



LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN MAY 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFL	Australian Football League
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AP	Active Partnership
ARLFC	Amateur Rugby League Football Club
BAFA	British American Football Association
BE	Basketball England
BSUK	BaseballSoftball UK
CFA	County Football Association
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
EH	England Hockey
EL	England Lacrosse
ETA	England Touch Association
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LC	Lambeth Council
LFA	London Football Association
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NC	Netball Club
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SE	Sport England
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
UKU	UK Ultimate
WR	World Rugby

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd was appointed by Lambeth Council (LC) to undertake an assessment and develop a strategy for all formal outdoor playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the authority to assist in strategically planning for the future.

The Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) will form a key element of the evidence base to support local policy and the Local Plan as a whole, ensuring that it is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework.

It has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and under the direction of a steering group led by the Council and including National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). It builds upon the preceding Assessment Report and is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
- ◀ Informing the protection and provision of playing pitches.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing pitch areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches).
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches.
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for playing pitches.
- ◀ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

The Council adopted the new Lambeth Local Plan (2021) in September 2021. It sets out the vision, strategic objectives and policies for development in Lambeth for the period 2020 to 2035. Together with the Mayor's London Plan and the South Bank and Waterloo Neighbourhood Plan, it forms the statutory Development Plan for the Borough.

Monitoring and updating

It is important to ensure there is regular annual monitoring and review of the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS; and the information on which it is based, to be out of date. If the Strategy is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

The PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time spent developing the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. [Part 8](#) of this strategy report contains a suggested process for undertaking the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree the process prior to the adoption of this strategy.

Covid-19

From 23rd March 2020 England entered an unprecedented state of nationwide lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. With social distancing also required, this understandably led to all sporting activities, including all of those covered in the PPOSS, to cease until further notice.

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Lockdown restrictions began to ease in July/August 2020, leading to a return to play for summer sports such as cricket and rugby league albeit with truncated or repositioned seasons and new social distancing regulations. How this impacted on the production of the PPOSS is explained in greater detail in the relevant sports sections throughout this document. It is also detailed within the relevant sections of the preceding Assessment Report and has the full agreement of the appropriate NGBs.

It is currently unknown what the future impact of Covid-19 and subsequent and potential future lockdowns will have on participation and the quality/quantity of provision for each sport referenced in the PPOSS. Therefore, it is acknowledged that this should form a key part of the [Stage E](#) process, with the review of the documents ensuring that any recommendations made are still accurate based on future levels of supply and demand.

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the original PPOSS. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the work being signed off, Sport England and NGBs will consider it to be out of date. If the PPOSS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended to five years.

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Provision included within the project is as follows:

Table 1.1: Summary of scope

Grass playing pitches	Artificial turf pitches	Non-pitch sports facilities
Football pitches	Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)	Tennis courts
Cricket pitches	Third generation artificial grass pitches (3G)	Netball courts
Rugby union pitches		Athletics facilities
Rugby league pitches		BMX facilities
Lacrosse pitches		Outdoor volleyball courts
Gaelic sports pitches		Multi use games areas (MUGAs) - including potential use for 3x3 basketball.
Australian rules football pitches		
Touch/tag rugby pitches		

Pitch sports (e.g. football, rugby league, hockey, cricket) were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. In addition, any other grass sport pitches identified during the project were also included.

Non-pitch sports facilities (e.g. tennis, netball, MUGAs) were assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). This requires a different methodology to assess supply and demand to that used for pitch sports.

With regards to each sport, the PPOSS specifically considers the number of pitches/facilities and accounts for the size, quality, location, accessibility and capacity of the provision as well as accompanying ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation, toilets and car parking.

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Study area

Lambeth Borough forms part of Central London. It borders the London Borough of Wandsworth to the west, the London Borough of Merton to the south west, the London Borough of Croydon to the south and the London Borough of Southwark to the east. The Borough's northern border is defined by the River Thames, across which lies the City of Westminster.

The PPS study area takes in all of Lambeth Borough and has been sub-divided into seven analysis areas, used and retained from the previous Lambeth PPS (2014).

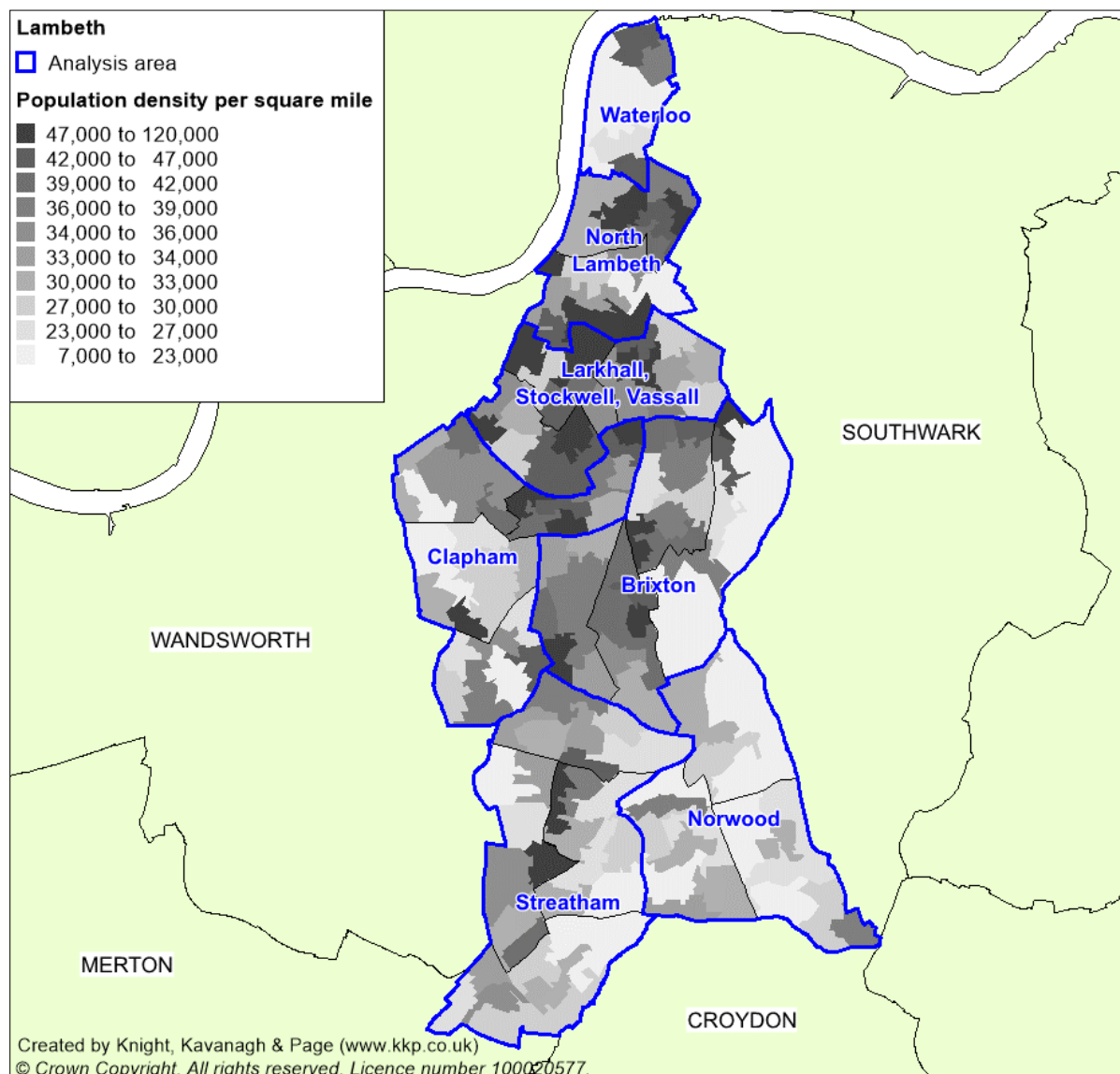
Table 1.2: Lambeth analysis areas and current population

Analysis area	Wards	Population ¹
Brixton	Brixton Hill	64,443
	Coldharbour	
	Herne Hill	
	Tulse Hill	
Clapham	Clapham Common	54,593
	Clapham Town	
	Ferndale	
	Thornton	
Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	Larkhall	47,732
	Stockwell	
	Vassall	
North Lambeth	Oval	33,852
	Prince's	
Norwood	Gipsy Hill	44,058
	Knight's Hill	
	Thurlow Park	
Streatham	St. Leonard's	64,018
	Streatham Hill	
	Streatham South	
	Streatham Wells	
Waterloo	Bishop's	13,117
Total		321,813

¹ ONS Mid-2020 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales
May 2022

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Figure 1.1: Lambeth study area with analysis areas



For the purposes of this study the geographical area to be examined is the boundary of Lambeth. This includes Clapham Common and areas of the site which fall within Wandsworth Borough administrative boundary. The site is intersected by the local authority border therefore a proportion of formal sports provision falls within each of the two Boroughs.

The previous Lambeth PPS (2014) already considered Clapham Common in entirety as the Council has responsibility for management of the whole site, therefore it was excluded from the Wandsworth PPS (2021) audit. This PPOSS will continue to account for Clapham Common in full, including facilities for which Wandsworth Council is the planning authority.

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Population growth

The current resident population in Lambeth is 321,813². The Greater London Authority (GLA) projects that the population of Lambeth will grow to over 359,000 by 2035 (Lambeth Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2017).

However, by 2035 the population is projected to increase to 344,756³ representing an increase of 22,943 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 7.1%) according to Office of National Statistics data.

As Office of National Statistics figures are available by individual age brackets (to reflect team growth) this is considered the most accurate data set to apply to team generation rates (as identified above) to calculate likely future demand within the Assessment Report.

Housing growth

The target for the number of homes required across the Borough comes directly from London Plan.

The Council will seek to maximise the supply of additional homes in the Borough to meet and exceed Lambeth's housing requirement of 13,350 homes for the ten year period 2019/20 to 2028/29.

1.1: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study is to update current levels of provision within Lambeth Borough across the public, private, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand.

Its primary purpose is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet local and community needs of existing and future residents. The strategies will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout Lambeth Borough.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 98 and 99 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must continue to be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

² Source: Office of National Statistics Mid-2020 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

³ Source: ONS 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, by Single Year of Age and Sex

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This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support future reviews of Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021).

Corporate and strategic:

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to outdoor sport provision; the PPOSS will act as a tool for the Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for outdoor sports in the future.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding - as well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, the PPOSS can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants; current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.

Planning:

- ◀ The PPOSS provides important evidence to support the Local Plan process and implementation.
- ◀ It supports strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being.
- ◀ Evidence for developer contributions.

Operational:

- ◀ Helps improve management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ The Action Plan identifies sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- ◀ An assessment of all pitches helps understand how facilities are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development:

- ◀ It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- ◀ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- ◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use; this includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- ◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

1.2: Local context

Lambeth Local Plan (2020-35)

The Lambeth Local Plan sets out the vision, strategic objectives and policies for development in Lambeth for the period 2020 to 2035. The Plan covers housing, business and town centres, social infrastructure, transport and communications, environment and green infrastructure, quality of the built environment and places and neighbourhoods. Together with the Mayor's London Plan and the South Bank and Waterloo Neighbourhood Plan, it forms the statutory development plan for the Borough.

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The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the programme for the production of Lambeth's Local Plan. The cabinet of the Council adopted a new LDS in October 2021, replacing the previous version dated October 2019.

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain an up-to-date LDS. The Localism Act 2011 stipulates that the LDS must be updated every three years. In addition, Government has introduced a requirement to review and where necessary update the Local Plan every five years. This purpose of this LDS is to explain which Development Plan documents are to be produced and to set out the timetable for preparing them.

In response to Sport England's comments in 2020 on the draft revised Lambeth Local Plan, the Local Plan has been updated to make clear that outdoor sport facilities and playing fields will be considered under Local Plan Policy EN1 – open space. The Plan also now makes clear that proposals involving a loss of school playing fields will be considered under policy EN1.

Indoor recreation and sports facilities are dealt with under Policy S1 and are deemed social infrastructure. A Built Facilities Strategy will also need to be prepared by the Council to ensure that there is a robust and up-to-date assessment of need for both outdoor and indoor recreation and sports facilities.

The Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) will be an evidence base document for future revisions of the Local Plan. It will ensure that existing facilities are the most appropriate in terms of quantity, quality and location and consider how best to meet the additional needs generated by the planned housing and economic growth.

Leisure operation

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) is Lambeth Council's appointed leisure contractor, delivering leisure facilities/service in the Borough on its behalf. The UK's largest leisure charitable social enterprise, GLL has managed facilities in the City since 2007 and will work in partnership with Lambeth Council to do so until 2023 under its Better brand.

The existing GLL contract for management of facilities was due to expire in 2022, however the Council has taken the decision not to renew this contract and to again bring management of facilities back in-house. A one year extension to the current contract has been agreed, which will see GLL manage facilities until 31st March 2023, to aid the transition of management back to the Council. The parks sports booking service provided by GLL will be brought in-house will end sooner on the 31st March 2022.

At present, GLL formally manages leisure facilities with outdoor sports provision at Brixton Recreation Centre and Ferndale Community Sports Centre.

In practice, GLL also co-ordinates the booking of facilities at several other sites it does not directly manage but which are managed by the Council, such as playing fields. Whilst these are managed by the Council, which receives the revenue from any bookings made, it does not have a suitable booking system to record and co-ordinate hire, therefore the Council works with GLL to record bookings for both Council managed and GLL managed provision through the one service co-ordinated by GLL.

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1.3: Structure

As this strategy is specific to Lambeth Borough, it focuses on findings, recommendations and scenarios for outdoor sports facilities within it, although it does give consideration and acknowledgement to facilities in neighbouring local authorities.

This strategy has been developed from research and analysis of outdoor sports provision and usage to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sport facilities
- ◀ Evidence to help protect and enhance outdoor sport provision
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations that provide a strategic framework for improvements to provision
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock
- ◀ A prioritised action plan to address key issue

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends numerous priority projects for Lambeth Borough that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited Council resources.

The recommendations made in this strategy must be translated into local plan policy so that there is a mechanism to support delivery and secure provision and investment into provision where the opportunity arises.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, London Sport, NGBs, Sport England, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve outdoor sport provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document will provide clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

1.4: Headline findings

The table overleaf highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. Match equivalent sessions have been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

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Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby league pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket can accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The PPS Guidance does not advocate the conversion of match equivalent sessions to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see [Part 4: Issues, Scenarios and Recommendations](#), and [Part 6: Site Action Plan](#).

For artificial surfaces, how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, netball) where it is not as easy to determine carry capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Current demand (2021/22 season)		Future demand (2035)
	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES per week	Future capacity total in MES per week
Football (grass pitches)	Adult	Shortfall of 50	Shortfall of 58.5
	Youth 11v11	Likely shortfall – demand playing on adult pitches which have critical shortfalls	Shortfall of 3
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 10.5	Shortfall of 13
	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 5
	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 3
3G pitches	Full size, w/sports lighting	Shortfall of at least five full size pitches (or equivalent) with sports lighting⁴ Demand exists for 3G pitches for use by other sports	Shortfall of at least five full size pitches (or equivalent) with sports lighting⁴ Demand exists for 3G pitches for use by other sports
Rugby union	Senior	Demand from clubs in neighbouring authorities – opportunity to meet shortfalls on the Lambeth/Wandsworth boundary from Wandsworth based clubs with Lambeth based members.	
Hockey (artificial grass pitches AGPs)	Full size, w/ sports lighting	Shortfall – additional full size AGPs with sports lighting required across Lambeth & Wandsworth to meet demand	Shortfall – additional full size AGPs with sports lighting required across Lambeth & Wandsworth to meet demand
Cricket	Senior	Shortfall of 350 per season	Shortfall of 374 per season
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 3.75	Shortfall of 4.75
Tennis	Courts	Insufficient capacity to meet demand. Requirement for increased sports lighting.	Insufficient capacity to meet demand. Requirement for increased sports lighting.

⁴ Based on accommodating 38 football teams on one full size pitch for affiliated team training

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Sport	Current demand (2021/22 season)		Future demand (2035)
	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES per week	Future capacity total in MES per week
Lacrosse	Grass/ artificial grass pitches	Shortfall of capacity for both matches and training with sports lighting	Shortfall of capacity for both matches and training with sports lighting
Australian rules football	Senior	Demand can be met by existing facilities	Demand can be met by existing facilities
Touch & Tag Rugby	Grass/AGP /3G pitches	Demand can be met by existing facilities	Demand can be met by existing facilities
Volleyball	Outdoor courts	Demand exists for additional provision (subject to business case)	Demand exists for additional provision (subject to business case)
BMX	Tracks	Demand can be met by existing facilities	Demand can be met by existing facilities
Netball	Courts	Demand can be met by existing facilities with no long term loss of courts at Clapham Common	Demand can be met by existing facilities with no long term loss of courts at Clapham Common
Athletics	Tracks	TBC	TBC
Multi-use games areas (MUGAs)		23% of the Borough population is outside of the recommended catchment area	23% of the Borough population is outside of the recommended catchment area

Conclusions

The current and future position for the main pitch sports played in the Brough (football, rugby league, cricket and hockey) is that significant shortfalls exist and will be exacerbated in future. This is also true for 3G pitches, where there is a current and future shortfall for football but also case for increased access to help meet demand for other sports, particularly rugby union and lacrosse.

For football, current shortfalls are identified on all pitch formats to a critical level unable to be met by existing grass pitches alone. When accounting for future demand, shortfalls are exacerbated. There is a need for increased access to 3G pitches for football, 3G Registered to enable use for match play, to meet a greater proportion of demand.

For rugby league there is both a current and future shortfall, with a need for improvements to quality to reduce existing shortfalls. There is, however, a need for additional pitch provision, specifically senior pitches to meet exported demand back within Lambeth. There is a strategic need for the development of a multi-pitch site for rugby league to meet demand in the long-term.

For cricket and hockey there are significant quantitative shortfalls both current and future which require additional pitch provision. For hockey, there is a high level of imported demand or use by clubs which exist across the Lambeth-Wandsworth catchment, with several clubs making use of facilities in Lambeth due to undersupply in Wandsworth. For cricket, based on providing non-turf pitches, the current shortfall is equivalent to requiring as many as six additional natural turf pitches, increasing to seven pitches in future.

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For rugby union, demand exists in Lambeth from neighbouring authority clubs and there are both current and future shortfalls evidenced in the Wandsworth PPS from clubs providing for Lambeth residents around the Clapham and Lambeth-Wandsworth boundary, requiring a quantitative need for additional pitches. These clubs cater for Lambeth residents and there is opportunity to help meet this demand in Lambeth, for example around the Clapham Area.

For lacrosse, there is a shortfall of capacity for midweek training especially, on either AGPs or 3G pitches with sports lighting, or less preferably grass pitches with sports lighting. There is an identified deficiency across the Inner London region of artificial grass pitches with lacrosse line markings to facilitate match play, though a lack of capacity in Lambeth to access pitches for matches regardless.

For tennis, there is a requirement for additional capacity through both additional sports lighting of existing courts and development of additional courts to provide for existing demand which cannot be met in club settings. There is also opportunity to provide additional capacity to meet future growth amongst a latent market the LTA has identified in the Borough. There is a particular need for increased sports lighting to provide greater year round hours of access for public tennis at park sites.

For netball, although there is sufficient capacity for netball, there is an identified need to ensure there is no long term loss of courts at Clapham Common.

For all remaining sports (BMX, Australian rules football, touch and tag rugby), the current stock of facilities is presently meeting demand and is expected to do so in the future, although there are actions required at specific sites which are identified within the Action Plan. For volleyball, demand is being met by playing field provision, however there is potential case for the development of a dedicated beach volleyball facility subject to proposal of a robust and sustainable business model.

A standards based approach to supply and demand for multi-use games areas (MUGAs) suggests that 23% of the Borough population is outside of the recommended 700m walk catchment area.

As there are identified shortfalls for playing pitch provision, there is a need to protect both playing pitch provision currently in use and any other playing field land due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs.

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PART 2: VISION

2.1: Vision

The Lambeth PPOSS supports Lambeth's vision for its neighbourhoods is key to the delivery of the Borough Plan. The vision is:

“for clean, safe and green neighbourhoods where people choose to live, with access to employment opportunities and a high-quality sport, leisure and cultural offer. Neighbourhoods should be places where communities are engaged and have an increased sense of pride with positive perceptions of the area, and social and volunteering opportunities”

To achieve this vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives:

- ◀ Working collectively with partners to create opportunity for everyone to participate
- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long term benefit of sport
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs
- ◀ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations.

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PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes. It is recommended that they are adopted by Lambeth Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPOSS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

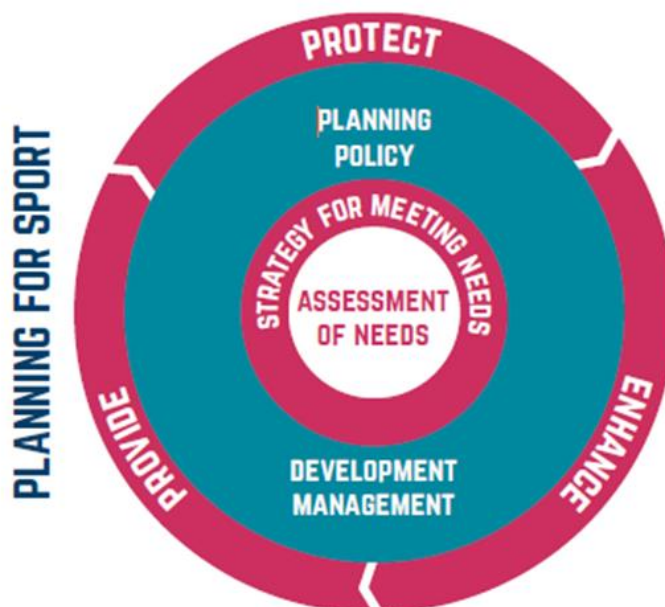
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where feasible and there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



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

PART 4: ISSUES, SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, several relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each playing pitch sport, resulting in sport specific recommendations.

4.1 Sport specific issues, scenarios and recommendations

Football – grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ **There is insufficient capacity of grass football pitches to meet current demand, with a current shortfall across all pitches.**
 - ◀ **Future demand would lead to further capacity shortfalls across all pitch types.**
 - ◀ The audit identifies a total of 24 formally marked grass football pitches in Lambeth across six sites. Of these, all are reportedly available for community use.
 - ◀ Of the 24 pitches in the Borough 13 are in the Clapham Area (54%), followed by the Brixton Area (seven pitches, 29%) and the Norwood Area (two pitches, 8%). The Streatham and Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall areas have one site. Whilst the North Lambeth and Waterloo areas accommodate no provision.
 - ◀ Of the 24 football pitches, most (22 pitches – 92%) are rated as poor quality. There are two pitches (8%) rated as standard quality with no pitches in the Borough of good quality.
 - ◀ A key issue is the perceived poor quality of pitches at local authority managed sites and particularly the quality of grounds maintenance works. Furthermore, the year round use for both summer sports and other uses, has led pitches to become compacted and worn in high traffic areas, with limited time available for rest and off-season maintenance.
 - ◀ A PQS assessment was done at Clapham Common in June 2021. It was done across football pitches, Australian Rules pitches and Touch/Tag rugby pitches. The main issues to arise from the assessment across the site were poor grass coverage, surface undulations plus holes caused by foxes and other animals.
 - ◀ There are 175 teams identified as playing football in the Borough. This is made up of 40 adult men's, 23 adult women's (13 of which are unaffiliated), 71 youth boys', one youth girls' and 40 mini teams.
 - ◀ There is identified unauthorised demand for pitch use, with the Council parks service reporting anecdotal evidence of clubs sub-letting pitch bookings or using pitches for formal matches without booking.
 - ◀ Likewise, there is identified unauthorised use of pitches for team training without hiring use through Lambeth Council, for example using mobile sports lighting.
 - ◀ Future club growth aspirations and participation targets total 33 potential new teams, resulting in additional capacity requirement (in match equivalent sessions per week) 8.5 for adult pitches, three for youth 11v11 pitches, 2.5 for youth 9v9 pitches, 1.5 for mini 7v7 pitches and one for mini 5v5 pitches.
 - ◀ There are two pitches across two sites identified as having actual spare capacity, totalling 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, one on adult pitches and 0.5 on mini 7v7 pitches.
 - ◀ In total 19 pitches across four sites are overplayed by a combined total of 67.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- At a Boroughwide level there are current capacity shortfalls all pitches in Lambeth. Whilst future demand would lead to capacity shortfalls for all formats.

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality

In total there are 19 pitches across four sites overplayed beyond their recommended capacity, by a combined total of 67.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Improving the quality of these pitches (through increased/improved quality of maintenance regimes or improved drainage capability achieved through greater aeration, decompaction or installation of drainage system) would increase capacity and consequently reduce overall current and potential future shortfalls. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating are identified in the table below:

Table 4.1: Football pitch capacity ratings in match equivalent sessions per week

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Capacity	Pitch quality	Capacity	Pitch quality	Capacity
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 4.2: Impact of qualitative improvement on overplayed pitches if improved by one quality increment

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Match equivalent sessions per week	
						Current capacity balance	Improved quality capacity rating
12	Brockwell Park	Brixton	Adult	1	Poor	3.5	2.5
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	Adult	9	Poor	43	34
			9v9	2		5.5	3.5
			7v7	1		2	0
			5v5	1		1.5	0.5
27	Eythorne Park	Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall	9v9	1	Poor	3	2
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	Adult	1	Poor	4.5	3.5
			9v9	1		2	1
			7v7	1		2	0
			5v5	1		0.5	1.5

Improving quality of overplayed pitches by one increment, from poor to standard or standard to good, would increase carrying capacity to create additional match equivalent sessions per week sufficient to reduce the total level of overplay from 67.5 to 46.5 match equivalent sessions per week, a reduction of 31%.

This this would eliminate overplay across two mini 5v5 and two mini 7v7 pitches and for both mini 5v5 pitches would create potential spare capacity for use, however, no additional actual spare capacity is created as all of these pitches are in use at peak times.

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The table below shows the impact this would have on capacity balance across Lambeth Borough. The overall current shortfall could be reduced from 66 to 45 match equivalent sessions per week, however, a significant current and future shortfall would still remain. This indicates that improving quality of overplayed pitches alone is not sufficient to eliminate all shortfalls.

Table 4.3: Impact of qualitative improvement on overall capacity balance for football in Lambeth Borough

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Potential current total	Future demand	Potential future total
Adult	1	40	39	8.5	47.5
Youth 9v9	0	6.5	6.5	2.5	9
Mini 7v7	0.5	0	0.5	1.5	1
Mini 5v5	0	0	0	1	1
Total	1.5	46.5	45	13.5	57.5

Note that whilst it may be possible to meet current shortfalls through improving quality of presently overplayed sites, this may not always be feasible where, for example, pitches are located on public open space, which may present challenges to scale and extent of remedial works able to be conducted, or where sites do not presently offer secure access or tenure for clubs, such is the case at education sites.

Whilst improvement of one quality increment may appear realistic to achieve, in practice there are key challenges to the delivery of and investment into improved and more regular maintenance regimes, as well as competing agendas for site uses, which compromise and limit the potential to what level of improvement can be achieved. This is particularly the case across the local authority portfolio, which all the overplayed sites are within.

Furthermore, given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that could offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The current alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, which can support intensive use and are great assets for football activity. These do not suffer from overplay in the same way as grass pitches and therefore can be an important tool in reducing pressures on grass pitches. Other solutions such as increased access to unused or unavailable sites should also be explored to meet future shortfalls.

Demand at Clapham Common specifically cannot be met by the number of grass pitch alone, even if improved to good quality across the site. The level of overplay is critical and in conjunction to improvements to natural turf pitch quality across the site, this level of overplay cannot be met without the support of 3G pitch or hybrid turf pitch provision, the development of which should be a key priority.

Hybrid pitches, where part artificial turf is stitched into natural turf playing fields to support natural turf growth and performance, may also present a future solution to supporting and sustaining these significant levels of grass pitch use in the Borough. However, the performance of hybrid turf pitches is yet to be fully determined and is being tested by Sport England and NGBs as part of a pilot programme, including in the region at Regent's Park.

Hybrid pitches are not a product presently supported or funded by NGBs such as the Football Foundation but Lambeth Borough (and Clapham Common specifically) should be considered as a possible opportunity within any future consideration as a supported product for football (and other pitch sports). Sport England has funded the pilot testing of hybrid pitches, such as in Regents Park.

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Lambeth Local Football Facility Plan

The Lambeth Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP, produced 2019⁵) identifies 14 potential opportunities for the development of football facilities.

The LFFP identifies two key sites for potential improvement to the quality of grass pitches, at Clapham Common and Ruskin Park. Both sites are evidenced as having poor quality grass pitches in the PPOSS Assessment and therefore have scope for qualitative and thus capacity improvements.

Table 4.4: Impact of qualitative improvement on identified LFFP potential projects if improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Match equivalent sessions per week	
						Current capacity balance	Improved quality capacity rating
17	Clapham Common	Clapham	Adult	9	Poor	43	25
			9v9	2		5.5	0.5
			7v7	1		2	2
			5v5	1		1.5	2.5
64	Ruskin Park	Brixton	Adult	1	Poor	4.5	2.5
			9v9	1		2	4
			7v7	1		2	2
			5v5	1		0.5	3.5

Improvement of pitches at the two sites would create additional potential capacity across the week of 45 match equivalent sessions per week. This is sufficient to eliminate overplay across four youth and mini pitches at Clapham Common and the pitches at Ruskin Park. However, in practice this would not represent an increase in actual capacity, as all pitches across both sites are used to capacity at peak times.

Table 4.5 Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	1	51	50	8.5 ⁶	58.5
Youth 9v9	0	10.5	10.5	2.5	13
Mini 7v7	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	5
Mini 5v5	-	2	2	1	3
Total	1.5	67.5	66	13.5	79.5
With qualitative improvement					
Adult	1	31	30	8.5 ⁷	38.5
Youth 9v9	0	3.5	3.5	2.5	6
Mini 7v7	0.5	0	0.5	1.5	1
Mini 5v5	0	0	0	1	1
Total	1.5	34.5	33	13.5	46.5

⁵<https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/lambeth/lambeth-executive-summary/>

⁶ 4.5 MES added to overall boroughwide future demand on adult pitches from National FA growth targets.

⁷ 4.5 MES added to overall boroughwide future demand on adult pitches from National FA growth targets.

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The effect of improving these 17 pitches to good quality is an increase in the current capacity Boroughwide for football across the four pitch formats. This would eliminate current shortfalls for mini 5v5 and 7v7 formats, however a shortfall for adult and youth 9v9 pitches would remain.

Though there it would create not additional increase in capacity available at peak times, it would reduce in part existing overplay, improve quality for play and player experience, whilst increases in potential capacity across the week would allow for growth in participation at non-peak times, for example Sundays for the growth of girls' football.

Overall at a Boroughwide level across all pitch types, current and future shortfalls would remain. Consequently, additional improvements to other sites are required. However, most overplay on adult pitches is derived from Clapham Common where current demand exceeds the maximum carrying capacity of existing pitches. Consequently an alternative solution is required, such as additional 3G pitch or hybrid pitch provision as proposed in the LFFP and remain valid, as evidenced by the PPOSS.

The LFFP also identifies potential opportunity for pavilion improvement at Clapham Common and Ruskin Park. This aligns with the findings of the PPS, with provision at Clapham Common reportedly poor quality and not accessed by most teams using the site.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all grass football pitches currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Prioritise investment to improve the quality of grass pitches at key strategic sites identified within the PPOSS Action Plan, either to address overuse or to support high levels of site demand or accommodate growth.
- ◀ In the first instance, the Council and local football partners should undertake technical quality assessments using the Football Foundation PitchPower application at key sites identified as requiring improvement to pitch quality, to establish Grounds Management Association professional recommendations on how best to do so.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure they are of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality to increase capacity.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand as well as any exported, unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes where possible in line with the FA Youth Review.
- ◀ The Council should review the Sport and Recreation Sports Facility Concessionary Registration Scheme and develop a new accreditation programme which prioritises Lambeth based clubs for pitch access and generates an increased revenue into improvement of grass pitches across the Borough, in conjunction with potential investment in partnership with the Football Foundation.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at key sites, prioritising those identified within the PPOSS Action Plan. Priority should be where there is existing demand for use and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ In line with the development of new 3G pitches, transfer a greater proportion of play from grass pitches to playing competitive matches on FA registered 3G pitches, particularly the majority of mini soccer match play.
- ◀ Explore innovative products and solutions, some of which, may be in development or may not yet be supported by NGBs or Sport England, to help meet demand and reduce shortfalls for matches and training provision in the Borough.

LAMBETH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

3G pitches

Summary

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand in Lambeth based on the FA training model for football and demand amongst other sports.**
- ◀ **Given the multi-sport nature of most playing field sites in Lambeth and competing demands from many sports for access to provision with sports lighting, there is a need for 3G pitches to also be multi-sport facilities where possible.**
- ◀ There are no full size 3G pitches in Lambeth. Although the pitch at Archbishop's Park is of youth 11v11 size.
- ◀ There are 25 small size 3G pitches across 19 sites.
- ◀ Both the pitch at Archbishop's Park and Park Campus Academy have previously been on the FA Register for certified pitches, however, both certifications expired in May 2021.
- ◀ In total, there are nine 3G pitches rated as good quality, 11 rated as standard and five rated as poor.
- ◀ It is considered that the current supply and programming contributes negligible capacity for formal football, despite providing for other football outcomes. The small sized 3G pitches are heavily used by small sided commercial football leagues throughout the week, reducing the capacity available for affiliated team training.
- ◀ The FA training model estimates that there is a need for five full size 3G pitches to service current and future football training needs from teams based within Lambeth. Therefore, there is a subsequent requirement for at least five additional full size 3G pitches for football (or equivalent small size pitches in part).
- ◀ Given the high level of competition amongst clubs, as well as other sports teams for training provision with sports lighting, there may be a case for development of more than five full size pitches to accommodate programming to meet demand from other sports such as lacrosse and rugby union.
- ◀ There is a proposed project for the development of new 3G pitch provision Clapham Common, Brockwell Park and Ruskin Park, all of which were identified in the Lambeth (2019) LFFP.
- ◀ The identified opportunity at Clapham Common for the development of new artificial grass pitch provision and due to both the well-connected and equidistant nature of the site, it represents a key strategic opportunity for most pitch sport NGBS to help reduce local shortfalls, including for the RFU and potential development of new World Rugby Reg 22 compliant pitch provision.
- ◀ There is no opportunity to convert sand based AGPs as all hockey suitable pitches are presently required to meet demand for hockey.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. To enable this and to allow for an assessment of the level of provision required to accommodate the demand, it is calculated that a full size pitch can cater for up to 38 teams.

This analysis considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. The 3G requirement is rounded to the nearest whole number.

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

There are 161 football teams based in Lambeth Borough which require access to train once per week on 3G surface with sports lighting. This equates to a requirement for at least five full size 3G pitches to service this level of training demand. This could be met in part with equivalent capacity in small size 3G pitches, though this limits the formats of competitive football matches able to be played on the pitch to junior or mini age groups on smaller areas.

At present there are no full size 3G pitches, however, the pitch at Archbishop's Park is of substantial youth 11v11 size and is utilised for training demand by both men's and youth football. There is also a small size 3G pitch at Larkhall Park, presently out of use but which was also programmed for team training.

Once Larkhall Park is again operational (planned in 2022), it is considered that together these two pitches contribute existing supply equivalent to one full size 3G pitch. Consequently, there is considered to be a current shortfall of four full size 3G pitches or equivalent.

There are several small size pitches which in principle can contribute some way towards meeting training demand. In Lambeth, though small size 3G pitch provision and sand based AGP provision play a role in supporting football training demand, there is also a significant level of recreational and small sided football activity reported in Lambeth for which artificial grass pitch facilities with sports lighting are the preferred and required facility type.

Demand for provision with sports lighting is highly competitive between football clubs and with other sports, particularly for hockey. Though sand-based provision plays a role in meeting football demand, there are capacity issues for hockey where transfer of football from sand based AGPs to 3G pitches can better help meet the needs of all sports.

There may be scope and opportunity to sustain more than equivalent of four additional full size 3G pitches in the Borough given the extent of competition amongst sports for provision with sports lighting and demand for artificial turf training facilities, for sports such as rugby union and lacrosse especially. The Wandsworth PPS (2021) evidence's shortfalls for these sports, whilst the respective NGBs identify a need for greater capacity with sports lighting for these sports within the inner South London area.

Greater representation for these sports within the programme would reduce availability for affiliated football training and consequently could increase the need for 3G pitches with sports lighting to meet all affiliated football training demand.

The Football Foundation reports that there is a significant level of demand for use of 3G pitches for non-formal football activity, such as competitive small sided leagues, social or recreational football, informal play and community participation programmes. Consequently, through the mix of formal (football and other sports) and non-formal demand for football, there is case to suggest that delivery of more than five additional full size 3G pitches (or equivalent) could be sustained due to demand from other sports and other types of football activity.

World Rugby⁸ compliant 3G pitches

The RFU strategic approach to 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. The nearest World Rugby compliant 3G pitches are at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club (Wandsworth) or Imperial Sports Ground (Merton). Wandsworth, where a significant proportion of Lambeth residents are believed to play at affiliated clubs, is considered by the RFU to be a strategic area for the development of additional rugby union compliant provision.

⁸ <https://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/rugbyturf>

LAMBETH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

There may be scope and opportunity to sustain more than five additional full size 3G pitches in Lambeth Borough given the extent of competition amongst sports for provision with sports lighting and demand for artificial turf training facilities for sports such as rugby union and lacrosse especially. Greater representation for these sports within the programme would reduce availability for football and consequently increase the number of 3G pitches required to meet all affiliated football training demand.

Development of proposed new 3G pitches at Council managed sites

The Council is presently working with the Football Foundation to deliver two new small size 3G pitch projects, one each on disused redgra areas at Brockwell Park and Ruskin Park, expected to be delivered in 2022 and 2023 respectively and supported by Football Foundation funding.

It is estimated that each redgra footprint could accommodate a mini 7v7 size 3G pitch with sports lighting. On the basis that two mini 7v7 pitches can fit on a full size 3G pitch, this would be equivalent of one full size 3G pitch, therefore in principle reducing the affiliated football team training shortfall from at least four to at least three full size 3G pitches required thereafter.

However, whilst this may help to reduce the shortfall of 3G pitches based on demand for team training with sports lighting, provision of small size 3G pitches at these sites would limit potential for competitive match play use to mini soccer only (subject to 3G registration) and could not help play a role in reducing current grass pitch shortfalls for adult and youth football pitches.

There is also a longer term aspiration for the development of at least one 3G pitch with sports lighting at Clapham Common, with Football Foundation, RFU, England Lacrosse and the RFL all reporting the site to be of strategic value and significance for their sports. The site holds significant opportunity and potential to meet needs for multiple sports, both demand from within Lambeth and the wider catchment on the Wandsworth/Lambeth boundary. There is, however, similar need for hockey and a sand based surface at this site would also have significant strategic impact to address shortfalls for hockey in the area.

The redgra area at Clapham Common measures approximately 92x96m and is of sufficient size to be able to accommodate at least one full size 3G pitch, including opportunity as a senior size rugby union build⁹. Based on the full community use programme for football, development of a full size 3G pitch at this site (with sports lighting) could further reduce the shortfall for affiliated football team training from at least four to at least three additional full size 3G pitches required thereafter.

There is further disused redgra space to the west, associated to the existing redgra area at Clapham Common, which if utilised would increase the total footprint to 140x92m. This could increase the range of opportunity for the development of artificial grass pitch provision and mix of space/compliancy to meet demand for several sports. There is a need to explore opportunity to develop full size 3G provision where possible unless proven unfeasible or undeliverable, as the most critical shortfalls for football matches are for adult and youth 11v11 play.

However, it is accepted that there are greater potential challenges to the possible development of artificial grass pitch provision and sports lighting at Clapham Common, such is the significance of the site as a public open space, the level of footfall and differing types of demand for use, as well as potential considerations regarding environment and conservation. Greatest efforts must be made to reduce impact in this regard.

⁹ RFU recommended 100x70m pitch, 120x80m total area inclusive of run offs

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Additional to the development of 3G pitches with sports lighting, opportunity for innovative or non-traditional pitch technologies and products (such as hybrid turf pitches) should be explored in future, where these may provide a capacity solution able to sustain greater levels of use beyond grass pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the current level of supply of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Develop additional 3G pitches to meet identified shortfalls.
- ◀ Prioritise development of new 3G pitches on disused redgra areas, reducing impact on existing grass playing field area.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet NGB recommended dimensions where feasible and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria for match play (e.g. FA and/or RFU registered).
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have formal community use agreements associated as part of the planning permission to secure access for local sports clubs.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for long-term sustainability, preferably a sinking fund formed over time, to fund future repair and eventual surface replacement at end of lifespan.
- ◀ Encourage greater transfer of match play demand (for both football and rugby union) to 3G pitches where possible and ensure that pitches remain suitable quality to accommodate such demand through appropriate certification when required to be renewed or retested.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop new World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision to support rugby union training and match play use. This should be to senior rugby union pitch specifications where possible, alternatively there is opportunity for cross-compliance and shared programming with football, for example installation of sub-surface shock pad within football design construction.
- ◀ All hockey suitable AGPs should be protected for hockey use and should not be converted to 3G surfaces.
- ◀ Explore innovative solutions and products for 3G pitches (and hockey suitable AGPs) to help meet demand for a several sports to maximise their impact. This may for example include location (e.g. rooftops, within car parks) or design (e.g. extended build or mixed surface footprints, incorporating non-turf wicket provision for cricket).

Cricket pitches

Summary

- ◀ **Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity for cricket to meet current and future demand within the Borough.**
- ◀ **Levels of existing use far exceed the quantitative level of provision in the Borough, therefore there is a need for additional cricket pitch provision to meet current and future demand.**
- ◀ There are no natural turf cricket squares in Lambeth.
- ◀ All cricket provision is non-turf, with five non-turf pitches at five sites in the Borough.
- ◀ Three non-turf pitches are rated as good quality, one as standard quality and one at Kennington Park as poor quality.
- ◀ Kennington Park is subject to reported quality issues affecting the safety and suitability of the outfield area for cricket, rather than the non-turf pitch itself. Consequently, the site is no longer used for cricket activity.
- ◀ All organisations delivering cricket activity in Lambeth are considered to have secure access through rental from the Council as part of its leisure and recreation offer and there is no foreseen threat to loss of access for existing cricket activity.

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- None of the five sites with cricket provision (Brockwell Park, Clapham Common, Kennington Park, Ruskin Park and Streatham Common) are directly serviced by a cricket pavilion facility. Across the park sites there are toilets which service all park users.
- Four sites across Lambeth have fixed net training provision, at Archbishop's Park, Brockwell Park, Clapham Common and Kennington Park.
- Last Man Stands is the main provider of competitive cricket in Lambeth, operating leagues across four sites, totalling approximately 80 teams.
- Surrey Cricket Foundation and the ACE Programme is a key delivery organisation and in addition to Last Man Stands represents demand for outdoor cricket facilities in the Borough.
- Kennington Park was not used by Last Man Stands in 2021 and therefore less teams were able to be accommodated in the leagues. The franchise reports unmet demand and operates a waiting list but did not quantify how many teams on it.
- Based on population change exclusively, there is forecasted growth of at least two new teams for Last Man Stands, equivalent to 24 match equivalent sessions per season. In practice, the League reports that it could realistically exceed this level of growth but did not quantify by how much.
- There is no spare capacity to accommodate additional cricket activity within Lambeth Borough based on the current quality and level of access to facilities.
- Two sites (Brockwell Park and Clapham Common) are considered to be overplayed by a total of 350 match equivalent sessions per season.
- There is a strategic desire to establish a club in the Borough playing weekend league cricket, at which time a natural turf square is likely to be required.

Scenarios

Resolving safety issues – poor quality pitches

Kennington Park is the only site which has poor quality cricket pitch provision. The non-turf pitch is rated as poor quality and therefore considered to contribute no carrying capacity, with poor quality considered a safety issue for cricket. As a result, this site is not used for formal cricket activity, therefore is played to capacity as having no use, against nil carrying capacity.

Improvement of cricket pitch quality through replacement of the non-turf pitch surface, improved standard of maintenance, preparatory and remediation practices would foremostly address safety issues to make surface safe for cricket activity. No longer being poor quality, the pitch would be able to contribute 60 match equivalent sessions per week capacity to meet cricket demand.

Table 4.6: Effect of improving non-turf pitch quality at Kennington Park

Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per season)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per season)			
	Overplay	Current total	Future demand ¹⁰	Total
60	-350	-290	24	-314

Whilst improvement of pitch quality would increase carrying capacity at Kennington Park and would reduce the overall level of shortfall in the Borough, however, this is insufficient to eliminate overplay and additional increases in capacity in the Borough are required, including development of new pitch provision.

¹⁰ Based on two additional Last Man Stands teams playing an average of 12 matches per season

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Increased access to Ruskin Park

Ruskin Park is the only non-turf pitch cricket site in Lambeth which has spare capacity for additional use, as the Council previously limited the number of days per week when the cricket pitch could be accessed to retain time for other uses of the space within the park. Consequently, the capacity of 38 match equivalent sessions per season was discounted from the Assessment analysis because there was no additional time when the pitch could be accessed to utilise this capacity.

The pitch was previously only available for cricket use on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Therefore, being accessible for an additional two days, it is possible for the Last Man Stands (LMS) league to play an additional 22 matches per season. Ability to access this capacity will have the following effect on overall capacity balance.

Table 4.7: Effect of increased access to capacity at Ruskin Park for cricket on capacity balance

Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per season)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per season)			
	Overplay	Current total	Future demand ¹¹	Total
22	-350	-328	24	-352

On the basis that LMS will be able to play 11 matches per season with access one day of the week, there is sufficient carrying capacity on the non-turf pitch to accommodate access to Ruskin Park on an additional three days per week (33 match equivalent sessions per season). Even if access is maximised in line with pitch capacity available, this is insufficient to eliminate overplay and access to additional provision is still required.

Increasing capacity through additional non-turf pitches

Surrey Cricket Foundation has identified Lambeth as a strategic priority for more NTPs to be installed with funding provided by the London Cricket Trust funding.

The current shortfall of match equivalent sessions for cricket in Lambeth is 350 per season. Non-turf pitches are presently the preferred facility type for cricket activity in Lambeth, most of which is either short format match play or community participation programmes.

On the basis that a non-turf pitch has carrying capacity of 60 match equivalent sessions per season, there would be a need for installation of an additional six non-turf pitches in the Borough to meet this demand.

The future shortfall of match equivalent sessions for cricket in Lambeth is 374 per season. There would be a need for installation of an additional seven non-turf pitches in the Borough to meet this demand.

There is, however, a poor quality non-turf pitch which exists at Kennington Park. Replacing this surface would reduce the requirement for new non-turf pitch locations to five, increasing to six to meet future demand.

Whilst non-turf pitches are considered the preferred surface type to meet the current nature of cricket demand in the Borough, the ECB and SCF have a longer term aspiration to develop an affiliated cricket club playing Saturday league cricket within Lambeth. This would require the development of a natural turf square as local leagues at most levels of play do not permit the use of non-turf pitches for match play on Saturdays.

¹¹ Based on two additional Last Man Stands teams playing an average of 12 matches per season

LAMBETH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect cricket pitch provision currently in use (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Ensure protection from development that may prejudice the use of a cricket square such as residential development in close proximity to a cricket outfield (ball strike issues). This includes development of other sports provision which may compromise continued use for cricket.
- ◀ Review quality issues with cricket pitch provision and establish a recommended, robust and deliverable maintenance regime.
- ◀ Prioritise improvement of poor quality cricket pitch provision (Kennington Park) as a key matter of safety concern, as well as to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop new cricket pitch provision, specifically new non-turf pitches, at new sites which may or may not have an existing cricket presence.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for the development of innovative products which may be able to meet demand for formal cricket. For example, this may include non-turf squares (a non-turf area able to be marked with several wickets), which although not able to provide several pitches that could be used simultaneously, would provide an enhanced player experience and may be suitable for league cricket in the future. This may present a more sustainable solution for maintenance of cricket provision at some sites and for some users. Other examples include specially designed multi-use games areas or delineated areas for street cricket.
- ◀ Work with organisations to grow for women's and girls' cricket participation through the ECB Inspiring Generations Strategy.
- ◀ Improve facilities to meet growth markets (All Stars Cricket, Dynamos Cricket, women and girls' cricket) at key sites. Specifically, improve quality of toilets, changing room and showers and social spaces to meet these growing demands, as well as ensuring sufficient pitch access to help promote these formats.
- ◀ In the long-term, seek to establish an affiliated cricket club in the Borough playing weekend cricket in traditional format local leagues. Review requirement for the development of natural turf square provision in line with this strategic growth target.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ **There are currently no rugby union pitches within the Borough, at present and only ad-hoc use of unmarked areas of Clapham Common.**
- ◀ **Whilst in principle there are no affiliated rugby union clubs currently based in Lambeth, in practice there is a shortfall in capacity which requires additional provision to meet demand from clubs on the Lambeth/Wandsworth boundary, which have a substantial proportion of Lambeth based players.**
- ◀ There are no formally marked rugby union pitches in Lambeth, nor are there any affiliated community clubs based in the Borough.
- ◀ There are pitches marked for touch and tag rugby at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park, though use is by non-RFU affiliated leagues and franchises.
- ◀ Current affiliated rugby union use in Lambeth consists only of ad-hoc training use of playing field areas at Clapham Common by London Media RFC, during summer when daylight hours allow for training without sports lighting.
- ◀ There is reported additional demand for both training and match demand for both Battersea Ironsides RFC and London Media RFC.
- ◀ Battersea Ironsides RFC reports that it requires additional pitch space for its current teams, it would also allow the Club to increase its teams, which it suggests it has demand for.

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- ◀ London Media RFC reports that if a pitch on Clapham Common were to become available then it would look to relocate, as it reports the site would be easier for transport to matches, whilst a number of its members are located in and around the Clapham Area.
- ◀ Battersea Ironsides aspires to have its own site and suggests it would be open to take on management of and self-fund development of a land asset.
- ◀ Both clubs report they have demand for additional training capacity under sports lighting and that both would be interested in using new provision, especially if this was around the Clapham Area.
- ◀ The Wandsworth PPS (2021) evidences significant capacity shortfalls for rugby union pitches, as well a requirement for additional pitches provision with sports lighting to service training and match play for several sports such as rugby union, football and lacrosse. There is opportunity for new provision in Lambeth to help meet this demand for clubs based on the local authority border.
- ◀ There is identified opportunity at Clapham Common for additional capacity for rugby union activity due to both the well-connected and equidistant nature of the site between the two boroughs, it represents a key strategic opportunity for most pitch sport NGBs to help reduce local shortfalls. This includes for the RFU and potential development of new World Rugby Reg 22 compliant pitch provision and/or alternative pitch products (e.g. hybrid turf pitches) which may provide increased capacity.

Scenarios

World Rugby¹² compliant 3G pitches

The RFU strategic approach to 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. The nearest World Rugby compliant 3G pitches are at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club (Wandsworth) or Imperial Sports Ground (Merton). Wandsworth, where a significant proportion of Lambeth residents are believed to play at affiliated clubs, is considered by the RFU to be a strategic area for the development of additional rugby union compliant provision.

There may be scope and opportunity to sustain more than four additional full size 3G pitches in Lambeth Borough given the extent of competition amongst sports for provision with sports lighting and demand for artificial turf training facilities for sports such as rugby union. Greater representation for these sports within the programme would reduce availability for football and consequently increase the number of 3G pitches required to meet all affiliated football training demand.

To meet demand in Lambeth and shortfalls evidenced in the Wandsworth PPS from clubs on the Lambeth-Wandsworth boundary, there is a need for additional pitch provision for rugby union, particularly in the Clapham Area. There are opportunities to develop new rugby union pitch provision to help meet demand from Wandsworth based clubs in this area which provide for Lambeth residents within their membership.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop new rugby union pitch provision at playing field sites on the Lambeth/Wandsworth boundary.
- ◀ Develop new provision with sports lighting for rugby union training, preferably where there is existing rugby union activity (Clapham Common).

¹² <https://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/rugbyturf>

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop new World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision to support rugby union training and match play for the rugby union club network based in adjacent boroughs which provide for Lambeth residents.
- ◀ Ensure new 3G pitches for rugby union use meet RFU recommended senior rugby union pitch specifications where possible, alternatively there is opportunity for cross-compliance and shared programming with other sports, for example installation of sub-surface shock pad within football design construction.
- ◀ In the longer term, once infrastructure is in place, look to establish a club structure in the Borough.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based artificial grass pitches)

Summary

- ◀ **Supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Lambeth is insufficient to accommodate either current or future demand from hockey clubs active in the Borough.**
- ◀ **There is a quantitative shortfall of hockey suitable AGPs in the Borough and therefore a need to develop additional pitches.**
- ◀ **There is a need to retain both full size hockey suitable AGPs**
- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs in the Borough, both are sand based pitches, whilst the pitch at Kennington Park has sports lighting, the pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School does not.
- ◀ Both pitches are available for community use, with the pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School having a community use agreement, with priority on bookings for community sports clubs outside of school hours.
- ◀ London Wayfarers HC, Clapham Common HC and Spencer HC (with Spencer Lynx) each aspire to develop their own full size AGP. Clubs would need to acquire a land asset or work in partnership with another organiser with land to do so but both are potentially in a position to self-fund.
- ◀ Both pitches are of poor quality, with Kennington Park being taken out of use in summer 2021 as it was deemed unsafe. The pitch is due to be available for use again in June 2022.
- ◀ The pitch at Streatham and Clapham High School is reported by London Wayfarers HC to be too sandy and therefore plays slowly, meaning it is used mainly for lower level league matches. The School reports that a full resurface of the pitch will be required in the next five years.
- ◀ There are no clubs based within Lambeth, with five Wandsworth based clubs actively accessing pitches within Lambeth. In total these clubs field 82 senior teams. There are 88 junior teams in total fielded by just two clubs, Spencer HC and London Wayfarers HC.
- ◀ All five clubs report through consultation that they have unmet demand, through either waiting lists, unmet training demand for teams and/or turning new members away. The main reason for unmet demand is lack of pitch provision for both training and matches.
- ◀ In total, unmet demand is considered to amount to 12 teams. This equates to demand of six match equivalent sessions on Saturdays, plus additional training requirement under sports lighting midweek.
There is no scope to convert any of the full size hockey suitable in the Borough to 3G surfaces and all full size hockey suitable AGPs should be retained and protected.

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Scenarios

Bringing back into use Kennington Park AGP

The Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance suggests that a pitch with sports lighting is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday with teams playing in a home and away format, as such this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight “home” teams. Teams play matches on home vs away formats and therefore one team requires 0.5 match sessions per week on its “home” artificial grass pitch.

At present, only three match equivalent sessions per week (able to accommodate six teams) exist in the Borough for Saturday match play, at Streatham & Clapham High School, this is limited due to the lack of sports lighting.

Resurfacing the AGP at Kennington Park as a sand based surface would create additional capacity of four match equivalent sessions per week (able to accommodate eight teams) on Saturdays. The five clubs consulted which use facilities in Lambeth report unmet demand for a total of 12 additional senior teams, equivalent to six match equivalent sessions per week on Saturdays. Consequently, this amount of match play capacity is not sufficient to meet unmet demand reported by clubs, therefore a current shortfall for match play would remain. In addition to unmet demand, all five clubs report exporting demand to boroughs beyond Lambeth and Wandsworth, therefore in practice the shortfall is greater to meet this demand within the two boroughs across which these clubs operate.

Resurfacing and restoring community access to the Kennington Park AGP would, however, also help meet a level of training demand for hockey (and other sports such as lacrosse) which require sports lighting. Doing so would create an additional midweek capacity of 18 hours potentially able to be accessed for hockey activity.

Installation of additional sports lighting

The full size AGP at Streatham and Clapham High School has no sports lighting and therefore throughout the hockey season the pitch is not available during midweek evenings. There is Community Use Agreement (CUA) in place, however hours of availability are limited at weekends also, to Saturdays 11am-5pm and Sundays from 10am-2.30pm. The School uses the facility on Saturday mornings meaning it is unavailable, whilst the pitch is used to capacity during available hours by community hockey clubs.

Installation of sports lighting at Streatham & Clapham High School would enable access to one additional match timeslot in the late afternoon on Saturdays in winter, representing a gain of one match equivalent session (able to accommodate two teams playing home and away). Whilst this would help meet unmet and exported demand for senior hockey match play, even with the re-opening of Kennington Park AGP this does not provide sufficient capacity to meet all match play demand identified. Therefore, additional capacity (across Lambeth and/or Wandsworth) is still required in the form of new pitches.

Installation of sports lighting and establishing a full community use programme at Streatham & Clapham High School would provide up to 18 hours midweek in the peak period to help meet demand for hockey activity, particularly team training.

LAMBETH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure that all hockey suitable AGPs are protected from development and retained as hockey suitable surfaces.
- ◀ As a priority, resurface the AGP at Kennington Park and restore hockey use to the site, maximising access for hockey for match play and particularly training.
- ◀ Monitor rate of surface deterioration at Streatham & Clapham High School and resurface before the pitch becomes poor quality and unsafe for use.
- ◀ Advocate and pursue the development of modern sports lighting solutions at Streatham & Clapham High School to increase numbers of hours in the week available for access, prioritising hockey use of the site to meet demand for midweek training and additional hours for weekend match play. Explore opportunities and potential land partners with which to work to develop new full size hockey suitable AGPs, including education sites such as Burntwood School.
- ◀ Explore opportunities and potential land partners with which to work to develop new full size hockey suitable AGPs, including education sites.
- ◀ Seek to engage with education providers to gain access to AGPs with sports lighting not presently available for community use but which may be able to provide additional capacity for hockey (e.g. Platanos College, The Elmgreen School).
- ◀ As additional 3G pitches are developed, transfer a proportion of midweek demand for football/other sports which can use 3G pitches, prioritising this release of capacity for access for hockey activity.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop new hockey suitable AGP provision to support training and match play for clubs in the Lambeth-Wandsworth hockey club network, which provide for Lambeth residents.
- ◀ Ensure that any recreational based hockey programmes can be accommodated to service non-competitive or recreational demand.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for long-term sustainability, preferably a sinking fund formed over time, to fund future repair and eventual surface replacement at end of lifespan.
- ◀ Seek to maximise hockey use of AGPs at sites where hockey is being played.
- ◀ Increase participation driven through community clubs and schools.
- ◀ Explore innovative solutions which may help to meet hockey demand in future, for example should there be future developments in surfaces which suitably meet the demand for both hockey and other sports.

Rugby league

Summary

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is insufficient capacity on grass rugby league pitches to meet both current and future demand for rugby league.**
- ◀ There is one rugby league pitch in Lambeth at Woodmansterne School. The pitch is junior size, available for community use and used by Brixton Bulls RLFC.
- ◀ The pitch at Woodmansterne School is rated as poor quality. Brixton Bulls RLFC reports that this is mainly due to drainage issues across the site, perceived to be an impact of the school rebuild.
- ◀ Brixton Bulls RLFC currently rents use of the pitch from Woodmansterne School. There is no formal agreement known to be in place and use is via annual rental. Consequently, tenure for the Club is considered to be unsecure.
- ◀ Brixton Bulls RLFC is the only community rugby league club based within Lambeth and has one senior women's, one junior boys' and three primary mixed teams playing within Lambeth.

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ✦ The Club has two men's teams which currently export demand to use rugby union pitch provision in Croydon, reportedly due to the poor quality of the Woodmansterne School pitch.
- ✦ Brixton Bulls RLFC states that it is working developing its junior section for both boys and girls. It currently plans to add U14 and U16 boys' teams.
- ✦ There may be increased participation as a legacy result of the Rugby League World Cup to be held in the UK in 2022.
- ✦ The pitch at Woodmansterne School is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week through school and club use.
- ✦ When accounting for exported demand, the current capacity shortfall totals 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ✦ Future demand from Brixton Bulls RLFC would exacerbate this shortfall to a total of 4.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality

Improving the quality of overplayed pitches (through increased/improved quality of maintenance regimes or improved drainage capability achieved through greater aeration, decompaction or installation of drainage system) would increase capacity and consequently reduce overall current and potential future shortfalls. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating are identified in the table below:

Table 4.8: Rugby league pitch capacity ratings in match equivalent sessions per week

Sport	Pitch type	Number of match equivalent sessions		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week

Table 4.9: Impact of qualitative improvement on pitches if improved by one quality increment

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Tenure	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions per week		
					Current play	Site capacity	Capacity rating
91	Woodmansterne School	Streatham	Unsecure	Poor	2.75	1	1.75
<i>With improvement to standard quality</i>							
91	Woodmansterne School	Streatham	Unsecure	Standard	2.75	2	0.75

Improving quality of the overplayed pitch at Woodmansterne School by one increment, from poor to standard, would increase carrying capacity to create one additional match equivalent session per week. This is insufficient to eliminate overplay but would reduce the total level of overplay from 1.75 to 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.10: Effect of qualitative improvement on supply and demand for rugby league

	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Future demand	Current total
Lambeth	-	0.75	2	2.75	1	3.75

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Tenure for community use at Woodmansterne School is unsecure and whilst improvements to quality through improved drainage and maintenance practices could be achieved, improvement beyond standard quality may not be achievable.

Regardless, improvement to standard quality would not eliminate shortfalls and there is a need for development of additional pitch provision for rugby league. Furthermore, there is exported demand for senior play which cannot be met in the Borough due to lack of a senior size pitch, therefore there is a need for additional provision to be compliant to meet type of demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality at Woodmansterne School through increased and better standard of maintenance practices to increase pitch carrying capacity, enabling it to better sustain year round use for rugby league.
- ◀ Support Brixton Bulls RLFC to grow participation and explore options to develop or access additional pitch provision in line with future growth.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for the development of a long-term rugby league focus venue within Lambeth where a multi-pitch rugby league offer can be established as a home site for Brixton Bulls RLFC. This may be as part of a multi-sport operating model.
- ◀ Widen opportunities to further develop rugby league participation locally, including within rugby union settings.
- ◀ Continue to increase participation in affiliated alternate formats such as Try Tag Rugby, signposting participants to Brixton Bulls RLFC to help increase rugby league participation.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is insufficient capacity at tennis club sites in Lambeth both now and in future.**
- ◀ **Telford Park Tennis Club and Wigmore Tennis Club are significantly oversubscribed and there is a need for additional capacity to meet demand, including unmet demand.**
- ◀ **There is opportunity to access LTA programmes and products to improve quality and accessibility across the parks portfolio, to greater increase penetration of a latent market identified through LTA modelling.**
- ◀ There are 92 tennis courts identified in Lambeth across 24 sites, with 85 of these being available for community use.
- ◀ A further two courts at Hatfields Pitches (Columbo Centre) are located on the borough boundary but in Southwark, but have not been included within the audit, although the courts are considered to be directly accessible and able to service Lambeth residents, especially those in the Waterloo Analysis Area.
- ◀ Of the 92 courts captured in the audit, 45 courts have sports lighting representing 49% of provision.
- ◀ Most outdoor tennis courts (54 courts, 59%) in Lambeth have a macadam surface and of the 87 community available courts, most are macadam surfaces (52 courts, 57%).
- ◀ In total 56 courts (61%) are rated as good quality, 22 are rated as standard quality (24%) and 14 are rated as poor quality (15%). All 56 good quality courts are available for community use.
- ◀ Park Tennis Courts in Lambeth need improving in quality in order to accommodate unmet/latent demand, currently out of the 16 poor courts 15 (94%) are located in park sites.
- ◀ Clubs report that ancillary facility quality at club sites is good with no key issues highlighted.

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Most courts are managed by the council with 48 courts (52%) and 27 (29%) are managed in house by tennis clubs. A total of two courts are managed by a community organisation located at Myatt's Field Park.
- ◀ Telford Park TC has long-term leasehold of its home site, whilst the three other clubs report that they own their sites. All tennis clubs are considered to have secure tenure.
- ◀ There are four tennis clubs in Lambeth. Membership numbers where known totals 2,135, with 1,390 senior members and 745 junior members.
- ◀ Wigmore LTC is the largest club with 900 members, whilst Woodfield Grove TC is the smallest with 160 members.
- ◀ All clubs report unmet demand as they all presently operate waiting lists for membership.
- ◀ Telford Park TC believes it is oversubscribed and is currently looking into the feasibility of developing an additional court on the open grass area in the centre of the site.
- ◀ LTA modelling data suggests that 12 park sites in Lambeth have significant penetration potential, most of all Clapham Common, Vauxhall Park and Kennington Park.
- ◀ Both Telford Park Tennis Club and Wigmore Tennis Club courts have no capacity for more tennis members and are considered to be significantly oversubscribed. Grafton TC is also considered to be operating over capacity.
- ◀ The courts at Woodfield Grove Tennis Club are considered to have capacity to accommodate more members.

Scenarios

Increasing capacity at club sites

To meet existing unmet demand at Telford Park Tennis Club and Wigmore Tennis Club, there is a need for clubs to access additional capacity, however, all four tennis club sites are landlocked and surrounded by residential, therefore have no scope to expand the extent of court provision onsite. One option to consider which will increase capacity of the courts is either additional sports lighting (at Telford Park where two courts do not have sports lighting) or improvements to existing sports lighting (as at Wigmore Tennis Club).

In addition, there is a likely need for use of offsite courts to help meet all unmet demand, possibly within public parks, as satellite venues to help meet demand. The scenario below considers the actions required for increasing capacity at parks sites.

Increasing capacity at park sites

In October 2021, the Government and the LTA announced a package of £30 million for investment and improvements for public tennis courts. The Government is to put £22 million whilst the LTA invest £8.4 million into the package. The investment is to be made into public tennis courts which are currently accessed as poor or unplayable quality, the investment will be to bring the courts back to a quality that will benefit the local community.

The LTA provides support for local authorities to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access and can be used individually or in combination. The products are used to provide a remote booking and access system. Bookings in Lambeth transferred to the ClubSpark system in 2021 and therefore a sizeable sample of data is not yet available, therefore a key recommendation should be to monitor this (Gate Access is also in place at seven sites but not yet activated).

Four sites have already been identified for improvement schemes: Hillside Park (already underway), Myatt's Fields Park, Streatham Vale and Rookery Park.

LAMBETH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain and protect the existing stock of tennis facilities.
- ◀ Improve poor quality courts to increase capacity and ensure suitability to sustain/grow tennis activity, particularly at key sites where penetration rates are high.
- ◀ Pursue development of sports lighting of courts at key venues, particularly Telford Park Tennis Club which is operating over capacity, as well as key park sites.
- ◀ Monitor ClubSpark data and roll out at further sites as appropriate.
- ◀ Protect and improve tennis courts at education sites and explore opportunities for greater community use of education sites where there is demand for tennis to do so. Advocate support available through LTA loans to help open up and facilitate community access at education sites, including potential installation of access technology products.
- ◀ Ensure that tennis courts are served by sufficient access to suitable ancillary facilities, prioritising toilets.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for sustainability, for court repair and eventual resurfacing, such as a sinking fund formed over time.
- ◀ Support clubs to access partnership funding to improve facilities where required, for example LTA grant and loans.
- ◀ Explore opportunity to develop new tennis offers linked to existing tennis environments, such as courts for padel tennis.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of pitch provision across Lambeth Borough to meet current and future lacrosse demand.**
- ◀ There are no lacrosse pitches marked in the Borough, Whilst Kennington Park AGP was accessed for lacrosse training prior to its closure.
- ◀ Clapham LC is the only club which has accessed Kennington Park for lacrosse training in the past. It currently accesses Haydon's Road Recreation Ground (Merton) for matches where pitch quality is poor in peak season and ancillary facilities also poor.
- ◀ Clapham Lacrosse Club presently reports unmet demand and that it cannot field additional teams despite existing demand, due to a lack of both pitch capacity and coaching resource.
- ◀ Demand for lacrosse is expected to increase alongside increased strategic development activity led by England Lacrosse.
- ◀ The lack of line markings on 3G and AGPs is a key issue affecting range of available facilities for lacrosse across the Borough and the wider inner London area.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain or increase current level of access to lacrosse compliant pitch provision for community clubs, particularly artificial grass pitches with sports lighting for training.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop multi-sport partnerships where additional pitch provision could be marked at existing sports sites.
- ◀ Seek to establish an England Lacrosse hub in inner South London as part of the emerging hubs programme.
- ◀ Seek to develop a club focus venue in Lambeth/Wandsworth where lacrosse pitch dimensions are marked on 3G or AGP provision, to be established as the focal venue for lacrosse matches and training in the Borough.

Beach Volleyball

Summary

- ◀ **There is a significant and growing demand for beach volleyball within Lambeth and the feasibility and potential to develop a specific beach court facility of two to three or more courts should be explored to meet this demand locally.**
- ◀ There is not a beach volleyball facility within Lambeth. The nearest beach volleyball venue is at Wimbledon Park in Merton or Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in Croydon.
- ◀ Little Giants VC is the only volleyball club in the Borough and plays across a range of mainly indoor venues in Lambeth and neighbouring London Boroughs.
- ◀ The Club plays on an open playing field at Clapham Common north field where it pitches up temporarily courts and nets.
- ◀ The Club aspires to develop a beach volleyball venue at Brockwell Park on the old bowling green which it believes could accommodate three beach volleyball courts.
- ◀ Little Giants VC has 6,000 registered members, including men's and women's playing in the National Volleyball League and London Volleyball League.
- ◀ The Club reports that of its 6,000 members, 97% report through its club survey that they would like to have a beach volleyball venue within Lambeth.

Recommendations

- ◀ The Council should work with Little Giants VC and Volleyball England to explore and develop a potential business case for the development of a dedicated beach volleyball facility in Lambeth.
- ◀ Ensure that beach volleyball activity/facilities are served by sufficient access to suitable ancillary facilities, prioritising toilets.

BMX facilities

Summary

- ◀ **There is sufficient supply of BMX track facilities to meet current and future demand in the Borough.**
- ◀ **There are however qualitative issues which require addressing to ensure that the track can continue to meet demand and future growth/events.**
- ◀ There is a one BMX track in Lambeth at Brockwell Park, owned by the Council
- ◀ Brixton BMX Club has access to a set number of hours per week for training, the track is otherwise open for public use.
- ◀ The Club maintains the track, rated as standard quality, on behalf of the Council.
- ◀ Outside of Lambeth there are three BMX tracks which may be accessible to Lambeth residents, located in Merton (rear of St Mark's School, Acacia Road), Southwark (Burgess Park) and Croydon (Norbury Park).
- ◀ The Club highlights that the track needs resurfacing and currently has issues with waterlogging and water often collecting at the end of the track.
- ◀ The Club plans to resurface and improve/repair the drains as the first phase of its three phase track development plan.
- ◀ Brixton BMX Club is mainly a junior club and has 130 members, with 100 boys, 15 girls and 15 adult members.
- ◀ The Club highlights that in recent years it has seen a significant increase in its membership which has doubled.

LAMBETH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain a dedicated BMX facility in the Borough and sustain/increase current level of access for community users.
- ◀ The Council should work with Brixton BMX Club to support the improvement of facility quality, specifically resurfacing of the track and addressing issues with poor drainage.
- ◀ Ensure that BMX facilities are served by sufficient access to suitable ancillary facilities, prioritising toilets.

Australian Rules Football

Summary

- ◀ **It is considered that current demand for Australian Rules Football provision can quantitatively be met within the Borough. There is, however, a need to improve pitch quality and access to ancillary facilities at Clapham Common.**
- ◀ There is one Australian Rules Football pitch in Lambeth at Clapham Common, marked in the summer over existing football pitches. The pitch is poor quality, with quality issues affecting the whole site which include unevenness, surface wearing and lack of grass coverage, mainly due to use of the area as football pitches throughout the winter and with little recovery time between the seasonal transition. Football goalmouth areas are notably affected
- ◀ There are two clubs accessing facilities in Lambeth at Clapham Common. Adult club Wandsworth Demons and junior club Clapham Cubs (linked to Wimbledon Hawks – Merton).
- ◀ Wandsworth Demons has three men's and two women's teams playing in AFL London. With Clapham Cubs, having around 30 junior members.
- ◀ Wandsworth Demons states that the club is operating at capacity because it makes full use of the pitch on Saturdays and could not accommodate another adult team. The only capacity for growth would be for juniors at other times but this was not highlighted as an aspiration.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain a dedicated Australian Rules Football pitch in the Borough and sustain/increase current level of access for community clubs.
- ◀ Develop a bespoke, thorough and regular programme of maintenance across the Clapham Common site, able to improve pitch quality across the range of sports pitches, in line with technical recommendations produced by the GMA.
- ◀ Ensure that the pitch at Clapham Common is served by sufficient access to suitable ancillary facilities, prioritising toilets.

Touch & tag rugby

Summary

- ◀ **It is considered that the current supply of touch/tag rugby pitches marked during the summer, as well as the supporting range of facilities such as 3G and artificial grass pitches, cannot sufficiently meet current demand for touch and tag rugby.**
- ◀ **Whilst current demand can be met in principle, grass pitches used at the likes of Clapham Common are poor quality with over eight hours use per week for summer leagues and club activity, are likely overplayed.**
- ◀ There are four touch/tag rugby pitches marked in Lambeth, two each at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park.

LAMBETH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ There are two touch rugby clubs activity in Lambeth. Both of which play within the NTS and train at Clapham Common.
- ◀ There is reported latent demand for Tag rugby, as Try Tag Rugby report that with additional access it would likely be able to fill out this, although cannot quantify this due to operating no waiting list.
- ◀ Try Tag Rugby aspires to develop junior leagues in future year. It also anticipates that there would be further demand if it offered out additional times and leagues for adult activity.
- ◀ It is likely that demand for both sports is likely to increase with increased exposure and development activity. Therefore, there may be a future need to mark additional pitches at well used sites.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain marking of dedicated pitches for touch/tag.
- ◀ Develop a bespoke, thorough and regular programme of maintenance across the Clapham Common site, able to improve pitch quality across the range of sports pitches, in line with technical recommendations produced by the GMA.
- ◀ Identify opportunities to mark additional pitches for touch/tag rugby in line with any future increases in demand.
- ◀ Ensure that sites are served by sufficient access to suitable ancillary facilities, prioritising toilets.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to grass or artificial grass pitch provision with sports lighting where required to meet demand for training and year round play, for both clubs and leagues.

Netball

Summary

- ◀ Although there is sufficient capacity for netball, there is an identified need to ensure there is no long term loss of courts at Clapham Common.
- ◀ There is a wider strategic need for a suitable competition venue in the inner London area south of the Thames. There may be scope to develop such a facility offer within Lambeth.
- ◀ There are 44 outdoor netball courts identified in Lambeth across 20 sites.
- ◀ As part of the Clapham Common basketball courts development one netball court was lost. Clapham NC utilises the courts on site, however, reports that it has now lost all access to courts in recent months. The netball court area has been resurfaced, however, the courts have not been remarked.
- ◀ England Netball identifies Clapham Common as a key site for Netball in the Borough and suggests that it is pivotal that Clapham NC regains its access to the courts to support the Club's growing demand.
- ◀ There is currently a known total club membership of 445, which is a 29% increase in membership (100 members) boroughwide since the 2019/20 season.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain the current supply of outdoor netball courts and sustain or increase current level of access for community clubs.
- ◀ Ensure courts at Clapham Common are remarked and access is secured for Clapham NC.
- ◀ Protect and improve courts at education sites and explore opportunities for greater community use of education sites where there is demand to do so.

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- ◀ Identify opportunities for tennis and court facilities to be marked for netball to help meet demand in areas where there is club demand for access for training particularly. Focus should be where there are opportunities for netball to co-exist with courts for tennis as part of the operational model and where they can provide for both club training and social league/programme activity.
- ◀ Work in partnership with England Netball to increase participation in netball in school, club and recreational settings.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for the possible development of a suitable competition venue to service inner London area south of the Thames.

Multi-use Games Areas (with 3x3 basketball)

Summary

- ◀ **Location of MUGAs and the catchment in which they cover results in 72,281 of the Borough's population being outside of the 700m walking distance guidance.**
- ◀ **There is a potential opportunity to develop a dedicated outdoor basketball venue suitable to host larger scale 3X3 competitions, due to Lambeth being identified as a hotspot for the sport.**
- ◀ There are 32 MUGAs identified in Lambeth across 31 sites. Along with 14 basketball courts across 11 sites.
- ◀ In total, five courts (11%) are rated as good quality, 18 are rated as standard quality (39%) and 23 are rated as poor quality (50%).
- ◀ Of the 46 courts, 40 are able to support outdoor basketball, due to six of these courts having a 3G surface. Of the 40 courts 21 (53%) are accessed as poor quality. Therefore, to support and engage more participation it is recommended to improve quality of courts.
- ◀ Clapham Common is identified as able to support 3X3 tournaments of a certain scale. Ball Out UK identify that an ideal facility for larger scale events includes the equivalent of six half courts (three full courts).
- ◀ Demand for outdoor basketball is extensive, with courts (including MUGAs with hoops) regularly in use throughout the summer months. The courts in parks are identified as being used by community groups as well as groups of individuals all year round for basketball use.
- ◀ A total of 23% of the Borough's population has no MUGA facility within the 700m metre catchment.

Recommendations

- ◀ Look to improve the quality of MUGAs across Lambeth and work with relevant stakeholders to establish new provision in areas not currently serviced.
- ◀ Further explore potential existing sites to support outdoor basketball.
- ◀ Explore potential opportunity to develop a dedicated outdoor basketball venue suitable to host larger scale 3X3 competitions.

Athletics

- ◀ There are two purpose-built athletics tracks provided in Lambeth. Both are sprint tracks at Black Prince Community Hub and Ark Evelyn Grace Academy.
- ◀ The track facility at Black Prince Community Hub is of poor quality, whilst the facility at Ark Evelyn Grace Academy is of standard quality.
- ◀ In total across Lambeth, club membership totals 1,194. Demand in the Borough comes from both Track & Field clubs as well as Off track running clubs.
- ◀ There are two Park Run events within Lambeth at Clapham Common and Brockwell Park with two further events bordering the Borough at Tooting Common and Dulwich Park.

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- ◀ Whilst there are two junior park run events at Kennington Park and Brockwell Park, again with another event on the boundary at Tooting Common.

Recommendations

- ◀ As a priority continue to support activity, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation.
- ◀ Monitor, protect and maintain the two current track facilities to sustain levels of activity.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of improving the quality of Black Prince Community Hub and establishing greater secured community use.

Opportunity out of Borough opportunity

Further to the strategic and site by site actions identified within Lambeth, there is potential opportunity located outside of the Borough administrative area which could have significant benefit to sport and helping to meet demand for Lambeth based sports clubs and residents.

The former NatWest Sports Ground Norbury (SW16 5QN) is located within Merton, adjacent Woodmansterne School with the Lambeth-Merton border running between the two sites. The former industry sports ground, opened in 1900 and reportedly ceased to be managed by the bank from 1998, now lies disused.

The site is included in the Merton PPS (2019) which recommends that it be protected. It previously included multi-pitch provision for cricket and football, as well ten small size sand based AGPs with sports lighting and associated pavilion and car parking provision.

Figure 6.2: Aerial imagery of NatWest Sports Ground Norbury (January 2003)



The site is in direct proximity to the Lambeth border, accessible to residents and clubs within the Borough, as well as those from Merton and other South London boroughs. Given the lack of large, green open spaces and multi-pitch hub sites in much of inner London, the size of the site represents significant strategic opportunity and value.

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With few playing field sites in most inner London Boroughs of sufficient size to accommodate at least one full size artificial turf pitch, many with planning and environmental challenges including use as multi-functional public open space and environmental considerations, Natwest Sports Ground Norbury represents a significant opportunity for sport, particularly for the development of artificial turf pitch provision.

Recommendation: Lambeth Council should work together with Merton Council, Sport England and NGBs to develop a vision for the site and to explore opportunities for investment to reestablish as a multi-sport hub site. Strong consideration should be given to opportunity to develop multiple artificial turf pitches with sports lighting.

PART 5: STRATEGIC ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1: Strategic objectives

The strategic objectives for the Strategy have been developed via a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

Recommendations:

- a. Continue to ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy, that playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.

Recommendation (a) – Continue to ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPOSS Assessment shows that all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to meet the identified shortfalls. Local Plan Policy EN1 protects open spaces and this includes outdoor sports facilities and playing fields.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. Council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision for sports use should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed, or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality and appropriate planning permissions have been acquired.

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There are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions and much demand is currently not being met. It is not the case that most shortfalls are likely able to be addressed through quality improvements, as levels of use compounded in some cases by the extent of school use (e.g. Clapham Common and Rosendale Playing Fields) exceeds the potential carrying capacity of pitches, even if they were good quality. There are maintenance and operational challenges to being able to achieve good quality at some sites, particularly publicly accessible commons/park sites which limit the potential effectiveness pitch improvements can feasibly have.

As already included within the Local Plan (Policy D3 Infrastructure) and Infrastructure Delivery Plan (see page 17) there is a priority need for additional facilities to be provided to meet demand. In particular, the PPOSS identifies a particular need for 3G pitches or other pitches with sports lighting.

The PPOSS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors and policies within the Lambeth Local Development Plan, including:

- ◀ London Plan Policy S5 Sports and Recreation Facilities
- ◀ London Plan Policy G3 MOL, Policy G4 Open Space
- ◀ Lambeth Local Plan Policy EN1 A
- ◀ South Bank and Waterloo Neighbourhood Plan 2019 Policy P1

In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing fields and will use the PPOSS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy¹³.

It is important that developments are planned collaboratively to protect sites, for example, to ensure that a development which may benefit one or more sports does not prejudice use of facilities for others. This is particularly pertinent in Lambeth where most sites are multi-sport and shared by two or more sports.

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

National Governing Bodies, Sport England and other appropriate bodies can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies (such as the Football Foundation) or are to receive funding in the future, as community access can be a condition of the agreement.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for Lambeth Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

Lambeth Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are able to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

¹³https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

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This may not be possible for most of the local authority managed portfolio because of the need to retain control over these sites due to the important role they play in meeting wider community needs in Lambeth, such as publicly accessible open space and for events. However, there may still be opportunity for developing alternative management models at some sites where considered appropriate and viable.

For football and cricket, Lambeth Council manages all playing pitch sites with community accessible pitch provision, manages all multi-pitch, multi-sport playing field sites. Those in private or sports club (by leasehold or freehold) management are typically single sport provision, such as tennis courts in club settings. Consequently, the Council may need to support clubs and NGBs in developing relationships with external providers such as schools and to establish formal community use agreements.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including Lambeth Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)¹⁴. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with leaseholds already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping clubs attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to meet conditions of grants funded by external partners.

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

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

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

¹⁴ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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

- ◀ Increasing participation
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards

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

Community asset transfer

Another way of ensuring long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability
- ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces
- ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit
- ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers
- ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/community-assets-and-rights>

Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so subject to planning permission where necessary.

To maximise community use of education facilities it is recommended to establish a coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. Pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access but also physical access and resistance from schools to open provision due to staffing, site security or to protect the quality of facilities for school use.

Education sites in the Borough typically have little by way of onsite outdoor sports provision and those which do generally have a small pitch facility such as a 3G or AGP surface pitch or a hard court area (e.g. La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School, Park Campus Academy).

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Some schools do not make their pitches available for community use, either through policy (e.g. Platanos College) or because they lack sports lighting to facilitate evening use (e.g. Streatham & Clapham High School). Those that do allow community use are heavily used throughout the week, including by commercial small sided football league operators, small sided and recreational sport and community participation programmes, leaving little capacity to help meet formal sport demand.

Due to the lack of direct provision at education sites, there is also some use by local schools to and of local authority managed sites to meet curricular requirements and provide extracurricular opportunity. This is the case for example by Westminster Sixth Form and Harris Academy Clapham which both use Clapham Common for daytime school activity during the week.

The highest priority sites for securing formal community access arrangements should be those schools which already have community use but do not have secured community use arrangements. These already provide an important role in meeting community needs but this must be secured to ensure continued use into the future. Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use.

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

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality. Primarily this includes improving the quality, frequency and extent of maintenance, preparatory and remedial regimes, however in some cases there may be a requirement for dedicated drainage systems and solutions for example. Professional and NGB led support is available, including through the following programmes:

GMA Pitch Advisory Service

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

For football, Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower tool, whilst for other sports a site visit in person may be undertaken by a GMA Pitch Advisor.

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The Performance Quality Standard Assessment assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the Ground Management Association.

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Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, The app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

The tool across mobile app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for Grass Pitch Funding through the Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund¹⁵, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, National League System Clubs at Steps 1-6 and charities (with an annual turnover of under £500,000). Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Although local authorities are not presently eligible for the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, the Football Foundation is currently exploring other options and ways in which it can support local authorities to improve Council managed provision. It is presently inviting expressions of interest from local authorities across the Country to be part of a pilot programme for investment into pitches currently owned and managed in-house by local authorities, with Lambeth having been successfully accepted into the pilot scheme.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a new Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

Addressing quality issues

Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

¹⁵ <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby union, a good quality pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby union, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms with no showers, no running water and/or old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed, it may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. Also, key sites without a suitable offer may not be able to establish or grow participation in key sport development areas with specific requirements, such as disability or women and girls' sport.

To prioritise timing and allocation of investment into key sites identified within the Action Plan, it is recommended that the Steering Group works up a list of criteria, relevant to Lambeth Borough, to provide a steer on future investment.

For improvement/replacement of artificial grass pitches refer to Sport England and NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable artificial grass pitch surfaces: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/outdoor-surfaces>

Addressing overplay

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

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

Table 5.2: Recommended carrying capacity of grass pitches

Sport	Pitch type	Number of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One non-turf wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season

For all remaining non-pitch sports (e.g. tennis, athletics) there are no capacity recommendations set out by the respective NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G grass pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For cricket, maximising and increasing the use of non-turf pitches for formats which permit their use locally, such as short format senior matches or junior matches, is key to alleviating overplay. Use of existing pitches should be maximised across the different days of the week to meet demand, however beyond use on different days there is no scope to increase capacity of what is solely non-turf pitch stock through qualitative improvement, therefore additional pitches are required.

Transfer of some demand from grass football, rugby league, lacrosse or rugby union pitches (from rugby union sites on the Wandsworth/Lambeth border) would also help to reduce levels of demand contributing towards overplay of grass pitches.

There is a key need for increased provision with sports lighting to service demand and to meet this need through increased sports lighting of existing grass pitches without maintenance improvements would increase levels of overplay. Instead, access to 3G pitches (or future hybrid turf pitch products which offer increased playability beyond that of natural turf) would help, through the transfer of training demand and competitive match play, reducing the pressure on grass pitches.

Improving maintenance

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of draining poorly. In some instances, ensuring there is an appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

The Pitch Advisory Service has been developed in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) to establish a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches.

The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance programmes with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority maintained sites.

Managing and maintaining dual use summer/winter sports sites

For multi-sport sites/pitches, where, for example, football and cricket is played on the same site, management of a site is critical to its on-going success and viability. Sport England provides a Guide on its website: Successful Management of Dual Use Cricket and Football sites¹⁶ below provides a summary of the key recommendations which will be useful for application in Lambeth.

The Guide recommends producing an appropriate management plan for the year to fully understand who will use the pitches and how often. It is important to map out each season's usage and to identify any potential overlap of use within the year. This should be done on a twice annual basis, once during the summer in preparation for the winter season, and once in the winter in preparation for the summer season. This will highlight where issues such as overuse, maintenance requirements and usage conflicts may occur and appropriate compromises can be found.

Where possible a cut off date should be introduced for the end of the football season so that renovation work can take place in preparation of the cricket season. Where this is not possible it is important that a compromise solution found. Examples of solutions include moving the start time of matches to accommodate both sports and moving the location of matches away from home. This may involve co-ordinating fixtures with the respective leagues so early consultation with them is essential.

For joint football and cricket sites there are some common maintenance issues such as compaction of soil, uneven surfaces and bare patches. To address these types of problems some key considerations are:

- ◀ Regular quality mowing with well maintained machinery.
- ◀ Access to a water supply to provide irrigation whenever necessary.
- ◀ Weed control to ensure only desirable grasses are present in the sward.
- ◀ The use of approved marking materials; users can be injured by the use of inappropriate materials. The use of these inappropriate materials is often illegal.
- ◀ Pitch rotation where possible to allow hard stress areas time to repair.

¹⁶<https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/successful-management-of-dual-use-cricket-and-football-sites-12256.pdf>

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in Lambeth (these are detailed in the Action Plan). As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach Lambeth Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to [Part 6: Site Action Plan](#) for the proposed hierarchy.

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

Partners, led by Lambeth Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision are directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sports facilities.

To address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that it seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.

One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health and wellbeing, for example. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions

This study will inform further reviews and updates of Infrastructure Delivery Plan which is the basis upon which CIL contributions are secured. See Policy D4 Local Plan and para 4.16 which states:

Section 106 planning obligations assist in mitigating the impact of development to make it acceptable in planning terms. Planning obligations must meet the statutory tests in the CIL Regulations (necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; directly related to the development; and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development). The obligations sought will depend on the nature of the development proposed.

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Further information about the requirements for the obligations listed in Local Plan Policy D4 is provided in relevant policies elsewhere in the plan. The policies in this plan and requirements for developer contributions have been tested for their cumulative impact on development viability and are therefore considered deliverable. In situations where it has been demonstrated that planning obligations cannot viably be supported by a specific development, the priorities set out in London Plan Policy DF1 D will apply.

As a guide, Lambeth Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality.

This uses team information from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its lifecycle).

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within easy access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration). Please refer to [Part 7: Housing Growth Scenarios](#) for more detail.

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs.

This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused, such as single grass pitch football sites without adequate ancillary facilities (e.g. Valley Road Playing Fields). Instead, multi-pitch and multi-sport sites should be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking (including cycle parking) facilities (in accordance with London Plan and Local Plan parking policies) which consider the potential for future artificial grass pitch development.

Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and policy compliant parking should be located on site, subject to planning requirements/permissions.

All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements and applicable planning permissions.

OBJECTIVE 3

To **provide** new playing pitch/outdoor sports facilities where feasible and there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- ◀ Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- ◀ Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.

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

The Steering Group should use the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own outdoor sports facilities whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

There are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions and current and future demand is not able to be met. Most playing pitch shortfalls cannot be addressed in full by quality improvements to increase capacity, with increased access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable, as well as development of new pitch provision required.

For some sports such as hockey and for 3G pitches to service a number of sports (football, rugby union and lacrosse), adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is recommended as a priority.

When exploring opportunities to develop new provision or making improvements to existing, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) may be required and if so, should be commissioned to inform plans and proposals at the earliest stage, to ensure there is no detrimental impact to Biodiversity. The PEA should assess the biodiversity value and potential of all aspects both green and grey, as many species rely specifically on the built environment for roost and nest space and this can be critical when considering works near existing buildings. The PEA may advise that further survey work is necessary – any such additional survey and study must be undertaken, the consequences understood and recommendations implemented, before any preparatory work is commenced and prior to planning permission being sought to ensure that work can be undertaken lawfully.

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

Lambeth Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the specific recommendations ([Part 3](#)) as well as the following Action Plan ([Part 6](#)).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports, the current and future shortfalls can be reduced through making better use and maximising use of existing stock through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving quality to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity
- ◀ Securing long-term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable

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- ◀ Developing additional artificial grass pitch provision to help alleviate overuse of grass pitches

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e. it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities. However, it is important to note that these may be subject to change.

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

Table 5.3: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact ¹⁷
Football	Demand for adult male football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but consider pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on team generation rates and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G pitches.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
Football	The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football, Inspiring Positive Change (2020-2024), was released in October 2020. One of the major goals of the new strategy will be to encourage early participation from primary school and for 90% of schools in England to become part of the FA Girls' Football School Partnerships network,	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase. Demand for football pitch provision in school settings.
	Greater focus on the growth of non-formalised recreational and informal football participation.	Increased use of public access sites for informal play. Need to incorporate capacity for small sided play within 3G pitch programmes.
3G pitches (for football)	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Utilise Sport England/National Governing Body guidance on choosing the correct surface. Develop additional World Rugby compliant pitches to help reduce capacity shortfalls for rugby union.

¹⁷ All proposals/improvements need to be subject to planning permission where necessary

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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact ¹⁷
Cricket	Likely demand for a formal cricket club to be established and continued growth in LMS.	Need to establish grass cricket pitch provision in addition to NTPs.
	All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools. Increasing numbers of those children are continuing to play cricket as they get older so junior numbers are increasing within clubs. Dynamos Cricket is the ECB national programme for 8-11 year old. It builds on the core principles of All Stars Cricket and participants will continue to develop skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket.	Shorter formats of cricket, and additional formats including softball cricket, are also driving up demand for pitches.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national ECB priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Increased requirement for peak time access to pitches. Need to ensure access to good quality facilities including, segregated changing and toilet provision.
Rugby union	Locally, it is expected that there will be a rise in demand which will lead to a higher demand for pitches and midweek training facilities from neighbouring clubs in Wandsworth.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and support facility development. In particular, capital improvements are required to the existing natural turf pitches as is improvements to the quality of changing rooms, where appropriate. All clubs should have access to high quality floodlit pitches to support training and match play demand.
Hockey	Current playing levels are likely to increase as anticipated by England Hockey.	Ensure additional access to sand-based artificial grass pitches to accommodate current demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Protect existing AGPs. Develop additional hockey AGPs to meet capacity shortfalls in the Borough.
	High profile events (forthcoming Commonwealth Games 2022)	These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.
	New England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s).	Ensure that existing facilities can accommodate additional future demand.

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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact ¹⁷
Rugby league	RFL is working towards growing rugby league participation including through growth at junior clubs, Play Touch RL and 9 aside RL. Expected future increase in participation as a legacy of the Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) to be held in the UK in 2021.	A need to improve pitch quality. Seek access to 3G pitches for training, Play Touch and grass pitches for 9 aside. Opportunities to support growth in participation through investment in facilities as part of CreatedBy, the RLWC2022 Capital Grants Programme.
Bowls	No expected net increase in memberships.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.
Tennis	The LTA has a key priority for the strategic development and growth of tennis at both club and wider community level such as local parks.	Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as digital access systems.
Lacrosse	Demand for lacrosse is likely to increase with the development of lacrosse hubs. England Lacrosse is seeking to develop several lacrosse hubs across the country over the next five years to 2025 to increase demand, including one in the inner London area.	Sustain and increase current pitch stock. Qualitative improvements to existing pitches. Need for additional access to 3G/AGP/floodlit grass pitches to meet training demand.
Touch/Tag rugby	Demand is likely to increase, for both club based matches and social/commercial league play.	Sustain and increase current pitch stock. Potential need for increased access to floodlit artificial grass pitches for increased year round play.
Australian Rules Football	Demand likely to be sustained and may increase.	Need to retain dedicated pitch provision to host matches.
Netball	Membership of clubs is expected to increase.	Increased access to outdoor courts needed.

5.2: Strategic issues and actions

There are five strategic issues which define playing field provision and the manner of facility use in Lambeth Borough. Some of these actions relate to physical provision such as investment, improvement and development of new facilities. Some concern governance and strategic planning to achieve optimal outcomes across sports and planning for sport within the Borough and the wider inner London area.

ISSUE 1

Playing pitch quality (natural turf) across most of the local authority owned portfolio is poor, affecting users across several sports.

Actions:

- ◀ The Council to work more closely with appointed maintenance contractors to improve the quality and extent of maintenance works undertaken at local authority owned playing field sites.
- ◀ Develop stronger relationships with user clubs to understand their needs and expectations for pitch provision to provide a better quality offer.
- ◀ NGBs and GMA to support the improvement of maintenance practices through broadening skillset and knowledge amongst the contracted workforce where required, including through increased training for sports pitches and fine turf.
- ◀ The Council to work with NGB partners to make increased use of resources available, such as the GMA Pitch Advisory Service and technical assessment of key playing field sites for football and other sports using the Football Foundation PitchPower self-assessment app. Focus to be on key sites identified in the PPOSS Action Plan.
- ◀ Improve existing poor quality provision to help meet existing demand and future demand growth, alongside opportunities to develop new provision and capacity.

ISSUE 2

Deficiency of pitch capacity with sports lighting for midweek team training, both in general and due to the shortfalls for artificial grass pitches for all pitch sports.

Actions:

- ◀ Further investigation required by the Council to fully understand potential planning and land constraints which may affect the potential development of artificial turf pitches and/or increased sports lighting at playing field and outdoor sports sites.
- ◀ Prioritise redgra playing areas for potential development of new AGP/3G pitches where suitable and feasible.
- ◀ NGBs and Sport England to advocate the advancements of modern sports lighting products and examples of best practice, to pursue a practical solution to delivery of provision with sports lighting at sites where additional consideration of other site uses may be required.
- ◀ Where possible and where there is sufficient demand, seek to develop additional artificial grass pitches as multi-sport facilities, such as incorporating shock pad installation to support rugby use of 3G or additional line marking to allow for use for lacrosse match play.

ISSUE 3

Shortfalls for all pitch sports cannot realistically be resolved fully through provision of additional pitches, such is the extent of shortfalls and limitations on available land in the Borough.

Actions:

- ◀ Sport England and NGBs should strongly consider Lambeth Borough as a potential future test case or pilot area for the delivery of innovative or new to market products which may be available in future and supported by governing bodies.
- ◀ Subject to emerging findings of pilot installations such as at Regents Park, the opportunity to install one or several hybrid pitches to support the establishment and year-round use of natural turf at local authority owned sites should be explored. Clapham Common should be considered as a potential future hybrid turf pitch location.
- ◀ Whilst hockey suitable AGPs are not presently the preferred surface for affiliated football, any future surface product which could meet demands for both hockey and football should be explored within Lambeth given the extent of shortfalls for both sports.

ISSUE 4

Sports clubs, leagues, schools and other community organisations have a high level of dependency on local authority managed provision to meet facility needs. There is a resulting high level of competition and multi-sport crossover across most sites, with few single sport sites.

Actions:

- ◀ The PPOSS Steering Group should be retained, and a separate multi-sport working group formed by Sport England and NGBs to operate alongside, as an arena in which to discuss multi-sport investment and cross-sport issues, including but not limited to those in Lambeth Borough.
- ◀ Sport England and NGBs should pursue development of a policy for multi-sport investment, with a focus on inner London boroughs where this is a common issue.
- ◀ Led by this multi-sport working group, explore opportunity to develop a multi-borough PPOSS for inner London authorities in order to fully understand the inter-relationship or demand between them. There is a perception that demand from Lambeth residents is met within other boroughs for some sports (e.g. rugby union, cricket) due to attractiveness and membership of established club structures which do not exist in Lambeth.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to introduce increased/new multi-sport use at sites where appropriate and where not compromising existing activity, to help meet demand for other sports.

ISSUE 5

Management, booking and regulation of local authority pitch/facility use is not well co-ordinated and requires a more strategic approach.

Actions:

- ◀ Operating pitch bookings in-house, the Council should increase level of regulation and oversight of pitch bookings to reduce unauthorised formal use of sports pitches. This may include increased staffing or patrol of parks and playing fields at peak times for match play.
- ◀ The Council should identify and develop a criteria for Lambeth based sports clubs and work more closely with them to meet their needs and facilitate growth and development. This may include development of a Borough accreditation scheme, with benefits to ensure Lambeth clubs/groups can access facilities ahead of groups based outside of the Borough.
- ◀ The Council should review its Sport and Recreation Sports Facility Concessionary Registration Scheme to generate an increased but fair and sustainable revenue for reinvestment into improving maintenance practices and pitch quality. This should be comparable with pitch hire prices in other neighbouring boroughs and help reduce local authority subsidy.

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PART 6: SITE ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. The Action Plan covers the whole of the Borough.

Lambeth Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor facility sites and associated provision.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance within Lambeth i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest anticipated impact on addressing shortfalls (identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across Lambeth Council area as a whole).

Table 6.1: Tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the Borough.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an artificial grass pitch.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
Type of sport	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
Management	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with NGBs guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGBs guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facility onsite, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

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Hub sites are of strategic importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified based on the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Key centres are more community focused sites, although some are still likely to service a wider travel to play area. There may be more of a focus on a specific sport.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that service just one or two sports. The level of priority attached to them for external investment may be relatively low.

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

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

Some local sites may be suitable for rationalisation providing that capital receipts are allocated to replace the lost provision at larger, multi-pitch sites.

Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private hub sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitch development with the FA and Football Foundation.

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Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support.

Priority

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

Most key centres are a medium priority, have local area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The low priority sites tend to be single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users.

Costs

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

- ◀ (L) – Low: less than £50,000
- ◀ (M) – Medium: £50,000 - £250,000
- ◀ (H) – High: £250,000 or more

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

The Action Plan is presented on a site-by-site basis per analysis area. For full details of the study area and analysis areas, please refer to [Part 1: Introduction](#).

Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur.

The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

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

Aim

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

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Brixton Area

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
4	Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	3G pitch	Academy	One good quality small size 3G pitch (52x33m) which has sports lighting. Available for community use. but little capacity for affiliated team training amongst use by commercial small sided football leagues operating 6-9pm Monday to Thursday.	Sustain pitch quality through a high quality and dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Ensure 3G registration is renewed when required so that the pitch can continue to support use for competitive match play.	Academy FF/LFA/AFA LTA EA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Two standard quality macadam courts with sports lighting, unavailable for community use.	Improve quality of courts to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate school tennis play. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including possible utilisation of LTA access technology products.						
		Athletics		Standard quality 100m sprint track, available for community use.	Sustain and improve quality through a high quality and dedicated maintenance regime. Maximise community use where demand exists.						
11	Brixton Recreation Centre	Hockey AGP	Council/Leisure Operator	Small size sand based AGP, now disused and to be developed for alternative use.	Due to development for alternative purpose, ensure that appropriate mitigation is secured as per Sport England Playing Fields Policy.	Council Leisure Operator	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
12	Brockwell Park	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all poor quality. Adult pitch is overplayed by 3.5 MES. Youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time, whilst mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES. Site is used extensively by St Matthew's Project (Youth) FC.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality. Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.	Council FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF LTA VE RFU RFL/ TTR ETA BE	Key Centre (potential Hub Site)	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Redgra		Disused area within Victorian park setting, the Park presently closed at dusk and inaccessible. Proposed potential location for the development of a new small size 3G pitch with sports lighting. The Council is working with the Football Foundation to develop a funding application to deliver the project.	Develop a new 3G pitch onsite with sports lighting. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Ensure the new pitch is on the 3G Register so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required.						

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Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
12	Brockwell Park	Cricket	Council	One standard quality standalone non-turf pitch, available for community use and overplayed by 110 match equivalent sessions per season. Poor quality three lane net facility. Extensively used by Last Man Stands and the ACE Programme.	Improve quality of the non-turf pitch. Ensure that a robust, regular, sport specific maintenance regime is in place for preparation of the non-turf pitch and outfield area. Improve quality of net training facilities and maximise community use.	Council FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF LTA VE RFU RFL/TTR ETA BE	Key Centre (potential Hub Site)	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Six good quality macadam courts without sports lighting. Available for community use and bookable using the ClubSpark system. Used for parks tennis leagues.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						
		Volleyball		Disused bowling green, identified by Little Giants VC as a potential location for the development of a beach volleyball facility.	Explore opportunity to develop as a dedicated beach volleyball facility should Little Giants VC present a viable and sustainable business case.						
		BMX		Standard quality BMX track. Brixton BMX Club maintains track through service level agreement. The Club has further plans to improve facilities to drain better and to reconfigure aspects of the site.	Ensure the Club undertakes a high quality and frequent maintenance regime to sustain and improve track quality. Support the Club to improve facility quality over time in line with its development plan.						
		Touch/Tag Rugby		Two touch/tag rugby pitches marked during the summer. Used by Try Tag Rugby.	Sustain and improve quality through a high quality and dedicated maintenance regime.						
		Basketball		Standard quality basketball court without sports lighting. Available for publicly accessible community use.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use.						
13	Canterbury Gardens Estate, Ball Court	MUGA	Council	On standard quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
39	HMP Brixton	Hockey AGP	Private	One standard quality small sided (27x18m) sand filled AGP with sports lighting, unavailable for community use.	Sustain and improve quality for private use.	Private	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
46	Lilford Estate, Tallyrand House Ball Games	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with sports lighting.	Improve quality and maximise use/activation activity for sport.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
49	Lyham Road Play And Ball Games Area	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and maximise use/activation activity for sport.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
50	Marcus Lipton Youth Hub	3G pitch	Community organisation	One community available standard quality small sided 3G pitch (37x17m) which has sports lighting. Built in 2013 and approaching recommended surface lifespan. Used on Monday and Tuesday evenings for commercial small sided football leagues.	Sustain and improve quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use.	Community organisation FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						
64	Ruskin Park	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all poor quality. All pitches are overplayed, adult by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week, youth 9v9 by 2, mini 7v7 by 2 and mini 5v5 by 0.5. Pitches marked onto cricket outfield areas. Site used by Mighty Royale Elite (Youth) FC.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality. Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.	Council FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF LTA BE	Key Centre (potential Hub Site)	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Redgra		Disused area within Victorian park setting, the Park presently closed at dusk and inaccessible. Proposed potential location for the development of a new small size 3G pitch with sports lighting. The Council is working with the Football Foundation to develop a funding application to deliver the project.	Develop a new 3G pitch onsite with sports lighting. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Ensure the new pitch is on the 3G Register so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required.						
		Cricket		One good quality standalone non-turf pitch, available for community use. Outfield areas shared with football pitches. A second, now disused non-turf pitch also exists. Spare capacity availability, however some programming retained for non-cricket use of the space, therefore not usable unless increased access permitted. Used by Last Man Stands. Identified as a potential location for additional non-turf pitches in the Borough to support further cricket activity.	Sustain quality of the non-turf pitch. Ensure that a robust, regular, sport specific maintenance regime is in place, able to balance the season-long requirements of shared playing field. Seek to increase the level of access to the site for cricket. On the basis that level of access can be increased, explore opportunity to reconfigure the existing playing field, to remove the disused non-turf pitch and to relocate the existing one, so to have to pitches alongside able to operate concurrently for matches. Undertake ECB ballstrike assessment to ensure that new/relocated pitches can be used for competitive matches.						
		Tennis		Four good quality macadam courts without sports lighting. Available for community use and bookable using the Clubspark system. Used for parks tennis leagues.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
		Basketball		Two poor quality basketball courts with no sports lighting available for community use.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use.						
77	Tulse Hill Estate, Ball Court (Holdsworth House)	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA, 3G surface with sports lighting.	Improve quality through improved and standard and regularity of maintenance, resurfacing if required. Maximise use/activation activity for sport. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
93	Angell Town Estate	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA, 3G surface with sports lighting.	Improve quality through improved and standard and regularity of maintenance, resurfacing if required. Maximise use/activation activity for sport. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Clapham Area

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
8	Bowlands Road, William Bonney Ball Court	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
15	Charlotte Row, Clarke House (Ball Games)	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
17	Clapham Common	Football	Council ¹⁸	Nine adult, two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all poor quality. Ancillary provision is of poor quality. All pitches are overplayed, adult by 43 match equivalent sessions per week, youth 9v9 by 5.5, mini 7v7 by 2 and mini 5v5 by 1.5. Identified issue with unauthorised use, particularly training, including use of mobile sports lighting.	Undertake PitchPower assessment and GMA assessment for ECB to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality. Work with maintenance providers to improve pitch quality through improved standard and regularity of maintenance, as per technical recommendations. Ensure that a robust, regular, sport specific maintenance regime is in place, able to balance the season-long requirements of shared playing field. Develop additional non-turf cricket pitch provision onsite. Undertake ECB ballstrike assessment to ensure that new/relocated pitches can be used for competitive matches. In the long-term, review the development and effectiveness of hybrid pitch pilot projects and consider this site as a potential future hybrid pitch location should this product be supported by NGBs. This may include full pitch development, or in high traffic areas of pitches only, to support the resilience and extend playability of natural turf.	Council WBC FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU ETA RFL/TTR AFLE EH EL LTA BE VE EN	Hub Site	H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One good quality standalone non-turf pitch, available for community use and overplayed by 240 match equivalent sessions per season. Standard quality fixed three lane net facility. Ancillary provision is poor quality. Three lane net training facility to the south of the site. Site is used by Last Man Stands and the ACE Programme. Identified as potential location for additional non-turf pitch provision.							
		Touch/tag rugby		Two touch/tag rugby pitches marked during the summer. Used by Try Tag Rugby (TTR), In2Touch Rugby. Ancillary provision on site is of poor quality. Site is used for summer training by London Media RFC. Both London Media RFC and Battersea Ironsides RFC express demand for rugby union pitch on the site.							
		Australian Rules Football		Australian rules football pitch of poor quality marked throughout the summer months on pitches which are football pitches during the winter. Used by Wandsworth Demons and Clapham Cubs.							
		Redgra		Significantly sized redgra area of sufficient size to be able to accommodate at least one full size 3G/AGP pitch, with scope for oversized/mixed surface build. Of significant interest and strategic value for the development of new artificial turf pitch provision with sports lighting.							

¹⁸ The western part of the site, including land where most pitches and sports facilities are located, is within Wandsworth Council area which is the Local Planning Authority for parts of the site.

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
17	Clapham Common	Tennis	Council ¹⁹	Five good quality macadam courts with sports lighting and three standard quality macadam courts without sports lighting, all available for community use and bookable via the ClubSpark system. LTA modelling data suggests that Clapham Common has significant penetration potential to attract the local population to participate in tennis.	Sustain and improve court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install additional sports lighting to increase capacity and extend available hours of use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Explore opportunities to accommodate padel tennis.	Council WBC FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU ETA RFL/TTR AFLE EH EL LTA BE VE EN	Hub Site	H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Basketball/Netball		One full size and two half size basketball courts of good quality. Courts resurfaced and redeveloped with support from commercial brands, NBA and Hoopsfix in October 2021. Adjacent are two netball courts, recently resurfaced, however since have not been remarked. A third court was previously marked over the basketball half-courts, now used only for basketball. Used for commercial netball leagues run by GoMammoth! and Netbusters as well as Clapham NC. A key site for Netball in the Borough.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Ensure remarking of netball courts take place to support current demand which is displaced due to no courts presently being marked.						
		Volleyball		Playing field to the north east is used by Little Giants VC throughout the summer, temporarily marking volleyball courts on the grass with fabric lines.	The Council should work with the Club to continue to facilitate outdoor volleyball activity within the site in a co-ordinated manner, minimising any impact on other public use of the site. Ensure sufficient access to ancillary facilities, particularly toilets.						
30	Ferndale Community Sports Centre	3G pitch	Council	Four community available standard quality small sided (38x20m) 3G pitches with sports lighting. Ancillary provision is rated as good quality.	Sustain and improve pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council FF/LFA/AFA LTA EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis/Netball		Two good quality macadam courts with sports lighting available for community use. Ancillary provision is accessed as good quality. Overmarked by two netball courts.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						

¹⁹ The western part of the site, including land where most pitches and sports facilities are located, is within Wandsworth Council area which is the Local Planning Authority for parts of the site.

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
32	Grafton Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports club	Four good quality macadam courts, one of which is marked for single play only and four good quality clay courts with sports lighting. All courts are available for community use. Serviced by ancillary provision of good quality, which have recently been refurbished. The courts are considered to have capacity to accommodate additional members.	Sustain court quality through upholding rigorous maintenance regimes. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual repair or resurfacing of courts when required.	Sports club LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
36	Heathbrook Primary School	Hockey AGP	School	One good quality small sided (34x18m) sand filled AGP with sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through upholding rigorous maintenance regimes. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School EH	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
43	La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls School	Hockey AGP	School	Poor quality small size (55x36m) sand filled AGP with sports lighting and available for community use. Planning conditions limits sports lighting use to 8pm. The School has unmet demand and operates a waiting list. It has reportedly applied for variance of conditions several times to extend hours of sports lighting use but with no success, though intends to again. Used by Spencer HC/Lynx for hockey, also for football and by Try Tag Rugby throughout the winter.	Sustain and improve quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Seek to extend permitted hours for sports lighting to meet existing unmet demand. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to the 3G pitch to increase capacity for use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School EH FF/LFA/AFA TTR	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
		3G pitch		Standard quality small size (33x21m) 3G pitch without sports lighting, available for community use.							
44	Lambeth Academy	Tennis/Netball	School	Three standard quality concrete courts with no sports lighting available for community use. Overmarked with two netball courts.	Sustain and improve quality of courts to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued tennis use. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to increase capacity for use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including possible utilisation of LTA access technology products.	School LTA EN BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Basketball/Netball		Three good quality netball courts with sports lighting and available for community use. Used by Go Mammoth. One court has basketball court overmarked.							
54	Notre Dame Estate, Ball Court	MUGA	Council	One good quality MUGA with sports lighting.	Sustain quality through regular and high standard of maintenance.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
55	Oaklands Estate Ball Court Behind Cubitt House Off Poynders Road	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA, 3G medium pile surface, with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
66	Solon Estate, Ball Court & Outdoor Gym	Basketball	Council	One poor quality basketball court with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
82	Westbury Estate Ball Games Area, Amesbury Tower	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
84	Willard Estate Ball Court	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
92	Harris Academy Clapham	Tennis/Netball	School	One standard quality concrete court with no sports lighting and unavailable for community use. Overmarked with one netball court.	Sustain and improve quality of courts to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued curricular use. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including possible utilisation of LTA access technology products.	School LTA EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
100	Clapham Manor Primary School	Netball	School	One netball courts marked on multi-use hard court area without sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain and improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	School EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Larkhall, Stockwell, Vassall Area

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
27	Eythorne Park	Football	Council	One youth 9v9 pitch of poor quality. The pitch is overmarked by two mini 7v7 pitches in each half. The pitch has potential spare capacity at peak time though this is discounted due to the pitch being overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week. The site has ancillary provision rated as standard quality. Site used by Unity FC. Unity FC has enquired to the community group onsite regarding adding additional storage containers onsite.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality. Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.	Council FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Basketball		One standard quality basketball court with sports lighting.	Sustain and improve quality of court to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued basketball use.	Council BE					
28	Fenwick Estate, Willets House Ball Court	MUGA	Council	One standard quality MUGA, 3G medium pile surface, with sports lighting.	Sustain and improve quality of pitch.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
31	Gaskell Street Estate Ball Court	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
37	Hemans Estate, Darlington House Ball Games Area	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Horizons Health & Fitness Club (Stockwell)	3G pitch	Community organisation	One community available poor quality small sided (40x20m) 3G pitch with sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate community demand. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
45	Larkhall Park	Football	Council	Pitches have previously been marked onsite, however no longer formally marked. AI AQSA FC access the grass pitches for training on unmarked playing field.	Explore feasibility to mark grass football pitch provision again at the site, to reduce existing shortfalls.	Council FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		3G pitch		Poor quality small size (40x34m) 3G pitch with sports lighting. Currently out of use. The pitch is due to be refurbished in April 2022.	Resurface the pitch as 3G surface and restore full community use programme. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Ensure the pitch is on the 3G Register so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required.	Council FF/LFA/AFA RFU ETA LTA					
		Touch Rugby		Touch rugby pitches were previously marked onsite.	Explore feasibility to mark grass pitch provision again at the site in future if required, in line with demand for touch rugby.						
		Tennis		Two good quality macadam courts with sports lighting, available for community use bookable using ClubSpark.	Sustain court quality through high standard and frequency of maintenance.						

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				Identified by the LTA as having significant potential to attract local population to participate in tennis.	Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including utilisation of LTA access technology products. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						
52	Mursell Estate Rundel Tower Ball Court	MUGA	Council	One standard quality MUGA, 3G medium pile surface, with no sports lighting.	Sustain and improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
53	Myatts Fields Park	3G pitch	Community Organisation	Standard quality small size (45x26m) 3G pitch without sports lighting. Refurbished in 2019 with the support of commercial brands, used mainly by Lambeth Tigers FC.	Improve pitch quality through high standard and frequency of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to the 3G pitch to increase capacity for use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary	Council Community Organisation FF/LFA/AFA LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Two poor quality concrete courts with no sports lighting available for community use. Identified by the LTA as having significant potential to attract local population to participate in tennis.	Improve court quality through high standard and frequency of maintenance, resurfacing if required. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including utilisation of LTA access technology products. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						
56	Oasis Play	3G pitch	Trust	One community available good quality small sided (24x16m) 3G pitch with sports lighting.	Sustain quality through regular and high standard of maintenance.	Trust FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
59	Platanos College	Hockey AGP	School	Poor quality small size (70x41m) sand filled AGP with sports lighting. Unavailable for community use.	Work with the College to establish community use of the site. Explore opportunity to resurface the pitch to improve quality, either retained as a sand based surface or conversion to 3G, to help meet shortfalls for football/hockey, particularly midweek training requiring sports lighting. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School EH FF/LFA/AFA RFU	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
61	Reay Primary School	Hockey AGP	School	One poor quality small sided (27x17m) sand dressed AGP with sports lighting and available for community use.	Improve quality to better accommodate community demand. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School EH	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
67	South Lambeth Estate, Sturminster House Ball Games	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

North Lambeth Area

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Archbishop Sumner C Of E Primary School	Hockey AGP	School	One poor quality small sided (30x20m) sand filled AGP with sports lighting and available for community use.	Improve quality to better accommodate community demand. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School EH	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
7	Black Prince Community Hub	3G pitch	Trust	Three community available small sided (two sized 30x16m, one sized 54x30m) of good quality with sports lighting. Location of Powerleague Vauxhall.	Sustain quality through regular and high standard of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Trust FF/LFA/AFA LTA EN EA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis/Netball		Two good quality artificial turf courts with sports lighting and available for community use. Overmarked with two netball courts.							
		Athletics		One poor quality athletics facility, consisting of 70m sprint track and sand pit with sports lighting. Available for community use.							
21	Cotton Gardens Estate, Ball Games	MUGA /Netball	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting. Netball court marked as part of MUGA.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
26	Etherred Estate, Side Of Ward Point Tower (Play & Ball Games)	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate community demand.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
42	Kennington Park	Football	Council	Football pitches were previously marked onsite, on playing field shared as cricket outfield, however no longer formally marked. The playing field is reportedly poor quality for potential football and cricket use. Unity FC nonetheless uses the grass pitches for training on now unmarked playing field. Poor quality standalone non-turf pitch, now out of use and not utilised for formal community use due to poor quality. Previously used by Last Man Stands and the ACE Programme. Standard quality two lane net facility also onsite but no ancillary building provision. The site has been identified by the ECB and SCF as potential location for the future establishment and development of community club in Lambeth and as part of a long-term strategic aspiration, grass square provision for future weekend match play use. Aspirations include wider development of facilities across the site, including improve building provision for cricket and multi-sport users of the site.	Undertake PitchPower/GMA assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality. Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay. Replace the poor quality non-turf pitch in the short-term and establish a high standard of regular maintenance to improve quality to re-establish cricket activity onsite. Seek to develop ancillary facilities onsite for the benefit of multi-sport site users and opportunity to meet wider local community needs. In the long-term, seek to develop cricket participation sufficient to be able to establish an affiliated community club from the site.	Council FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF EH EL LTA EN	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket									

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
42	Kennington Park	Hockey AGP	Council	Full size sand filled AGP with sports lighting, currently out of use due to poor quality. Due to heavy use for football and hockey, the surface was deemed unsafe. Planned for resurfacing in June 2022. Previous programming information suggests 17% spare capacity during the week, with no spare capacity at weekends. The pitch was used significantly by Lambeth clubs, including Clapham Lacrosse Club for training, Try Tag Rugby, football training and for matches and training by four local hockey clubs.	Resurface the pitch as a key priority, retaining a sand based surface. Explore opportunity to mark the surface for lacrosse as part of resurfacing. Restore a full community use programme and maximise use for hockey and lacrosse as sports requiring a specific sand based surface. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF EH EL LTA EN	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis/Netball		Six good quality macadam courts, one of which is junior sized, with sports lighting and available for community use. Site has significant penetration potential to attract the local population to participate in tennis. Courts are overmarked with three netball courts.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						
47	Lilian Baylis Technology School	3G pitch	School	One community available small sided (37x26m) of good quality with sports lighting.	Sustain quality through regular and high standard of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
51	Mawbey Brough, Ball Court	Basketball	Council	One poor quality basketball court with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
76	The Kia Oval	Cricket	Sports club	Elite cricket stadia used as home ground by Surrey CCC, Oval Invincibles, Southern Stars, as well as being an international test cricket venue. The outfield area is used by the ACE Programme for All Stars Cricket activity and other sessions. Onsite indoor cricket centre available for use for training and used by community clubs from the wider region.	Retain for continued high-level demand and community programmes where required.	Sports Club ECB/SCF	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
80	Vauxhall Park	Tennis	Council	Two good quality concrete courts with no sports lighting and available for community use. Site has significant penetration potential to attract the local population to participate in tennis.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Provide
88	Wyvil Estate, Henry House Ball Court	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
94	Lollard Street Adventure Playground	3G pitch	Community Organisation	One community available small sided (39x20m) 3G pitch of good quality with sports lighting.	Sustain quality through regular and high standard of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Community Organisation FF/LFA/AFA EH	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Hockey AGP		One poor quality small sided (24x16m) sand filled AGP with sports lighting and available for community use.	Improve quality to better accommodate community demand. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						
95	Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens	MUGA	Council	One standard quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
98	Vauxhall Primary School	Netball	School	Three netball courts marked on multi-use hard court area with sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain and improve quality to better accommodate community demand.	School EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Norwood Area

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Beacondale Estate	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
14	Central Hill Estate, Hawke Road (Opp Victoria Crescent)	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
22	Deronda Estate, Ball Games Area	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
23	Dunbar Dunelm Estate Ball Court	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
29	Fern Lodge Estate	Basketball	Council	One poor quality basketball court with sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
48	Linton Grove Estate, Near Nursery	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
58	Park Campus Academy	3G pitch	School	One community available small sided (35x23m) 3G pitch of poor quality with sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate community demand. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
63	Rosendale Playing Fields	Football (potential 3G pitch)	Council	Two youth 9v9 pitches rated as standard quality. The pitches are played to capacity. Ancillary provision rated as good quality. The site is secured from the perimeter and may hold opportunity for the development of a 3G pitch.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality. Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay. Explore opportunity to develop a 3G pitch (full size if possible) with sports lighting to reduce shortfalls for affiliated football team training.	Council FF/LFA/AFA LTA EN	Local Site	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis/ Netball		Five poor quality concrete courts and two standard quality macadam courts with no sports lighting, available for community use. Ancillary provision of good quality. Courts are overmarked with five netball courts.	Improve court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance, resurfacing if required. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including possible utilisation of LTA Gate Access technology products. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						

**LAMBETH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
69	St Martins In The Field Girls School	Tennis/Netball	School	One poor quality concrete court with no sports lighting and unavailable for community use. Overmarked with one netball court.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting. To ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued curricular use. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including possible utilisation of LTA access technology products.	School LTA EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
75	The Elmgreen School	Hockey AGP (potential 3G pitch)	School	One poor quality small sided (60x40m) sand filled AGP with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch accessed for significant levels of community football training demand.	Improve pitch quality through resurfacing the pitch. Consider strategic case and opportunity for surface conversion to 3G to reduce shortfalls for affiliated football team training. Ensure high standard and regularity of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School FF/LFA/AFA EH EN	Local Site	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Netball		Three netball courts marked within multi-use hard court area with sports lighting and available for community use.							
87	Woodvale Estate, Behind Longmead House (Half Way Down)	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
89	York Hill Estate, Easton House	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
97	The Norwood School	Netball	School	One netball court marked on hard court area with sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain and improve quality to better accommodate community demand.	School EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
102	Crown Lane Primary School	Netball	School	One netball court marked on hard court area with sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain and improve quality to better accommodate community demand.	School EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Streatham Area

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
24	Dunraven School (South Side)	3G pitch	School	One community available small sided (37x21m) 3G pitch of standard quality with sports lighting.	Sustain and improve quality of pitch to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued football use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
33	Granton Primary School	3G pitch	School	One unavailable small sided (37x18m) 3G pitch of standard quality with no sports lighting.	Sustain and improve quality of pitch and explore opportunity to install sports lighting. Explore community use options with the School to provide additional 3G capacity to clubs.	School FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
38	Hillside Park	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality concrete and two poor quality macadam courts with no sports lighting, available for public community use.	Improve quality of courts through regular, high standard or maintenance, resurfacing if required. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use and capacity. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including possible utilisation of LTA access technology products.	Council LTA	Local Site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		MUGA		Two poor quality MUGAs without sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.						
62	Rookery Park	Tennis	Council	One poor quality macadam court without sports lighting, available for public community use.	Improve court quality through regular, high standard or maintenance, resurfacing if required. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use and capacity. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including possible utilisation of LTA access technology products.	Council LTA	Local Site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
65	Sackville Estate, Ball Court	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
70	Streatham & Clapham High School	Hockey AGP	School	Full size, poor quality sand dressed AGP without no sports lighting. Some repairs undertaken but the School plans to resurface in the next five years. Currently no access to ancillary facilities for hockey users. New build external pavilion planned for completion in February 2022, this will service the AGP. Pitch has no spare capacity, fully used on Saturdays by London Edwardians HC and London Wayfarers HC, on Sundays by Spencer Lynx. Community use programme limited to weekends due to lack of sports lighting. Community use agreement onsite limits availability of the pitch to Saturdays 11am-5pm and Sundays 10am-2.30pm.	Improve pitch quality through resurfacing the pitch, retained as a sand based surface for hockey. Ensure high standard and regularity of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use. Maximise additional hours for hockey activity, particularly for midweek training. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School FF/LFA/AFA EH LTA RFL EN	Key Centre	H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Football/Rugby league		The School is preparing an application for planning permission to level off the grass playing field adjacent to the AGP. The School aspires to develop a youth 9v9 pitch.	Explore opportunity to develop as usable playing field land and to mark as formal sports pitch, either as a senior rugby league pitch to meet senior match demand back within the Borough, or football to meet shortfalls. Seek to secure community use through formal agreement.						
		Tennis/Netball		Three standard quality concrete courts with no sports lighting, available for community use. Overmarked with three netball courts.	Sustain and improve quality of courts to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate tennis and netball play. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including possible utilisation of LTA access technology products.						
71	Streatham Hill Estate, Adare Walk	MUGA	Council	One standard quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
72	Streatham Vale	3G pitch	Council/ Community Organisation	One community available small sided (59x31m) 3G pitch of good quality with sports lighting.	Sustain quality of pitch through regular, high standard or maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council/ Community Organisation FF/LFA/AFA LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		One poor quality and two standard quality macadam courts with no sports lighting, available for community use. Site has significant penetration potential to attract the local population to participate in tennis.	Sustain and improve quality of pitch to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued tennis use. Explore opportunity to increase level of community use, including possible utilisation of LTA Gate Access technology products. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						

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Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
73	Streatham Wells Primary School	3G pitch	School	One unavailable small sided (35x18m) 3G pitch of poor quality with sports lighting.	Improve quality of pitch and explore community use options with the School to provide additional 3G capacity to clubs.	School FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
74	Telford Park Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports club	Five good quality clay courts with sports lighting and two good quality macadam courts without sports lighting. All courts available for community use. Telford Park TC aspires to add an additional court onsite. It is currently looking into the feasibility of this development and is yet to decide whether it will be a full size, junior size of padel tennis court. It also aspires to add sports lighting on the two courts presently without. The Club is considered to be significantly oversubscribed and the site overplayed.	Sustain quality of courts through regular, high standard or maintenance. Explore opportunity to install additional sports lighting to extend hours of use and capacity, helping to reduce overplay. Explore opportunity to develop additional court provision onsite, to increase capacity and reduce overplay.	Sports club LTA	Local Site	M	S-M	M-H	Protect Provide
79	Valley Road Playing Fields	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch. Pitch is currently available for community use, though is currently not used for affiliated football demand. Pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity. Ancillary provision of poor quality.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality. Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity.	Council FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
83	Wigmore Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports club	One good quality artificial turf court, three good quality macadam courts, one good quality clay court and three standard quality clay courts, all with sports lighting and available for community use. Recently developed ancillary provision of good quality. The Club has plans to resurface the standard quality clay courts in the next two to three years, also to repair and improve sports lighting on all courts. The Club is considered to be significantly oversubscribed and the site overplayed.	Sustain and improve quality of courts through regular, high standard or maintenance. Resurface standard quality court provision onsite. Improve quality of sports lighting across all courts, utilising modern LED sports lighting products. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Sports club LTA	Local Site	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
86	Woodfield Grove Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports club	Four good quality macadam courts with sports lighting and available for community use. Ancillary facilities of good quality. Plans to replace sports lighting bulbs for LED lights. The courts are considered to have capacity to accommodate more members.	Sustain quality of courts through regular, high standard or maintenance, resurfacing if required. Improve quality of sports lighting across all courts, utilising modern LED sports lighting products. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Sports club LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
90	Streatham Common	Cricket	Council	One good quality standalone non-turf pitch, available for community use. Played to capacity. Site used by Last Man Stands and the ACE Programme.	Sustain quality of the non-turf pitch. Ensure that a robust, regular, specific maintenance regime is in place. Retain for recreational demand and seek to maximise use for this purpose.	Council ECB/SCF	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
91	Woodmansterne School	Rugby League	School	One junior sized rugby league pitch of poor quality. Available for community use and used by Brixton Bulls RLFC juniors. Pitch is overplayed by 1.75 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay. Retain access to the site for future junior rugby league activity but seek to develop a dedicated rugby league focus site with at least two pitches elsewhere in the Borough, potentially within a multi-sport model.	School RFL	Local Site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis/Netball		Three standard quality concrete courts with no sports lighting available for community use. Overmarked by three netball courts	Improve quality of courts to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate school tennis play. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use. Explore opportunity to increase level of access for community use, including possible utilisation of LTA access technology products.	School LTA EN	Local Site	L	L	L	
97	Streatham & Clapham Prep School	Netball	School	Two netball courts marked on sand based surface without sports lighting, available for community use.	Sustain and improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	School EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
101	Telferscot Primary School	Netball		One netball court marked on multi-use hard court area without sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain and improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	School EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Waterloo Area

Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Archbishop's Park	3G pitch	Council/ Leisure Operator	Small sided (84x58m) 3G pitch of good quality with sports lighting. The largest 3G pitch in the Borough and on the FA 3G pitch register. Available for community use. The pitch supports training demand and junior match demand. It has spare capacity during the week of 11% and spare capacity on weekends of 3%, effectively played to capacity in practice. Also used for touch rugby leagues.	Sustain pitch quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council Leisure Operator FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF LTA EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Provide
		Cricket		Three lane fixed net facility of good quality.	Maximise use for community cricket participation, including through local programmes, to increase interest in cricket within the Borough. Ensure high level of regular maintenance to sustain quality and ensure safety for use.						
		Tennis/ Netball		Three good quality macadam courts, only one of which has sports lighting. All courts available for community use. Identified by the LTA as having significant penetration potential to attract the local population to participate in tennis. Overmarked with two netball courts.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Explore opportunity to install sports lighting to extend hours of use and increase capacity. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary						
9	Briant Estate Ball Court, Colwyn House	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunity to install sports lighting.	Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
35	Hatfields Pitches	3G pitch	Trust	Two community available small sided (37x21m) of standard quality. Pitches support small sided affiliated women's football league Ladies Super Liga.	Sustain and improve quality of pitch to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued football use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary	Trust FF/LFA/AFA LTA EN BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball		Two good quality macadam courts with sports lighting and available for community use. However, not part of the tennis court audit. The Lambeth/Southwark border splits the site up. Leaving the 3G pitches within Lambeth but the tennis courts within Southwark. The management of the site (The Colombo Centre) is located in the Southwark. Overmarked with two netball and two basketball courts.	Sustain court quality through high standard and regularity of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary						

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Site ID	Site	Sport/facility type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
96	Bankside Open Space Trust	3G pitch	Trust	One community available small sided (37x22m) 3G pitch of poor quality with sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate community demand. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Trust FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2035 (in line with the Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenario below shows the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth over the Local Plan period. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a third generation artificial grass pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an artificial grass pitch (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on grass pitches with sports lighting.

The scenario below is an example of how the PPC can be used to understand the potential additional demand for pitch sports from housing growth in addition to potential associated costs. It is recommended that the Council should use the PPC to test further when individual sites as they come forward or as greater details emerge.

Note that the scenarios can also be updated as required over the Local Plan period throughout the lifespan of the PPOSS to reflect population projections and projections, changes in the housing requirement and change in the average household size.

The number of pitches required in the following tables has been rounded up or down accordingly, however, capital and revenue costs are based on indicative pitch costs, proportionate to the total match equivalent sessions required rather than just whole pitches required. Though increases in match sessions for some sports are not sufficient to warrant the creation of new pitches, the associated costs have been incorporated and investment into alternative sites could instead be considered to increase capacity to accommodate this new demand.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) projects that the population of Lambeth will grow to over 359,000 by 2035 (Lambeth Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2017).

The monitoring figure for housing supply is set out in the London Plan 2021. Lambeth has a target to deliver a minimum of 13,350 net additional dwellings over the 10 year period 2019/20 to 2028/29. The annual monitoring target is therefore 1,335 net additional dwellings per year.

For the purposes of this example use of the PPC, we have used the minimum of 13,350 net additional dwellings over the 10 year period.

The indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3 per dwelling (based on the national average occupancy rate) and therefore the estimated additional population derived from this level of housing growth is 30,705 over the 10 year period.

This population increase equates to 8.45 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 8.01 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on artificial grass pitch for hockey and 75.29 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

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Training demand equates to 16.48 hours of use per week for football on third generation artificial grass pitches and hockey equates to 9.74 hours of use per week on artificial grass pitches. There are also 0.26 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby league on a grass pitch.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week ²⁰	Training demand ²¹
Adult football	2.96	16.48 hours
Youth football	3.39	
Mini soccer	1.88	
Rugby union	-	-
Rugby league	0.22	0.26
Adult hockey	3.25	9.74
Junior & mixed hockey	4.76	-
Cricket	75.29	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifecycle costs. The PPC estimates the total capital cost for the anticipated growth across all pitch types would be £3,108,863 which would require an annual lifecycle cost of £364,266 per annum.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new provision				
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²²	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²³	Changing rooms (numbers)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
Adult football	2.96 (3)	£379,423	£80,058	5.93	£1,309,010
Youth football	3.39 (3)	£347,419	£72,958	4.15	£915,602
Mini soccer	1.88 (2)	£60,217	£12,645	-	-
Rugby union	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby league	0.22	£32,906	£7,272	0.45	£98,719
Cricket	1.88 (2)	£710,713	£143,564	3.76	£831,173
Sand based artificial grass pitches	0.97 (1)	£1,025,927	£31,804	1.93	£426,439
Third generation artificial grass pitches	0.43	£552,258	£15,964	0.87	£191,486

The calculator also estimates that there will be a need to provide 17.09 changing rooms to support the new pitch provision identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is estimated to be £3,772,429.

²⁰ As per the Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²¹ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit third generation artificial grass pitch or hockey suitable artificial grass pitch

²² Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2021 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

²³ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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It should be noted that the figures referenced for changing rooms are based upon information from Sport England's Facility Cost Guidance which is based upon costings for two changing rooms and one official's room. Although the costs are based on specifically on the aforementioned it should be noted that any gathered developer contributions do not have to be limited to changing rooms, however, can be spent on wider ancillary provision such as multi-functional rooms / kitchens etc.

Conclusion

For the scenario above, the tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. The level of demand generated for all pitch sports is such that new provision will be required.

There is unlikely to be a requirement for new provision for rugby league, instead, as the demand generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for this sport, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g. to select suitable sites).

The scenario indicates that, over the course of the Local Plan period, housing growth will result in increased demand equating to the need for at least three adult, three youth and two mini football pitches in addition to two cricket pitches. Demand also equates to the need for one full size hockey suitable AGP and a small sided 3G pitch.

Whilst this initially seems substantial, it must be noted that these figures are based upon the whole of Lambeth Borough and account for 10 years of development. In reality, the requirements will be staggered, with existing provision able to meet some if not all of the needs when developments are considered on a case-by-case basis. This would be achieved through contributions being directed towards improvements rather than new provision.

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. Where new pitches are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to offer long-term sustainability. As such, if numerous developments in an area warrant new pitch provision, consideration should be given to pooling resources to create one larger site, rather than numerous smaller sites.

For rugby union, as there are no affiliated rugby union clubs based or playing within Lambeth and the only current activity is training at Clapham Common throughout the summer months, demand for provision from housing growth is not reflected in the PPC. However, that is not to say that there isn't any demand in Lambeth for new provision. In fact, both London Media RFC and Battersea Ironsides RFC (based in Wandsworth) express demand for additional pitches for matches and given both clubs suggest that a proportion of membership reside within Lambeth demand does exist for additional provision being provided within the Borough (mostly likely in the form of use of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch). It is recommended that further discussion with RFU and Wandsworth Council (Wandsworth PPS completed in 2019) to fully determine whether developer contributions could be used for such a development.

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The PPC only takes into consideration the five pitch sports of football (grass and 3G), cricket, rugby league, rugby union and hockey (AGPs). It does not take into consideration the requirement of other sports facilities mentioned within the document such Athletics, Tennis, Netball, Bowls, MUGAs. Nor does it consider the requirement for open space/recreational playing fields areas. Therefore, master planning for these elements within housing developments will need to take place outside of PPOSS, however, this document can help guide these discussions.

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

Delivery

The PPOSS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Lambeth Borough. By addressing issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Lambeth Borough can be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

Production of this Strategy is the start of the planning process. Successful Strategy implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into, strategic approach. It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Lambeth Council priorities.

Each member of the Steering Group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the Steering Group should not end with the completion of the PPOSS document

To help ensure that the PPOSS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document to which people and agencies regularly turn to for information in respect of how current demand should be met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. To ensure that this is achieved the Steering Group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of PPOSS development has already led to several benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhanced partnership work across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthened relationships and understanding between stakeholders, members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which its influence should be applied and strategy delivered.

Following sign off of the PPOSS, a short-term Action Plan should be prepared by the Council, in consultation with relevant partners, in order to distil the existing Action Plan and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be revised through regular meetings.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the Steering Group.

The Steering Group that takes the PPOSS forward should be a sub-regional group made up of representatives from Lambeth Council as well as other partners such as the NGBs and London Sport. This offers benefits in terms of joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and will also be more efficient in terms of administration when compared to each authority having its own individual Steering Group.

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As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, Sport England and the NGBs will consider the PPOSS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

Ideally the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development. Taking into account the time to develop the PPOSS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particular resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase or reduce following the delivery of others)
- ◀ How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Once the PPOSS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPOSS and outdoor sports provision in the area
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the PPOSS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ◀ Ensures that the PPOSS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Maintains links between relevant parties with an interest in local outdoor sports provision;
- ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPOSS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
 - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
 - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
 - ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPOSS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).
- ◀ Consider how provision for sport be made in new development, where on-site provision is required and how developer contributions are used.

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Alongside regular Steering Group meetings, a good way to keep the PPOSS up to date and maintain relationships is to hold annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These could be part of a process of updating key supply and demand information plus, if necessary, amending assessment work, tracking progress in respect of implementing action plan recommendations and highlighting new issues and opportunities.

Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites should also feed into these meetings.

National Governing Bodies will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area. Discussion with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings may be useful to attend to pick up on specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

The Steering Group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying PPOSS Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental work encompassing, for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

Lambeth Local Football Facilities Plan

The findings of and any subsequent changes to the PPOSS should be reflected by the Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for Lambeth Borough which will also serve as a live document, requiring concurrent management by the Football Foundation.


The position for formal and affiliated football provision determined and updated through the PPOSS should form the basis for investment into formalised football provision echoed through the LFFP, which will further explore opportunities for investment into informal, recreational, small sided and indoor football as an extension of the PPOSS findings, the result being a wholistic plan for partnership investment into football facilities in Lambeth Borough over the next decade. The PPOSS and LFFP should demonstrate synergy and should inform each other.

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Checklist

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

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

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀
- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement (2021)

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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- ◀ **Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ **Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ **Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ **Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ **Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

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Active Lambeth Strategy (2021-2026)

Lambeth Council is consulting on the draft Active Lambeth Strategy. The Strategy explains the health and wellbeing priorities set to tackle needs identified across the Borough. It will seek to ensure that the benefits of sport and physical activity can be accessed by all residents.

The strategy vision is 'To embed the benefits of physical activity and sport into the everyday lives of Lambeth residents.' It has six strategic objectives, employing the same five headings as Sport England's 'Uniting the Movement' strategy, adding a sixth 'Promote Safer Communities' which reflects the Borough's concern to reduce serious youth crime and anti-social behaviour. They are:

- ◀ Recover and Reinvent:
 - ◀ Increase the number of Lambeth Residents that are Physically Active to 80% and decrease those classified as inactive by 5% (19-20 baseline of 74.3% & 17.3%)
Recover and then increase usage rates of Lambeth facilities and parks (Achieve 2,250,000 annual visits to our sports and leisure centres)
- ◀ Connect with Communities:
 - ◀ Provide a voice for Lambeth's volunteers by establishing the Lambeth Sports Partnership Board
 - ◀ Establish a mutually beneficial formal connection between the local authority and its outstanding community partners
 - ◀ Develop inclusive and innovative sports and activity programmes that engage those that are currently not involved
- ◀ Offer Positive Experiences for Young People:
 - ◀ Support Lambeth's work to become a UNICEF Child Friendly Community by facilitating sport programmes that improve the mental and physical health of young people
 - ◀ Support our most disadvantaged young people and demonstrate our corporate parenting responsibilities by offering free or low cost access to sports facilities and programmes
 - ◀ Reduce inequalities by providing talented Lambeth Athletes with specialist support to fulfil their potential
- ◀ Connect with Health and Wellbeing:
 - ◀ We will partner with Lambeth's public health agencies to use the Borough's assets to achieve health benefits for the vulnerable, inactive and people with disabilities
- ◀ Provide and Manage Active Environments:
 - ◀ We will maintain and develop attractive parks, sport and recreational facilities. We will develop proposals for inclusion in the Borough's capital plans
 - ◀ We will secure £2m of external investment into Lambeth's Sports and Parks Facilities
 - ◀ Improve Lambeth's environment and the personal health of residents by increasing the levels of Active Travel, the use of Healthy Routes and physical activity in outdoor settings
- ◀ Promote Safe Communities:
 - ◀ In partnership with specialist agencies, we will support 'Lambeth Made Safer' to engage vulnerable young people resulting in declines in anti-social behaviour and serious youth violence
 - ◀ Provide and support a range of opportunities that divert vulnerable young people into positive activity e.g. After School Sport Activity

London Sport – LDN Moving (2021)

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London Sports is the Active Partnership covering London. Active Partnerships are locally based strategic organisations which recognise that activity levels are affected by a complex system of influences and no single organisation or programme creates sustainable change at scale. Via adoption of a collaborative whole system approach, they seek to make active lifestyles the social norm for everyone and address levels of inactivity in society.

London Sport's stated strategy mission is to 'make London the most active City in the World'.

The Strategy is made up of six long-term goals which, when achieved, will make a fundamental difference to physical activity in London and to London itself.

The six goals have been designed to work as a single approach that, taken together, will get closer to making London the most active City in the world. At the heart are two main outcomes: getting inactive and less active adults active and helping young Londoners to develop positive physical activity habits for life. The other four goals are the tools to help make long-term, sustainable change to the ways that people get active now and for years to come.

The six goals are to:

- ◀ Increase physical activity levels among less active adults, reducing inequalities and inactivity.
- ◀ Give all young Londoners the best opportunity to form a positive physical activity habit for life.
- ◀ Improve policy, systems and investment to support active lives.
- ◀ Use tech, data and digital communications to support Londoners to get and stay active.
- ◀ Lead the way in bringing organisations together to create, develop, test, champion and scale innovative ways of supporting active lives.
- ◀ Ensure evidence, data and high quality insight inform the development of policy and practice of supporting active lives.

Greater London Authority: Sport for All of Us (2018)

Sport for All of Us is the Mayor of London's Strategy for Sport in London, adopted by the London Assembly, within which the Mayor Sadiq Khan states his aim is not only to make London the undisputed sporting capital of the world, continuing to host the biggest and best events, but also to get more Londoners involved by supporting grassroots sport. He states it is vital to nurturing the next generation of sporting talent, keeping Londoners fit and healthy, and building links between our diverse communities.

The work in sport is identified as having two distinct strands. First, the support of major sports events being hosted in London which has a long and proud tradition of staging sports events and in recent years have hosted some of the largest events in sport, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 amongst others. These events have a significant ability to bring strong economic and social benefits to London, from promoting the City internationally, to offering mass volunteering opportunities for Londoners.

The second focus is on community sport, which has previously had a primary focus on increasing participation. The Mayor intends to broaden this focus to use the power of sport to improve social integration in London – a core priority of the Mayor's wider work. It is proposed that, central to work in community sport will be a new programme, 'Sport Unites', a new £8.8 million pound community sports programme. This investment will focus on three themes: Sport for Social Integration, Active Londoners and Workforce & Capacity Building. The programme will also provide investment via the Mayor's £45m Young Londoners Fund.

Theme One: Sport for Social Integration

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The Mayor proposes making this an explicit goal and to bring it to the forefront of his sports programme. His ambition is to make London the first city in the world to maximise the potential of sport to increase social integration. To achieve this, intentions are to:

- ◀ Launch a partnership with Laureus Sport for Good Foundation to carry out three place-based pilots using its 'Model City' approach.
- ◀ Fund partnerships through Sport Unites between non-sport and sporting organisations to deliver community sports which improve social integration.
- ◀ Fund initiatives through Sport Unites that target socially isolated people.
- ◀ Fund initiatives through Sport Unites that combine sport with another activity.
- ◀ Support some of London's most talented young athletes to reach their full potential and act as role models in their communities.

Theme Two: Active Londoners

The investment in this theme aims to provide more opportunities for Londoners to take part in a wide variety of sport and physical activity in their local area. Specifically, the programme intends to fund initiatives that cater for inactive Londoners and provide pathways for people to use sport to pursue their goals at all levels - whether that is simply improving fitness or making the transition into top level sports. To achieve this, intention is to:

- ◀ Provide more affordable, local participation opportunities for Londoners in places where demand outstrips supply.
- ◀ Promote programmes that target inactive Londoners.
- ◀ Invest in pilots which test innovative methods.
- ◀ Invest in organisations that cater for and support Londoners with mental health difficulties.

Theme Three: London - Workforce, Tech & Capacity Building

Developing the community sports workforce and capacity building organisations is vital to ensuring the success of Sport Unites and the wider sport sector in London. Equally, unlocking the full potential of technology helps this. To achieve this, intention is to:

- ◀ Reward and recognise inspirational coaches for their contribution to community sport and give them the support they need.
- ◀ Invest in the Civic Innovation Challenge to develop sport-tech solutions to address physical activity challenges in London.
- ◀ Develop the next generation of paid and volunteer community sport workforce.
- ◀ Consider co-investment in London Sport's sport tech initiatives developing ideas, prototypes and products.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

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These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *“Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed”*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government’s shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP ‘equivalents’** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA commissioned a national project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

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It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP does; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions

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- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans

- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
 - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme

- ◀ **Support our communities**
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategy (2021)

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

Game Objectives

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences

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- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
-

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

Rugby Football League Strategic Plan (2015-2021)

The RFL's most recent strategy aims to establish rugby league as "a growing sport, available throughout the country, that is recognised as providing positive experience for all participants and spectators, in environments that are welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, safe and comfortable - encouraging people to return again and again, featuring:

- ◀ Financially viable and sustainable professional clubs creating stable employment opportunities, showcasing local, national and international playing talent, and leading the sport's development - and making a difference - in their own communities;
- ◀ Welcoming community clubs, putting players first, offering recreational enjoyment for children and adults alike in a safe and inclusive environment;
- ◀ A central organisation that stands out for excellence, innovation, mutual respect, integrity and inclusion that understands its role in servicing the wider sport;
- ◀ A sports that lives its values in all its decisions and actions.

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This vision is underpinned by 13 core principles, including:

- ◀ **An integrated whole sport.** Each constituent part of the sport will have a responsibility to ensure the good health of the entire game;
- ◀ **Return on investment.** Investment will be targeted to ensure the sustainability of member clubs, and growth in the number and quality of players thus seeking an effective return for the game;
- ◀ **Financial parameters.** Financial distributions will be undertaken to ensure the whole of the game will move forward together;
- ◀ **Geographic expansion.** Geographic expansion of the sport should be carried out in a proportionate and sustainable manner.

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021's ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

LAMBETH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

British Tennis Strategy

The LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often:
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - ◀ The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility - Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.