilities at university, Nunnery Wood Sports Complex and RGS unless alternative provision is supplied • New site would require a minimum of 2 pitches that are compliant with EH and Sport England requirements • Appropriate ancillary facilities (4 changing rooms) as well as social facilities would also be required • Car parking should be provided in line with local authority standards <p>If a new site is not identified, ensure that facilities listed in H1 are protected and seek to provide social facilities to support the club.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement facilities for Archdale 73 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct replacement of both pitch and ancillary facilities, at site with appropriate parking in line with local authority standards. Facilities should be compliant with NGB specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of drainage at Worcester Rugby Club and potential longer term creation of satellite club (Worcester East or Worcester West) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester RFC - additional set of floodlights required (in line with RFU specifications) to spread impact of training. Improvement to drainage systems on two pitches
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of training facilities and extension to ancillary facilities at Memorial Park (cricket) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Elizabethans - require increased size of pavilion (changing and social facilities) to ensure that growing number of junior teams can be accommodated • Non turf wicket requires replacement due to existing poor condition. Nets also in poor condition and require replacement. Facilities should be

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
		in lined with ECB specifications
West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbishment of Cinderella Ground (cricket and football) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New facility should include a pitch meeting with ECB standards, as well as none turf wickets and training nets The new facility should include full pavilion with changing (minimum 2 rooms and officials) as well as social and catering facilities. It should meet with NGB standards in terms of design and delivery and should include sufficient car parking to comply with local authority standards
Droitwich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of sports hub at Droitwich Leisure Centre / Droitwich Spa High School - site currently contains grass football pitches which require drainage improvements. New 3g AGP to be provided and existing sand based AGP to be resurfaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3g pitch to meet with FA specification, to be tested every 3 years to ensure inclusion on FA register. Consideration should be given to inclusion of shock pads compliant with World Rugby specifications Existing pitches require installation of pipe drainage and levelling Sand based pitch to meet with EH and SE specifications. <p>A steering group has been established for the creation of this site and all decision making should be channelled through this group.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New pavilion at St Peters Field (Droitwich CC, to also benefit football). Site also requires investment into training facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavilion requires modernisation, including separate junior / senior accommodation. Facilities should meet with ECB guidelines as well as league regulations Nets in poor condition and require replacement to meet with ECB specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage and maintenance improvements and additional floodlights for Droitwich RFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decompaction, installation of drainage, and improved regular maintenance procedures Installation of drainage to 2 pitches

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One additional set of floodlights in line with RFU standard specification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential improvement to cricket facilities at Cutnall Green CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outfield requires levelling (mole damage). Pitch should meet with ECB specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential improvement to cricket facilities at Hanbury CC. Hanbury CC also requires investment into training facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outfield requires levelling Require nets and non turf wicket - should meet with ECB specification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training facilities improvement - Himbleton CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require replacement nets - should meet with ECB specification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to capacity at Wychbold Playing Fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decompaction, improved maintenance procedures (including weed killing) and site levelling
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved pavilion at Ombersley CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavilion requires heating and catering facilities. Also requires 2 additional rooms to serve 2nd pitch. Facilities should meet with ECB guidelines as well as league regulations
Evesham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of sports hub in Evesham. Preferred site is currently Evesham United FC - requires purchase of adjacent land as well as retention of Evesham United site. New 3g (either stadia pitch or new pitch when additional land is purchased) new cricket pitches (x2) for Evesham CC to facilitate club relocation Due diligence should be undertaken to evaluate potential management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3g pitch meeting with FA specifications at Evesham United. If stadia pitch is to be provided, pitch and surrounds must meet with ground grading requirements All new AGPs should be fully quality tested to ensure listing on FA register and suitability for both competitive and training uses Relocation of Evesham CC should include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 cricket pitches meeting with ECB standards Pavilion with 4 changing rooms appropriately located for cricket

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
	options	pitches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non Turf wicket and functional training nets compliant with ECB specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement / relocation of the Milestone Ground - Broadway United 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches required (or small variations of) 1 senior pitch and 1 youth pitch (or 2 senior pitches), 1 x 9v9, 1 x 7v7 and 1 x 5v5. Potential for the smaller pitches to be replaced with a small sized AGP • Changing provision including at least 4 rooms • Parking to meet local authority standards • Social facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention and resurface of De Montfort School AGP (sand based) and improved drainage to site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De Montfort School - drainage of existing pitches. • Resurface of pitch in line with EH and SE specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badsey Recreation Ground - improvement to changing pavilion. Long term, additional capacity may be required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing facilities recently refurbished but site only contains 2 rooms, which is insufficient for pitches provided. Additional 2 rooms required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of sand based AGP at Prince Henry's School] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurface and retain as sand dressed facility. Site should meet with EH and SE specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved facilities for Badsey CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion requires heating and modernisation, including the provision of separate changing rooms. Facilities should meet with ECB guidelines as well as league regulations. Site also has ground maintenance requirements that need to be addressed including fairy rings

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved ancillary facilities at Ashton Hill CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require installation of new toilet facilities as well as officials changing and separate team changing. Facilities should meet with ECB guidelines as well as league regulations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved training facilities at the Lenches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require replacement nets to meet ECB specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved training facilities at Offenham CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require non turf wicket
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evesham RFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One additional set of floodlights in line with RFU standard specification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavilion improvements at Childswickham CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require upgraded pavilion (additional changing room and officials room, catering facilities) Require non turf wicket and training nets
Pershore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of sports hub at Pershore High School. Retention of existing 3g AGP and improved drainage of grass pitches (or 2nd 3g AGP if more cost effective). Works to provide additional 2 pitches on site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconfiguration of site (to provide additional grass pitches) Installation of pipe drainage on existing pitches (or alternative provision of second 3g AGP depending upon financial modelling)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocation of Pershore Rugby Club - potential for this to also be relocated to Pershore High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet current and projected future demand, club would require circa 3 adult pitches and 2 midi pitches, with appropriate floodlighting (2 pitches) Pitches should be pipe drained and should meet with RFU specification Appropriate ancillary accommodation should also be provided - 6 changing rooms and officials rooms, as well as social facilities

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car parking should meet with local authority standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage improvements at Bredon Star, longer consolidation of all activities on one site / adjacent sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site requires installation of drainage (see R4) At least 2 senior pitches and 4 mini pitches required to accommodate all activity on one site. Further senior pitch required for training Existing site has adequate recently refurbished clubhouse, although number of changing rooms is insufficient Additional parking may also be required in line with local authority standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement to changing facilities and pitch layout at Bredon FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of pipe drainage to second pitch. Clubhouse extension
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of additional capacity in Eckington 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 -3 additional pitches. Parking likely to also be required to meet with local authority standards. No site has yet been identified but if a new site is found, ancillary provision in line with NGB specifications should also be provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase capacity at Drakes Broughton Playing Field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decompaction and enhanced maintenance to improve pitch drainage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inkberrow FC -. Drainage issues to be resolved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing changing accommodation is singular room only with no separate official / female changing and does not meet league requirements - modification required. Installation of drainage into old pitches (4)and / or creation of small sized AGP that can be used for training
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch improvements at Eckington CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outfield requires levelling

Sub Area	Recommendation	Facility Requirement
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing non turf wicket and nets require replacement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch improvements at Peopleton CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outfield requires levelling (rabbit damage) and decompaction Require non turf wicket
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch improvements at Inkberrow CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require installation of cricket pavilion (no existing specific facility) - pavilion should meet with NGB specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training facilities at Birlingham CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require non turf wicket and training nets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements at Cookhill CC to ancillary provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavilion requires development to improve social facilities as the club house is small and outdated, with poor changing rooms Require non turf wicket
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pershore CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernisation of changing facilities and pavilion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worcester RFC - drainage and floodlights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage to 2 pitches

Implementation

Delivering New Facilities

- 8.5 This strategy identifies key priorities and cites projects that should be pursued. Given the potential level of funding required, it is likely that investment will only be achieved through a combination of funding sources as well as partnership opportunities.
- 8.6 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 Protecting Playing Field programme.
- 7.1 External funding is likely to be central to the delivery of this strategy, with key funding streams anticipated to include;
- Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 developer contributions – new development and population growth will generate significant additional demand for playing pitch provision and this will impact on the adequacy of existing playing fields in terms of both quantity and quality;
 - Capital Grant funding: From schools and national agencies such as Sport England, including its Iconic Facilities, Improvement Fund and Inspired Facilities programmes as well as Protection of Playing Fields Funds;
 - National Governing Body (NGB) support;
 - Council funding: capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within the council's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets; and
 - Education and Further Education sector: while the previous sources of funding (including BSF and Primary Schools Programme) have changed and the scale of the education capital programmes have been reduced, the education sector is still likely to be a key funding stream.
- 7.2 Overarching recommendations have already outlined the importance of partnership working to support applications for funding and to maximise the strategic approach to the delivery of playing pitch provision.

Impact of New Development

- 8.7 This strategy sets out the facility requirements for playing pitches across South Worcestershire, taking into account the population growth that is anticipated to occur in the area, as well as the impact of the ageing population.
- 8.8 The recommendations seek to address the surpluses and deficiencies identified and the key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. They take into account the anticipated trends in participation and known changes in supply. The assessment and strategy clearly demonstrates that new development and the associated population

growth will place pressures on the existing facility stock, and generate new participants in pitch sports. As well as mitigating the impact of the ageing population, it will also create the need for new facilities in some areas.

- 8.9 Increased use of playing pitches also places greater importance on the quality and capacity of existing pitches and as a consequence, contributions towards playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities should be required from all new developments. Contributions should be made towards the delivery of the strategic objectives of this document and the priority projects set out in the recommendations.

Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy

- 7.3 In addition to specific grants that are available, it is clear that S106 and CIL will be key to the delivery of this Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 7.4 This assessment of need and strategy will inform the preparation of the South Worcestershire Development Plan and more specifically, decision making relating to the sport and recreation infrastructure items. The community infrastructure levy (CIL) is a key mechanism for collecting funds for the required infrastructure.
- 7.5 In addition to CIL, local planning authorities can still implement s106 agreements attached to specific applications for development. 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"*
- 7.6 This Playing Pitch Strategy forms site and project specific evidence to underpin the CIL and S106 requirements for the sports included within its scope. It should 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 should form an integral part of the comprehensive monitoring and review process for this strategy (outlined below).
- 7.7 The current approach to the allocation of S106 across the three authorities is inconsistent, particularly with regards to the approach taken to decision making and the types of projects that can be awarded funding. As the local authorities are seeking to develop a coordinated network of playing fields, a review of processes should be undertaken to ensure a consistent approach and that all opportunities to improve the playing field stock are maximised.

Use this playing pitch strategy as a catalyst to undertake a review of processes for S106 and CIL funding across South Worcestershire in order to ensure both consistency in approach and that all opportunities are maximised.

- Review processes in each of the three local authorities
 - Update processes in order to reflect the key issues arising in this assessment and to
-

ensure consistency across the three local authority areas

- Ensure that policy across South Worcestershire as a whole requires contributions towards playing fields and that funding is allocated according to priorities raised in this document.

Where possible, funding should be allocated to sport at the outset of development, ensuring facilities are in position when new residents move in.

Monitoring and Review

- 8.10 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 this document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust to fulfil the above roles.
- 8.11 Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).
- 8.12 The steering group are therefore committed to keeping the strategy alive through;
- monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action;
 - recording changes to the pitch stock in each of the three districts 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 site specific actions (including sites to be protected as playing fields) are kept up to date and are reflective of the current situation.
- 8.13 The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led by the three districts of South Worcestershire - Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon and will comprise;

- establishment of a working group that meets annually (six monthly initially) to review progress by all key partners on 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 Borough, 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);
 - progress on the strategy delivery; and
 - review of sites identified for improvement / disposal / other key actions.
- a review of the amount of funding for pitches or provision of additional pitches delivered in association with new development is monitored through the South Worcestershire Development Framework (Annual Monitoring Report).

8.14 The steering group will also be responsible for agreement of the requirement for a full update of this playing pitch assessment.

Contact Details

8.15 For further discussion relating to this playing pitch assessment, please use the following contact details;

- Malvern Hills District Council - Amanda.smith@malvern hills.gov.uk
- Wychavon District Council - jem.teal@wychavon.gov.uk
- Worcester City Council - david.sutton@worcester.gov.uk
- The FA – Hannah Buckley, Regional Facilities Manager
Hannah.buckley@thefa.com
- England and Wales Cricket Board – John Huband - Johnhuband@ecb.co.uk
- The RFU – Tom Bartram, Regional Facilities Manager – tombartam@rfu.com
- England Hockey – Gary Limbert, Facilities Manager –
gary.limbert@englandhockey.co.uk
- Sport England – James Morris, Planning Manager –
planning.central@sportengland.org

Appendix A: Headline Priorities by Site

A site by site list of playing fields across the three local authorities is provided below. It sets out the key actions at each site and provides an indication of which sites should be protected and which sites are not required as playing fields to deliver this strategy. This list will be updated as part of the strategy monitoring and review process in response to changing demand / progress with the delivery of the action plan. New sites will also be added when they emerge. 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 all relevant documents.

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
Malvern	BARNARDS GREEN CRICKET CLUB - NEWLAND SWAN GRASS	WR13 5AY	Cricket	Site at / approaching capacity. Requires modernisation and enhancement of changing facilities for second pitch. Some minor quality issues - wave on square.	Protect and enhance (pavilion and pitch)
Malvern	BARNARDS GREEN CRICKET CLUB - NORTH END LANE GRASS	WR14 2ET	Cricket	Site at / approaching capacity.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	BERRYFIELDS (Broadwas Playing Fields)	WR6 5NE	Football and Cricket	Spare capacity available for cricket. Site also used for football, but there is a lack of toilet facilities meaning that it the attractiveness of the facility is reduced.	Protect, enhance
Malvern	BUSHLEY CRICKET CLUB	GL20 6JB	Cricket	Some spare capacity at peak time but site may require improvement in order to accommodate league play - outfield require levelling.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	CALLOW END PLAYING FIELD	WR2 4UH	Football	Site has some spare capacity but is relatively limited quality, with particular issues with drainage. Site would benefit from enhancement.	Protect
Malvern	CLIFTON-ON-TEME PLAYING FIELD (Pound Walk)	WR6 6TZ	Football	Site located in rural area. Some spare capacity but limited demand due to location.	Protect
Malvern	Corse Lawn Common	GL19 4LZ	Cricket	Venue for small cricket club with some spare capacity. Improvements to training facilities required.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	DUKES MEADOW PLAYING FIELDS	WR14 2BY	Football	Key site in Malvern town where capacity is limited. Small amount of spare capacity but overmarking evident.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	DYSON PERRINS C OF E HIGH SCHOOL	WR14 1WD	Football and 3g AGP	Important venue for football. 3g pitch at capacity for match and competitive play. Grass pitch provision of limited quality.	Protect
Malvern	HALLOW PLAYING FIELD	WR2 6LB	Football	Poor quality playing field and limited capacity as a result. Requires levelling and decompaction.	Protect and enhance

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
Malvern	HANLEY CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL	WR8 0BL	Football and rugby	Site currently has limited community use although it is available (but unsecured) and pitch condition is standard. Location in Upton and South means that site has potential to play greater role in community sport, with both football and rugby clubs suffering from flooding and lack of capacity as a result.	Protect, secure long term access and work with club to build relationships
Malvern	HANLEY SWAN PLAYING FIELDS	WR8 0DA	Football	Spare capacity available and scope to provide additional pitch.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	HOLT AND GRIMLEY CRICKET CLUB	WR6 6NE	Cricket	Site has spare capacity but is impacted by a lack of pavilion, meaning that suitability for league cricket is limited and a new facility is required. Pitch quality is also low.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	KNIGHTON-ON-TEME CRICKET GROUND	WR15 8jf	Cricket	Pitch has some spare capacity but ancillary facilities are limited and may require improvement if capacity is to be maximised, including electricity in pavilion.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	Langland Stadium - Malvern Town FC	WR14 2EQ	Football	Site at capacity and does not meet needs of club either in terms of capacity or pitch quality. Pyramid club. Suggested replacement of existing grass pitch with 3G pitch. Site requires improved ancillary facilities including medical, spectator and catering facilities and requires reconfiguration.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL	WR3 5DS	Football	Overspill facility used by Leigh and Bransford Badgers.	Protect
Malvern	LOWER HOWSELL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	WR14 1DP	Football	Capacity limited due to pitch quality - site requires drainage and surface levelling.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	MALVERN COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	WR14 3PL	AGP	AGP important for hockey but does not fully fit needs of club due to changing / spectator facilities.	Protect
Malvern	MALVERN CRICKET CLUB	WR14 1EB	Cricket	Existing pitch is good quality although improvements to training facilities / non turf wicket are required. Club is also at capacity and second ground is needed. Suggested location, Newlands Development.	Protect and enhance, second ground
Malvern	MALVERN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	WR14 1AJ	Rugby	Site currently insufficient to meet current and projected future needs. To future proof the club, requirements would be 4 senior pitches and 4 midi pitches. Additional floodlights (x2) and changing	Replace

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
				accommodation would also be required.	
Malvern	Malvern Vale Community Centre	WR14 1FG	Football	Popular site for football that is heavily used. Requires decompaction.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	MORGANS SPORTS FIELD	WR14 2LL	Rugby	Site currently used as overspill for Malvern Rugby club. Overall facilities for Malvern are however insufficient for club. Site should be retained until facility for Malvern RFC is replaced.	Protect
Malvern	MSJ SPORTS AND FITNESS CENTRE	WR14 3LH	AGP	AGP important for hockey but does not fully fit needs of club as surface is poor and requires replacement.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	PALMERS MEADOW	WR15 8SF	Rugby and Football	Site currently accommodates both rugby and football. There are pressures on the existing football facilities and there is a lack of training facilities for rugby. Floodlights required on shared pitch to enable training to be accommodated. Drainage improvements needed, investment into changing accommodation (2 rooms minimum).	Protect. Enhance. Masterplanning exercise in Tenbury
Malvern	PLAYSCAPE PLAYING FIELD	WR2 5SU	Football	Site of limited quality but important for youth football.	Protect
Malvern	PLOVERS RISE PLAYING FIELDS (Kempsey CC)	WR5 3SA	Football and cricket	Well used facilities that are approaching capacity. Cricket club requires improved training facilities and football club are actively seeking additional land (2 - 3 pitches). Cricket club also looking for additional space.	Protect and enhance, additional capacity
Malvern	POWICK PLAYING FIELDS (Hospital Lane)	WR2 4NH	Football	Important site for football - accommodates several displaced teams. Requires investment into both pitch condition and ancillary facilities (installation of pipe drainage and 2 additional changing rooms).	Protect and enhance
Malvern	RALPHS FIELD STADIUM - LEIGH SINTON	WR13 5EQ	Football	Home ground for Leigh and Bransford Badgers. Lacking in ancillary facilities – toilets.	Protect and enhance
Malvern	SLING LANE PLAYING FIELDS	WR14 2TU	Football	Site not in use this year. To be brought back into use on lease to club for 2015 - 2016 season. Potential for extension to site to better meet club needs.	Protect
Malvern	SPITALFIELD RECREATION GROUND	WR13 6NE	Football	Site at capacity and club seeking to extend facility. Pitch quality also limited with issues with drainage.	Protect and enhance, additional capacity
Malvern	SUCKLEY PLAYING FIELDS	WR6 5DE	Football and small	Site receives limited formal use and has spare capacity. Restricted quality.	Protect

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
			AGP		
Malvern	Tenbury Cricket Club - Penlu	WR15 8AP	Cricket / Football	Site located just outside Malvern Hills boundaries but remains important for both cricket and football. Capacity for football will become constrained by 2030.	
Malvern	TENBURY HIGH SCHOOL	WR15 8XA	Football and rugby	Site currently has limited community use with no formal access. Site offers potential additional capacity in Tenbury. Access to be explored linking with Palmers Meadow and creation of masterplan for the Tenbury area.	Protect. Secure for community use
Malvern	THE ALF TOLLEY MEMORIAL GROUND - Rushwick CC	WR2 5SU	Cricket	Club at capacity and require second ground. Training facilities also need improvement.	Protect and enhance, extension to existing ground
Malvern	THE CHANTRY SCHOOL	WR6 6QA	Football and rugby, cricket	Site currently has some community use for football and no use of the rugby pitch. Interest expressed to RFU in setting up a rugby club in Martley. Football facilities remain important venue for overspill. Pitches of poor quality with limited drainage impacting on useability. School interested in creation of 3g AGP. Would require full feasibility study to determine level of demand, taking into account other proposals outlined in this document.	Protect
Malvern	THE CHASE SCHOOL	WR14 3NZ	AGP	AGP of limited quality and requires refurbishing. Potential to secure access to football pitches at the school site.	Protect. Secure for community use
Malvern	The Jewry FIELD	WR6 6PE	Football and Cricket	Site at capacity for cricket and hosts displaced football teams. Important venue in location with little other provision. Club does not have either training nets or non turf wicket.	Protect
Malvern	THE NEW HILL CENTRE	WR8 0EN	Football	Site overplayed and at capacity. Insufficient changing - additional 2 rooms required.	Protect, enhance
Malvern	Top Barn Farm	WR6 6NH	Football	Locally created site for football, with potential for additional pitches if required. University of Worcester are currently in the process of purchasing 50 acres of land at the Top Barn Activity Centre at Holt Heath, to provide inclusive sport, exercise and outdoor activities. Details as to the types of facilities that will be included on this site have not yet been finalised, but it is likely that the new provision	Protect

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
				may include grass pitches and AGPs. The primary purpose of the site will be to accommodate university educational programmes and BUCS teams, and community access will be available subject to programming. Progress on the acquisition of the site and any subsequent masterplanning should be monitored in order to ensure that the implications of the new development are taken into account.	
Malvern	UPTON-UPON-SEVERN RFC	WR8 0HW	Rugby and Football	Site suffers from extensive flooding and football pitches have been reduced this season. Requirement for improved maintenance and drainage works. Club may also require additional capacity. Site to be included within masterplanning exercise in the Upton area.	Protect. Masterplanning exercise in Upton
Malvern	VICTORIA PARK	WR14 2JY	Football	Important site located in Malvern managed by Town Council. High demand in Malvern means site is valuable for football.	Protect
Malvern	WORCESTER NOMADS CRICKET CLUB	WR6 5JH	Cricket	Club at capacity and require second ground.	Protect, increase capacity
Malvern Hills / Worcester City	HOWARD ROAD	WR2 5RB	Former Playing Field	Site not currently used.	Located in area of high unmet demand. Likely to be part of West Worcestershire development where new pitch provision should be incorporated.
Worcester	ARCHDALE 73	WR4 9JW	Football	Site currently subject of relocation plans. Important venue for small club. Any relocation should see pitches and existing facilities improved and replaced (ancillary provision and pitches) in line with NGB standards.	Protect - Relocation
Worcester	BATTENHALL PLAYING FIELDS	WR5 2BT	Football	Key centre. Important site for Nunnery Wood Colts and University activity. Heavily used and at capacity. Site too small for university requirements. Important venue to be secured for community use, university seeking access to large multi-sport facility (and have recently invested in Top Barn).	Protect, secure long term access
Worcester	BISHOP PEROWNE	WR3 8LE	AGP	AGP heavily used by football clubs and shared	Protect. Secure for community

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
	C OF E HIGH SCHOOL			relationship with Kings School. Other facilities on site are not available for community use.	use
Worcester	CADBURY OVAL	WR3 8SD	Cricket	Site quality good although it represents the only spare capacity in the city for cricket. Scope to improve changing facilities.	Protect and enhance
Worcester	CINDERELLA GROUND (CLOSED)	WR2 4EU	Cricket	Former playing field. Shortages of cricket in the area mean that the site should be reinvigorated to create a new pitch. Worcester Dominies and Guild are seeking a new ground and this new site (which should include appropriate ancillary provision) should address issues with a lack of social facilities at their current site.	Protect Enhance
Worcester	CORNMEADOW	WR3 7PW	Football	Site currently used only for training. Of limited quality with standing water. If all recommended actions can be delivered, site is not required as formal football field, but should be retained as strategic reserve.	Protect as strategic reserve
Worcester	COUNTY SPORTS PLAYING FIELD - Claines Lane	WR3 7SS	Football	Important site for the delivery of football in Worcester City. Popular venue with some quality issues, influenced by level of wear and tear. Recently secured on one year lease by Worcestershire FA. Site offers potential for football hub including 1 or 2 3G AGPs, depending upon actions at other sites. Pitches and ancillary facilities require investment to bring up to required standard.	Protect level of provision and secure community use. Enhance, potential for hub
Worcester	DIGLIS	WR5 3DH	Football	Site currently used for football in the city but does not have changing accommodation. Pitch quality relatively limited.	Protect. If other recommendations in the strategy can be delivered, return to green space. Site may be required if the delivery of other playing fields is not possible.
Worcester	DINES GREEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	WR2 5QH	Football	Site currently used as overspill for football clubs.	Protect and secure community use
Worcester	DOMINIES AND GUILD CRICKET PAVILION - EVENDINE CLOSE	WR5 2DB	Cricket	Site quality standard but lack of social facilities and small size of ground inhibit club growth. Club require second ground but Evendine Close still required for 3rd team and university play.	Protect
Worcester	KING GEORGE V	WR4 9TL	Football	Important multi pitch site including two small AGPs.	Protect

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
	PLAYING FIELD		and Small AGPs		
Worcester	Neel Park	WR3 7SN	Cricket and Football	Key site for both football and cricket. Old Elizabethans CC require improved pavilion and training facilities.	Protect / Enhance
Worcester	NEW ROAD (WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY GROUND)	WR2 4QQ	Cricket	Cricket ground for professional team.	Protect and enhance
Worcester	NORTHWICK	WR3 7EA	Football	Site currently well used but lacks changing accommodation. If all recommendations are delivered, site is not required to meet future needs and should be retained as strategic reserve.	Protect. If other recommendations in the strategy can be delivered, return to green space. Site may be required if the delivery of other playing fields is not possible.
Worcester	NUNNERY WOOD SPORTS COMPLEX	WR5 2NL	AGP and Football	Pitch popular for football and AGP is currently important venue for hockey. This site will be required for hockey unless Worcester Hockey Club successfully create their own facility.	Protect. May require surface refurbishment if hockey club are not relocated
Worcester	OLDBURY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL	WR2 6AA	Football	Overspill facility for Oldbury Park Tigers. Important venue for club	Protect
Worcester	PERDISWELL GOLF AND LEISURE CENTRE	WR3 8DX	Football	Site not currently in use but identified as potential venue for football hub. Site would also require qualitative improvement to ensure fit for purpose.	New provision as major hub site with multiple pitches and 2 x AGP
Worcester	PITCHCROFT	WR1 3EH	Football	Important site with changing accommodation of limited quality. Large site but regular flooding. Changing facilities require modernisation	Protect and enhance
Worcester	Porcelain Ground, Droitwich Road, Claines	WR3 7SR	Football	Site at capacity but changing accommodation recently been demolished.	Protect and enhance, improve security of tenure. Site should be retained or replaced
Worcester	RONKSWOOD	WR5 1PH	Football	Football pitch not in use this season but will provide pitch with associated changing when opening next year	Protect
Worcester	SHAP DRIVE	WR4 9NR	Football	Small site with changing accommodation available in community centre. Site important to local community.	Protect

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
Worcester	ST CLEMENTS C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL	WR2 5NS	Football	Important site for meeting needs of smaller sized teams. Currently unsecured although joint investment has been made.	Protect, secure community use
Worcester	ST JOHNS SPORTS CENTRE	WR2 4LE	Small AGPs	Important facilities for football	Protect
Worcester	Tudor Grange School - Bilford Corner	WR3 8HN	Football and Rugby	Important venue for football in the city. Rugby pitch available but not used	Protect and secure community use
Worcester	WORCESTER CHAPTER MEADOWS (Christopher Whitehead School)	WR2 4BH	Football	Site used for community football activity. Facility of average quality.	Protect and secure for community use
Worcester	YMCA	WR2 5NS	Football	Football pitch with spare capacity	Protect
Worcester Little Perdiswell	LITTLE PERDISWELL	WR3 7JX	Football	Key centre for football in Worcester, currently managed by Worcester Technical College. Site heavily used and no remaining capacity	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	ABBEY PARK	WR10 1DF	Former Playing Field	Former playing field	Not required for the future delivery of this strategy
Wychavon	ABBEY PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL	WR10 1DF	Football	Important overspill site for football. Currently unsecured for use	Protect. Secure for community use
Wychavon	ANCHOR LANE	WR11 8NR	Football and Cricket	Key site for Harvington CC. Potential to increase role for football, with capacity for additional pitches. Limited current demand in the area.	Protect
Wychavon	BADSEY RECREATION CLUB	WR11 7EU	Football and Cricket	Large sports club accommodating cricket and football. Important site for football development - pyramid club. Changing facilities / pavilion require additional 2 rooms. Longer term, further capacity may be required.	Protect, enhance
Wychavon	BECKFORD PARISH PLAYING FIELDS	WR11 7TL	FOOTBALL	Site used by displaced team - Tewkesbury Town Colts, who are looking for own ground in Gloucester. Club have use of a variety of facilities and no known capacity for further play. Relocation of Tewkesbury Colts would however provide additional opportunities for residents of Wychavon.	Protect
Wychavon	BIRLINGHAM	WR10	Cricket	Pitch quality standard but improvements to training	Protect and enhance

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
	CRICKET CLUB	3AQ		facilities (non turf wicket and training nets) required	
Wychavon	BLACKMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL	WR11 8TG	Football	Important overspill site for football. Currently unsecured for use	Protect. Secure for community use
Wychavon	BOW WOOD	WR7 4NW	Football	Pitch with changing in remote location	Protect
Wychavon	BREDON PLAYING FIELD	GL20 7QN	Football	Large sports club accommodating rugby and football. Important site for football development - pyramid club. Site requires pitch layout improvements and installation of drainage improvements to second pitch (Football). Clubhouse extension also needed to facilitate growth. Rugby pitches require drainage and additional capacity may be needed longer term. Site currently linked with Hill Close Playing Fields (used for rugby).	Protect, enhance
Wychavon	BROADWAY CRICKET CLUB	WR12 7AF	Cricket	Good quality facility with few issues identified	Protect
Wychavon	CHAWSON COMMUNITY FIRST SCHOOL	WR9 8BW	Football	Important site for community use, relatively poor quality. Unsecured	Protect, secure for community use, enhance
Wychavon	CHAWSON VALLEY, DROITWICH SPA	WR9 ORS	Football	Site of limited quality with drainage issues. Important overspill facility	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	CHERRY ORCHARD MEADOW	WR10 1NR	Football	Poor quality playing field functioning as overspill only. Lack of playing fields in Pershore means that the site remains an important venue for football.	Protect. Enhance
Wychavon	Childswickham CC	WR12 7HD	Cricket	Site requires improvements to training facilities (non turf wicket and training nets), and ancillary facilities (additional changing rooms, officials room, catering room)	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	COMMON MEADOW (CLOSED)	WR11 4PU	Former Playing Field	Site not currently used as pitch and functions as public open space. Not required in the delivery of this strategy	Not required for the future delivery of this strategy
Wychavon	CORPORATION MEADOW	WR11 4SU	Former Playing Field	Former playing field not currently used	Not required for the future delivery of this strategy
Wychavon	CROWN MEADOW	WR11 4SU	Former Playing Field	Former playing field not currently used	Not required for the future delivery of this strategy
Wychavon	Cutnall Green	WR9 0NB	Cricket	Basic cricket facility with some spare capacity. May	Protect and enhance

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
	CC			require improvement if to be suitable to accommodate league play - outfield requires levelling	
Wychavon	DAVIES ROAD	WR11 1YZ	Former Playing Field	Former playing field not currently used	Not required for the future delivery of this strategy
Wychavon	DE MONTFORT SCHOOL	WR11 1DQ	Football and AGP (Hockey)	Site is key football and hockey site. Minor improvements required at facility, including to drainage and changing. Longer term sand based AGP will require resurfacing. Site offers potential location for 3g AGP if site adjacent to Evesham United is not deliverable	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	DRAKES BROUGHTON PLAYING FIELD	WR10 2AJ	Football	Site at capacity but this is influenced by poor drainage which reduces capacity of facility. Decompaction required to address this issue	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	DROITWICH RFC	WR9 7DU	Rugby and Football	Site is important venue for both rugby and football. Rugby club would benefit from improved maintenance, drainage improvements as well as additional floodlighting. Football club are also at capacity and seeking additional land.	Protect, enhance, increased capacity (additional pitches)
Wychavon	DROITWICH SPA HIGH SCHOOL	WR9 0AA	Football	Site used for community football. Limited quality and deterioration of site is a threat to capacity.	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	DROITWICH SPA LEISURE CENTRE	WR9 0RZ	Football and AGP (Hockey)	Site is key venue for football and hockey in Droitwich. Potential for sports hub. Loss of quality is key concern and quality deterioration would cause pitch capacity to become insufficient. Pitch improvements are required and provision of new 3g AGP to increase capacity. Existing sand based AGP requires refurbishment.	Protect and enhance. New 3g AGP and refurbishment of existing sand based facility. Improvement of existing pitches.
Wychavon	ECKINGTON RECREATION CENTRE	WR10 3DD	Football and Cricket	Important site for Eckington Football Club but club are at capacity and also use Pershore High School.	Protect, create additional capacity in Eckington
Wychavon	ELMLEY CASTLE PLAYING FIELD	WR10 3HP	Cricket	Site has also formerly contained informal football over cricket pitch. Site of standard quality but improvements to training facilities required	Protect, enhance
Wychavon	EVESHAM Cricket Club	WR11 4LG	Cricket and Rugby	Site accommodates Evesham CC (2 pitches) and Evesham RFC. Site suffers from drainage issues and rugby club also require additional floodlighting to facilitate spread of training. Cricket club wish to relocate to new site in order to reduce issues	Protect and enhance. Improvements to facility to support rugby club. Cricket club relocation supported

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
				experienced with flooding.	
Wychavon	EVESHAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB - The Spiers & Hartwell Jubilee Stadium	WR11 2LZ	Football	Large multi pitch site central to football in Evesham. Some remaining capacity. Scope to extend facility with purchase of additional land to create further capacity and AGP. Scope also for cricket facility to support Evesham CC on adjacent land. Potential site for sports hub	Protect, enhance, increased capacity (additional pitches). Preferred site for new AGP
Wychavon	FIVE ACRES	WR11 8QL	Football	Small stadium facility for pyramid club. Requires infrastructure enhancement to ensure ongoing suitability for clubs in league	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	FLADBURY RECREATION GROUND	WR10 2QW	Football and Cricket	Site well used, good cricket facility with standard football pitches. Requires improved pavilion	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	Flyford Flavell Oval Abberton	WR10 2NP	Cricket	Site of limited quality.	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	HANBURY PLAYING FIELDS	B60 4BY	Cricket and Football	Cricket pitch used as overspill. Lacks training facilities and artificial wicket and requires improvement. Football pitches not in use as formal pitch	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	HARTLEBURY PLAYING FIELDS	DY11 7TQ	Football	Site accommodates informal team only. Existing pitch dimensions are not suitable for competitive play.	Protect
Wychavon	HARVINGTON PLAYING FIELD (CLOSED)	WR11 8NJ	Former Playing Field	Site not currently used, no evidence of demand but potential local community resource should demand arise	Protect
Wychavon	HILL CLOSE GROUND	GL20 7EU	Rugby and Cricket	Site used as second facility for Bredon Star RFC and is important venue. Club seeking consolidation of facilities all on one site. Site remains important unless replacement is delivered. Requires maintenance improvements and drainage installation. Cricket pitch important venue for Bredon CC	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	Hindlip Hall (West Mercia Police HQ)	WR3 8SP	Football	Site previously used by pyramid club now more limited use. Remote location means lower levels of demand	Protect
Wychavon	Jubilee Field (Crowle)	CW7 4AZ	Football and Cricket	Important venue for Crowle Searchers. Club seeking additional land to accommodate growing club needs. Extension required (1 - 2 pitches).	Protect
Wychavon	Lower Moor Playing Fields	WR10 2NZ	Football and former	Important venue for Crowle Searchers. Site relatively poor and has no changing accommodation and requires decompaction. Site also contains disused non	Protect and enhance. No evidence of demand for cricket facility

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
			cricket wicket	turf cricket wicket	
Wychavon	MILESTONE GROUND	WR12 7HA	Football	Proposals are currently underway for the relocation of Broadway FC Milestone Ground in order to facilitate the development of the area (for none sporting reasons). The existing site is valuable for sport and should therefore be replaced. Existing facility should be replicated, with recommended provision including 1 senior pitch and 1 youth pitch (or 2 senior pitches), 1 x 9v9, 1 x 7v7 and 1 x 5v5. Potential for the smaller pitches to be replaced with a small sized AGP. Appropriate ancillary provision will also be required.	Protect / replace. Enhance and increase capacity
Wychavon	NEIGHT HILL (Himbleton CC)	WR9 7LE	Cricket	Location of Himbleton CC, site requires improved training facilities (replacement nets)	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	NEVILL ARMS (Cookhill CC)	B96 6NB	Cricket	Issues with security of tenure for site. Club also require improved training facilities. Pavilion requires development to improve social facilities as the club house is small and outdated with poor changing rooms	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	NORTON PARISH HALL PLAYING FIELD	WR5 3QJ	Football	Site quality limits capacity. Demand increasing in the area	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	OFFENHAM RECREATION GROUND	WR11 8QD	Football and Cricket	Training facilities (non turf wicket) needed.	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	Omersley CC	WR9 0EW	Cricket	Large cricket club with requirement for upgrade to pavilion	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	Omersley Memorial Hall	WR9 0DY	Football	Site at capacity at peak time	Protect
Wychavon	PEOPLETON PLAYING FIELDS	WR10 2EG	Football and Cricket	Cricket requires outfield improvements. Football pitch also of limited quality with moles. Pitch is small sized that limits capacity for play	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	PERRY FIELDS (CLOSED)	WR7 4JL	Former Playing Field	Site not currently used for football	Not required for the future delivery of this strategy
Wychavon	PERSHORE & DISTRICT SPORTS CLUB	WR10 1HU	Cricket	Cricket club of adequate quality, although site is at capacity. Requires modernisation of changing facilities and pavilion	Protect
Wychavon	Pershore College	WR10 3JP	Rugby	Site used to support needs at Pershore RFC. Important venue for community rugby until relocation of Pershore	Protect

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
				RFC can be secured. The Pershore College site provides a potential option for the relocation of the rugby club	
Wychavon	PERSHORE HIGH SCHOOL	WR10 2BX	Football	Key venue for football in the town, quality limited and reduction in quality would see further deterioration. Pitch improvements required to maintain quality. Potential for reconfiguration of site to create additional pitches to add further capacity (potentially for football or Pershore RFC). There is a need for an options appraisal to determine best way forward in Pershore to provide for football. Pershore High is the preferred site but there is a need for agronomy surveys etc to determine exact requirements) and the best way to maximise opportunities for football, cricket, rugby and football in the town.	Protect and enhance.
Wychavon	PERSHORE RFC	WR10 2JF	Rugby	Site suffers from extensive flooding, impacting upon club viability.	Relocation of club ground to alternative facility. To meet current and projected future demand, club would require circa 3 adult pitches and 2 midi pitches, with appropriate floodlighting (2 pitches) and ancillary facilities
Wychavon	Pinvin Playing field	WR10 2ER	Football	Pitches of standard quality but used predominantly by displaced teams	Protect
Wychavon	PRINCE HENRY'S SPORTS HALL / WORCESTERSHIRE CRICKET CENTRE	WR11 4QH	AGP	Important venue for Pershore Hockey club who wish to relocate to site in Pershore. Facility at Prince Henrys School is essential unless new pitch is provided in Pershore for hockey club. Other facilities at school site are not available.	Protect
Wychavon	RGS The Grange	WR37RR	AGP	Lack of floodlights restricts use of the AGP	Protect
Wychavon	SANDS ROAD	WR7 4HH	Cricket and football	Cricket club require new pavilion. Football club also require pitch improvements including drainage on old pitches. Capacity issues potentially to be solved through small AGP (although deliverability questioned).	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	SHEPPEY FIELDS	WR10 3NH	Football and former	Capacity to accommodate additional football although would benefit from improved maintenance	Protect and enhance. No evidence of demand for cricket facility

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
			cricket wicket		
Wychavon	SOUTH NICHOLSON RECREATION GROUND	WR11 8TH	Football	Site of relatively limited quality but important for youth football club	Protect
Wychavon	SPETCHLEY PARK	WR5 1RS	Cricket	Site with only short term tenure predominantly used for overspill cricket.	Protect
Wychavon	ST PETER'S PLAYING FIELD	WR9 7AN	Cricket and Football	Important site in Droitwich for football and cricket. Requires new pavilion	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	THE GORDON JONES MEMORIAL GROUND	WR5 2PP	Cricket and Football	Poor quality football but cricket facility of good quality	Protect
Wychavon	THE LENCHES SPORT & RECREATION CLUB	WR11 4UQ	Cricket and Football	Pitch quality standard but improvements to pavilion and training facilities required. Football club also seeking additional capacity	Protect
Wychavon	THE LEYS	WR11 7PG	Former Playing Field	Not currently used for sport	Not required for the future delivery of this strategy
Wychavon	THE NEW ROAD PLAYING FIELD	WR9 0PH	Former Playing Field	Not currently used for football but may offer local amenity should demand arise	Not required for the future delivery of this strategy but may offer local amenity should demand arise
Wychavon	THE PLAYING FIELD - Ashton Under Hill CC	WR11 7SW	Cricket	Pitch of standard quality but ancillary facilities require upgrade	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	THE PLAYING FIELD - Overbury CC	GL20 7NT	Cricket	Site approaching capacity	Protect
Wychavon	THE RECREATION GROUND - Breiforton CC	WR11 7HX	Cricket and Football	Important site for both cricket and football, no specific issues identified	Protect
Wychavon	VISA FIELD	WR11 7PE	Potential playing field	Not currently used for sport but consultation currently underway to determine appropriate use. No existing local clubs in the Honeybourne area - most recent team folded last year and no known demand for formal playing fields currently	Protect

Local Authority	Site Name	Postcode	Sports	Comments	Action
Wychavon	WEST ACRE MIDDLE SCHOOL	WR9 0AA	Football, rugby	Important overspill site for football. Currently unsecured for use	Protect. Secure for community use
Wychavon	Wickhamford Sports Club	WR11 7RX	Football	Pitch quality recently improved but scope to increase usage	Protect
Wychavon	Winstantley and Co King George 5th Stadium - Pershore Town FC	WR10 1QU	Football	Key site for pyramid club. Youth pitch overused and quality compromised as a result.	Protect and enhance
Wychavon	WITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	WR9 8BD	Football	Important overspill site for football. Currently unsecured for use	Protect. Secure for community use
Wychavon	WORCESTER RFC/WORCESTER WANDERERS	WR8 3ZE	Rugby	Site is key venue for rugby serving both Wychavon and Worcester City. Site requires drainage improvements to ensure that quality can be maintained and capacity sustained. Additional set of floodlights also required.	Protect, enhance
Wychavon	WYCHBOLD PLAYING FIELD	WR9 7PU	Football	Pitch quality poor and capacity is compromised	Protect and enhance

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

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