

# Adur and Worthing Playing Pitch Strategy

## Main Strategy Document

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In 2019 Adur & Worthing Councils appointed Ethos Environmental Planning to provide an up-to-date and robust assessment identifying needs, surpluses and deficits in open space, sport and recreation to support the Local Plans. Within the consortium, belap (Bennett Leisure & Planning Ltd) has undertaken the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 1.2. The two councils - who have operated under a joint management structure since 2008 - have separate local plans. This strategy will assist Worthing Borough in the preparation of a new plan and will support the implementation of the Adur District Local Plan which was adopted in 2017. The study will also inform the Councils' asset management processes, health and well-being plans and their investments and infrastructure funding process.
- 1.3. This PPS (Playing Pitch Strategy) covers the sports of football, cricket, rugby and hockey and potentially other pitch sports such as lacrosse, stoolball and American football (no evidence of these has been found within the area). Consideration is given to the provision of all facilities that allow these sports to be played, such as artificial grass pitches (AGPs). This report also considers tennis and bowls.
- 1.4. Sport England has a prescribed methodology for local authorities to follow when producing playing pitch strategies, comprising of five distinct stages (The Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance; 2013). Stage A is the set-up phase and Stage B, the supply and demand information gathering phase. Stage C is the assessment and analysis of needs. There are three documents from these stages which underpin this document; they are:
  - Adur and Worthing PPS Stage B Database
  - Adur and Worthing PPS Final Stage C Needs Assessment Report (supply, demand and analysis information on a sport by sport basis),
  - Adur and Worthing PPS Final Stage C Key Findings and Issues Report
- 1.5. This strategy document and its accompanying action plans represent Stage D (Strategy production). Stage E is focused on implementation, delivery and monitoring.
- 1.6. This document sets out the following:
  - Section 2 The Vision: for the future protection, development and use of playing pitches and Strategic Objectives which underpin the Vision
  - Section 3 Sports specific priorities for each sport
  - Section 4 Priority Projects
  - Section 5 Delivering the strategy and keeping it up to date.

Appendix 1 Notes on Action Plans for each site (contained within separate accompanying document).

Appendix 2 Further detail underpinning predicted need for new pitches.

- 1.7. The Strategy looks forward to the facilities required over the next 17 years, to 2036. Because there have been great changes in the numbers of teams and pattern of play (particularly in football) since the last Playing Pitch Strategy produced in 2014, it seemed pragmatic to initially predict the number of teams which will be in operation up to 2028 as an interim date. In fact, the additional population arising from projected new housing between 2028 and 2036 for the two authorities will only result in a marginal increase in teams. The Needs Assessment document sets out how the increase in team numbers has been derived, whilst the sports specific sections in this document present a summary (see also Appendix 2)
- 1.8. The Steering Group for the Strategy comprised officers from Adur and Worthing Council (Head of Planning and Development, Senior Planning Officers, Planning Policy Managers Special Projects Officer, Head of Wellbeing, Head of Environmental Services, Parks and Foreshores Manager, AWC) and representatives from South Downs Leisure, Impulse Leisure, Lancing Parish Council, Sport England, England RFU, the LTA, England Hockey, the Sussex FA, the Football Foundation, Active Sussex, the England & Wales Cricket Board and the Sussex Cricket Foundation
- 1.9. The consultants would like to express their sincere thanks to the Steering Group and the many clubs, leagues, schools and facility operators and managers who contributed to the study. We are particularly grateful to the many volunteers who run local pitch sport clubs and have given up their time to provide us with information and comment.

## 2. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. National Planning Guidance requires that planning policy making and decision taking should consider the role of health and wellbeing in planning. Particularly since local authorities took on new public health responsibilities in 2013, an increasing range of statutory, corporate and planning documents reiterate the importance of planning for health and creating healthy environments which can support and benefit people's wellbeing - not just physical but mental as well.
- 2.2. In June 2019, Sport England published its Planning for Sport Guidance which sets out twelve guiding principles under the three objectives of 'Protect, Enhance and Provide'. Within this framework, the Adur and Worthing PPS Steering Group is committed to an inclusive approach; ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or situation, has the chance to be active and/or play sport in the way that is right for them.
- 2.3. The Vision for the Adur and Worthing Playing Pitch Strategy is:

**To support the protection, provision and enhancement of appropriate, high quality and sustainable playing pitch facilities across Adur and Worthing, and to make the best use of existing facilities and resources and maximize opportunities for sport and physical activity for all. Provision should encourage sporting excellence and community development and cohesion and help to enhance physical and mental wellbeing.**

- 2.4. Based on the Needs Assessments and identification of Key Issues and Findings, this framework for future delivery is supported by six objectives, reflecting Sport England's twelve Planning for Sport Principles. These principles and the strategic objectives set out below are interlinked and inevitably overlap. Action points emanating from them are set out within the Strategy Action Plans (Section A) and also underpin the site-specific recommendations (Sections B and C). Some of the considerations within each are briefly considered below.

**Objective 1 To proactively plan for and provide sufficient and appropriate high quality facilities and opportunities (enhanced and new) to meet existing and future demand to 2036, wherever possible making the best use of facilities already available**

- 2.5. In the first instance, the Needs Assessment has assessed existing demand and whether there are sufficient and appropriate facilities to meet this. The Needs Assessment has also considered population growth from new housing together with trends in participation, latent and unmet demand and the aspirations of clubs to develop new teams. These aspirations have been considered conservatively; some of them are dependent upon access to more/better pitches and changing facilities, but others will depend on the availability of support personnel especially

coaches. The Strategy explores ways in which demand for new pitch space can be met, not just through providing new facilities but through making better use of existing resources.

- 2.6. Local authorities, including parish councils, are experiencing severe budgetary and financial constraints, with less money available not only for providing new pitch space but for managing and maintaining grass and artificial turf pitches. It is a constant challenge to source funds to support the high costs of maintaining grounds, replacing equipment and delivering a high quality service.
- 2.7. Projected planned housing numbers can help to deliver new pitches through developer contributions such as s106 planning obligations and CIL, and the needs assessment presented in this strategy will help to provide the evidence necessary to underpin developer contributions policies.
- 2.8. Meeting demand through to 2036 will depend upon new facilities being in the right place and designed appropriately and flexibly in order to be able to respond to changing patterns of participation. For example, ideally when considering new football pitches, an area of flat, well-drained land should be provided which can be set out flexibly, as age ranges change. Facilities should be developed in line with appropriate national governing body and Sport England standards relating to ancillary facilities and natural and artificial grass pitches etc. and will need to ensure sufficient access for community use to secure funding. It is important that the Strategy is future-proofed and plans for all elements of growth and demand.
- 2.9. Being sandwiched between the South Downs National Park and the sea leads to high densities of population in Adur and Worthing. Adur has 1500 persons per km<sup>2</sup>, whilst Worthing – with 3,267 persons per km<sup>2</sup> – has the highest density of any authority in West Sussex (424 persons per km<sup>2</sup> overall). There is very little available land to meet any demands for new housing, let alone for additional outdoor pitches and sports facilities.
- 2.10. Thus every existing playing field site must make a maximum contribution to meeting demand for outdoor sport. Grounds need to be multi use with a range of activities and clubs on site to improve sustainability and viability. There are issues around the underuse of some grounds and it will be important to prioritise those sites where investment in enhanced ancillary facilities can help to increase usage.
- 2.11. Demand for pitch sport facilities comes from a varied range of clubs, individuals, groups and teams, with different requirements depending on their standard of play. It is important to support grass root clubs on the ground and ensure there will be an appropriate range of facilities to enable competition and training at a range of levels. This might include better changing facilities and other ancillary provision (stands, perimeter fencing) to enable progression, floodlighting to facilitate off pitch training, better training facilities on site and enabling players to train and play at the same venue/location.

**Objective 2 To protect existing provision and plan, manage and promote playing field sites to ensure they remain viable and sustainable and at the heart of community development**

- 2.12. Existing provision must be protected and there must be planning policies in place, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which do not allow the loss of playing fields unless robust evidence can be provided to support alternative, equal and replacement provision.
- 2.13. Protecting playing fields also involves ensuring they are well used. Maintaining viable sites involves ensuring that facilities are well cared for and meet the needs of the users, that they are located in the right places and that they are affordable and accessible to all.
- 2.14. Across all playing pitch sites – new and existing, and grass and artificial – it is therefore critical for sustainability that: high quality standards, ancillary facilities and intensification of use such as floodlighting can be easily achieved; the management infrastructure is in place to maximise usage; outdoor and indoor facilities are co-located to encourage cross-participation; winter pitches are used in the summer and vice versa wherever possible, and new facilities are energy efficient, can be maintained effectively and have adequate sinking funds for replacement.
- 2.15. In Adur and Worthing, a significant proportion of grass and artificial playing pitches are on school sites, including independent schools, where they frequently provide essential overflow and back up facilities. Security of tenure at schools needs to be strengthened, as may access to private and other sites where security of tenure is not long enough to support funding bids. Sites under threat from development should be monitored closely.
- 2.16. There are benefits in developing a model for combining/involving pitch sports with other sports and activities, to increase the financial viability of individual sites. The pitch sports make good partners with other activities such as athletics, running, orienteering, tennis and bowls. National governing bodies of sport are now recognising the potential value of joint funding and shared use (for example, between 2020 and 2024 the ECB are intending to divert resources to multi-sport projects).
- 2.17. It is increasingly incumbent upon whoever owns the pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens and their ancillary facilities, to raise as much revenue as possible and to consider different ways of generating income to bridge the financial gap between revenue and expenditure.
- 2.18. One way of achieving this is to design ancillary facilities for the pitch sports in such a way as to include appropriate social spaces for use by local community groups for other activities and events outside of club sport times (for example, children's playgroups). Leasing arrangements for the facilities should thus be flexible, so that

the different clubs, groups and societies can utilise them effectively and opportunities for generating revenue are maximised.

- 2.19. There is evidence that the current procedure for booking pitches is not as efficient or effective as it could be either in managing the playing pitch resource in Adur and Worthing and/or creating good communication with service users. At present allocation of pitches is carried out by the main leagues. Clubs notify the Council by Wednesday of the weekend before play if they are playing at home and then instructions are given for preparing and marking out the pitches. Booking is done by phone; there is no online booking procedure. Adur & Worthing Councils are keen to improve the interface between their service and the users and to enable better dialogue on and resolution of issues faced by the users.

**Objective 3 To recognise and give significant weight to the value of playing fields and the pitch sports in contributing to enhanced mental and physical health and well-being**

- 2.20. There is now a growing appreciation of the problems of obesity and poor health allied to a lack of exercise and how the provision and use of sports pitches and associated facilities may link into wider health and community development agendas. Benefits can be summarised as:
- Physical wellbeing – regular participation in sport and physical activity can reduce the risk of many chronic health conditions.
  - Mental wellbeing – taking part in sport and physical activity can boost mental health and self-esteem.
  - Individual development – there is a positive link between taking part in sport and academic achievement, reduction in criminal and anti-social behaviour along with improved confidence, self-esteem, social skills and employment opportunities.
  - Social and community development – sport can provide a focus for a range of activities and initiatives that bring people together, make them feel part of a group, strengthen and expand social networks and enhance community identity and cohesion.
  - Economic activity – in 2019, sport and sport-related activity contributed £20.3bn to the English economy. Sport and sport-related activity is estimated to support more than 400,000 full time equivalent jobs, 2.3% of all jobs in England.
- 2.21. Playing fields operate at the interface between open space, recreational activity and sport. They are undoubtedly a healthy environment – with the unique attributes of being an outdoor resource which provides a range of opportunities for physical exercise and activity, social interaction and a wealth of informal activities – such as kite flying, picnics, play, environmental studies, dog walking and park runs and often events such as fairs, circuses and festivals. As well as pitches, playing fields frequently include other facilities such as bowling greens, skateparks and tennis courts, athletics facilities, outdoor gyms and play areas and of course



changing rooms, pavilions and cafes. If planned and managed jointly these elements can enhance the overall value of playing fields as health, sport and wellbeing hubs.

- 2.22. Moreover, playing fields are community facilities and should provide facilities for as many people within the community as possible. Ideally, they should reflect the interests and aspirations of the areas in which they are located. There is a constant balancing act involved to ensure that they can accommodate successfully a range of activities for which there is demand and be flexible enough to respond to the changing demographics of the area (such as younger families moving into Worthing).
- 2.23. The Playing Pitch Strategy links closely with one of the principal aims of Adur & Worthing Councils' Public Health Strategy 2018-2021, which is to focus on using their resources, services and leadership role to continually drive forward change in ways that bring about and enhance health and wellbeing in communities, sustainably. The Councils are currently preparing a Physical Activity Strategy, and many of the themes therein are also linked to this strategy, particularly around Active Design for health and physical activity; a partnership approach to working; the important contribution of volunteers, and the ethos that people increasingly need to take responsibility for their own local environment and their own health.

**Objective 4 To manage and maintain facilities in such a way as to ensure retention of players and attraction of new participants, particularly those still underrepresented in the pitch sports such as women, girls and people with disabilities**

- 2.24. One of the important aims therefore is to ensure that playing pitch facilities are an equitable resource – available and accessible to all, whatever their gender, level of ability or disability, level of inactivity or activity or income.
- 2.25. Football, cricket and rugby are still predominantly male sports, with less than 10% of teams registered as female. (It is noted that female players can now play within youth football teams up to u18; youth cricket teams can also be mixed gender). Other under-represented groups include people from lower socio-economic groups, older people, disabled people, people from particular ethnic groups and those with long-term health conditions.
- 2.26. All the major sports have specific initiatives targeted at young people and the provision of appropriate ancillary facilities are essential for these. This often involves enlarging facilities to enable separate changing; youth players also have different requirements to adult players.
- 2.27. If women and girls are to be attracted in large numbers to the pitch sports, changing facilities will need to be large enough and appropriately furnished to accommodate them. The designation of certain sites as being particularly

appropriate for female players and, separately, for youth players will hopefully be an outcome from the strategy.

- 2.28. The level of provision for people with disabilities could be improved. Facilities should be accessible and attractive to people with learning disabilities and dementia, for example, as well as those with a range of physical disabilities and limiting illnesses. It is important to remember that many people experience temporary illnesses and incapacities during their lifetime which make normal movement and activity difficult, and facilities should be able to accommodate these problems.
- 2.29. The cost of taking part in sport is a significant factor and we have found increasing concern – particularly from footballers - at the cost of hiring artificial grass surfaces, especially for training for youth football and matchplay. It is important that cost and programming do not hinder use by under-represented groups, for example, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.
- 2.30. It is also important to consider how to increase the flexibility of booking procedures and formats to encourage more informal, casual use of pitch facilities for new formats, such as 'walking football'.

**Objective 5 To encourage and support education establishments in embracing community use of their pitch sport facilities by engaging directly with them and creating a forum for discussion.**

- 2.31. Over half the total pitch stock in Adur and Worthing is on school sites (primary, secondary, public and private provision). In particular, school football pitches are very important for youth teams and youth football would not be able to sustain the number of teams it does without access to them. Worthing College has a high quality rugby pitch for use by College teams on its campus. All floodlit full size artificial grass pitches, apart from the 3G FTP at Worthing FC's ground in Woodside Road, are located on school sites.
- 2.32. It is recognised that there are difficulties over the security of educational sites and that schools frequently no longer have the budget to pay for proper upkeep and maintenance of pitches. Often the school can only realistically support line marking and grass cutting, which means the pitches may frequently not be of sufficient quality to sustain regular matchplay.
- 2.33. However, there is also some evidence that the movement towards academies within the education sector (where schools now have autonomy over their pitches) has resulted in varying approaches to embracing community access, with some schools fully embracing usage by outside clubs for training and matchplay, but at others, gaining access is difficult.
- 2.34. There are aspirations for improvements and new provision at several education sites detailed within the Strategy and these facilities need to be at the heart of the evolving network of outdoor sports provision. In such a compact urban area, the

proximity of school sites to local authority provision can lead to a more integrated approach between indoor and outdoor facilities and schools, sports clubs and the Councils.

- 2.35. It is essential that community use agreements, providing security of tenure and access for at least ten years to facilities on school sites, should be negotiated and agreed wherever possible. Existing agreements should be revisited and strengthened if necessary. This will ensure that all existing facilities are fully used and decrease the need for new facilities to meet demand.
- 2.36. Securing and increasing community use of education facilities through appropriate pricing and accessibility is therefore highlighted as a major priority, but there is a lack of co-ordinating agencies and agreed approaches which can help to drive this process. However, it is recognised that links between schools and their local community do seem to change regularly over time with new regulations, new school leadership, sport or open space funding bid requirements and this is highlighted as a way forward.

**Objective 6 To create an ongoing management and delivery framework for people and organisations to work together to share skills, expertise, resources and facilities in implementing the Strategy**

- 2.37. This strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community. The Steering Group set up to deliver the Strategy includes officers from the Councils and National Governing Bodies of Sport. It is planned that it should continue to meet as a Strategy Delivery Group at a minimum of six monthly intervals after the Strategy is adopted to monitor progress and continue to implement schemes.
- 2.38. It would be of benefit to establish an Adur and Worthing Playing Fields Group - with representatives from Adur & Worthing Councils, other managing and operating agencies, local schools and Worthing College, major clubs and local leagues - which would link in to the Strategy Delivery Group.
- 2.39. As referred to earlier, developer contributions, through s106 planning obligations and CIL, will be important sources of funding. In this respect, the planning department within Adur & Worthing Councils will be a key partner in implementing the recommendations within the Action Plans.
- 2.40. Innovative ways to link existing community assets/groups into the development of new identified projects will need to be developed to ensure they are sustainable and embedded within their local communities
- 2.41. Support for the voluntary sector in relation to the management and maintenance of facilities and membership activity – perhaps through subsidised training sessions – would help to ensure a thriving club sector and good quality facilities. It may be

that schemes will be given priority if clubs have Clubmark or other indications of their quality standard.

- 2.42. There are other ways, not just financial, in which people can work together to improve the viability of pitch sport sites. For example, there may be scope for local clubs, teams and leagues to work together to review and reschedule football kick-off times, particularly if 3G FTPs are used so that two adult matches can be played consecutively to help address peak-time issues.
- 2.43. Considerable investment is now being made into health which may be a way forward in securing funding for pitch improvements. There may be opportunities in new developments to deliver community sport and wellbeing hubs which have an active sports component and link to nearby sports facilities.
- 2.44. Above all, in such a built-up urban area where land is at a premium for all types of activities, this Strategy looks to ensure that land and facility owners and management agencies and organisations work together to avoid duplication and make the best use of what we already have.

### 3. SPORT SPECIFIC PRIORITIES: FOOTBALL

- 3.1. Youth football in Adur and Worthing appears particularly buoyant and more girls are now taking part. Other trends are the growth in 5-a-side teams and leagues and other formats of the game such as 'walking football' (a variant of association football aimed at keeping people aged over 50 involved with football which can be played both indoors and outdoors).
- 3.2. Adult 11v11 football in Adur and Worthing is contracting; local leagues have merged in recent years to maintain a network of teams within a reasonable travelling distance. The split between Saturday and Sunday adult men's league play is currently 55% on Sundays (peak time) and 38% on Saturdays, whilst 98% of youth and 92% of mini football play is on Sundays. The main factors causing a decline in adult football appear to be:
  - Brighton & Hove Albion fixtures exerting a strong pull on Saturdays – this affects attendance of both players and officials.
  - The time commitment and cost of participating, especially when it includes training (Saturday players particularly).
  - Competing attractions for players' time and money; increasingly younger men appear to prefer to play small sided soccer without the commitment of belonging to an 11v11 team.
  - Declining viability of smaller clubs and a perceived lack of support for voluntary clubs.
  - A perceived reduction in the standard of play within the local leagues.
  - A lack of youth players coming through into senior teams – the momentum of youth football is not maintained.
  - The lack of pitch sport hub site in Worthing with a number of adult pitches to accommodate many adult teams.
- 3.3. The FA believe that there will continue to be an increase in the overall number of teams (and participants) in future years following on from the growth in youth football and that higher levels of demand will occur as a result. In this event the existing stock of youth pitches will need to be retained and, as older teams require larger pitches, it will be beneficial if sites with 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches have the capacity to enlarge or accommodate larger pitches if necessary.
- 3.4. It is estimated that an additional 29 football teams will form in **Adur** by 2028 - an additional 5 male adult, 4 female adult, 8 youth 11v11, 5 youth 9v9 and 7 mini teams - resulting in 159 football teams in total (see Appendix 1 and Needs Assessment).
- 3.5. In **Worthing**, it is estimated that an additional 28 football teams will form during the same period - an additional 6 male adult, 4 female adult, 7 youth 11v11, 4

youth 9v9 and 7 mini teams - resulting in 174 football teams in total (see Appendix 1 and Needs Assessment).

- 3.6. There is no direct correlation between number of future teams and numbers of pitches, as much depends on the pattern of play. However, the amount of grass pitch space required to meet demand from these additional teams would be in the order of the equivalent of:

*Table 3-1 Numbers of grass pitches required to accommodate demand from football teams to 2028*

	Adult football	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini
<b>Adur</b>	3	4	3	3
<b>Worthing</b>	4	4	2	3

- 3.7. The above estimates of the number of pitches required do not take into account of finding sites where sufficient youth pitches can be located together to serve large youth football clubs. Moreover, the need for pitch space does not just have to be met through new provision and there are various other ways of providing increased capacity, not least through using 'spare' slots at existing sites.
- 3.8. Against this background, the following priorities have been identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy for football in Adur and Worthing (F1 – F8, not in priority order).

**F.1 Meeting current and future demand for grass pitch space**

**Adur Grass Pitches**

- 3.9. Provision in Adur is fragmented, with youth football clubs in particular playing across many different pitches. There is little room for growth for either adult or youth play and although adult play is not expected to increase significantly, youth play remains buoyant and is expected to increase substantially. There is very little spare capacity to accommodate existing and predicted demand (see Appendix 1). In summary:

- Only one site has spare capacity on Sunday mornings (peak time) for additional adult teams which form outside of an existing club.
- Lancing Utd FC adult Sunday teams have to play off-site, as the pitch at Croshaw Park is used by its youth teams.
- Of the nine football clubs in Adur running youth sides (97 teams in all) only three are based at one site, the rest use between two and five sites. All of the youth football clubs playing out of more than one site use school pitches.

- There is nominally room for an additional four youth teams to play at peak times (Sunday morning) on four different pitches (two of these are school sites)
- The only true public/community pitch with any spare capacity for junior play is Quayside Recreation Ground - a poor quality pitch with no changing facilities.
- There is considerable spare capacity for mini teams at three sites – Buckingham Park, Shoreham Academy Middle Road and Southwick Recreation Ground.

3.10. In order to meet growth in numbers of teams and to accommodate teams more rationally:

***Lancing and Sompting***

- In Lancing and Sompting, access is required to the equivalent of an additional 2 adult pitches, 3 youth pitches and 2 mini pitches. (Two large youth pitches can be met by the current allocation under Policy 6 of the Adur Plan 2017 (for pitches at West Sompting)).
- Consideration should be given to providing an additional site for Lancing Utd and another site for Lancing FC Youth and Lancing Rangers Youth (in addition to pitches at Sompting Recreation Ground).
- Taking into account opportunities for increased use of existing pitches, it is likely that at least one adult and one youth pitch will be required through new provision.

***Shoreham***

- In Shoreham, access is required to the equivalent of an additional 1 adult pitch and 2 youth pitches.
- Consideration should be given to how to provide an additional site or increased capacity for Shoreham FC Youth (ideally enabling the majority of their youth sides to be played at one site).
- Taking into account opportunities for increased use of existing pitches, it is likely that at least two youth pitches will be required through new provision.

***Southwick and Fishersgate***

- In Southwick and Fishersgate, access is required to the equivalent of an additional 2 youth pitches and 1 mini pitch
- Consideration should be given to how to provide one site to accommodate all teams for Fishersgate Flyers.
- Taking into account opportunities for increased use of existing pitches, it is likely that at least two youth pitches will be required through new provision.

### **Worthing Grass Pitches**

3.11. There is great fragmentation of adult play in Worthing. Excluding Worthing Utd FC's and Worthing FC's ground and pitches on school sites, there are twelve adult pitches marked out on nine sites catering in total for eighteen teams (8 Saturday and 10 Sunday). In summary:

- There is spare capacity for up to eleven adult teams at peak time (Sundays) at eight adult pitches in Worthing.
- Of 16 junior pitches, only five have any spare capacity. Between them, these five junior pitches could accommodate up to an additional six junior teams at peak time. Two of these pitches are on poorly rated sites.
- There is considerable spare capacity for mini teams.
- Of the seven football clubs running youth sides (112 teams in all), three (involving 62 teams) are based at one site. The other four youth football clubs use between two and four sites.

3.12. In order to meet growth in numbers of teams and to accommodate teams more rationally:

- Access is required to the equivalent of an additional 4 adult pitches. Part of this can be met through the provision of a new adult grass pitch as part of the West Durrington urban extension and the reinstatement of an adult pitch at GlaxoSmithKline on Southdown View Way Industrial Estate. Additional demand can be met by securing/ improving access to existing pitches.
- Access to the equivalent of an additional six youth pitches is required; the equivalent of three pitches already exist. Taking into account opportunities for increased use of existing pitches and realignment/resizing of adult pitches (e.g. at Pond Lane), it is likely that at least two youth pitches will be required through new provision.
- The requirement for mini teams can be met through improving access to existing provision.

### **General considerations**

3.13. Where the requirement for new pitch space could be met through existing provision, teams will have to be happy to take up the 'spare' slots that exist (which may not be their preferred site). If access can be negotiated to football pitches on school sites, this may avoid the need for new provision.

3.14. Much will depend on community access to 3G FTPs, in particular, demand for grass pitch space will be eased if matches are able to played:

- In Adur on the Sir Robert Woodard Academy and Shoreham Academy 3G FTPs.
- In Worthing, on the proposed 3G FTP at Palatine Park



- 3.15. Where there is spare capacity on sites with adult football pitches, these pitches could be realigned/resized to accommodate youth teams.
- 3.16. On any new site, the priority should be to provide sufficient pitch space to mark out a range of pitches to allow for rest/rotation and in order to avoid overmarking.

## **F.2 Providing appropriate, sustainable, affordable 3G FTPs which are FA/FF compliant**

### **Adur – 3G FTPs**

- 3.17. There are floodlit 3G Football Turf Pitches at Shoreham Academy, the American Express Elite Performance Centre, the Sir Robert Woodard Academy, the Sussex County FA and at Lancing Manor Leisure Centre (two small size). For the purposes of assessing future need, the existing capacity of artificial grass provision for community use for football is the equivalent of three full size 3G FTPs (see Appendix 2).
- 3.18. The assessment of need for 3G FTP provision has included the FA methodology for assessing demand for football training purposes. This suggests a requirement equivalent to 3.4 full size pitches in Adur to meet existing demand and the equivalent of 4.2 full size pitches to meet demand in 2028. Given the current usage pattern:
  - Access to the equivalent of approximately half a 3G FTP is required to meet existing needs. (Increased use for training and matchplay of the Sir Robert Woodard Academy 3G FTP and the planned 7v7 floodlit 3G FTP at Southwick Recreation Ground would meet this identified deficiency. However, if the former is not achieved, new provision will be required to make up the shortfall).
  - In order to meet demand to 2028 the equivalent of up to another full size 3G FTP (0.8) will be required in Adur.
- 3.19. There is an acute shortage of potential sites in Adur. Shoreham FC's stadium pitch at Middle Road Recreation Ground is a possible site, subject to feasibility and detailed business plans. Lancing College is a possible site, highlighted within the LFFP; this is an independent school site outside the main urban area and less accessible for community teams.

### **Worthing – 3G FTPs**

- 3.20. In Worthing, there are floodlit 3G Football Turf Pitches at Worthing FC's ground in Woodside Road, at Worthing Leisure Centre (5 small pitches) and Worthing High School. For the purposes of assessing future need, the existing capacity of artificial grass provision for community use for football is the equivalent of 2.25 full size 3G FTPs (see Appendix 2).
- 3.21. As in Adur, the assessment of need for 3G FTP provision has included the FA model of assessing demand for football training purposes. This suggests a requirement of

the equivalent of 3.8 full size pitches in Worthing to meet existing demand and the equivalent of 4.6 full size pitches to meet demand in 2028. Given the current usage pattern:

- In addition to the full size 3G FTP planned at Palatine Park, access to the equivalent of another half x 3G FTP is required in Worthing to meet existing demand.
- In order to meet demand to 2028 the equivalent of up to another full size 3G FTP (0.8) will be required in Worthing.

### **General considerations**

- 3.22. It should be noted that there is very little football training taking place on the sand based AGPs in Adur and Worthing.
- 3.23. It is expected that demand for 3G FTPs will continue to increase, from adult and youth clubs requiring facilities for both training and matchplay. Within football, important considerations are the growth of youth and mini football and the growth in 5-a-side teams and leagues. Walking football (is a variant of association football that is aimed at keeping people aged over 50 involved with football if, due to a lack of mobility or for other reason, they are not able to play the traditional game. The sport can be played both indoors and outdoors. With regard to the latter, walking football is experiencing great growth (usage of the small 3G facilities at Worthing Leisure Centre provides evidence for this). This may translate into further demand for 3G provision.
- 3.24. In summary therefore, to meet existing and future demand to 2028, access to the equivalent of:
- 1.5 full size 3G FTPs are required in Adur. (The proposed 7v7 3G FTP in Southwick Recreation Ground and improved access to the 3G FTP at Sir Robert Woodard Academy will count towards this)
  - 2.5 full size 3G FTPs are required in Worthing. (The proposed full size 3G FTP at Palatine Park in Worthing will count towards this)
- 3.25. It should be noted that the requirement can be met through smaller sized 3G FTPs, especially if the principle need is for training facilities, for facilities to cater for small-sided variants of the game (e.g. 'walking football') and/or space is at a premium. However, in some situations where clubs or education facilities require facilities for matchplay, full size 3G FTPs will be required.
- 3.26. The cost of artificial grass pitches is an extremely important aspect of their provision and unless they are affordable, they will not be used to their maximum capacity. (At the moment, less than 5% of teams are playing matches on 3G FTPs and anecdotally, it appears that the cost - a minimum of £100 for a match - is a major factor). Only Sussex FA's 3G FTP in Lancing and Worthing FC's 3G FTP at Woodside Road appear to be used for matchplay.

- 3.27. It is emphasised that pricing policies must be affordable for grass roots football clubs and should be agreed with the local County Football Association. This should include match rates at weekends which are equivalent to local authority prices for natural turf pitches. Part of the rationale for the provision of full size 3G FTPs is to provide an alternative to natural turf pitches for matchplay and thus reduce wear and tear on the latter. If they are not to be used for this purpose, it may be more cost effective to provide smaller 3G FTPs to accommodate youth and mini matches and training.
- 3.28. The provision of 3G AGPs will also assist with the following:
- Providing pitch facilities of the required standard for progression through the leagues
  - Stabilising fixture schedules by avoiding the need to postpone up to 2-3 months' worth of matches when grass pitches become waterlogged during the winter
  - Increasing the capacity for peak time matchplay by possibly scheduling two matches on a Saturday afternoon at 12.30/1pm and 3.30/4pm if leagues agree
  - Providing easily managed and welcoming environments for youth and disability teams
  - Providing central venues for development activity
  - Meeting increasing demand for the growth in 5-a-side teams. At present a considerable amount of small sided soccer is played in sports halls.
- 3.29. New pitches should be constructed to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf – FIFA Quality (old FIFA 1\*) accreditation or equivalent International Match Standards (IMS) as a minimum and meet the recommended pitch size of (including run offs) 100m (106m) x 64m (70m). Football is supportive of encouraging rugby union activity however, it needs to be established whether the RFU can invest through their own capital investment funds. If shared football/rugby AGPs are to be constructed, there should be appropriate programming for football and any shared 3Gs will impact on the formula for determining how many additional 3Gs are required.
- 3.30. If any sand based AGPs come under discussion for a change of surface, no decision should be taken without full consultation with the relevant national governing bodies of sport and other key stakeholders.

### **F.3 Possible relocation sites for Worthing Utd FC**

- 3.31. The landowner of Worthing United FC's ground (The Robert Albon Memorial Ground) is currently promoting the site through the emerging Worthing Local Plan (along with another site, 'Land at Beeches Avenue', which lies adjacent to the west

of the club). The Council has made it clear that it would not support the development of the football ground until it can be demonstrated that an alternative (and preferably enhanced) pitch can be delivered.

- 3.32. There are some possible options to be explored for this within the context of the strategy – potentially involving partnerships between the club, other clubs (rugby for example) and educational establishments (including Worthing College). The challenge is in identifying a site which does not have some planning constraints (for example there are TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) on land fronting Worthing College). Joint provision on a school site may provide a way forward, if the school is sited in an appropriate location and a community use agreement can be fully secured; another option is land made available through the enabling redevelopment of the Worthing Leisure Centre site.

#### **F.4 Recognising and meeting the specific needs of youth football clubs**

- 3.33. The Needs Assessment Reports highlight the aspirations of youth football clubs to be located at one, or at the most two, sites. In particular, the Strategy supports action to enable the following clubs to be based at one site, with appropriate ancillary facilities (toilets and changing):

- Shoreham Youth FC - currently playing 14 teams across five sites: the main ground is at Middle Road Recreation Ground, adjacent to Shoreham FC's stadium pitch
- Lancing Utd Youth, Lancing Youth and Lancing Rangers FCs – each club plays its youth teams across three sites.
- Fishersgate Flyers FC – currently playing at several sites including schools in Southwick
- Worthing Minors Youth FC - 15 teams playing at Highdown Recreation Ground and three other primary school sites in Worthing
- Worthing Dynamos Youth FC - 22 teams playing at Durrington High School and two other school sites.

#### **F.5 Enhancing the quality of existing provision particularly around clubs progressing to the next level and addressing the capacity of the site**

- 3.34. It is a reasonable aspiration for clubs to expect to work towards promotion and therefore it is beneficial if certain grounds can be developed to accommodate a higher standard of play. This has not emerged as an issue in Adur and Worthing at present, with most clubs playing at a site where the facilities – or proposed facilities (at Monks and Sompting Recreation Grounds for example) - are commensurate with league requirements. The main exceptions to this are Worthing FC's 3G FTP in Woodside Road which has had long standing issues with

the surface/drainage (hopefully now reaching resolution) and Lancing Utd FC which is based at Croshaw Recreation Ground but uses three other grounds to fulfil fixtures.

- 3.35. However, in both Adur and Worthing, there are grounds where the provision of, or enhancements to, changing facilities would increase their effectiveness and attractiveness and improve sustainability of the sites. Sections below and the Action Plans provide further details.
- 3.36. A significant number of clubs consulted mentioned issues with the maintenance of the pitches. Although pitches generally were found to be well maintained under the Visual Quality Assessment, clubs have experienced problems with regard to grass cutting and line marking at certain sites (for example: grass not cut often enough; grass cuttings left across the pitch; lines only white marked, not with creosote, and goals not straight.) This is anecdotal evidence but reported because a number of clubs mentioned this. Clubs also mention the lack of provision of corner flags at some sites (for example). Some rest and recovery should be built into the pitch stock to give time for management and husbandry of the resource.

## 4. SPORT SPECIFIC PRIORITIES: CRICKET

### Context

- 4.1. The main characteristics of future demand for cricket in Adur and Worthing are a fairly buoyant youth sector, and stable, if slightly declining, demand for adult play. There are some very strong, well established and managed clubs with very good quality grounds, which need to be maintained and supported to ensure the current level of activity continues
- 4.2. Demand generated by people moving into new housing in the district/borough, together with changes in participation trends, latent and unmet demand and the aspirations of clubs (tempered by possible constraints) suggests that an additional 6 men's teams, 3 women's teams and 9 youth teams will be created by 2028.
- 4.3. There is relatively little cricket played in Adur, it seems that players might go to Brighton or Worthing clubs. There are two clubs recorded – Southwick CC at Southwick Green and Lancing Manor CC which has a non-turf wicket only. The situation in Worthing is very different; there are six 'traditional' type cricket grounds, three of which have two cricket squares, although only the two squares at Manor Park in Worthing can be played simultaneously.
- 4.4. Against this background, the following priorities have been identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy for cricket in Adur and Worthing (C1 – C5) (not in priority order).

### C.1 Meeting current and future demand for pitch space for cricket

- 4.5. It is estimated that there could be up to an additional 18 cricket teams in Adur and Worthing by 2028 (see Appendix 2). In Adur and Worthing, 71% of adult play is on a Saturday (29% is on a Sunday; no midweek play recorded). For juniors, 78% of play takes place midweek. Using Sport England's Playing Pitch calculator, access to the equivalent of an additional two pitches would be needed to accommodate this demand (juniors playing on the same pitch as seniors).
- 4.6. However, whether there is a requirement for new provision depends on the type of need to be met (whether peak time play on Saturdays or off-peak play). Moreover, as with football, the need for pitch space does not just have to be met through new provision and there are various other ways of providing increased capacity.
- 4.7. In Adur, the non turf wicket at Lancing Manor has considerable spare capacity. If just the grass wickets at Southwick Green are considered, the pitch is overplayed; but inclusion of the non turf wicket here gives extra capacity. In addition, a new cricket square is being brought back in to use at Buckingham Park which will

- provide further capacity for Southwick CC and other players looking to play cricket in Adur (and help to accommodate all Southwick CC's senior teams).
- 4.8. The capacity situation in Worthing is different. Around 55% of match equivalent slots are being used (38% if non turf wickets are included). There is apparently plenty of spare capacity but not at peak time (Saturdays).
- 4.9. Any additional Saturday teams in Worthing could only be accommodated: at Hillbarn Recreation Ground (East) (if it can be dovetailed in with play on the West pitch); at Fernhurst Recreation Ground, or at Rotary Recreation Ground East (if it can be dovetailed in with play on the West pitch). The former two sites are not good quality wickets and would ideally need to be improved to attract Saturday sides.
- 4.10. Therefore, if the growth in cricket comes predominantly through teams which play outside the peak time of Saturday (e.g. junior play, midweek teams, Sunday play and other formats of the game (such as Last Man Standing and T20 (Twenty-20 – a shortened format of the game with limited overs))), this is likely to be able to be accommodated on existing pitches.
- 4.11. However, if there is an increase in the number of Saturday teams, an additional cricket ground may be required, although the first step is to improve the quality of existing wickets at Fernhurst and Hillbarn Recreation Grounds.

## C.2 Quality of cricket pavilions

- 4.12. Other than the non-turf wicket at Lancing Manor which was rated as standard (as it is not protected or cordoned off), all cricket grounds were rated good. Generally the clubs are very satisfied with pitch quality, apart from a few localised issues around length of grass in the outfield and fouling by dogs of pitches on public sites. In Worthing, although pitches at Hillbarn, Rotary and Fernhurst were rated as standard from the visual quality assessment, they were not singled out for comment by the clubs.
- 4.13. This is not the case for changing facilities and concerns have been raised by clubs and the cricket national governing bodies. Most of the cricket pavilions are of a similar era and are now no longer fit for today's game. Whilst appearing adequate from an external visual inspection, the interiors are in need of repair and do not meet current standards in respect of health and hygiene. Some clubs commented that the standard of facilities was deterring the attraction of new members. In particular:
- In Adur:
- Lancing Manor clubhouse – requires enhancement
  - Buckingham Park cricket pavilion and changing rooms – require enhancement, especially as cricket now being played there

In Worthing:

- Broadwater Green – dated pavilion which is no longer fit for purpose.
- Fernhurst Recreation Ground - The pavilion needs a general overall refit and is unacceptable hygiene-wise.
- Manor Sports Ground – iconic building which requires major remedial works
- Rotary Park –internally requires substantial enhancement and/or replacement.

**C.3 Ensuring facilities support the development of youth cricket and women’s and girls’ cricket and that there is sufficient capacity to meet growth**

4.14. The ECB’s strategy ‘Inspiring Generations’ focuses in particular on the development of youth cricket. Junior cricket in Adur and Worthing is primarily based at Worthing, Chippingdale and Southwick Cricket Clubs and the little growth that cricket has experienced in the area is seen in youth cricket. The ECB’s All Stars programme has nationally, been very successful in driving up participation of young people aged 5 – 8 years and the programme is now being successfully run by Goring, Worthing and Southwick Cricket Clubs. There will need to be support for the All Stars programme to continue; one of the challenges will be to ensure that there are enough coaches and managers to enable the transition from the programme into clubs and teams.

4.15. Chippingdale CC and Worthing CC were the only clubs recorded as fielding female teams. Nationally, this has been an area of growth within the game through such initiatives such as ‘softball cricket’. Girls can also, and often, feature in the mixed junior section of all clubs running youth teams. The provision of appropriate changing facilities will be an important factor in helping to fuel this growth in Adur and Worthing. Goring CC has hosted Women’s Softball cricket and entered a hardball league in previous seasons.

**C.4 Provision of non-turf wickets to increase opportunities for casual play and training and junior matchplay.**

4.16. The installation of non-turf wickets at appropriate clubs or other accessible venues can encourage easy access playing opportunities and facilitate youth cricket. Fine turf is increasingly costly to maintain and a way forward to provide new facilities to meet demand could be through non turf wickets.



- 4.17. The need for additional non turf wickets (or improvements to their quality) has not arisen from this strategy, but may be required as an option if certain grounds become overplayed and need to increase their capacity.

## 5. SPORT SPECIFIC PRIORITIES: RUGBY

### Context

- 5.1. There is one rugby club based in Adur and Worthing at present – Shoreham RFC which has two adult pitches and two junior sized pitches/training grids at Buckingham Park. Worthing RFC has for some 40 years been located outside the area in Angmering. Worthing College has a very good quality pitch on its campus for use by its own teams.
- 5.2. Whilst focusing on maintaining its core market of 15v15 senior teams, the RFU is actively promoting its variants of the game for younger players – touch and tag rugby and ‘7s’ - and is also looking to develop more recreational and social rugby during the summer. This is likely to increase the numbers of junior teams and possibly summer activity for adults, which may cascade down to increase participation during the winter months. There is also a focus on attracting more women and girls into rugby from the RFU.
- 5.3. The assessment suggests that demand for up to a further 10 adult and mini/midi rugby teams could develop across Adur and Worthing (this includes Worthing RFC) requiring a minimum of an additional two – three pitches. Options might be to increase capacity at Buckingham Park or gain access to school sites. However, as the TGR for rugby is always so high, it is very difficult to project an increase in the number of teams through new housing/population growth. The growth is most likely to come through the existing rugby clubs, rather than through the formation of a new club with its own facilities.
- 5.4. Against this background, the following priorities have been identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy for rugby in Adur and Worthing (R1 – R4) (not necessarily in priority order)

### R.1 Meeting current and future demand for pitch space for rugby

- 5.5. The analysis has demonstrated that there is very little spare capacity at Buckingham Park to meet any expansion in the number of teams from Shoreham RFC; in fact the club struggles to accommodate its existing teams. The focus should be on increasing the capacity of the existing pitches, either by improving quality of the playing surface (through grounds maintenance and equipment) and/or by providing floodlighting for training and matchplay.
- 5.6. There may also be opportunities for marking out additional pitches at Buckingham Park and the club have requested that they are marked out to a later time in the season. This could be considered under the redesign/redevelopment proposed for the Park (see Priority Project 1)

## **R.2 Clubhouse at Buckingham Park**

- 5.7. The changing facilities for the rugby club at Buckingham Park are poor and not fit for purpose; a recent Council survey has been undertaken to establish the cost to make the building, as is, compliant. The club are working to progress club accreditation with the RFU but it is hampered by poor ancillary facilities at Buckingham Park. Adur & Worthing Councils have contributed capital funding to the project but there is a considerable funding gap. Negotiations between the club and the Council around how to progress the demolition of the existing building and proceed with the construction of a new build (to include a café and public toilets) are ongoing. One of the proposals from this Strategy is to consider constructing a new building within Buckingham Park to accommodate facilities for all sports in the Park.

## **R.3 Relocation of Worthing Rugby Club**

- 5.8. Worthing RFC has been located at its current site in Angmering for the past 40 years. It runs a full complement of 22 teams: mini/midi, colts and adult teams (3 regular men's XV's and a women's team). There are 7 pitches, 2 of which are floodlit and 2 training grid/smaller pitches. However the level of activity at the ground, which includes representative fixtures and use by local schools means that the pitches struggle to accommodate the number of teams, particularly on Sundays. The clubhouse and ancillary facilities are no longer fit for purpose and need enlarging and replacing; more car parking is required. The club owns the freehold of the land which it is in the process of negotiating to sell for residential development, and consequently requires a new site.
- 5.9. Adur & Worthing Councils wish to encourage and support the rugby club to relocate within the Worthing boundary if possible. However, the lack of available land means that finding a site has been problematic.

## **R.4 Artificial grass pitches for rugby training**

- 5.10. Artificial grass pitches for rugby are now becoming aspirations for several clubs. The provision of a World Rugby Regulation 22 3G matchplay facility has not emerged as an issue within the Adur and Worthing area. Shoreham RFC uses the 3G FTP at Sir Robert Woodard Academy during the winter weekly for training.
- 5.11. However, it is noted that this is an aspiration for Worthing RFC at their new site.

## 6. SPORT SPECIFIC PRIORITIES: HOCKEY

### Context

- 6.1. According to England Hockey, hockey is experiencing considerable growth, promoted through increasing media profile and international success and the popularity of a range of initiatives to encourage people to play the sport. The burgeoning growth in junior play looks set to continue and Worthing Hockey Club is a very proactive club, which, through its increasing outreach work, seems to be benefitting from this growth trend. It is suggested that a further three teams will develop in addition to the needs of club members as much hockey activity and need for pitch space - informal and casual play and coaching and training - takes place outside of the league team structure.

### H.1 Maintaining a hockey presence and facilities for hockey in Adur and Worthing

- 6.2. Worthing Hockey Club is no longer based at the Durrington High School artificial turf pitch (where it was from 2015-2018) and has relocated to Angmering School. However, the club still draws the majority of its members from Worthing and is keen to work with local schools in developing hockey through outreach work. As a result of the research undertaken for this Strategy, it is understood that Worthing Hockey Club are now running some outreach sessions at the Durrington High School pitch this season. There are currently two other hockey compliant artificial grass pitches in the area – at St Andrews CoE High School for Boys in Worthing and at Lancing College (Adur), which is a private school.
- 6.3. As Worthing Hockey Club is currently based outside Worthing and there is spare capacity at the Durrington High School pitch (plus two other sand based pitches with some degree of community use), it is likely that current artificial grass pitches within Worthing will be able to accommodate the predicted demand for hockey. Thus the need for additional artificial grass pitch provision for hockey in Adur and Worthing is not identified over the life of this Strategy.
- 6.4. However, this is dependent upon there being a secure community use agreement (with a minimum of 10 years' security) and adequate sinking funds in place at Durrington High School. It is also desirable to have such arrangements in place at Lancing College (which, it is understood, has offered use of its pitch to Worthing Hockey Club) and at St Andrews CoE High School.
- 6.5. One of the issues in using school pitches is that as these establishments grow or change, they may have increasing demands for pitch space and time which may restrict their ability to accommodate external hockey club use.

## H.2 Meeting current and future demand for pitch space for hockey

- 6.6. There is very little capacity for growth in hockey at the Angmering site and Worthing Hockey Club has found it difficult to find appropriate, good quality facilities. In the first instance, squad sizes for training can be increased to cater for more participants, but once two new teams form, a new match slot will need to be found, which on current scheduling will be very difficult. There is little spare capacity for hockey matchplay on Saturdays. There appears to be some availability on Sundays, although this does not align with the fixtures schedule.
- 6.7. It is important for club development that, wherever possible, club training and matchplay should be located at the same site for all teams and that there are adequate social facilities. Social facilities are an integral part of the hockey 'mix' providing relaxation and hospitality for visiting teams and much needed income to support outreach and coaching work. Moreover, England Hockey is keen to develop hub sites for large hockey clubs. Such a coherent model can ensure that the majority of senior and junior teams can be wholly based at one site, sharing dedicated clubhouse facilities and enabling close liaison over training and coaching.
- 6.8. As far as the aspirations of Worthing Hockey Club is concerned:
- The club wishes to grow its junior side and to run more junior teams and develop ladies and mixed hockey. It is focusing on a general expansion programme.
  - The club is keen to run outreach sessions with schools in Worthing which it is planning to develop out from the Durrington High School pitch
  - It wishes to develop a multi pitch/sport based around the hockey club. At present, the most appropriate location for this is at The Angmering School site
  - The clubhouse is an essential element for the club in generating income to allow it to expand its coaching and outreach programme.
- 6.9. The activity and growth at Worthing Hockey Club should be kept under review to see if additional access to facilities in Worthing is required.

## H.3 Ensuring sufficient funds and resources are available for ongoing high quality maintenance and improvements and sinking funds for replacement facilities when required

- 6.10. It is also vitally important that there is sufficient funding for ongoing maintenance and upgrades to artificial grass pitches, e.g. to maintain appropriate levels of floodlighting.

- 6.11. Adequate sinking funds should exist for replacement and upgrade of facilities when required, whatever the ownership and management arrangements.

## 7. SPORT SPECIFIC PRIORITIES: TENNIS AND BOWLS

- 7.1. Tennis and bowls lie outside Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy methodology and fall under the 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' guidance. Therefore, the main findings are presented here in a different format.

### TENNIS

- 7.2. In total, 81 tennis courts have been identified; 21 in Adur and 60 in Worthing. 33 courts in total are floodlit and there are a variety of owners and managing agents. The analysis finds that there are sufficient tennis courts in Adur and Worthing to meet predicted demand over the life of the strategy. However, the quality of some courts requires improvement and access to and management of courts requires further consideration to make them more accessible (ideally through an online booking system platform) and to generate revenue for their maintenance. The following key points have emerged.

#### *Enhancement of Courts*

- 7.3. The quality of public courts in Adur is good (apart from Buckingham Park) and there is spare capacity for those who may want to join a club at Sussex County LTA.
- 7.4. Consideration should be given to upgrading and floodlighting the four courts at Buckingham Park, with a focus on developing a coaching programme, pay and play facilities and an affordable season ticket system to encourage greater participation in recreational tennis. Models for these initiatives are currently in operation both at Field Place and at Homefield Park.
- 7.5. Some courts in Worthing require improvements to their quality. In particular, relaying of the park courts at Field Place is recommended, to sustain their use for coaching and sports development work. Improved floodlighting of the courts at Davison School may help to increase usage.
- 7.6. The LTA feels that Field Place would benefit from an improved customer journey to the courts including raising awareness of the pay and play facility and opportunities for off peak usage, particularly through better links with schools.
- 7.7. Floodlighting of courts should remain an aspiration so that tennis participation, coaching and competitions can take place all year round and the greatest return obtained from any new investments in new courts and/or enhancements to the playing surface.

#### *Meeting Future Demand*

- 7.8. The analysis suggests that there may be more people wanting to join tennis clubs in the area and that capacity, especially in Worthing, may be limited for club tennis. Whilst one option is to provide additional courts at West Worthing Tennis and

Squash Club, another option is to establish new clubs and there are existing venues where this could be achieved e.g. Church House Grounds, Homefield Park, Southwick Recreation Ground and Buckingham Park.

- 7.9. The real gains in terms of increased capacity and a growth in participation could come through association with education sites. With improvements to some school courts and efforts to enhance accessibility and ease of booking, and through linking into existing club and facility operator coaching schemes, a 'schools tennis network' could develop.
- 7.10. The wide network of tennis provision – with clubs, operators, the local authority and schools all involved – can be a constraint but it also provides great opportunities to reach out to all the different market segments - club members, casual park players and schoolchildren. A hierarchy/network of provision is envisaged whereby the strategic centres in Adur and Worthing respectively would be Buckingham Park (if the four courts are enhanced and floodlit) and Field Park (courts resurfaced). Coaching programmes at these sites could develop outwards to outreach activity at other nearby park courts, linking in also with local tennis clubs and at schools as appropriate.
- 7.11. Tennis should continue to be included and encouraged on multi sport facility sites – as a sport it is an essential and integral part of health and wellbeing initiatives. The main Playing Pitch Strategy document refers to the opportunities that there are to generally enhance playing field sites and provide potential revenue through the provision of additional facilities such as cafes, small shelters, access to toilets and seating. These facilities should be linked to the development/enhancement of courts and pavilions.
- 7.12. West Worthing Tennis & Squash Club in particular has highlighted issues around tennis for people with disabilities and has proposals for improving its clubhouse to accommodate these players.

### ***Consistent Data Gathering and Monitoring***

- 7.13. Improvement and consistency in gathering data on court usage across providers (Adur & Worthing Councils, South Downs Leisure, Impulse Leisure, the two clubs and the LTA) would greatly assist in understanding the demand for tennis in the area and enable monitoring and benchmarking on an ongoing basis. A uniform measure should be agreed.

## **BOWLS**

- 7.14. As set out in the Overview, in Adur, there are four bowling greens at three sites – two in Southwick Recreation Ground (Southwick BC and Southwick Park BC), a green in Buckingham Park (Shoreham-by-Sea BC) and a green at Lancing Manor (Lancing BC).



- 7.15. In Worthing, there are five sites with nine bowling greens. Beach House Park has four greens (used by Homefield Park and Worthing Bowling Clubs), Worthing Pavilion Bowling Club has two greens and there are single bowling greens at Marine Gardens (Marine Gardens BC), Church House Grounds (Tarring BC) and Field Place (Goring Manor BC) (which also has facilities for croquet).

### **Quality of Bowling Facilities**

- 7.16. All greens that were currently being used (13 in total) scored well on the Visual Quality Assessment. Adur & Worthing Councils are currently reviewing contractual arrangements with bowls clubs in view of an Autumn 2019 Ombudsman's report as this may influence the relationship between bowls clubs and the Council going forward.
- 7.17. Whilst the overall quality of pavilions was rated as adequate, most of the built facilities echo a bygone age when bowling greens were very important to the area's recreational profile. There are a number where general refurbishments are required.

### **Assessment of capacity and meeting future demand**

- 7.18. The aspirations from the clubs responding to the survey are mainly around increasing or at the least sustaining membership and for access to funding and assistance to enable them to keep maintaining and where possible improving their facilities to attract new members. There is a long term trend of decline in numbers across most clubs.
- 7.19. Membership numbers are available for seven clubs based at local authority bowling greens (figures are not available for Southwick and Southwick Park Bowling Clubs and the private club at Worthing Pavilions Bowling Club is excluded from the calculations). These show that membership currently varies between 23 and 86 members per club and the average number of members per club is 51. A reasonable capacity figure for an outdoor green would be 100-120 members per green (Worthing Pavilions Bowling Club has 200 members using two greens).
- 7.20. Taking a figure of 120 bowlers per green means that the 11 greens in local authority ownership could accommodate up to around 1320 bowlers. Although this falls short of predicted demand through Sport England modelling, not all the people wishing to play bowls join clubs (as is apparent from club membership at present) and many may play indoor or short mat bowls rather than joining outdoor bowling clubs.
- 7.21. There is a generally ageing population in Adur and Worthing and there will be additional bowlers generated through new housing and population growth. There is a well-established and – compared to many areas of the country according to the Sussex County Bowls Association - vibrant level of bowling activity in the area. Nevertheless, any people coming new to the sport of bowling will be able to be

accommodated in existing clubs on existing greens given the considerable spare capacity.

### ***Future sustainability of bowling clubs***

- 7.22. The health and wellbeing benefits of bowls are widely recognised. The value of the club is not solely as a sports club, but often as a venue to offer a welcoming, social environment to older people.
- 7.23. It is incumbent upon the bowling clubs to raise revenue through membership fees and other measures to support their activities and pay the green fees to the Council in return for maintenance of the greens. Each bowling green pavilion is owned by the resident club and this provides a potential asset for raising funds. Given the relatively low membership of several clubs, raising more revenue through increasing access to and use of their pavilions is important.
- 7.24. Provision for bowling needs to be considered as part of a wider perspective on the potential benefits and use of playing fields for and by all sectors of the community. Further consideration needs to be given to how the usage of the greens and ancillary facilities can be linked in and expanded through collaborations with other clubs/users operating on the same site. This might include merging of clubs (either with other bowling clubs or tennis clubs, for example), actively encouraging other uses of the pavilions at off-peak times (for example, other sports, play groups etc), and/or developing café and toilet facilities. There may also be scope for the greens – or certain rinks - to be used for other light, non intensive, uses such as ‘tai chi’.
- 7.25. The overriding objective of these measures is to encourage the development of facilities which will increase the usage (and hence revenue) of the bowling clubs and thus improve their viability and enable them to continue as active, sustainable clubs. However, given the declining membership of some bowling clubs, mergers between clubs may be desirable to sustain membership.

## 8. SPORT SPECIFIC PRIORITIES: PRIORITY PROJECTS

- 8.1. Through the process of this Strategy's preparation, a number of sites/projects have emerged as being of particular importance to meeting the needs identified both now and through to 2036. Sport England suggests that these should be included within a Playing Pitch Strategy as an initial focus for the Strategy Delivery Group (see Section 10). It does not mean that other projects will not be progressed; only that an initial focus will be on the following (in no particular order).
- 8.2. Please refer also to site reference numbers in Action Plans (separate document).

<b>A</b>	<b>Buckingham Park: development of multi pitch, multi sport community hub site (AW.04)</b>
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### *Summary of Issues*

- 8.3. Buckingham Park is a multi pitch sport site with facilities for football, rugby, cricket, tennis and bowls plus a children's play group and café and a MUGA/open access tennis court area. There are a number of issues with the facilities:
  - Poor quality changing facilities, identified by football and rugby clubs. Shoreham RFC has been negotiating with Adur & Worthing Council for many years over the redevelopment of its separate changing/clubhouse facilities, the quality of which are now impeding the club's development.
  - Rugby pitches are overplayed and greater capacity on the site is required
  - A new cricket wicket is being provided for next season; cricket facilities are also in need of refurbishment
  - There is potential for upgrade of tennis courts to develop coaching activity and recreational tennis
  - This is an important site for youth football in Adur and also hosts adult teams

### *Options/Action Points*

- 8.4. It is recommended that this site and its opportunities/potential be reviewed in its entirety. It is suggested that a forum is established with representatives from relevant stakeholders to create a development brief and a masterplan, subject to further consultation and feasibility appraisals. This brief might consider:
  - The benefits and viability of constructing a large, new building on site comprising café, clubhouse, social/ancillary, general bar/kitchen/meeting room facility, admin and changing facilities for all sports – football, rugby, tennis and cricket
  - Upgrade of cricket square (ongoing)

- Enhancements to rugby pitches –plus marking out of additional pitches
- Possible provision of small 3G training facilities for football
- Floodlighting and viewing stand

## **B Upgrade of Monks Recreation Ground, Lancing (AW.30)**

### **Summary of Issues**

- 8.5. This is the main public recreation ground within Lancing. The issues are:
- This is a poor quality site with poor rated pitches, with dangerously pitted goalmouths. Lancing FC Youth & Lancing Utd Sunday FCs play here. It is widely acknowledged that the site requires enhancement.
  - Changing is not fit for purpose and has been condemned; it is due for demolition

### **Options/Action Points**

- 8.6. Following local consultation in 2017/18, plans for the Monks Recreation Ground Improvement Project, led by Lancing Parish Council, are now well advanced, with new trees planted in summer 2019. More detailed plans are being finalised, to help with grant funding applications and facilities are expected to include: Small sided informal MUGA, café, changing facilities, playpark, adult football pitch and 1-2 mini pitches.
- 8.7. Subject to funding, the project is aimed for completion by 2022.

## **C Maintaining a hockey presence and facilities for hockey in Adur and Worthing**

### **Summary of Issues**

- 8.8. As set out in Section 6; H.1. There is no hockey club permanently located in Adur and Worthing. Worthing Hockey Club is based at The Angmering School which lies outside Worthing Borough; it is developing outreach sessions at the sand based AGP at Durrington High School. There are additional sand based AGPs at Lancing College and St Andrew's High School for Boys

### **Option/Action Points**

- 8.9. Because of the current level of provision and amount of activity (and currently spare capacity), Current artificial grass pitches within Worthing are likely to be able to accommodate the predicted demand for hockey because the main club is located outside the borough and there is spare capacity on pitches within Worthing. However, this is dependent upon there being a secure community use agreement (with a minimum of 10 years' security) and adequate sinking funds in place regarding the artificial grass pitch at Durrington High School (AW.11). It is

also desirable to have such arrangements in place at Lancing College and at St Andrews CoE High School.

**D Resolving issues around access to and the provision of 3G Football Turf Pitches, particularly on education sites.**

**Summary of Issues**

- 8.10. The Strategy identifies the need for additional 3G FTP provision to meet both training and matchplay needs. Over the life of the Strategy, additional pitch provision equivalent to 1.5 floodlit full size 3G FTPs is required in Adur and to 2.5 floodlit full size 3G FTPs in Worthing.
- 8.11. However, in Adur particularly, more football pitches are required to meet the need for both matchplay and training by adult and youth teams. At present, there is very limited community use of the 3G FTP at the Sir Robert Woodard Academy and spare capacity for matchplay at the Shoreham Academy 3G FTP.
- 8.12. In Worthing, there are a number of ongoing issues which need to be taken into account when considering possible partners/sites for provision, as follows:
- Worthing College's men's and women's football teams play at the highest level of the Association of Colleges and currently play and train their teams at Sussex FA 3G FTP in Lancing. They would like a facility nearer home.
  - An alternative pitch site is actively being sought for Worthing Utd FC (which may be grass or 3G FTP)
  - There are secondary schools in Worthing which are keen to develop 3G FTP facilities (e.g. Chatsmore Catholic High School)
  - Worthing Leisure Centre redevelopment may offer opportunities

**Option/Action Points**

*Adur*

- 8.13. Current proposals for a 7v7 floodlit 3G in Southwick Recreation Ground will go towards addressing the shortfall in Adur.
- 8.14. Priority should be given to securing greater community use of 3G FTPs on education sites for training and matchplay (at Shoreham Academy and the Sir Robert Woodard Academy). In particular, if greater usage of the latter for matchplay cannot be secured, additional new provision will be required in Adur.

*Worthing*

- 8.15. The proposal for a facility at Palatine Park will assist in meeting the shortfall in Worthing.

- 8.16. The action points are to ensure that all possible partnerships/sites are explored for the provision of a 3G FTP in Worthing, to be located on an accessible, appropriate site with management structure in place to deliver the fullest possible use (daytime, evening and weekends)
- 8.17. There are other schools in the area either with existing, or proposed, artificial grass pitch provision. Going forward, for all provision on school sites, the following is required (see G below also):
  - Ensure secure community use agreement in place
  - Monitor charges for community use

**E Introduction of new management and operational procedures by Adur & Worthing Councils**

**Summary of Issues**

- 8.18. Adur & Worthing Councils are keen to address the fact that the current procedure for booking pitches is not as efficient or effective as it could be either in managing the playing pitch resource in Adur and Worthing and/or creating good communication with service users. At present allocation of pitches is carried out by the main leagues.
- 8.19. It is also important to consider how to increase the flexibility of booking procedures and formats to encourage more informal, casual use of pitch facilities for new formats, such as 'walking football'.
- 8.20. Ancillary facilities – changing facilities and clubhouses – at public grounds can potentially serve a variety of uses, in addition to a club based there wither during the winter or summer season. There needs to be greater flexibility in leasing arrangements so that optimum use of the facilities can be made throughout the year.
- 8.21. Adur & Worthing Councils are also currently reviewing their contractual arrangements following the recent Ombudsman's Report on Bowling Clubs and this may influence the relationship between the clubs and the Council going forward.

**Options/Action Points**

- 8.22. The Council are keen to improve the interface between their service and the users and to enable better dialogue on and resolution of issues faced by the users and to introduce an online booking platform.
- 8.23. Leasing arrangements for the facilities should be flexible, enabling maximum use throughout the year by a range of clubs, groups and societies to opportunities for generating revenue are maximised.

- 8.24. It may be increasingly incumbent upon clubs and groups which own their own ancillary facilities to consider additional ways of generating income to bridge the financial gap between their own expenditure and revenue.

**F Upgrading and enhancement of pavilion and changing facilities at local authority sites**

**Summary of Issues**

- 8.25. Many of the football, cricket and rugby pavilions in Adur and Worthing are of a similar era and are now no longer fit for today's games. Whilst appearing adequate from an external visual inspection, the interiors are in need of repair and do not meet current standards in respect of health and hygiene. Some clubs commented that the standard of facilities was deterring the attraction of new members.

**Options/Action Points**

- 8.26. Consideration to be given to establishing a priority list for renovation of local authority pavilions and changing facilities on a phased basis. To include:
- Buckingham Park (football, cricket and rugby)
  - Broadwater Green (cricket)
  - Fernhurst Recreation Ground (football and cricket)
  - Goring Recreation Ground (football and cricket)
  - Highdown Field (football)
  - Hillbarn Recreation Ground (football and cricket)
  - Manor Sports ground (cricket)
  - Rotary Park Recreation Ground (cricket and football)

**G Encouraging greater use and securing community use of facilities on education sites**

**Summary of issues**

- 8.27. Schools' engagement with the Strategy consultation process has been variable, and yet their future buy-in will be of great importance. Several educational establishments have aspirations for (access to) new facilities, notably:
- St Andrews CoE High School – existing artificial grass pitch requires upgrading;
  - Chatsmore Catholic High School – aspirations for 3G FTP provision
  - Worthing College – desire for access to 3G FTP provision

- Durrington High School – desire to increase use for hockey and currently upgrading and floodlighting 5 tennis courts
- Several schools wish to improve provision for tennis

8.28. The Strategy has already referred to the importance of sports facilities on education sites in meeting demand for sport in the area (Objective 5). There are other establishments where access to the facilities would help to reduce shortfalls in provision. At present, community access varies greatly and there is considerable scope to secure greater community use of a number of facilities. Options/Action Points

**Options/Action Points**

8.29. All schools listed in the Action Plans have been denoted with the letter ‘G’ as a Priority Project. It would be beneficial for further engagement to be carried out with these schools to establish potential or actual community use, current access to toilet facilities and whether the school has a secure community use agreement. If not, such provision and access arrangements to be prioritised on a phased basis, particularly the completion of community use agreements.

8.30. As referred to elsewhere in the Strategy, it would be of benefit to establish an Adur and Worthing Playing Fields Group - with representatives from Adur & Worthing Councils, other managing and operating agencies, local schools and Worthing College, major clubs and local leagues - which would link in to the Strategy Delivery Group.



## 9. DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

### DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

- 9.1. Once the Strategy has been agreed by the Steering Group it will be adopted by Adur and Worthing Councils and will form part of their evidence base for their Local Plans (2016-36).

#### *Worthing*

- 9.2. Worthing Borough Council's Draft Local Plan 2016 – 2033 was published for consultation (Regulation 18) between October and December 2018. Following public consultation, the Pre-Submission Plan is now being prepared.
- 9.3. There are two sites within this local plan which are relevant to this PPS.
  - The first is an Area of Change (AOC4) at Worthing Leisure Centre (where proposals for redevelopment of buildings and outdoor facilities/pitches are being considered). (An Area of Change i.e. sites where change is expected and encouraged over the Plan period. However, there is currently insufficient delivery certainty for these sites that would justify a specific allocation.
  - The second is an Omission site (OS3) which is currently the home of Worthing Utd Football Club; the site has been promoted by the landowner for residential development through the Council's SHLAA, but redevelopment is dependent on the relocation of the Football Club. One of the objectives of the PPS is to appraise whether the site can be suitably located, to allow the current site to be available for development for housing
- 9.4. In addition, a new pitch is due to be provided through a S106 agreement in connection with the West Durrington urban extension for 700 new dwellings. The agreement requires a new grass pitch, changing rooms and a youth centre.

#### *Adur*

- 9.5. The Adur Local Plan was adopted in 2017 and covers the period until 2032. Planning proposals of note are:
  - Policy 5: New Monks Farm, Lancing: potentially to accommodate a minimum of 600 dwellings. Section 106 agreement still being negotiated (for play provision). No provision for contributions for formal sports pitches.
  - Policy 6: Land South of West Street and West of Loose Lane Sompting - allocation in the Adur Local Plan. The policy requires the provision of playing pitches to help meet Adur's specific playing pitch needs. The 2015 Playing Pitch Strategy identified the need for 4 additional youth pitches in Adur up to 2031. Since this study 3G football turf

pitches have been provided at AEEPC (the American Express Elite Performance Centre) and the Sir Robert Woodard Academy. This leaves a residual requirement for two youth pitches.

- 9.6. The Strategy Steering Group should provide the basis for membership of an Adur and Worthing PPS Delivery Group, which should be formed to oversee the implementation of the strategy and to monitor progress towards the identified Action Points. Other organisations and individuals may be invited on to the Delivery Group as needed to oversee certain projects. It is recommended that membership should include Active Sussex (County Sports Partnership).
- 9.7. If there are other such Delivery Groups already operating to deliver other PPSs in the south of England, possibilities for merging or co-running these groups should be investigated, to make the process more efficient and save officer and stakeholder time. Delivery Group meetings could also be arranged to coincide with NGB meetings or Sport England led seminars.
- 9.8. The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust. There are considerable time and cost implications of monitoring and progressing the Strategy and a way needs to be found to make it efficient and effective.
- 9.9. Initial features of the group's terms of reference may include:
  - The Delivery Group to meet initially (within three months of adoption) to agree which of the actions should be taken forward in the short term (1-2 years); medium term (3-5 years) and longer term (5-10 years), and also agree who the main partners should be in taking the relevant actions forward. The grid set out below (Figure 1) can be used to assess priorities from within the many projects proposed. Following this to meet at agreed intervals.
  - The Delivery Group should meet periodically to inform and discuss the annual progress summary and agree next steps, and ideally provide a conduit to improve coordination with work on the agreed actions.
  - The Council should maintain the PPS database underpinning the Strategy (Stage B database) and ensure data is kept up to date and communicated through the steering group to relevant bodies.
- 9.10. The Delivery Group will be committed to advancing the strategy and keeping it up to date through:
  - Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action.
  - Recording changes to the pitch stock in the area and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information.

- Assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- Assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / projected planned housing numbers.
- Analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities.
- Reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development.

9.11. When undertaking sports-related site development or enhancement, the following issues should also be considered

- Financial viability including delivery and ongoing maintenance costs
- Security of tenure.
- Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- A 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 strategic sites.
- Impact on all sports that use a site regardless of the sport that is the subject of enhancements.

9.12. A key factor is the deliverability of the scheme – whether funding has been allocated and whether the structure is already in place to deliver it. Schemes need to be fluid and flexible and able to adapt quickly to change. There will be some elements of schemes that have quick, easy ‘wins’ – enhancements for example.

9.13. Any Football Foundation investment will be targeted towards projects identified in the Local Football Facilities Plan and will concentrate on 3+ adult pitch or equivalent sites. (LFFP identified projects are identified in the Action Plan).

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

9.14. Funding of sport and recreation facilities is often difficult and the many demands on development obligations result in complex viability negotiations with the needs

- of e.g., affordable housing, balanced against the needs of social and community infrastructure.
- 9.15. The CIL charge was implemented in Worthing on 1st October 2015 and CIL is now the dominant means for securing financial contributions from development. Planning Obligations (section 106 agreements) are being scaled back, although they continue to play a key role in relation to affordable housing and certain site specific requirements. CIL Regulations were updated on the 1st September 2019 and Worthing Borough Council is currently in the process of reviewing its CIL Charging Schedule. The Playing Pitch Strategy can be referenced in the Infrastructure Development Plan to outline projects and a programme of delivery. Adur District Council is not currently progressing to CIL and is maintaining the S106 regime.
- 9.16. Plymouth City Council's 'City Change Fund' project - which uses the Crowdfunder UK website to distribute the 'neighbourhood portion' of CIL towards local projects that are led and supported by local citizens of Plymouth – could be a useful model in this respect.
- 9.17. Maintenance payments through developer contributions are unlikely to cover full costs for maintenance and operational funds have to come from other budgets. Further work needs to be done about best practice elsewhere. Projects involving education sites might also be funded through separate national capital funds. Other potential funding sources may include those listed below.
- 9.18. Sport England and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) have capital funds. These can make a major contribution to key local capital projects and the identification of projects through the playing pitch strategy process should help increase prospects for the funding of some key projects. Priorities are set out within their facilities plans as follows:
- The FA National Game Strategy for Participation and Development 2018 – 2021 (2018)
    - England and Wales Cricket Board: Inspiring Generations – Our 2020-2024 Strategy for Cricket (2019)
    - The Rugby Football Union: Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021: Game of Our Lives (2017)
    - England Hockey: A Nation where Hockey Matters – Business Strategy 2017-2027 (2017)
- 9.19. Active Sussex, Sport England and various NGB county and regional offices can advise on specific funding opportunities available specifically for pitch sports locally. The National Lottery has a website allowing potential applicants to search for sources of external funding based on the nature of the project. <http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding-finder> .
- 9.20. Other than the recommendations in the Action Plans, it will be very important for the Councils to provide complementary guidance through their planning policies, and these should cover the following:

- Include policies and proposals in the Development Plan which are consistent with National Planning Policy Framework guidance and, in particular, include reference to the recommendations contained in this Section. Strategic policies included in the District Plan should set out expected requirements and formulae for the provision of facilities and open space and specify that sums for offsite delivery may be required.
- Where strategic development sites or new communities are being considered there should be early identification of suitably sized level areas which can be safeguarded for provision of playing pitches.
- Include proposals that cover the relevant recommendations contained in the Action Plans where the location and/or site of new or improved provision is determined.

9.21. In assessing all options, the potential for developing/improving bone fide community facilities on existing and new school sites should be considered.

9.22. Finally, it will be helpful to enshrine the preservation of recreation land in the Local Development Plan to ensure proposals to develop and use facilities contrary to the recommendations of this assessment and any subsequent strategy and action plan, they should only be approved where:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the facilities 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 needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.'

## APPENDIX 1 NOTE ON ACTION PLANS (SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT)

- 1 The Action Plan document sets out as follows:
  - A Action Plan by Strategic Objectives
  - B Adur: Action Plans for each site
  - C Worthing: Action Plans for each site
- 2 Progress against the action plan and the potential for additional actions will be considered at meetings of the Playing Pitch Strategy Delivery Group as detailed in Section 4.
- 3 Indicative time frames and/or priorities are given as follows (although it is recognised that many actions will run concurrently and/or take advantage of opportunities arising):
  - 1 Short term (1-3 years): Ongoing and very important; to be addressed now
  - 2 Medium term (4-8 years): Important: to be addressed and planned for in council decision making and policy
  - 3 Longer term (Over 8 years): Addressed during the remainder of the life of the Strategy
- 4 Priority Projects are denoted by A-J as set out in Section 4 above
- 5 In the Action Plans, cost estimates used in the cost bandings are taken from the latest version (2nd quarter 2019) of the Facilities Costs Datasheet provided by Sport England: L – Low (<£50k); M – Medium (£50k-250k) and H - High (£250k+).
- 6 Acronyms used in the Strategy and Action Plan are as follows:

AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AS	Active Sussex
AWC	Adur & Worthing Councils
Comm. Org.	Community Organisation
CUA	Community Use Agreement
ECB	England Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association/Sussex FA
FF	Football Foundation
FTP	Football Turf Pitch
IL	Impulse Leisure
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NGBs	National Governing Bodies
NTW	Non Turf Wicket
PC	Parish Council
RFU	Rugby Football Union

SCB	Sussex Cricket Board
SDL	South Downs Leisure
SE	Sport England
TBA	To be added
VQA	Visual Quality Assessment

## APPENDIX 2 FURTHER DETAIL ON PITCH REQUIREMENTS

### A Predicted Future Teams in Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey

- 1 In order to estimate future numbers of teams, the estimated population increase has been calculated based on:
  - Projected number of dwellings in Adur to 2028 = 2701, giving an estimated derived population in Adur of 6131
  - Projected number of dwellings in Worthing to 2028 = 3180, giving an estimated derived population in Worthing of 6898
- 2 To this, other factors are taken into account which will impact on the numbers of teams, namely latent and deferred demand and aspirational demand and participation trends. The Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Calculator calculates the number of pitches required arising from the teams generated (based on meeting peak time demand). The number of pitches required to accommodate these teams is set out in Section 3 of the above Report.
- 3 The tables below present predicted growth in the numbers of teams to 2028 based on current peak time play. Numbers of teams are rounded to the nearest whole number

*Table Appendix 2-1 Growth in Football Teams in Adur*

Source of additional teams	Men's teams	Women's teams	Youth teams 11v11	Youth teams 9v9	Minis
Estimated population increase derived from new dwellings to 2028	2	1	4	3	5
Latent demand	1	1	0	0	0
Displaced demand			3		
Aspirations/unmet demand	2	2	1	2	2
<b>TOTAL (29)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

*Table Appendix 2-2 Growth in Football Teams in Worthing*

Source of additional teams	Men's teams	Women's teams	Youth teams 11v11	Youth teams 9v9	Minis
Estimated population increase derived from new dwellings to 2028	2	1	3	2	4
Latent demand	2	1			
Displaced demand			3		
Aspirations/unmet demand	2	2	1	2	3
<b>TOTAL (28)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>



Table Appendix 2-0 Growth in Cricket Teams in Adur and Worthing

Source of additional teams	Men's teams	Women's teams	Youth boys' teams	Youth girls' teams
Estimated population increase derived from new dwellings to 2028	3	1	2	1
Latent/displaced demand				
Participation trends	2	1	2	1
Aspirations/unmet demand	1	1	2	2
<b>TOTAL (18)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

Table Appendix 2-4 Growth in Rugby Teams (based on Shoreham & Worthing RFCs)

Source of additional teams	Men's teams	Women's teams	Youth Boys teams	Youth Girls teams	Mini/ Midi teams
Estimated population increase derived from new dwellings to 2028	2		3		2
Latent demand	No increase in the number of teams, but may result in larger squad sizes or existing players playing more often.				
Aspirations/Unmet demand	1		1		1
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>3</b>

Table Appendix 2-5 Growth in Hockey Teams (based on Worthing Hockey Club)

Source of additional teams	Men's teams	Ladies' teams	Junior Team
Likely Additional Teams	1	1	1

## B Existing 3G FTPs with Community Use

- Adur has the equivalent of three full size 3G FTPs with community use at present. Usage is summarised as follows:
  - Shoreham Academy: full size floodlit 3G FTP. This is well used for youth football training on weekday evenings and Saturday and Sunday mornings; it is not currently used for adult matchplay at the weekends (equivalent to 1 full size 3G FTP).
  - The AEEPC (American Express Elite Performance Centre): full size floodlit 3G FTP (plus other 3G FTPs for use by AEEPC only). Full programme of use centering around Albion in the Community and B&HA own teams; some availability to local community teams (equivalent to 0.25 pitch)

- Sir Robert Woodard Academy (SRWA): full size floodlit 3G FTP. Limited community use; considerable spare capacity for both training and matchplay (equivalent to 0.5 pitch)
  - The Sussex County FA: full size floodlit 3G FTP. Pitch is virtually at capacity with community teams for matchplay and training (equivalent to 1 pitch)
  - Lancing Manor Leisure Centre: 2 x small size floodlit FTPs. Both pitches are heavily booked in evenings; some spare capacity at weekends. (equivalent to 0.25 pitch)
- 2 Worthing currently has the equivalent of 2.25 full size 3G FTPs with community use, as follows:
- Worthing FC's pitch at Woodside Road: fully used by Worthing FC and other community teams, no spare capacity (equivalent to 1 full size 3G FTP)
  - Worthing Leisure Centre – 5 small 3G pitches: heavily used for five a side etc equivalent of half (equivalent to 0.5 pitch)
  - Worthing High School: minimum sized adult pitch, well used for informal and training, poor floodlighting (equivalent to 0.75 pitch)