

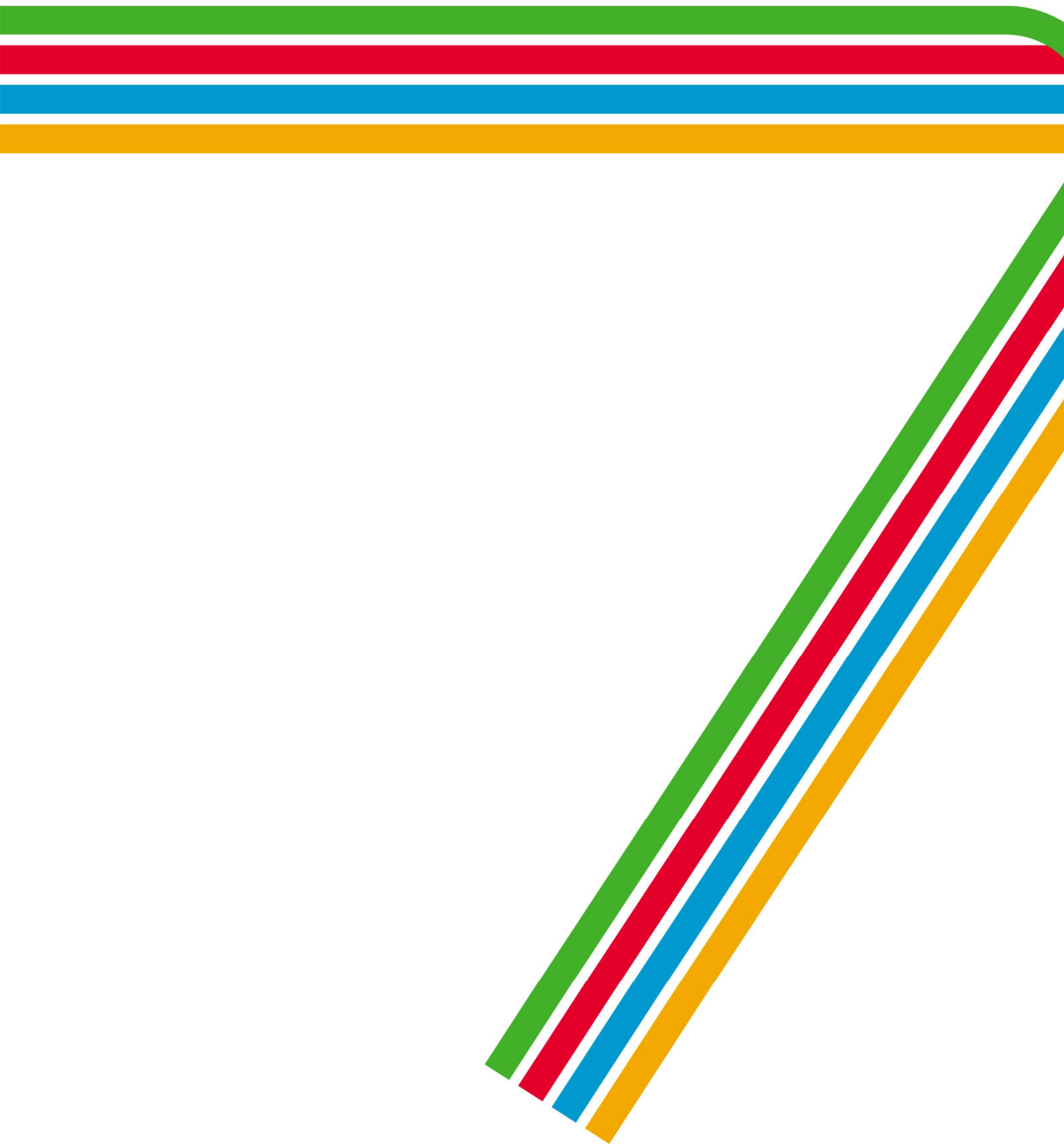


**Milton Keynes Council**

**Playing Pitch Strategy: Strategy and Action Plan**

Date: August 2020

Version: FINAL



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SPORT



#### ***4global Consulting Terms of Reference***

*Estimates and forecasts contained within this report are based on the data obtained at that time and the accuracy of resultant findings and recommendations is dependent on the quality of that data.*

*The author(s) will not be held liable for any data provided by third party organisations as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) delivery process. While the data and recommendations have been conscientiously reviewed through the PPS governance process followed throughout project delivery, it has not been possible for the author to independently review every element of data provided by third parties.*

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## Section 1: Introduction and scope



# 1 Introduction and scope

## 1.1 Project scope and objectives

- 1.1.1 Milton Keynes Council (MKC) has commissioned 4global Consulting to prepare a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), to provide the Council with a clear evidence base and set of recommendations for future outdoor sports facility development across the Local Authority Area.
- 1.1.2 A PPS is a strategic assessment that provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) and for sports played outdoors in the local authority. The strategy and the evidence base upon which it is based is delivered using national guidance and facility insight from specific Governing Bodies of Sport. The assessment will focus on facilities used by the following sports:
- Football
  - Cricket
  - Rugby Union
  - Rugby league
  - Hockey
  - Baseball and Softball
  - Lacrosse.
- 1.1.3 Within these sports, the strategy will seek as far as is practicable to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:
- Affiliated Club and league based (formal) play and training;
  - Recreational programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g. turn up and play 'products' such as Rush Hockey, FA Just Play, Last Man Stands Cricket, Cage Cricket and Touch Rugby)
  - Informal and un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students, school friends (out of school).
- 1.1.4 The PPS provides a holistic analysis of outdoor sports facilities across the study area, leading to a comprehensive set of recommendations for the future development of facilities, in line with the needs of local residents.
- 1.1.5 The consultant team has worked with the Council to provide a strategy that is fit-for-purpose and addresses the specific issues and risks for the area. It is key that this Playing Pitch Strategy reflects the local context and enables the Council to maximise the amount of high-quality sporting provision for its residents, while understanding the need to meet planning and housing requirements. The Strategy will therefore aim to deliver against the following drivers:
- Contribution to the Councils Local Plan through the provision of a clear action plan with owners and defined timescales for completion
  - Recognition of the importance of outdoor physical activity and sport and the clear demonstration of how these should be prioritised within any development or regeneration project
  - Provision of needs assessment document produced using an evidenced based

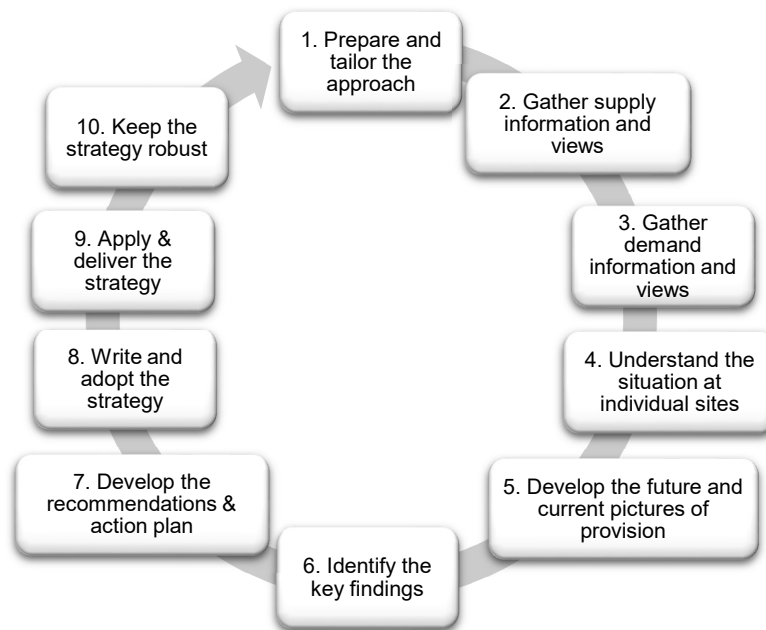
approach and the management of a clear sign-off and governance structure for key stakeholders

- Recommendations underpinned by clear evidence to support a wider review into sport and physical activity provision, including housing and population growth projected in neighbouring local authorities.

## 1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 The assessment methodology utilised for the PPS follows the published guidance from Sport England. The guidance used is the 2013 version, Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy<sup>1</sup>. Figure 1 summarises the approach proposed in this guidance and is broken down into 10 steps.

**Figure 1.1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach (Sport England, 2013)**



1.2.2 The findings in this report are based on data collected from several credible sources, including but not limited to;

- Local authority and public policy strategic documentation
- Sport England tools, including Active Places Power, the Active Lives Survey and the Sports Facility Calculator
- Stakeholder consultation, including Council Officers, Sport England, relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport, and local clubs
- Site visits, undertaken at all sites across the Study area.

1.2.3 To facilitate information gathering and help ensure PPS reports are based on a robust evidence base, 4global has developed an online data entry and assessment platform (see example below), which contains all site and club information. This will enable the Council to

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3522/pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf>

keep supply and demand information and the strategy up to date through to the end of the strategy and beyond.

**Figure 1.2 - 4global's Online Playing Pitch Platform**

Name	Sport Name	No of Teams	Actions
Abbots Leigh CC	Cricket	3	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete
AFC Nailsea	Football	1	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete
Ashton & Backwell United	Football	4	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete
Ashton Boys (MINI)	Football	3	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete
Ashton Girls Youth	Football	1	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete
Ashton Youth	Football	5	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete
Backwell Athletic Junior (Mini)	Football	0	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete
Backwell Athletic Junior Youth	Football	24	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete
Backwell Flax Bourton CC	Cricket	8	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete
Backwell Wanderers Junior (MINI)	Football	1	Copy Link Edit Manage Delete

1.2.4 A Project Steering Group comprising representation from the Council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) has guided the study from its commencement. At critical milestones, the Steering Group members have reviewed and verified the data and information collected to allow the work to proceed efficiently through each stage.

1.2.5 It should be noted however, that the availability of some steering group members has been affected by Covid-19 and has meant that certain stages of the PPS have not been reviewed and signed off by certain members. More detail can be found below in section 1.4.

### 1.3 The structure of the Strategy Document

1.3.1 The structure of the strategy document is as follows:

- Section 1 – Introduction and Scope
- Section 2 – Strategic context
- Section 3 – Scenario testing and options appraisal
- Section 4 – Recommendations and action plan
- Section 5 - Delivering the PPS

1.3.2 In addition to the Strategy, a detailed needs assessment has also been produced, which provides a full evidence base for the analysis and a clear methodology for the project. The needs assessment contains a detailed strategic review of relevant local, regional and national policy.

## 1.4 Statement on COVID-19

1.4.1 During the development of this document the UK Government implemented measures designed to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These measures resulted in a number of steering group partners being unavailable to provide final comments and sign-off of the PPS document.

1.4.2 All partners were engaged with the PPS process throughout the project up until the beginning of April 2020. As such, all PPS partners have had the opportunity to review and comment on all layers of analysis presented in this report and the accompanying appendices. All supply and demand data underpinning this report has been signed-off as accurate by the Milton Keynes PPS Steering Group.

1.4.3 The data utilised for the analysis in this PPS was gathered previous to the outbreak of COVID-19. This report's findings do not take into consideration its potential impact in the supply and demand for sport in the area. Sport England's PPS guidance contains provision for PPS documents to be reviewed and updated on an on-going basis, and due to the impact of COVID-19 being unknown with regards to current and future participation levels across all sports, it is recommended that the PPS steering group reconvenes at the earliest opportunity to agree any further updates to this document.

1.4.4 As of 25 August 2020, the following NGB's had not signed of the relevant chapters of this document:

- The Football Association
- The English Cricket Board (ECB)
- England Hockey
- The Rugby Football League
- The Rugby Union



## Section 2: Strategic Context



## 2 Strategic context

- 2.1.1 This section summarises the most important policies and context that impact upon the strategy and its interpretation. It also gives an overview of the demographics of the study area, which provides contextual background to sports participation and the need for provision now and in the future.
- 2.1.2 Sport specific strategies and policy documents published by NGBs are included within each sport's section to provide more relevant context to each sport.

### 2.2 Milton Keynes

- 2.2.1 Milton Keynes is a unitary authority area and Borough of the ceremonial county of Buckinghamshire. It is the northernmost district of the South East England Region. The Borough borders the non-metropolitan counties of Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. The principal settlement in the Borough is Milton Keynes itself, which accounts for about 29% of its area and 90% of its population.
- 2.2.2 Milton Keynes has a well-connected transportation network; with the M1 motorway, Luton Airport and numerous railway stations on the main line to London, the North and Scotland. Milton Keynes is also home to the East-West Rail progress growth corridor connecting the growth areas of Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge.
- 2.2.3 Due to its transportation and commercial links Milton Keynes has a thriving economy in terms of service areas as well as the knowledge base sectors. Major companies have warehouses located in the growth corridor due to the ease of access as well as being a popular commute hub into London and other surrounding areas. Milton Keynes is also well established in the knowledge sector economy with high tech companies being located within the Borough. As a result, according to data from the Office of National Statistics for 2015 and 2016, the Borough is the sixth highest performing NUTS3 region in the UK (and the highest outside inner London), on the basis of gross value added per head.

### 2.3 Planning Policy

- 2.3.1 There are a number of key national and local strategies and policies that inform and influence the development of this Playing Pitch Strategy. These policies inform the approach to current and future provision of sports facilities, linked to health improvement, increased participation, and the appropriate levels of provision of facilities to meet local needs.
- 2.3.2 From a planning perspective, the national agenda makes the link between national planning policy, a Local Plan and population growth at local level, and the need to plan for increased demands for infrastructure and provision, linked to Protect, Enhance and Provide (Sport England priorities); these are the key elements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This will be explained further in the following sections.
- 2.3.3 It should be noted that as Milton Keynes Council is a unitary authority, planning policy has been summarised both nationally and locally.

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.3.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the requirement of local authorities to establish and provide adequate and proper leisure facilities to meet local needs. Paragraphs 96 and 97 outline the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities:

PAR 96: “**Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.**”

PAR 97: “**Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:**

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

### Protection, Enhancement and Provision of facilities

2.3.5 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications that affect playing fields as set out in its 2018 playing fields policy, Sport England’s policy regarding playing fields is:

*“... to protect all parts of a playing field, not just those which happen, for the time being, to be laid out as pitches. This is because those other parts of a playing field are a resource which must be needed, now or in the future, and it is important that they be afforded the same.”*

2.3.6 As well as protecting sports facilities, it looks to improve the quality, access and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand.

2.3.7 The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as follows<sup>2</sup>:

- **Protect:** to provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support site allocations and development management policies which will protect sports facilities and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership
- **Enhance:** to ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained

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<sup>2</sup> Further information is provided via Sport England’s Planning Aims and Objectives guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/aims-and-objectives/>

and that best uses are made of existing resources; whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision, particularly in light of the pressure on local authority budgets

- **Provide:** to provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements through grant aid and also through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 agreements. Sport England and local authorities can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding facility developments in the area and to support or protect against loss in relation (refused planning application) to planning applications brought forward by developers

### A New Strategy for Sport – Department for Culture, Media and Sport

- 2.3.8 The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, following a consultation paper in 2015, launched the new strategy 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation' in 2016. The development of the new strategy reflects a need to re-invigorate the nation's appetite for participation in sport following what appears to be a significant reduction in participation (highest profile being swimming), following the upsurge after the 2012 London Olympics.
- 2.3.9 The sport strategy is targeting five outcomes which each sports organisation, public or private sector, will be measured against: Physical Wellbeing, Mental Wellbeing, Individual Development, Social and Community Development and Economic Development.
- 2.3.10 Government funding will go toward organisations which can best demonstrate that they will deliver some or all of the five outcomes.
- 2.3.11 The delivery of the outcomes will be through three broad outputs:
- More people from every background regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport and physical activity, volunteering and experiencing live sport
  - A more productive, sustainable and responsible sports sector
  - Maximising international and domestic sporting success and the impact of major sports events.

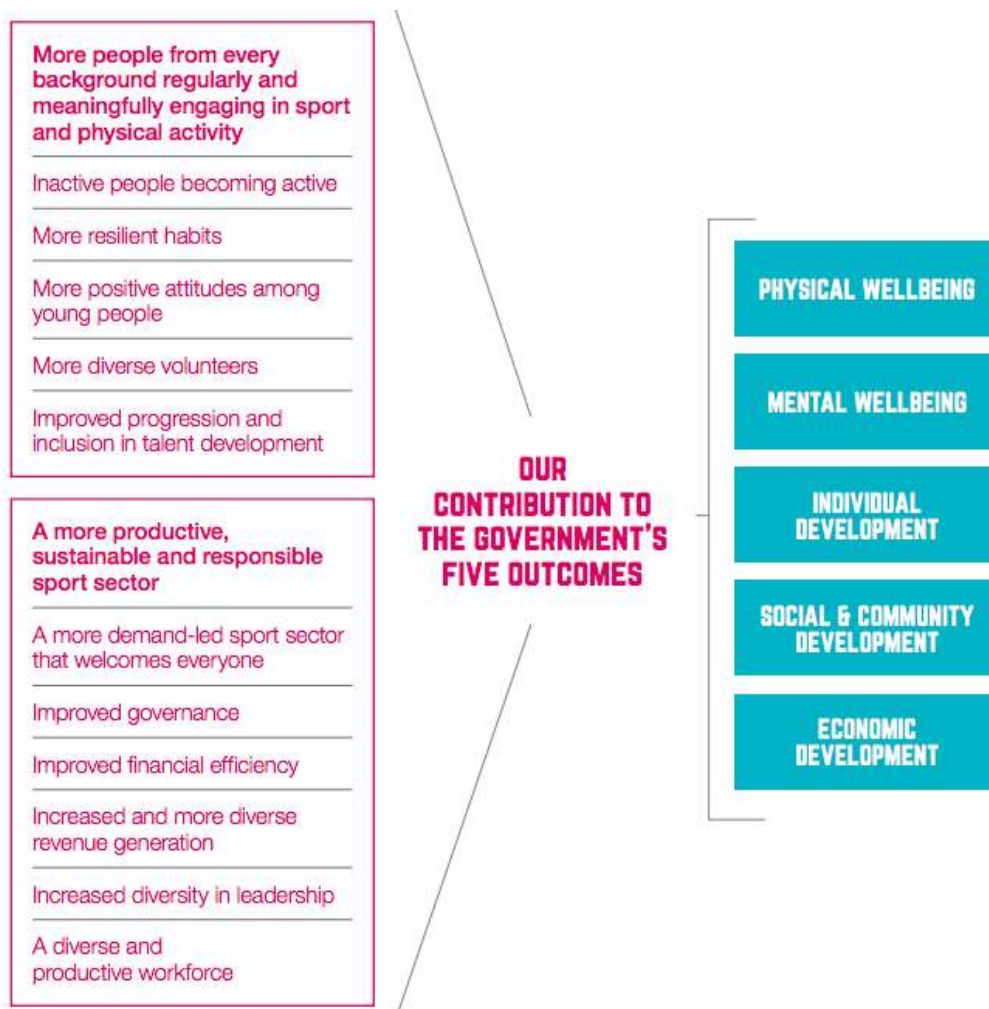
## Towards an Active Nation – Sport England Strategy 2016

2.3.12 The vision for the strategy is:

*“We want everyone in England regardless of age, background or level of ability to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. Some will be young, fit and talented but most will not. We need a sport sector that welcomes everyone – meets their needs, treats them as individuals and values them as customers.”*

2.3.13 The Sport England strategy ‘Towards An Active Nation’ puts the policies set out in ‘a New Strategy for an Active Nation’ into practice. This will mean significant change for Sport England and for their partners.

**Figure 2.1: The Sport England Strategy Contribution to Government Outcomes**



2.3.14 This strategy set out how Sport England will deliver this task. The key changes Sport England will make are:

- Focusing more money and resources on tackling inactivity, because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest.
- Investing more in children and young people from the age of five, to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life.
- Helping those who are active now to carry on, but at lower cost to the public purse over time. Sport England will work with those parts of the sector that serve the

core market to help them identify ways in which they can become more sustainable and self-sufficient.

- Putting customers at the heart of what we do, responding to how they organise their lives and helping the sector to be more welcoming and inclusive, especially of those groups currently under-represented in sport.
- Helping sport to keep pace with the digital expectations of customers.
- Working nationally where it makes sense to do so (for example on infrastructure and workforce) but encouraging stronger local collaboration to deliver a more joined-up experience of sport and activity for customers.
- Working with a wider range of partners, including the private sector, using our expertise as well as our investment to help others align their resources.
- Working with the sector to encourage innovation and share best practice particularly through applying the principles and practical learning of behaviour change.

### Local Planning Policy

2.3.15 At the time of writing Milton Keynes Council have adopted their new Local Plan, Plan: MK which has a lifespan between 2016 – 2031. Plan: MK sets out the Council's strategy for meeting the Borough's needs until 2031. It outlines:

- The Council's vision and objectives for the Borough's development over the Plan period;
- The scale and distribution of growth for homes, jobs, retail and leisure uses;
- Strategic policies to provide context for the more detailed Development Management policies, including infrastructure, place-making principles, climate change and green infrastructure;

2.3.16 The Local Plan sets out a vision and framework for development in the Local Authority Area for the next 15 years (until 2031). It addresses the needs and opportunities across a number of themes, including housing, the economy, infrastructure, transport and sustainability. The Local Plan has been through an ideas generation consultation and the public have been given the opportunity to give feedback on this stage.

### Milton Keynes Sport and Active Communities Strategy

2.3.17 The importance of sport and having active communities is set out in the Milton Keynes Sport and Active Communities Strategy (2014-2023). The strategy, which is delivered via a multi-agency approach, states that having sport and active communities provides a means to achieve wider social, health, economic and environmental outcomes for individual communities. The strategy aims to achieve this in Milton Keynes by:

- Developing sporting opportunities
- Maximising the use of facilities including community centres
- Preserving, enhancing and providing playing pitches.

2.3.18 The Sport and Active Communities Strategy not only covers the local approach to developing active communities. It also acknowledges the importance of having high quality

sports facilities at a local level and includes a full and robust set of recommendations for the delivery of indoor sports facilities across the Borough.

Although the Sport and Active Communities Strategy was produced over six years ago, and is now due to be refreshed, the fundamental principles of the strategy are still very relevant today. The work by multiple partners to deliver the strategy is evident in the local increases in physical activity and subsequent decreases in inactivity. There is also a strong and well established elite sporting community in the study area, and as a result of the local sports network the Borough has, during the life of the Sport and Active Communities Strategy, hosted several major sporting events, such as the 2015 Rugby World Cup, and international football matches at Stadium:MK. This combination of providing a local culture for sport was recently acknowledged when Milton Keynes was awarded the title of European City of Sport 2020.

### Current Participation Rates

2.3.19 The figures in Table 2.1 are taken from Sport England’s Active Lives Survey and provide a comparison for Milton Keynes to the wider region and national level. Active Lives defines physical activity in the following way: “Active” participants are defined as those completing at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week; ‘Fairly Active’ are those completing between 30-149 minutes per week, ‘Inactive’ participants have done less than 30 minutes of physical activity in the past week.

**Table 2.1: Comparison of Physically Active and Inactive Adults (Active Lives Survey 2017/18)**

Rate	Milton Keynes	South East	England
% Active	66.3 %	65.9%	62.3 %
% Inactive	21.0%	52.7%	56.6 %

2.3.20 The survey shows that Milton Keynes is highly comparable to the South East region and the national picture in levels of “Active” participation, and it has significantly lower levels “Inactive” participants.

2.3.21 These figures have stayed relatively stable with some fluctuations in levels of activity since the start of the survey. This can be seen in Table 2.2. An overall positive increase can be seen which is important to show the overall population becoming more active.

**Table 2.2: Levels of Active Participation in Milton Keynes (Active Lives Survey)**

Survey Period	Rate %
November 2015/ 2016	62.8%
May 2016/2017	60.8%
November 2017/ 2018	66.3%
May 2017/ 2018	68.2%

## 2.4 Population and Demographic Analysis

2.4.1 The current and future population profile within Milton Keynes and the locations of population growth are important to understand in planning for the future provision of sport and physical activity.

### Population Projections



2.4.2 Table 2.3 below provides a summary of the key population and demographic trends for Milton Keynes. It should be noted that this data is consistent with that used across the Sport and Leisure Built Facilities Strategy, as well as the wider strategic planning work currently being undertaken by the Council.

**Table 2.3: Population and demographics analysis for Milton Keynes**

Current and Future Population	Data
Current population (2018)	<b>268,607</b> (data provided by Milton Keynes Council and ONS)
Future population - (2031)	<b>299,404</b> (data provided by Milton Keynes Council and ONS)
Notes on population figures	The population growth figures predict a 11.4% increase over the lifetime of the Local Plan. This should have an impact on the level of demand Milton Keynes is facing.
Age profile	The number of residents across the majority of age brackets is projected to increase, most notably the number of people aged 60 and above.  Despite this, there are fluctuations in the 20-24 and 25-29 age brackets, with periods of population decreases in these age brackets throughout the lifetime of the strategy.

2.4.3 To provide greater insight into the current projected population trends across the Study Area, Figure 2.2, Figure 2.3 and Figure 2.4 overleaf show the overall 2018 population per Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) and the 2018 population density and the projected change in population to 2031.

2.4.1 For the purpose of this strategy, sub areas comprising of multiple wards have been created. The breakdown of the sub areas can be seen below:

**North**

- Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope
- Olney
- Newport Pagnell South
- Wolverton
- Stantonbury

**East**

- Danesborough and Walton
- Monkston
- Broughton

**South**

- Bletchley West
- Bletchley Park
- Bletchley East

**West**

- Tattenhoe
- Shenley Brook End
- Loughton and Shenley



- Stony Stratford

**Central**

- Bradwell
- Central Milton Keynes
- Campbell Park and Old Woughton
- Woughton and Fishermead

Figure 2.2: Usual Resident Population by LSOA in Milton Keynes (2019)

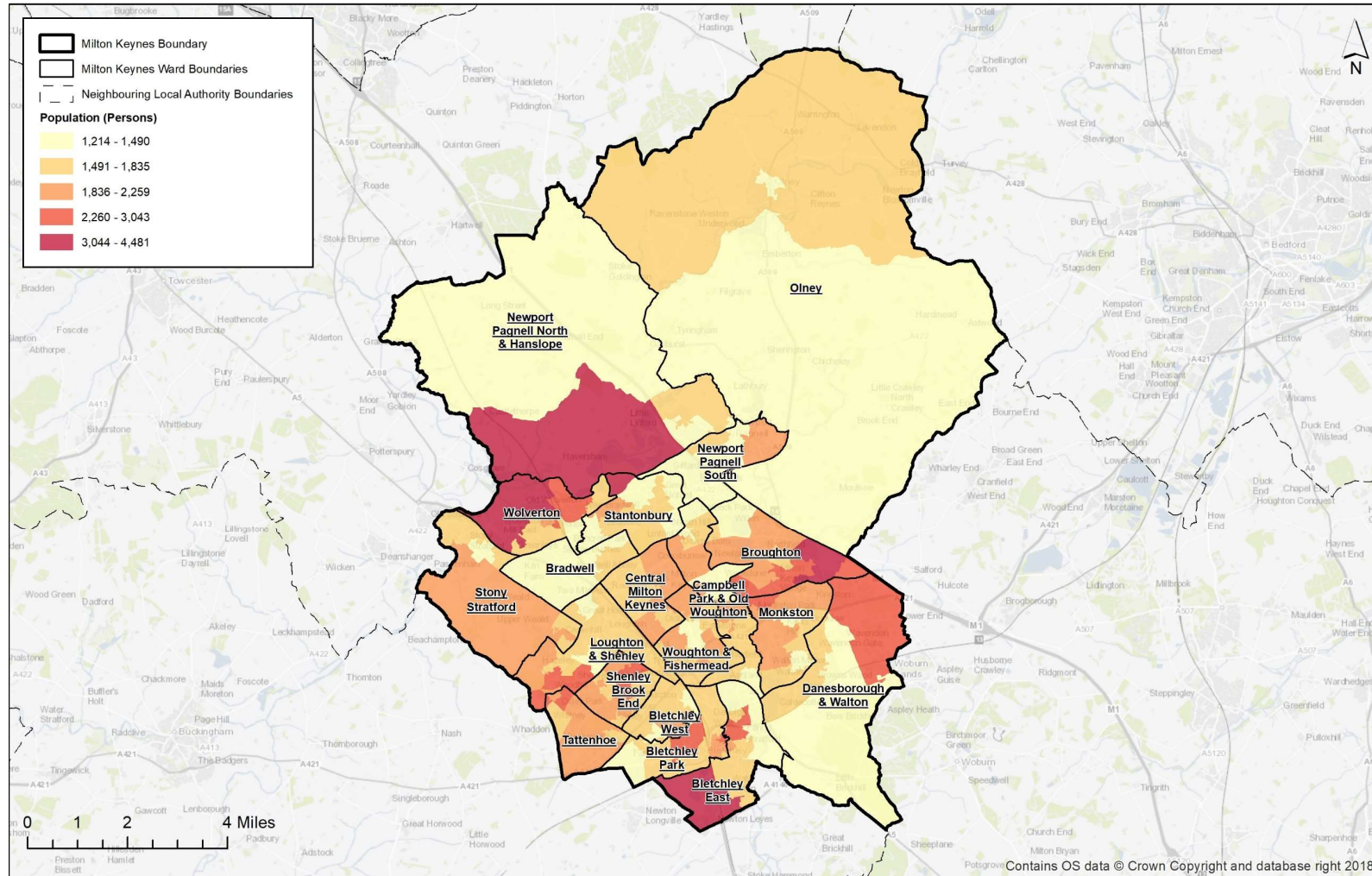


Figure 2.3: Usual Resident Population Density by LSOA in Milton Keynes (2019)

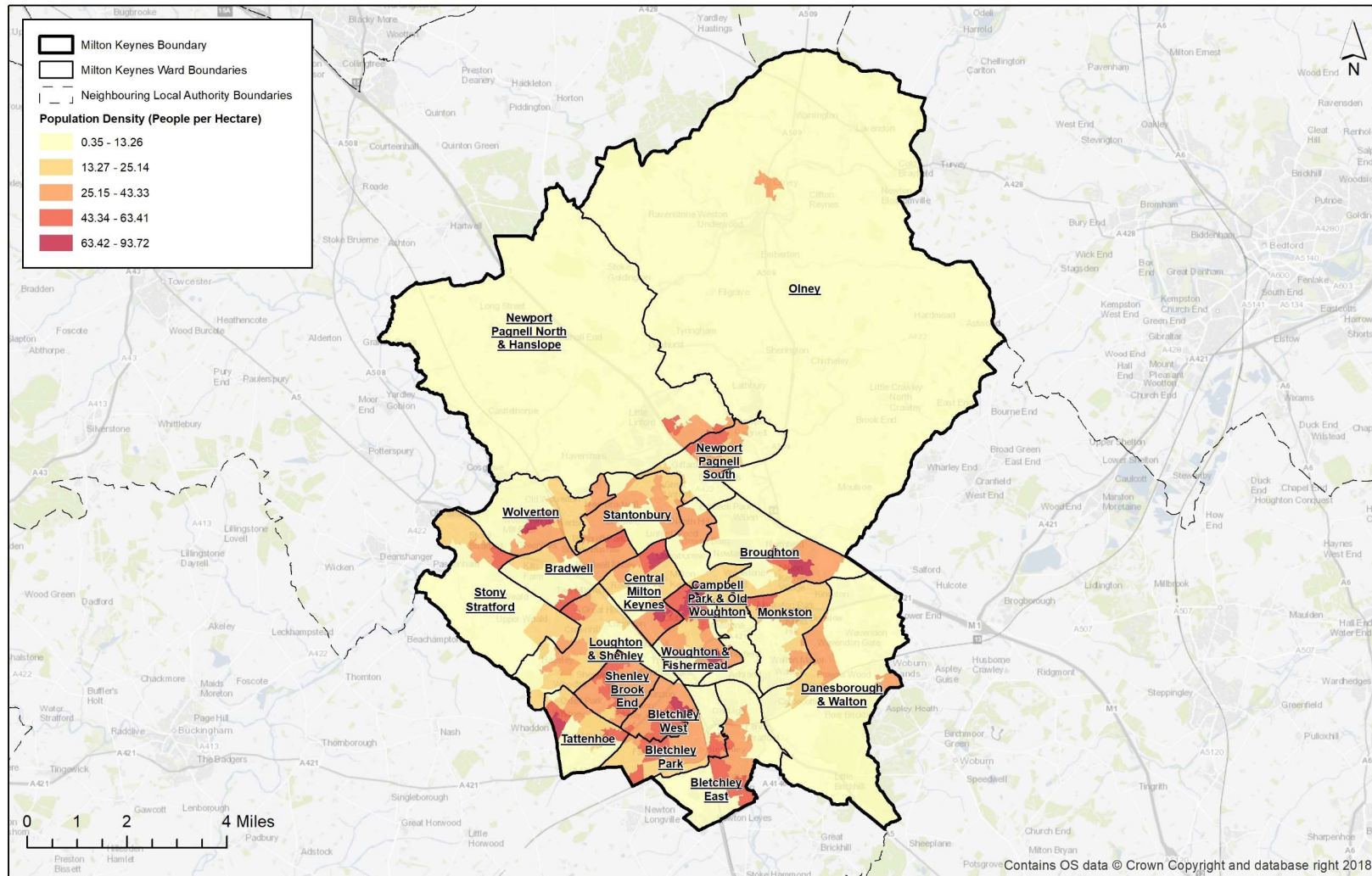
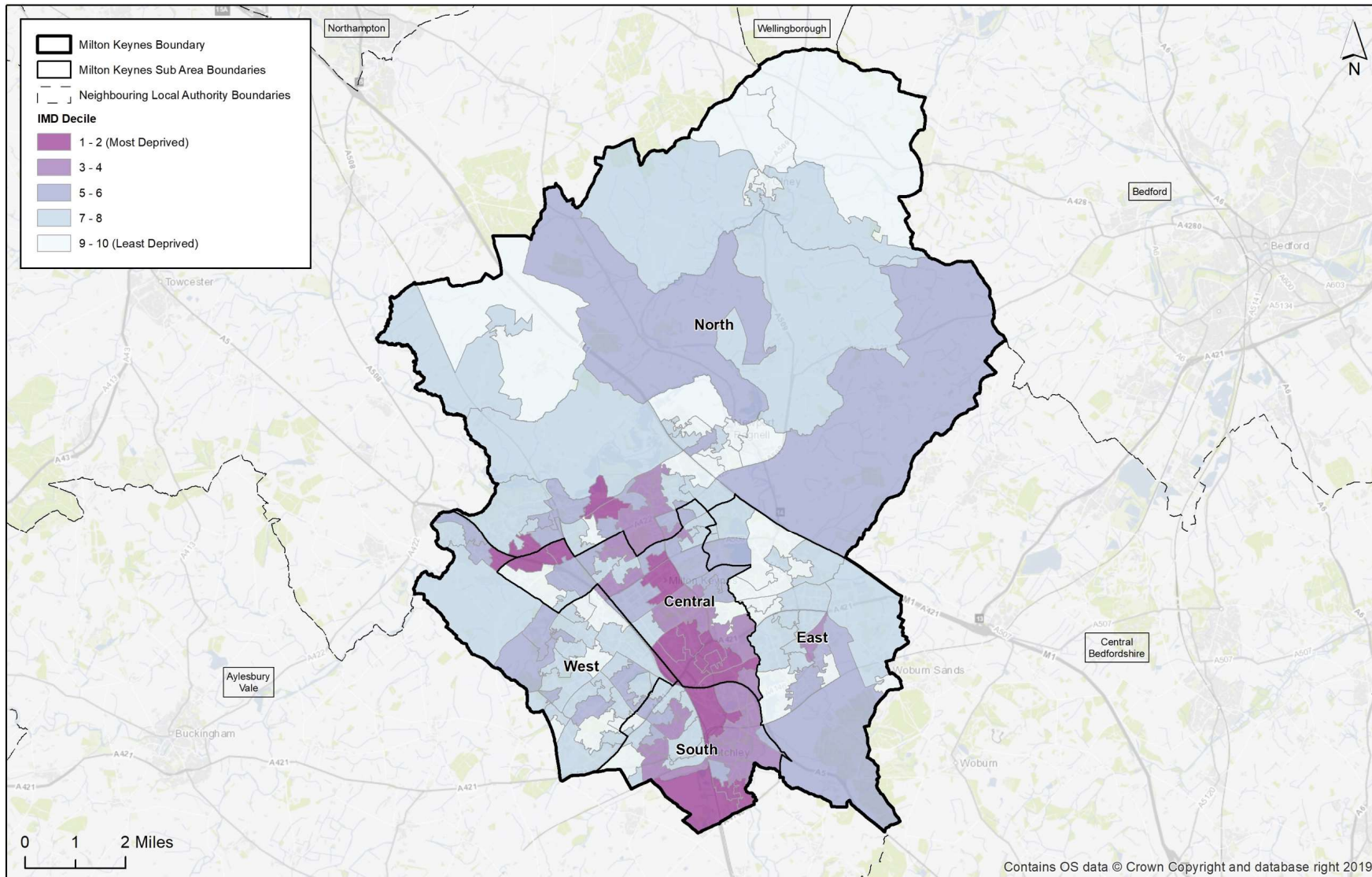




Figure 2.4: Index of Multiple Deprivation by LSOA in Milton Keynes (2019)



## Section 3: Key Supply and Demand Findings



### 3 Key supply and demand findings

- 3.1.1 This section summarises the key findings identified within the needs assessment, which should be used as the evidence base for this strategy. A comprehensive supply and demand analysis has been undertaken for all outdoor sports across the study area, with the project steering group engaged at all stages of the process.
- 3.1.2 The following section provides a summary of the key findings for each of the sports analysed within the main report. The format of these tables follows the five key questions that are asked as part of the PPS Guidance Document for Stages A – C of the process.

#### 3.2 Football key findings

**Table 3.1 – Key PPS findings for football in Milton Keynes**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>The quality of football grass pitch provision across the Study Area is 'standard' with 86% of the 225 grass pitches rated as 'standard'. This appears to have stayed at a consistent level over the past 3 years. 6% of the total grass football pitches were rated as 'good', whilst only 8% of pitches were rated as 'poor'. It should be noted that many of the pitches that are rated as standard are seen to be on the lower end of the scale.</p> <p>The level of demand has also stayed at a relatively consistent level, with major clubs continuing to grow, offset by the contraction of demand for smaller affiliated adult teams. The demand for football facilities is dominated by the West and East sub-areas, which are home to the majority of the large clubs, as well as a number of the strategic football sites.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>The current supply and demand analysis for pitch provision available to the community shows a significant level of spare capacity of 292 MES across the Study Area. This is broken down as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adult 11v11: +107 MES</li> <li>- Youth 11v11: 0 MES</li> <li>- Youth 9v9: +18 MES</li> <li>- Mini 7v7: +93 MES</li> <li>- Mini 5v5: +74 MES</li> </ul> <p>The current provision of grass pitches is able to accommodate the current level of demand for adult, youth and mini football in the study area. The only pitch typology that is not operating with a level of spare capacity is in youth 11v11 provision, and instead this pitch typology is operating at capacity in the current position. The reasoning behind this pitch typology being at capacity is due to the lack of pitches, combined with a high level of demand from these age groups. Much of this demand will in fact take place on adult 11v11 pitches. The adult 11v11 pitches can be re-configured to accommodate the higher level of youth demand; however, the current level of spare capacity of adult 11v11 pitches is able to offset a large proportion of youth demand.</p> <p>It should be noted that the analysis shown in this chapter focussed on the supply of all available sites; however, Milton Keynes has a large number of football pitches that are deemed to be unsecured for community use. This means that this supply could be removed at any point in the near future. The scenario section found in Stage D of this strategy takes the analysis further and looks at the situation in which all unsecured provision is removed from the supply.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>While several clubs have identified issues with drainage and maintenance, the overall quality of facilities and the robustness of maintenance regimes is standard. There are a small number of poor-quality sites, however these are typically local authority sites that are owned and maintained by the external contractors and have limited or no formal football demand. Football pitches in the Study Area were assessed, in line with Sport England PPS guidance (non-technical assessments). It shows that most pitches across the Study Area are rated as Standard quality (86%), with an evident lack of Good quality pitches (6%). There is a low level of Poor pitches (8%) within Milton Keynes.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for	<p>When considering the future position for all available grass pitch provision, there remains a large level of spare capacity for adult 11v11 provision (81.5 MES), as well as in the youth 9v9 provision (73.43 MES) and also the Mini 5v5 provision (58.7 MES). This shows that there is a level of supply which is able to accommodate future demand growth in the area for these pitch typologies. Despite this, when incorporating the future demand projections, there is expected to become a deficit in youth provision.</p>

Key Question	Analysis
provision?	<p>The largest amount of deficit present, when considering future supply and demand, is on the Youth 11v11 typology. When referencing this pitch type, there are deficits presents across all sub areas in Milton Keynes. There are deficits on a sub area level when considering Youth 9v9 (4 subareas) and Mini Soccer 7v7 (1 subarea).</p> <p>The following sites have been earmarked for development in the study area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fairfields Sports Ground - 1x full sized 3G AGP, 4x grass pitches and a new changing pavilion (August 2021).</li> <li>- Tattenhoe Park Community Hub - New changing rooms for the existing football pitches (March 2021).</li> <li>- Wavendon Pavilion and Playing Fields - 4x grass pitches and a new community pavilion with changing rooms (June 2022).</li> <li>- Whitehouse Sports Ground - 4x grass pitches and new changing rooms (2023/24).</li> </ul>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>Referencing the question above, it can therefore be proven that there is not enough community accessible sites to meet the future demand within Milton Keynes for youth 11v11 provision. All other pitch typologies are projected to have spare capacity by the end of the study period. This is primarily because there are not enough dedicated youth 11v11 pitches in the study area and so the recommendations at stage D will focus on the reconfiguration of other pitch provision to accommodate this youth demand.</p>

### 3.3 Cricket key findings

3.3.1 This section summarises the findings from the cricket analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendations and action plan section for Milton Keynes.

**Table 3.2 – Key PPS findings for cricket in Milton Keynes**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>Within Milton Keynes, there are 28 cricket pitches, 233 grass wickets and 17 non-turf pitches (NTPs) all across 26 separate sites. When taking the average quality rating of all cricket sites within Milton Keynes, the five components of outfield, NTP's, grass wickets, cricket nets and cricket pavilions were all considered either a good or standard condition. Despite this, there were a number of sites that exhibited areas of poor quality.</p> <p>The area of provision that is of the highest quality in Milton Keynes is the grass wicket supply, with a score of 83.05%. The area of provision with the lowest score is in non-turf practice, with a score of 70.83%.</p> <p>There are 27 clubs in Milton Keynes producing 96 teams (compiled of 66 men's teams, 1 ladies' team, 27 junior boys teams and 2 junior girls teams).</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>There is currently considered to be sufficient capacity to meet community demand. 6 of the sites used by the community are considered to be available on an unsecured basis. There is only one site within Milton Keynes that does not allow for community access, Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School, however it is assumed that this site does also meet educational demand.</p> <p>The supply and demand analysis in this chapter demonstrates that there is a current level of spare capacity of 408 MES when only factoring in the supply provided by grass wickets. This shows that there is enough grass wicket supply in the study area to accommodate demand. This level of spare capacity is increased further when factoring in the large level of artificial provision in the study area. It should be noted that the analysis shown in this chapter focused on the supply of all available sites; however, Milton Keynes has a number of cricket pitches that are deemed to be unsecured for community use. This means that this supply could be removed at any point in the near future. The scenario section found in Stage D of this strategy takes the analysis further and looks at the situation in which all unsecured provision is removed from the supply.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>Overall the condition and quality of facilities across Milton Keynes can be said to be adequate to meet the needs of the clubs. The highest quality provision in the Study Area was located at sites linked to private sports and social clubs, where maintenance and renovations are carried out in house.</p>

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>There is significant future demand projected for Milton Keynes with an additional 7 adult men's teams and a further 3 junior boys teams. A total of 101 matches are projected to be generated in Milton Keynes. This increase in demand from population growth, in addition to the latent demand identified, leads to a decrease in the level of spare capacity for grass wicket provision in the study area. Nevertheless, the future position still shows a healthy level of spare capacity for grass wicket provision of 245 MES. The sub area of West is projected to be the only sub area in deficit (70 MES), yet when factoring in the supply from NTP's, all sub areas in the study area show spare capacity.</p> <p>It should be noted that this model does not incorporate future demand created by ECB initiatives such as All Stars, which may produce substantial increases in demand in the future for both male and female cricket.</p> <p>In terms of future provision, the following site has been earmarked for development in Milton Keynes:</p> <p>- Whitehouse Sports Ground: new Cricket pitch and new changing pavilion (expected 2023/24)</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>In terms of carrying capacity, there is thought to be sufficient capacity across Milton Keynes to meet future demand, on both junior and senior provision.</p> <p>The future demand modelling is based on the PPC and latent/unmet demand. With this in mind it would be useful to model a scenario of increased projected demand to model the impact of ECB programmes such as All Stars cricket and Women's and girl's initiatives to stress-test the existing provision. This will help to indicate if there is sufficient provision to meet the level of demand the ECB aspires to produce in Milton Keynes.</p>

### 3.4 Rugby key findings

3.4.1 This section summarises the findings from the rugby analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendations and action plan section for Milton Keynes.

**Table 3.3 – Key PPS findings for rugby in Milton Keynes**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>Across all rugby provision in the study area, there are 10 sites in Milton Keynes comprising of 18 pitches including 14 senior pitches. 11 of these senior pitches accommodate community rugby union from 3 clubs across 5 sites. A large proportion (60%) of rugby sites are located at local authority sites. The community rugby clubs within the study area are considered to have a high security and control over their facilities.</p> <p>During consultations, the inadequacy of the ancillary provisions at many facilities was highlighted, as was the additional need for parking. There was also a need for additional floodlighting during the winter months to aid in training.</p> <p>There is 41.75 MES of senior floodlit capacity in the study area, 24 of which is provided by WR22 3G AGPs (57%).</p> <p>100% of rugby union capacity is located in three sub areas (North, West and South) and this accounts for the all three clubs within the study area.</p> <p>Demand is produced by 3 clubs, all of which are large clubs with more than 10 teams. Combined, these clubs produce over 44 match equivalent sessions per week.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>All sites currently being used by community clubs have some sort of secured tenure or are owned by organisations with a requirement to keep the playing fields open and available to the public for use (such as the local authority).</p> <p>The majority of match pitches are currently overused or at capacity within Milton Keynes with the 3 clubs being at capacity for peak day demand.</p> <p>Within the study area there is a currently a deficit in training demand across all sites when considering home club venues, due to a lack of floodlights on numerous pitches. There is one WR22 pitch located at Sports Central but this is only used by one club due to the cost.</p>



Key Question	Analysis
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	Many clubs reported ambitions to improve the pitch drainage quality across their pitches. This is likely to be achieved through increased maintenance as well as installing additional artificial drainage. Should this provision increase in maintenance regimes, it can be assumed that the carrying capacity of key sites within Milton Keynes will also increase.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	In terms of the future demand changes on the current supply, this change in demand can be seen to worsen deficit's present across the study area. Deficits also occur in the West and Central sub areas, where provision was suitable for the current level of demand. However, when considering Milton Keynes as a whole, there is a spare capacity of provision when considering formal pitch provision, however training provision in the future does produce a deficit.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	Referencing the question above, it can therefore be proven that the current level of accessible community sites are not suitable to deal with the future demand predicted within Milton Keynes, when referring to sub area analysis. When taking the data in its entirety, it can be shown that the level of supply for formal pitch demand is suitable, and slight deficits only occur on training provision.

### 3.5 Hockey key findings

3.5.1 This section summarises the findings from the hockey analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendations and action plan section for Milton Keynes.

**Table 3.4 – Key PPS findings for hockey in Milton Keynes**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	There is a total of 4 AGPs (at 3 sites) within Milton Keynes that are suitable for competitive hockey and 2 of these pitches are available for community use. The hockey sites are equally owned by educational establishments and the local authority. There are three hockey clubs currently utilising facilities in Milton Keynes, comprising of a total of 21 teams. The largest club in the area is Milton Keynes Hockey Club who have 18 teams, including both adults and juniors. Neither clubs have displaced demand outside of the Study Area.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	There are 2 AGPs that have secure tenure agreements and these pitches are located at Woughton on the Green Sports Ground. Given that there are currently 3 clubs in the Study Area this is sufficient to meet the current demand in terms of pure club numbers. The capacity analysis revealed that there is spare capacity at available sites when applying all formal hockey demand. This ignores demand from other sports which can impact on the ability of clubs to access the pitch. The analysis presented in this chapter focusses on all available sites within the study area.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	The overall quality of the provision in Milton Keynes is seen as standard with 3 of the 4 of pitches being scored of 'Standard' and the remaining pitch rated as 'poor'. The lowest scoring pitch is located at Lord Grey School. With regards to ancillary facilities, there were certainly areas of poor quality, most notably at the Woughton On the Green Sports Ground site.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for	Future demand for hockey in Milton Keynes is projected to slightly increase, through a combination of population growth and the conversion of latent demand, with 0.26 additional new teams identified as part of the analysis. There is also expected to be an increase in participation through informal Hockey. England Hockey are looking to promote Back to Hockey, Rush Hockey, Hockey Heroes

Key Question	Analysis
provision?	and Indoor Hockey, all of which are easily accessible programmes that are easy for those who are not experienced hockey players to play and enjoy. The supply of hockey provision in the area is unlikely to change, with no changes identified in consultations with clubs. This increase in demand is associated with population growth but does not take into account large housing developments in certain areas, if these were to occur it is to be expected for the growth rates of teams to increase. Through consultation with England hockey, it was emphasised that there is a constraint to growth of hockey due to a lack of multi-sport AGP facilities located within educational settings, which is impacting on the ability to provide a quality experience on the appropriate surface. This also limits the level of in-school and after school hockey offerings. England Hockey would therefore be keen to see more multi-sport surfaces to maximise the sporting opportunities for all within new education developments.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	The analysis shows that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate further growth in team numbers. However, this only accounts for demand from formal hockey on the pitches and no other sports. This mixed usage is addressed in more detail in the AGP Analysis chapter of this report.

### 3.6 Artificial Grass Pitches key findings

3.6.1 This section summarises the findings from the artificial grass pitch analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendations and action plan section for Milton Keynes.

**Table 3.5 – Key PPS findings for AGP’s in Milton Keynes**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	The quality of AGP provision across the Study Area is high, with 54% of facilities achieving a ‘good’ rating and 40% achieving ‘standard’. The use of AGPs for all sports has grown in recent years and continues to do so. One factor behind this growth is the growing level of demand for central venue football leagues, which bring clubs and teams from a wide geographical area to single venues to play and compete. When considering this demand alongside the requirement for consistently high sand-based facilities for hockey training and match play, the overall demand for artificial provision is high.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	The current supply and demand analysis for 3G AGP pitch provision, including both full size and small sided provision, shows an overall deficit between the number of teams and the number of AGPs. It should be noted that if only full-size provision is included within the supply and demand calculation, there is a deficit of 8 full sized 3G AGPs (as identified previously in this chapter). Given the amount of small sided provision across Milton Keynes, it is important that these facilities are factored into calculations and, therefore, there is seen to be an overall current deficit of 7 full sized 3G AGP’s. With regards to the current hockey provision in the study area, the capacity analysis revealed that there is spare capacity at available sites when applying all formal hockey demand. There is a large level of imported demand on hockey provision; however, there is enough supply to accommodate demand at this current time.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	Out of the 35 AGP facilities in the study area, 19 (54%) were rated as ‘good’, 14 (40%) rated as ‘standard’ and only 2 (6%) were rated as ‘poor’ quality. There were two AGP’s that were identified as being of a poor quality at sites in Milton Keynes – Ousedale School and Lord Grey School.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	There is expected to be the need for an additional 1 3G AGP based on the number of new teams expected by the end of the study period and using the FA’s 1:38 ratio. This would increase the total future deficit of full sized 3G AGP’s to 9.

Key Question	Analysis
Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet future demand?	The future supply and demand analysis for accessible pitch provision shows that there is a significant deficit of 9 available full sized 3G AGP's across the study area. This future deficit consists of the requirement to meet demand from future population growth and latent demand. In looking at future demand for hockey provision, the analysis shows that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate further growth in team numbers, although this is only possible in no existing sand-based AGP's are converted to 3G, and if the current provision is protected for hockey use.

### 3.7 Rugby League key findings

3.7.1 This section summarises the findings from the rugby league analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendations and action plan section for Milton Keynes.

**Table 3.6 – Key PPS findings for rugby league in Milton Keynes**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	Overall there is adequate supply for the current demand in the study area with only one rugby league team playing any formal games. This team also did not play in 2019 due to member numbers so this led to an increased demand in junior members with that being the focus by the club.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	There is enough accessible and secured community use sites currently within the study area to meet with the demand. The available sites have standard pitches which allows for formal use during the summer months with the current demand.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	All the required accessible provision is located at Emerson Valley and Manor Fields Sports Ground. The pitches used are maintained to a sufficient standard, given the level of play that occurs. These sites have yearlong usage associated with them from other sports but this does not affect the quality of surface.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	There is little growth expected to occur within the study area with only one senior team expected to reform over the lifespan of the PPS. Special attention is being made to the junior and youth sections with various camps but these are also expected to grow at a small rate.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	There is enough secured and community accessible provision in the study area for current and future demand.

### 3.8 Non-core PPS key findings

3.8.1 This section summarises the key findings for the three non-core PPS sports included within the brief for the project.

#### Lacrosse key findings

3.8.2 This section summarises the findings from the lacrosse analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendations and action plan section for Milton Keynes.

**Table 3.7 – Key PPS findings for Lacrosse in Milton Keynes**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	The main characteristics of lacrosse provision in Milton Keynes is that a single site (Stantonbury Leisure Centre 3G Pitch) is used to meet demand for a single club named MK Minators Lacrosse Club. This site is the only provision in the study area and meets the need of the local club.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	There is currently sufficient provision for the sport of Lacrosse within the study area, although it is not secured. Stantonbury Leisure Centre is a school sports facility and access could be withdrawn at any time.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	In terms of quality, the site is of good quality due to the age of the surface and also the current maintenance regime. The site has sufficient changing and ancillary provision with the club being allowed to use these facilities.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	According to the consultation with the only Lacrosse club in the study area, there is only expected to be growth of one female side which the current site will be able to accommodate for training and match day provision.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	There is enough current and future provision in the study area but the risk is in the lack of secured community use at Stantonbury Leisure Centre.

### Baseball and Softball key findings

3.8.3 This section summarises the findings from the baseball and softball analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendations and action plan section for Milton Keynes.

**Table 3.8 – Key PPS findings for baseball and softball in Milton Keynes**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	At present there two sites with provision for community baseball / softball in the study area (Woughton on the Green Sports Ground and Conniburrow Sports Ground). Woughton on the Green Sports Ground is used by two local clubs – MK Bucks Baseball Club and MK Diamonds Softball Club. The fields are relatively basic with no floodlighting.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	There is no long-term security of Woughton on the Green Sports Ground at present, and no use of Conniburrow Sports Ground is currently permitted by the operator. The lack of use of Conniburrow Sports Ground is an operational and managerial issue which the Local Authority is working to resolve. As there are no alternative sites in the study area, so loss of either of these facilities would have an impact on the clubs.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	The facilities at present are of standard quality. The maintenance of the current sites is adequate.
What are the main	The club has stated an aim of establishing a junior team in the next 3-5 years. When examining

Key Question	Analysis
characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	latent demand in the area this seems achievable if current trends in participation remain constant. The softball league is also looking to continue its growth by encouraging more members to join. This is only possible if use of the Conniburrow Sports Ground baseball diamond is permitted.
Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet future demand?	As the site is unsecured it cannot be considered accessible in the long-term. This means there could be a lack on accessible baseball/softball facilities in the future. If this site is secured then there is enough provision to meet with the current and future demand within the study area.

## Section 4: Scenario testing and options appraisal



## 4 Scenario testing and options appraisal

- 4.1.1 The supply and demand analysis undertaken in each of the previous sections provides a clear view of the capacity for sports facilities across Milton Keynes, based on the existing supply of facilities and the demand for these facilities from residents, both now and in the future.
- 4.1.2 This data provides an accurate evidence base, on which future planning and investment decisions can be made, using the guidelines outlines in the 'Delivering the Strategy' chapter.
- 4.1.3 To complement the analysis that has been undertaken in each of the sport-specific sections, this chapter contains detailed further analysis on a small number of key scenarios, which have been identified by the project steering group throughout the development of the PPS.
- 4.1.4 For each of the scenarios identified below, a short summary is provided to explain why the scenario needs to be tested. Following this, a needs assessment for each of the relevant facility types is undertaken and explained.

### 4.2 Scenario 1: Loss of unsecured sites from supply

- 4.2.1 As identified through stakeholder consultation, ensuring all available sites also have security of use for current and future provision is vital for the sustainability and growth of pitch sports within Milton Keynes.

#### Football

- 4.2.2 Table 4.1 below shows the current and future positions for football carrying capacity if only secured sites were to be included in the analysis. It should be noted that all local authority owned and maintained pitches have been retained as part of the supply. This is because although the individual teams or clubs playing on the site may not have security of tenure, the sites are considered to have some security in terms of remaining available for hire and use. Table 4.2 overleaf presents the same scenario; however, incorporates the future demand growth that is expected by the end of the study period

**Table 4.1: Position with only secured football supply**

Sub area	Current Position (ALL Available)					Current Position (Secured Sites Only)				
	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central	18.5	4.5	4	10.5	25.5	10.5	2.5	2.5	6.5	21.5
East	21	0	5.5	34.5	7	13	-8	-0.5	10.5	3
North	32.5	-2	0	25.5	22.5	20.5	-6	0	17.5	20.5
South	8	-2	0.5	-1.5	4	0	-4	-1.5	-5.5	-4

Sub area	Current Position (ALL Available)					Current Position (Secured Sites Only)				
	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
West	25	-0.5	8	24	15	11	-12.5	0	8	11
<b>Milton Keynes</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52</b>

**Table 4.2: Future position with only secured football supply**

Sub area	Future Position (ALL Available)					Future Position (Secured Sites Only)				
	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central	18.5	4.5	4	10.5	25.5	6.07	-2.1	0.55	4.24	19.93
East	21	0	5.5	34.5	7	5.46	-19.32	-8.32	2.87	-3.28
North	32.5	-2	0	25.5	22.5	11.6	-11.46	-4.39	12.72	16.85
South	8	-2	0.5	-1.5	4	-2.56	-7.3	-3.98	-8.27	-6.26
West	25	-0.5	8	24	15	9.22	-15.79	-1.94	5.87	9.44
<b>Milton Keynes</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>29.79</b>	<b>-55.97</b>	<b>-18.08</b>	<b>17.43</b>	<b>36.68</b>

- 4.2.3 Table 4.1 shows that the when only securely available supply is considered there is a significant reduction in the spare capacity in the Study area (capacity tables are available in the needs assessment chapter tables 3.11 – 3.15). There is a reduction in the level of spare capacity of 173.5 MES as a whole in the study area.
- 4.2.4 When removing unsecured provision from the supply of football pitches, there is only one pitch typology within the study area that presents a level of deficit. This is found in the youth 11v11 typology, with an overall deficit of 28 MES. However, it should be noted that there is only a small level of spare capacity of 0.5 MES in the youth 9v9 typology when taken the study area as a whole.
- 4.2.5 In looking at the capacity balance from a sub area perspective, the removal of unsecured provision leads to a deficit in the South sub area when considering all pitch typologies together. This represents a strong justification for protecting football pitches from being lost and shows a need to increase the number of secured pitches in the South sub area in particular.



4.2.6 Table 4.2 above presents the capacity balance position when only taking into account secured provision and also once future demand growth has been incorporated. It shows that if all unsecured sites were removed from the supply by the end of the study period, there would only be a large level of deficit in the youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 provision. The reconfiguration of adult 11v11 provision is important to help offset this level of deficit seen on youth provision.

### Cricket

4.2.7 The following table shows the position should all unsecured supply be removed from the cricket capacity calculations. Again, local authority sites where the pitch users may not have secured access to the site are retained as part of the capacity as these pitches are not considered to be at risk of loss from the pitch stock.

**Table 4.3: Current position with only secured cricket supply (grass wickets only)**

Sub Area	Current Position - All Available Sites	Current Position - Secured Sites Only
Central	144	120
East	35	35
North	160	130
South	38	38
West	-25	-25
<b>Milton Keynes (Study Area)</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>298</b>

**Table 4.4: Future position with only secured cricket supply (grass wickets only)**

Sub Area	Future Picture - All Available Sites	Future Position - Secured Sites Only
Central	122	98
East	19	19
North	128	98
South	22	22
West	-102	-102
<b>Milton Keynes (Study Area)</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>135</b>

4.2.8 Table 4.3 above shows that if all unsecured grass wicket capacity were to be removed from supply, cricket pitches in Milton Keynes would experience a reduction in the level of spare capacity available. The current picture with all available sites included in the capacity balance presents a level of spare capacity of 352 MES; however, when removing unsecured supply, this reduces to 298 MES.

4.2.9 As demonstrated, the current level of provision of available and secured sites is able to accommodate the level of demand in the study area. If all unsecured provision was to be removed from the supply, there would remain spare capacity of 298 MES in Milton Keynes as a whole. Despite this, it is recommended that the number of secured pitches in the area should be increased to meet future demand growth, with particular emphasis on the West sub area.

4.2.10 Table 4.4 above presents the capacity balance position for grass wickets when only taking into account secured provision and also once future demand growth has been incorporated. It demonstrates that if all unsecured sites were removed from the supply by the end of the study period, there would be a reduced level of spare capacity of 135 MES.

### Hockey

4.2.11 The impact of removing all unsecured supply is shown in table 4.3 below. It shows a significant fall in capacity that would mean hockey could not function in its current way in Milton Keynes.

**Table 4.5: Position with only secured hockey**

Area	Balance (All Available Sites)			Balance (Secured Sites Only)		
	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun
Milton Keynes	17	5	5	-3	5	5

**Table 4.6: Future position with only secured hockey**

Area	Future Balance (All Available Sites)			Future Balance (Secured Sites Only)		
	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun
Milton Keynes	17	5	5	-4	3	4

4.2.12 Table 4.5 above demonstrates how losing all unsecured hockey provision in the study area would have a significant impact on the capacity balance picture, particularly for weekday training. There are two pitches that have been included in the capacity calculations which are located at the Woughton on the Green Sports Ground.

4.2.13 The Ousedale School pitch and Lord Grey School pitch are both seen to be unsecured for community use as the schools could, if they wished, decline community use of the facility. The loss of this unsecured provision would lead to the removal of all spare capacity on weekdays, creating a capacity deficit of 3 MES. There would be no change to the weekend capacity balance as the school sites do not currently open on these days.

4.2.14 This analysis presents a clear need for an increase in the number of secured hockey AGP's in the study area. If all unsecured provision was to be removed, the current level of secured provision would be unable to fully accommodate demand for midweek training. This situation would be exacerbated by the projected future demand growth for hockey in the area.

4.2.15 Table 4.6 above also presents the capacity balance position for hockey provision when only taking into account secured provision and also once future demand growth has been incorporated. It demonstrates that if all unsecured sites were removed from the supply by the end of the study period, there would be an increased deficit across weekday and a reduced level of spare capacity during the weekends.

## Rugby Union

4.2.16 The following table shows the position should all unsecured supply be removed from the rugby capacity calculations. Again, local authority sites where the pitch users may not have secured access to the site are retained as part of the capacity as these pitches are not considered to be at risk of loss from the pitch stock.

**Table 4.7: Position with only secured rugby union supply**

Sub Area	Provision Type	Current Balance	Current Balance (Secured Sites Only)	Future Balance (Secured Sites Only)
North	Training	-4	-4	-5.5
	Senior Match Pitch	2.5	2.5	1
South	Training	-2	-2	-3
	Senior Match Pitch	-3.5	-3.5	-4.5
East	Training	0	-1	-1
	Senior Match Pitch	2	1	1
West	Training	0	-2	-2.5
	Senior Match Pitch	3	1	0.5
Central	Training	8	8	7.5
	Senior Match Pitch	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	Training	2	-1	-4.5
	Senior Match Pitch	4	1	-2

4.2.17 Table 4.7 above demonstrates that there is currently a reliance on unsecured pitches to keep training facilities from operating at a net deficit across the Study area. The loss of unsecured pitches from the supply would lead to a deficit of 1 MES for rugby training in Milton Keynes.

4.2.18 The sub area that would experience the greatest reduction in available capacity is the West sub area, with training deficit increasing from 0 MES to 2 MES and the match balance moving from a level of spare capacity of 3 MES to 1 MES.

4.2.19 The removal of unsecured provision would also lead to a reduction in the overall level of spare capacity for senior match pitches in the study area, from 4 MES to 1 MES. This demonstrates that there is a need for an increase in the number of securely available pitches within the study area which will become more pressing once future demand growth is taken into account.

4.2.20 Table 4.7 above also presents the capacity balance position for rugby provision when only taking into account secured provision and also once future demand growth has been incorporated. It demonstrates that if all unsecured sites were removed from the supply by the end of the study period, there would be an increased deficit for training provision, increasing to 4.5 MES. There would also be a deficit for senior match capacity of 2 MES.

### 4.3 Scenario 2: Moving from grass to artificial

4.3.1 This section will model the impact of adding new AGP facilities to the pitch stock in Milton Keynes and moving youth football (9v9 and below) onto AGPs for match play.

#### Football

4.3.2 During the last decade, 3G AGPs have played an increasing role within the national game. They are regarded by the Football Association (FA) and Football Foundation (FF) as the optimum facility for club training. In recent seasons, they have also become more popular for competitive matches. With this in mind, before developing the recommendations and action plan for this PPS, a key scenario has been looked at to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size floodlit 3G AGPs in Milton Keynes, if increased amounts of play were to take place on them.

4.3.3 In line with national priorities, to get more young people playing football on 3G AGP's this scenario considers the likely total demand if all youth 9v9 and mini demand that is currently being played during the period of peak demand is moved from grass pitches onto 3G AGPs.

4.3.4 While it is understood that in practice it is unlikely that 100% of demand will transfer for these age groups, it provides a valuable assessment of the potential impact on pitch capacity, if the FA and FF are successful in changing player and coach behaviour and moving clubs from natural grass to 3G AGP provision.

4.3.5 Table 4.8 takes information from the assessment stage of this PPS to present the number of youth 9v9 and mini teams playing on natural grass pitches during the relevant peak periods. This then calculates an estimated number of matches at peak time and associated 3G AGP requirement.

**Table 4.8: Number of 3G AGP's that would be required to meet demand if all mini and youth 9v9 match play was moved to AGP**

Format	Number of Teams (x)	Number of matches at peak-time (y)= x/2	3G Units per Match (z)	Total Units required formats (A)= (y)*(z)	3G Pitches Required B= (A)/64
5v5	64	32	4	128	2.0
7v7	90	45	8	360	5.6
9v9	79	39	10	390	6.0
					<b>13.6</b>

4.3.6 Table 4.8 illustrates that if all mini and junior (7v7 and 9v9) football match play is to be moved to 3G AGP, then there is a need for 14 (rounded from 13.6) full sized facilities in order to meet demand. Given the existing provision of 5 full sized 3G AGP that are available to the community, it would suggest that there is not adequate provision to meet demand.

4.3.7 When considered together there is a consistent need demonstrated for additional 3G AGP's to be added to the Study area to meet current demand.

#### 4.4 Scenario 3: Exploring the impact of differing future demand projections on the future capacity balance for provision

4.4.1 The future capacity balance position presented in the needs assessment section of this strategy is influenced by Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) future demand outputs. The outputs from the PPC are not always in line with the projections of NGB’s and so this scenario will use data provided directly from the NGB’s to assess the impact on future capacity if those projections were to be realised.

##### Cricket

4.4.2 During consultation with the ECB and the Buckinghamshire Cricket Board, it was revealed that they expect a large level of future growth in the number of women and girls teams in Milton Keynes. By 2024, they project a 300% growth in the number of women’s teams and a 900% growth in the number of girls’ teams. The impact this would have on the capacity balance for grass wicket provision will be explored below in table 4.9.

**Table 4.9: Future position with all available cricket supply (grass wickets only)**

Sub Area	Future Picture - All Available Sites	Future Picture – Including female growth as per ECB projections
Central	122	101.5
East	19	3.4
North	128	113.4
South	22	8.8
West	-102	-69.5
<b>Milton Keynes (Study Area)</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>157.5</b>

4.4.3 Table 4.9 above demonstrates that within a relatively short period of time there could be a large decrease in the level of spare capacity for grass wicket provision in Milton Keynes. If the projections provided by the ECB and Buckinghamshire Cricket Board are accurate, there will be a reduction in the level of spare capacity to 157.5 MES by 2024. There is projected to be spare capacity across all sub areas with the exception of the West sub area. The deficit position is currently at 25 MES and with these future demand projections incorporated there is expected to be a deficit of 69.5 MES by 2024.

4.4.4 It is important that the recommendation to maintain a good level of quality for artificial wicket provision, particularly at Local Authority sites, is achieved. This provision is fundamental to the development of cricket and will play a key part in the introduction of more women and girls to the game.

#### 4.5 Scenario 4: Exploring the potential impact of MK Dons leaving the Woughton on the Green Sports Ground site on the capacity position.

4.5.1 In recent months there have been discussions around the potential departure of Milton Keynes Dons FC from the Woughton on the Green Sports Ground site. This club currently have extensive use of the facilities at this site, with 9 teams ranging from U9’s to U18’s utilising the grass pitch and artificial pitch provision, and there is no other use of the current grass provision at the site by any other clubs. This scenario will present the capacity balance

position for this site if the club is no longer a user, highlighting the level of capacity that would be available.

**Table 4.10: Potential capacity balance for grass pitch provision on site**

Site Name	Pitch Type	Supply (capacity in mepw in brackets)	Demand in MEPW	Balance for Community use (grass pitches only)
Woughton On the Green Playing Field	<b>All pitches</b>	<b>9 x pitches (26)</b>	0	<b>26</b>
	Adult Football	2x Good, 3x Standard (12)	0	12
	Youth Football 11v11	1x Standard (2)	0	2
	Youth Football 9v9	1x Standard (2)	0	2
	Mini 7v7	1x Standard (4)	0	4
	Mini 5v5	1x Good (6)	0	6

**Table 4.11: Current capacity balance for AGP provision on site**

Site name	Supply (hours)			Demand (Hours required – for training and matches)			Balance (Hours)		
	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Woughton On the Green Sports Ground</b>	40	16	16	7.5	11	11	32.5	5	5

- 4.5.2 As Milton Keynes Dons FC use both the grass pitch provision and AGP provision on site, tables 4.10 and 4.11 show the level of capacity respectively that would be available if the club was to terminate its use of the facilities.
- 4.5.3 As shown in table 4.10, Milton Keynes Dons FC were the only football club that was identified in the study as using the football pitches on site. Therefore, in removing the demand from the club, there would be a large level of spare capacity (26 MES across all pitch typologies).
- 4.5.4 Table 4.11 provides a view on the capacity balance for the two sand dressed AGP's on site if the demand from Milton Keynes Dons FC was removed. The club uses these facilities for mid-week training demand and so table 4.11 shows a large level of spare capacity during the weekdays of 32.5 MES across both pitches.
- 4.5.5 The capacity analysis undertaken as part of the Needs Assessment, demonstrates that there is spare capacity for all pitch typologies in the Central sub-area, however some sites within the central sub-area (such as Bradwell Sports & Social Club, Bradwell Village School, Downs Barn and Heelands Sports Ground) were identified as either at or over capacity for

Adult, Youth 11v11 and Youth 9v9 football and therefore, if demand continues to grow as projected, some of this play could be displaced to the pitches at Woughton on the Green Sports Ground. The completion of a move away from the site by Milton Keynes Dons FC, would also allow for additional Hockey capacity on the AGP provision, with the capacity analysis previously undertaken showing that the pitches are currently close to reaching capacity during peak times of demand.

- 4.5.6 There is also a lack of grass Rugby provision within the Central sub-area, and the re-configuration of the site to include Rugby pitches could also be explored.
- 4.5.7 The analysis above demonstrates that removing the demand from Milton Keynes Dons FC from the site will leave a large level of spare capacity across both the grass pitch provision and the AGP provision. It is recommended that discussions are held between the Council, the relevant NGB's and the management of the site as to how this capacity will be utilised going forward.
- 4.5.8 It is also recommended that a committee is formed between the Council and relevant NGBs to discuss the future of the management and maintenance of the site and how this will be assessed.

#### 4.6 Scenario 5: Adjusting the carrying capacity of all 'standard' and 'good' quality Mini Football pitch provision.

- 4.6.1 During consultation with the FA and Football Foundation it was revealed that the majority of youth and mini football matches take place on one day. Due to this, the carrying capacity of 'good' quality Mini football pitches of 6 MES and the carrying capacity of 'standard' quality Mini pitches of 4 MES may be unrepresentative as it is very unlikely that this number of matches would take place per week.
- 4.6.2 This scenario will explore the impact that reducing the carrying capacity of 'good' and quality Mini pitches to 3 MES and reducing the carrying capacity of 'standard' quality Mini pitches to 2 MES would have on the capacity balance position.

**Table 4.12: Current balance position for football with reduced carrying capacity**

Sub area	Current Position (ALL Available)					Current Position (Reduced Mini capacity)				
	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central	18.5	4.5	4	10.5	25.5	18.5	4.5	4	6.5	18.5
East	21	0	5.5	34.5	7	21	0	5.5	12.5	-1
North	32.5	-2	0	25.5	22.5	32.5	-2	0	9.5	8.5
South	8	-2	0.5	-1.5	4	8	-2	0.5	-3.5	0

Sub area	Current Position (ALL Available)					Current Position (Reduced Mini capacity)				
	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
West	25	-0.5	8	24	15	25	-0.5	8	6	3
<b>Milton Keynes</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>

4.6.3 Table 4.12 above demonstrates the impact that reducing the carrying capacity of Mini 7v7 and Mini 5v5 provision would have on the capacity balance position. There is a total reduction of 107 MES, reducing the level of spare capacity of Mini 7v7 provision to 31 MES and the level of spare capacity of Mini 5v5 provision to 29 MES.

4.6.4 The analysis shows that there is adequate supply of mini provision to accommodate demand in the study area; however, it is recommended that playing youth and mini games across more than one day would relieve pressure on 'peak time' slots.



## Section 5: Strategic recommendations and action plan



## 5 Strategic recommendations and action plan

- 5.1.1 To facilitate the development of sport and physical activity across Milton Keynes, it is advised that the Steering Group, set up as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy project, continues to work together to deliver the recommendations defined as part of this strategy.
- 5.1.2 This section of the report provides a set of strategic recommendations, to guide future governance and investment into pitch sport provision across the study area.

### 5.2 Strategic recommendations

- 5.2.1 This section brings together the complete evidence base and analysis that has been developed as part of the PPS and provides a clear strategy for the future delivery of sports provision in Milton Keynes.
- 5.2.2 At a strategic level, the following key recommendations have been identified for each of the sport typologies, as well as for general sports provision.

#### General recommendations

- **Recommendation G1** Protect all current sports pitch sites from loss due to re-designation or development unless stated otherwise in this report.
- **Recommendation G2:** Utilising the planning system to ensure provision is added and updated in line with population growth.
- **Recommendation G3:** Address the issue of poor ancillary and changing pavilion quality through the refurbishment and replacement of existing ancillary facilities, prioritising those on multi-pitch sites that are currently well used. Utilise the action plan to identify specific sites for development.
- **Recommendation G4:** Work with sports clubs to utilise the existing volunteer networks across Milton Keynes and provide more autonomy for clubs, allowing those organisations that have adequate governance and financial stability to develop facilities and participation.
- **Recommendation G5:** Enhance the drainage and maintenance of both natural turf and artificial pitches that are currently operating over-capacity, to increase the pitch capacity to accommodate demand of current user clubs, especially on council-maintained pitches. Utilise the action plan to identify specific sites for development
- **Recommendation G6:** Work with educational establishments that provide playing pitches for use by community teams, through artificial provision, to secure formal community use of pitches and ancillary facilities through a robust Community Use Agreement. When establishing Community Use Agreement's, ensure that consultation with the relevant NGB's are undertaken.
- **Recommendation G7:** Where community use agreements currently exist, work with educational establishments and users to ensure that requirements for community use are being enforced.

- **Recommendation G8:** Work with clubs based at council owned sites, to establish long-term security use agreements, ensuring that clubs and participants have security of tenure and are able to grow and develop through grant funding and wider investment.
- **Recommendation G9:** Work with clubs to address site specific needs as identified in the action plan below.

## Football

- **Recommendation F1:** Ensure sites that have community use available also have security of tenure to protect the future provision of football, allowing clubs based on council sites to apply for grants and investments from various governing bodies.
- **Recommendation F2:** Look to provide sites where there is significant use of adult pitches to meet youth pitch demand with mobile goal posts to ensure the appropriate sized goals and pitches are being used for these age-groups. This should only occur when there is no option to reconfigure pitches.
- **Recommendation F3:** Milton Keynes currently has a deficit of eight community available, full sized 3G AGP's within the study area, increasing to nine when considering future demand. Identify sites to develop full sized 3G AGP provision, to meet the growing demand for this pitch type and meet the needs of local clubs and residents. Initial focus should be on the Central sub area, where there is expected to be the largest increase in demand.
- **Recommendation F4:** Work with the Football Foundation and FA to increase the level of maintenance at sites in order to help achieve the FA's target of increasing the number of 'good' quality grass pitches.
- **Recommendation F5:** Focus on the re-configuration of youth and mini soccer provision, to meet future demand, and the development of ancillary facilities located at local authority sites in terms of changing room provision to accommodate this.
- **Recommendation F6:** Work with facility operators to ensure that females teams and players have equal access to the booking of football facilities.

## Cricket

- **Recommendation C1:** Protect all sites that currently have cricket pitches and are therefore defined as playing fields.
- **Recommendation C2:** Work with Milton Keynes Council, Buckinghamshire Cricket Board and the ECB to support the development of women and girls' cricket and also to increase participation by BAME groups.
- **Recommendation C3:** Invest in ancillary facilities to increase the quality of changing room and catering provision and incorporate the use of better security systems in order to decrease the amount of anti-social behaviour. Utilise the action plan to identify the specific sites where this should be a priority.
- **Recommendation C4:** Work with the IOG to improve cricket pitch quality across

the Borough.

- **Recommendation C5:** Work to improve the quality of the artificial wicket provision in the study area, particularly at Local Authority managed sites.
- **Recommendation C6:** Explore the possibility of leasing out Council owned pitches to cricket clubs in the study area to give them greater impetus to improve the quality of provision.
- **Recommendation C7:** Cricket sites in the West sub area should have particular attention to improve the poor quality of facilities. Please refer to the action plan for specific actions.

## Rugby

- **Recommendation R1:** Explore the possibility of adding additional floodlit provision in the South and West sub areas to support both training and match play in the sub area.
- **Recommendation R2:** Monitor the growth of women's and girls' rugby to ensure there is sufficient capacity to allow clubs to develop these sections.
- **Recommendation R3:** Work with clubs to upgrade facilities to ensure they are appropriate for hosting matches for both genders at the same time. Refer to the action plan for specific sites where improvements should be focused.
- **Recommendation R4:** Consider the installation of artificial drainage on selected sites to increase carrying capacity and meet formal demand and population projections. This should be focused on provision located in the South sub area where the largest deficit for senior match pitch provision exists.
- **Recommendation R5:** Explore the possibility of establishing a fund to improve pitch maintenance programmes across Milton Keynes.

## Hockey

- **Recommendation H1:** Look to establish community use agreements, focussing on the educational sites, to further develop hockey within the area. Discuss with education sites the possibility of allowing further availability during peak times.
- **Recommendation H2:** Ensure that any future AGP provision that is available to the community has a sink fund in place to guarantee the future sustainability of the pitch.
- **Recommendation H3:** Attempt to safeguard sand based AGP provision for future use and discourage the conversion from sand based to 3G AGP's to occur unless offset with new hockey provision.
- **Recommendation H4:** Work with England Hockey and reach out to local sports networks to promote their informal Hockey offer; Back to Hockey, Hockey Heroes and Indoor Hockey.
- **Recommendation H5:** Focus on improving the maintenance of sand based AGP's in the study area and ensure that maintenance is provided as a package of any future hockey sports provision.
- **Recommendation H6:** Look into the feasibility of improving the ancillary facilities

at the Woughton on the Green Sports Ground site.

- **Recommendation H7:** It is recommended that a committee is formed between the council and relevant NGB's to discuss the future of the Woughton on the Green Sports Ground site once MK Dons FC have relocated.
- **Recommendation H8:** It is recommended that the future hockey use of the Woughton on the Green Sports Ground site is protected.

### Rugby League

- **Recommendation RL1:** Protect the existing Rugby League provision within Milton Keynes, as well as identifying sites to increase provision to make it accessible for all.

### Lacrosse

- **Recommendation L1:** Work with England Lacrosse to promote the presence of Lacrosse in Milton Keynes, both formal and informal.
- **Recommendation L2:** Continue to monitor the surface at Stantonbury Leisure Centre to ensure that it is maintained to a high level.

### Baseball and Softball

- **Recommendation B&S1:** Retain the current baseball and softball facility at Woughton on the Green Sports Ground and work with partners to improve the quality of provision.
- **Recommendation B&S2:** Ensure that at a minimum, the current provision of facilities is maintained.

## 5.3 Action plan

5.3.1 Through a detailed supply and demand analysis of the sports included in the scope of the strategy, as well as stakeholder consultations across the study area, an action plan has been created, which will guide the steering group in their delivery of sports provision and facility decisions over the next 10 years. The action plan is broken down by site with clear owners, timescales and expected resources. This is shown Table 5.1.

5.3.2 The table identifies potential sources of external funding. It should be noted that funding for the actions below could come from one, or a combination, of funding sources shown below. This is not an exhaustive list and could be extended to other sources, depending on availability.

- Planning Obligations (Section 106, Tariff)
- Community Grant Schemes

5.3.3 The Action Plan does not identify all those clubs that may be partners or provide resources in relation to its delivery. It is assumed that where clubs have a long-standing interest in a

specific site that they will be a partner in delivering the actions and contribute financially or in-kind where appropriate.

- 5.3.4 The Action Plan does not identify Milton Keynes Council as a key resource either in terms of officer time or finance, except for those sites owned and/or managed by the Council. However, the Council has an interest in all those projects delivered within the local authority area and may contribute towards them either financially or in-kind, as appropriate and subject to available resources. It should be noted that not all sites have actions allocated to them, as it is unrealistic to expect funding partners to contribute to improvements at all facilities across a local authority.

#### Action plan terminology

- Issue/ opportunity: The issue or opportunity that can be addressed
  - Key Actions: Numbering indicates order of preference
  - Partners: Top listed partner is identified as lead partner
  - Resources: Key resource implications (time and money)
  - Timescale: Short: 0–2 yrs. Medium: 2-5 yrs. Long 5-10 yrs.
  - Priority: Low, Medium and High, depending on overall impact for sports participation
  - Acronyms: MKC (Milton Keynes Council), FA (Football Association), FF (Football Foundation), ECB (England & Wales Cricket Board), Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), EH (England Hockey), RFU (Rugby Football Union), CC (cricket club), HC (hockey club), FC (football club).
- 5.3.5 All costs are estimated, based on 4global desktop research and consultation with industry experts. These are not based on firm pricing or quotes from reputable contractors, unless stated otherwise.
- 5.3.6 All maintenance costs represent the full cost for maintaining the pitches. They do not, therefore, reflect any maintenance that is currently being undertaken at the site and the cost incurred for these services. In reality, the cost for additional maintenance would be reflected by an increase of the current maintenance cost, rather than the full price stated as part of this action plan
- 5.3.7 There is not unlimited funding to invest in sports facilities, for any of the identified partners. As a result, actions have been prioritised on sites that are currently either not fit-for-purpose, showing a deficit of provision, or those that represent a viable investment opportunity that will significantly increase the quality, quantity or accessibility of sports provision in Milton Keynes.
- 5.3.8 To provide the Steering Group with a clear identification of 'strategic' investment priorities across the study area, high profile strategic investment projects have been identified overleaf in bold. These projects are likely to be limited in number due to their size but will deliver a significant level of benefit for grass-roots sport and physical activity. These projects are likely to cost approximately £250,000 or more and will include a number of different stakeholders and funding partners.

**Table 5.1: Milton Keynes's PPS Action Plan (2019-2031)**

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
Ancell Trust Sports Ground	West	Cricket/ Provide	The club has been subject to anti-social behaviour and attempted break-ins	Support the club in establishing surveillance equipment on site.	MKC / ECB /Club	Approx. £2,000 (Cost of CCTV)	Medium	Medium
Allotment Field (Olney Rugby FC back pitches for Rugby reference)	North	Football/ Provide	There is a lack of car parking on site which often reaches full capacity.	Explore the feasibility of expanding the car parking capacity on site.	MKC / Sports Clubs	Work to be established following feasibility report.	Medium	Low
		Rugby Union / Enhance	As a result of the heavy training use placed on this site, the pitches are of poor quality overall.	Explore the feasibility of adding improved drainage to pitches	MKC / RFU / Club	Work established following IOG assessment.	Medium	Medium
		Rugby Union / Provide	The site is currently over capacity for mid-week floodlit training	Explore the feasibility of adding extra floodlit provision on site.	MKC / Club / RFU	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	Medium
Bradwell Sports and Social Club	Central	Cricket / Provide	Club have issues preventing dog fouling on site.	Provide additional signage and bins to help prevent dog fouling.	MKC / Club	Cost of appropriate signage and bins.	Short	Medium
Brooklands Community Sports Pavilion	East	Football/ Enhance	There is a slight slope across the area which could cause waterlogging.	Monitor the new drainage supplied as part of the pitch handover.	MKC / Club	Officer Time	Medium	Medium
		Cricket/ Enhance	Operator on site is required to implement a new maintenance plan.	MKC to monitor cricket pitch maintenance.	MKC / Club	Officer Time	Medium	High
Conniburrow Community Sports Pavilion	Central	Football/ Enhance	Users have reported issues with drainage, resulting in them having to regularly cancel games in the winter.	Artificial drainage should be added to the pitch in order to prevent issues regarding waterlogging.	MKC / FA / FF / Club	Cost of assessment estimate c.£2k + Officer Time. Approx. £12,000 (cost of artificial drainage)	Medium	Medium

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
Crownhill Sports Ground	West	Football/ Provide	The goal posts on site are of a 'square' style that are now deemed dangerous.	Change the goals posts on site	MKC / FA / FF / Club	Approx. £1000 per pair of goal posts	Short	High
		Cricket/ Enhance	The square is not maintained up to a sufficient standard. Many away teams have not been happy with how the pitch has performed.	Support the operator in improving the maintenance procedures on site.	MKC / Club / ECB	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	Medium
Derwent Drive Sports Ground	South	Football/ Provide/ Enhance	The goal posts on the 9v9 pitch are of a 'square' style that are now deemed dangerous. The changing rooms are in very poor condition due to age.	Change the goals posts on site Consider refurbishment to improve quality of ancillary provision	MKC / FA / FF / Club	Approx. £1000 per pair of goal posts Circa £50k	Short	High
Emerson Valley Sports Ground	West	Rugby Union / Provide	The site is currently over capacity for mid-week floodlit training	Explore the feasibility of adding extra floodlit provision on site.	MKC / Club / RFU	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	High
Furzton Sports Ground	West	Cricket / Provide	The club currently lack standard training facilities such as a built net facility with artificial wicket.	Support the club in attempts to raise funds to add additional training facilities on site.	MKC / Club / ECB	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	Medium
Great Linford Cricket Pavillion	North	Cricket / Provide	There are issues with ball strike on site.	Explore the possibility of adding netting on site which would reduce the likelihood of ball strike.	MKC / Club / ECB	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	Medium
Hodge Lea	Central	Football /Provide	The ancillary building has experienced anti-social behaviour in the form of stones being thrown at the exterior walls leading to	Support the club in establishing surveillance equipment on site.	MKC / FA / FF / Club	Approx. £2,000 (Cost of CCTV)	Medium	Medium



Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
			chips in the render.					
Manor Fields Sports Ground	South	Rugby Union / Enhance	The junior rugby pitches are in a poor condition, with markings that were either faint or non-existent.	Aim to help the club in improving the maintenance procedures, in order to increase carrying capacity on site.	MKC / Club / RFU	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	High
		Rugby Union / Provide	The site is currently over capacity for mid-week floodlit training	Explore the feasibility of adding extra floodlit provision on site.	MKC / Club / RFU	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	High
Medbourne Pavilion	West	Football/ Provide	The adult pitch on site becomes waterlogged at times of heavy rainfall.	Artificial drainage should be added to the pitch in order to prevent issues regarding waterlogging.	Parish Council / FA / FF / Club	Cost of assessment estimate c.£2k + Officer Time.  Approx. £12,000 (cost of artificial drainage)	Medium	Medium
Monkston Community Centre and Sports Pavilion	East	Football/ Enhance	There is a raised drain near to the back of one of the pitches which presents a safety hazard.	Explore the possibility of reconfiguring the pitch away from the raised drain.	MKC / FA / FF / Club	Officer Time	Medium	Medium
New Bradwell Sports Ground	North	Cricket/ Provide	There is currently a lack of training facilities to accommodate the demand from the club.  The derelict tennis courts have recently been removed and an alternative provision is required.	Support the club in attempts to raise funds to add additional training facilities on site.  Work with the NGB's and the club to secure funding and carry out a capital project.	MKC / Club / ECB	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	Medium

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
Olney Recreation Ground	North	Rugby Union / Enhance	The club does not have sufficient changing facilities to accommodate the growth of the female section of the club.	Support the club in funding attempts to improve the changing facilities on site	RFU / MKC / Club	Cost of assessment work to be identified following feasibility work.	Medium	High
Scot Sport & Social Club	South	Football/ Enhance	The dugout and perimeter railings are in a poor condition.	Support the club in improving the quality of the dugout and perimeter railing on site.	MKC / FA / FF / Club	Work to be established following feasibility report.	Medium	Low
Tattenhoe Lane Sports Ground	South	Football/ Enhance	There are two changing rooms that were identified as being in a poor condition.	Support the club in refurbishing the changing rooms on site.	MKC / FA / FF / Club	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	Medium
Tattenhoe Pavilion	West	Football/ Enhance	The site is used by an educational football academy during the day and therefore an indoor learning space is required within the building. The layout of the pavilion requires improvement.	Work with the academy and the NGB to develop a business case for the refurbishment of the pavilion to include an indoor learning space and reconfigure the layout of the pavilion to improve functionality.	MKC / FA / FF	Work to be established following a feasibility report	Medium	High
Walnut Tree Sports Ground	East	Football/ Enhance	The site has been subject to vandalism in recent years	Support the operator in improving site security and maintenance across the site.	MKC / Operator / ECB	Officer Time	Medium	High
Whitehouse Sports Ground	West	Football / Cricket / Provide	The development requires the provision of a new sports ground	Deliver as an MKC corporate Capital Project in conjunction with NGBs	MKC	Circa £2.5m	Medium	High
Willen Village Park	East	Football/ Provide	Site is currently at capacity due to high use from	Support the club in exploring the feasibility of	MKC / FA / FF /	Cost of assessment	Medium	Medium

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
			football club	adding floodlighting to the training provision.	Club	estimate c.£2k  Approx. £80,000 (cost of floodlights)		
Wolverton Sports Club	North	Cricket/ Enhance	The club have experienced issues regarding an uneven, poorly prepared, pitch as well as the outfield grass being too long	Support the club in attempts to raise funds to add additional training facilities on site.	MKC / Club / ECB	Cost dependent on scope of works	Medium	Medium
Woughton on the Green Sports Ground	Central	Football / Cricket / Enhance	The pavilion and car park are in poor condition	Deliver a capital project to enhance the pavilion resurface the car park	MKC / FA / FF	Circa £100k	Medium	Medium

## Section 6: Delivering the Playing Pitch Strategy



## 6 Delivering the Playing Pitch Strategy

- 6.1.1 To facilitate the development of sport and physical activity across Milton Keynes, it is advised that the Steering Group, set up as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy project, continues to work together to deliver the recommendations defined as part of this strategy.
- 6.1.2 The success of a PPS will be determined by how it is used. It is recommended that the delivery of the strategy is led by the Council, with close support by the steering group that has been developed as part of this project. Further guidance is provided in Sport England’s PPS Guidance in the form of the Stage E commentary and associated checklist.

### 6.2 Keeping the PPS relevant and up-to-date

- 6.2.1 To ensure that the Playing Pitch Strategy stays relevant and continues to support stakeholders in the delivery of sport and physical activity facility investment and development, an annual review should be undertaken. This review, which if undertaken regularly will have a reduced scope than the full PPS, will allow the steering group to review progress against the PPS recommendations and action plan. The review will also identify any emerging issues and apply any lessons learnt through recent development or investment projects.
- 6.2.2 Through the development of the PPS, data has been stored and analysed on the 4 global Playing Pitch Strategy Platform, which has up to date supply and demand data for pitch sports across the study area. This data is available to Milton Keynes Council and it is recommended that this is used as the starting point for future strategy refresh projects.

**Figure 5.1: Milton Keynes Council Playing Pitch Platform**

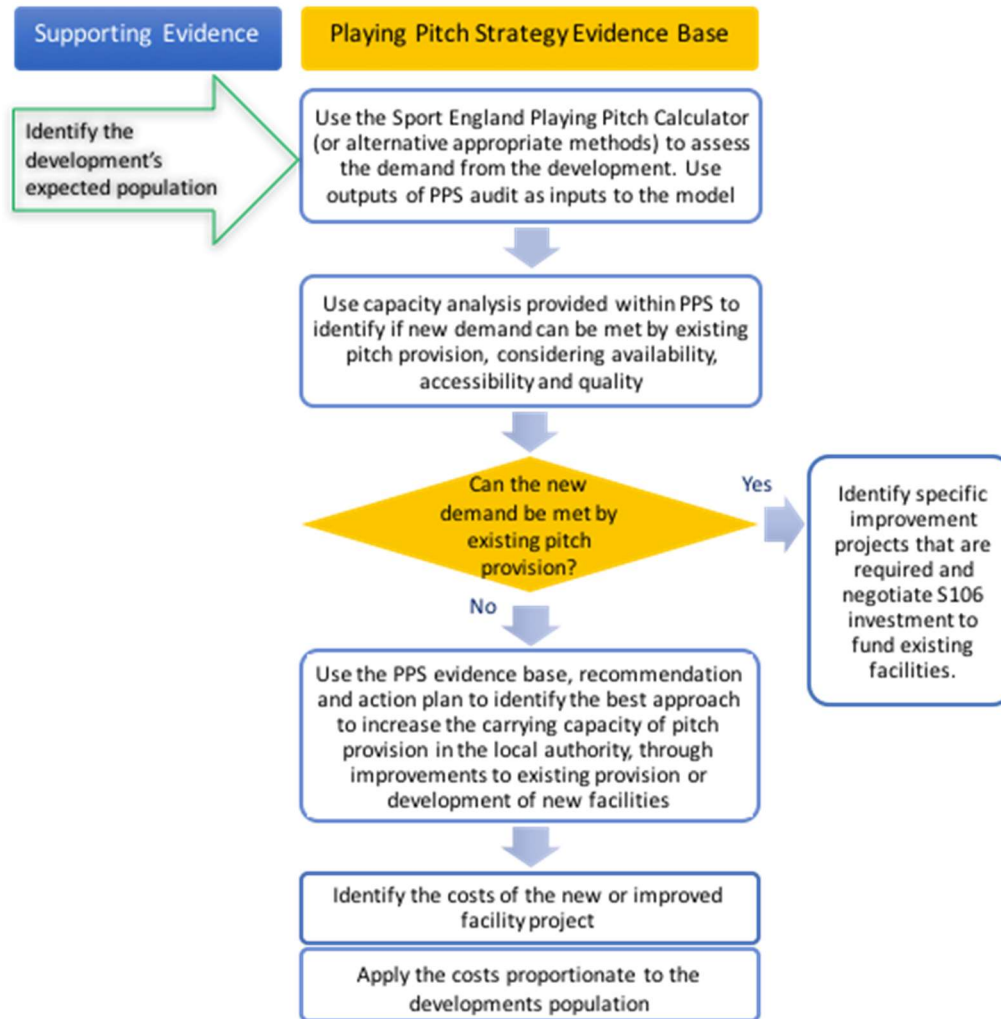
Site Name	Site Address	Site Assessor Name	Scheduled At	Completed At	Responded	Confirmed	Time to visit	Actions
BELLINGHAM LEISURE & LIFESTYLE CENTRE	Talbot Place, London, SE3 0TZ	Brooke Butler	2018-01-29 09:40:00	2018-11-20	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info
DOWNHAM HEALTH & LEISURE CENTRE	Glenbow Road, Bromley, BR1 4RL	Sam James	2018-01-29 12:20:00	2018-11-20	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info
ST DUNSTONS COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	Canadian Avenue, London, SE6 4SW	Brooke Butler	2018-06-19 11:28:00	2018-11-08	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info
THE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CENTRE (ABBOTSHALL ROAD)	Whitefoot Lane, Bromley, BR1 5SQ	Brooke Butler	2018-06-18 10:38:00	2018-09-25	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info
TEN-EM-BEE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE	Kangley Bridge Road, London, SE26 5AQ	Sam James	2018-01-29 12:00:00	2018-09-25	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info
DEPTFORD GREEN SCHOOL	Evelyn Street, London, SE8 5R	Sam James	2018-01-25 10:38:00	2018-06-19	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info
THE BRIDGE LEISURE CENTRE	Abbotshall Road, London, SE9 1SQ	Sam James	2018-01-25 11:28:00	2018-07-24	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info
CATFORD WANDERERS SPORTS CLUB	Amblesote Road, London, SE12 9TN	Sam James	2018-01-26 13:00:00	2018-07-24	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info
Perrymount Primary School	BR1 5LL	Brooke Butler	2018-01-26 09:00:00	2018-07-12	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info
Warren Avenue Playing Fields	97 Downderry Rd, Bromley BR1 5QE	Brooke Butler	2018-06-19 13:00:00	2018-07-12	Yes	Yes	Clear passed	More Info

- 6.2.3 In the short term, it is advised that the Council sets up an implementation group (which should be a continuation of steering group set up as part of the PPS), to co-ordinate preparation of a short-term action plan, as well as undertaking further sub-regional needs assessment for major cross-boundary development projects. The PPS has identified, on a site by site and sub-area level, the needs for pitch and ancillary provision across Milton Keynes. Where the current level of supply does not meet the current or future needs of residents for specific sports, pitch typologies and ancillaries have been identified as requiring further capacity to meet demand.
- 6.2.4 In order to provide this additional capacity, guidance has been provided as to whether the steering group and partner organisations should look to;
- Enhance existing pitches to increase their capacity and ensure adequate maintenance to maintain the higher use, and/or
  - Secure greater community access to sites and undertake necessary works to allow for such use to occur, and/or
  - Provide new playing pitches on new sites (natural or artificial grass pitches).
- 6.2.5 Where the third option has been recommended, further guidance is available from Sport England and National Governing Bodies to advise on the best course of action for local authorities and delivery organisations.

### 6.3 Securing additional or improved pitch provision through development

- 6.3.1 In addition to the specific site by site recommendations identified throughout the needs assessment, it is also key that the strategy provides a clear approach to securing playing pitch provision in the case new development, or utilising Section 106 (S106) / Tariff contributions to improve the quantity or accessibility of existing provision.
- 6.3.2 It is important to note that for any contribution secured through S106 / Tariff, a clear and tailored approach is required, to demonstrate how the contribution will be used to benefit residents. Specifically, the Playing Pitch Strategy's evidence base and action plan should be used to justify the need arising from the specific development and how these are to be met.
- 6.3.3 S106 investment should typically be used for improvement projects nearby new development, or for developing new provision on new sites. On the largest development sites in Milton Keynes, Tariff arrangements are being developed to deliver infrastructure programmes.
- 6.3.4 The graphic overleaf and associated commentary identifies the stages that should be followed, when utilising the Playing Pitch Strategy to secure additional or improved pitch provision through development.

Figure 5.2: Securing additional or improved pitch provision through development



6.3.5 Although the population of a single development may not in itself generate the demand for a full pitch, it will still generate additional demand which should be quantified and be met.

6.3.6 It should also be noted however, that the current calculation for the provision of new playing fields in development areas in Milton Keynes is 0.52 hectares of playing field per 1000 population. Provision must be in one single location within the development and should not be located in an area with a high risk of flooding. A sports pitch drainage system in line with Sport England Performance Quality Standards (PQS) should also be supplied.

#### 6.4 Using Planning Obligations to invest in pitch sport provision

6.4.1 If a Local Authority uses planning obligations to invest in community projects, there are a range of resources available to support the development of these investment cases, alongside the evidence from this Playing Pitch Strategy.

6.4.2 Sport England continue to keep the advice note for CIL and Planning Obligations updated<sup>3</sup>, with the latest version found on the organisation's website. The following key points have been updated and are particularly relevant to the outcomes of this PPS.

#### Top tips for using Planning Obligations

- Develop and maintain a robust and up to date evidence base for sporting provision.
- Use the evidence base to:
  - Estimate the nature and level of needs that may be generated from new development(s) for sporting provision;
  - establish clear deliverable actions (with associated costs) that have the potential to help meet the needs that will be generated from new development in the area.
- Based on the nature of the actions, the level of new development in an area, and the realistic ability to secure investment into sport through Tariff arrangements site specific planning obligations, decide how best to use planning obligations to deliver sporting infrastructure and to support development.
- Where sites are not subject to Tariff arrangements the use of planning obligations ensure that:
  - any obligations sought are based on a tailored approach to each development, using the robust evidence base to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met;
  - a proactive approach is taken to planning for the use of planning obligations. This could be through the use of a Planning Obligations SPD which identifies potential projects from a playing pitch strategy or sports facility strategy that could help meet the need arising from planned developments in a Local Plan.

6.4.3 Further information is available as part of Sport England's CIL and Planning Obligations Advice Note, however it is key to note that in relation to the 1<sup>st</sup> top tip identified above, the development and delivery of this PPS is the first stage in utilising planning obligations to leverage grass roots sport investment.

### 6.5 Conditions related to additional or improved pitch provision through development

6.5.1 Planning policy should seek to ensure that where sites are developed in phases or through multiple applications, and where the pitch provision is required on-site, that this provision is coordinated and delivered by the landowners/developers. In some circumstances, a single site for pitches serving all the development or all its phases can be required.

6.5.2 The timing and delivery of the pitches and related changing and parking facilities should be considered in relation to development phasing to achieve a balance between ensuring provision is in place in time to meet the needs of the residents, avoiding pressure being placed on existing facilities, and the financial viability of the development.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/community-infrastructure-levy-and-planning-obligations-advice-note/>



6.5.3 Where there are separate developments in close proximity that taken together generate a need for a whole pitch, contributions need to be made towards new provision or improving, existing pitches. For new pitches, the planning policy therefore also needs to identify where that pitch and related changing and parking facilities are to be located, how sufficient land is to be secured, and (where known) the individual developments that need to contribute to it. This also applies to where there is a need for a larger strategic site serving a large catchment. This may require the developers to provide the land on-site or for the local planning authority to identify the land through the Local Plan process.

## 6.6 Securing appropriate land provision from new development

6.6.1 Suitable land needs to be provided by developments, in line with the guidelines below;

- Where the investment need is for a new pitch and related changing and parking facilities to meet the demand directly generated by the population of the new development(s), then the developer is expected to meet all these costs. These include provision and land costs.
- Where the demand is for the majority (50% or more) of a pitch and related changing and parking facilities, that is to be provided on site, suitable land will be provided by the developer at no cost, as well as the population-related proportion of the cost of the pitch
- Where the demand is for less than 50% of a pitch and related changing and parking facilities, that is to be provided on-site, then suitable land needs to be planned into the development, however only a proportionate amount of this land will be provided for free and the remainder will need to be funded from other sources (e.g. from pooled contributions from other developments, from grants or other sources)
- Where the land cannot be provided for on-site because of proven master-planning constraints, financial viability or other relevant reasons, then the local authority may negotiate an appropriate alternative contribution, where this is S106 compliant.

## 6.7 Identifying the appropriate provision for contribution

6.7.1 As identified in the policy context for this document, the Council will secure developer contributions where appropriate towards future sports infrastructure to support future development in accordance with Local Plan policies and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Developer contributions will primarily be sought through S106 agreements, but other funding sources may also be secured where possible. The Council will continue to work with partners and infrastructure providers in order to secure improvements to sport infrastructure to meet the future needs of the study area.

6.7.2 In the case of S106 contributions, the following should be noted;

- Contributions may be pooled towards the provision of any single infrastructure project or type of infrastructure.
- Section 106 contributions must be directly related to the development in question; however, the impact of any development can affect the wider community. This means that S106 contributions can be used to deliver improvements to facilities that

are located some distance away from the development, such as a local town centre or major sports facility hub site

- Development that is funded through S106 contribution should be focussed on specific projects, identified through the strategic need's assessments (such as this Playing Pitch Strategy) that have been issued by the Council.

## 6.8 Conciliating contributions

6.8.1 To calculate the scale of a developer's financial contributions for the provision of pitches and related facilities, the following should be used;

- Sport England's Playing Pitch New Development Calculator (PPNDC) should be used to assess pitch and related facilities arising from specific developments. This can be supported and evidenced by Sport England's latest facility costs for pitches and related facilities, as well as detailed feasibility work and support from qualified cost consultants. The latest version of this calculator can be found here: <https://www.activeplacespower.com/reports/playing-pitch-calculator>
- The ongoing cost of maintenance and sinking fund contributions should be met by the designated pitch operator and should be calculated using Sport England or NGB advice and supporting documents. However local knowledge and previous costs from similar maintenance contracts should be considered. Maintenance and sinking costs can also be provided by Sport England's 'Lifecycle Costs' (2017) however where specific and robust knowledge is available it is recommended that this is used
- Where a land cost is justified this cost will be based on the local market cost for the relevant sport/leisure land use. There may also be a need to add the cost of other local and site-specific costs (e.g. abnormal ground conditions, site access needs etc.)

6.8.2 If the PPNDC is to be used, the Council should ensure that the most recent template is used, as financial data changes regularly. Further support is available from Sport England as required.

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