

# Gosport Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy - Stage D Report

Football, Rugby Union, Cricket and Hockey  
Assessments

A report and appendices by Strategic Leisure Limited

April 2024



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## Glossary & Abbreviations

3G	Third generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial grass pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CFA	County Football Association
CSP	County Sports Partnership
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
FTP	Football Turf Pitch
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
JFC	Junior Football Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LMS	Last Man Stands
M2	RFU Quality of grass pitch – Good Maintenance
MES	The number of games a playing pitch can accommodate is addressed as match equivalent sessions
NGB	National Governing Body
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PF	Playing Field
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQA	Pitch Quality Assessment
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFC	Rugby Football Club
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team Generation Rate

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- Secured Community Use For pitches that are available to the community the degree of certainty that this availability will continue needs to be recorded (i.e. how secure is the availability to the community?). Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Local Authority, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.
- Unsecured Community Use Educational sites where the following should be in place to ensure certainty of secured community use: if not in place, then the site provides unsecured community use.
- A formal community use agreement.
  - A leasing or management agreement requiring pitches to be available to the community/a community club.
  - A formal policy for community use adopted by the owner and or educational establishment.
  - Written confirmation from the owner and or educational establishment.

#### **Note on definitions of artificial pitch surfaces.**

Sport England has produced guidance on “Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union” This guidance can be referred to when selecting an artificial surface, but it is worth noting that this is now superseded by new and updated National Governing Body (NGB) technical guidance and you should contact the relevant NGB. The guidance can be found at:

<https://www.sportengland.org/media/4275/selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-rev2-2010.pdf>

Throughout the PPS the following abbreviations are used to describe specific types of playing pitch facility that has an artificial surface rather than natural grass.

NTP or non-turf pitch refers to an artificial turf sports surface designed specifically for cricket.

3G FTP- Third Generation Football Turf Pitch. This pitch type comprises blades of polypropylene supported by a thin base layer of sand and by an infill of rubber crumb. 3G pitches must meet the FIFA Quality Performance Standard up to Step 3 (FA National League System) or the FIFA Quality Pro Performance Standards for Step 1 & 2 level football as well as higher level FA competitions.

AGP - stands for an England Hockey recognised Artificial Grass Pitch which is either sand based/dressed or water playing surface.

World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant stands for a long pile FTP 3G with an engineered subbase system (of stone base, porous tarmac layer and shock pad) and are accepted by the rugby governing bodies (RFU and RFL).

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Gosport Borough Council and its partners. It has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and under the direction of a steering group led by the Council and including NGBs.
- 1.2 The Playing Pitch Strategy is capable of:
- Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
  - Informing the protection and provision of playing pitches.
  - Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing pitch areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches).
  - Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches.
  - Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for playing pitches; and
  - Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality, and accessibility of playing pitches.
- 1.3 The PPS provides a framework and action plan for future provision and management of sports pitches to serve existing and new communities across Gosport Borough.
- 1.4 The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:
- Football pitches.
  - Rugby Union pitches.
  - Cricket pitches.
  - 3G Artificial Grass Pitches; used by Football, and World Rugby 22 Compliant 3G AGPs.
  - Cricket pitches and non-turf pitches.
  - Hockey – artificial grass pitches.
  - Tennis – Outdoors
  - Bowling Greens - Outdoors.

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1.5 The objectives of the Playing Pitch Strategy are:

1. Identify changes in how the sports are played and levels of affiliated and unaffiliated participation.
2. Gather evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
3. To inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
4. To inform the assessment of planning applications.
5. To understand the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
6. Establish the need to develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies, provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
7. Prioritisation of internal capital and revenue investment; and
8. The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

1.6 There is a need to build key partnerships between Gosport Borough Council, National Governing Bodies, Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In the latter instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited. This document will provide clarity about the way forward and allow key organisations to focus on the key issues that they can directly influence and achieve.

1.7 The PPS has been developed in partnership with a range of agencies and been overseen by a steering group made up of representatives from:

- Sport England.
- Gosport Borough Council Planning and Regeneration Services.
- Gosport Borough Council Streetscene.
- England and Wales Cricket Board.
- Hampshire Cricket Board.
- England Hockey.
- Football Foundation on behalf of the FA.
- Hampshire County FA.
- Rugby Football Union.

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1.8 The aims of the PPS are to provide:

- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches.
- A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
- A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

1.9 The vision is to:

‘Provide a network of good quality outdoor sports provision, enabling everyone to be physically active and promoting a healthier lifestyle for all.’

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1.10 The PPS covers the timeline between 2022 and 2038. New population data coming forward will be addressed at either Stage E of the PPS or when the Local Plan reaches its 5-year renewal point. The individual sports and site action plans look at the short and the medium-term timescales. It is advised that the PPS is reviewed as part of the local plan review process which takes place on a 5 yearly cycle. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches may have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

1.11 The PPS approach for the sports of Football, Rugby, Hockey, and Cricket is based on the Sport England PPS Guidance: An Approach to Developing and Delivering a PPS 2013: [pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf](https://www.sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf) (sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com)

1.12 The approach comprises of 10 steps (See Figure 1) which are grouped into the following five stages:

- Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1).
- Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (Steps 2 & 3).
- Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Steps 4, 5 & 6).
- Stage D: Develop the strategy (Steps 7 & 8); and
- Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (Steps 9 & 10).

Figure 1: The 10 steps to delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy



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- 1.13 Figure 1: shows the 10 steps to delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy. Step 10 in Figure 1 identifies the need to ensure that the PPS is regularly updated and reviewed to keep the PPS robust. Arrangements should be made by the PPS Steering Group for the PPS action plan to be updated on a regular basis and to update and periodically review the PPS to keep it robust. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary. Formal reviews of the PPS could then be undertaken as part of the review of the local plan evidence base.
- 1.14 The methodology applied to assess the needs and opportunities for sports facilities - Outdoor Bowls and Outdoor Tennis follows Sport England's recommended approach, advocated in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance' (2014). [20140722-anog-published.pdf \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/20140722-anog-published.pdf)
- 1.15 The Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014) recommends the following actions:
- Stage A: Prepare and tailor your assessment.
  - Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand.
  - Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together.
  - Stage D: Applying the assessment.
- 1.16 The outdoor bowls and tennis Stage C Assessment is provided in Appendix 3.
- 1.17 The PPS can be used to support a wide range of stakeholders and community groups not just the Council. However, the Council has a lead role to play in understanding and planning for future demand, including highlighting the need to secure investment. The PPS must consider the context of reducing budgets for local authorities that have and continue to result in a reduction of resources available to maintain playing pitches and ancillary facilities.

### **Context**

#### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Updated December 2023**

- 1.18 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England. An updated version was published on 19 December 2023 (replacing the previous September 2023 version) The NPPF states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The NPPF sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It sets out the government's vision for achieving healthy, inclusive and safe places.
- 1.19 Paragraph 23 of the NPPF states that strategic policies should provide a clear strategy for bringing sufficient land forward, at a sufficient rate, to address objectively assessed needs over the plan period. This should include planning for and allocating sufficient sites to deliver strategic priorities of the area.

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1.20 The NPPF requires that Local Planning Authorities (LPA) ensure that their Local Plans are based on up-to-date and relevant evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focused tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned, and take into account relevant market signals (NPPF, Para. 31).

1.21 Paragraph 96(a) seeks policies which:

‘...promote social interaction, including providing opportunities for meeting between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other...’.

1.22 The revised NPPF has increased emphasis in relation to health and wellbeing. For example, the increased importance of planning policies and decisions aiming to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places (para. 96a-c).

1.23 These provide guidance on planning positively for provision and use of community facilities (including sports venues) and the development of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community.

1.24 Paragraph 97 of the NPPF emphasises the need for Local Plans to deliver the social, recreational, and cultural facilities and services a community needs. In doing so, policies should:

- Plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
- Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- Ensure that established shops, facilities, and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, and economic development.



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1.25 Paragraph 102 outlines the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities:

“Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport 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, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”.

1.26 Paragraph 103 of the NPPF specifies that:

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

1. An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
2. 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
3. The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

1.27 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing fields used in the last 5 years, and a consultee on other applications: it looks to improve the quality, access and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand. Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of sports facility needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is regularly reviewed to keep it up to date and renewed at least every five years.

1.28 The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as follows:

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

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- **Provide**

- To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements (if on the Infrastructure List) and Section 106 agreements. Sport England and the Local authority can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding facility developments in the area.

### **Local Context**

- 1.29 Gosport is a Borough located within the South Hampshire sub region which includes the two cities of Portsmouth and Southampton.
- 1.30 Covering over 27.6 square kilometres (10.6 square miles or 2,761 hectares)<sup>1</sup>, Gosport Borough is the twelfth smallest district in England and the smallest in Hampshire. The Borough sits on a peninsula adjacent to Fareham Borough and is surrounded on three sides by the Solent and Portsmouth Harbour, with 39 kilometres (24 miles) of coastline. There are two main settlements, Gosport, and Lee-on-the-Solent, which are separated by the Alver Valley. The Borough is urban in character, with over 80% 'built on'<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.31 The Borough is one of the most densely populated areas in the Southeast Region, with an urban density of 32.6 people per hectare. At the time of undertaking the Stage C assessment, the Borough had an estimated population of 85,167 in 2020<sup>3</sup>. Since this time, the Census 2021 shows the population of the Borough in 2021 to be 81,900.<sup>4</sup>

### **Sub-regional and Local Planning Policy**

- 1.32 Gosport is a partner authority in the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). In 2016, PfSH published its South Hampshire Spatial Position Statement ('the Position Statement'). The Position Statement and supporting documents are a key part of the Council's evidence base for the preparation of the GBLP 2038.
- 1.33 The Position Statement sets out the quantum of employment floorspace and housing requirements for the sub region, including figures for each district over the period to 2034. Further work is being undertaken to update this study in the light of the requirements of the latest NPPF published in December 2023 and other related documents.
- 1.34 The GBLP 2011 – 2029 (adopted October 2015) sets out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure. The Local Plan acknowledges that there are major sites that have potential to be developed.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS Standard Area Measurements (SAM) 2019. Total extent includes land area to mean high water.

<sup>2</sup> Made up of 61% discontinuous urban fabric and 20% industrial or commercial units. Source and land cover breakdown available from: A Land Cover Atlas of the UK: <https://doi.org/10.15131/shef.data.5219956>

<sup>3</sup> Source: ONS 2018-based Mid-Year estimates.

<sup>4</sup> Source: ONS Census (2021)

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- 1.35 These are Gosport Waterfront and Town Centre, Daedalus, Haslar Peninsula and Rowner. The PfSH Spatial Position Statement also refers to Gosport Waterfront as a new strategic development location in the PfSH area.
- 1.36 The GBLP 2011-2029 includes the following key policies:
- **Policy LP2: Infrastructure:** This is the Council's overarching policy for securing infrastructure including for built facilities and open space. Infrastructure can be secured through a range of measures including public funds and developer contributions and can be made either on site (if over 50 residential units) or through either a financial contribution secured through Section 106 Agreements and spent in accordance with the requirements of that specific agreement. Contributions are also collected through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
  - **Policy LP3: Spatial Strategy** of the current GBLP sets out the overarching quantum of development and the Council's spatial planning strategy for delivering the proposed growth over the plan period. In terms of residential development, the GBLP makes provision for 3,060 dwellings over the plan period.
  - **Policy LP32: Community, Cultural and Built Leisure Facilities** seeks to provide new facilities in association with new development in appropriate locations and to secure contributions through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) process or where appropriate through the preparation of Section 106 agreements for the provision and enhancement of facilities. The policy also seeks to protect existing facilities. The Council will normally resist any proposal that would involve the loss of existing community, cultural, sport and built leisure facilities. Change of use or redevelopment will only be considered where the Council is satisfied that the tests outlined in policy LP32 Point 5 are met i.e. demonstration that (1) the building is no longer required due to changes in demand or provision elsewhere; and (2) there are no other viable community, cultural, sports or recreation/built leisure use for the buildings or site for which there is need.
  - **Policy LP34: Provision of New Open Space and Improvement to Existing Open Space:** Residential developments of less than 50 units pay a financial contribution towards open space provision, usually through the mechanism of CIL. For those over 50 units, provision would be made on site and secured through Section 106 Agreements.

### **Potential Future Growth in Dwellings and Population**

- 1.37 The current and future population profile of Gosport and the locations of future growth are important to understand in relation to planning for the provision of sport and physical activity.

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- 1.38 The Council has undertaken demographic projections as part of preparing the emerging Gosport Borough Local Plan. This includes analysis of ONS population and household projections which are presented in its Infrastructure Assessment Report<sup>5</sup>. These projections are trend-based meaning that they provide the population and household data that would result if the assumptions based on previous demographic trends in the population and rates of household formation were to be realised in practice. The household projections that feed into the Government's standard method (which forms the starting point for the number of homes that need to be planned for) do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour. In addition, the projections do not consider the number of new homes which may be built within a local authority area, a factor that can have a significant effect on the overall total population.
- 1.39 Consequently, in preparing the emerging Gosport Borough Local Plan, the Council considered it necessary to provide an assessment of the potential population based on the potential numbers of new homes which may be built over the plan period. As stated previously future population projections will be considered at Stage E of the PPS or at the 5-year PPS renewal. The Council commissioned demographic projections which were produced by the independent Justin Gardner Consulting (JGC) in 2019. JGC were commissioned by Gosport Borough Council to develop a series of demographic projections for a range of different housing delivery scenarios across the Borough. At the time of publication, the projections were produced for the period 2016 to 2036 – a 20-year period. The original report can be found in the evidence base for the draft Local Plan online: [www.gosport.gov.uk/gblp2038evidence](http://www.gosport.gov.uk/gblp2038evidence)
- 1.40 Since the demographic projections were produced for the Borough Council in December 2019 several factors have resulted in it being necessary to extend the plan population projections to 2038. The original projections ended in 2036; as a result, the Borough Council has adjusted them to account for the additional two years to 2038. To achieve this adjustment, the Council undertook further trend analysis using Microsoft Excel, this is detailed in the Infrastructure Assessment Report. The Council recognised this approach may not be as robust as commissioning new demographic projections, however given the adjustment was only two years, this methodology was considered proportionate.
- 1.41 The three core scenarios taken from the Demographic Projections Report and adjusted by GBC are presented in the Infrastructure Assessment Report. In summary, for all scenarios the analysis shows strong increases in older age groups and modest increases (and some decreases) for younger groups – these trends are consistent with projections nationally. All scenarios show overall population growth ranging from between 0.6% and 4.5% over the period 2016 and 2036 and between 0.77% and 4.3% over the new plan period 2021 to 2038.
- 1.42 The three core scenarios or draft local plan growth options are summarised below in Table 1:

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<sup>5</sup> Available online: [www.gosport.gov.uk/gblp2038evidence](http://www.gosport.gov.uk/gblp2038evidence)

**Table 1: Draft local plan growth options (Source: Demographic Projections, JGC (including GBC adjustment for two additional years to 2038))**

	Dwellings 2016-2036 (20 years)	Population 2016-2036 (20 years)	Dwellings 2021 – 2038 (17 years) the revised time of the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan.	Population 2021-2038 (17 years) the revised time of the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan.
170 dwellings/per/year	3,400	501	2,890	657
190 dwellings/ per/ year	3,800	1,473	3,230	1,554
238 dwellings/per/year	4,760	3,806	4,046	3,708

### Changes resulting from the draft Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 at Regulation 18 Stage

- 1.43 Since the commencement of this PPS, Gosport Borough Council undertook a Regulation 18 consultation on the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 in 2021. The draft Local Plan proposed 206 dwellings per annum (3,500 over the Plan Period) over a period of 17 years from 2021 to 2038. This is between the 190 dwelling and 238 dwelling local plan growth options originally assessed and shown in Table 1 above.
- 1.44 To ascertain an indicative figure for how population may change because of 3,500 additional homes (as proposed in the draft Local Plan), the Council has undertaken further analysis which is underpinned by the original Demographic Projections by JGC.
- 1.45 Given the draft Local Plan proposed 206 dwellings per annum and this is closest to the 190 dwellings per annum local plan growth option originally presented in the Demographic Projections by JGC, the Council has used the 190 dwellings per annum growth option as the basis for its further analysis.
- 1.46 The 190 dwellings per annum (3,230 dwellings between 2021 and 2038) local plan growth option resulted in a potential population increase of 1,554 people between 2021 and 2038. This equates to 0.48 people per dwelling (i.e. 1,554 people divided by the 3,230 dwellings).
- 1.47 By applying this same ratio to the number of dwellings proposed in the latest iteration of the draft Local Plan, the Council has been able to provide an indicative figure for how population may change as a result. By applying the ratio of 0.48 people per dwelling to the 3,500 dwellings proposed in the draft Local Plan, the population may increase by 1,680. As such, an increase of 1,680 people over the 17-year period between 2021 and 2038 is the figure used by this PPS when considering the future needs for playing pitches.

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1.48 The findings of the Council’s analysis are presented in Table 2:

**Table 2: Draft local plan growth option and Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan <sup>6</sup>**

	Dwellings 2021 – 2038 (17 years) the revised time of the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan.	Population 2021-2038 (17 years) the revised time period of the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan.	Ratio between population and dwellings
190 dwellings/ per/ year	3,230	1,554	0.48
206 dwellings/per/year (as in the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan	3,500	1,680	0.48

### Summary

- 1.49 The PPS uses the potential population increase of 1,680 people between 2021 and 2038 as the projected additional population when considering the future needs for playing pitches. This is based on the provision of 3,500 dwellings (206 per annum) between 2021 and 2038 and uses the ratio of 0.48 people per dwelling resulting from the 190 dwelling per annum (3,230 dwellings) core scenario or local plan growth option detailed in the Demographic Projections from JGC which resulted in an additional 1,554 people.
- 1.50 The Council anticipates that it will commission revised demographics projections in 2024. This will be informed by up-to-date national datasets which will replace the previous data used by JGC in preparing the previous projections in 2019.
- 1.51 The Council will keep the PPS under review considering the revised projections and will respond to any changes where necessary in future consultations on the emerging Local Plan and as part of the Examination process. At this time, the Council does not envisage that revised projections will result in substantial change to those presented in Table 2 above, in the Infrastructure Assessment Report and the Demographic Projections by JGC (2019).

<sup>6</sup> Source: Demographic Projections, JGC (including GBC adjustment for two additional years to 2038 and the draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038

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- 1.52 Prevailing trends such as an ageing population and the recent results of the Census 2021 indicate that compared to some areas of the country, Gosport's population change is small in scale and therefore revised projections are unlikely to significantly change the findings of the PPS. Nevertheless, the iterative nature of the PPS and the requirement for a future review means any changes can be taken on board in a future review of the PPS.
- 1.53 There are several strategic Urban Regeneration Areas being considered in the new draft GBLP 2038. Within each regeneration area there are several strategic development sites:
- **Harbour Regeneration Area:** Gosport Waterfront, Gosport Town Centre, Blockhouse and Haslar Gunboat Sheds, Fort Blockhouse, Royal Haslar Hospital, The Piggeries, and Haslar Marine Technology Park.
  - **Rowner and Sultan Regeneration Area:** Rowner Estate and HMS Sultan.
  - **Daedalus Regeneration Area.**
- 1.54 In addition to these areas, the draft Local Plan includes the Gosport Strategic Open Spaces which comprises of the Alver Valley, Stokes Bay, Browndown, and Lee Beach and Clifflands. It is proposed to allocate additional new open space in the following locations:
- Stokesmead.
  - Alver Valley Country Park.
  - The Ramparts at Priddy's Hard.
  - Fort Blockhouse.
  - Royal Haslar Hospital.
  - Daedalus; and
  - Manor Way.
- 1.55 The emerging Local Plan will take a similar approach to the existing Local Plan in protecting most open spaces and community facilities.
- 1.56 The key challenges arise due to the number of key site constraints including flood risk, heritage assets, land ownership and timings for disposal of certain sites.
- 1.57 In November 2016, the Government announced the release of two major Ministry of Defence sites within the Borough. These are Fort Blockhouse and HMS Sultan. Fort Blockhouse is expected to be released from 2025 and HMS Sultan was expected to be potentially released after 2029. These sites have significant implications for the future development strategy of the Borough. It is important to recognise that it is the Council's position to strongly lobby for the retention of HMS Sultan as a training base and where achievable consider intensifying the employment and training uses of the site for military and civilian organisations. At the end of 2022, it was announced that HMS Sultan is expected to be retained after 2029.

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- 1.58 The Council's aim with the above sites is to secure more leisure indoor and outdoor leisure provision into GBC ownership as and when the opportunity arises.

### Summary of Key Demographic Factors and their Implications:

- 1.59 The 190 dwelling and 238 dwelling per annum growth options will be used to identify population increases to 2038 Table 3 summarises the demographic profile of GBC, reflecting the overall demographic analysis and factors for the Borough as discussed above.

**Table 3: Summary of Gosport Borough Council – Demographic Profile**

Summary of Gosport Borough Council – Demographic profile	
<b>Local Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gosport's position on a peninsula means that land for development is in limited supply and land reclamation has enabled marine businesses to expand.</li> <li>The MOD has historically been a major landowner in Gosport Borough (21% of land). Over several years MOD land has been sold with much of it being reused to provide housing and employment development.</li> </ul>
<b>Population Profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ONS 2018 based subnational projections estimates a population in Gosport in 2020 of 85,167 with 17.2% ages 0 – 15 years, 62.1% aged 16 – 64 years and 20.7% aged 65+.</li> <li>The latest (2018 based) set of subnational population projections (SNPP) were published by ONS in 2020. The 2018 based SNPP shows a projected population decline in Gosport of 340 between 2020 and 2036 with a population of 84,933 in 2036 this compares to the 2014 based SNPP projection of 4,800 increase between 2020 and 2036 with a population of 90,600 in 2036.</li> <li>A Demographics Projections Report (Dec 2019) produced by JG Consulting has been commissioned by GBC to provide more realistic population projections to reflect potential housing delivery scenarios.</li> <li>On this basis, based on 190 dwellings per annum (3,230 dwellings over the Plan period), the population is projected to grow from 85,774 in 2021 to 87,328, in 2038- <b>a rise of 1,554 people</b>.<sup>7</sup> Therefore for every new dwelling proposed there is a 0.48 additional population. This is due to household composition such as an ageing population. Consequently, when considering the 206 dwellings per annum (3,500 dwellings) proposed in the Local Plan (Reg. 18) this would work out as a <b>rise in population of 1,680 people</b> over the plan period (based on the 0.48 ratio) as detailed in the section above.</li> <li>The number of people aged 65 and over will increase by more than 50%, with greater percentage increase for the older age groups (e.g. those aged 75+ or 85+). This is likely to drive an increase in the number of people with some form of disability, and the number of people with a long-term health problem or disability is projected to increase by 3,500 to 4,000 persons in the Borough over the 20-year period 2016-2036<sup>8</sup>.</li> <li>At the same time, there is a projected fall of between 7.4% and 10.3% in those aged under 65 years.</li> </ul>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>94.4% White British, 5.6% BME.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Local Plan 2011 – 2029 makes provision for 3,060 dwellings over the plan period.</li> <li>In response to the requirements of the latest NPPF guidance. The new draft Local Plan 2038 is testing 3 dwelling growth options: 170 dwellings pa (2,890 between 2021-2038), 190 dwellings pa (3,230) and 238 dwellings (4,046).</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> A full analysis including population profile of each age group can be found on page 26 of the Council's Infrastructure assessment Report [https://www.gosport.gov.uk/media/3553/Infrastructure-Assessment-Report-IAR-2021/pdf/Infrastructure\\_Assessment\\_Report\\_2021.pdf?m=637689601041570000](https://www.gosport.gov.uk/media/3553/Infrastructure-Assessment-Report-IAR-2021/pdf/Infrastructure_Assessment_Report_2021.pdf?m=637689601041570000)

<sup>8</sup> Source: Gosport Borough Council Demographic Projections Report December 2019 – JG Consulting (2029)



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### Summary of Gosport Borough Council – Demographic profile

<b>Deprivation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are 53 LSOAs in Gosport Borough.</li><li>• 2% of LSOAs (1 LSOA in Town ward) are in the 10% most deprived nationally. 13% of LSOAs (7 LSOA in Grange, Forton, Leesland and parts of Town) are in the 20% most deprived nationally.</li><li>• Parts of Gosport Borough are more deprived compared to other parts of Hampshire and the Southeast. The IMD2019 reinforces previously identified patterns of deprivation across the Borough. Gosport continues to have deprivation ‘hotspots’ that are amongst some of the most deprived areas in the country yet are adjacent to some of the least deprived areas in the country.</li></ul>
<b>Car Ownership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 23% of household have no access to a car<sup>9</sup></li></ul>

### Study Area

- 1.60 The study area is the whole of the Gosport Borough Council area. Due to the small geographical area of Gosport Borough, the PPS has not identified sub areas and looks at the Borough as a whole.

### Monitoring and Review

- 1.61 It must be understood that the PPS represents a ‘snapshot’ in time based upon the anticipated level of growth planned for by Gosport Borough Council in its Local Plan. There will be development proposals that will come forward on land not allocated for housing in the Gosport Borough Local Plan, such as windfall sites, that the PPS has not taken into consideration. On the other hand, sites allocated in the Local Plan may not come forward as anticipated. Therefore, overall while the level of growth may not come forward in the specific locations anticipated, the overall growth should remain similar.
- 1.62 It will be important for the PPS to be kept live and up to date once it has been endorsed by Gosport Borough Council and the members of the Steering Group ensuring:
- Progress with the PPS recommendations and action plan.
  - Monitoring and evaluation the outcomes of the PPS; and
  - Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date.
- 1.63 Any review should be in accordance with Stage E Step 10 of the Sport England PPS guidance (see Figure 2).

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<sup>7</sup> Source: Sport England Local Insight Profile Gosport 30 June 2020

### **Structure of Report**

- 1.64 The Evidence Base which informs this stage D report is provided as an appendix to this report called Appendix 1 Gosport Borough PPS Stage C Assessment Report.
- 1.65 Section 2 of this report provides the headline findings of the evidence base for each sport.
- 1.66 Section 3 provides the sport specific issues and scenarios.
- 1.67 Section 4 provides the conclusions and strategic recommendations.
- 1.68 The Appendices include:
- Appendix 1: Gosport Borough PPS Stage C Assessment Report (including relevant appendices).
  - Appendix 2: Football Overview Spread Sheet 2022/23 Season
  - Appendix 3: Tennis and Bowls Stage C Assessment Reports
  - Appendix 4: Site by Site Action Plan.

## 2. Headline findings of the evidence base for each sport.

2.1 Table 4 highlights the quantitative headline shortfalls for the main pitch sports across Gosport Borough qualitative findings and site-specific findings are identified in the following sections of this report.

**Table 4: Headline Findings Gosport Borough Council Shortfalls in Demand Football Grass Pitches, 3G AGP, Cricket, Hockey, and Rugby Football Union**

Sport	2022 Current Shortfall in Provision Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)		2038 Shortfall in Provision Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)	
3G Football AGPs (Requirement for football training only).	1		2	
Football Natural Grass Pitches Peak Time of Use Secured and Unsecured MES	Adult 11v11 no current shortfall 17.5 MES		Adult 11v11 No future shortfall 16 MES	
	Youth 11v11 Shortfall 1 MES		Youth 11v11 shortfall 5 MES	
	Junior 9v9 Balanced Play		Junior 9v9 Shortfall 5 MES	
	Mini Soccer Balanced Play 7v7		Mini Soccer Shortfall 3 MES	
	Mini Soccer 5v5 Shortfall 0.5 MES		Mini Soccer Shortfall 4 MES	
Cricket	Shortfall 22 match equivalent Sessions per Season		Shortfall 25 match equivalent sessions per Season	
Rugby Football Union	No current Shortfall match play MES weekly (1.25 MES)	Weekly Shortfall 4.5 training equivalent sessions per week	No current shortfall match play MES (0.08 MES)	Weekly Shortfall 6.63 training equivalent sessions per week
Hockey AGPs	No current shortfall (Based on Continued use of St Vincent College's AGP)		No future shortfall (Based on continued use of St. Vincent College's AGP)	

2.2 Current demand in Table 4 is calculated from an analysis of overplay and spare capacity at peak time of play. This can be found in the Stage C Assessment Reports for each sport Appendix 1.

2.3 Future demand takes into consideration club aspirations and population growth up to 2038 as identified in the Stage C Assessment Report Appendix 1. Population growth is based upon the number of new houses which could be developed, and the potential population growth resulting from this. The new population from potential housing development and the current team numbers for each playing pitch sport are input into Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator. The workings and output of the Playing Pitch Calculator provides match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required for each playing pitch sport along with the cost of the new pitch and ancillary provision.

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- 2.4 From a quantitative perspective, the current 2022/23 overall position across Gosport for football using secured and unsecured sites, is spare capacity for adult 11v11 but shortfalls for youth 11v11 and mini soccer 5v5 with balanced play for junior 9v9 and mini soccer 7v7. In 2038 all football typologies have shortfalls except for adult 11v11 pitches. This significant positive supply of adult pitch MES should be re-organised to address shortfalls in the younger age categories.
- 2.5 3G AGPs for football training show a current shortfall of 1 x full size 3G AGPS and future estimated shortfall of 2 x full size 3G AGPs. The recently completed 3G AGP at Brune Park Community School makes an important contribution towards reducing the current and future shortfall of 3G AGP pitches.
- 2.6 Cricket has a current shortfall of 22 match equivalent sessions per season and a future estimated 2038 shortfall of 25 match equivalent sessions per season. The increase is due to increased population projections.
- 2.7 Rugby has a shortfall of MES for training currently and in the future, there is not a shortfall for match play MES.
- 2.8 Hockey has no shortfall currently or in the future as long as St Vincent College's AGP remains playable.
- 2.9 Tennis courts across Gosport Borough are operating at 13.4% of their total operational capacity. This does not include the sports club membership courts that would take up some of this usage. According to data provided by the LTA's online booking system (Clubspark) with court access technology, the average level of utilisation in venues (UK wide) is 53%. By this barometer Gosport is operating significantly below average level in terms of its utilisation of public courts.
- 2.10 Future demand for tennis to 2038 can be met from the existing sports club courts and public courts. A key priority in Gosport is to increase the visibility of public courts. This can be achieved utilising the LTA Club Spark and making courts available to be booked online. By utilising Club Spark GBC and the LTA can work in partnership to increase tennis participation on these sites and gain a greater understanding of community use in the area.
- 2.11 Outdoor bowls greens across Gosport Borough are sufficient to meet current and future demand.
- 2.12 There is a clear need to protect all existing outdoor sports provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality to that being lost. To ensure security of use all unsecured sites should endeavour to hold longer term agreements for community use of at least three years or in the case of obtaining external funding a lease of 25 years is recommended.
- 2.13 Some shortfalls can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, through the FA's Pitch Improvement Programme. The Football Foundation has launched PitchPower (<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/pitchpower>) - a really simple digital tool to help individual sites inspect and improve their grass pitches. The site self-inspection will provide regular detailed assessment reports from grounds management experts at the Grounds Management Association, including recommendations on maintaining and improving the quality of the pitches.

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- 2.14 All key sites particularly those which are GBC managed should undertake PitchPower self-assessment and review the report recommendations. Grants are available through the Football Foundation to help fund grass pitch maintenance works, materials, and grounds maintenance machinery where appropriate through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, the gateway to which is PitchPower assessment.
- 2.15 PitchPower is due to be extended to support not only football but cricket, rugby league and rugby union too. It was re-launched in August 2022 and made available to football and rugby league clubs, with rugby union and cricket clubs to begin use of PitchPower with the support of RFU and ECB in from 2024 onwards.
- 2.16 In some instances where there is new housing development, shortfalls may need to be met through new provision on-site to meet the playing pitch and ancillary needs of the new development, or off- site where developer contributions can improve capacity and quality of existing playing pitch facilities to meet the needs of the new development. In the first instance, the PPS should be used as the document which identifies local need to which offsite contributions should be directed.

### 3. Sport Specific Issues and Scenarios

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

#### **Football – Grass Pitch Summary Key Issues**

1. The audit identifies 69 grass football pitches within Gosport Borough across 27 sites. 22 sites with 64 pitches are available for community use and have been used in the 2022/23 season. 5 sites are unavailable for use including 1 site at Grange Lane which has not been used since the 2014/15 season.
2. The available pitches used by community football clubs in the 2022/23 season across Gosport Borough equates to 41 adult 11 v 11, 7 youth 11 v 11, 5 junior 9 v 9, and 11 mini soccer pitches.
3. 38% (24) of the 64 pitches used during the 2022/23 season across Gosport Borough provide secured community use access (pitches owned or leased by local authorities or clubs/associations). 62% (40) pitches are unsecured community use pitches provided at education and MoD sites. A key issue will be to resolve the reliance on unsecured community use pitch provision.
4. 15 (24%) pitches are assessed as good quality, 43 (67%) as standard quality and 6 (9%) as poor quality. Raising the quality of 'Standard' and 'Poor' quality pitches would increase playing capacity. This is a key issue to resolve.
5. Several stakeholders aspire to improve their pitch quality and/or provide 3G pitches – these are Gosport Borough, Lee Rangers, and Gosport Falcons.
6. Across Gosport Borough, 1 site (5%) Stokes Bay, which is actively used for football is not serviced by any sort of clubhouse or changing rooms. In addition, a further 4 (18%) sites Brookers Field, Privett Park, Monkton Sports Ground and Bedenham School are serviced by poor quality provision. As a result, there are several stakeholders who have indicated that they aspire to create or improve the quality of the ancillary provision on the sites they use. – Gosport and Fareham Sunday League.

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7. The largest youth football clubs - Gosport Borough Junior FC based at St. Georges Playing Field also use St Vincent College and HMS Sultan 1 and Gosport Falcons FC are based at Monkton Sports Ground; both have short term agreements for use of their home grounds from the MoD. This creates a security of tenure issue and hinders external funding grants for pitch and ancillary improvements as well as impacting on the future sustainability of the clubs if the sites were to be lost. This is a key issue to address by provision of a 3G AGP which does not necessarily need to be on site at St George's Playing Fields or Monkton Sports Ground due to issues with security of tenure at both sites as well as the potential impact on protected overwintering birds.
8. 138 teams have been identified as playing within the Gosport Borough 2022/23 season. This consists of 33 adult men's 11v11 teams, 4 adult women's 11v11 teams, 35 youth 11v11 boys' teams, 3 youth 11v11 girls' teams, 20 junior boys' 9v9 teams, 5 junior girls' 9v9 teams, and 25 mini soccer 7v7 teams and 13 mini soccer 5v5 teams.
9. 9 pitches across 4 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 7 match equivalent sessions per week at peak time of play. However, the weekly capacity and demand identifies that all the sites are played to weekly capacity except for St Vincent Leisure (2 adult pitches), Bay House School (2 adult pitches), Monkton Sports Ground (1 Youth 11v11 pitch and 1 junior 9v9 pitch) and St George's Playing Fields (2 mini soccer 7v7 pitches).
10. When considering secured and unsecured community use sites there is current spare capacity on adult 11 v 11 pitch typologies (17.5 match equivalent sessions). There is a shortfall of youth 11 v 11 (1 MES), junior 9 v 9 and mini soccer 7 v 7 (balanced play) and a shortfall of mini soccer 5 v 5 (0.5MES). After factoring in future demand, a greater proportion of this demand is from club aspirations rather than population increases with 12.5 MES being generated by club aspirations and 1.2 MES generated by population increases. Consequently, there are shortfalls across all pitch typologies except for adult 11 v 11. Consequently, some re-organisation of provision for different age groups is required.
11. It is very apparent that football would not be sustainable if it relied solely on secured community use sites. There would be a shortfall at peak time of play - adult 3 MES, Youth 11v11 6 MES, 9v9 5 MES, 7v7 4 MES and 5v5 4 MES. In this instance where possible there is a need to protect and secure community use agreements for all unsecured sites

### Scenario - Improving pitch quality

- 3.2. Improving poor quality pitches (either firstly through increased maintenance, or drainage improvements to increase pitch quality) and thus capacity by two quality increments to good quality, and standard quality pitches by one quality increment to good quality, will help to reduce overplay. Table 5 below shows the pitches that are of poor and standard quality on sites, and currently over played on a weekly basis and the impact on capacity by raising the quality of these pitches to good.

**Table 5: Poor and Standard quality pitches on Unsecured sites, currently over played on a weekly basis and the impact on capacity by raising the quality of these pitches to Good.**

	Security of Site	Quality Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Nos	Current Weekly Capacity Demand	Improve Quality to Good - Increased Capacity	Additional capacity Created
St Vincen Leisure Centre	Unsecured	Standard	Adult 11v11	2	1.5	0.5	2
Monkton Sports Ground	Unsecured	Standard	Youth 11v11	1	2	1	1
Monkton Sports Ground	Unsecured	Standard	Junior 9v9	1	1	0	1
St George's Playing Fields	Unsecured	Standard	Mini Soccer 7v7	2	0.5	3.5	4
Bay House School	Unsecured	Poor	Adult 11v11	2	0.5	3.5	4
<b>Totals</b>				<b>8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>12</b>

- 3.3. There are four sites across Gosport with pitches which are overplayed by a total of 5.5 MES per week. Improving the pitch quality to good would create an additional capacity of 12 MES per week. To provide secured funding to improve the quality there is a need to provide formal community use agreements, purchasing of MoD land or a long-term lease between the football clubs and MoD.
- 3.4. Raising the quality of weekly overplayed pitches from poor or standard quality to good eliminates overplay on most pitches, except for Monkton Sports Ground youth 11v11.



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- 3.5. This pitch is overplayed beyond qualitative improvements and other solutions would be required, such as transfer of play to additional pitches. Play can be accommodated on the existing adult pitch at Monkton Sports Ground that has capacity for 1 MES at peak time and 2.5 MES weekly.
- 3.6. All four sites are unsecured sites and investment into the school sites could be subject to a formal community use agreement being in place. Monkton Sports Ground and St George’s Playing Fields are both MoD sites and Gosport Borough Council have a firm commitment to protect and if possible, take ownership of both sites from the MoD and lease the sites to the existing clubs providing security of tenure.
- 3.7. Additional pitch improvements have been identified through consultation these are:
- Brookers Field – improvements to stop waterlogging on pitches 1, 2 and 4. Pitch 5 requires attention, in the goal area nearest the pavilion which has some parts below pitch level and needs levelling.
  - Elson Recreation Ground – Pitch 2 needs improvements to stop waterlogging.
  - Howe Road – Pitch improvements needed to stop waterlogging.
  - Nobes Avenue – The pitch needs to be levelled to stop water pooling.
  - Privett Park – Pitches 1, 2, and 4 need improvement to stop waterlogging.
  - Stokes Bay – Pitch 2 needs levelling and 3 and 4 require improvements to stop waterlogging.

### **Scenario – Loss of Access of School Sites and Other Landowners and Providing Security of Tenure**

- 3.8. There are 22 sites available and in use providing 64 secured and unsecured community use pitches in the 2022/23 season.
- 3.9. 38% (24) of the 64 pitches used during the 2022/23 season across Gosport Borough provide secured community use access.
- 3.10. 62% (40) of the pitches are unsecured community use pitches provided at education and MoD sites.
- 3.11. The Sport England Guidance states that “as a guide there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years...arrangements which may suggest such certainty could include:
- A formal community use agreement.
  - A leasing or management agreement requiring pitches to be available to the community/a community club.
  - A formal policy for community use adopted by the owner and or educational establishment; and
  - Written confirmation from the owner and or educational establishment”.
- 3.12. Table 6 shows the sites and pitches that are available for use but offer unsecured community use.

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Table 6: Sites providing Unsecured natural grass pitches by typology across Gosport Borough 2022/23 (MoD and Education Sites)

Site No.	Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Owners	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
					11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
9	St George’s Playing Fields	Available and used	Unsecured	Annual arrangement to Club from MoD			3	2	2
10	Fleetlands	Available and used	Unsecured	Club - MoD	1				
11	Monkton Sports Ground	Available and used	Unsecured	Rolling annual agreement since 1991.	2	1	1	1	1
12	St Vincent College	Available and used	Unsecured	Education – Annual Agreement	2				
13	Alverstoke CE Junior School	Available and used	Unsecured	Education		1			
14	Alver Valley Schools	Available and used	Unsecured	Education				1	
15	Bay House School Sports Centre	Available and used	Unsecured	Education	2	1			
16	Bridgemary School	Available and used	Unsecured	Education	1	1			
17	Brune Park Community School	Available and unused	Unsecured	Education	2	1			
18	Cocked Hat School (Bay House School)	Available and unused	Unsecured	Education	4				
19	Fleetlands Golf Course	Available and unused	Unsecured	Private	1				
20	Bedenham Junior School	Available and used	Unsecured	Education			1	1	

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Site No.	Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Owners	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
					11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
21	HMS Sultan Site 1	Available and used	Unsecured	MoD	5	1			
22	HMS Sultan Site 2	Available and used	Unsecured	MoD	1				
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

3.13. There are 30 pitches across Gosport where tenure is considered unsecure and there is current community use by clubs of school and MoD sites. If these unsecured community use pitches were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be significantly exacerbated as the demand would have to relocate to other sites, thus increasing overplay or potentially resulting in exported demand.

3.14. The tables below consider current spare capacity, shortfalls, and the loss of MES of unsecured sites.

**Table 7: Impact on peak time MES if current MoD/education sites were lost**

Pitch type	Actual Spare Capacity	Loss of Unsecured Use Capacity @ Peak time	Total Less Unsecured MES
Adult	17.5	9.5	7.5
Youth 11v11	1	6.5	7.5
Junior 9v9	0	5	5
Mini Soccer 7v7	0	7	7
Mini Soccer 5v5	0.5	3.5	4
Totals	16	(32) 31.5	16

3.14 There would be a shortfall of 16 MES weekly. As providing this number of pitches (8) is unrealistic, it reinforces the need to work with pitch providers to secure long term access for football clubs to existing sites.

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- 3.15 All unsecure pitch usage takes place at education sites and MoD sites. Creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term. When there is external investment on school sites, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. For such agreements to be successful, it is important to ensure that provision is accessible at peak time and pricing is in line with GBC fees and charges and affordable.
- 3.16 For the MoD sites such as St George’s Playing Fields, Monkton Sports Ground and HMS Sultan, the Council will work to ensure the long-term sustainability of these sites either by seeking to purchase the sites and agree long term leases with the existing clubs or by reaching long term agreement for community use with the MoD.

#### **Scenario – Loss of Playing Pitches at Fort Blockhouse**

- 3.17 The site currently provides for:
- 1 adult football pitch
  - 1 senior rugby pitch
- 3.18 Fort Blockhouse does not provide any current community use and pitches on the site have previously primarily been used by defence personnel training /residing on site.
- 3.19 Fort Blockhouse presently includes a total of 2.75ha of playing fields, which are situated behind the secure fence line and within the operational military site where public access is not and never has been permitted.

**Table 8: Fort Blockhouse conclusion of Replacement and Loss.**

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D) = (A) – (B) +(C)
Fort Blockhouse Existing Amount of Playing Field Ha	Publicly Accessible Park and Garden to be provided at Fort Blockhouse	Playing Field Ha required to meet any current shortfalls and future demand	Fort Blockhouse Playing Field Ha to be replaced (see explanation below)
2.75ha	2.35 Ha	0 Ha	0.45 Ha

- 3.20 A 5v5 mini soccer pitch with run offs is 0.1419 Ha. 4 x 5v5 mini soccer pitches would be equivalent to 0.5676 Ha and meet the replacement need of Fort Blockhouse. This may be provided for at Gosport Leisure Centre.
- 3.21 There are two mitigating circumstances which justify the loss of the sports pitch at Fort Blockhouse:

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- 3.22 Firstly, off-site provision which relates to the population on Fort Blockhouse and residential typology. This is already accounted for in the global Gosport analysis which used the JG Consulting Demographic Study (2019) figures, and these figures take account of the proposed development at Fort Blockhouse. The global figure shows that the Borough has sufficient sports pitches over the Local Plan period to account for population growth including at Fort Blockhouse.
- 3.23 Secondly, regarding on-site provision and the loss of the sports pitch at Fort Blockhouse. The existing sports pitch is not in community use and never has been used for sports by community groups. The sports pitch has always been used by military personnel only.
- 3.24 It is considered the site should be excluded from the calculations for future community sports pitch use as the analysis in this PPS has shown there is sufficient supply to meet both the demand from population growth and club aspiration over the local plan period to 2038. Instead, the remaining sports pitch area could be developed into a high-quality park as set out in the Regulation 18 public consultation draft Local Plan (2021), with a requirement to meet the needs of new residents. In addition, the Council will secure a new public walkway along the Solent and Harbour to enhance walking opportunities for all residents which will assist in improving health and well-being outcomes.
- 3.25 Draft Policy LE1: Open Spaces of the GBLP2038, sets out that there may be circumstances where in addition to providing on-site open space (including sports pitches), developer contributions may be sought for off-site provision for open space. Circumstances for off-site provision may be considered appropriate for sites of 50 dwellings or more provided a financial contribution is secured through a Section 106 agreement. Contributions will be directly related in scale and in-line to the proposed development to reflect the impact the development has on existing green infrastructure. The draft policy sets out that such funds can be used to improve an existing facility normally within 800 metres of the development site to achieve the Council's 'Good' quality standard. In the case of sports pitches the Council have advised this could be within 1600 metres of the proposed development. This is a continuation of the Council's approach as set out in the adopted Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029.
- 3.26 With regards to development proposals at Fort Blockhouse, the Council would seek in addition to the provision of a high-quality park on-site, developer contributions for improvements to existing community use sports pitches in the vicinity of the proposed development for example Monkton Sports Field or St. Georges Playing Fields both of which are in close proximity to the development site this would be secured through a S106 legal agreement.

### **Brockhurst Gate**

- 3.27 Planning application 19/00316/FULL was approved in October 2020 for the erection of 3 buildings to form an employment development (use class B1a, B1c, B2 and B8), with access and egress, car parking, landscaping and associated works and improvements (departure from the Local Plan).
- 3.28 The Civil Service Sports Ground site was shown in previous open space audits as Outdoor Sports (football pitches) due to an identified need for provision for community teams. Since the Open Space Monitoring Report for 2014 was published, to support the adopted Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 planning permission was granted partly for economic uses and partly for community football pitches with a pavilion.

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- 3.29 Planning permission was granted under application 16/00598/FULL for the redevelopment of the wider site, incorporating the application site, for a mix of uses including retail, a drive thru restaurant and coffee shop, car parking and associated highway works. As part of the planning permission new sports pitches (1 adult and 1 junior) and changing rooms (pavilion) were to be provided on the site covered by this planning application. These pitches were required as part of the previous permission due to the loss of the previous high quality pitches a demonstrated need and the vulnerability of the pitch provision within the Borough. This vulnerability is primarily because of the reliance on Ministry of Defence and Education provision. The community use of those MoD and Education pitches can be restricted or ceased completely with limited notice. The retail units are now complete and occupied and some preparatory works have been undertaken in respect of the sports pitch and changing room building, however, the works are not complete, and these proposals would result in the loss of these approved facilities. To mitigate this loss a Section 106 Agreement has secured a developer contribution to be used on enhancing public sports facilities, specifically football.
- 3.30 The Council has now granted planning permission (19/00316/FULL) for employment use on this sports pitch site. The developer agreed to pay a developer contribution to mitigate the loss of the football pitches and if the application is not implemented the site would revert back to the original requirement for football pitches. Therefore, the site will still be shown as existing open space for the Regulation 19 version of the draft Local Plan. However, it has been excluded from the existing supply calculation in the supporting Open Space Monitoring Report. The latest evidence published in the Playing Pitch Assessment (2024) still highlights a need for the provision of football pitches over the Local Plan period and therefore any loss of pitches on this site will need to be mitigated.

### **Summary**

- 3.31 There are several priorities for football in Gosport. Firstly, the priority must be protecting existing playing pitches through the Local Plan and safeguarding usage with either community use agreements or long-term lease arrangements with educational and MoD establishments wherever possible. The second priority must be pitch improvements to raise the quality of pitches and increase capacity, alongside increasing capacity there is a need to improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer. Any works will need to meet the needs of both female participants with disabilities including access improvements, to facilitate increased football formats. As a minimum multi - pitch sites should be prioritised and access to toilet facilities would be a minimum requirement at all sites.

## Football Recommendations

1. Protect the existing quantity of pitches unless replacement provision can meet Sport England Playing Fields Policy and suitable mitigation, or replacement provision is agreed and delivered.
2. Provide security of tenure for clubs using educational sites through community use agreements and the Council to seek to ensure the long-term sustainability of MoD sites through purchasing or long-term agreements with the MoD.
3. Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as 'Poor' or 'Standard' quality, prioritise investment and review the delivery model of maintenance. This is to ensure there is an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality to a 'good' standard.
4. The Council with the MoD, education providers, sports clubs and other stakeholders should work to accommodate future demand as well as unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity, or at sites not currently available for community use that could become so, moving forward.
5. Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer. Ensure any works provide suitability for female access and disability access to facilitate increased football formats. Prioritise multi - pitch sites, seek to provide access to toilet facilities as a minimum requirement at all sites.
6. Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that meet the new demand created by the development and existing shortfalls where possible, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.
7. Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using developer contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

## 3G Pitches

### 3G Pitch Summary Key Issues

1. There is an insufficient supply of full size 3G AGPs to meet current and anticipated future demand for football in Gosport.
2. There are currently 3 full size 3G AGPs across Gosport with smaller 3G AGPs provided at Gosport Leisure Centre (8 5v5 and 1 7v7). Full size 3G pitches are currently FA Registered.
3. Based upon Football Association modelling of 38 teams per full size 3G AGP for training, there is a current need for 4 full size 3G AGPs and an existing current shortfall of 1 x 3G AGP in Gosport Borough. By 2038 the shortfall is expected to rise to 2 x 3G AGPs.
4. In addition to football requirements given that the majority of overplay on rugby union pitches is a result of training demand on grass pitches, it is considered that there is a potential need for additional floodlighting, pitch quality improvements and /or access to a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G AGP. Which would displace demand from Gosport Park. The current need is 4.5 MES and future demand 7 MES per week.
5. The key issue is where an additional 3G AGP can be provided. A suggested site is Privett Park, but the site has issues including, the impact on cricket and proximity of the site to residential areas.

### 3G Pitches - Accommodating Football Training Demand

- 3.32 To satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams), Table 9 identifies a current need for 4 x 3G AGPs. There are currently 3 x full size 3G AGPs across Gosport, including the new Brune Park School 3G AGP. There is a current shortfall of 1 x full size 3G AGPs across Gosport. Gosport Leisure Centre provides 8 x 5v5 and 1x 7v7 3G AGP. When considering these smaller 3G AGPs they could add up to 2 full sized pitches, but they are individually fenced. In addition, these pitches are heavily used by teams based in Fareham Borough for mid-week training. The Fareham clubs are located just across the border with Gosport.
- 3.33 These 3G shortfall projections are based on football training need only. Providing access opportunities to rugby union would mean more pitches may be required and sustained. Rugby union currently require 4.5 MES per week and in the future 7 MES per week for training purposes.
- 3.34 When accounting for future demand. The need is 5 x full size AGPs. There are currently 3 x full size 3G AGPs providing community use, including the new 3G AGP at Brune Park School. The **future** shortfall is 2 x full size 3G2.



**Table 9: Demand for full size 3G pitches in Gosport Borough – Training Demand**

Analysis Area	Current No. of Teams	Current Requirement 3G AGPs	Current No. of Full size 3G	Current Shortfall	Future Number of Teams	Future Requirement	Future Shortfall
Gosport	138	4 (Rounded up from 3.63)	3	1	166	5 (4.3 rounded up)	2

### **3G Pitches – Accommodating Match Play**

3.35 The alternative to grass pitches is the use of AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football. For competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches the pitch must be FA tested and approved (to either FA or FIFA standard) and it will then appear on the FA Pitch Register.

#### **Scenario - Moving All Mini Soccer 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 Match Play Demand to 3G Pitches.**

3.36 The 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 team numbers have been broken down into peak time of play for each typology:

- 5v5 mini soccer - 8 Saturday teams and 6 Sunday teams
- 7v7 mini soccer – 12 Saturday teams and 12 Sunday teams
- 9v9 – 17 Saturday teams and 6 Sunday teams

3.37 The peak time of play for 5v5 mini soccer is a Saturday with 8 teams playing and the peak time of play for 7v7 teams is also Saturday with 12 teams playing.

3.38 5v5 mini soccer requires 0.25 x 3G AGPs, 7v7 mini soccer requires 0.75 x 3G AGPs equalling a total of 1 x 3G AGPs.

3.39 9v9 soccer requires 1.3 x 3G AGPs.

3.40 In total to accommodate all mini soccer and 9v9 match play at peak time of play there is a requirement for 3 x 3G AGPs (2.3 rounded up). This is on the basis that both playing formats can be accommodated on one day using staggered kick off times.

3.41 The 3 full size pitches could accommodate 3 adult 11v11 match equivalent sessions on a Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon.

### **Scenario - Creating additional full size 3G pitches for football.**

- 3.42 First and foremost, the FA advise that the development of additional full size 3G pitches should work towards alleviating the shortfall for training Monday – Friday and then consider match play on a Saturday and Sunday as well as providing recreational and informal opportunities. This will ensure sustainability of the pitch.
- 3.43 There is a current shortfall of 1 x 3G AGPs including the new 3G AGP at Brune Park School. There will still be shortage of 1 3G AGP to meet current demand and a future shortage of a further 1 3G AGP to 2038. Sites are difficult to find in Gosport due to shortage of land and nature conservation issues such as the need to protect Brent Geese. The best way forward may be to have discussions with the local schools and St Vincent College to see if they would be interested in turning one of their natural grass football pitches to a 3G AGP but keeping their hockey AGP. Alternatively, replacing the grass pitch at Gosport Borough Football Club with a 3G AGP could be explored with the Club. An alternative option could be to provide a 3G AGP at Stubbington School as per Fareham Borough Council Local Football Facilities Plan and release time from Fareham Clubs who are using Gosport Leisure Centre smaller 3G AGPs. A 3G AGP in Stubbington, Fareham could also serve Lee Rangers FC from Gosport. There is also scope to consider additional 3G AGP provision at the leisure centre, albeit any provision would be for smaller 3G pitches and not a full size one due to the limited land available.

### **Summary**

- 3.44 The priority is to provide sufficient 3G AGPs for football team training and to meet the current and future shortfalls in provision. This leads to identifying future locations for 3G AGP provision.

### **3G Pitch Recommendations**

1. Protect the existing stock of 3G pitches.
2. All new AGP provision in the Borough to be discussed and worked through in consultation with County Football Association, Football Foundation, Rugby football Union and England Hockey. This links with the recommendation in the rugby union recommendations that additional floodlit training provision is required away from Gosport Park
3. Retain all certified 3G pitches on the respective sporting registers and ensure certification of each is renewed through performance standard testing.
4. Maximise use of capacity where available at weekends to accommodate match play, to reduce grass pitch shortfalls.

5. Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet NGB recommended dimensions that are appropriate for that sport and the appropriate quality performance standards that meet the performance testing criteria.
6. Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
7. Ensure all 3G pitch providers put in place a sinking fund to meet the cost of carpet and sports lighting replacement/refurbishment to ensure long-term pitch sustainability.
8. Encourage more match-play on 3G AGPs for football by providing multi line-marking solutions to allow for match-play across all formats of football (5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11). This enables significant levels of match-play to be transferred from grass to 3G, particularly mini soccer and junior 9v9, this will help to alleviate over play of existing grass pitches and allow for the grass pitches where transfer of play occurs to be reconfigured for alternative football play if necessary and ensure that 3G pitches remain suitable to accommodate such demand through appropriate 3G Registration.
9. Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider the potential for 3G provision on multi-pitch sites, and as a minimum requirement, design new sites so that they could accommodate 3G provision later, if required.

### Rugby Union – Grass Pitch Summary Key Issues

1. The community use rugby Club site at Gosport Park provides four adult, two junior and two mini community use pitches.
2. There is a current shortfall of 4.5 training match equivalent sessions per week. This grows to 6.63 training equivalent sessions in 2038.
3. There is a current spare capacity of 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week on all rugby pitches. This falls to 0.08 match equivalent sessions per week in 2038.
4. Priority should be placed first and foremost on alleviating overplay. Given that the majority of overplay is a result of training demand on the single grass training pitch, it is considered that there is a need to upgrade the current sports lighting to provide the correct LUX across the training pitch, and secondly provide additional floodlit pitches, and/or provide access to a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G pitch. It is unlikely that the current training pitch could provide additional capacity given its position and the water table; in which case the priority is more likely one of the alternative solutions.
5. For the rugby pitches and clubhouse to receive external grant funding investment at Gosport Park, Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club require a minimum lease of 25 years to be able to show security of tenure. The security of tenure position at Gosport Park needs to be clarified to allow development progress of the facilities.

### Scenario - Improving pitch quality.

3.45 Improving pitch quality and drainage of existing rugby union pitches and the impact this could have on weekly capacity is considered in the table below.

**Table 10: Improving Quality and Drainage of Rugby Pitches and impact on weekly capacity.**

Site	Match & Training Capacity Weekly (MES)	Match & Training Demand (MES)	Overplayed MES Weekly	Improve Quality of Maintenance/ Drainage	Overplay/Spare Capacity after improving quality/drainage Weekly
Training Pitch (Sports Lighting)	1.5 MES	6	4.5 MES	Due to the location of the training pitch and the water table. It is not considered that the pitch can be improved. However, there is a need to refurbish sports lighting.	4.5 MES

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Site	Match & Training Capacity Weekly (MES)	Match & Training Demand (MES)	Overplayed MES Weekly	Improve Quality of Maintenance/ Drainage	Overplay/Spare Capacity after improving quality/drainage Weekly
Pitch No 2 – Proposed improvements to create a second training pitch				Provide sports lighting for pitch and improve maintenance to good. Increase MES from 2 – 3 weekly and this provides an additional 3 training MES per week for training.	3 MES
<b>Shortfall Training MES</b>					<b>1.5 MES</b>
Pitch No 1, & 3. Junior No 1, 2 Mini 1, 2		7.75		<p>Improve maintenance of Pitch 1 to good (M2), increase MES from 2 – 3 weeklies.</p> <p>Improve maintenance of Pitch No 3 to good (M2), increases MES from 2 – 3 weeklies.</p> <p>Improve maintenance of Junior pitches 1 &amp; 2 to good (M2) increases MES to 3 MES.</p> <p>Improve maintenance of mini pitches 1 and 2 to good (M2) increases MES to 1.5 MES.</p>	10.5 MES
<b>Match Play MES</b>		<b>7.75 MES</b>			

- 3.46 By creating a second training pitch with sports lighting and improving the maintenance to good (M2) creates a further capacity of 3 MES towards training equivalent sessions and reduces the shortfall from 4.5 to 1.5 MES. There may be planning challenges of providing additional floodlighting to an existing grass pitch and Installation of full pitch floodlighting and improvements to maintenance would still only provide a partial solution to midweek floodlit training demand. There would be a need for displacement of activity to a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant pitch to fully alleviate overplay and create capacity for growth. The impact of displacement of activity to a World Regulation 22 compliant AGP would mean overplay of training MES would reduce by 4.5 MES weekly and with growth in the future would reduce to 7 MES. The existing floodlit grass training pitch would not be overplayed.
- 3.47 By improving the maintenance to good (M2) on pitch 1 & 3, junior 1 & 2 and Mini 1 & 2 creates 10.5 MES to meet the current need 7.75 MES for match play per week. This also meets future demand increase of 1.17 MES for match play.

### **Scenario - Increasing Access to Rugby Floodlit Training Provision**

- 3.48 Installation of full pitch floodlighting and improvements to maintenance would still only provide a partial solution to midweek floodlit training demand. There would be a need for displacement of activity to a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant pitch to fully alleviate overplay and create capacity for growth. The impact of displacement of activity to a World Regulation 22 compliant AGP would mean overplay of training MES would reduce by 4.5 MES weekly and with growth in the future would reduce to 7 MES. The existing floodlit grass training pitch would not be overplayed.

### **Summary**

- 3.49 The priority for rugby is to safeguard security of tenure at Gosport Park for Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club. The security of tenure position at Gosport Park needs to be clarified to allow development of the facilities. Once the security of tenure has been resolved then the next priority is to improve existing pitch quality and provision of sports lighting or consider use of a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant pitch with shared use with football.

### **Rugby Union - Recommendations**

1. Gosport Borough Council need to clarify the security of tenure issue with Gosport Park and Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club.
2. Explore the installation of a fully floodlit pitch at Gosport Park to provide additional training capacity and provide an additional floodlit match option.
3. Explore options to provide a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant surface in the Borough to displace training demand from the pitches at Gosport Park in partnership with the FA and Football Foundation to help address shortfalls.
4. Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision (1 pitch or less), or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, CIL/S106 contributions should be directed as off-site contribution's towards delivering the above recommendations.

### **Cricket – Grass Pitch Summary key issues**

1. All 4 cricket facility sites provide secured community use and are in the ownership of Gosport Borough Council.
2. Based on future population growth and latent demand, by 2038, there will be a need to provide for 3 (2.96) additional match equivalent sessions per season.
3. There is a current overplay of 22 match equivalent sessions per season.
4. There is a need to improve the maintenance to improve the quality at Rowner from 'standard' quality to 'Good' quality and the 'poor' quality ratings at Privett 1 and Privett 2 to a minimum of 'standard' quality and raise capacity.
5. There is a need to replace the Privett Park Pavilion.
6. There is a need to continue to monitor the increase of women's, girls, and South Asian Cricket to ensure that the correct facilities are available. For example, correct pavilion facilities for women and girls to enable participation.
7. Where possible improve the quality of grass pitches, pavilions and clubhouse, cricket nets, and car parking at existing facilities.

### **Scenario - Addressing overplay Quality Improvements**

- 3.50 The capacity of a cricket square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. For good quality squares, capacity is set at five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as provision is not safe for play.
- 3.51 Improved maintenance regimes can improve the quality of a pitch and enable increased capacity and reduce overplay. A reduction in play is recommended at a site where quality cannot be raised to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.
- 3.52 Table 11 looks to identify if qualitative improvements to existing cricket squares would alleviate identified overplay. There are two sites that can improve their quality ratings. Privett Park can improve 2 squares to standard and Rowner can improve 1 square to good.

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- 3.53 Gosport Borough Council need to continue to engage with, Hampshire Cricket Board, ECB and the Grounds Maintenance Association and use PitchPower to potentially improve the grounds maintenance to enhance wicket quality; thus, increasing site capacity and eliminating overplay and potentially creating capacity play on each site.

**Table 11: Cricket – Addressing Overplay via quality Improvements.**

Site No	Site name	Ownership	No. of wickets	Quality of Pitch	Non-Turf Pitch Capacity (Sessions per Season)	Current Natural Grass Pitch Capacity (sessions per Season)	Quality of Pitch Improved Poor to Standard and Standard to good	Games per Season	Capacity if pitch improvements take place	Capacity Demand Balance	Capacity Demand Balance if quality is improved by poor to standard and standard to good
2	Privett Park 2: Gosport Borough Cricket Club.	Sports Club	7	Poor	0	0	Standard	15	28	15	13
3	Privett Park 3: Gosport Borough Cricket Club.	Sport Club	6	Poor	60	0	Standard	15	24	15	9
4	Rowner Park	Sports Club	7	Standard	60	28	Good	20	35	8	15
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>28</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>68</b>		<b>90</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>

- 3.54 By raising the quality from poor to standard at Privett Park 2 and 3 and standard to good at Rowner Park, overplay improves from 22 MES per season to a spare capacity of 27 MES per season. This would mean that Privett Park 2 and 3 could offer play on a Sunday or midweek.
- 3.55 The 3 additional MES per season required to meet population growth by 2038 can be met from improving the quality of the existing pitches.

### Summary

- 3.56 The key priority for cricket is to protect and improve the quality of the existing pavilions and pitches to increase capacity.



## Cricket Recommendations

1. Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, any development of a site close to a cricket pitch can raise issues of risk of ball strike from balls leaving the field of play. Indeed, any site within 80 metres of a cricket wicket is at risk from ball strike and ball strike must be considered as part of the planning process.
2. Through the Hampshire Cricket Board, ECB, PitchPower and Ground Maintenance Association support can be given to Gosport Borough Council around supporting grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and poor, and sustained at sites assessed as good.
3. Explore options of alleviating overplay at sites identified with overplay.
4. Explore options of refurbishment or new build of ancillary facilities where provision is assessed as poor quality.
5. Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using developer contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

## Hockey Pitch Summary – key Issues

1. It is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require all NGBs England Hockey, Football Association, Rugby Football Union, and Gosport Borough Council to discuss and agree any proposals or planning applications before they take place.
2. It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.
3. There is a need for a formal community use agreement to be in place between Gosport Borough Hockey Club and St Vincent College. This is to provide the hockey club with security of tenure. This is a matter between the Hockey Club and St. Vincent College.
4. The sink hole on the College's AGP will need continual monitoring to ensure the pitch meets health and safety requirements and is playable for matches and for training.

5. There is a need to consider upgrading the sports lighting on the College's AGP to meet required match play lighting standards.
6. Gosport Borough Hockey Club aspire to a club house on site at St Vincent College. This should be discussed with the College and Gosport Borough Hockey Club and involve GBC and other stakeholders where possible.
7. There is a need to ensure that sink funds are in place to maintain the existing AGP hockey facilities and replacement carpets at existing AGP locations across Gosport Borough.

### **Scenario - Accommodating Current and Future Demand**

- 3.57 The AGP provision at St Vincent College has capacity to meet current and future demand for hockey by Gosport Borough Hockey Club and should be protected in the Gosport Borough Local Plan.
- 3.58 The St Vincent College AGP has had remedial works undertaken to backfill a sink hole in the summer 2022. The carpet on the AGP needs to be monitored to ensure that the remedial works remain a success. If the AGP was lost to hockey then Gosport Borough Hockey Clubs 3 MES midweek for training, 3.5 MES on a Saturday and 1.5 Junior MES on a Sunday will need to be relocated. The only facility capable of providing for this usage in Gosport Borough is HMS Sultan 1 or 2. Both facilities are under MoD ownership and are not readily available for use although the Club has used the facilities in the past.
- 3.59 The scenario for the Club would be to export its match and training times outside of the Borough to an alternative location.
- 3.60 The sports lighting at St Vincent College's AGP needs to be upgraded to meet match play lighting standards. There is also a need for a sink fund to be put in place to replace the carpet and sports lighting when required.
- 3.61 Gosport Borough Hockey Club require a community use agreement with St Vincent College and discussions need to be held between the Club, St Vincent College, and England Hockey on how best to progress the building of a hockey pavilion on the St Vincent College site.

### **Summary**

- 3.62 In summary there is a need to ensure that the AGP remains playable and is protected in the Gosport Borough Local Plan. It is also important that the AGP is refurbished and maintained including appropriate sports lighting and monitoring of the remedial works to the pitch are carried out on a regular basis to ensure safety of play.

## Hockey Recommendations

1. It is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require all NGBs England Hockey, Football Association, Rugby Football Union, and Gosport Borough Council to discuss and agree any proposals or planning application before they take place.
2. It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.
3. There is a need for a formal community use agreement to be in place between Gosport Borough Hockey Club and St Vincent College. This is to provide the Club with security of tenure.
4. The sink hole on the St Vincent College's AGP will need continual monitoring to ensure the pitch meets health and safety requirements and is playable for matches and for training.
5. There is a need to consider upgrading the sports lighting on the College's AGP to meet required match play lighting standards.
6. Gosport Borough Hockey Club aspire to a club house on site at St Vincent College. This should be discussed with the College and Gosport Borough Hockey Club and involve GBC and other stakeholders where possible.
7. A need to ensure that sink funds are in place to maintain the existing AGP hockey facilities and replacement carpets at existing AGP locations across Gosport Borough.

## Bowls Greens Summary – key Issues

1. There are 6 natural turf bowls greens and one artificial turf bowls green used by six bowls clubs across Gosport Borough.
2. The main issues perceived by bowls clubs include maintenance of anti-fox fencing, issues with squirrels on roofing of pavilions, teenage vandalism, and insufficient car parking at some clubs. Most clubs identified a difficulty in retaining and recruiting members.

### **Scenario - Accommodating Current and Future Demand**

- 3.63 The current bowls green provision across Gosport Borough has capacity to meet current and future demand for outdoor bowls and should be protected in the Gosport Borough Local Plan.

### **Summary**

- 3.64 In summary there is a need to ensure that the bowls greens across Gosport Borough are maintained to a good quality and are protected in the Gosport Borough Local Plan.

### **Bowls Recommendations**

- 1. Gosport Borough Council to protect the existing bowls facilities in the Local Plan.**
- 2. Gosport Borough Council to work with the local Bowls Clubs to promote the sport in Gosport and encourage participation by younger people.**
- 3. Improve the publishing of information to promote the health benefits and opportunities to play bowls.**
- 4. When bowls club membership at individual clubs falls to below 20 considerations should be given to the amalgamation of those clubs.**
- 5. Gosport Bowls club needs to ensure a sink fund to repair and replace the all-weather green when required.**

### **Tennis Court Summary – key Issues**

- 1.** There are 52 outdoor tennis courts across 11 sites in Gosport Borough. Out of these courts, 15 (28%) are of good quality, with 33 (64%) being of standard quality and 4 (8%) being poor. There are 11 tennis courts with floodlights, however 6 of these are provided on a school site and provide unsecured use.
- 2.** 5 of the 11 sites across Gosport are available to the community and provide secured community use. These are 2 membership sports clubs Alverstoke Lawn Tennis, Squash and Badminton Club (9 courts of which 1 is floodlit) and Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis Squash and Fitness Club (6 courts of which 4 are floodlit). In addition, there are local authority public courts at Privett Park (5 courts none floodlit), and Lee-on-the-Solent Recreation Ground (2 courts none floodlit) and Stoke Bay (4 courts) is managed by a private operator.
- 3.** The tennis courts at St Vincent College were poor quality and not available for use.
- 4.** When considering public courts only (Privett Park, Lee-on-the-Solent and Stokes Bay) they are operating for 399 hours out of a possible 2,970 hours per month 13.4% of their total operational capacity.
- 5.** Future demand for tennis courts can be met from the existing sports club courts and public courts.
- 6.** A key priority in Gosport is to increase the visibility of public courts.

### **Scenario - Accommodating Current and Future Demand**

- 3.65 According to data provided by the LTA's online booking system (Clubspark) with court access technology, the average level of utilisation in venues (UK wide) is 53%. By this barometer Gosport is operating significantly below average level in terms of its utilisation of public courts (13.4%). On this basis the current tennis courts have existing capacity to meet current and future demand for tennis.

### **Summary**

- 3.66 In summary there is a need to ensure that the current supply of tennis courts remain playable and are protected in the Gosport Borough Local Plan. It is also important that the tennis courts are refurbished and maintained. This includes court surface, line marking and tennis nets, fencing and access.

## **Tennis Recommendations**

- 1. Protect the current provision of tennis courts in the Local Plan and work with key partners, the Lawn Tennis Association and Gosport clubs to maintain quality and improve access for potential new participants.**
- 2. Ensure Gosport Borough Council owned public courts have appropriate fencing, quality nets and posts – all weather nets where appropriate, markings are clear, and surfaces are clean and free of debris.**
- 3. Increase the visibility of public courts. This can be achieved by utilising the LTA Club Spark and making courts available to be booked online. By utilising Club Spark GBC and the LTA can work in partnership to increase tennis participation on these sites and gain a greater understanding of community use in the area.**
- 4. Gosport Borough Council to encourage tennis clubs in the development of club facilities and courts to increase participation and quality of facilities.**

## 4. Strategy Objectives & Recommendations

- 4.1. The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed through a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which has culminated in the production of the Stage C Assessment Report Appendix 1), as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across playing pitch facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.
- 4.2. The objectives of the PPS are:

- **Objective 1:** To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future needs.
  - **Recommendation 1:** Ensure that all existing outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
  - **Recommendation 2:** Secure tenure and access to sites for clubs focused on increasing participation through a range of solutions and partnership agreements; and
  - **Recommendation 3:** Ensure continued use of education and MoD facilities where there is a need. Several schools are being used in Gosport for competitive play, for football. However, use is not necessarily formal and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate community use agreement is in place (including access to changing provision where required). This requires cooperation from landowners, including schools and the MoD, with NGBs and Gosport Borough Council.

The Department for Education in February 2021 announced an investment of £10.1 million of funding to enable schools to open their sports facilities outside of school hours, to be distributed through Active Partnerships working with Sport England. This funding will help Active Partnerships to support their local schools to understand the challenges in opening their facilities in a COVID secure manner and to make longer-term, sustainable changes to make the best use of their facilities, for example through building partnerships with local sport providers to provide the right opportunities for pupils and increasing the accessibility of their facilities. The funding could help schools them to buy new equipment for sports and activities, as well as arranging additional cleaning and clear signage to help maintain social distancing. Consultation with the Hampshire Sports Partnership 'Energise Me' has identified that Alverstoke C Of E Aided Junior School is the only school in Gosport to receive this funding.

Gosport Borough Council are committed to safeguarding use of MoD sites and will continue to seek ways of protecting and safeguarding the community use of MoD playing pitch sites across Gosport and where possible will seek to secure the future of these sites for the community.

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## Gosport Borough Council

### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage D*

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4.3. Sites which are currently classified as being unsecure in Gosport Borough include:

**Table 12: Unsecure Community Use Sites**

9	St George's Playing Fields (St George's Barracks)
10	Fleetlands
11	Monkton Sports Ground
12	St Vincent Leisure Centre
13	Alverstoke CE Junior School
14	Alver Valley Schools
15	Bay House School Sports Centre
16	Bridgemary School
17	Brune Park Community School
18	Cocked Hat School (Bay House School)
19	Fleetlands Golf Course
20	Bedenham Junior School
21	HMS Sultan Site 1
22	HMS Sultan Site 2

- 4.4. Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and the NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers, and partnership work.
- 4.5. Each club interested in securing tenure at a GBC owned site should be required to meet the criteria set by the Council in partnership with NGBs regarding service and/or strategic recommendations. Additional criteria, which considers club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, will also be required.



## Security of Tenure

- 4.6. The Council should work towards looking at increasing the length of leases for sites that it owns; this would allow for clubs that have existing leases to be extended to be of a length of 25 years. This enables the Club to apply for external funding, for example Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club, Gosport Borough FC, and Gosport Borough Cricket Club. This presents sports clubs and NGBs with opportunities to develop of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first opportunity to take on a building.

- **Objective 2:** To **enhance** outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.
  - **Recommendation 4:** Improve quality of playing pitches and ancillary facilities; for football the focus on ancillary should be providing changing pavilions at multi-pitch sites and minimum requirement for access to toilets at all sites.
  - **Recommendation 5:** Secure external funding in partnership with other stakeholders; and
  - **Recommendation 6:** Secure developer contributions where possible to improve existing provision and provide new provision where required.

## Improve quality of Pitches

- 4.7. The following poor-quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed should be prioritised for improvement:

**Table 13: Football: Pitch quality improvements sites**

Football Pitch Sites Quality of Pitch Improvement Sites
St Vincent Leisure Centre – improvements to pitch quality to raise pitch standard from poor to standard and or good.
Monkton Sports Ground – improvements to pitch quality to raise pitch standard from poor to standard and or good.
St George’s Playing Fields – improvements to pitch quality to raise pitch standard from poor to standard and or good.
Bay House School – improvements to pitch quality to raise pitch standard from poor to standard and or good.
Brookers Field – improvements to stop waterlogging on pitches 1, 2 and 4. Pitch 5 requires attention the goal area nearest pavilion has some parts below pitch level and needs filling.
Nobes Avenue – Pitch needs levelling to stop water pooling.
Elson Recreation Ground – Pitch 2 needs improvements to stop waterlogging.

**Football Pitch Sites Quality of Pitch Improvement Sites**

Howe Road – Pitch improvement to stop waterlogging.

Privett Park – Pitches 1, 2, and 4 need improvement to stop waterlogging.

Stokes Bay – Pitch 2 needs levelling and 3 and 4 require improvements to stop waterlogging.

**Table 14: Cricket: Pitch quality improvement sites with over play**

**Cricket Pitch Sites Quality of Pitch Improvement Sites**

Privett Park 2.

Privett Park 3.

Rowner Park.

**Table 15: Rugby Union pitch quality improvement sites**

**Rugby Union Pitch Quality Improvements**

Gosport Park – Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club.

**Improve Quality – Ancillary Facilities**

**Football – Ancillary Facilities**

4.8. Sites identified from the Stage C Assessment Report Appendix 1 and consultation that require refurbishing or renewing for football:

**Table 16: Football changing rooms identified for replacement or improvement**

1	<b>Brookers Field</b> - Carpark is too small especially when all pitches are in use. Changing facility is classified as 'Poor' – requires refurbishment or renewal.
5	<b>Nobes Avenue</b> - lights not working.

6	<b>Privett Park</b> - toilets inadequate, old structure. The Local Facilities Football Plan identifies the site as poor. Cricket and Football need pavilion replacing.
7	<b>Stokes Bay</b> – There are no facilities at this site. The Local Football Facilities Plan identifies the site as a focus site for changing facilities.
9	<b>St George’s Playing Fields (St George’s Barracks)</b> - 4 changing rooms but only 3 are usable.
11	<b>Monkton Sports Ground</b> – toilets and kitchen are outdated and there is a need for further investment in these areas. Investment is also needed in the fabric of the clubhouse.

### Rugby Union – Ancillary Improvements

4.9 GBC and Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club need to work together to address the security of tenure arrangements for the changing rooms and pavilion. A substantial increase in the length of the lease to 25 years would enable the Club to apply for external funding to make changes or refurbish the changing rooms/ pavilion. The Club had planning permission for an extension of the clubhouse to provide a small downstairs bar/room, with doors out to the park. This would allow the Club to open without using the whole Club, finance for the build was in place with the use of local trades but as the site forms part of a protected village green an application to Hampshire County Council and the Secretary of State, if necessary, would be needed to change the boundaries of the Village Green relating to the site of the proposed pavilion extension. It is understood that this could be a lengthy legal process. The Club have stated they are willing to pay any fee to forward to the Secretary of State and would like to know how this can be progressed. The Council is currently investigating this issue.

4.10 Changing rooms identified for replacement or improvement are identified in the table below:

**Table 17: Rugby Union changing rooms identified for replacement or improvement**

Site	Ancillary Requirements
Gosport Park – Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club	Club has plans to reorganise the downstairs area of the pavilion.

### **Cricket – Ancillary Improvements**

- 4.9. The following ancillary facilities have been identified as required by cricket clubs.

**Table 18: Cricket changing Rooms identified for replacement or improvement**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Ancillary Requirements</b>
Privett Park Pavilion	Pavilion requires major refurbishment/renewal.
Gosport Cricket Club	Pavilion requires improvement.

### **Hockey – Ancillary Improvements**

- 4.10. Gosport Borough Hockey Club would like access to a pavilion at St Vincent College.

### **Addressing Overplay**

- 4.11. To improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity.
- 4.12. It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use, but which may be in the future.
- 4.13. For cricket, an increase in the quality of the square and outfield, additional wickets, and usage of non-turf pitches (NTPs) is key to alleviating overplay.
- 4.14. For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G pitch.

### **Increasing Maintenance**

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

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## Gosport Borough Council

### ***Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage D***

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- 4.16. The FA has the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) and the FA and Football Foundation have launched PitchPower (<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/pitchpower>) - a really simple tool to help individual sites inspect and improve their grass pitches. The site self-inspection will provide regular detailed assessment reports from grounds management experts at the Grounds Management Association, including recommendations on maintaining and improving the quality of the pitches. All key sites should be encouraged to undertake a PitchPower self-assessment and review the report recommendations. Grants are available through the Football Foundation to pay for enhanced grass pitch maintenance works, materials, and grounds maintenance machinery where appropriate.
- 4.17. PitchPower is now available to cricket and rugby union clubs and NGBS and owners including local authorities.
- 4.18. In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).
- 4.19. In relation to bowls greens and public tennis courts there is a need to ensure bowls clubs and the council maintain the good quality of the bowls greens and the local authority owned tennis courts at Privett Park, Lee-on-the-Solent and Stokes Bay have good quality surfaces for play, have appropriate fencing, quality nets and posts – all weather nets where appropriate, markings are clear, and surfaces are clean and free of debris.

### **Secure External Funding in Partnership with Other Stakeholders**

- 4.20. Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sports facilities.
- 4.21. To address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a co-ordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Steering Group.
- 4.22. Although in many cases investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Council seeks to facilitate a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development working alongside stakeholders in education, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.
- 4.23. One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment, and self-confidence.

### **Secure Developer Contributions**

- 4.24. For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Stage C: Assessment Report Appendix 1, to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its life cycle). The Playing Pitch Calculator can be used with developments of 50 houses or more.
- 4.25. Sport England is a recommended consultee on residential developments of 300 or more units. It is however up to the Council what scale of development it seeks planning contributions into sport from, as this will need to be balanced with other infrastructure requirements (for example highway improvements and flood mitigation measures) The mechanism the Council puts in place can operate independent of non-statutory consultation on housing developments with Sport England, whether the Council chooses to run with the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator or not.
- 4.26. The following Stages A-D should be followed by GBC to help inform the potential needs required/those that should be considered for a new housing development.

### **Stage A: Determine the playing pitch requirement from the development**

- 4.27. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator will need to be populated with the new population that will be derived from a development and the playing pitch sport current demand data from the PPS. The calculator will then determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from a development.
- 4.28. The calculator will provide an estimation of the number of new pitches that would be required to meet the match equivalent sessions and provides an estimate of the associated costs for providing these new pitches.

### **Stage B: Determine whether new provision is required and whether this should be on or off site**

- 4.29. Consideration should be given to whether the nearest site/s to the development containing that type of provision could benefit from a contribution towards increasing capacity to meet need generated from the development.
- 4.30. If there are no potential options to improve or extend existing provision to create additional capacity, or if capacity cannot be increased to a sufficient level, then new provision is likely to be required.
- 4.31. Where the calculator does not create demand for a whole pitch, which is often the case for smaller sized developments, it is recommended to contribute to increasing the capacity of an existing site to meet demand generated from the development.

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### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage D*

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- 4.32. When identifying a site for off-site contributions, consider the proximity and location of existing playing pitch sites and whether it could help serve the new development.
- 4.33. Identify the analysis area in which the development sits and identify if there are any hub sites or key centres within the locality. Initially, a one-mile radius could be drawn around the site to help identify the nearest priority sites, which may require consultation with neighbouring authorities when the development site is close to the local authority boundary.
- 4.34. This decision should be based on the potential to improve existing facilities within an appropriate catchment of a development to create additional capacity, and how realistic it is given the nature of the local area to provide new provision. For example, there may be some poor-quality playing fields that could potentially be improved with additional drainage and long-term maintenance works, along with enhanced changing provision, to enable use to be increased, thereby creating additional capacity to meet the increased demand generated from the development.
- 4.35. Discussions should be held with relevant parties (e.g. NGBs, landowners, facility operators and user groups), and any further necessary evidence gathered (e.g. a feasibility study), to help identify the specific works that are required, and to ensure they will provide the necessary additional capacity to meet identified needs. It will also be important to demonstrate that the specific works can be delivered within an appropriate timescale in relation to the occupation of the development site.
- 4.36. When on site provision is required, priority should be placed on the creation of multi-pitch and multi-sport sites with appropriate ancillary facilities such as a clubhouse and adequate car parking, as well as ensuring the provision contributes towards reducing current shortfalls. This will ensure that the provision is sustainable and attractive to potential users. Emphasis should also be on ensuring the site can accommodate an AGP given current sporting trends.
- 4.37. Other useful questions when deciding on new provision include:
- Are there any teams/clubs playing outside of the local area (displaced demand) which could utilise provision at the site?
  - Do any local clubs identify existing plans/demand for access to new provision?
  - Are there any overplayed sites in the local area where existing demand could be transferred to a new site?
  - Do any local clubs identify any latent demand (i.e. if they had access to more pitches could they field more teams?)

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### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage D*

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- 4.38. To further help determine the sustainability of establishing new provision, consideration should be given to the potential management opportunities which may be available onsite:
- Is the local authority (or town/parish council) in a position to take on operational management of further outdoor sports facilities from a financial point of view?
  - Is an education establishment to be provided as part of the development which offers a potential management solution for outdoor sports facilities?
  - Is there a leisure trust in place which has the capacity to take on the management of outdoor sports facilities?
  - Is there an opportunity for a trust-based model of management, for example, by formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)?
  - Is there an existing sports club that has the capacity to take on the management of another site?

#### **Stage C: Consider design principles for new provision**

- 4.39. The exact nature and location of provision associated with onsite developments should be fully determined in partnership with GBC and Sport England. Further to this, each pitch sport NGB provides national guidance in relation to provision of new pitches. There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

#### **Stage D: Calculate the financial contribution required**

- 4.40. After using the Playing Pitch Calculator as a starting point for cost, the local cost of provision should be fully determined to calculate the financial contributions required. A clear and transparent methodology for calculating up to date costs for the specific works, including appropriate ancillary provision, should be presented.
- 4.41. Where appropriate, depending on how the needs are to be met, the cost of any required land purchase should be included in the financial contribution. If an obligation is to be directed to an off-site project, it is important to ensure the costs are limited to meet the needs of the individual development. Along with any capital costs for the works, an obligation should ensure an appropriate level of lifecycle costs towards the new or enhanced provision. This is required to cover the day-to-day maintenance for an agreed long-term period and to help ensure a sinking fund exists for any major replacement work, e.g. the future resurfacing of an artificial grass pitch.



### **Summary for New Developments**

- 4.42. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator and this PPS should be used to help determine the impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required.
- 4.43. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).
- 4.44. Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused, such as single grass pitch football sites without adequate ancillary facilities or new cricket/rugby grounds located away from existing clubs. Instead, multi-pitch and multi-sport sites should be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development.
- 4.45. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Developer contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.
- 4.46. Several planning objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:
- Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
  - Contributions should also be secured towards the long-term maintenance of new pitches. This is in-line with the approach in the adopted policy of the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 and the emerging draft Local Plan. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
  - External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.

## Gosport Borough Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage D

- Any development of a site close to a cricket pitch can raise issues of risk of ball strike from balls leaving the field of play. Indeed, any site within 80 metres of a cricket wicket is at risk from ball strike and ball strike must be considered as part of the planning process. Any mitigation package that a ball strike risk assessment advised should be built into the scheme by the developer who will be required to contribute towards the maintenance (including the replacement of equipment where necessary to cover a period of twenty five years. It is good practice for the requirement for mitigation to be built into any policy for a site in this position. See [final-playing-fields-policy-and-guidance-document.pdf \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://www.sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/final-playing-fields-policy-and-guidance-document.pdf) particularly Paragraph 13 page 7 and Section 6.3 Exemption 3 paragraph 56.
- Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site; and
- All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

- OBJECTIVE 3:** To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.
  - **Recommendation 7:** Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand; and
  - **Recommendation 8:** Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.

4.47. The Site-Specific Action Plans in Appendix B provide individual sport recommendations and individual site recommendations by geographic area and reflect the outcomes of the scenarios and identified quantitative and quality improvements identified in Section 3 and in Section 4 of this report.

4.48. The Sport Specific and Individual Site Action Plans are given timescales for delivery:

<b>Short Term</b> Delivered against or worked towards within three years (ahead of the first full review of the PPS)	<b>Medium Term.</b> Delivered within 6 years	<b>Long Term.</b> No specific date – In many instances the action is an aspiration and is general support for clubs or other bodies to progress with and is not an action the Council or the Playing Pitch Steering Group have control over
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4.49. The strategic actions within Appendix B have also been ranked as low, medium, or high based on cost. These are based on Sport England’s estimated facility costs. The range in which these sit at are:

<b>(L) - Low - less than £50k</b>	<b>(M) - Medium - £50k-£250k</b>	<b>(H) - High £250k and above</b>
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### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage D*

- 4.50. In addition to using the planning system to lever in developer contributions where appropriate, it is recognised that significant external partner funding will need to be sought to deliver much of the action plan. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated e.g. look to apply for grants and work with NGBs and Sport England to seek partnership funding for several projects.
- 4.51. It is important that key stakeholders (GBC, Sport England and NGBs) keep this strategy alive. This will be achieved by:
- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions.
  - Providing up to date annual supply and demand for pitch stock; and
  - Addressing changing trends and formats for the different pitch sports as they develop and monitoring participation of these changes and trends.

## Summary of Recommendations

Table 19: Summary of Recommendations

Objective	Recommendation
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> To <b>protect</b> the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation 1: Ensure, that all existing outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.</li> <li>• Recommendation 2: Secure tenure and access to sites for participation-focused development clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.</li> <li>• Recommendation 3: Ensure continued use of education facilities where there is a need. Ensure continued use of education and MoD facilities where there is a need. Several schools are being used in Gosport for competitive play, for football. However, use is not necessarily formal and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate community use agreement is in place (including access to changing provision where required). This requires cooperation from landowners, including schools and the MoD, with NGBs and Gosport Borough Council.</li> </ul> <p>The Department for Education in March 2023 announced that as part of their work to support the nation to move more, Active Partnerships in collaboration with national partners ukactive, StreetGames and the Youth Sports Trust, have been awarded up to £57m, to help schools to open their sports facilities outside the school day in areas where it is most needed.</p>

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Objective	Recommendation
	<p>The Council are committed to safeguarding MoD sites currently in community sports use and will continue to seek ways of protecting and safeguarding the community use of these playing pitch sites across Gosport and where possible will seek to secure the future of these sites for the community.</p>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 2:</b> To <b>enhance</b> outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities through improving the quality and management of sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation 4: Improve the quality of playing pitches and ancillary facilities; for football the focus on ancillary facilities should be providing changing pavilions at multi-pitch sites and a minimum requirement for access to toilets at all sites.</li> <li>• Recommendation 5: Secure external funding in partnership with other stakeholders; and</li> <li>• Recommendation 6: Secure developer contributions where possible to improve existing provision and provide new provision where required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 3:</b> To <b>provide</b> new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation 7: Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock of facilities to accommodate both current and future demand at multi sports sites; and</li> <li>• Recommendation 8: Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.</li> </ul>

Appendix 1: Stage C Assessment Report

# Gosport Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy - Stage C Report

Football, Rugby Union, Cricket and Hockey  
Assessments

A report by Strategic Leisure Limited

December 2022



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## 1. Gosport Playing Pitch Strategy Stage C Report

### Study Area

- 1.1. The area covered by the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is the Gosport Borough Council area. Due to the small geographical area of Gosport Borough, the PPS has not identified sub areas and looks at the Borough as a whole.
- 1.2. This appendix to the Gosport Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 details the current picture of facility supplies and demand for the playing pitch sport of **football, cricket, rugby union and hockey** - at playing field sites in the Borough.
- 1.3. The likely future provision is assessed based on potential changes in supply (both committed and planned projects within the Borough and its travel catchment), forecast changes in the resident population informed by the targets for new housing in the Borough Council's new Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038, national trends in participation and the development aspirations of the clubs based in the Borough.
- 1.4. Gosport is a Borough located within the South Hampshire sub region which includes the two cities of Portsmouth and Southampton.
- 1.5. Covering over 27.6 square kilometres (10.6 square miles or 2,761 hectares)<sup>10</sup>, Gosport Borough is the twelfth smallest district in England and the smallest in Hampshire. The Borough sits on a peninsula adjacent to Fareham Borough and is surrounded on three sides by the Solent and Portsmouth Harbour, with 39 kilometres (24 miles) of coastline. There are two main settlements, Gosport, and Lee-on-the-Solent, which are separated by the Alver Valley. The Borough is urban in character, with over 80% 'built on'<sup>11</sup>.
- 1.6. The Borough is one of the most densely populated areas in the Southeast Region, with an urban density of 32.6 people per hectare. The Borough has an estimated population of 85,167 in 2020<sup>12</sup> which has been used to inform this assessment. Since this date and after this study was undertaken, the Census 2021 has shown the Borough's population in 2021 to be 81,900.

### Sub-regional and Local Planning Policy

- 1.7. Gosport is a partner authority in the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). In 2016, PfSH published its South Hampshire Spatial Position Statement ('the Position Statement'). The Position Statement and supporting documents are a key part of the Council's evidence base for the preparation of the (GBLP 2038).

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<sup>10</sup> Source: ONS Standard Area Measurements (SAM) 2019. Total extent includes land area to mean high water.

<sup>11</sup> Made up of 61% discontinuous urban fabric and 20% industrial or commercial units. Source and land cover breakdown available from: A Land Cover Atlas of the UK: <https://doi.org/10.15131/shef.data.5219956>

<sup>12</sup> Source: ONS 2018-based Mid-Year estimates.



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### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football*

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- 1.8 The Position Statement sets out the quantum of employment floorspace and housing requirements for the sub region, including figures for each district over the period to 2034. Further work is being undertaken to update this study in the light of the requirements of the latest NPPF published in July 2021 and other related documents.
- 1.9 The GBLP 2011 – 2029 (adopted October 2015) sets out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure. The Local Plan acknowledges that there are major sites that have potential to be developed. These are Gosport Waterfront and Town Centre, Daedalus, Haslar Peninsula and Rowner. The PfSH Spatial Position Statement also refers to Gosport Waterfront as a new strategic development location in the PfSH area.
- 1.10 The GBLP 2011-2029 includes the following key policies:
- **Policy LP2: Infrastructure:** This is the Council’s overarching policy for securing infrastructure including for built facilities and open space. Infrastructure can be secured through a range of measures including public funds and developer contributions and can be made either on site (if over 50 residential units) or through either a financial contribution secured through Section 106 Agreements and spent in accordance with the requirements of that specific agreement. Contributions are also collected through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
  - **Policy LP3: Spatial Strategy** of the current GBLP sets out the overarching quantum of development and the Council’s spatial planning strategy for delivering the proposed growth over the plan period. In terms of residential development, the GBLP makes provision for 3,060 dwellings over the plan period.
  - **Policy LP32: Community, Cultural and Built Leisure Facilities** seeks to provide new facilities in association with new development in appropriate locations and to secure contributions through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) process or where appropriate through the preparation of Section 106 agreements for the provision and enhancement of facilities. The policy also seeks to protect existing facilities. The Council will normally resist any proposal that would involve the loss of existing community, cultural, sport and built leisure facilities. Change of use or redevelopment will only be considered where the Council is satisfied that the tests outlined in policy LP32 Point 5 are met i.e. demonstration that (1) the building is no longer required due to changes in demand or provision elsewhere; and (2) there are no other viable community, cultural, sports or recreation/built leisure use for the buildings or site for which there is need.
  - **Policy LP34: Provision of New Open Space and Improvement to Existing Open Space:** Residential developments of less than 50 units pay a financial contribution towards open space provision, usually through the mechanism of CIL. For those over 50 units, provision would be made on site and secured through Section 106 Agreements.



### **Potential Future Growth in Dwellings and Population**

- 1.11 The current and future population profile of Gosport and the locations of future growth are important to understand in relation to planning for the provision of sport and physical activity.
- 1.12 The Council has undertaken demographic projections as part of preparing the emerging Local Plan . This includes analysis of ONS population and household projections which are presented in its Infrastructure Assessment Report<sup>13</sup>. These projections are trend-based meaning that they provide the population and household data that would result if the assumptions based on previous demographic trends in the population and rates of household formation were to be realised in practice. The household projections that feed into the Government’s standard method (which forms the starting point for the number of homes that need to be planned for) do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour. In addition, the projections do not consider the number of new homes which may be built within a local authority area, a factor that can have a significant effect on the overall total population.
- 1.13 Consequently, in preparing the emerging Local Plan , the Council considered it necessary to provide an assessment of the potential population based on the potential numbers of new homes which may be built over the plan period. As stated previously future population projections will be considered at Stage E of the PPS or at the 5-year PPS renewal. The Council commissioned demographic projections which were produced by the independent Justin Gardner Consulting (JGC) in 2019. JGC were commissioned by Gosport Borough Council to develop a series of demographic projections for a range of different housing delivery scenarios across the Borough. At the time of publication, the projections were produced for the period 2016 to 2036 – a 20-year period. The original report can be found in the evidence base for the draft Local Plan online: [www.gosport.gov.uk/gblp2038evidence](http://www.gosport.gov.uk/gblp2038evidence)
- 1.14 Since the demographic projections were produced for the Borough Council in December 2019 several factors have resulted in it being necessary to extend the plan population projections to 2038. The original projections ended in 2036; as a result, the Borough Council has adjusted them to account for the additional two years to 2038. To achieve this adjustment, the Council undertook further trend analysis using Microsoft Excel, this is detailed in the Infrastructure Assessment Report. The Council recognised this approach may not be as robust as commissioning new demographic projections, however given the adjustment was only two years, this methodology was considered proportionate.
- 1.15 The three core scenarios taken from the Demographic Projections Report and adjusted by GBC are presented in the Infrastructure Assessment Report. In summary, for all scenarios the analysis shows strong increases in older age groups and modest increases (and some decreases) for younger groups – these trends are consistent with projections nationally. All scenarios show overall population growth ranging from between 0.6% and 4.5% over the period 2016 and 2036 and between 0.77% and 4.3% over the new plan period 2021 to 2038.

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<sup>13</sup> Available online: [www.gosport.gov.uk/gblp2038evidence](http://www.gosport.gov.uk/gblp2038evidence)

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1.16 The three core scenarios or draft local plan growth options are summarised below in Table 1:

**Table 1: Draft local plan growth options (Source: Demographic Projections, JGC (including GBC adjustment for two additional years to 2038))**

	Dwellings 2016-2036 (20 years)	Population 2016-2036 (20 years)	Dwellings 2021 – 2038 (17 years) the revised time of the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan.	Population 2021-2038 (17 years) the revised time of the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan.
<b>170 dwellings/per/year</b>	3,400	501	2,890	657
<b>190 dwellings/ per/ year</b>	3,800	1,473	3,230	1,554
<b>238 dwellings/per/year</b>	4,760	3,806	4,046	3,708

### **Changes resulting from the draft Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 at Regulation 18 Stage**

- 1.17 Since the commencement of this PPS, Gosport Borough Council undertook a Regulation 18 consultation on the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 in 2021. The draft Local Plan proposed 206 dwellings per annum (3,500 over the Plan Period) over a period of 17 years from 2021 to 2038. This is between the 190 dwelling and 238 dwelling local plan growth options originally assessed and shown in Table 1 above.
- 1.18 To ascertain an indicative figure for how population may change because of 3,500 additional homes (as proposed in the draft Local Plan 2038), the Council has undertaken further analysis which is underpinned by the original Demographic Projections by JGC.
- 1.19 Given the draft Local Plan proposed 206 dwellings per annum and this is closest to the 190 dwellings per annum local plan growth option originally presented in the Demographic Projections by JGC, the Council has used the 190 dwellings per annum growth option as the basis for its further analysis.
- 1.20 The 190 dwellings per annum (3,230 dwellings between 2021 and 2038) local plan growth option resulted in a potential population increase of 1,554 people between 2021 and 2038. This equates to 0.48 people per dwelling (i.e. 1,554 people divided by the 3,230 dwellings). By applying this same ratio to the number of dwellings proposed in the latest iteration of the draft Local Plan, the Council has been able to provide an indicative figure for how population may change as a result. By applying the ratio of 0.48 people per dwelling to the 3,500 dwellings proposed in the draft Local Plan, the population may increase by 1,680. As such, an increase of 1,680 people over the 17-year period between 2021 and 2038 is the figure used by this PPS when considering the future needs for playing pitches.
- 1.21 The findings of the Council's analysis are presented in Table 2:

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Table 2: Draft local plan growth option and Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan <sup>14</sup>

	Dwellings 2021 – 2038 (17 years) the revised time of the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan.	Population 2021-2038 (17 years) the revised time period of the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan.	Ratio between population and dwellings
190 dwellings/ per/ year	3,230	1,554	0.48
206 dwellings/per/year (as in the Consultation Draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan	3,500	1,680	0.48

### Summary

- 1.22 The PPS uses the potential population increase of 1,680 people between 2021 and 2038 as the projected additional population when considering the future needs for playing pitches. This is based on the provision of 3,500 dwellings (206 per annum) between 2021 and 2038 and uses the ratio of 0.48 people per dwelling resulting from the 190 dwelling per annum (3,230 dwellings) core scenario or local plan growth option detailed in the Demographic Projections from JGC which resulted in an additional 1,554 people.
- 1.23 The Council anticipates that it will commission revised demographics projections in 2024. This will be informed by up-to-date national datasets which will replace the previous data used by JGC in preparing the previous projections in 2019.
- 1.24 The Council will keep the PPS under review considering the revised projections and will respond to any changes where necessary in future consultations on the emerging Local Plan and as part of the Examination process. At this time, the Council does not envisage that revised projections will result in substantial change to those presented in Table 2 above, in the Infrastructure Assessment Report and the Demographic Projections by JGC (2019). Prevailing trends such as an ageing population and the recent results of the Census 2021 indicate that compared to some areas of the country, Gosport's population change is small in scale and therefore revised projections are unlikely to significantly change the findings of the PPS. Nevertheless, the iterative nature of the PPS and the requirement for a future review means any changes can be taken on board in a future review of the PPS.
- **Policy LP2: Infrastructure:** This is the Council's overarching policy for securing infrastructure including for built facilities and open space. Infrastructure can be secured through a range of measures including public funds and developer contributions and can be made either on site (if over 50 residential units) or through either a financial contribution secured through Section 106 Agreements and spent in accordance with the requirements of that specific agreement. Contributions are also collected through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

<sup>14</sup> Source: Demographic Projections, JGC (including GBC adjustment for two additional years to 2038 and the draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038.

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- **Policy LP3: Spatial Strategy** of the current GBLP sets out the overarching quantum of development and the Council's spatial planning strategy for delivering the proposed growth over the plan period. In terms of residential development, the GBLP makes provision for 3,060 dwellings over the plan period.
- **Policy LP32: Community, Cultural and Built Leisure Facilities** seeks to provide new facilities in association with new development in appropriate locations and to secure contributions through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) process or where appropriate through the preparation of Section 106 agreements for the provision and enhancement of facilities. The policy also seeks to protect existing facilities. The Council will normally resist any proposal that would involve the loss of existing community, cultural, sport and built leisure facilities. Change of use or redevelopment will only be considered where the Council is satisfied that the tests outlined in policy LP32 Point 5 are met i.e. demonstration that (1) the building is no longer required due to changes in demand or provision elsewhere; and (2) there are no other viable community, cultural, sports or recreation/built leisure use for the buildings or site for which there is need.
- **Policy LP34: Provision of New Open Space and Improvement to Existing Open Space:** Residential developments of less than 50 units pay a financial contribution towards open space provision, usually through the mechanism of CIL. For those over 50 units, provision would be made on site and secured through Section 106 Agreements.

1.25 There are several strategic Urban Regeneration Areas being considered in the new draft GBLP 2038. Within each regeneration area there are several strategic development sites:

- **Harbour Regeneration Area:** Gosport Waterfront, Gosport Town Centre, Blockhouse and Haslar Gunboat Sheds, Fort Blockhouse, Royal Haslar Hospital, The Piggeries, and Haslar Marine Technology Park.
- **Rowner and Sultan Regeneration Area:** Rowner Estate and HMS Sultan.
- **Daedalus Regeneration Area.**

1.26 In addition to these areas, the emerging Local Plan includes the Gosport Strategic Open Spaces which comprises of the Alver Valley, Stokes Bay, Browndown, and Lee Beach and Clifflands. It is proposed to allocate additional new open space in the following locations:

- Stokesmead.
- Alver Valley Country Park.
- The Ramparts at Priddy's Hard.
- Fort Blockhouse and Victorian Gunboat Yard.
- Royal Haslar Hospital.
- Daedalus; and

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- Manor Way.
- 1.27 The new draft Local Plan will take a similar approach to the existing Local Plan in protecting open spaces and community facilities.
- 1.28 The key challenges arise due to the number of key site constraints including flood risk, heritage assets, land ownership and timings for disposal of certain sites.
- 1.29 In November 2016, the Government announced the release of two major Ministry of Defence sites within the Borough. These are Fort Blockhouse and HMS Sultan which are proposed to be released from 2025 and potentially after 2029, respectively. These sites have significant implications for the future development strategy of the Borough. It is important to recognise that it is the Council's position to strongly lobby for the retention of HMS Sultan as a training base and where achievable consider intensifying the employment and training uses of the site for military and civilian organisations.
- 1.30 The Council's aim is to secure more leisure indoor and outdoor leisure provision into GBC ownership as and when the opportunity arises.

### **Summary of Key Demographic Factors and their Implications:**

- 1.31 The 190 dwelling and 238 dwelling per annum growth options will be used to identify population increases to 2038 Table 3 summarises the demographic profile of GBC, reflecting the overall demographic analysis and factors for the Borough as discussed above.

**Table 3: Summary of Gosport Borough Council – Demographic Profile**

<b>Summary of Gosport Borough Council – Demographic profile</b>	
<b>Local Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gosport's position on a peninsula means that land for development is in limited supply and land reclamation has enabled marine businesses to expand.</li> <li>• The MoD has historically been a major landowner in Gosport Borough (21% of land). Over several years MoD land has been sold with much of it being reused to provide housing and employment development.</li> </ul>
<b>Population Profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ONS 2018 based subnational projections estimates a population in Gosport in 2020 of 85,167 with 17.2% ages 0 – 15 years, 62.1% aged 16 – 64 years and 20.7% aged 65+.</li> <li>• The latest (2018 based) set of subnational population projections (SNPP) were published by ONS in 2020. The 2018 based SNPP shows a projected population decline in Gosport of 340 between 2020 and 2036 with a population of 84,933 in 2036 this compares to the 2014 based SNPP projection of 4,800 increase between 2020 and 2036 with a population of 90,600 in 2036.</li> <li>• A Demographics Projections Report (Dec 2019) produced by JG Consulting has been commissioned by GBC to provide more realistic population projections to reflect potential housing delivery scenarios.</li> </ul>

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Summary of Gosport Borough Council – Demographic profile	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On this basis, based on 190 dwellings per annum (3,230 dwellings to 2038), the population is projected to grow from 85,774 in 2021 to 87,328, in 2038- <b>a rise of 1,554</b> people.<sup>15</sup> Therefore for every new dwelling proposed there is a 0.48 additional population. This is due to household composition such as an ageing population. Consequently, when considering the 206 dwellings per annum (3,500 dwellings) proposed in the Local Plan (Reg. 18) this would work out as a <b>rise in population of 1,680 people</b> over the plan period (based on the 0.48 ratio) as detailed in paragraph 1.20 above.</li> <li>The number of people aged 65 and over will increase by more than 50%, with greater percentage increase for the older age groups (e.g. those aged 75+ or 85+). This is likely to drive an increase in the number of people with some form of disability, and the number of people with a long-term health problem or disability is projected to increase by 3,500 to 4,000 persons in the Borough over the 20-year period 2016-2036<sup>16</sup>.</li> <li>At the same time, there is a projected fall of between 7.4% and 10.3% in those aged under 65 years.</li> </ul>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>94.4% White British, 5.6% BME.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Local Plan 2011 – 2029 makes provision for 3,060 dwellings over the plan period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In response to the requirements of the latest NPPF guidance. The new draft Local Plan 2038 is testing 3 dwelling growth options: 170 dwellings pa (2,890), 190 dwellings pa (3,230) and 238 dwellings (4,046) between years 2021-2038.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Deprivation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 53 LSOAs in Gosport Borough.</li> <li>2% of LSOAs (1 LSOA in Town ward) are in the 10% most deprived nationally. 13% of LSOAs (7 LSOA in Grange, Forton, Leesland and parts of Town) are in the 20% most deprived nationally.</li> <li>Parts of Gosport Borough are more deprived compared to other parts of Hampshire and the Southeast. The IMD2019 reinforces previously identified patterns of deprivation across the Borough. Gosport continues to have deprivation 'hotspots' that are amongst some of the most deprived areas in the country yet are adjacent to some of the least deprived areas in the country.</li> </ul>
<b>Car Ownership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23% of household have no access to a car<sup>17</sup>.</li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> A full analysis including population profile of each age group can be found on page 26 of the Council's Infrastructure assessment Report [https://www.gosport.gov.uk/media/3553/Infrastructure-Assessment-Report-IAR-2021/pdf/Infrastructure\\_Assessment\\_Report\\_2021.pdf?m=637689601041570000](https://www.gosport.gov.uk/media/3553/Infrastructure-Assessment-Report-IAR-2021/pdf/Infrastructure_Assessment_Report_2021.pdf?m=637689601041570000)

<sup>16</sup> Source: Gosport Borough Council Demographic Projections Report December 2019 – JG Consulting (2029).

<sup>17</sup> Source: Sport England Local Insight Profile Gosport 30 June 2020.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2023**

- 1.32 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England. An updated version was published on 19 December 2023 (replacing the previous September 2023 version) The NPPF states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The NPPF sets out government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It sets out the government’s vision for achieving healthy, inclusive and safe places.
- 1.33 Paragraph 23 of the NPPF states that strategic policies should provide a clear strategy for bringing sufficient land forward, at a sufficient rate, to address objectively assessed needs over the plan period. This should include planning for and allocating sufficient sites to deliver strategic priorities of the area.
- 1.34 The NPPF requires that Local Planning Authorities (LPA) ensure that their Local Plans are based on up-to-date and relevant evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focused tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned, and take into account relevant market signals (NPPF, Para. 31).
- 1.35 Paragraph 96(a) seeks policies which:
- ‘...promote social interaction, including providing opportunities for meeting between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other...’.
- 1.36 The revised NPPF has increased emphasis in relation to health and wellbeing. For example, the increased importance of planning policies and decisions aiming to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places (para. 96a-c). These provide guidance on planning positively for provision and use of community facilities (including sports venues) and the development of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community.
- 1.37 Paragraph 102 of the NPPF emphasises the need for Local Plans to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services a community needs. In doing so, policies should:
- plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
  - take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;

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- guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, and economic development.

1.38 Paragraph 102 outlines the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities:

“Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport 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, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”.

1.39 Paragraph 103 of the NPPF specifies that:

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

1. An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings, or land to be surplus to requirements; or
2. 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
3. The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

1.40 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing fields used in the last 5 years, and a consultee on other applications: it looks to improve the quality, access and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand. Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of sports facility needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is regularly reviewed to keep it up to date and renewed at least every five years.



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1.41 The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as follows:

- **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 and that best uses are made of existing resources - whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on Local authority budgets; and
- **Provide**
  - To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements (if on the Infrastructure List<sup>18</sup>) and Section 106 agreements. Sport England and the Local authority can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding facility developments in the area.

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<sup>18</sup> The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019 removed the 'Regulation 123 List' and replaced this with the 'Infrastructure List' within the Infrastructure Funding Statement which are produced by local authorities annually.

## 2. Football Assessment

### Football Association Strategies

#### Time for Change the FA Strategy 2020 - 2024

- 2.1 The FA have set out six 'Game Changer' objectives and eight 'Serve the Game Objectives'. These demonstrate the determination of the FA to change the fabric of the game and address key societal issues. In England, football must be a game where the opportunities for every girl to play are the same as for every boy.
- 2.2 A game in which wherever you live, you have easy access to a great, affordable facility on which to play. A game run by the latest digital tools – easily administered from a phone as part of everyday life, lessening the burden on volunteers.

Figure 2: Time for Change the FA Strategy 2020 – 2024





### The National Football Facilities Strategy 2018-2028

- 2.3 The FA, in conjunction with the Football Foundation and funding partners; The Premier League and Government, subsequently developed a ten-year investment plan in facilities for grass roots football. The facilities strategy aims to ensure that by 2028:
- Every FA-affiliated club has access to a 3G artificial pitch for training and potentially matches; and
  - Accelerated improvements are made to the key grass pitch sites across England to reduce fixture cancellations. The FA states that approximately 1 in 6 grass roots matches are called off nationally due to poor pitch quality.
- 2.4 The strategy sets out to provide:

Figure 3



**Survive. Revive. Thrive. The FA Grassroots Football Strategy 2020 - 2024**

2.5 The FA strategy 2020-24 is based on six ‘game-changer’ objectives and eight ‘serve’ objectives, as shown in the chart below. The highlighted objectives are those where The FA Grassroots Division takes the lead. The ones with dotted lines around them indicate where the Division can positively influence and support these areas, even though not taking the lead role.

Figure 4:



2.6 The purpose of the Grassroots Football Strategy is to ‘Harness the Power of Football to Unite Communities and Improve the Health of the Nation.’

2.7 The intention is to use the huge reach of the game and translate this reach into bringing people from every background together to enjoy a lifelong relationship with football and with each other, to the benefit of our society.

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## Gosport Borough Council

### ***Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football***

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- 2.8 The strategy is centred on those who play the game and seeks to make the experience as fun, safe and inclusive as possible. In the male game, the strategy seeks to respond to the needs of players by providing more flexibility and better access to football opportunities to encourage their retention in the game. In the female game, the push is to ensure girls have the same access as boys to football opportunities in schools and clubs, and that women have choice too.
- 2.9 The FA are committed to ensuring the pathways into and through the male and female games include disability provision, with bespoke participation opportunities as needed.
- 2.10 To deliver the goals for male and female football, there must be a vibrant, best-in-class club network around the country. The FA will work to encourage as many clubs as possible to achieve FA-Accredited status, assuring quality in everything they offer, including ever-safer and stronger player pathways. This will be coupled with a commitment to improve the quality of thousands of pitches up and down the country, with a particular focus on grass pitches.
- 2.11 The FA will focus on the grassroots workforce, providing the support and encouragement needed to serve the game in local communities. All the above will be enabled by a suite of cutting-edge digital products and services to make running the game as easy as possible – and critically, a safe, positive, and inclusive environment that is free from discrimination and tackles inequality, particularly in disadvantaged communities.
- 2.12 The Football Association and County Football Associations are a partnership with the same shared ambition for the game, with different roles to achieve it. The FA provides funding and support – whether through guidance, knowledge-sharing, digital tools, and training – to help County FAs drive the game forward in the parts of the country they serve, specifically:
- Participation (male, female, and disability).
  - Coach and referee education and development.
  - Quality grass pitches; and
  - Equality, diversity, and inclusion.

### **Gosport Borough - Stage C Football Assessment**

- 2.13 Following on from the FAs Strategy above the next section identifies the supply and demand for football across Gosport Borough and identifies the key issues for football.

## Gosport Borough – Supply Football Pitches

2.14 The audit of football pitches identifies a total of 27 sites with 69 grass football pitches across Gosport Borough. Of these 27 sites 22 sites offer 64 football pitches for community use (secured, unsecured and available for use) by football clubs. The 64 community use pitches are broken down by type.

- 41 adult 11v11 pitches.
- 7 youth 11v11 pitches.
- 5 junior 9v9 pitches; and
- 11 mini soccer pitches.

**Table 4: Summary of Grass Football Pitches Used by Community Football Clubs 2022/23 Football Season (Secured and Unsecured Use)**

Analysis area	No. Playing Pitch Sites	Pitches Available for Community Use					Total Pitches
		Adult 11 v 11	Youth 11 v 11	Youth 9 v 9	Mini 7 v 7	Mini 5 v 5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64 (100%)</b>

## Secured and Unsecured Community Available Use Pitches in the 2022/23 Season

2.15 Table 5 below identifies the number of secured community use sites and number of pitches provided at each site and the number of available to use unsecured community use sites and number of pitches provided at each site.

2.16 38% (24) of the 64 pitches used during the 2022/23 season across Gosport Borough provide secured community use access. 62% (40) pitches are unsecured community use pitches provided at education and MoD sites. Table 4 identifies that St George’s Playing Fields, Monkton Sports Ground and St Vincent College provide annual agreements for clubs to use the sites. The PPS sees these sites as unsecured as they offer no long-term security of tenure. The PPS guidance advises there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years.

2.17 59% of the available pitches for use in Gosport provide unsecured use.

# Gosport Borough Council

## *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football*

**Table 5: Number of sites in Gosport Borough 2022/23 Season with marked pitches Available and Used Providing Secured and Unsecured Community Use**

Type	No. of Sites	No. marked pitches 2019/20 Available and Used for community Use					Total (%)
		Full size	Youth 11 v 11	Junior 9 v 9	Mini (7 v 7)	Mini (5 v 5)	
Secured Community Use	8 (37%)	20	1	0	3	0	24 (38%)
Unsecured Community Use (Available)	14 (63%)	21	6	5	5	3	40 (62%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64 (100%)</b>

- 2.18 Of the 14 available unsecured community use sites 10 are used for community use – St George’s Playing Fields (MoD), Fleetlands (MoD), Monkton Sports Ground (MoD), St Vincent Leisure Centre (Education), Bedenham Junior School (Education), Bay House School (Education), Brune Park Community School, (Education), Bridgemary School (Education), HMS Sultan 1 (MoD) and HMS Sultan 2 (MoD).
- 2.19 The largest youth football clubs, Gosport Borough Junior FC based at St George’s Playing Fields (Also use St Vincent College and HMS Sultan 1) and Gosport Falcons based at Monkton Sports Ground both have short term agreements for use of the grounds from the MoD. This creates a security of tenure issue and hinders external funding grants for pitch and ancillary improvements as well as impacting on the future sustainability of the clubs if the sites were to be lost.
- 2.20 Table 6 identifies the secured community use sites and pitches, and Table 7 identifies the unsecured community use available and unavailable sites and pitches. A record of secured or unsecured community use is placed against each pitch. This will be particularly important for educational sites. arrangements which may suggest such certainty could include:
- A formal community use agreement.
  - A leasing or management agreement requiring pitches to be available to the community/a community club.
  - A formal policy for community use adopted by the owner and or educational establishment; and
  - Written confirmation from the owner and or educational establishment.
- 2.21 In addition, there are four sites (with 5 pitches), which are classed as unavailable for community use. These are Fort Blockhouse (which has never been available for community use) , Grange Junior School, Holbrook Junior School, and Leesland C of E Junior School. A fifth site Grange Lane has not been used since the 2014/15 season.

# Gosport Borough Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football

Table 6: Secured Community Use Pitches Gosport Borough 2022/23 Football season

Site No:	Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Owners	Saturday Play	Sunday Play	Midweek Play	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer
								11v11	11v11	9v9	
1	<b>Brookers Field</b>	Available	Secured	Local Authority		Blackbrook United Sun Am Duke of Connaught's Own Club Fareham Sun Am Fareham United Sun AM Gosham Rangers Sun AM Gosham Rangers Reserves Sun AM Gosport Town GTFC Sun AM Hill Head Men's Sun AM Priddy's Hard First Sun AM Solent United First Sun AM Village Athletic Men's Sun AM		5			1
2	<b>Elson Recreation Ground</b>	Available	Secured	Local Authority		Kings First 11v11 Sun AM Queens Head First 11v11 Sun AM		2			1



# Gosport Borough Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football

Site No:	Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Owners	Saturday Play	Sunday Play	Midweek Play	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer
								11v11	11v11	9v9	
						WPM Titans First 11v11 Sun AM  White Horse Reserves 11v11 Sun AM					
3	Howe Road	Available	Secured	Local Authority		Gypsy Queens Firsts 11v11 Sun AM  Gosport Spartans FC 11v11 Sun AM		1			
4	Lee-on-the-Solent Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Local Authority	Lee Rangers U15 x 2 Sat AM Lee Rangers U14 x 1 Sat AM  Lee Rangers U12 x 2 Sat AM Lee Rangers U11 x 1 Sat AM  Lee Rangers U7 Mini 5v5 Sat AM	Lee Rangers Firsts Sun AM  Lee Rangers U9 Mini 7v7 Sun AM  Lee Rangers U8 Mini 5v5 Sun AM		2	1		1
5	Nobes Avenue	Available	Secured	Local Authority		DCS United Sun AM  White Horse Portsmouth Firsts Sun AM		1			
6	Privett Park	Available	Secured	Local Authority		Village Home Firsts Sun AM  TML Firsts Sun AM  TML Royals Sun AM		4			

## Gosport Borough Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football

Site No:	Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Owners	Saturday Play	Sunday Play	Midweek Play	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer
								11v11	11v11	9v9	
						Solent Town Firsts Sun AM Bridgemary Borough Colts Sun AM C J Glass Sun AM					
7	Stokes Bay	Available	Secured	Local Authority				4			
8	The Aerial Direct Stadium	Available	Secured	Leased to Club owned by Local Authority	Gosport Borough Firsts Sat PM (Step club)	Gosport Borough U18 Sun AM		1			
<b>Total Available Secured Pitches</b>								<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

Table 7: Sites providing Unsecured (Unavailable and Available) natural grass pitches by typology across Gosport Borough 2022/23 (MoD and Education Sites)

Site No.	Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Owners	Saturday Play	Sunday Play	Midweek Play	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
								11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
9	St George's Playing Fields (Arden Park)	Available	Unsecured	Annual arrangement to Club from MoD	U7 Mini 5v5 x 1 Sat AM U8 Mini 5v5 x 3 Sat AM U10 Mini 7v7 x 6 Sat AM U9 Mini 7v7 x 3 Sat AM  U11 9v9 x 4 Sat AM U12 9v9 x 3 Sat AM U12 9v9 Girls Sat AM	U7 Mini 5v5 x 1 U8 mini 5v5 x 2 U10 Mini 7v7 x 7 U9 Mini 7v7 x 1  U11 9v9 x 2 U12 9v9 x 2			3	4		
10	Fleetlands	Available	Unsecured	Club – MoD	Fleetlands Firsts 11v11 x 1 Sat PM Fleetlands Reserves 11v11 x 1 Sat PM	Fleetlands U18 11v11 x 1 Sun AM  CT United Sun AM		1				

Gosport Borough Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football**

Site No.	Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Owners	Saturday Play	Sunday Play	Midweek Play	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
								11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
11	<b>Monkton Sports Ground – Gosport Falcons</b>	Available	Unsecured	Rolling annual agreement since 1991.	Gosport Falcons U14 x 3 Sat AM Gosport Falcons U11 Sat AM Gosport Falcons U12 Sat AM Gosport Falcons Mini 5v5 x 3 Sat AM Gosport Falcons Girl's U12 x 2 Sat AM Gosport Falcons Girl's U17 Sat AM	Gosport Falcon Women's 11v11 Sun PM Gosport Falcons Youth U16 Sun AM Gosport Falcons U15 Sun AM Gosport Falcons U14 x 2 Sun AM Gosport Falcons U13 x 2 Sun AM Gosport Falcons U11 Sun AM Gosport Falcons U12 Sun AM Gosport Falcons U10 Mini 7v7 x 2 Sun AM Gosport Falcons Youth U18 Sun PM		2	1	1	2	
12	<b>St Vincent Leisure Centre</b>	Available	Unsecured	Education – Annual Agreement	Gosport Borough Youth U16 Sat AM Gosport Borough Youth U14 Sat AM Gosport Borough Youth U13 x 2 Sat AM	Gosport Borough Youth U16 Sun Am Gosport Borough Youth U14 x 2 Sun AM Gosport Borough Youth U13 x 3 Sun AM		2				

# Gosport Borough Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football

Site No.	Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Owners	Saturday Play	Sunday Play	Midweek Play	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
								11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
						Gosport Borough Youth U18 Sun AM						
13	Alverstoke CE Junior School	Available	Unsecured	Education					1			
14	Alver Valley Schools	Available	Unsecured	Education							1	
15	Bay House School Sports Centre	Available	Unsecured	Education	Titchfield Tigers & Pompey in the Community U10 mini 7v7 x 2 U11 9v9 female x 1 U12 9v9 female x 1 U13 11v11 x 1	Titchfield Tigers U10 Mini 7v7 x 1	Gosport Borough U23 3G Pitch	2	1			
16	Bridgemary School	Available	Unsecured	Education	Fareham Town Youth Girls U11 9v9 x 1 Fareham Town Youth U16 11v11 x 1	Bridgemary Buccaneers U15 11v11 x 1		1	1			
17	Brune Park Community School	Available	Unsecured	Education	Fleetlands' Youth U13 11v11 x 1 Gosport Seagulls Youth U11 9v9 x 1 Rowner Sports Sat Pm 1 Adult 11v11	Fleetlands' Youth U13 11v11 x 1  Fleetlands' Youth U14 11v11 x 1		2	1			
18	Cocked Hat School (Bay House School)	Available	Unsecured	Education				4				
19	Fleetlands Golf Course	Available	Unsecured	Private				1				

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Site No.	Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Owners	Saturday Play	Sunday Play	Midweek Play	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
								11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
20	HMS Sultan Site 1	Available	Unsecured	MoD		Gosport Borough U15 Sun AM Gosport Ladies Firsts Sun PM Gosport Ladies Reserves Sun PM		5	1			
21	HMS Sultan Site 2	Available	Unsecured	MoD	Pompey in the Community Ladies U16			1				
22	Bedenham School	Available	Unsecured	Education	Fleetlands Juniors U8 Mini 5v5 x 1 U10 mini 7v7 x 2 U11 9v9 x 1	Fleetlands Juniors U10 mini 7v7 x 1				1	1	
<b>Total Available Unsecured Pitches</b>								<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	
23	Holbrook Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Education							1	
24	Leesland C of E Junior School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Education					2			
25	Fort Blockhouse	Unavailable	Unsecured	MoD				1				
26	Grange Junior School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Education					1			
<b>Total Unavailable Unsecured Pitches</b>								<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	

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## Gosport Borough Council

### ***Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football***

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- 2.22 Grange Lane a secured community use site has not been used for football since the 2014/15 season.
- 2.23 HMS Sultan (site 1) is currently significantly under-used since the Gosport Borough Youth teams moved to St George's Playing Fields. This demonstrates that there is some spare capacity within a season to potentially address the overplay issue, recognising that there are complications regarding the need for ongoing management throughout the season for the site to be ready for use when needed.
- 2.24 In addition to playing fields with marked pitches and goalposts for formal games, there are areas of maintained grass in parks, recreation grounds and other public open spaces throughout the Borough that are available and free to access for informal, kick about games. The Gosport Local Football Facilities Plan (November 2020) identifies Lee Recreation Ground as a key location used for informal, kick about games.
- 2.25 There are multi-use games areas provided at:
- Bridgemary Park.
  - Elson Recreation Ground.
  - Forton Recreation Ground.
  - Grove Road Recreation Ground.
  - Leesland Park; and
  - Walpole Park.

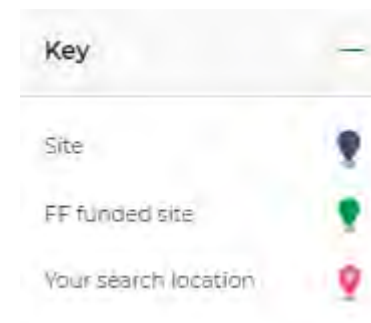
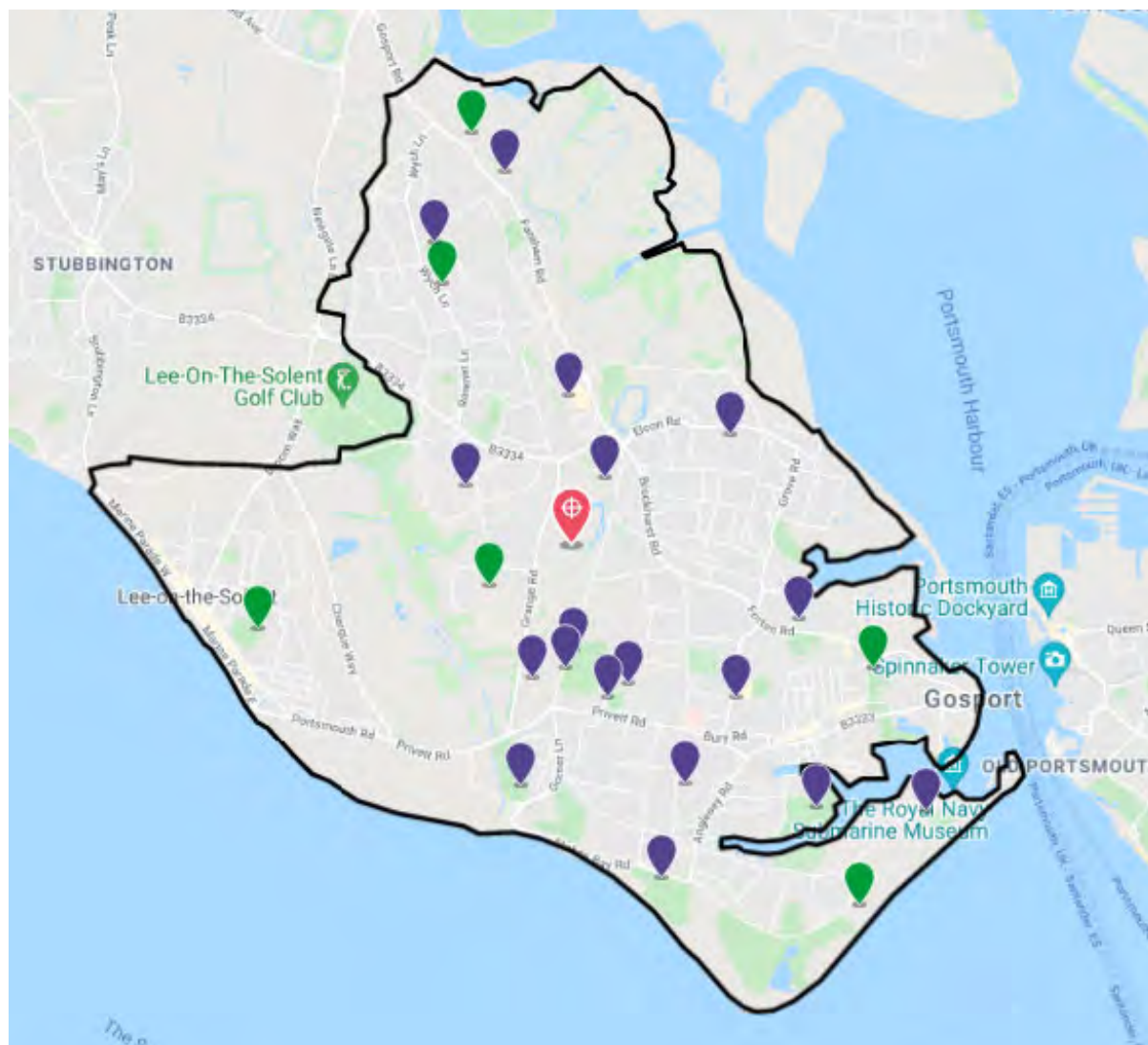
### **Lapsed Disused Provision**

- 2.26 Playing fields which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as lapsed sites.
- 2.27 Lapsed sites fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still must be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 102 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. The only identified pitch that is categorised as a lapsed site is Grange Lane that has not been used for football since the 2014/15 season. It was a 1 pitch site.
- 2.28 The map below provides the location of football pitches across Gosport.

# Gosport Borough Council

## *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football*

Map 1: Location of all football sites in Gosport (Source Football Foundation Pitch Finder)



### **Future Provision and Proposed Supply changes**

- 2.29 Consultation regarding the emerging Gosport Local Plan has raised objections from Sport England with regards to two sites. The first site is Fort Blockhouse. Sport England has stated the following:

‘Sport England notes that under 2b, reconfiguration of the open space which provides playing field/pitches for football and rugby is proposed. The reconfiguration will result in the net loss of playing field provision, from 2.75ha to 2.3ha. Sport England would object to any redevelopment which would lead to the loss of usable playing pitch space unless replacement provision was proposed to at least an equivalent or better quality; quantity and in a suitable location. Sport England asks for early engagement on the proposal.’

- 2.30 The second site is Grange Road. Sport England has stated the following:

‘Sport England notes that the supporting statement does not reference or acknowledge that the land has been used as playing field land in the past. However, Sport England considers that the existing site constitutes former playing field land which appears not have been used and marked out for sports pitches for several years. Hence our view that Sport England would be a non-statutory consultee. The proposed change of use of the existing open space to a multi-faith cemetery will result in the entire loss of the playing field land on site. Sport England notes that there is no proposed mitigation for the loss of playing field land. Sport England is aware that the council is undertaking work to develop a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the borough. This will assess and identify both the quantitative and qualitative needs for playing pitches within the borough. However, this work has stalled and is unfinished. Emerging priorities and issues have been identified. Issues relate to the lack of security of use/access for community clubs using playing pitches as well as deficiencies in football pitch provision for certain age groups. Any mitigation should take account of the emerging findings from the PPS. Assessment against Sport England Policy Sport England considers that the pre-application proposal does not meet with any of our Playing Field Policy exceptions or with Paragraph 99 of the NPPF. Sport England is therefore likely to raise an objection to this application under our non-statutory role.’ At the time of this assessment, it is highly probable that Grange Road will not be taken forward in the New Local Plan as a site proposed for a cemetery,

- 2.31 In addition to the above, planning application 19/00316/FULL, land at Brockhurst Gate, Cotsworth Road was approved in October 2020 for the erection of 3 buildings to form an employment development (use class B1a, B1c, B2 and B8), with access and egress, car parking, landscaping and associated works and improvements (departure from the Local Plan). The Civil Service Sports Ground site was shown in previous open space audits as Outdoor Sports (football pitches) due to an identified need for provision for community teams and has now been included in the adopted Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 partly for economic uses and partly for community football pitches with a pavilion. Planning permission was granted under application 16/00598/FULL for the redevelopment of the wider site, incorporating the application site, for a mix of uses including retail, a drive thru restaurant and coffee shop, car parking and associated highway works. As part of the planning permission new sports pitches (1 adult and 1 junior) and changing rooms (pavilion) were to be provided on the site covered by this current planning application. These pitches were required as part of the previous permission due to the loss of the previous high quality pitches a demonstrated need and the vulnerability of the pitch provision within the Borough.



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## Gosport Borough Council

### ***Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football***

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- 2.32 This vulnerability is primarily because of the reliance on MoD and Education provision. The community use of those MoD and Education pitches can be restricted or ceased completely with limited notice. The retail units are now complete and occupied and some preparatory works have been undertaken in respect of the sports pitch and changing room building, however, the works are not complete, and these latest proposals would result in the loss of these approved facilities. To mitigate this loss a Section 106 Agreement has secured a developer contribution to be used on enhancing public sports facilities, specifically football.
- 2.33 The Council has now granted planning permission (19/00316/FULL) for employment use on the sports pitch site. The developer agreed to pay a developer contribution to mitigate the loss of the football pitches and if the application is not implemented the site will revert to the original requirement for football pitches. Therefore, the site is still shown as existing open space for the emerging Local Plan. However, it has been excluded from the existing supply calculation in the supporting Open Space Monitoring Report. The latest evidence published in this Playing Pitch Assessment still highlights a need for the provision of football pitches over the Local Plan period and therefore any loss of pitches on this site will need to be mitigated. Therefore, the £277,000 Section 106 developer contributions funding for off-site improvements, relating to the provision/improvement of football facilities within Gosport from the Brockhurst Gate planning application is still required.
- 2.34 Planning application Ref. No: 20/00061/FULL Fleetlands Football Club Lederle Lane Gosport PO13 0AX. Permission Granted. Demolition of Existing Clubhouse and use of land for parking, Erection of single storey clubhouse with associated changing rooms, toilets and erection of roof terrace and installation of 6 No. floodlights has been granted planning permission in April 2020 and will enhance the existing facilities at Fleetlands FC.
- 2.35 The Fareham Local Football Facilities Plan November 2020 identifies provision of a full size 3G AGP at Crofton School close to the Borough boundary with Gosport. If this facility were to come to fruition it may benefit Gosport's Lee Rangers FC. However, from consultation Lee Rangers aspire to have access to a 9v9 3G AGP at the Lee on Solent Recreation Ground. However, there may be issues providing a 3G AGP at Lee on Solent Recreation Ground. The site is amenity space, there are parking restrictions at the site which is a multi-functional recreation ground, and it is near residents. There are also football teams such as Stubbington across the local authority border in Fareham that currently use 3G facilities in Gosport Borough at Gosport Leisure Centre and at Bay House School. A new facility in Stubbington will free up space in Gosport Borough.
- 2.36 CIL and Section 106 funding have been secured for sports pavilion refurbishments to update and bring back facilities into use in the Borough. .

## Football Club Aspirations and Gosport and Fareham League Aspirations – Future Supply Changes

- 2.37 Aspirations identified in consultation for change in the supply of football facilities in Gosport Borough are provided below. The numbering of pitches at sites is commonly understood by the Council, Leagues, and clubs:
- **Gosport Falcons FC Monkton Sports Ground** – Funding has been secured in the past to weed and feed and shock wave all pitches and re seeding of two pitches. There is still further investment required to maintain the facility all year round. There is a need to look at the provision of the current short-term agreement of use with the MoD and future security of tenure.
  - **Gosport Borough Youth FC** – St George’s Playing Fields (St George’s Barracks) the Club would like to seek funding for pitch improvements and secure a long-term tenure at the site The club are using St George’s Playing Fields for 9v9 and mini soccer in the 2022/23 season and using pitches at St Vincent College and HMS Sultan 1 for youth and adult age groups.
  - **Brookers Field** – Gosport and Fareham Sunday League would like to see improvements to stop waterlogging on pitches 1, 2 and 4. Pitch 5 requires attention the goal area nearest pavilion has some parts below pitch level and needs filling.
  - **Elsion Recreation Ground** – Pitch 2 needs improvements to stop waterlogging.
  - **Howe Road** – Pitch improvement to stop waterlogging.
  - **Nobes Avenue** – Pitch needs levelling to stop water pooling.
  - **Privett Park** – Pitches 1, 2, and 4 need improvement to stop waterlogging.
  - **Stokes Bay** – Pitch 2 needs levelling and 3 and 4 require improvements to stop waterlogging.

### Pitch Quality

- 2.38 The quality of football pitches across Gosport Borough have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:



# Gosport Borough Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football

- 2.39 Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking several matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.
- 2.40 The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation and those agreed with Hampshire County FA.
- 2.41 Appendix 2: Gosport Football Overview Season 2022/23 season identifies the quality pitch rating for each pitch at each site. The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Gosport Borough. In total, 15 (24%) pitches are assessed as good quality, 43 (67%) as standard quality and 6 (9%) as poor quality.

**Table 8: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)**

Analysis Sub Area	Adult Pitches			Youth 11v11 Pitches			Junior 9v9 Pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Gosport Borough	12	26	3	2	4	1	0	4	1	1	9	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>

- 2.42 The following sites accommodate poor quality pitches:
- Stokes Bay – 1 adult 11v11.
  - Bay House School Sports Centre – 2 adult 11v11, 1 youth 11v 11.
  - Bedenham Junior School – 1 junior 9v9 and 1 mini soccer 7v7.
- 2.43 Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table below. These are either taken from consultation with the clubs or from site assessments.

# Gosport Borough Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football

Table 9: Summary of pitch quality comments

Site name	Comments
<b>Monkton Sports Ground</b>	There is still further investment required to maintain the facility all year round.
<b>St George's Playing Fields (St George's Barracks)</b>	Requires pitch improvements.
<b>Brookers Field</b>	Improvements are required to stop waterlogging on pitch 1, 2 and 4. Pitch 5 requires attention the goal area nearest the pavilion has some parts below pitch level and needs filling.
<b>Elson Recreation Ground</b>	Pitch 2 needs improvements to stop waterlogging.
<b>Howe Road</b>	Pitch improvement to stop waterlogging.
<b>Nobes Avenue</b>	Pitch needs levelling to stop water pooling.
<b>Privett Park</b>	Pitch 1, 2, and 4 need improvement to stop waterlogging.
<b>Stokes Bay</b>	Pitch 2 needs levelling and 3 and 4 require improvements to stop waterlogging.

- 2.44 There are several comments above that mention waterlogging. There is a need to complete Pitch Power Assessments across all sites. Pitch Power is a tool to help inspect and improve grass pitches and then receive an assessment report on the pitch quality as well as support and recommendations on how to get the pitches match fit.

### Ancillary Facilities

- 2.45 The quality of ancillary facilities across Gosport Borough has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

<b>Good</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Poor</b>
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- 2.46 Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing.
- 2.47 The table below identifies the findings for football sites that are actively utilised for football across Gosport Borough. Good facilities provide the required facilities, are well maintained and not in need of refurbishment. Standard quality facilities provide the required facilities but may need some refurbishment. Poor facilities require additional facilities are in disrepair and need to be renewed or refurbished.

# Gosport Borough Council

## *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football*

2.48 Table 10 identifies only 2 sites providing 'Good' quality ancillary facilities.

**Table 10: Summary of community available ancillary facility quality at active football sites**

Site ID	Site name	Ancillary facility quality
1	<b>Brookers Field</b> - Changing facility due to vandalism. Carpark is too small especially when all pitches are in use. Changing facility is classified as 'Poor' – requires refurbishment or renewal.	Poor
2	<b>Elson Recreation Ground</b> - Good, carpark is too small especially if both pitches are in use.	Good
3	<b>Howe Road</b> - Standard, area around pavilion always covered with broken bottles.	Standard
4	<b>Lee-on-Solent Recreation Ground</b> - The pavilion is shared with the bowls club and some changing rooms have been refurbished and these now have locks on (Bowls Club). The football club currently has access to 2 changing rooms. This will cause a problem if the club has a U18/U17 team in the 2021/22 season. The reason being that this new team alongside the adult team will require 4 changing rooms and an official's room. It is not known if these will be available for Lee Rangers to use.	Standard
5	<b>Nobes Avenue</b> - lights not working CIL and Section 106 funding to replace pavilion.	Standard
6	<b>Privett Park</b> - toilets inadequate, old structure. The Local Facilities Football Plan identifies the site as poor. Gosport BC have a capital funding to look at partnership funding for new changing facilities at Privett Park.	Poor
7	<b>Stokes Bay</b> – There are no facilities at this site. The Local football Facilities Plan identifies the site as a focus site for changing facilities.	None
8	<b>The Aerial Direct Stadium, Privett Park.</b>	Good
9	<b>St George's Playing Fields (St George's Barracks)</b> - 4 changing rooms but only 3 are usable.	Standard
10	<b>Fleetlands.</b>	Standard
11	<b>Monkton Sports Ground – Gosport Falcons</b> toilets and kitchen are outdated and there is a need for further investment in these areas an upgrade. Investment is also needed in the fabric of the clubhouse.	Poor
12	<b>St Vincent Leisure Centre.</b>	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Ancillary facility quality
13	Alverstoke CE Junior School.	Standard
14	Alver Valley Schools.	Standard
15	Bay House School Sports Centre.	Standard
16	Bridgemary School.	Standard
17	Brune Park Community School.	Standard
18	Cocked Hat School (Bay House School).	Standard
19	Fleetlands Golf Course.	Standard
20	Bedenham Junior School.	Poor
21	HMS Sultan Site 1.	Standard
22	HMS Sultan Site 2.	Standard

2.49 Across the Borough, 1 site (5%) actively used for football is not serviced by any sort of clubhouse or changing rooms. In addition, a further 4 (18%) sites are serviced by poor quality provision. As a result, there are several stakeholders which indicate aspirations to create or improve the quality on ancillary provision on the sites they use.

### **Demand**

2.50 Through the audit and assessment, 138 teams from within 38 clubs are identified as playing within Gosport Borough.

2.51 Table 11 below identifies the different team typologies.

**Table 11: Gosport Team Typology and Numbers**

Football Team Typology	Numbers of Teams	Comments
Men's Open Aged 17+	33	Includes Gosport Borough FC a Step 3 club in the National League System.
Women's Teams Open Aged 17+	4	Gosport Falcons FC, Fleetlands FC and Gosport Ladies FC (2 teams) play in the Hampshire County Women's League.

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Football Team Typology	Numbers of Teams	Comments
Youth Boys' Teams 13 – 16 Years	35	Play youth 11v11 football.
Youth Girls' Teams 13 – 16 Years	3	Play Youth 11v11 football.
Junior Boys' Teams 11- 12 Years	20	Play 9v9 football.
Junior Girls' teams 11- 12 Years	5	Play 9v9 football.
Mini Soccer Mixed 9 - 10 Years	25	Play 7v7 football.
Mini soccer Mixed 7 – 8 Years	13	Play 5v5 football.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>138</b>	

### Football Pyramid Demand

- 2.52 The National League System is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of six steps and a Regional Feeder League (the previous step 7), with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.
- 2.53 Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

**Table 12: Summary of ground grading for men's football**

Level	League	Grading category
Step 1	Nation League	Grade A
Step 2	National League North and South	Grade B
Step 3	National League	Grade C
Step 4	To maintain its position at Step 4 a club must achieve Grade D by March 31st in its second season after promotion	Grade D
Step 4	(To maintain its position at Step 4 a club must achieve Grade E by March 31st in its first season after promotion but to be eligible for promotion to Step 3 it must achieve Grade D by this date	Grade E
Step 5	National League	Grade F

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Level	League	Grading category
Step 6	National League	Grade G and H
Previously Step 7	National Regional Feeder League	National Regional feeder League

2.54 There is a total of one club which plays within the football pyramid, as seen below:

- Gosport Borough FC (Step 3).

2.55 The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they must achieve the appropriate grade by March 31<sup>st</sup> of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 7 (as they must meet requirements immediately). [FA National League System ground grading documents \(thefa.com\)](http://thefa.com)

### **Women’s National League System**

2.56 There is also a Women’s National League System like the adult men’s football pyramid, providing structure to the women’s game. As seen in table 13 below, the system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels.

**Table 13: Summary of ground grading for women’s football**

Level	League	Grading category
Tier 1	Women’s Super League	Grade A
Tier 2	FA Women’s Championship	Grade B
Tier 3	FA Women’s National League - Premier	Grade C
Tier 4	FA Women’s National League Division 1	Grade D
Tier 5	Women’s Regional League Premier	Grade E

2.57 Although women’s clubs are still required to meet the ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men’s National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C, each with differing minimum requirements.

2.58 In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women’s league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and saw the top league, FA WSL 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier two for a maximum of 12 teams.



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2.59 There are currently 2 women’s teams from Gosport Borough in the Women’s Football Pyramid.

- Gosport Borough Ladies FC (Tier 7 Hampshire County Women’s Football League Premier Division).
- Gosport Falcons Ladies FC (Tier 7 Hampshire County Women’s Football League Premier Division).

#### **Imported Demand**

2.60 Imported demand refers to any demand from teams in neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Gosport Borough study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where the team or club is based. There are teams from Fareham that use 3G pitch facilities for training. These teams are AFC Stubbington (use 3G pitches for training), and Fareham Town Youth U141 and Fareham Town U11 Girls use Bridgemary School grass pitches.

#### **Exported Demand**

2.61 Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of Gosport Borough, despite being registered to the Borough. There are no identified exported teams in Gosport.

#### **Latent Demand**

2.62 Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack pitches or appropriate facilities. Further expansion of recent initiatives such as veterans' leagues (encouraging over 35s to continue to play or to return to the game), 'Just Play' organised kickabouts, walking football are opportunities to use football as a tool to address this need.

2.63 The low current base of expressed demand for girls and women's football (i.e. in terms of the number of girls and women's teams in comparison to boys and men’s teams) is clear evidence of high levels of latent demand for more female participation in the game.

2.64 The football clubs in Gosport have stated that the demand for girls’ football is clearly growing and the need for improved changing provision and appropriate pitches need to be provided to meet this demand. This will lead to an increase in women’s football as more teams are likely to be created as current junior girls are retained and adult teams and competition structures are developed (both formal and informal).

2.65 Clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Clubs have quantified *potential* increase and there is a predicted growth of 25 teams, as seen below:

- Youth Football 11 v 11 - 6 teams, 4 boys and 2 girls, 3 MES.
- Junior 9 v 9 - 8 teams 4 girls and 4 boys, 4 MES.

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- Mini soccer - 9 teams. 4 x 7v7 teams (2 x MEs) and 5 x 5v5 teams (2.5 x MES).
- 2 additional adult women's teams. 1 MES.

#### **Unmet Demand**

- 2.66 Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. No unmet demand is expressed by clubs in Gosport Borough.

#### **Future Demand**

- 2.67 Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

#### **Population Increases**

- 2.68 Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2038) based on population growth.
- 2.69 Since the commencement of this PPS, the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan has been prepared and a housing requirement for 3,500 dwellings has been identified (206 dwellings per annum). Due to demographic trends, it has been calculated by JG Consulting (with additional trend and ratio analysis from GBC to cover the period from 2036 to 2038 based on a 0.48 dwelling: population growth ratio) that this level of dwellings would increase the population **by 1,680 people** between 2021 and 2038.
- 2.70 The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Tool should be used to identify team generation rates and need for playing pitches as and when planning applications are agreed.
- 2.71 The increase in population of 1,680 people between 2021 and 2038 with the existing football team numbers by typology have been input into Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator Tool and the outputs from the Calculator for future match equivalent sessions for male and female participation combined to 2038 are:
- 0.37 adult 11 v 11 match equivalent sessions;
  - 0.38 youth 11 v 11 match equivalent sessions;
  - 0.25 junior 9 v 9 match equivalent sessions; and
  - 0.38 mini soccer match equivalent sessions.
- 2.72 The table below identifies the workings of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator Tool.

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**Table 14: Gosport wide Team Generation Rates (TGRs).**

Age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Predicted future number of teams Predicted population Growth 1,680 (2038)	Number of home matches per week
Senior Men 11 v 11	33	465	0.65	0.33
Senior Women 11 v 11	4	3636	0.08	0.04
Youth Boys 11 v 11	35	62	0.69	0.35
Youth Girls 11 v 11	3	701	0.06	0.03
Junior Boys 9 v 9	20	52	0.40	0.20
Junior Girls 9 v 9	5	197	0.10	0.05
Mini-Soccer Mixed 7 v 7	25	77	0.49	0.25
Mini-Soccer Mixed 5 v 5	13	142	0.26	0.13

- 2.73 It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards NGB initiatives.
- 2.74 The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Tool when applying additional projected population to 2038 and using the current team numbers by football team typology provides an estimate demand for 2.73 additional training hours for 3G AGP per week and an estimate to provide 1.62 changing rooms to meet the future population demand.

### **Capacity Analysis**

- 2.75 The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.
- 2.76 As a guide, the FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in Gosport:

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Table 15: FA Quality Ratings Matches per Week

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	3	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Key:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain.
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain.
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.

### Match Equivalent Sessions

- 2.77 Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be in match equivalent sessions.
- 2.78 **Appendix 2** provides the capacity analysis of individual sites by playing pitch typology and culminates in a Gosport Borough Overview Work Sheet.

### Spare Capacity

- 2.79 To determine ‘actual spare capacity’, each site with ‘potential capacity’ identified in Appendix 2 Gosport Borough Football Overview 2022/23 Work Sheet has been reviewed.
- 2.80 Actual spare capacity has been identified for secured and unsecured tenure pitches at peak time of play and a summary is shown in Table 16.
- 2.81 Actual spare capacity of unsecured and secured community use pitches (Peak Time of Play) totals 16 match equivalent sessions per week, actual spare capacity of secured community use pitches totals 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week and unsecured community use pitch spare capacity totals 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This has been aggregated up by pitch type below.

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**Table 16: Summary of Actual Spare Capacity Match Equivalent Sessions Peak time of Play (Taken from Appendix 2 Football Overview 2022/23 Season Worksheet)**

Analysis Area	Actual Spare Capacity Peak Time (Match equivalent sessions per week)					Total spare capacity
	Adult	Youth 11 v 11	Junior 9 v 9	Mini 7 v 7	Mini 5 v 5	
Gosport: Total MES with Secured Community Use Sites Only	6	0.5		2		7.5
Gosport: Total MES with Unsecured Community Use Sites Only	11.5	0.5	0	2	0.5	8.5
Gosport: Total MES with Secured and Unsecured Community Use Sites	17.5	1	0	0	0.5	16

2.82 Most actual spare capacity is identified on adult pitches. There is a heavy reliance on unsecured community use pitches. There is a need to realign spare adult pitches to cater for the youth over play and a need to secure community use of key sites at risk.

2.83 Table 17 below identifies the spare MES capacity for weekly play. Actual spare capacity of unsecured and secured community use pitches (weekly) totals 92.5 match equivalent sessions per week, actual spare capacity of secured community use pitches totals 47 match equivalent sessions per week and unsecured community use pitch spare capacity totals 45.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This has been aggregated up by pitch type below.

**Table 17: Summary of Actual Spare Capacity Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly Play (Taken from Appendix 2 Football Overview 2022/23 Season Worksheet)**

Analysis Area	Actual Spare Capacity Peak Time (Match equivalent sessions per week)					Total spare capacity
	Adult	Youth 11 v 11	Junior 9 v 9	Mini 7 v 7	Mini 5 v 5	
Gosport: Total MES with Secured Community Use Sites Only	33	1.5		12.5		47
Gosport: Total MES with Unsecured Community Use Sites Only	28.5	5	0.5	5.5	7	45.5
Gosport: Total MES with Secured and Unsecured Community Use Sites	61.5	6.5	0.5	18	7	92.5

### Overlay

2.84 Overlay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain, which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Gosport, it is also due to clubs and teams preferring to play at their home ground other than using pitches of the correct size elsewhere. For example, Monkton Sports Ground and St George's Playing Fields.

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2.85 9 pitches across 4 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 7 match equivalent sessions per week at peak time of play. However, the weekly capacity and demand identifies that all the sites are played to weekly capacity except for St Vincent Leisure (2 adult pitches), Bay House School (2 adult pitches), Monkton Sports Ground (1 Youth 11v11 pitch and 1 junior 9v9 pitch) and St George's Playing Fields (2 mini soccer 7v7 pitches).

**Table 18: Summary of Overplay Peak Time of Play and Weekly Play**

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity Rating (Match sessions) Peak Time of Play	Capacity Rating (Match Sessions) Weekly Play
12	St Vincent Leisure	Adult 11v11	2	1	1.5
15	Bay House School Sports Centre	Adult 11v11	2	0	0.5
4	Lee- on- Solent Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11	1	0.5	1.5
11	Monkton Sports Ground	Youth 11v11	1	1	1
11	Monkton Sports Ground	Junior 9v9	1	1	1
9	St George's Playing Fields	Mini Soccer 7v7	2	2	0.5
11	Monkton Sports Ground	Mini Soccer 7v7	1	1	2
11	Monkton Sports Ground	Mini soccer 5v5	1	0.5	2.5
		Totals	11	7	1.5

2.86 The majority of overplay on sites is generated from the substantial levels of demand accessing pitch stock and the lack of youth and junior pitches for peak time play at the clubs' home grounds.

2.87 There is a need to complete Pitch Power Assessments across all sites. Pitch Power is a tool to help inspect and improve grass pitches and then receive an assessment report on the pitch quality as well as support and recommendations on how to get the pitches match fit.

2.88 As can be seen from table 18 above, when broken down, 7 match equivalent sessions of weekly play capacity overplay takes place on 4 pitches at Monkton Sports Ground, 2 pitches at St George's Playing Fields. Both sites are unsecured sites (MoD) year by year agreements and junior football club home grounds. Security of tenure is a key issue in providing improvements at these sites. St Vincent Leisure 2 pitches, Bay House School 2 pitches and Lee-on-Solent Recreation Ground.

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**Supply and Demand Analysis**

- 2.89 Having considered current supply and demand, the Table 19 below identifies and summarises the current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay) for the whole of the Gosport Borough Council area.
- 2.90 When considering secured and unsecured community use sites there is current spare capacity on adult 11 v 11 (17.5 MES), overplay of youth 11 v 11 (1 MES). Balanced capacity for junior 9v9 and mini soccer 7 v 7 and over play for mini soccer 5 v 5 (0.5 MES) across Gosport Borough.
- 2.91 Future demand is based on team generation rates, which are driven by population increases of 1,680 to 2038. In addition to club aspirational future growth plans. After factoring in future demand (Local Plan population increases from new dwellings and future team demands from clubs).

**Table 19: Summary of Current and Future Supply and Demand Gosport Borough Council Peak Time of Play (Future Population 1,680 Demand)**

Pitch type	Demand Peak time of Play (Match equivalent sessions per week secured and unsecured community use)					Total Future Demand Match Equivalent Sessions	Total Pitch Demand
	Actual Spare Capacity	Overplay Peak time	Current Total	Future Demand – Population 1,680 Increases	Future Demand Club Aspirations		
Adult	18.5	1	17.5	0.37	1	17 (16.13)	9 (8.5)
Youth 11 v 11	2.5	3.5	1	0.38	3	5 (4.38)	3 (2.5)
Junior 9 v 9	1	1	0	0.25	4	5 (4.25)	3 (2.5)
Mini 7 v 7	3	3	0	0.25	2	3 (2.25)	2 (1.5)
Mini 5 v 5	0	0.5	0.5	0.13	2.5	4 (3.13)	2

- 2.92 Most current overplay across the various pitch types across Gosport is generated from high levels of demand from youth 11 v 11 and 9 v 9 on adult 11 v 11 pitches. This is worsened when accounting for the additional future demand.
- 2.93 Table 20 below considers capacity when considering secured community use pitches only. This identifies a shortfall across all football pitch typologies.

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Table 20: Summary of Current and Future Supply and Demand Gosport Borough Council Peak Time of Play (Future Population 1,680 Demand) Secured use only

Pitch type	Demand Peak time of Play (match equivalent sessions per week secured community use only)					Total Future Demand Match Equivalent Sessions	Total Pitch Demand
	Actual Spare Capacity	Overplay Peak time	Current Total	Future Demand – Population 1,680 Increases	Future Demand Club Aspirations		
Adult	0	3.5	3.5	0.33	1	5 (4.83)	3 (2.5)
Youth 11 v 11	0	7	7	0.29	3	11 (10.29)	6 (5.5)
Junior 9 v 9	0	5	5	0.20	4	10 (9.20)	5
Mini 7 v 7	0	5	5	0.16	2	8 (7.16)	4
Mini 5 v 5	0	3.5	3.5	0.20	2.5	7 (6.20)	4 (3.50)

### Football Key Issues for Strategy

1. The audit identifies 69 grass football pitches within Gosport Borough across 27 sites. 22 sites with 64 pitches are available for community use and have been used in the 2022/23 season. 5 sites are unavailable for use including at 1 site in Grange Lane which has not been used since the 2014/15 season.
2. Available pitches used by community football clubs in the 2022/23 season across Gosport Borough equates to 41 adult 11 v 11, 7 youth 11 v 11, 5 junior 9 v 9, and 11 mini soccer pitches.
3. 38% (24) of the 64 pitches used during the 2022/23 season across Gosport Borough provide secured community use access (pitches owned or leased by local authorities or clubs/associations). 62% (40) pitches are unsecured community use pitches provided at education and MoD sites. A key issue will be to resolve the reliance on unsecured community use pitch provision.
4. 15 (24%) pitches are assessed as good quality, 43 (67%) as standard quality and 6 (9%) as poor quality. Raising the quality of 'Standard' and 'Poor' quality pitches would increase playing capacity. This is a key issue to resolve.
5. Several stakeholders aspire to improve their pitch quality and/or provide 3G pitches – Gosport Borough, Lee Rangers, and Gosport Falcons.



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- 6.** Across Gosport Borough, 1 site (5%) Stokes Bay, which is actively used for football is not serviced by any sort of clubhouse or changing rooms. In addition, a further 4 (18%) sites Brookers Field, Privett Park, Monkton Sports Ground and Bedenham School are serviced by poor quality provision. As a result, there are several stakeholders who have indicated that they aspire to create or improve the quality of the ancillary provision on the sites they use. – Gosport and Fareham Sunday League.
- 7.** The largest youth football clubs - Gosport Borough Junior FC based at St. Georges Field also use St Vincent College and HMS Sultan 1 and Gosport Falcons FC are based at Monkton Sports Ground; both have short term agreements for use of their home grounds from the MoD. This creates a security of tenure issue and hinders external funding grants for pitch and ancillary improvements as well as impacting on the future sustainability of the clubs if the sites were to be lost. This is a key issue to address by provision of a 3G AGP which does not necessarily need to be on site at St George's Playing Fields or Monkton Sports Ground due to issues with security of tenure at both sites.
- 8.** 138 teams have been identified as playing within the Gosport Borough 2022/23 season. This consists of 33 adult men's 11v11 teams, 4 adult women's 11v11 teams, 35 youth 11v11 boys' teams, 3 youth 11v11 girls' teams, 20 junior boys' 9v9 teams, 5 junior girls' 9v9 teams, and 25 mini soccer 7v7 teams and 13 mini soccer 5v5 teams.
- 9.** 9 pitches across 4 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 7 match equivalent sessions per week at peak time of play. However, the weekly capacity and demand identifies that all the sites are played to weekly capacity except for St Vincent Leisure (2 adult pitches), Bay House School (2 adult pitches), Monkton Sports Ground (1 Youth 11v11 pitch and 1 junior 9v9 pitch) and St George's Playing Fields (2 mini soccer 7v7 pitches).
- 10.** When considering secured and unsecured community use sites there is current spare capacity on adult 11 v 11 pitch typologies (17.5 match equivalent sessions). There is a shortfall of youth 11 v 11 (1 MES), junior 9 v 9 and mini soccer 7 v 7 (balanced play) and a shortfall of mini soccer 5 v 5 (0.5 MES). After factoring in future demand, a greater proportion of this demand is from club aspirations rather than population increases with 12.5 MES being generated by club aspirations and 1.2 MES generated by population increases. Consequently, there are shortfalls across all pitch typologies except for adult 11 v 11.
- 11.** It is very apparent that football would not be sustainable if it relied solely on secured community use sites. There would be a shortfall at peak time of play - adult 11 v 11 3 MES, Youth 11v11 6 MES, 9v9 5 MES 7v7 4 MES and 5v5 4 MES. In this instance where possible there is a need to protect and secure community use agreements for all unsecured sites.

## Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPS)

### Introduction

- 2.94 There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (also known as third generation turf or 3G), sand based (filled or dressed) and water based.

**Table 21: AGP type and sport suitability**

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile. There is a size difference in a Rugby Union pitch 120m x 86m compared to football 112m x 76m.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface for now. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football.
Sand	Sand Filled	Competitive hockey and football training.
Sand	Sand Dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training.
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

- 2.95 England Hockey’s Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower-level hockey (introductory level) when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.
- 2.96 Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play when passed an approved test and registered on the FA’s 3G pitch register at mini soccer and youth level.
- 2.97 The recommended FA dimensions for a full sized 3G pitch are 100x64 metres with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. Minimum playing area dimensions to meet performance standard criteria for competitive football are 90x45 metres (or 100x64 metres for FIFA sanctioned international matches), with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side.
- 2.98 FIFA 3G pitch certification is required to host competitive adult match play at Step 3 and below, whilst for teams playing at Steps 1 or 2 pitches are required to have FIFA Pro standard certification, further information on which is included later in the section. Football training can take place on sand and water-based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

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- 2.99 World Rugby (WR) produced the ‘Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby’, more commonly known as ‘Regulation 22’ that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling, and lineouts can take place. All full-size World Rugby compliant 3G pitches feature on the RFU register, including expiry dates of certification. Upon registration, World Rugby compliancy is valid for two years before renewal and re-testing is required.
- 2.100 Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the RFL to meet its Performance Standard for Synthetic Turf Pitches. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual re-test. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, consequently World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements and are deemed suitable for rugby league use subject to passing an additional exclusive RFL performance standard test.

### Current Provision

#### 3G Football Turf Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

- 2.101 The table below shows the 2 Gosport full size 3G AGPs:

**Table 22: Gosport 3G AGPS**

Site	FA Registered	Size	Sports Lighting	Year Built	Year Refurbished	Opening Hours	Availability
<b>Bay House School 3G AGP</b>	Yes	63m x 102m	Yes	1990	2013	Monday – Friday 17.00 – 21.00 Saturday and Sunday 09.00 – 15.00	Space available: Monday 17.00- 18.00. Friday 17.00 – 18.00 & 20.00- 21.00 Saturday 10.00 – 11.00 & 12.00 – 15.00
<b>Bridgemary School 3G AGP</b>	Yes	65m x 100m	Yes	2014	-	Monday – Friday 17.00 – 21.30 Saturday & Sunday 09.00 – 18.00	Space available: Monday 17.00 - 18.00 & 20.00 – 21.30 Thursday 21.00 – 21.30 Friday 19.00 – 21.30 Saturday 12.30 – 18.00 Sunday 16.00 – 18.00

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### ***Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football***

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- 2.102 There are 2 full size x 3G Football Turf Pitches – Bay House School and Bridgemary School. The two 3G pitches are on the FA Pitch Register. Brune Park School has constructed a full size 3G AGP that has opened between this Stage C Assessment Report and the Stage D Final Report. The Brune Park School 3G AGP is subject to a community use agreement. This brings the current total to 3 full size 3G AGPs and a current shortfall of 1 full size 3G AGP.
- 2.103 Gosport Leisure Centre provides 8 x small 30 x 20 3G AGP cages and 1 x 35 x 26 3G AGP, Sports Lighting, built 2012. Open Monday – Friday 06.00 – 22.00 Saturday 07.00 -17.30 Sunday 07.00 – 20.30. Power Play operate a commercial 5 v 5 league Mondays 6.30pm - 8.30pm.
- 2.104 Gosport Leisure Centre is used daily by Lee Rangers FC and other local teams such as Gosport Borough Youth FC. In addition, Gosport Borough Youth FC have use of, Bay House and Bridgemary School 3G AGPs for training. Gosport Falcons use Bridgemary, Bay House, Gosport Leisure Centre and St Vincent College's AGPs. In addition to this a team from Fareham, outside of the Gosport Borough area, Stubbington Youth FC have 10 teams using 6 midweek hours at Bay House 3G AGP.
- 2.105 The Stage B and this Stage C Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment identifies 138 teams with an estimated ratio of 1 x 3G AGP to 38 teams = 4 full sized (3.63 rounded up) 3G AGPs to meet football team training needs. The current supply is 3 full size 3G AGPs a shortfall of 1 full size 3G AGP.
- 2.106 The population increase to 2038 estimates an additional 3.99 football teams and football club aspirations for increasing teams equates to 25 teams. The total estimated football teams in the future equals 166.99 this number of teams is estimated to require use of 5 (4.39) 3G AGPs.
- 2.107 The Gosport Local Football Facilities Plan has highlighted St George's Playing Fields as the preferred site for a new 3G AGP. This would provide Gosport Borough FC with its own 3G pitch training facility. The Club does need such a facility. However, St George's Playing Fields is used as a core habitat site for Brent Geese which are an internationally protected species and an identified feature of the Special Protection Area and Ramsar wetlands of the Solent coast. Therefore, the loss of the grassed area to provide a 3G AGP is unlikely to be forthcoming on this particular site. The site is a MoD owned facility and there are security of tenure issues. It is anticipated that these issues can be resolved in the short to medium term.
- 2.108 An alternative site needs to be considered. Consultation with Gosport Borough FC and Gosport Borough Youth FC has identified Privett Park as a preferred option. This however creates issues relating to the provision of cricket pitches and planning issues with regards to floodlights near residential dwellings.
- 2.109 The Gosport Leisure Centre site has space to the side and back of the leisure centre. There is insufficient space for a full size 3G AGP. It is possible a smaller 3G AGP could be provided.

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## Gosport Borough Council

### ***Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football***

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2.110 Of relevance here is the Fareham Local Football Facilities Plan which sets out the following need across Fareham Borough:

- One 3G FTP - in the Western area of the Authority.
- Two 3G FTPs - in the central area of the Authority.
- One 3G FTP- in the Eastern area of the Authority.
- One 3G FTP - in the Southern area of the Authority\*.

2.111 The future location of a full size 3G AGP in the Southern\* area of Fareham Borough has been identified as Crofton School. Crofton School is in the Stubbington area of Fareham Borough and close to the Borough boundary with Gosport. The Fareham Local Facilities Plan identifies two clubs in the southern part of Fareham. These clubs are Stubbington Youth FC 25 teams and Crofton Saints FC 23 teams. A total of 48 teams.

2.112 The ratio of 1 x 3G AGP to 38 football teams means that a full size 3G AGP provided at Crofton School in the future would not impact on any new 3G AGP provision provided in Gosport Borough to meet the need of football teams in Gosport Borough. The Fareham Local Football Facilities Plan states that the pitch would not only support Fareham clubs such as Crofton Saints, but would also support clubs in Gosport too, particularly Lee Rangers. However, a new 3G AGP at Crofton School would meet the needs of 38 of the 48 Fareham Borough teams in the locality still leaving 10 teams to find alternative 3G pitch accommodation which would probably be in Gosport as is the case with Stubbington Youth FC currently with 10 teams training at Bay House School during midweek.

### **World Rugby Compliant Pitches**

#### **Rugby Union**

2.113 There is a current shortfall of capacity on Rugby Union training pitches with sports lighting at Gosport Park to accommodate the current weekly requirement for training MES. Priority should be placed first and foremost on alleviating overplay. Given that the majority of overplay is a result of training demand on grass pitches, it is considered that there is a potential need for additional floodlighting, pitch quality improvements and/or access to be World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant.

2.114 There may well be opportunities to work with football (NGBs) to provide appropriate 3G AGP training and match play opportunities in Gosport.

### **3G Pitch Key Issues Summary**

1. There is an insufficient supply of 1 full size 3G AGP to meet current demand and 2 full size 3G AGPs anticipated future demand for football in Gosport.

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## Gosport Borough Council

### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report - Football*

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2. There are currently 3 full size 3G AGPs across Gosport with smaller 3G AGPs provided at Gosport Leisure Centre (8 5v5 and 1 7v7). Full size 3G pitches are currently FA Registered.
3. Based upon Football Association modelling of 38 teams per full size 3G AGP for training, there is a current need for 4 full size 3G AGPs and an existing current shortfall of 1 x full size f3G AGP in Gosport Borough. By 2038 the need is expected to rise to 5 x full size 3G AGPs, a shortfall of 2 x full size 3G AGPs.
4. Given that the majority of overplay on rugby union pitches is a result of training demand on grass pitches, it is considered that there is a potential need for additional floodlighting, pitch quality improvements and/or access to a World Rugby regulation 22 compliant 3G AGP. This would displace demand from Gosport Park. The current need is 4.5 MES and future demand is 7 MES.
5. The key issue is where an additional 3G AGP can be provided. Brune Park School has constructed a full size 3G AGP subject to a community use agreement being in place this year and this has reduced the shortfall in 3G AGP provision. Another suggested site is Privett Park, but the site has several factors to consider principally, the impact on the existing cricket pitches and its closeness to residential areas.

### 3. Rugby Union Assessment

#### **England Rugby Strategy – A successful and Thriving Game across England 2021 and onwards.**

3.1. The purpose of the RFU Strategy 2021 and onwards is:

**“To enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations”.**

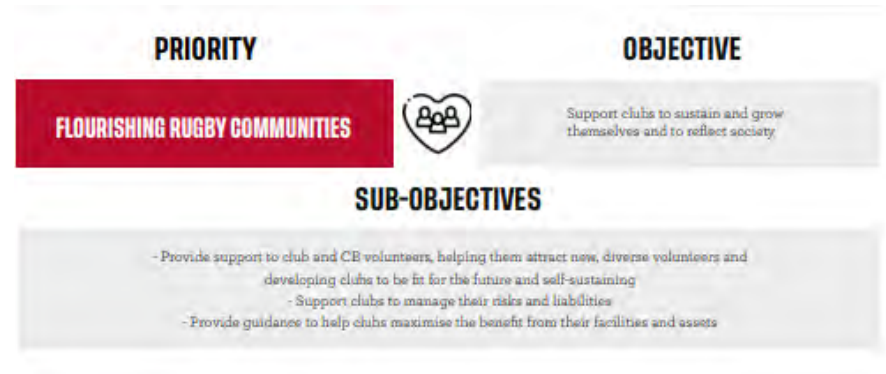
3.2. The Vision is to achieve a successful thriving game across England. This will be achieved by strengthening and uniting Rugby Union in England and producing consistently winning England Teams. There are three guiding principles:

- **Player First**
- **Open to All**
- **Financially Strong**

3.3. There are four ‘Game Objectives’ and four ‘Driving Objectives.’ These are shown below.

Gosport Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Rugby Union**

Figure 5:





**PRIORITY**

**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**



**OBJECTIVE**

Drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society.

**SUB-OBJECTIVE**

- Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create an inclusive environment for all.

**PRIORITY**

**UNDERSTAND**



**OBJECTIVE**

Build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game.

**SUB-OBJECTIVES**

- Build a two-way relationship with our players to identify when and where they play rugby, and how they feel about the game.
- Generate greater insights into our volunteers, customers and stakeholders to better serve their needs.

**PRIORITY**

**CONNECT**



**OBJECTIVE**

Connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences.

**SUB-OBJECTIVES**

- Make sure our brand and products evolve to be more accessible to the whole game.
  - Develop relevant, engaging and ever-present content for fans.
  - Enhance customer service and match day experiences.
- Unite and engage the rugby community through proactive and effective two-way communication.
  - Promote the core values across the game.

**PRIORITY**

**COMMERCIAL AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE**



**OBJECTIVE**

Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce.

**SUB-OBJECTIVES**

- Nurture a culture which engages and develops our people, whilst embracing individuality and workplace diversity.
  - Accelerate and grow the women's game and create long-term value.
  - Develop and implement a long-term strategy for Twickenham Stadium.
  - Evolve the organisation to develop effective and efficient ways of working.

# Gosport Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Rugby Union

### Supply of Rugby Pitches – Quantity

- 3.4 The audit of rugby pitches in Gosport Borough (Table 23) identifies that there is one community use club site – Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club at Gosport Park. The site has 4 senior pitches. 1 of the 4 senior pitches is used for midweek floodlit training, though the mix of halide and LED floodlights make the LUX and variance difficult to determine.
- 3.5 In addition, there are 2 junior and 2 mini pitches at Gosport Park.
- 3.6 There are 5 pitches in education ownership and 3 in MoD ownership and use (Table 24).

**Table 23: Sites and Number of Senior and Junior Rugby Pitches across Gosport Borough Providing Community Use**

Site Name	Security of Use	Owners	Adult	Junior	Minis
Gosport Park – Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club	Secured Community Use	Local Authority	4 (Including 1 floodlit training pitch)	2	2
<b>Totals</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

**Table 24: Sites and number of senior and junior rugby pitches across Gosport Borough Unavailable for community Use and if were available would-be unsecured community use**

Site Name	Security of Use	Owners	Adult	Junior	Minis
Bay House School	Unsecured	Education	2	0	0
Bridgemary School	Unsecured	Education	1	0	0
Brune Park Community School	Unsecured	Education	1	0	0
School Playing Fields Cocked Hat Fields	Unsecured	Education	1	0	0
Fort Blockhouse	Unsecured	MoD	1	0	0
HMS Sultan East	Unsecured	MoD	1	0	0
HMS Sultan West	Unsecured	MoD	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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## Gosport Council

### ***Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Rugby Union***

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- 3.7 A key component of the analysis is an examination of the extent to which pitches identified were in secured public use. This was undertaken in the context of the Sport England definition of community use, and embraces:
- All local authority pitches.
  - Educational facilities whether subject to formal dual use, community use agreements or similar formal hire arrangements with local teams or not.
  - Any other facilities which are available to the public because of formal dual / community use agreements; and
  - Any facilities owned, used, or maintained by clubs/private individuals, which as a matter of policy or practice are available for use by sections of the public through membership of a club or admission fees.
- 3.8 Gosport Park is classed as secured community use and is designated as a Village Green. The PPS guidance advises there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. Pitches are booked match by match and Gosport Borough Council has no intention to remove the Club from Gosport Park.
- 3.9 However, Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club currently has no long-term agreement in place with the Borough Council, i.e. a lease that is longer than three years. A longer lease could potentially allow the Club to seek external funding to improve the pitches or the ancillary facilities. This is a separate matter to the Village Green status of the land.
- 3.10 The Gosport and Fareham Multi Academy Trust (GFMAT) is responsible for playing fields at Bay House School, Brune Park School and the school playing fields by the Cocked Hat public house. The schools do not play regular rugby.
- 3.11 Fort Blockhouse has been identified for disposal by the MoD and HMS Sultan is expected to be retained. These currently provide for 3 senior rugby pitches. However, there is no identified community use of these rugby pitches. HMS Sultan could be used as it is already an unsecured community use site whereas Fort Blockhouse is a secure MoD site where there has never been any community access to the playing pitch.
- 3.12 There is currently no 3G World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant pitch available for community use in Gosport Borough.

### **Current RFU Recommendations for Mini and Youth Pitches**

3.13 The current RFU recommendations for mini and youth pitches are:

- U7 20m x 12m + 5m IGA (in-goal area)
- U9 60m x 30m + 5m IGA
- U11/U12 60 x 35m + 5m IGA
- U8 45m x 22m + 5m IGA
- U10 60m x 35m + 5m IGA
- U13 Girls 60m x 35M + 5m IGA

### **Gosport - Lapsed or Disused Sites**

3.14 There are no known lapsed or disused rugby union pitch sites across Gosport Borough.

### **Security of Tenure**

- 3.15 Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club is based in Gosport Park and the grounds are open to the public as a park. Gosport Borough Council maintain the rugby pitches and the Rugby Club lease the clubhouse/pavilion. The Club maintain the clubhouse themselves and have been in the clubhouse since it was built in 2009. The lease for the clubhouse/pavilion was renewed in October 2021 for 3 years. The Club would like to extend the lease beyond 3 years to 25 years. This would assist with obtaining any funding for pitch, clubhouse, or floodlighting improvements. The Council are investigating if the lease can be renewed and extended as the club house is situated on land designated as a Village Green.
- 3.16 The Club book the rugby pitches on a seasonal basis from GBC. However, this does not affect the continued use of the pitches by the Club. The Club would like to maintain the pitches themselves and would like to further discuss this with the Council.

### **Quality – Ancillary Facilities and Pitches**

#### **Ancillary Facilities**

- 3.17 Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club maintain the clubhouse themselves; it is in a good condition. This is due to the Club over the years replacing and upgrading at their own cost. In addition to funds from the Club, the Borough Council has, in previous years, invested in the pavilion facilities using developer contributions, as well as grant funding from Sport England.
- 3.18 The clubhouse is also used by an American Football Team and Gosport Road Runners.

## Gosport Council

### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Rugby Union*

The Club has plans agreed for an extension of the clubhouse to provide a small downstairs bar/ room, with doors out to the park. This would allow the Club to open without using the whole Club. However, there is an issue as stated above about the use of land designated as a Village Green. The Council are currently investigating this matter. **Quality of Pitches**

- 3.19 The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements: the maintenance programme and the level of drainage. Each is scored and classified in one of three categories. These represent actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown for each of the two scoring elements and three respective categories is provided in the table below.

**Table 25: Rugby Pitch Scoring Elements Rugby Pitch Quality**

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

- 3.20 Pitch quality influences the number of matches and training that can be sustained, and therefore has a significant impact on the overall adequacy of supply in an area. Site assessments have been carried out in line with the assessment matrix provided above.
- 3.21 Demand for Gosport Park is converted into match equivalent sessions. This considers both the requirement of pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures, and the impact that training sessions will have on the capacity of pitches. This is provided in Table 26 below.
- 3.22 The school and MoD unsecured community use pitches are used during the week. The schools' pitches are used as part of the curriculum and extra-curricular activity. The MoD pitches are used for training and matches by the MoD. The unsecured community use pitches on these sites would not be capable of sustaining additional club play or training as there is no spare capacity for additional match play or training. This is because the school and MoD pitches are used to capacity already.

## Gosport Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Rugby Union

Table 26: Quality rating of pitches – Community Club Pitches

Site Name	Type of pitch	Drainage Score	Pitch maintenance score	Pitch Capacity Match and Training Equivalent Sessions
Gosport RFU	Training Pitch (Floodlit)	D0	M1	1.5
Gosport RFU	Pitch No. 1	D1	M1	2
Gosport RFU	Pitch No. 2	D1	M1	2
Gosport RFU	Pitch No. 3	D1	M1	2
Gosport RFU	Junior (Half the size of a senior pitch)	D1	M1	1
Gosport RFU	Junior (Half the size of a junior pitch)	D1	M1	1
Gosport RFU	Mini (Quarter the size of a senior pitch)	D1	M1	0.5
Gosport RFU	Mini (Quarter the size of a senior pitch)	D1	M1	0.5
<b>Total Capacity Match and Training Equivalents</b>				<b>10.5</b>

### Gosport and Fareham Rugby Union Club - Pitch Quality

- 3.23 Gosport Park is a public park and is heavily used by dog walkers and young parents/children as a playground and a 3 v 3 basketball area are both located near the pedestrian entrance to the park some 200 m from the Club House. The Club carpark doubles as a visitor car park. It has its own entrance and is situated immediately adjacent to the Club House.
- 3.24 Pitch No 1 is the main competition pitch and is located directly in front of the club house. Railings separate the spectators from the pitch. Most pitches provide adequate natural drainage. However, the training pitch with floodlights has challenges. This pitch is an old velodrome, and the pitch is sunken and near the water's edge in the adjacent estuary. Drainage is never going to be good during wet periods and spring tides and at high tide the training pitch is level with the water table. The training pitch had the least grass coverage of all the pitches at the time of the quality inspection.

## Gosport Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Rugby Union

- 3.25 The training pitch has LUX readings across the pitch that are inconsistent due to the mixture of different heads. The midweek training provision for the Club is sub-optimal. In February 2022 the Club identified an issue with the floodlights power supply. The Club believes there is an earth short in wet weather and this has been tripping out the lights. The Club have undertaken works to upgrade the floodlighting and resolve this issue.
- 3.26 The overall weekly capacity for all pitches is 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with the floodlit training pitch providing just 1.5 match equivalent sessions of this capacity.

#### Demand – Community Competitive Rugby

- 3.27 Gosport Borough currently has 1 rugby club based in the Borough, Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club. The Club's matches and training are accommodated at the Club's home ground Gosport Park. Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club membership includes 86 senior members, 45 under 18's and 350 juniors and minis. Team numbers are as follows:
- Two senior teams with occasional vets and striving to reinstate a third team.
  - Senior Women's Teams, 1, (currently playing with ten team members, tag etc.).
  - Youth Teams 13 - 18 boys' six teams.
  - Youth teams 13 - 18 girls' one team.
  - Minis U7 - U12 (incl.) seven teams.
- 3.28 In total Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club has eighteen teams. Two adult male teams, one veterans' team, one adult women's team, six junior boys and one junior girls' teams and seven mini teams.

**Table 27: Rugby Clubs in Gosport Borough and Number of Teams**

Club	Adult Teams Men	Veterans	Adult Teams Women	18-13 years youth teams		Minis U7 – U12	Total
				Boys	Girls		
<b>Gosport</b>	2	1	1	6	1	7	18

- 3.29 The current demand for match equivalent sessions per week is:
- Adult (male) teams x 2 play on Saturday afternoons = 1 match equivalent session per week.
  - 1 adult Women's team plays on a Sunday = 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
  - 7 Youth teams play Sundays. Boys Sunday AM (3) Girls Sunday PM (0.5) = 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
  - 7 Mini teams train and play on Sundays 0.25 MES x 7 MES = 1.75 match and training sessions demand per week.

- 3.30 The total match equivalent sessions per week is equivalent to 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Table 27 above identifies that pitch capacity can accommodate 10.5 match and training equivalent sessions per week.

### **Community Rugby Club Training**

- 3.31 The majority of rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. This reduces the capacity for match play and means that pitches are more likely to be overplayed.
- 3.32 The extent of training on pitches midweek depends on the presence of sports lighting.
- 3.33 Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club have access to one training pitch with sports lighting and this pitch has capacity for 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. As stated in paragraph 3.26 above the LUX levels are inconsistent due to the mixture of different heads. The midweek training provision for the Club is inadequate.
- 3.34 Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club has stated they would use a 3G World Rugby Regulation 22 pitch if it had access to one.
- 3.35 There are currently no 3G World Rugby Regulation 22 pitches in Gosport Borough.
- 3.36 The current demand for training equivalent sessions equates to:
- 2 adult (male) teams train on Tuesdays and Thursdays = 2 mid-week training equivalent sessions per week.
  - 1 adult women's team trains on a Tuesday = 0.5 mid-week training equivalent sessions per week.
  - 7 Youth teams train on a Wednesday evening = 3.5 mid-week training equivalent sessions per week.
- 3.37 The current demand for training equivalent sessions per week requiring a floodlit training pitch is equivalent to 6 mid-week training sessions. The current capacity is 1.5 training equivalent sessions. The training pitch is overused by 4.5 training equivalent sessions. This does not include any match equivalent sessions that the training pitch may have to accommodate.

### **Summary Community Rugby Club Training and Match Equivalent Sessions**

- 3.38 As identified above the demand for match equivalent sessions per week is 6.75 and training equivalent sessions per week equates to 6 mid-week training sessions. These total 12.75 match and training equivalent sessions per week.



## Gosport Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Rugby Union

- 3.39 Portsmouth Dreadnoughts Academy American Football Team 7 -18-year-olds use one of the rugby pitches on a Sunday for training 12noon – 2.00pm and the adult team play occasional matches at Gosport Park on a Sunday from 2.00pm. This additional play adds a further 1 MES to the 12.75 match and training sessions used by rugby. This brings the total demand for match and training equivalent sessions to 13.75 per week.
- 3.40 There is capacity for 10.5 match and training equivalent sessions per week and this does not meet the demand of 13.75 match and training equivalent sessions per week. The overplay can be contributed to the one floodlit pitch that requires improvements to provide sufficient LUX levels across the pitch. Midweek floodlit training can only currently be accommodated by the single floodlit training pitch with 1.5 match equivalent session capacity.
- 3.41 Table 28 summarises the weekly match and training equivalent sessions showing demand, supply, and capacity. There is overplay of the training pitch midweek 4.5 MES and capacity for match play on the remaining pitches 1.25 MES.

**Table 28: Summary of Demand, Supply and Capacity for weekly Training Equivalent Sessions and match play**

Cub	Demand Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week	Supply Training equivalent sessions per Week	Overplay Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week.
Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club Floodlit /Training Pitch	6	1.5	4.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>

Cub	(A) Demand Match Equivalent Sessions per Week	(D) Supply Match & Training Equivalent Sessions per Week	(E) Overplay Match and Training Equivalent Sessions per Week
Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club	7.75	9	1.25
Portsmouth Dreadnoughts (American Football)			
Senior Pitch 1, 2 & 3 Junior Pitch 1 & 2 Mini Pitch 1 & 2			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.75</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.25</b>

### **Exported Demand**

- 3.42 Displaced or exported demand refers to Gosport based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures. This is normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply. There is no demand identified which is exported out of Gosport for match play or training.

### **Imported Demand**

- 3.43 There is no identified imported demand from rugby clubs whose main home ground is in a neighbouring Borough into Gosport Borough.

### **Unmet Demand**

- 3.44 Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club have identified unmet demand and aspire to further growth of members and informal participation although consider that that they are operating at capacity on the playing areas they currently have available.
- 3.45 The Club wishes to field a 3<sup>rd</sup> senior team, provide 1 U18 team and build the numbers of women and girl players. This will not necessarily mean an increase in teams in the near future except for a 3<sup>rd</sup> senior team and an under 18 team. This will add demand for 3 match and training equivalent sessions per week.

### **Future Demand**

#### **Participation Increases**

- 3.46 In total, Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club aspire to increase by a total of 2 teams adding 1 match equivalent session per week and 2 training equivalent sessions per week.

#### **Population Increases**

- 3.47 Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2038) based on population growth.
- 3.48 Since the commencement of this PPS, the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan has been prepared and a housing requirement for 3,500 dwellings has been identified (206 dwellings per annum). Due to demographic trends, it has been calculated by JG Consulting (with additional trend and ratio analysis from GBC to cover the period from 2036 to 2038 based on a 0.48 dwelling: population growth ratio) that this level of dwellings would increase the population **by 1,680 people** between 2021 and 2038.

## Gosport Council

### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Rugby Union*

- 3.49 The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator Tool should be used to identify team generation rates and need for playing pitches as and when planning applications are agreed.
- 3.50 The increase in population of 1,680 people between 2021 and 2038 with the existing rugby union team numbers by typology have been input into Sport England's New Development Playing Pitch Calculator Tool and the outputs from the Calculator for future weekly match equivalent sessions to 2038 are:
- 0.02 adult male match equivalent sessions.
  - 0.01 adult women match equivalent sessions.
  - 0.06 boys 13 – 18 years match equivalent sessions.
  - 0.01 girls 15 – 18 years match equivalent sessions.
  - 0.07 mixed mini rugby 7 – 12 years match equivalent sessions.
- 3.51 The table below identifies the workings of Sport England's New Development Playing Pitch Calculator Tool.

**Table 29: Gosport wide Team Generation Rates (TGRs) Rugby Union.**

Age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Predicted future number of teams Predicted population Growth 1,680 (2038)	Number of home matches per week
Men 19 – 45 years	2	6875	<b>0.04</b>	0.02
Women 19 – 45 years	1	13197	<b>0.02</b>	0.01
Boys 13 – 18 years	6	539	<b>0.12</b>	0.06
Girls 13 – 18 years	1	2925	<b>0.02</b>	0.01
Mixed 7 -12 years	7	872	<b>0.14</b>	0.07

- 3.52 It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards NGB initiatives.
- 3.53 The Calculator Tool provides an estimate demand for 0.13 additional training hours for 3G AGP per week and an estimate to provide 0.23 changing rooms to meet the future population demand.

## Peak Time Demand

- 3.54 To identify spare capacity at peak time, for community clubs the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available.
- 3.55 The table below identifies the current peak time of play for rugby and the demand for pitches for the team age groups at Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club.

**Table 30: The current peak time of play for rugby and the demand for pitches for individual club sites across Gosport Borough.**

Gosport and Fareham RUFC – Peak Time of play	Teams Demand – Matches	Number of Pitches (MES)	Spare Capacity/Overplay
Adult Men’s Saturday PM	1	4	3
Junior Sunday AM	3	2	1
Mini’s Sunday AM	1.75	2	0.25
Women and Girl’s Sunday PM	0.5	4	3.5
Girls Sunday Juniors PM	0.5	2	1.5

- 3.56 There are currently sufficient rugby pitches at Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club at peak time of play on a Saturday PM for men’s adult rugby, Minis Sunday AM, and women and girls Sunday AM.
- 3.57 There is a shortfall of junior pitches on a Sunday AM, but this can be met by overplay of an adult pitch or reconfiguration of an adult pitch to a junior pitch.
- 3.58 Table 31 below identifies the demand and capacity for matches and training equivalent sessions until 2038 across Gosport Borough and considers the increased population of 1,680 between the years 2021 – 2038 from new housing developments.

Gosport Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Rugby Union**

Table 31: Current and Future Demand to 2038 For Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club (Weekly Training Floodlit Pitch only and weekly match and training all pitches).

	(C) Current Shortfall Match Equivalent Sessions (2021)	(D) Participation Increase Aspirations	(E) Projected Population Increase 1,680 (2021 – 2038)	Future deficit/spare capacity, Match and Training Equivalent Sessions (2038)
Weekly Training MES floodlit pitch only	4.5	2	0.13	6.63
Weekly Match MES (Including American football) All rugby pitches including floodlit pitch	1.25	1	0.17	0.08

- 3.59 There is a current 4.5 shortfall (2021) of capacity on training pitches with sports lighting to accommodate the current weekly requirement for training of 6 MES (2021) and rises to 6.63 by 2038. Competitive play has spare capacity 1.25 MES on all pitches excluding the training pitch (2021) and falls to almost balanced play by 2038.
- 3.60 Priority should be placed first and foremost on alleviating overplay. Given that the majority of overplay is a result of training demand on a single grass pitch, it is considered that there is a potential need for additional floodlighting, and/or access to World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G pitches. Scenarios exploring this will be evidenced in the subsequent strategy document (the Stage D Report).
- 3.61 With increases from the Club’s participation aspirations and the projected population growth the shortfall of training match equivalent sessions grows in 2038 to 6.63 MES.

## Rugby Union Summary

- The community use rugby Club site at Gosport Park provides four adult, two junior and two mini community use pitches.
- There is a current shortfall of 4.5 training match equivalent sessions per week. This grows to 6.63 training equivalent sessions in 2038.
- There is a current spare capacity of 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week on all rugby pitches. This falls to 0.08 match equivalent sessions per week in 2038.
- Priority should be placed first and foremost on alleviating overplay. Given that the majority of overplay is a result of training demand on the single grass training pitch, it is considered that there is a need to upgrade the current sports lighting to provide the correct LUX across the training pitch, and secondly provide additional floodlit pitches, and/or provide access to a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G pitch. It is unlikely that the current training pitch could provide additional capacity given its position and proximity to the water table; in which case the priority is more likely one of the alternative solutions.
- For the rugby pitches and clubhouse to receive external grant funding investment at Gosport Park, Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club require a minimum lease of 25 years to be able to show security of tenure. The security of tenure position at Gosport Park needs to be clarified to allow development progress of the facilities.

## 4. Cricket Assessment

### Cricket Club Demand

#### Inspiring Generations 2020 – 24 Strategy for Cricket

4.1 Cricket in England and Wales has seen strong growth since the launch of the strategic framework for the game – ‘Cricket unleashed – in 2015.’ Inspiring Generations’ builds on the strong foundations laid by ‘Cricket unleashed’ and this document lays out the strategy to grow cricket in England and Wales 2020 – 24. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field. This is coupled with an ambition for what success looks like by the end of this strategic period to ensure that our game is in an even stronger position than it is today.

4.2 The strategy purpose is:

***‘We connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket’.***

4.3 The 2024 ambition is:

***‘A generation inspired to say that ‘CRICKET IS A GAME FOR ME’***

#### 2020-24 Priorities and Activities

##### Grow and Nurture the Game. The Core

- Create an Infrastructure Investment Fund for FCCs
- Introduce a new Community Investment Fund for FCCs and CCBs
- Invest in club facilities.
- Develop the role of National Counties Cricket (formerly Minor Counties)
- Further invest in county competitions
- Drive governance reform across the whole game

##### Inspire Through Elite Teams

- Increase investment in the county talent pathway.
- Incentivise the counties to develop England players.
- Drive the performance system through technology and innovation.
- Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans

##### Make Cricket Accessible

- Broaden cricket’s appeal through the New Competition
- Create a new digital community for cricket.
- Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas.
- Continue to deliver the South Asian Action Plan
- Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

### **Engage Children and Young People**

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

### **Transform Women and Girl's Cricket**

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

### **Support Our communities.**

- Double the number of volunteers in the game.
- Create a game-wide approach to Trusts and Foundations through the cricket network.
- Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- Increase participation in disability cricket.

- **Sustainability**

- Build Reserves.
- Commercialise the strategy.
- Review and challenge the games cost base.
- Introduce a game wide leadership programme.

### **All Stars Cricket**

- 4.4 All Stars Cricket provides a first experience for all children aged 5-8 years old where they are guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity, and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so.

### **Dynamos Cricket**

- 4.5 Dynamos Cricket provides the next step for those graduating from All Stars Cricket and is an introduction for all 8 – 11-year-olds new to the sport. Complementing junior cricket, Dynamos Cricket provides children with a social offer focussed on developing fundamental movement skills and applying them in an exciting game of countdown cricket.



### **Women and Girls Cricket**

- 4.6 In 2019 a Women and Girls Cricket action plan was adopted by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The comprehensive ten-point action plan aims to transform all elements of women's and girls' cricket in England and Wales to increase engagement, grow representation and improve opportunities across the game.
- 4.7 The plan focuses on five key objectives:
- **Participation:** To increase the number of women and girls playing cricket recreationally.
  - **Pathway:** To develop aspiring female cricketers (U11-17) as players and people.
  - **Performance:** To drive the performance of England women's cricket through a new semi-professional, eight region structure.
  - **Profile:** To elevate the profile of women's cricket through The Hundred, the England Women's team and the elite game.
  - **People:** To increase the representation of women across the cricket workforce.

### **Making Cricket a Game for Everyone – Engaging South Asian Communities. An ECB Action Plan 2018**

- 4.8 The aims of the strategy are to:
- **Create more opportunities** for South Asian communities to engage with cricket, whether playing, supporting, or working in the game.
  - **Remove the barriers** to involvement and participation in cricket for South Asian players and fans.
  - **Build strong relationships** between South Asian communities, ECB, counties, clubs, and the cricket network.
  - **Use cricket to make a positive difference to communities.**
- 4.9 The ECB Action Plan has set out 11 recommended actions of the customer journey.

## Cricket Club Demand

- 4.10 This section provides an overview of the clubs and teams that play in the Gosport Borough area. Table 32 provides a breakdown of clubs and the number of teams for adult men’s, adult women’s, and junior teams.
- 4.11 There are 3 community cricket clubs based in the Borough. Between them, the 3 clubs support 10 adult male open age teams. 7 of these teams play on a Saturday, 2 play on a Sunday and Rowner Cricket Club has a mid-week team. 1 adult women’s team playing on a Sunday PM and 5 junior male teams playing mid-week. The peak time of play is a Saturday.
- 4.12 Gosport Borough Cricket Club is the only cricket club catering for women’s and girls and junior boys’ cricket.

**Table 32: Gosport Cricket Clubs and Team Nos.**

Number of Clubs	Gosport Cricket Clubs	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams
		Adult Male	Adult Midweek	Adult Female	Junior Male	Junior Female
1.	Gosport Borough Cricket Club	5	0	1	5	0
2.	Rowner Cricket Club	3	1	0	0	0
3.	Challengers Gosport Club	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

- 4.4 In 2019 there are 3 community cricket clubs based in the Borough. Between them, the 3 clubs support 10 adult male open age teams; 7 playing on a Saturday, 2 playing on a Sunday and Rowner Cricket Club has a midweek team. The peak time of play is a Saturday.

## All Stars Cricket (5-8-year-olds)

- 4.5 All Stars Cricket is a nationwide programme developed by the ECB and the Elite Coach Development team that aims to inspire 5 to 8-year-olds to take up cricket and to acquire the skills to play the game and connect them to the stars of English cricket.
- 4.6 Gosport Borough Cricket Club had approximately 35 All Stars in 2019 (50 in 2018). The Club runs up to 10 training sessions for them over a 10-week period during the summer and then hope that some join the U9s. The Club will also be running Dynamos Cricket from 2021 which is for 9 to 11year-olds who just want to play soft ball cricket. It is the same programme as All Stars and the Club hopes they will join the U11s or U13s to play hard ball.

### **Women's Softball**

- 4.7 Gosport Borough Cricket Club state they had around 25 Women who played softball cricket, known as "W10" in 2019. They currently have around 15 W10 players for the 2021 season but the club thinks this number will rise.

### **Unmet demand**

- 4.8 None of the community clubs have identified unmet demand (for example waiting lists for junior sections).

### **Latent and Future demand**

- 4.9 More accessible facilities and shorter, less formal game formats are being developed and promoted by the ECB in response to national research into the condition of the game and to encourage more participation within these groups.
- 4.10 Currently no clubs in the Borough have disability cricket sections.
- 4.11 Gosport Borough Cricket Club has said it will not be running an under 17's team in 2021 but will be running a mid-week team. They do not plan to increase any more teams in the next three years. However, if numbers permit, they may have an additional U9 team and if there are sufficient adult players, they will provide a 5<sup>th</sup> team which they have not done since 2014.
- 4.12 Rowner Cricket Club have stated they will remain the same.
- 4.13 Hampshire Cricket Board has advised that a mid-week team (Ashford Builders Cricket Club) have reformed in anticipation of playing some mid-week fixtures this season 2021 and will play at Privett Park.
- 4.14 The 2014 PPS missed the decline of the Gosport Midweek Cricket League (which folded in 2015). A network of friendlies has continued since including sides (e.g. Fleetlands who play at Rowner Green) with teams from within and neighbouring boroughs. The Hampshire Cricket Board is working with local clubs and the Hampshire Slam organisation to resurrect the midweek league in 2022, which could operate from Privett Park.
- 4.15 Short form competition provides both a stopping off point within the cricket tent for players unable to commit to weekend cricket, and a (re-)entry point to open age cricket for juniors aged 13+ and time poor Gen X – Z participants.
- 4.16 A programme to replace / refurbish non-turf pitches could support growth which has been a feature of similar Surrey and Sussex Slam competitions since 2017 (over 800 new players linked with existing / new teams).

### **Displaced demand**

- 4.17 There is no known imported demand for cricket in Gosport Borough. In other words, no clubs and teams based in other boroughs play at cricket grounds in Gosport Borough.

### **Future Playing Pitch (Cricket) Demand – Population Growth**

- 4.18 As well as growth through latent demand, there will be growth through population demands.
- 4.19 Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2038) based on population growth.
- 4.20 Since the commencement of this PPS, the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan has been prepared and a housing requirement for 3,500 dwellings has been identified (206 dwellings per annum). Due to demographic trends, it has been calculated by JG Consulting (with additional trend and ratio analysis from GBC to cover the period from 2036 to 2038 based on a 0.48 dwelling: population growth ratio) that this level of dwellings would increase the population **by 1,680 people** between 2021 and 2038.
- 4.21 The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator Tool should be used to identify team generation rates and need for playing pitches as and when planning applications are agreed.
- 4.22 The increase in population of 1,680 people between 2021 and 2038 with the existing cricket team numbers by typology have been input into Sport England's New Development Playing Pitch Calculator Tool and the outputs from the Calculator for future match equivalent sessions to 2038 are:
- 1.97 adult men 18 – 55 match equivalent sessions per season.
  - 0.20 adult women 18 – 55 match equivalent sessions per season.
  - 0.79 boys 7 – 18 years match equivalent sessions.
  - 0.01 girls 7 – 18 years match equivalent sessions.
- 4.23 The table below identifies the workings of Sport England's New Development Playing Pitch Calculator Tool.

# Gosport Council

## **Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Cricket**

**Table 33: Cricket Team Generation Rates New Population to 2038**

Age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Predicted future number of teams Predicted population Growth 1,680 (2038)	Number of home matches per season
Men (18-55yrs)	10	1970	0.20	1.97
Women (18-55yrs)	1	19544	0.02	0.20
Boys (7-18yrs)	5	1274	0.10	0.79
Girls (7-18yrs)	0	0	0	0

- 4.24 It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards NGB initiatives.
- 4.25 The Calculator Tool provides an estimate of 2.96 additional match equivalent sessions per season by 2038 and an estimate to provide 0.14 changing rooms to meet future population demand.

### **Pitch Supply**

- 4.26 In the 2019 season, there were 4 maintained fine turf cricket squares providing 28 pitches across 2 sites in Gosport Borough. The sites are Privett Park 3 cricket squares and Rowner Park 1 cricket square.
- 4.27 There are 2 non-turf pitches provided at Privett Park. 1 non-turf pitch is adjacent to pitch 1 and the 2nd is adjacent to pitch 3.
- 4.28 A third non-turf pitch is provided at Gosport Park but has no formal community use by cricket. The Park is used by Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club. This could be an option for midweek cricket to use this facility in the future.
- 4.29 In addition to the above fine turf supply there are 2 school sites with a non-turf pitch and 2 MoD sites with a non-turf pitch within the Borough. Clubs do not usually access the schools or MoD cricket pitch facilities as usage can be sporadic with bookings cancelled with a moments notice.
- 4.30 Gosport Cricket Club leases the main Pavilion in Privett Park from Gosport Borough Council, this is paid quarterly. The lease is granted for 10 years and there is 6 years left. The 1st XI play in The Southern Premier Cricket League, who generally require clubs to have a 15-year lease. The Club has stated they do have written assurance from Gosport Borough Council that the building is not likely to be used for anything else after the 10 years have expired.
- 4.31 The Club pays Gosport Borough Council an annual "Pitch Licence" for Square No.1 paid quarterly, which includes the outfield. This payment covers the cost of preparing the wicket/pitch for 40 matches (Adult or Junior).

## Gosport Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Cricket

- 4.32 Pavilion No.2 services Squares Nos 2 & 3. Each time the Club books a pitch from the council, it can then use Pavilion No.2 matches played on P2 and P3 are paid for on a per play basis. Privett Park pitches 1 and 2 are used by Gosport Borough’s 4 teams every Saturday.
- 4.33 Rowner Cricket Club leases the pavilion and the ground both on a basis that no one else can play there and has sole use of the pavilion. The Club pays an annual rent for pitches and pavilion under the lease. The Club has a 10-year lease with 5 years left to go.
- 4.34 A fourth cricket club Challengers Gosport Cricket Club play at Privett Park pitch 3 on alternates Saturday and hire the cricket square seasonally.
- 4.35 A summary of the supply of cricket pitches with community use is provided in table 34 below. The table provides post code, ownership, secured/unsecured use, number of squares, number of natural fine turf pitches, non-turf pitches, quality of grass pitches and pavilions. When in the ownership of the Local authority the grounds maintenance is carried out by the Local Authority.

**Table 34: Supply of Community Use Cricket Pitches**

	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Post Code	Ownership	Secured/Unsecured/Unavailable Community Use	Squares	Pitches (grass)	Pitches (non-turf)	Quality Grass Pitches	Quality non-turf Pitch	Quality of Pavilion
1	Privett Park – Gosport Borough 1	PO12 3SX	Local Authority	Secured Community Use	1	8	1	Good	Good	Good
2	Privett Park 2	PO1 3SX	Local Authority	Secured Community Use	1	7	0	Poor	N/A	Poor
3	Privett Park 3	PO1 3SX	Local Authority	Secured Community Use	1	6	1	Poor	Good	
4	Rowner Park	PO13 9UB	Local Authority	Secured Community Use	1	7	0	Standard	N/A	Standard
5	Gosport Park		Local Authority	Secured Community Use	0	0	1	N/A	Standard	N/A
					<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3</b>			

- 4.36 School and MoD sites which are not used by clubs but would-be unsecured usage if they were available for use or used are provided in table 35 below.

# Gosport Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Cricket

**Table 35: Gosport Borough Cricket Facilities – Unsecured Community Use and Unavailable**

Site	Post Code	Management	Unavailable	Squares	Pitches	Non-Turf Pitch
Bridgemary School	PO13 0JN	Education	Unavailable	0	0	1
Brune Park Community School	PO12 3BU	Education	Unavailable	0	0	1
Fort Blockhouse	PO12 2AB	Mod	Unavailable	0	0	1
HMS Sultan (East)	PO12 3BY	MoD	Unavailable	0	0	1
Cocked Hat Playing Fields	PO12 3TS	Education	Unavailable	0	0	1
St George's Playing Fields	PO12 1FB	Leased to Soccer Club by MoD	Disused	0	0	1
Holbrook Primary School	PO13 0JN	Education	Unavailable	0	0	1
Monkton Road Playing Fields	PO12 2BT	Soccer Club annual Agreement with MoD - Rolling annual agreement since 1991.	Disused	0	0	1

4.37 All 4 cricket facility sites providing community use are in the ownership of Gosport Borough Council and are provided in Local Parks.

4.38 The Old Civil Service Sports Ground was closed for sports use in 2014. This ground had a cricket square and outfield.

4.39 Active Places Power identifies a non-turf pitch at Monkton Playing Fields – this site is for football only.

### Quality Capacity and Demand Assessment

4.40 Each site (and pitch) has been provided with a quality rating. The capacity rating per pitch has been agreed with the ECB a poor pitch rating is zero, standard pitch rating four and a good pitch rating five.

4.41 The total capacity for grass cricket pitches across Gosport Borough is shown in table 36 below. There are sixty-eight available match equivalent sessions per season on grass pitches. The demand in 2021 is for ninety match equivalent sessions per season, with overplay of twenty-two match equivalent sessions per season across the whole of Gosport Borough. In addition, there are 180 non-turf pitch match equivalent sessions available across Gosport Borough. The non-turf pitches can only be used for match play by junior teams under the age of 13 years.

## Gosport Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Cricket

- 4.42 The ECB has highlighted that Privett 2 and 3 are poor quality although they have stated that improvements to the maintenance of these squares has improved since the Council has taken over the ground's maintenance contract in April 2021. The Hampshire County Cricket Board has stated it is available to support the Council with for example, Grounds Management Association (GMA) (formerly the Institute of Groundsmanship (IoG)) training for Council grounds maintenance staff to help improve the maintenance of the cricket grounds across the Borough.

**Table 36: Pitch quality ratings and supply and demand capacity**

Site No	Site name	Ownership	Non-Turf Pitch	No. of squares	No. of wickets	Quality of Pitch	Non-Turf Pitch Capacity (Sessions per Season)	Natural Grass Pitch Capacity (sessions per Season)	Games per Season	Capacity Demand Balance
1	Privett Park 1: Gosport Borough Cricket Club	Sports Club - Leased	1	1	8	Good	60	40	40	0
2	Privett Park 2: Gosport Borough Cricket Club	Sports Club	0	1	7	Poor	0	0	15	15
3	Privett Park 3: Gosport Borough Cricket Club	Sports Club	1	1	6	Poor	60	0	15	15
4	Rowner Park	Sports Club	0	1	7	Standard	60	28	20	8
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>22</b>

Key:

Overplayed
Balanced Play
Spare Capacity

- 4.43 Peak demand is on a Saturday for adult male cricket and this needs to be considered as only one game can be played on one square. The table 37 below identifies capacity at peak time of play: The orange squares identify that there is balanced play and that no more match equivalent sessions can be accommodated.



## Gosport Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Cricket

- 4.44 Green means that the square can accommodate an additional match equivalent session. Red identifies sites where the square is already over played during the week. - Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play. Privett Park Nos 2 and 3 are classed as poor quality and cannot accommodate games midweek or on a Sunday unless the quality was to rise to 'standard' or 'good'. There is capacity on a Sunday and mid-week at Privett Park 1 and Rowner Park.

**Table 37: Peak Time Demand and availability of additional play**

Site No	Site name	No. of squares	Peak Time Availability Saturday	Peak time Availability Sunday	Peak time Availability Midweek
1	Privett Park 1: Gosport Borough Cricket Club	1	Overplayed	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity
2	Privett Park 2: Gosport Borough Cricket Club	1	Overplayed	Overplayed	Overplayed
3	Privett Park 3: Gosport Borough Cricket Club	1	Overplayed	Overplayed	Overplayed
4	Rowner Park	1	Overplayed	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity

Key:

Overplayed
Balanced Play
Spare Capacity

- 4.45 As far as the ancillary facilities are concerned, the quality is varied between 'Good', and 'Poor'. Gosport Borough Pavilion serving Privett pitch 1 is 'Good'. The pavilion serving Privett 2 and 3 is 'Poor' and Rowner Pavilion is 'Standard'.
- 4.46 Rowner Cricket Club have stated that their pavilion is rudimentary but suits their purpose and is of standard quality.
- 4.47 Gosport Borough Cricket Club considers that the main pavilion is in good condition and is maintained by the Club. Pavilion No 2 is old. The changing rooms are exceedingly small and need to accommodate a squad of 15. The showers are inadequate and cold. The toilets are public toilets and are currently closed and were often vandalised. The area for shelter for players and scorers is restricted. However, there is funding allocated in the current GBC capital programme for pavilion improvements around the Borough and there are also developer contributions which could also assist. The Hampshire Cricket Board have stated they are available to support with reference to Sport England / ECB / FA technical guidance [Successful Management of Dual Use Cricket and Football sites](#).
- 4.48 The table below identifies the Cricket Club's comments and additional development requirements as per consultation:

## **Cricket Strategy Issues**

The key issues for the strategy to address are therefore:

- All 4 cricket facility sites provide secured community use and are in the ownership of Gosport Borough Council.
- Based on future population growth and latent demand, by 2038, there will be a need to provide for 3 (2.96) additional match equivalent sessions per season.
- There is a current overplay of 22 match equivalent sessions per season.
- There is a need to improve the maintenance to improve the quality at Rowner 'standard' quality and the 'poor' quality ratings at Privett 1 and Privett 2 to a minimum of standard quality and raise capacity.
- There is a need to replace the Privett Park Pavilion.
- There is a need to continue to monitor the increase of women's, girls, and South Asian Cricket to ensure that the correct facilities are available. For example, correct pavilion facilities for women and girls to enable participation.
- Where possible improve the quality of grass pitches, pavilions and clubhouse, cricket nets, and car parking at existing facilities.

## 5. Hockey Assessment

- 5.1 Hockey is clearly benefiting from a triple Olympic legacy. After Great Britain’s women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the number of young girls playing the sport has doubled and a historic gold medal in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. The success of the women’s team in winning the bronze medal in Tokyo in 2021 will also no doubt benefit the sport. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age.
- 5.2 Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11-year-olds in Primary Schools has been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the Northwest in the same age bracket.
- 5.3 Competitive play cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G) although 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for beginner training if no other surface is available. The following table outlines the surface type and the recommended playing level for the surface.

**Table 38: England Hockey Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy – July 2016**

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
<b>England Hockey Category 1</b>	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	<b>Essential</b> International Hockey- Training and matches	<b>Desirable</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards
<b>England Hockey Category 2</b>	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> Domestic National Premier competition  Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	<b>Desirable</b> All adult and junior League Hockey  Intermediate or advanced School Hockey  EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)

# Gosport Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> All adult and junior club training and league Hockey  EH competitions for clubs and schools.  Intermediate or advanced schools' hockey	<b>Desirable</b>
England Hockey Category 4	All long pile (3G) surfaces	<b>Essential</b> None	<b>Desirable</b> Lower-level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is Available. *

*\* It is recommending an appropriate ball to meet the standards of the player and the surface*

- 5.4 For senior teams, a full-sized pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.
- 5.5 Unlike some sports, hockey can only be played competitively on sand or water based Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs). Water based AGPs are not common and only found at elite sites, whereas sand based/sand dressed AGPs can be found on secondary school sites, leisure centres and higher education establishments.
- 5.6 Its popularity on school sites was due to the surface being able is used for several sports to be played and taught. However, a large majority of these facilities did not financially plan to replace the surface, or carpets as they are called, of the AGPs. A carpet has a 10-year life span dependant on use.
- 5.7 Since the introduction of the 3G surface a few years ago, and its popularity with football, schools have seen this as a way of replacing the tired carpet and generating money through hiring them to football clubs/ commercial football provider. This is at the expense of hockey, and in some areas in England, hockey players are travelling over 40 minutes to get to a suitable AGP (in some cases this is doubling the travel time).
- 5.8 Additionally, because of the conversion to 3G surfaces some local authorities no longer have hockey teams playing within their areas and they have been displaced to different areas or had to disband altogether.

## Gosport Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey

- 5.9 The 3G surface is limited in the range of sports which can be played or taught on it and has a range of piles. Those proposing to change the carpets should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England's guidance on their website: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>
- 5.10 Due to the impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey within the local authority administrative area. To that end, a change of an Artificial Grass Pitch's surface or carpet may require a planning application, and as part of this process applicants will have to show that there is sufficient AGP provision available for hockey in the locality if the surface is changed. Otherwise planning permission may not be granted.
- 5.11 It should also be noted that if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlights to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

### Gosport Pitch Supply

- 5.12 The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) available across Gosport Borough for Hockey.

**Table 39: Sites with Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) that provide community use and are suitable for Hockey use**

Playing Pitch Sites – Currently Providing Community Use for Hockey	Ownership and Use	No of AGPS	Sand Filled /Sand Dressed/ Water Based	Floodlit	Built and Last Refurbished	Condition
St Vincent College P012 4QA	Education – Lighthouse Trust  Unsecured community use.	1 AGP 97 x 62	Sand Dressed	Yes	Pitch Refurbished 2018	<b>Quality Rating: Poor (Pitch has recently been refurbished but a sink hole appeared and has been repaired but ongoing monitoring is being undertaken. The Lux levels of the lighting is poor)</b>
HMS Sultan East P012 3BY	MoD  Unsecured community use	1 AGP 100 x 62	Sand Filled	Yes	1996	<b>Quality Rating: Standard</b>

Gosport Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey**

Playing Pitch Sites – Currently Providing Community Use for Hockey	Ownership and Use	No of AGPS	Sand Filled /Sand Dressed/ Water Based	Floodlit	Built and Last Refurbished	Condition
HMS Sultan East P012 3BY	MoD Unsecured community use	1 AGP 95 x 60	Sand Filled	Yes	1996	<b>Quality Rating: Standard</b>

**Table 40: Current AGPs that are too small to be used for Hockey – Gosport Borough**

Playing Pitch Sites – Currently Providing Community Use for Hockey	Ownership and Use	No of AGPS	Sand Filled /Sand Dressed/ Water Based	Floodlit	Built and Last Refurbished	Condition
Alver Valley Schools P012 4QA	Education – Unsecured community use.	1 AGP 35 x 22	Sand Dressed	No	2006	<b>Quality Rating: Poor</b>

- 5.13 In the 2019/20 season, Gosport Borough had one artificial grass pitch (AGP) suitable for competition hockey although not in secured community use – St Vincent Leisure Centre, St Vincent College. Gosport Hockey Club book this facility on a seasonal basis.
- 5.14 The remaining full size AGPs suitable for hockey are HMS Sultan x 2 AGPs. These are not used for community hockey. The quality is not as good as that of St Vincent College, they offer unsecured use and cannot be relied on for weekly usage. There is a smaller AGP at the Alver Valley Schools shown in Table 40 again not used for community hockey. The AGP is too small for competitive hockey and has no floodlights.

### **Secured pitches.**

- 5.15 The St Vincent College AGP is not classed as a secured community use pitch as there is no security of tenure for the Hockey Club beyond 1 season. Gosport Borough Hockey Club has an annual agreement with the College that protects the club's training times during the week and match play on a Saturday and Sunday. The Club has an agreement whereby if the Club knows by the Wednesday that it will not be using pitches the following weekend, then these pitches can be released for other use.

### **Pitch Quality**

- 5.16 The surface of St Vincent College's AGP was last refurbished in 2018 and according to Gosport Borough Hockey Club was in good condition until a sink hole appeared. The College appointed a contractor to repair the sink hole. This is seen as a temporary fix and the hockey club are monitoring the repair over the winter months 22/23. In addition, the sports lighting for the pitch has inadequate lux levels and competitive games cannot be played past 3.00pm at weekends in the winter months due to the poor light from the sports lighting. The Club has also stated they have a need for dugouts and storage facilities closer to the AGP.

### **Ancillary Facilities**

- 5.17 Gosport Borough Hockey Club currently does not have a social space to use post matches and up until the start of the Pandemic had been using a local pub called The Seahorse. This has since ceased, and the Club will be looking for somewhere new following a lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. This could involve discussions with Gosport Borough Cricket Club and use of their cricket pavilion. This facility has been used in the past by the Hockey Club.
- 5.18 The Club has considered building a purpose made clubhouse facility pitch side at St Vincent College. The funding for this would be significant and would require investment from grant funding as well as fund raising and management by the Club, which is viewed by the Club as not viable in the short to medium term. An alternative would be use of the building adjacent to the pitch which is currently used by the college as an arts suite or some other space within the college grounds. The potential for this has not been explored and would still require considerable investment of time and resources by the Club. Negotiations are ongoing between the Club and the school about the provision of dugouts. However, the dugouts would have to be portable, and this would need storage and the Club currently cannot fund this expense.
- 5.19 There is access to changing and toilet facilities at St Vincent College; however, there is no clubhouse. This is a barrier for engagement. The Club are unable to deliver social and ancillary facilities which are crucial for engaging with a different customer base as recommended by England Hockey. The Club currently have a walking Hockey session at Gosport Leisure Centre indoor 15.00 – 16.00 on Fridays. The Club but would prefer to run this session from St Vincent College.

# Gosport Council

## *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey*

### Competitive Hockey

5.20 Gosport currently has one hockey club based in the Borough. The Club has provided detailed information. The number of teams for the 2019/20 season were:

- Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI – Hampshire Division 3
- Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI – Hampshire Division 6
- Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI - Hampshire Division 3
- Women's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI - Hampshire Division 6
- Woman's U-16 – Hampshire Division 2 South
- Men's U-12 - Wessex Division 2 East
- Women's U-12 Hampshire Division South

5.21 The Club also has a strong representation by U10s and U8s at festivals. The Club also participates in local mixed fixtures, the England Hockey Championship, Hampshire Trophies and Cups and is involved in an informal summer league with local clubs. A walking hockey session was introduced at Gosport Leisure Centre during 2019-20 and has been well received although attendances are variable up to about 12 players.

5.22 Gosport Borough Hockey Club has provided the following membership details by age groups for the 2019/2020 season. The Club had 148 full members, 80 men and 68 women. There were 9 community members. There is a large drop off in the 17 – 25 age groups in both male and female.

**Table 41: Membership Men Gosport Borough Hockey Club 2019/20**

Gosport HC Men		(M) 5-10	(M) 11-13	(M) 14-16	(M) 17-18	(M) 19-21	(M) 22-25	(M) 26-35	(M) 36-45	(M) 46+	Total
Cat 1	Full Members	19	17	3	2	3	3	12	9	12	80
Cat 2	Pay & Play	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cat 3	Community	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3



## Gosport Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey

**Table 42: Membership Women Gosport Borough Hockey Club 2019/20**

Gosport HC Women		(W) 5-10	(W) 11-13	(W) 14-16	(W) 17-18	(W) 19-21	(W) 22-25	(W) 26-35	(W) 36-45	(W) 46+	Total
Cat 1	Full Members	10	17	12	2	1	1	9	11	5	68
Cat 2	Pay & Play	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cat 3	Community	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6

**Table 43: Match Slots Required Each Week**

Gosport Hockey Clubs	Adult Teams				Juniors	Totals	Match Slot (Adult) Requirements	Match Slot (Junior) Requirements
	Senior Men	Senior Women	Mixed	Veterans				
Gosport Borough Hockey Club	2	2	0	0	3	7	2	1.5
<b>Total Teams Playing on a Saturday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Teams Playing on a Sunday</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.50</b>
<b>Total Teams Playing Mid-Week</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Match Capacity

5.23 St Vincent College's AGP provides hockey matches from 10.00am on a Saturday and can cater for 4 match slots. There are sufficient match slots at St Vincent College to meet the adult and junior match play needs of the current Gosport Borough Hockey Club's 7 teams (3.5 MES). There are 3 junior teams at Gosport Borough Hockey Club and St Vincent College can accommodate these teams on a Sunday if they are not playing at a central venue. The Club participates in U8 and U10 festivals, which are held at Central Venue sites on a Sunday. The size of the U8 and U10 festivals may change with new guidance following the Covid 19 pandemic. There is AGP space on a Sunday for these smaller festivals to take place if required.

### Training Capacity

5.24 Gosport Borough Hockey Club – Training takes place at St Vincent College at the following times:

- Thursday adult mixed 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- U16s Tuesday 6.00pm – 7.00pm and U16s Saturdays 9.00am – 10.00am

## Gosport Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey

5.25 The use of the AGP for football training could impinge on slots available if the Club wished to expand its training times.

5.26 There are no known hockey supply changes. The AGP at St Vincent College is used for football training on:

- Tuesdays – 7.00pm – 8.00pm,
- Wednesdays – 7.00pm – 8.00pm,
- Thursdays - 6.00pm – 7.00pm.

**Table 44: Spare Capacity for Hockey Training and Match Slots Gosport Hockey Facilities**

Site Name	Supply (Match slots and Training Slots 1.5Hrs)			Demand (Slots required – for training and matches 1Hr)			Spare Capacity		
	Weekday Training 1Hr Slots	Saturday Matches 1.5 Hr slots	Sunday Matches 1.5 Hr Slots	Weekday Training 1 Hr Slots	Saturday Matches 1.5 Hr Slots junior Training (1hr)	Sunday Matches 1.5 Hr Slots	Weekday Training 1 Hr slots	Saturday Matches 1.5 Hr Slots	Sunday Matches 1.5 Hr Slots
St Vincent College	20	4	4	3	3	1.5	17	1	2.5
<b>Total</b>	20	4	4	3 x 1 hr slots	2 x 1.5 hr slots & 1 x 1hr slot	1.5 x 1.5 hr slots	17	1	2.5

5.27 The conclusion is that there is available training time for hockey clubs in Gosport. In addition to the hockey training midweek, there are 3 hours of football training usage reducing the existing spare capacity from 17 hours per week to 14 hours per week. This will need to be monitored as football provides 3G AGP provision and there will be a need to ensure sustainability of AGPs for hockey going forward for the future. The match slot supply in table 44 identifies spare capacity of 1 slot on a Saturday and 2.5 slots on a Sunday.

### Unmet and Latent Demand

5.28 Gosport Borough Hockey Club has identified unmet demand and aspire to further growth of members and informal participation. The Club's aim is to introduce both a boys and girls' team at U14 level in 2020-21 and to reinstate male and women veteran teams at some point in the future.

5.29 The Club wish to improve school club links particularly with Alverstoke Junior School and to develop other links through the 'Back to Hockey' programme. The Club wish to develop communication with local schools and train junior leaders to assist with afterschool clubs and host inter school tournaments (for both Primary and Secondary schools).

### **Displaced Demand**

- 5.30 There were approximately 3 games played at St Vincent College AGP by Fareham Hockey Club in 2019. There have been no known games played since.

### **Future Playing Pitch (Hockey) Demand – Population Growth**

#### **Team Generation Rates**

- 5.31 As well as growth through latent demand, there will be growth through population demands.
- 5.32 Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2038) based on population growth.
- 5.33 Since the commencement of this PPS, the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan has been prepared and a housing requirement for 3,500 dwellings has been identified (206 dwellings per annum). Due to demographic trends, it has been calculated by JG Consulting (with additional trend and ratio analysis from GBC to cover the period from 2036 to 2038 based on a 0.48 dwelling: population growth ratio) that this level of dwellings would increase the population **by 1,680 people** between 2021 and 2038.
- 5.34 The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator Tool should be used to identify team generation rates and need for playing pitches as and when planning applications are agreed.
- 5.35 The increase in population of 1,680 people between 2021 and 2038 with the existing hockey team numbers and junior membership numbers by typology have been input into Sport England's New Development Playing Pitch Calculator Tool and the outputs from the Calculator for future match equivalent sessions to 2038 are:
- 0.02 adult men 17 – 55 years match equivalent sessions per week.
  - 0.02 adult women 17 – 55 years match equivalent sessions per week.
  - 0 boys 14 – 16 years match equivalent sessions per week.
  - 0.01 girls 14 – 16 years match equivalent sessions per week.
  - 0.01 boys 11 – 13 years match equivalent sessions per week.
  - 0 mixed 5 – 10 years match equivalent sessions per week.

## Gosport Council

### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey*

5.36 The table below identifies the workings of Sport England’s New Development Playing Pitch Calculator Tool.

**Table 45: Team Generation Rates Gosport Borough Hockey**

Age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Predicted future number of teams Predicted population Growth 1,680 (2038)	Number of home matches per season
<b>Hockey</b>				
Men (17-55yrs)	2	<b>10133</b>	0.04	0.02
Women (17-55yrs)	2	<b>9993</b>	0.04	0.02
Boys (14-16yrs)	0	<b>0</b>	0	0
Girls (14-16yrs)	1	<b>1461</b>	0.02	0.01
Boys (11-13yrs)	1	<b>16541</b>	0.02	0.01
Girls (11-13yrs)	1	<b>1576</b>	0.02	0.01
Mixed U10s (5-10yrs)	0	<b>0</b>	0	0
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.07</b>

5.37 It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards NGB initiatives.

5.38 The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Tool provides an estimate of 0.07 additional match equivalent sessions per season, 0.14 match equivalent sessions for training by 2038 and an estimate to provide 0.02 changing rooms to meet future population demand.

### **Hockey Strategy Issues**

5.39 Strategically the following priorities need to be put in place within the Action Plan for Hockey:

- It is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require all NGBs England Hockey, Football Association, Rugby Football Union, and Gosport Borough Council to discuss and agree any proposals or planning application before they take place.
- It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.
- There is a need for a formal community use agreement to be in place between Gosport Borough Hockey Club and St Vincent College. This is to provide the Hockey Club with security of tenure.
- The sink hole on the St Vincent College's AGP will need continual monitoring to ensure the pitch meets health and safety requirements and is playable for matches and for training.
- There is a need to consider upgrading the sports lighting on the St Vincent College's AGP to meet required match play lighting standards.
- Gosport Borough Hockey Club aspire to an on-site club house at St Vincent College. This should be discussed with the College and the Hockey Club facilitated by Gosport Borough Council if required.
- A need to ensure that sink funds are in place to maintain the existing AGP hockey facilities and replacement carpets at existing AGP locations across Gosport Borough.

Gosport Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey**

Appendix 2: Gosport Football Overview 2022/23 Season

Site ID	Gosport Borough	Security of Site	Quality Pitches Good /Standard/ Poor	Quality Ancillary Facilities - Good /Standard/ Poor	Current Number of Pitches Adult 11v11	Peak Time Adult 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Adult 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Youth 11v11	Peak Time Youth 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Youth 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Junior 9 v 9	Peak Time Junior 9v9 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Junior 9v9 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Mini Soccer 7v7	Peak Time Mini soccer 7v7 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Mini Soccer 7v7 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Mini Soccer 5v5	Peak Time Mini Soccer 5v5 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Mini Soccer 5v5 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES
1	Brookers Field	Secured	Adult 2 Good, 3 standard. 7v7 standard	Poor	5	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0
2	Elson Recreation Ground	Secured	1 Good,. 1 Standard, 7v7 standard	Good	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0
3	Howe Road	Secured	Standard	Standard	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Lee on Solent Recreation Ground	Secured	Good	Standard	2	0.5	4	1	-0.5	1.5	0	0	0	1	0	4.5	0	0	0
5	Nobes Avenue	Secured	Good	Standard	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Privett Park	Secured	3 Standard 1 Good	Poor	4	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Stokes Bay	Secured	1 Good, 2 standard, 1 Poor	N/A	4	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	The Aerial Direct stadium	Secured	Good	Good	1	0.5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Gosport Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey**

Site ID	Gosport Borough	Security of Site	Quality Pitches Good /Standard/ Poor	Quality Ancillary Facilities - Good /Standard/ Poor	Current Number of Pitches Adult 11v11	Peak Time Adult 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Adult 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Youth 11v11	Peak Time Youth 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Youth 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Junior 9 v 9	Peak Time Junior 9v9 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Junior 9v9 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Mini Soccer 7v7	Peak Time Mini soccer 7v7 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Mini Soccer 7v7 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Mini Soccer 5v5	Peak Time Mini Soccer 5v5 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Mini Soccer 5v5 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES
9	St Georges Field	Unsecured	Standard	Standard	0			0	0	0	3	0.5	0	2	-2	-0.5	2	0	4.5
10	Fleetlands	Unsecured	Good	Standard	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Monkton Sports Ground	Unsecured	Standard	Poor	2	1	2.5	1	-3	-2	1	-1	-1	1	-1	2	1	-0.5	2.5
12	St Vincents Leisure Centre	Unsecured	Standard	Standard	2	-1	-1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Alverstoke CE Junior School	Unsecured	Standard	Standard	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Alver Valley Schools	Unsecured	Standard	Standard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0
15	Bay House School Sports Centre	Unsecured	Poor	Standard	2	0	-0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Bridgemary School	Unsecured	Standard	Standard	1	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Gosport Council  
 Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey

Site ID	Gosport Borough	Security of Site	Quality Pitches Good /Standard/ Poor	Quality Ancillary Facilities - Good /Standard/ Poor	Current Number of Pitches Adult 11v11	Peak Time Adult 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Adult 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Youth 11v11	Peak Time Youth 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Youth 11v11 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Junior 9 v 9	Peak Time Junior 9v9 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Junior 9v9 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Mini Soccer 7v7	Peak Time Mini soccer 7v7 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Mini Soccer 7v7 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	Current Number of Pitches Mini Soccer 5v5	Peak Time Mini Soccer 5v5 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity MES	Weekly Mini Soccer 5v5 Spare/Overplayed /Balanced Capacity - minus Demand MES	
17	Brune Park Community School	Unsecured	Good	Standard	2	1.5	5	1	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
18	Cocked Hat School (Bay House School	Unsecured	Standard	Standard	4	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19	Fleetlands Golf course	Unsecured	Standard	Standard	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20	Bedenham Junior School	Unsecured	Poor	Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	
21	HMS Sultan 1	Unsecured	Standard	Standard	5	4	9	1	0.5	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
22	HMS Sultan 2	Unsecured	Standard	Standard	1	0.5	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total Actual Spare Capacity Secured and Unsecured Community Use After Considering Over Play</b>					<b>41</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Unsecured Community Use Spare Capacity MES After Considering Overplay</b>					<b>21</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Secured Community Use Spare Capacity MES After Considering Over Play</b>					<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>



# Gosport Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey

### Gosport Borough Football Match Equivalent Sessions By Pitch Typology

Adult 11v11 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Gosport Borough	Pitch Rating	Security of Community Use on Site	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period	Comment
Brookers Field	2 Good, 3 standard	Secured	5	12	5	7	5	0	Peak time Sunday AM 5 MES
Elson Recreation Ground	1 Good, 1 Standard	Secured	2	5	2	3	2	0	Peak time Sunday AM 2 MES
Howe Road	Standard	Secured	1	2	1	1	1	0	Peak time Sunday AM 1 MES
Lee on Solent Recreation Ground	Good	Secured	2	6	2	4	1.5	0.5	Overplayed by 9v9 Saturday AM 1.5 MES, Adult 11v11 Sun AM 0.5 MES
Nobes Avenue	Good	Secured	1	3	1	2	1	0	Peak time Sunday 1 MES
Privett Park	3 Standard 1 Good	Secured	4	9	3	6	3	1	Peak time Sunday AM 3 MES
Stokes Bay	1 Good, 2 standard, 1 Poor	Secured	4	8	0	8	0	4	No Identified play
The Aerial Direct Stadium	Good	Secured	1	3	1	2	0.5	0.5	Peak time of play Saturday PM 0.5 MES, Sunday PM 0.5 MES
Fleetlands	Good	Unsecured	1	3	2	1	1	0	Peak Time Saturday PM and Sunday AM 1 MES
Monkton Sports Ground	Standard	Unsecured	2	4	1.5	2.5	1	1	Peak time Sunday PM 1 MES Saturday AM 0.5 MES
St Vincents Leisure Centre	Standard	Unsecured	2	4	5.5	-1.5	3	-1	Over play by youth 11v11. Saturday AM 2 MES. Peak time Sunday AM 3 MES. Sunday PM 0.5 MES

# Gosport Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey

Adult 11v11 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Gosport Borough	Pitch Rating	Security of Community Use on Site	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period	Comment
Bay House School Sports Centre	Poor	Unsecured	2	2	2.5	-0.5	2	0	Over play 1 MES 9v9 Sat AM, 1 MES 7v7 Sat AM, 0.5 7v7 MES Sunday AM, 3G pitch is used Midweek for Gosport Borough U23 0.5MES
Bridgemary School	Standard	Unsecured	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5 ME 9v9 oveplay Sat AM
Brune Park Community School	Good	Unsecured	2	6	1	5	0.5	1.5	0.5 MES Saturday AM 9v9 and Sat PM Adult 11v11.
Cocked Hat School (Bay House School	Standard	Unsecured	4	8	0	8	0	4	
Fleetlands Golf course	Standard	Unsecured	1	2	0	2	0	1	
HMS Sultan 1	Standard	Unsecured	5	10	1	9	1	4	1 MES Sunday PM
HMS Sultan 2	Standrad	Unsecured	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5 ME Sat AM
<b>Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use</b>			41	91	29.5	61.5	23.5	17.5	
<b>Secured Community Use</b>			20	48	15	33	14	6	
<b>Unsecured Community Use</b>			21	43	14.5	28.5	9.5	11.5	

# Gosport Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy – Stage C Report – Hockey

Youth 11v11 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Gosport Borough	Pitch Rating	Security of Community Use on Site	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period	Comment
Lee on Solent Recreation Ground	Good	Secured	1	3	1.5	1.5	1.5	-0.5	Peak time of play Saturday back to back play 1.5 MES
Monkton Sports Ground	Standard	Unsecured	1	2	4	-2	4	-3	Peak time Saturday AM 4 MES Back to back
Alverstoke CE Junior School	Standard	Unsecured	1	2	0	2	0	1	No identified play
Bay House School Sports Centre	Poor	Unsecured	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Peak time Sat AM 0.5 MES
Bridgemary School	Standard	Unsecured	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	Peak time Sat AM 0.5 MES.
Brune Park Community School	Good	Unsecured	1	3	1.5	1.5	1	0	Peak time of play is Sunday AM 1 MES. 0.5 MEs Sat AM
HMS Sultan 1	Standard	Unsecured	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5 MES Sunday AM
<b>Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-1</b>	
<b>Secured Community Use</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	
<b>Unsecured Community Use</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	

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Junior 9v9 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Gosport Borough	Pitch Rating	Security of Community Use on Site	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period	Comments
St Georges Field	Standard	Unsecured	3	6	6	0	2.5	0.5	Peak time Saturday AM 4 MES. 2 MES Sun AM
Monkton	Standard	Unsecured	1	2	3	-1	2	-1	Peak time Saturday AM 2 MES, 1 MES Sun AM
Bedenham Junior School	Poor	Unsecured	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Peak time at AM 0.5 MES
<b>Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use</b>			5	9	9.5	-0.5	5	0	
Total Secured Community Use			0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Unsecured Community Use			5	9	9.5	-0.5	5	0	

Mini Soccer 7v7 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Gosport Borough	Pitch Rating	Security of Community Use on Site	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period	Comments
Brookers Field	Standard	Secured	1	4	0	4	0	1	No identified play
Elson Recreation Ground	Standard	Secured	1	4	0	4	0	1	No identified play
Lee on Solent Recreation Ground	Good	Secured	1	6	1.5	4.5	1	0	Peak time play Sunday AM 1 MES (0.5 MES 5v5 & 0.5 MES 7v7) Saturday AM MES 7v7

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Mini Soccer 7v7 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Gosport Borough	Pitch Rating	Security of Community Use on Site	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period	Comments
St Georges Field	Standard	Unsecured	2	8	8.5	-0.5	4	-2	Peak time Saturday 4.5 MES. Sunday 4 MES .
Monkton Sports Ground	Standard	Unsecured	1	4	2	2	2	-1	Peak time of Play Sunday AM 2 MES back to back
Alver Valley Schools	Standard	Unsecured	1	4	0	4	0	1	
Bedenham Junior School	Poor	Unsecured	1	2	2	0	1	0	Peak time Saturday AM 1.5 MES (1 MES 7v7 & 0.5 MES 5v5). 0.5 7v7 MES Sunday AM.
<b>Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use</b>			8	32	14	18	8	0	
Secured Community Use			3	14	1.5	12.5	1	2	
Unsecured Community Use			5	18	12.5	5.5	7	-2	

Mini Soccer 5v5 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Gosport Borough	Pitch Rating	Security of Community Use on Site	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period	Comments
Monkton Sports Ground	Standard	Unsecured	1	4	1.5	2.5	1.5	-0.5	Peak time Saturday 1.5 MES
St Georges Field	Standard	Unsecured	2	8	3.5	4.5	2	0	Peak time Saturday AM 2 MES, Sunday AM 1.5 MES.
<b>Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use</b>			3	12	5	7	3.5	-0.5	
Total Secured Community Use			0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total Unsecured community Use</b>			3	12	5	7	3.5	-0.5	

## Appendix 3: Gosport Bowls and Tennis Stage C Assessment

### Non – Pitch Sports: Assessment Methodology

The assessment of demand for and supply of, Outdoor Bowling Greens, and Tennis Courts falls outside the scope of the assessment methodology detailed in Sport England’s Playing Pitch Guidance. There are several factors that make these sports difficult to assess, from both a demand and supply perspective. These include:

- **Demand** for these sports manifests itself in a variety of ways. Participation for example, can be on an individual, casual basis or as part of a team playing in a formal competitive match.
- **Access** to facilities, which can be complex in some cases. For example, membership policies of clubs can vary from full open access, through to nomination-based policy. Casual use of facilities can vary from the need to purchase a season ticket through to traditional pay and play access of facilities.
- **Supply** of facilities can also vary greatly. The actual size of a bowling green for example, whether it has floodlighting, and the presence of ancillary facilities can greatly affect the capacity of facilities to meet demand.

The assessment of Bowling Greens, and Tennis Courts has been undertaken based on:

- An audit of known facilities within Gosport.
  - Consultation with existing Bowls, and Tennis Clubs to determine current membership profiles and the likelihood of growth or decline in the future. Clubs were also asked to rate the quality of facilities used and to identify key facility related issues.

## Bowling Greens

### Introduction and Strategic Context

Bowls England is responsible for the governance, administration, and promotion of Flat Green Lawn Bowls in England. It was formed in 2008 following the unification of the English Bowling Association and the English Women’s Bowling Association.

In August 2021 Bowls England launched their new Strategic Plan - Fit for the Future 2021 – 2026, with the aim for reaching 1 million bowls experiences per year. The key priorities to meet this target are:

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- Building the brand of bowls – Increasing focus on international and top domestic bowls, and utilising opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage.
- Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all – by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways.
- Creating positive playing experiences for everyone – whoever steps on the green, both casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a performance pathway.
- Putting volunteers first – as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs to empower them to thrive.
- Leading the sport with purpose – by developing our governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and working collaboratively with all the sport’s key stakeholder

### Supply

It is important to note that no recognised standard of provision exists for bowling greens at a national level. It is also important to recognise that bowling is a demand led sport.

There are 6 known clubs across Gosport and these clubs, and their venues are identified in Table 2.2 below.

There are three sites leased to clubs. These are Forton, Rowner and Lee-on-the-Solent.

The pavilion at Cunningham Drive, used by the Bridgemary Bowls Club is leased but the green is not. The Council is responsible for the maintenance at Anglesey Road and Gosport Park.

Of the total number of greens, 100% are of good quality based on the non-technical assessment criteria. The non-technical assessment has been undertaken by scoring the criteria in Table 1 out of 5 and obtaining an overall percentage score. All clubs over 60% are classified ‘Good’ quality 30% - 59% ‘Standard’ quality and 29% and under ‘Poor’ quality. The quality of clubhouse has been assessed on age and known refurbishments.

Table 1 Bowls Non-Technical Criteria Quality of Clubs

Bowling Greens	Score 0-5	
Benches		

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Bowling Greens	Score 0-5	
Clean Gullies		
Backboards		
Turf / surface		
Fenced		
Club House		
Notice Board / Signage		
Floodlights		
Staffed		
<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Good Quality 60% and above Standard Quality 30% - 59% Poor Quality 29% and under.</b>

Table 2 shows the clubs, number of greens, ownership, quality of greens and clubhouses.

**Table 2 Bowls Clubs and Venues across Gosport**

Club Name	Greens	Ownership	Quality of Greens	Quality of Clubhouse
Forton	1 Green	Leased to the club by GBC	Good	Standard
Rowner Lane	1 Green	Leased to the club by GBC	Good	Standard
Lee-on-the-Solent	1 Green	Leased to the club by GBC	Good	Standard
Bridgemary Bowls Club	1 Green	Pavilion Leased to the club only by GBC	Good	Standard
Gosport Bowls Club Anglesey Rd	1 Green 1 All Weather Green	Leased to club - Maintenance of AW carried out by Club	Good	Good
Gosport Park	1 Green	Maintenance carried out by GBC	Good	Standard



## Site Visits and Consultation

Clubs were contacted by Strategic Leisure with the aim of informing the demand section of the study. Summaries of the information gathered is provided in Table 3

**Table 3: Selected Site and Club Consultation Summaries**

Site Name	Consultation
Forton Bowls Club	A good standard green and standard clubhouse. The pathway around the green needs repairing in places. Have space for additional members.
Rowner Bowls Club	Good quality green and standard ancillary facilities. Club held its 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary in July 2022. Have space for additional members.
Lee-on-the –Solent bowls Club	Good quality green and standard ancillary facilities. Club also has use of changing rooms in the main recreation ground pavilion. Approximately 120 members. Have space for additional members.
Bridgemary Bowls Club	Good quality green and standard ancillary facilities. The club had an issue with the green in 2020 with worm casts etc but this has now been resolved. Have space for additional members.
Gosport Bowls Club	<p>The club with funding support from Sport England, GBC and other partners replaced one natural turf green with an all-weather green in 2016. The club was also left a legacy which, meant they could build a new pavilion. The pavilion is therefore good quality.</p> <p>The club continues to maintain and improve their facilities and have recently redecorated the pavilion, provided a disabled toilet facility, and provided CCTV.</p> <p>The all-weather green is 5 years old and has been assessed internally as to be in good condition. The club has a ring-fenced fund to maintain the all-weather green,</p> <p>Summer membership is 84 members but this increases to 164 in the winter with other club members joining to play all year round. Have space for additional members.</p>

The main problems perceived by the clubs include maintenance of anti-fox fencing, issues with squirrels on roofing of pavilions, teenage vandalism, and insufficient car parking at some clubs.

Most clubs identified a difficulty in retaining and recruiting members.

## **Demand for Outdoor Bowls Facilities**

This section summarises the level of demand for bowls in Gosport.

Consultation has identified that summer bowls at two clubs Lee-on-the-Solent 130 members and Gosport Bowls Club 84 members (this rises in the winter months with use of the AWP to 164).

The Sport England Active Lives Survey results from November 2020-21 show that 0.2% of the population aged 16 or over in Gosport play flat green bowls at least once per year.

ONS' subnational population projections estimate the population of residents in Gosport aged 16 or over to be 70,518. If the Active Lives participation figure for bowls in Gosport 0.2% is applied to this population figure, then it can be said that 141 people play flat green bowls at least once per year in Gosport.

We know that 2 of the six clubs have a joint membership of 184 people. Membership is therefore above the 141 people recorded through Active Lives. The future population is due to grow by a maximum of 1,680 by 2038. Assuming current levels of participation remain constant, equates to an additional demand of 4 people.

During consultation, all clubs highlighted that there was capacity for new members, we can assume that the demand for an additional 4 participants can be met by existing bowls provision.

## **Bowls Recommendations**

The recommendations are:

- 1. Gosport Borough Council to protect the existing bowls facilities in the Local Plan.**
- 2. Gosport Borough Council to work with the local Bowls Clubs to promote the sport in Gosport and encourage participation by younger people.**
- 3. Improve the publishing of information to promote the health benefits and opportunities to play bowls.**
- 4. When bowls club membership at individual clubs falls to below 20 considerations should be given to the amalgamation of those clubs.**
- 5. Gosport Bowls club needs to ensure a sink fund to repair and replace the all-weather green when required.**

## Tennis (Outdoors)

Tennis courts are provided in a variety of settings, including schools, parks and both public and private sports grounds. They are provided for casual opportunities and formal competitive play. As with bowls, the demand for tennis is varied, ranging from facilities to accommodate formal league matches to casual games between friends and family.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis. The Hampshire LTA is responsible locally for the sport in terms of county teams and county-based initiatives in Gosport. The following section provides greater detail of the existing strategies and national facility plans that are currently being delivered by the LTA.

The LTA has a strategy *Tennis Opened Up 2019 – 2023*, which outlines the strategic priorities for the future of the sport.

The overriding mission statement of the strategy is “to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.” To help with delivering on this mission statement, four pillars have been identified to provide focus for improvement. These are:

- **Relevant:** Tennis is seen as traditional, old-fashioned, and reserved. To succeed it needs to be seen as modern, fresh, and exciting.
- **Accessible:** Tennis needs to be seen as an easy sport for people to engage with. The process must be frictionless and available when people want it.
- **Welcoming:** Tennis is perceived as inward looking, elitist, and socially and technically intimidating. This image must be broken down; everyone is welcome in the tennis family whatever their age, ability, or social background; and
- **Enjoyable:** Tennis is viewed as a tough sport requiring commitment, dedication, and a lot of hard work but it does not have to be this way. The social side, the different formats and the exhilaration of playing are richly rewarding and hugely positive.

To translate the strategic vision into a reality the LTA has produced a programme of action that is based on 7 core strategies. These are:

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

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The Sport England Active Lives Survey confirms the seasonal participation peaks in the summer. This is particularly pronounced amongst non-club and occasional players.

It is key to note that the correlation between the lack of ‘community’ tennis in the non-summer months is likely to be heavily influenced by the lack of floodlighting, which is often a characteristic of local authority owned courts.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase conversion of latent demand.

Technology development is evolving, and it is now possible for an access gate to be connected to the internet via 3G / Wi-Fi. The keypad can be used to open the gate with a code, automatically generated by the LTA online booking system ‘clubspark’. Courts can be booked via mobile phone tablets and laptop / desktop. The booking system manages payments for the courts alongside several other customer relationship features.

It is hoped that increasing the awareness, the ease of bookings and the security of facilities from petty crime and vandalism will increase the conversion of latent demand to actual demand across the country. The LTA are therefore keen to work with local authorities, especially those in areas of high population, to deliver fit-for-purpose projects at sites with community access.

## Supply

The quality rating of a site is calculated using the following LTA criteria:

**Table 4: LTA Quality Rating Criteria**

Poor:	Standard:	Good:
Playing surface poor, slippery playing surface, poor drainage, cracks on the playing surface and surrounding area, court markings hardly visible, no nets or nets damaged, surrounding fencing poor/dangerous.	Court colour is fading or showing signs of wear. The surface remains largely intact. The court life, prior to needing resurfacing, would be extended for up to 5 years by cleaning and repainting of the existing surface.	Good playing surface, courts recently been upgraded, resurfaced, nets and fencing in working order.

Table 5 below identifies that there are 52 outdoor courts across 11 sites in Gosport. Out of these courts, 15 (28%) are of good quality, with 33 (64%) being of standard quality and 4 (8%) being poor. There are 11 tennis courts with floodlights, however 6 of these are provided on a school site and provide unsecured use.

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5 of the 11 sites across Gosport are available to the community and provide secured community use. These are 2 membership sports clubs Alverstoke Lawn Tennis, Squash and Badminton Club (9 courts of which 1 is floodlit) and Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis Squash and Fitness Club (6 courts of which 4 are floodlit). In addition, there are local authority public courts at Privett Park (5 courts none floodlit), and Lee-on-the-Solent Recreation Ground (2 courts none floodlit) and Stoke Bay (4 courts) is managed by a private operator.

The tennis courts at St Vincent College were poor quality and not available for use.

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The following table provides a breakdown of the tennis courts in Gosport.

**Table 5: Outdoor Tennis Provision by Site**

Site Name	Postcode	Community Use	Security of Community Use	Ownership	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlit	Site Quality
Alverstoke Lawn Tennis Squash And Badminton Club	PO12 2ES	Public Access Sports Club	Secured	Sports Club	6	Artificial grass	No	Green
					1	Artificial grass	Yes	
					2	Other	No	
Brune Park Community School	PO12 3BU	Public Access	Unsecured	Community school	6	Macadam	Yes	Yellow
Fort Blockhouse	PO12 2AB	Private	Unsecured	MOD	2	Macadam	No	Red
Hms Sultan (East Site)	PO12 3AF	Private	Unsecured	MOD	7	Other	No	Yellow
Hms Sultan (West Site)	PO12 3BY	Private	Unsecured	MOD	3	Concrete	No	Yellow
Lee-On-The- Solent Recreation Ground	PO13 9ET	Public Access	Secured	Local Authority	2	Concrete	No	Yellow
Lee-On-The-Solent Tennis Squash & Fitness Club	PO13 9JQ	Public Access Sports Club	Secured	Sports Club	2	Artificial grass	No	Green
					4	Artificial Grass	Yes	

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Site Name	Postcode	Community Use	Security of Community Use	Ownership	Number of Courts	Surface	Floodlit	Site Quality
Privett Park	PO12 3SX	Public Access	Secured	Local Authority	5	Concrete	No	
Bay House Community School		Public Access	Unsecured	Education	6	Macadam	No	
St Vincent Leisure Centre	PO12 4QA	Not in use	Unsecured	Education	2	Concrete	Yes	
Stokes Bay		Public Access	Secured	Private Operator	4	Macadam	No	
<b>Totals</b>					13	Artificial Grass	5 floodlit	
					18	Macadam	6 floodlit	
					9	Other	None	
					12	Concrete	None	
					52			

The audit has identified a total of 2 Gosport Council sites: Privett Park (5 courts) and Lee-on-the-Solent (2 courts). Both sites are free to play tennis on and have been part of the Lawn Tennis Association All Play Initiative. The Council tennis courts were last resurfaced in 2012.

Stokes Bay also provides tennis courts (4 courts) that are privately operated adjacent to the crazy golf course and a fee is payable.

Brune Park Community College has 6 tennis Courts that they hire out when the Gosport and Fareham Netball League are not using them for Netball.

Bay House Community School has 6 courts which can be used by the community but are rarely let.

The MoD sites that are private use and not available for community use and provide 10 courts.

In addition to the above courts there are excellent tennis facilities provided at two clubs in Gosport. The two clubs are Alverstoke Tennis and Squash Club and Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis Squash and Badminton Club. Both clubs have excellent tennis facilities.

Alverstoke Tennis and Squash Club has 7 artificial grass courts refurbished in February 2013 one of these is floodlit; there are also 2 hard all-weather courts with practice hitting walls and 1 indoor court. Members play social tennis and teams represent the club in local leagues. There is a strong junior section. Members Club Night is held every Thursday 6pm till dusk and all abilities are welcome.

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The clubs coaches run a full training programme for senior and junior members with extra sessions in school holidays. Non-members can join classes as well. Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis, Squash and Badminton Club has six outdoor all-weather courts 4 of these are floodlit and two of these have been refurbished to provide two tiger turf advantage courts.

### **Demand**

This section of the analysis examines the demand for tennis in Gosport.

### **Active Lives Survey**

As per the LTA's insight as captured at the start of this section, demand for tennis is comprised of members and more 'casual' or 'recreational' players. These 'casual' or 'recreational' players typically access facilities through public park courts and other publicly available facilities.

Sport England's Active Lives Survey represents the most robust dataset regarding participation in sport in England amongst those aged 16 or older. The latest iteration of this data is taken from surveys carried out in November 2020/21. The data available for Gosport shows that 2.5% of residents aged 16+ are reported as playing tennis at least once in year 20/21, which can be compared to a national average of 5.1%.

ONS' subnational population projections estimate the population of residents in Gosport aged 16 or over to be 70,518. If the Active Lives participation figure for tennis in Gosport 2.5% is applied to this population figure, then it can be said that 1,763 people play tennis at least once per year in Gosport.

### **Future Demand**

The future population of Gosport is due to grow by a maximum of 1,680 by 2038. Assuming current levels of participation remain constant, equates to an additional demand of 42 people.

The LTA guidance is if a court is floodlit it has a membership capacity of 60, compared with a membership capacity of 40 if non-floodlit.

**Table 6: Current capacity of Tennis Club (Membership) Courts in Gosport**

<b>Gosport Tennis Courts</b>	<b>No of courts</b>	<b>Capacity per Court</b>	<b>Total court Capacity</b>
Floodlit	5	60	300
Non-Floodlit	10	40	400
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>700</b>

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Table 6 above shows that Alverstoke Lawn Tennis, Squash and Badminton Club and Lee-on-the Solent Tennis, Squash and Fitness Club have a capacity of 700 members for tennis. We believe Alverstoke Lawn Tennis, Squash and Badminton Club has 300 members. However, some of these are badminton and squash members. It is presumed that both clubs have available capacity for members as they are both actively promoting memberships for new members.

The LTA advises that the capacity of public courts to be 7 hours per day for non-floodlit courts and 12 hours per day for floodlit courts. This equates to 2,555 hours per year on non-floodlit courts and 4,380 hours per year on floodlit courts.

Those sites deemed to be publicly accessible are:

- Privett Park - 5 courts non floodlit
- Lee-on-the-Solent Recreation Ground - 2 courts non floodlit
- Stokes Bay – 4 courts non floodlit

It is estimated that these 11 courts contribute 77 hours per day and 539 hours per week of playing capacity to meet demand for informal tennis in Gosport. This equates to 2,970 hours per month (30-day average) or 36,135 hours per year.

Active Lives informs us that 1.7% (1,199) of the population across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Active Partnership participate in tennis activity at least twice every 28 days. The data for Gosport was too small to record. The county data is therefore used.

Assuming an average of 3 people per court per 'booking / use' (to account for an even split between singles, doubles, and some sessions where 3 people share a court) this equates to 399 (1199/3) sessions per month played on public and sports club courts. If each match lasts for 1 hour on average this means that when considering public courts only, they are operating for 399 hours out of a possible 2,970 hours per month 13.4% of their total operational capacity. This does not include the sports club membership courts that would take up some of this usage.

According to data provided by the LTA's online booking system (Clubspark) with court access technology, the average level of utilisation in venues (UK wide) is 53%. By this barometer Gosport is operating significantly below average level in terms of its utilisation of public courts.

Future demand for tennis to 2038 can be met from the existing sports club courts and public courts.

A key priority in Gosport is to increase the visibility of public courts. This can be achieved utilising the LTA Club Spark and making courts available to be booked online. By utilising Club Spark GBC and the LTA can work in partnership to increase tennis participation on these sites and gain a greater understanding of community use in the area.



## **Tennis Recommendations**

The recommendations for tennis courts are:

1. Protect the current provision of tennis courts in the Local Plan and work with key partners, the Lawn Tennis Association and Gosport clubs to maintain quality and improve access for potential new participants.
2. Ensure Gosport Borough Council owned public courts have appropriate fencing, quality nets and posts – all weather nets where appropriate, markings are clear, and surfaces are clean and free of debris.
3. Increase the visibility of public courts. This can be achieved by utilising the LTA Club Spark and making courts available to be booked online. By utilising Club Spark GBC and the LTA can work in partnership to increase tennis participation on these sites and gain a greater understanding of community use in the area.
4. Gosport Borough Council to encourage tennis clubs in the development of club facilities and courts to increase participation and quality of facilities.

Appendix 4: Site by Site Action Plan

# Gosport Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Appendix 4: Site by Site Action Plan

A report by Strategic Leisure Limited

April 2023



Gosport Borough Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan**

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
<b>Brookers Field</b>  Sports:  5 adult 11v11 football pitches & 1 7v7n mini soccer	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a sports facility in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>	Improvements to stop waterlogging on pitches 1, 2 and 4. Pitch 5 requires attention the goal area nearest pavilion has some parts below pitch level and needs filling.	1	GBC/ Hampshire FA	Low	
		Football pitches should have a PitchPower Assessment undertaken and the recommendations implemented to improve capacity of the pitches.  Changing facility is classified as 'Poor' – requires refurbishment or renewal. Feasibility work for improved facilities is currently underway.	2	GBC/ Hampshire FA. Football Foundation	High	
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Elson Recreation Ground</b>  Sports:  Football –2 adult 11 v 11 & 1 mini soccer 7v7r	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Howe Road</b>  Sports:  Football 1 adult 11 v 11	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>					

Gosport Borough Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan**

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
<b>Lee on Solent Recreation Ground</b>  Sports:  Football: 2 adult 11v11, 1 Youth 11v11 & 1 Mini Soccer 7v7	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Nobes Avenue</b>  Sports:  Football: 1 adult 11v11	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a sports facility in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>	Pitch needs levelling to stop water pooling. Football pitches should have a PitchPower Assessment undertaken and the recommendations implemented to improve capacity of the pitches.	2  1	GBC  GBC / Hampshire FA	High	
	<b>Provide</b>	.				
Privett Park  Sports:  Football 4 adult 11v11 Cricket 3 Squares 1, 2 & 3	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>	Football pitches 1, 2, and 4 need improvement to stop waterlogging.  Cricket pitches 1 & 2 need to improve from poor quality to standard quality.  PitchPower Assessment to be undertaken for cricket and football pitches and findings carried out to improve capacity.	1	GBC/ ECB/ Hampshire Cricket/ Hampshire FA	Low	
	<b>Provide</b>	There is a need to provide a replacement pavilion for that services cricket pitch 1 & 2 and the football pitches.	1	GBC/ Football Foundation/ Hampshire County	High	

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### *Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan*

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
		All new facilities to be built to Sport England and National Governing Body guidance.  Gosport Borough Cricket Club received £10,000 CIL funding for improvements to clubs leased pavilion.	1	FA/ Hampshire Cricket Board/ ECB  GBC/ Gosport Borough CC	Low	
<b>Stokes Bay</b>	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
Sports:  Football 4 adult 11v11 (Not Currently Used)	<b>Enhance</b>	Football Pitch 2 needs levelling and 3 and 4 require improvements to stop waterlogging.  Pitches require a PitchPower Assessment to identify what is required to improve the quality of pitches to increase capacity.	1	GBC/ Hampshire County FA	Low	
	<b>Provide</b>	There are no changing facilities on this site. As a minimum toilet facility should be provided at this site, Feasibility should be undertaken to provide full changing facilities.	1	GBC/ Football Foundation / Hampshire FA	High	
<b>The Aerial Direct stadium</b>	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan	1	GBC	Low	
Sports:  Football: 1 Stadia 11v11	<b>Enhance</b>				Low	
	<b>Provide</b>				High	
<b>St George's Playing Fields</b>	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.  Site is ownership of MoD with an annual agreement for Gosport Borough Youth to use.	1	GBC	Low	
Sports:  Football: 3 9v9, 2 mini soccer 7v7 & 2 mini soccer 5v5				GBC/ MoD	High	

## Gosport Borough Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
Cricket disused non-turf pitch		The Council will continue to work to ensure the long-term sustainability of this site either by seeking to purchase the site and agree long term leases with the existing clubs or by reaching long term agreement for community use with the MoD.	3			
	<b>Enhance</b>	Pitches require a PitchPower Assessment to identify what is required to improve the quality of pitches to increase capacity. There is a need to update the Local Football Facilities Plan.	1	Gosport Borough Youth / Hampshire FA	Low	
		Only 3 of the 4 changing rooms are useable the 4th changing room needs to be brought back into use,	2	Gosport Youth/ Hampshire FA	Low	
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Fleetlands</b>  Sports:  Football: 1 Stadia 11v11	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a playing field site in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Monkton Sports Ground</b>  Sports:  Football 2 adult 11v11, 1 junior 11v11, 1 9v9, 1 mini soccer 7v7 & 1 mini soccer 5v5  Cricket Disused non-turf pitch	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
		Site is ownership of MoD with an annual agreement for Gosport Borough Youth to use.  The Council will continue to work to ensure the long-term sustainability of this site either by seeking to purchase the site and agree long term leases with the existing clubs or by	3	GBC/ MoD	High	

Gosport Borough Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan**

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
		reaching long term agreement for community use with the MoD.				
	<b>Enhance</b>	The football pitches should have a PitchPower Assessment undertaken and the recommendations implemented to improve capacity of the pitches.	1	Gosport Falcons FC/ Hampshire County FA		
		Toilet and kitchen areas of the clubhouse require refurbishment as does the fabric of the building.	3	Gosport Falcons FC/ Hampshire County FA		
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>St Vincent College</b>	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a playing field site in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
Sports:						
<b>Football: 2 adult 11v11</b>		There is a need for a community use agreement to be in place between the Hockey Club and the school that is longer than 1 year.		Gosport Borough Hockey Club/ England Hockey/ St Vincent College		
<b>Hockey 1 full size AGP with sports lighting</b>	<b>Enhance</b>	There is a need to refurbish the sports lighting to hockey match lighting standards. St Vincent College AGP surface was last refurbished in 2018. Since the refurbishment a sink hole has appeared.	1	St Vincent College / Gosport Borough Hockey Club/ England Hockey		
		The sink hole has been repaired and the hockey club are monitoring the repair. Games are continuing to be played. There is a risk of the Hockey Club having to find an alternative AGP until the sink hole is resolved on a permanent basis.	2	St Vincent College / Gosport Borough Hockey Club/ England Hockey		
		In addition, the sports lighting for the pitch has inadequate lux levels and competitive games cannot be played past 3.00pm at	1			

Gosport Borough Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan**

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
		weekends in the winter months due to the poor light from the sports lighting. The lighting needs upgrading,  The 2 football pitches should have a PitchPower Assessment undertaken and the recommendations implemented to improve capacity of the pitches.	1	St Vincent College / Gosport Borough Hockey Club/ England Hockey  Gosport Borough Youth FC/ Hampshire County FA/ St Vincent College		
	<b>Provide</b>	Need to develop changing and pavilion facilities for Gosport Borough Hockey Club	3	St Vincent College / Gosport Borough Hockey Club/ England Hockey	Low Medium Low	
<b>Alverstoke C of E Junior School.</b>  Sports:  Football: 1 Youth 11v11	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a playing field in the Local Plan.  A formal community use agreement should be entered into to safeguard community sports clubs using the facility	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Alver Valley Schools</b>  Sports:  Football: 1 mini soccer 7v7	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a playing field in the Local Plan.  A formal community use agreement should be entered into to safeguard community sports clubs using the facility.	1  1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					



## Gosport Borough Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Bay House School Sports Centre</b>  Sports:  Football: 2 adult 11 v 11 & 1 Youth 11v11  Rugby 2 adult  Full Size 3G AGP FA Registered	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a sports facility in the Local Plan.  A formal community use agreement should be entered into to safeguard community sports clubs using the facility.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>	The football pitches should have a PitchPower Assessment undertaken and the recommendations implemented to improve capacity of the pitches.	1	Bay House School/ Hampshire FA	Low	
	<b>Provide</b>	There is a need to maintain FA Registration of the 3G AGP.  A sink fund is needed to refurbish the 3G AGP carpet and sports lighting when required.	3	Bay House School	Medium	
<b>Bridgemary School</b>  Sports:  Football 1 adult 11v11 & 1 Youth 11v11  Rugby 1 adult  Full size 3G AGP FA Registered  Cricket non-turf pitch	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a sports facility in the Local Plan.  A formal community use agreement should be entered into to safeguard community sports clubs using the facility.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>	There is a need to maintain FA Registration of the 3G AGP.  A sink fund is needed to refurbish the 3G AGP carpet and sports lighting when required.	3	Bridgemary School	Medium	
<b>Brune Park Community School</b>  Sports:	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a sports facility in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	

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Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
Football: 2 Adult 11v11 & 1 Youth 11v11  Rugby 1 adult  Cricket – 1 non-turf pitch  Planning application submitted for a new full size 3G AGP.		A formal community use agreement should be entered into to safeguard community sports clubs using the facility	1	Brune Park School/ Sport England/ Hampshire FA/GBC		
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>	A full size 3G AGP (subject to a community use agreement) was completed in 2023.  The non-turf cricket pitch will be replaced and available for community use. In addition, the school plan to provide cricket nets at the site that will also be available for community use.  There will need to be a sink fund in place to provide for refurbishment of the 3G AGP carpet and sports lighting.  The 3G AGP should be FA Registered for match play.  The 3G AGP will not be constructed to World Rugby Regulation 22 specification.	1	Brune Park School/ Sport England/ Hampshire FA/ Hampshire Cricket		
<b>Brockhurst Gate (private developer)</b>	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>	New football pitches to be provided on-site or agree an appropriate mitigation package which delivers secured community football				

Gosport Borough Council  
**Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan**

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
		pitches at an alternative location in the Borough.				
<b>Cocked Hat School Playing Fields (Bay House School)</b>  <b>Not currently used.</b>  Sports:  Football 4 adult 11 v 11  Rugby 1 adult  Cricket Non-turf pitch	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>	A formal community use agreement should be entered into to safeguard community sports clubs using the facility.				
	<b>Provide</b>	The site is not currently used but has been used in the past.  A large site with football pitches and a rugby pitch. A site for consideration for a 3G AGP for both sports if there are no environmental issues or residential issues.	3	GBC/ Football Foundation/ Hampshire FA/ RFU /Bay House School		
<b>Fleetlands Golf Course</b>  Sports:  Football: 1 adult 11v11  3G AGP – Small	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs protecting as a sports facility in the Local Plan	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>	Small 3G pitch will require a sink fund for replacement carpet in the future.	3	Fleetlands Golf Course		
<b>Bedenham Junior School</b>  Sports:  Football 1 9v9 & 1 mini soccer 7v7	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
		A formal community use agreement should be entered into to safeguard community sports clubs using the facility	1	Bedenham Junior School /Fleetlands Youth FC		
	<b>Enhance</b>	The football pitches should have a PitchPower Assessment undertaken and the recommendations implemented to improve capacity of the pitches.	1	Fleetlands Youth FC/ Bedenham School / Hampshire FA		

## Gosport Borough Council

### Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>HMS Sultan 1 (MoD)</b>  Sports:  Football: 5 Adult 11v11  Hockey AGP  Rugby 1 adult  Cricket non-turf pitch	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a playing field in the Local Plan.  The Council will continue to work to ensure the long-term sustainability of this site either by seeking to purchase the site and agree long term leases with the existing clubs or by reaching long term agreement for community use with the MoD.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>	A sink fund should be in place to replace the AGP carpet and sports lighting when required.	3	MoD		
<b>HMS Sultan 2 (MoD)</b>  Sports:  Football: 1 adult 11v11  Hockey AGP Rugby 1 adult	<b>Protect</b>	The Council will continue to work to ensure the long-term sustainability of this site either by seeking to purchase the site and agree long term leases with the existing clubs or by reaching long term agreement for community use with the MoD.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>	A sink fund should be in place to replace the AGP carpet and sports lighting when required.	3	MoD		
<b>Fort Blockhouse (MoD)</b>  <b>Not available for community use</b>  Sports:  Football 1 adult 11v11	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.  Identified as a mixed-use led regeneration site in the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan 2038.	1	GBC /Sport England/ Hampshire County FA/ RFU / ECB	Low	

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**Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan**

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
Rugby 1 senior rugby union Cricket non-turf pitch		Any loss of playing field will need to be either replaced elsewhere or mitigated for by improving pitch provision on-site or off-site.  Playing Pitch loss could be replaced with 5v5 pitches at Gosport Leisure Centre or serving community use on other existing MoD sites.				
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Grange Junior School</b> <b>Not available for use</b>	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
Sports:	<b>Enhance</b>					
Football: 1 Youth 11v11	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Holbrook Primary School</b> <b>Not Available for use</b>	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a sports facility in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
Sports:	<b>Enhance</b>					
<b>Football: 1 mini soccer 7v7</b>	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Cricket non-turf pitch</b>						
<b>Leesland C of E Junior School</b> <b>Not Available for use</b>	<b>Protect</b>	Ensure Protection of this site as a playing field in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
Sports:	<b>Enhance</b>					
Football: 2 Youth 11v 11	<b>Provide</b>					

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**Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan**

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
<b>Grange Lane</b>  Not been used as a playing field site since 2014/15 Season	<b>Protect</b>	Protect this site as a playing field and reinstate if required to meet shortfalls in provision.	1	GBC	Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>					
	<b>Provide</b>					
<b>Gosport Park</b>  Sports:  Rugby Union 4 adult (1 floodlit), 2 junior & 2 minis.  Cricket non-turf pitch	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a sports facility in the Local Plan.  GBC are currently investigating the issue of Village Green status of Gosport Park. Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club's security of tenure can be reviewed once this has been completed.	1  1	GBC  GBC/ Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club/ RFU	Low  Low	
	<b>Enhance</b>	Undertake PitchPower assessment of all pitches.  Given the position of the existing training pitch it is considered that improvements would not provide increased capacity.  Install full pitch lighting to an existing senior pitch to create additional training capacity on site. This would provide a partial solution to current training capacity issues on site and improve the maintenance of that pitch to increase midweek training capacity.  Given that floodlighting on site would only provide a partial solution an additional	2	Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club/ RFU/ Football Foundation/ Hampshire FA/ GBC		

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**Playing Pitch Strategy – Site by Site Action Plan**

Name / Ownership Site	Strategy	Action	Priority/ Timescale	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Date Reviewed
		<p>recommendation is the need for the RFU and Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club to work with the FA to identify a suitable site for a 3G World Regulation Compliant pitch to provide for the Clubs training capacity,</p> <p>Improve the maintenance of all remaining pitches too good to replace match play capacity lost to the second training pitch.</p> <p>There is a need to upgrade the current sports lighting on the rugby training pitch to provide the correct LUX across the training pitch,</p>				
	<b>Provide</b>	From mid-week this would ease the capacity issue.	3	GBC/ RFU/ Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club	Low	
<b>Rowner Park</b>	<b>Protect</b>	This site needs to be protected as a sports facility in the Local Plan.	1	GBC	Low	
Sports:	<b>Enhance</b>	Undertake a PitchPower assessment and implement recommendations to improve capacity from standard to good.	1	GBC/ Rowner Cricket Club/ Hampshire Cricket /ECB	Low	
Cricket	<b>Provide</b>					

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