



# **Rochdale Borough Council**

## **Playing Pitch Strategy 2016-2026**

## Document Control

Rochdale Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2016-2026

### Summary

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Strategy Owner (Name/Position)	John Searle, Director of Economy
Strategy Author (Name/Position)	Janet Butterworth, Property Strategy Officer Paul Harris, Project Manager Nick Barton, Principal Project Manager
Applies to	All formal outdoor playing pitch facilities within Rochdale Borough

### Review of Strategy

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### Document Approvals

This document requires the following approvals.

Name	Title	Date of Issue	Version Number
Strategic Asset Management Group	Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2016	
Councillor Emmott	Cabinet Member for Housing and the Environment		

**ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016-2026**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Version Number</b>
Cabinet		31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	
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## FOREWORD

Rochdale Council is proud of the sporting traditions in the borough. As a council we have invested heavily in new sports facilities with a new Sports centres at Middleton, Rochdale and Heywood. Through the Building School's for the Future capital investment programme we have developed new facilities at many of our secondary schools. We are keen to ensure our communities and residents get maximum use and benefit from these facilities.

I would like to pay tribute to the thousands of people who take part in sports activities every week and in particular to the volunteers, parents and coaches who make sure our young people have this opportunity. Rochdale strongly recognises the importance of team sports across the borough, not only for the health and well-being of its communities, families and individuals but also in recognition of the vast volunteering contribution sports clubs and teams make.

We want to improve our sporting offer but are mindful that we have to do this in a way that remains sustainable for the long term. Rochdale, like most councils, has had to meet government efficiency savings therefore we have had to take tough decisions to rationalise our services and assets.

Sport England estimates the wider economic value of volunteering to the borough is £27.4 million added to 1392 jobs and a direct sporting economic value of £55.3 million. I am very pleased to report that this strategy fits succinctly with the councils' corporate priorities for

the borough's prosperity, people and place making.

As champion of the strategy it is of great importance to me that we ensure that clubs, teams and participation is sustained and that through the invaluable role sports clubs and teams play we can encourage greater numbers of our residents to become active and benefit from team participation.

I was very pleased to learn that none of our community clubs have been displaced out of the borough and I am keen that this should remain the case for the duration of the strategy and beyond.

Our ambition is to ensure those who want to participate in sports can easily access sports fairly and in an affordable way. We are seeking a sustainable sporting offer for Rochdale.



**Councillor Neil Emmott**

**Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment**

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## ***Executive Summary***

The Rochdale Playing Pitch Strategy has been developed during 2015/16 following best practice guidance from Sport England. It assesses current and future demand for formal sports pitches in the borough over the 10 year period from 2016 to 2026. It provides a framework for resource prioritisation and informed planning decisions

The Strategy has been developed through consultation with Sport England, the National Governing Bodies for Sports, sports clubs, league associations, schools and colleges. It has been informed through a review of the borough's sports pitches and ancillary facilities.

The Strategy is set in the context of the Council's community strategy and corporate plan and has close links with the Asset Strategy and Local Development Framework. It recognises the important contribution made by sport in the local economy and in delivering corporate objectives.

The key aims of the strategy are

- an up to date audit and review of all the outdoor sports assets and outdoor facilities including those managed by others
- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches (including ancillary facilities).
- A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance and development 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 (where action is deemed necessary).

The strategy focuses on the main pitch sports of cricket, football, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, rugby league and rugby union. It covers all pitches in the borough not just those owned by the council.

In total over 300 pitches have been reviewed and assessed and consultation has been undertaken with over 500 playing teams, education establishments, leagues and governing bodies.

Overall the findings suggest that the borough has a good supply of pitches and has sufficient capacity to meet current and future demand

The strategy proposes a sports hub in each township area – these hubs are at Heywood Sports Village, Bowlee Playing Fields, Littleborough Sports Centre and at Firgrove.

Where these hubs don't currently offer the full range of sports and facilities it is proposed that they are supported by key school sites to supplement the offer.

A hierarchy of sites is proposed to help channel resources and investment.



#### Strategy Recommendations

- a. **Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through local planning policy**
- b. **Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements**
- c. **Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so**
- d. **Improve pitch quality**
- e. **Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) for the management and improvement of sites**
- f. **Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**
- g. ***Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock***
- h. **Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The strategy contains a detailed action plan that shows what work and investment is needed on a site by site basis.

## 1. PART 1: Introduction

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Rochdale. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2016 and 2026. The purpose of the PPS is to help us to prioritise and target resources where resources are limited.

The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:

- Football pitches (grass and third generation turf (3G))
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby union pitches
- Rugby league pitches
- Hockey pitches (artificial grass pitches (AGPs))
- Lacrosse pitches
- Rounders pitches

The study area is the borough of Rochdale. Sub areas have been created around the existing 4 townships to allow a more localised analysis of provision. The four Township areas are

Heywood	Area A
Middleton	Area B
Pennines	Area C
Rochdale	Area D

The Strategy is capable of:

- Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy
- Inform the protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and S106 and CIL schedules.
- Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the Borough;
- Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports across the Borough;
- Supporting external funding bids and maximise support for outdoor sports facilities;
- Providing the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport.

### 1.2 Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within Rochdale to provide:

- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches (including ancillary facilities).
- A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance and development 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 (where action is deemed necessary).

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Rochdale, which should be implemented from 2016 to 2026. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding will be identified.

The recommendations that come out of this strategy may inform local planning policy and can support the local planning evidence base so there is a policy mechanism to support delivery and secure provision/investment where the opportunity arises.

There is a need to build key partnerships between the Council, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 Agreements/future Community Infrastructure Levy). 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.

### 1.3 Context

This strategy sits within the context of the council's corporate plan and Asset Management Strategy. An internal strategic steering group was already in existence and has been utilised to develop this brief, monitor the production of the strategy and oversee its implementation. The rationale for the strategy will help to deliver on the broader agenda to increase participation in sport and physical activity, which is key to improving health and wellbeing outcomes. The need to address significant health and wellbeing issues is acknowledged in the Rochdale Plan in order to ensure there is an active population able to make the most of job opportunities and able to play a positive role in social and civic life. In addition:

- To help deliver the health agenda
- To inform the investment strategy for Rochdale Council initiatives
- To inform local planning policy, planning decisions and potential developer contributions
- To inform sports development initiatives
- To reflect and inform wider Rochdale Council strategic asset and service reviews
- To help facilitate community use of outdoor facilities on education sites

Over half of the adult population in Rochdale borough take less than the recommended amount of physical activity per week. Some people are active and take part in sport on a regular basis and there is extensive provision of grass and artificial pitches to cater for their needs. This document sets out our plans and proposals for formal sports pitches in the borough. The proposals are set in the context of national and local policy but we have had to make a number of assumptions as there is currently no adopted vision or strategy for physical activity in the borough.

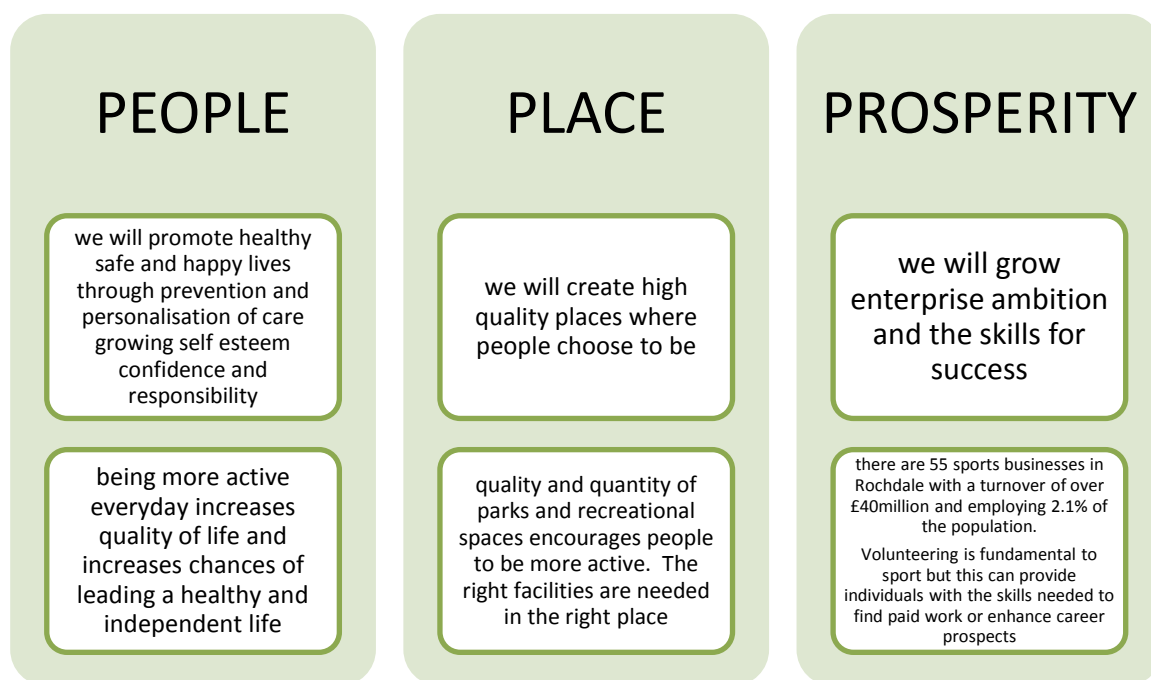
Government policy and public health strategy for a number of years have highlighted the benefits of physical activity. Public Health England advises that physical activity is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest cause of premature mortality in the UK and costs the economy some £7.4bn

In Rochdale over half the population take less than the recommended amount of physical activity. 35.9% of adults are inactive compared with the national average of 27.7%. 129

deaths per year could be prevented through simply being more active. Inactivity costs the Rochdale economy £4.5 million

A Playing Pitch Strategy alone will not solve these problems but it is a start and highlights the opportunities available and the contribution the provision of formal sports facilities can make towards delivering the council's corporate objectives.

The vision for the borough is to become a prosperous borough to grow our economy and develop our place through co-operation and partnership improving the lives of local people. Sport and physical activity can contribute to the delivery of this vision



The aim of central government's policy 'Towards a Sporting Future' is 'to harness the power of sport to change people's lives for the better'

The focus of the this Playing Pitch Strategy will be on PLACE – it looks at the facilities available for sport and physical activity in the borough and sets out what actions are needed to PROTECT playing pitch provision regardless of ownership and community use of such facilities for current and future use. It will look at what opportunities exist to ENHANCE the provision to ensure better quality access and better management of the facilities. We will also examine what we need to PROVIDE in terms of additional facilities to cater for unmet demand or to provide opportunities for increase participation in key locations amongst hard to reach groups.

Sport England's Vision states 'we want everyone in England regardless of age background or level of ability to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity some will be young fit and talented but most will not. We need a sports sector that welcomes everyone meets their needs treats them as individuals and values them as customers

Rochdale Council shares this aspiration and sets outs this strategy as its first steps on this journey.

Since the original brief for this project was first approved the Government and Sport England have both issued new strategies for sport. The Governments strategy 'Towards a Sporting

'Nation' was published in December 2015 and follows Public Health England's publication 'Everybody Active Everyday'. It represents the biggest shift in policy on sport in a decade and is focused on getting people active rather than on elite sports. It recognises that Sport is a key part of local communities and the key role that local authorities have in understanding these communities, recognising opportunities and encouraging participation. It also highlights the key role that high quality multi use green spaces can have as sporting venues and as alternative settings for sport and healthy activity for communities including new audiences that are less likely to use traditional sports centres. It identifies a number of partners and linked strategies that the council should seek to work with to deliver its objectives. These include

Public Health	Health and Well Being Strategy	In place in Rochdale but needs to be refreshed
	Physical Activity and Sports Strategy	Not in place
County Sports Partnerships	County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) are committed to Improving Lives by Growing Grassroots Sport and Physical Activity. We do this by providing a range of high quality services and delivering or commissioning customer-led solutions in collaboration with a wide range of partners, which ultimately results in National Reach and Local Impact.	Greater Sport
Sport England	Government agency tasked with getting more people involved in sport and physical activity	Range of programmes materials and resources Local government liaison officer
National Sports Governing Bodies		
School Sports / Games Partnerships	established in order to increase the number of children and young people taking part in high quality Physical Education, School Sport & Physical Activity, whilst working to ensure these experiences are innovative, high quality and engaging.	Based at Cardinal Langley High School. Currently working with 46 local schools
Sport and Physical Activity Alliances / Community Sports Networks	A key element in sports delivery network. Sports and Physical Activity Alliances try to get sports and physical activity in the local area agreement and local public service agreements. Links closely with the CSP	Do we have links? Does it work?

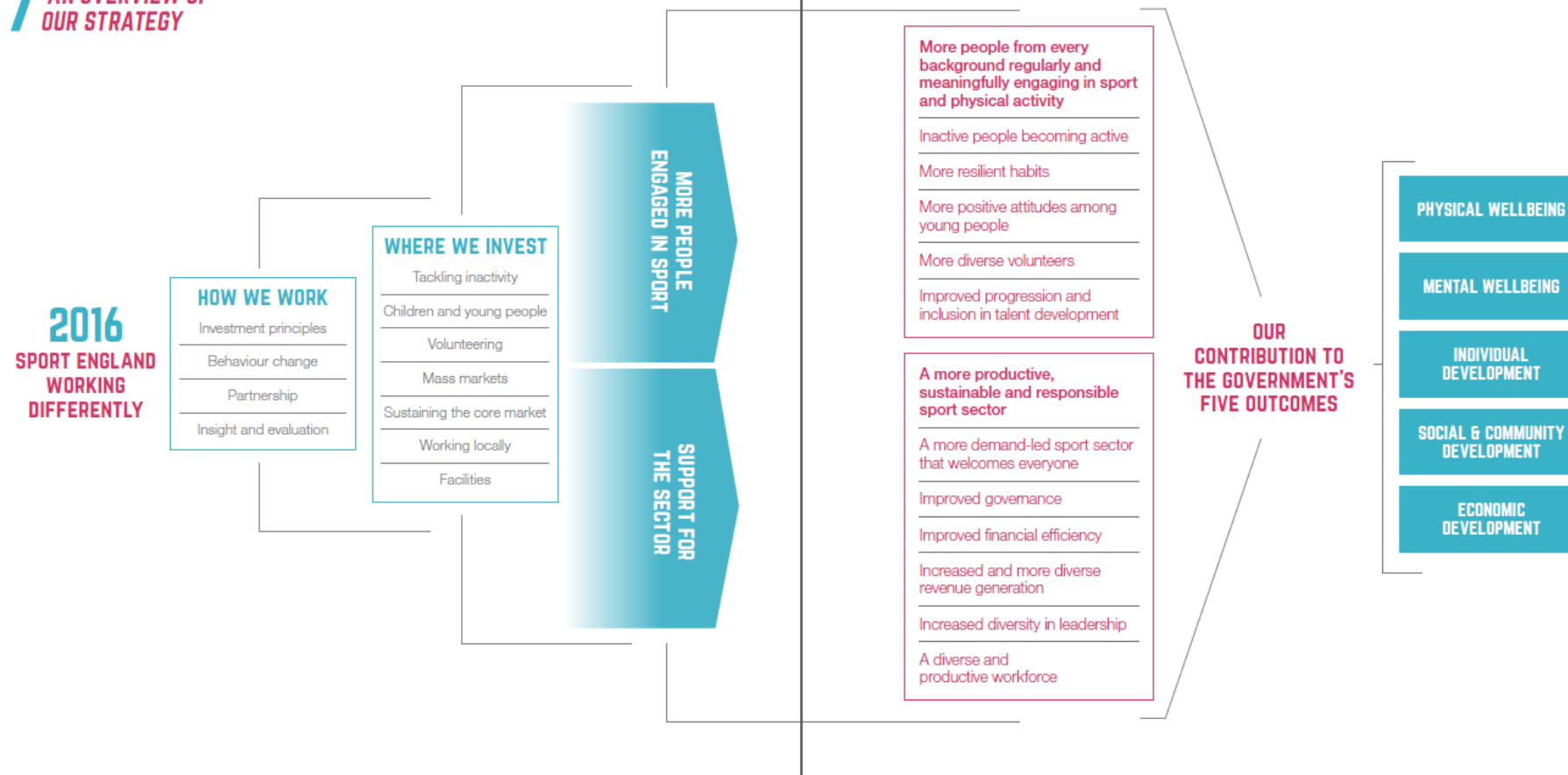
Sport England's Strategy 'Towards an Active Nation' picks up on the change in policy direction of 'Sporting Nation'. Its focus over the next 5 years will be to increase activity and participation in sports and physical activity. The way it works and what it funds will change significantly. An overview of the Strategy is set out below.

The focus of a Playing Pitch Strategy is mainly on facilities. Sport England states that where people play sports matters. Building the right thing in the right place makes taking part in sport and physical activity a realistic option for many and a leads to a better experience for those who are already engaged. The Customer will be at the heart of new facilities planning and funding – understanding what the community needs and wants and making sure facilities work together, not just an individual building or an individual sport. Multi-sport facilities will be favoured for major investment and investment in smaller facilities will change – Inspired Facilities funding will be replaced with a new community asset fund to include helping communities take ownership of local assets. Every investment programme will be underpinned by 3 clear elements and the remit for projects will not just be sport but also physical activity.

- ✓ Clear Objectives
- ✓ Excellent insight
- ✓ Thorough evaluation

# SPORT ENGLAND STRATEGY 2016-2021

**AN OVERVIEW OF  
OUR STRATEGY**



The clear messages from the government and Sport England are that people need to be more active – this is the focus of their strategies and where funding will be directed.

We have tried to reflect this change in direction in our recommendations and actions in this Playing Pitch Strategy. We have looked at our existing stock of facilities and consulted with those who supply and use them

#### 1.4 Vision

This study has been developed on the basis of the above strategic drivers in order to ensure that it reflects the Council's wider ambitions. A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Rochdale Playing Pitch Strategy:

*“To ensure that sufficient pitches are provided of a good quality and which support the needs of each sport and club in Rochdale. This provision should be sufficient and flexible to deal with current and projected increases in demand”*

#### 1.5 Sports Participation Levels in Rochdale

The Active People Survey provides the largest sample size ever established for a sport and recreation survey. Using the survey, it is possible to analyse participation levels in a specified area and trends in participation over time.

##### Adult (16+) Participation in Sport & Active Recreation (at least once a week) by year and gender

	Rochdale		North West		England	
	2005/2006	2015/2016	2005/2006	2015/2016	2005/2006	2015/2016
Male	37.0%	39.0%	39.5%	40.5%	39.4%	40.7%
Female	33.1%	27.8%	29.0%	30.6%	30.1%	31.7%

The Active People Survey shows that 39.0% of men and 27.8% of women in the Borough of Rochdale partake in sport or active recreation at least once a week. For men, this is slightly below the North West (40.5%) and England (40.7%) averages, but participation has risen more quickly from a lower base in 2005/2006 when compared to the averages for the North West and England.

In 2005/2006 participation in sport or active recreation for women in the Borough of Rochdale (33.1%) was significantly higher than North West (29.0%) and England (30.1%) averages, but by 2015/2016 participation by women had fallen to 27.8%, whilst the averages in the North West and England had risen to 30.6% and 31.7% respectively.

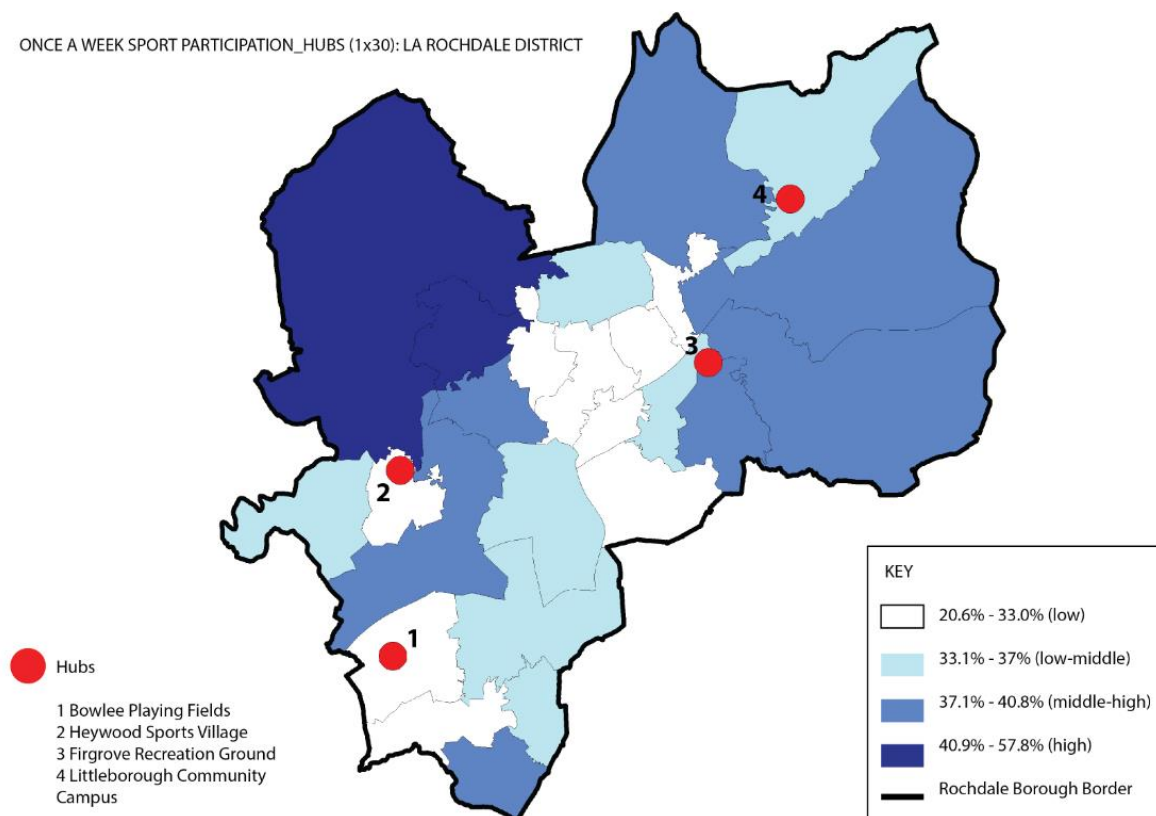
##### Adult (16+) Participation in Sport & Active Recreation by year and gender (3x30)

3x30	Rochdale		North West		England	
	2005/2006	2015/2016	2005/2006	2015/2016	2005/2006	2015/2016
All	19.8%	22.7%	20.8%	23.4%	21.3%	23.7%
Male	22.2%	29.3%	24.6%	27.4%	24.0%	26.8%
Female	17.3%	16.5%	17.2%	19.6%	18.7%	20.8%

The Active People Survey shows that 22.7% of people in the Borough of Rochdale participate in at least 3 x 30 minute of sport or active recreation each week. This is marginally below the North West (23.4%) and England (23.7%) averages, but participation has risen more quickly from a lower base in 2005/2006 when compared to the averages for the North West and England.

Participation in at least 3 x 30 minutes of sport or active recreation each week by men in the Borough of Rochdale has increased significantly between 2005/2006 and 2015/2016, from below North West and England averages to significantly above them. In the same period, participation in at least 3 x 30 minutes of sport or active recreation each week by men in the Borough of Rochdale has fallen from 17.3% to 16.5%, set against increases in the North West from 17.2% to 19.6% and in England from 18.7% to 20.8%.

ONCE A WEEK SPORT PARTICIPATION\_HUBS (1x30): LA ROCCHDALE DISTRICT



### Sports Participation Trends

Looking at the sports selected for analysis within this playing Pitch Strategy (Cricket, Football, Hockey, Rounders, Rugby League and Rugby Union), national figures for participation show a decline in all sports between 2005/2006 and 2015/2016, with the exception of Rugby Union, which has shown no change over this period.

### Active People Survey: Sports Participation Trends (England)

	2005/2006 APS1	2010/2011 APS5	2015/2016 APS10	Statistically Significant Change from APS1
Cricket	0.48%	0.51%	0.42%	Decrease
Football	4.97%	4.98%	4.28%	Decrease
Hockey	0.23%	0.19%	0.20%	Decrease
Rounders	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	Decrease
Rugby League	0.18%	0.12%	0.12%	Decrease
Rugby Union	0.46%	0.42%	0.46%	No change

### Market Segmentation

Sport England have developed a Market Segmentation tool to help sports organisation and local authorities understand more about individual sporting habits and preferences, so that sports facilities and activities can be planned and targeted more effectively. The tool combines data from the Active People Survey, Taking Part Survey and a broad range of demographic data sourced and developed by Experian.

These segments not only allow us to better understand the characteristics of the potential sporting market we should be planning for, but also to explore the variations within different areas of the Borough of Rochdale. Each of these 19 segments has been assigned a name that reflects the most popular first names in the group.

### Segment Overview

The Market Segmentation tool has been used to identify the breakdown of segments in the Borough of Rochdale. As demonstrated by the table below, the most popular segments in the Borough are 'Elsie & Arnold', 'Kev' and 'Brenda' who collectively account for 29.1% of the population, in each case these segments are more highly represented in the Borough of Rochdale than in the North West and England as a whole:

**'Elsie & Arnold'** are 'retirement home singles' – these retired singles or widowers are predominantly female and tend to live in sheltered accommodation. They are the least active group in the population, but may enjoy a gentle game of bowls.

**'Kev'** is a 'pub league team mate' – these men are likely to be between 36 and 45 with a vocational job. They have average levels of sports participation and have much higher than average participation in football than the average; other activities favoured by this group are gym / keep fit, cycling and swimming.

**'Brenda'** is an 'older working woman' – these women are likely to be mainly aged 46-65, married and working part time. They are generally less active than the average adult population; activities favoured by this group are gym / keep fit, swimming and cycling. Other significant segments within the Borough of Rochdale include 'Philip' (7.9%), 'Jamie' (6.1%), 'Terry' (6.1%), 'Tim' (5.4%), 'Elaine' (5.3%) and 'Paula' (5.3%):

**'Philip'** is a 'comfortable mid-life male' – this mid-life professional is sporty, has older children and more time to himself than he used to. They are likely to participate in cycling, gym / keep fit, swimming, football, golf and athletics.

**'Jamie'** is a 'sports team lad' – they are likely to be mainly 18-25, single and a vocational student. They are very active and take part in sport on a regular basis, particularly football, but also gym / keep fit, athletics, cycling and swimming.

**'Terry'** is an 'old boy' – they are likely to be mainly 56-65 and unemployed or on a low income. Terry is generally less active than the adult population. Gym / keep fit, swimming and cycling are the most popular sports in this segment, but all at well below the average for the population as a whole.

**'Tim'** is a 'settling down male' – they are likely to be mainly 26-45 professionals. Tim is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Cycling and gym / keep fit are the most popular sports for this segment.

**'Elaine'** is an 'empty nest career lady' – this mid-life professional has more time for themselves since their children left home. Elaine's sporting activity levels are consistent with national average. Top sports are gym / keep fit, swimming and cycling.

**'Paula'** is a 'stretched single mum' – they are likely to be mainly 26-45, single and unemployed or on a low income. Paula is not a very active type and her participation levels are slightly below those of the general adult population. Top sports that Paula participates in are gym / keep fit, swimming and cycling.

## Overview of Sporting Segments

### Market Segmentation

Name	Description	Rochdale	North West	England	Participation	
		Rate	Rate	Rate	1x30	3x30
D19	Retirement Home Singles (Elsie & Arnold)	9.5%	9.2%	8.0%	17%	5%
B09	Pub League Team Mates (Kev)	9.3%	6.8%	5.9%	42%	17%
C14	Older Working Women (Brenda)	8.3%	6.3%	4.9%	29%	8%
C11	Comfortable Mid-Life Males (Philip)	7.9%	8.7%	8.6%	51%	19%
A02	Sports Team Drinkers (Jamie)	6.1%	5.6%	5.4%	59%	31%
C15	Local 'Old Boys' (Terry)	6.1%	4.6%	3.7%	26%	9%
B06	Settling Down Males (Tim)	5.4%	7.2%	8.8%	62%	27%
B08	Middle England Mums (Jackie)	5.4%	5.3%	4.9%	47%	16%
B10	Stretched Single Mums (Paula)	5.3%	3.8%	3.7%	36%	13%
C12	Empty Nest Career Ladies (Elaine)	5.3%	6.1%	6.1%	43%	12%
A04	Supportive Singles (Leanne)	5.2%	4.5%	4.3%	42%	17%
C13	Early Retirement Couples (Roger & Joy)	5.2%	6.5%	6.8%	38%	10%
D18	Twilight Year Gents (Frank)	4.2%	4.6%	4.0%	21%	9%
A01	Competitive Male Urbanites (Ben)	3.4%	4.0%	4.9%	69%	39%
B05	Career Focused Females (Helena)	3.2%	4.3%	4.5%	53%	19%
C16	Later Life Ladies (Norma)	3.1%	2.5%	2.1%	23%	6%
B07	Stay at Home Mums (Alison)	2.7%	3.2%	4.4%	55%	20%
A05	Fitness Class Friends (Chloe)	2.5%	3.5%	4.7%	56%	23%
D17	Comfortable Retired Couples (Ralph & Phillis)	2.0%	3.2%	4.2%	26%	9%

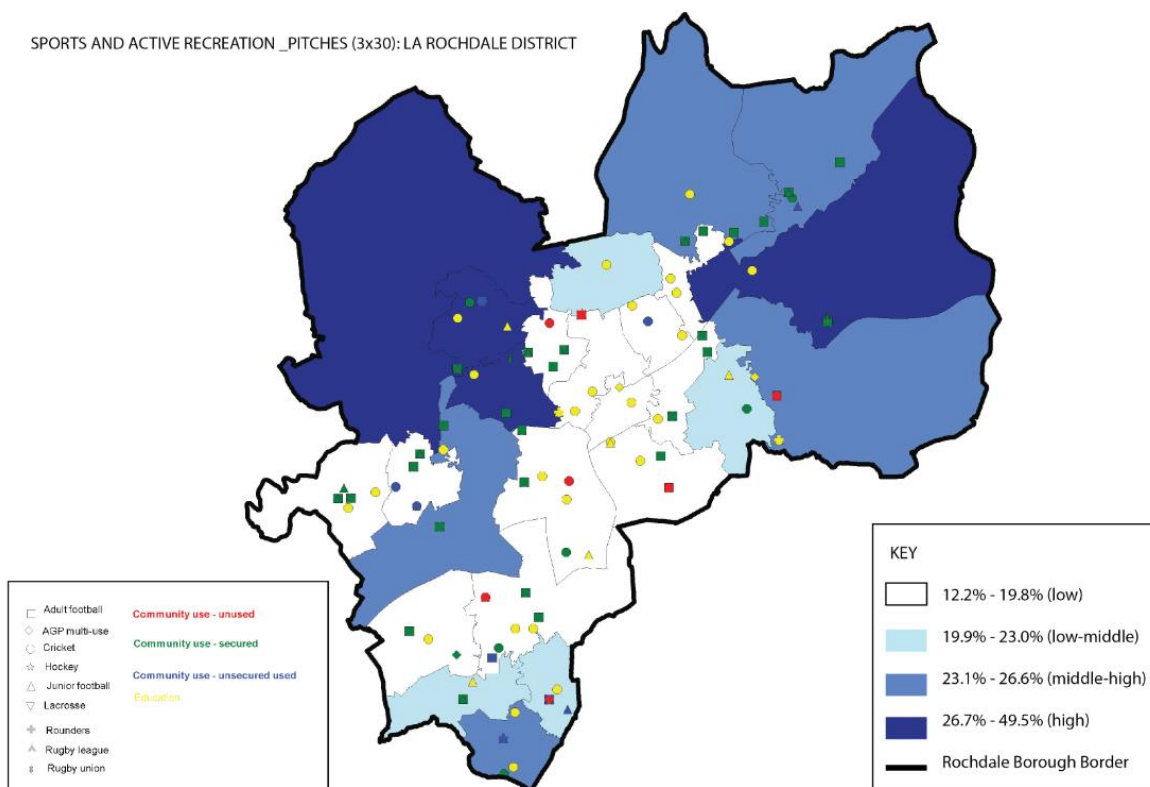
### Current Participation in Pitch Sports

The Active People and Market Segmentation data also covers participation in pitch sports, which are the focus for this Playing Pitch Strategy. The data suggests that 5,933 adults are currently playing pitch sports in the Borough, which roughly equates to 3.5% of the adult population of the Borough. This compares to 3.7% of the adult population across the North West and 3.9% of the adult population across England.

The largest adult players of pitch sports in the Borough are Jamie's (14.2%), Ben's (13.1%), Tim's (10.1%), Philip's (10%) and Kev's (7.9%), these five segments make up 32.1% of the Borough's adult population, but account for 55.3% of the players of pitch sports in the Borough. The lower percentage of pitch sport activity in the Borough of Rochdale compared to averages for the North West and for England can be accounted for by the lower that average number of Ben's and Tim's in the Borough and higher than average numbers of Elsie and Arnold's, Brenda's and Terry's.

## ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016-2026

SPORTS AND ACTIVE RECREATION \_PITCHES (3x30): LA ROCHDALE DISTRICT



### Current Participation by Market Segment

#### Population within Borough of Rochdale participating in outdoor pitch sport

Segment	Rochdale		North West		England	
	Participation	%	Participation	%	Participation	%
Jamie	841	14.2%	25,956	12.2%	186,116	10.9%
Ben	775	13.1%	31,194	14.7%	286,137	16.9%
Tim	602	10.1%	27,270	12.8%	249,123	14.6%
Philip	592	10.0%	21,974	12.8%	163,594	9.6%
Kev	471	7.9%	11,658	5.5%	75,894	4.4%
Leanne	387	6.5%	11,381	5.4%	79,854	4.7%
Jackie	298	5.0%	9,758	4.6%	67,264	3.9%
Chloe	284	4.8%	13,237	6.2%	134,564	7.9%
Paula	267	4.5%	6,597	3.1%	47,996	2.8%
Helena	258	4.3%	11,381	5.6%	93,740	5.5%
Elaine	226	3.8%	8,763	4.1%	65,329	3.8%
Alison	212	3.6%	8,472	4.0%	85,425	5.0%
Brenda	169	2.8%	4,301	2.0%	25,216	1.5%
Roger & Joy	153	2.6%	6,484	3.0%	50,366	2.9%
Terry	137	2.3%	3,512	1.7%	20,979	1.2%
Elsie & Arnold	82	1.4%	2,676	1.3%	17,249	1.0%
Ralph & Phyllis	74	1.2%	4,042	1.9%	39,327	2.3%
Frank	66	1.1%	2,426	1.1%	15,727	0.9%
Norma	39	0.7%	1,080	0.5%	6,837	0.4%

### Would like to play / play more (latent demand)

The Active People survey and the analysis tools can also identify how many people would like to participate in pitch sports more often and were they live. As demonstrated in the table below, it is estimated that 10,286 adults would like to play pitch sports within the Borough, which is an increase of 4,353 on the number currently playing.

### Latent Demand by Market Segment

#### Population within Borough of Rochdale wanting to participate in outdoor pitch sport

Segment	Rochdale		North West		England	
	Demand	%	Demand	%	Demand	%
Jamie	1,640	15.9%	50,653	14.5%	363,211	13.4%
Ben	1,091	10.6%	43,945	12.6%	403,112	14.8%
Tim	848	8.2%	38,434	11.0%	351,112	12.9
Philip	861	8.4%	31,963	9.1%	237,961	8.8%
Kev	1,368	13.3%	33,838	9.7%	220,287	8.1%
Leanne	756	7.3%	22,227	6.4%	155,956	5.7%
Jackie	392	3.8%	12,873	3.7%	88,733	3.3%
Chloe	343	3.3%	15,993	4.6%	162,588	6.0%
Paula	471	4.6%	11,630	3.3%	84,620	3.1%
Helena	293	2.8%	13,559	4.6%	106,598	3.9%
Elaine	246	2.4%	9,554	2.7%	71,226	2.6%
Alison	244	2.4%	9,779	2.8%	98,597	3.6%
Brenda	308	3.0%	7,846	2.2%	46,002	1.7%
Roger & Joy	212	2.1%	8,962	2.6%	69,622	2.6%
Terry	568	5.5%	14,610	4.2%	87,293	3.2%
Elsie & Arnold	246	2.4%	8,073	2.3%	52,047	1.9%
Ralph & Phyllis	90	0.9%	4,925	1.4%	47,922	1.8%
Frank	231	2.2%	8,593	2.5%	55,719	2.1%
Norma	78	0.8%	2,164	0.6%	13,702	0.5%

### Most Popular Sports in the Borough: Current Participation and Latent Demand

The current participation and latent demand is also broken down into specific sports. The tables below demonstrate that the 5 most popular sports in the Borough are Swimming, Cycling, Football, Athletics and Golf; of which only football is played on a grass pitch.

Approximately 15,350 people are playing the sports included in the Playing Pitch Strategy; Football, Cricket, Rugby Union, Hockey, Rugby League and Rounders.

The top 5 sports that people would like to play / play more are swimming, cycling, athletics, tennis and badminton. None of the sports fall within the scope of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Just over 4,100 people are shown to want to play / play more of the sports included in the Playing Pitch Strategy.

### Top Sports in the Borough

Top Sports – Currently Playing		
1	Swimming	21,042
2	Cycling	13,618
3	Football	10,258
4	Athletics	9,120
5	Golf	4,942
6	Badminton	3,309
7	Tennis	3,000

Top Sports – Like To Play / Play More		
1	Swimming	22,344
2	Cycling	8,455
3	Athletics	4,338
4	Tennis	3,608
5	Badminton	3,089
6	Golf	2,236
7	Football	2,121

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8	Angling	2,590
9	Rugby Union	2,004
10	Squash / Racket ball	1,686
11	Bowls	1,537
12	Equestrian	1,494
13	Cricket	1,334
14	Archery	1,150
15	Basketball	1,007
16	Table Tennis	701
17	Volleyball	700
18	Rugby League	691
19	Mountaineering	689
20	Netball	629
21	Rounders	626
22	Sailing	589
23	Snow Sports	559
24	Weightlifting	550
25	Canoe / Kayak	544
26	Boxing	515
27	Shooting	482
28	Hockey	435
29	Dance Exercise	390
30	Rowing	329
31	Gymnastics / Trampoline	297
32	Baseball / Softball	286

8	Squash / Racket ball	1,166
9	Cricket	864
10	Equestrian	717
11	Basketball	695
12	Netball	615
13	Mountaineering	586
14	Rugby Union	532
15	Angling	470
16	Snow Sports	421
17	Canoe / Kayak	421
18	Table Tennis	384
19	Bowls	361
20	Boxing	314
21	Dance Exercise	314
22	Hockey	294
23	Archery	274
24	Rugby League	245
25	Gymnastics / Trampoline	244
26	Rowing	191
27	Volleyball	190
28	Sailing	143
29	Shooting	121
30	Baseball / Softball	120
31	Weightlifting	112
32	Rounders	62

From current stated participation rates and number of teams it would seem that a lot more people are engaged in sporting activity than are playing formal sports. For Example the survey notes that 10,258 adults participate in football in the borough but there are only 63 adult teams. This suggests that more people are taking part on a casual basis. It is essential therefore, that spaces are available in the borough to facilitate this.

The people who are not active but would like to be can be considered as latent demand. Using the ratios indicated by current participation and number of teams; if everybody who wants to take part does so there is capacity to accommodate this within existing supply – the increased participation in football would create a 7 match equivalent demand.

## 2 PART 2: Aims

It is recommended that the following Strategy Aims are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Strategy:

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

### AIM 2

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

### AIM 3

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

The three main themes of the strategy also reflect Sport England's planning aim and objectives for sport; namely:

Figure 1: Sport England Planning for Sport objectives



### 3 PART 3: Sport Specific Issues Scenarios and Recommendations

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for the playing pitch sports resulting in the sport specific recommendations.

#### 3.2 Football pitches – Grass

##### 3.2.1 Key Issues

- There is a good supply of grass football pitches in the borough
- Football has the highest number of pitches and the greatest participation of any pitch based sport in the borough
- 116 pitches on 39 sites.
- Most pitches are rated as standard or good. Only one pitch was rated as poor
- 97% of pitches secured for community use
- 34 lapsed and disused sites
- 6 sites potentially over played
- Sufficient pitches boroughwide to meet current and future demand

##### 3.2.2 Scenarios – Grass

At the sites where there is over play the pitches are rated as standard. Improving quality to good would increase capacity.

At the sites where there is over play this is mainly related to the format of the game being played on the correct size of pitch, i.e. junior football on a junior football pitch. The preference is always to play on the right size of pitch but capacity could be managed by over marking pitches so that some of the junior play takes place on adult pitches.

##### 3.2.3 Recommendations Grass

- Ensure existing maintenance of good quality pitches continues. Where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, review/improve maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Maintenance needs to be at a level that is sustainable both by the council and by the clubs.
- Transfer play on sites which are played to capacity or overplayed to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- Work to accommodate displaced, latent and overplay on sites which are not operating at capacity or work with providers of sites to open up sites which are currently unavailable for community use.
- Consider reconfiguring pitches in order to meet current and future demand.
- Work with schools to maximise access to secondary schools and academies to address latent, displaced or future demand and to develop school-club links.
- Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.

### 3.3 AGPs

#### 3.3.1 Key Issues

- There is a number of AGPs in the borough; all apart from Heywood Sports Village are education sites.
- AGPs are not evenly distributed across the borough and sub areas
- There are no full sized AGPs in the Pennines sub area. There are 4 smaller AGPs in the area but only 3 are available for community use and this use is limited.
- 5 pitches are Lancashire FA accredited
- No rugby accredited AGPs in the borough
- Only 1 AGP suitable for hockey use
- Community use is limited at some sites
- 1 site is potentially over played

#### 3.3.2 Scenarios AGPs

The FA has asked the council to consider a scenario whereby play is transferred from local authority managed grass pitches to AGPs

During the last decade 3G FTPs have played an increasing role within the national game. They are regarded by the Football Association (FA) as the optimum facility for training by clubs. In recent seasons they have also become more popular for competitive matches. With this in mind, before developing the recommendations and action plan for this PPS, two scenarios have been looked at to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size<sup>1</sup> floodlit 3G FTPs in Rochdale Borough if increased amounts of play were to take place on them.

In order to do so, information from the 'Assessment' stage of developing this PPS, alongside details from the FA, have been used to help answer the following questions:

*How many full size floodlit 3G FTPs may be required to meet demand within Rochdale Borough if:*

*All teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week?*

*All matches for teams currently playing competitive football on Rochdale managed natural grass pitches were played on full size floodlit 3G FTPs?*

The answers to these questions are set out below and are based on full sized floodlit 3G FTPs which have full community use during peak periods<sup>2</sup>. However, the results should be viewed as providing an indication of the 'full size pitch equivalents' that may be demanded. In practice, the most appropriate ways of meeting any such increase in demand will vary depending on the nature of the local area. For example, in some areas new full size floodlit FTPs may be appropriate, whereas in others small sided provision to cater for increased training use, or securing greater community use/hours of existing provision may be the best way forward.

Given the above, what the answers may mean for the Rochdale borough area, taking into account the wider findings from the Assessment stage of developing the PPS, is also presented below. These details have been used to help inform the development of the PPS's recommendations and the action plan.

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<sup>1</sup> A full size 3G FTP measuring 106m x 70m including run off/safety margins.

<sup>2</sup> Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

## Scenario Results

*If all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week.*

As a guide the FA suggests that 1 full size floodlit 3G FTP could potentially accommodate this training demand from 42 teams (Ratio of 1:42<sup>3</sup>).

The information from the Assessment stage of this PPS indicates that there are 192 teams playing competitive football in Rochdale

Using the FA's 1:42 ratio suggests that 4.57, say 5, full size floodlit 3G FTPs would be required to meet this increased training use within Rochdale

This equates to 1.33 say 1 pitch in Heywood, Area A, 0.67, say 1, pitch in Area B Middleton, 0.88, say 1 in Pennines, Area C and 1.74, say 2, in Rochdale Area D

*If all matches for teams playing competitive football on Rochdale Borough managed natural grass pitches were played on full size floodlit 3G FTPs.*

The FA is keen to work with LAs to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G FTPs should all competitive matches, currently played on LA managed natural grass pitches, be transferred to one.

Table 1 takes information from the Assessment stage of this PPS to present the number of teams playing on LA managed natural grass pitches (not including school sites or sites leased to clubs) and the relevant peak periods.

**Table 1: Number of teams playing on LA managed natural grass pitches**

Pitch Type	Pitch Size	Peak Period	No. of Teams
Adult	(11v11)	Saturday pm / Sunday am	29
Youth	(7v7)		0
Youth	(9v9)	Saturday Morning	22
Youth	(11v11)	Saturday morning	15
Mini	(5v5)	Sunday morning	10
Mini	(7v7)	Sunday morning	19

The FA suggest an approach (see below) for estimating the number of full size floodlit 3G FTPs that teams may demand for competitive matches. Table 2 presents the results of this approach for the teams set out in Table 1.

<sup>3</sup> The FA developed the training ratio following their facilities strategy vision to provide all affiliated clubs with access to a 3G FTP for training. An original ratio of 1:56 was based on a full size pitch providing 56 slots per week (Mon-Thurs 6-9pm, Fri 6-8pm). The ratio was subsequently revised to 1:42. This was due to evidence of a number of local authority areas reaching the perceived required number of 3G FTP facilities based on the 1:56 ratio yet still evidencing latent demand. Further FA analysis of 3G FTP facility usage also showed that many affiliated teams seek more than one slot for training and that significant amounts of non FA affiliated and recreational demand also use 3G FTPs during the peak time, creating a need for further 3G FTP provision.

Table 2: Number of 3G FTPs that may be required

Pitch Type	Pitch Size	number of teams	no of matches	3G units per match	total units required	3G pitches required
Adult	(11v11)	27	13.5	4	54	0.8
Youth	(7v7)	0	0	4	0	0.0
Youth	(9v9)	13	6.5	8	52	0.8
Youth	(11v11)	12	6	10	60	0.9
Mini	(5v5)	7	3.5	32	112	1.8
Mini	(7v7)	14	7	32	224	3.5
						7.8

Heywood (Area A) = may equate to a demand for 4.5 full size floodlit 3G FTPs.

Middleton (Area B) = may equate to a demand for 0 full size floodlit 3G FTPs.

Pennines (Area C) = may equate to a demand for 1 full size floodlit 3G FTPs.

Rochdale (Area D) = may equate to a demand for 2.4 full size floodlit 3G FTPs.

Transferring all matches for teams currently playing competitive football on Rochdale Borough managed natural grass pitches may equate to a demand for 8 full-size floodlit 3G FTPs for all the different formats of the game.

The FA approach for estimating the number of full size floodlit 3G FTPs that teams may demand for competitive matches is based on:

A team playing a 'home' match every other week - therefore dividing the number of teams by two with the result rounded up to provide a figure for the number of matches a week during the peak period (Table 2 Column y).

A 3G FTP being available for 4 hours<sup>4</sup> a day during the peak period (e.g. 10am to 2pm). Therefore, all demand being programmed over the four hour period.

Using a unit measure which can be applied to the different formats of the game to quantify how a pitch can be used during this 4 hour period (Table 2 Column z). One unit is taken as equating to a quarter of a full size 3G FTP for 15 minutes. Therefore, a full size 3G FTP provides 4 units per 15 minutes and 16 units per hour. Across the four hour period this totals a capacity of 64 units (16 units per hour x 4 hours).

As set out in Table 3 below, each format of the game will require a certain amount of units of a full size 3G FTP per match based on the required pitch size and match duration.

<sup>4</sup> The rationale for 4 hours is based on a standard approach for match programming nationally and the ability to facilitate 2 adult games.

Table 3: FA set units of a full size 3G FTP per match for each format.

Format of the game	No. of pitches that fit on a full size 3G FTP	No. of matches per hour on a full size 3G FTP	No. of matches per 2 hour period on a full size 3G FTP	Number of units per match
<b>5v5</b>	4	4	8	<b>4</b>
<b>7v7</b>	2	2	4	<b>8</b>
<b>9v9</b>	2	2	2	<b>10</b>
<b>11v11 Youth</b>	1	0	1	<b>32</b>
<b>11v11 Adult</b>	1	0	1	<b>32</b>

### 3.3.3 Current Supply

- There are currently a total of 8 full size floodlit 3G FTPs available for community use and club training.
- 5 of the total 3G FTPs are listed on the FA's 3G FTP register<sup>5</sup> and deemed suitable for competitive matches.
- 6 of the total 3G FTPs are available for what could be expected to be the full community use hours across the week (or very close to the full hours).
- 2 of the total 3G FTPs have particularly restricted community use hours.
- There is a further 1 full size 3G FTPs currently unavailable for community use.
- There are a further 4 small sided 3G FTP sites that are available for community use providing 6 small sided pitches.

### 3.3.4 What this may mean for 3G FTP provision in Rochdale

This analysis suggests that the borough needs 5 full sized AGPs for training purposes and a further 8 if competitive play is moved from grass to AGPs.

There are currently 14 AGPs in the borough but only 8 are full sized, flood lit and available for community use. The current supply of AGPs is well used but mainly for training and casual use. Very few competitive games are currently played on AGPs.

If this approach were to be adopted then this could lead to savings for the council in the long term as fewer natural grass pitches would need to be maintained to league play standards. This scenario looks only at football use but there is a demand for AGPs for hockey and for Rugby for training use

There is a need under this scenario for a full sized pitch in the Pennines sub area. This need is supported elsewhere in the analysis and could potentially be made a dual use facility to cater for rugby training needs in the borough.

There is a need to retain an AGP suitable for hockey use. This is currently at Oulder Hill School.

### 3.3.5 Recommendations AGPs

- Seek to get full sized pitches FA accredited where possible
- Seek to extend community use at key school sites
- Work with schools on the development of facilities on school sites so that formal sports requirements are considered rather than just filling the pitch to the space available
- St Mary's School pitch will need replacing in the next 12 months. Review the specification to see if use for hockey or rugby could be accommodated
- There is no full sized pitch in the Pennines Area. There are 4 pitches but all are small and one (Milnrow Parish) is not available for community use. Look to develop

<sup>5</sup> The FA has established a 3G FTP register to help users identify facilities that are fit for purpose for competitive matches <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

a business case for a full sized pitch in this area and seek to make it suitable for rugby or hockey use

- The AGP at Oulder Hill School will need replacing within 5 years. Works with the school to secure continued use for hockey

### 3.4 Cricket pitches

#### 3.4.1 Key issues

- There are a number of cricket clubs and pitches in the borough most are owned by the clubs although there are some wickets on school sites.
- There are wickets on some council owned sites but these are no longer maintained
- Cricket is widely played on a casual basis throughout the borough – this demand has been difficult to capture
- Lancashire Cricket Club asked that Walsden Cricket Club was included in our analysis even though it is located outside of the borough because the club plays in the Lancashire Pennines League.
- All the pitches have been rated as good or standard.
- 3 pitches are currently over played and a further 3 clubs may struggle to accommodate their planned growth.
- Currently changing facilities at many clubs would not support the women's game.
- There is no Last Man Standing (LMS) played in the borough
- The ECB is developing a 'Park Cricket' form of the game

#### 3.4.2 Scenarios

Issues of overplay could be addressed through introducing artificial grass wickets and encouraging the use of such wickets for competitive play. An artificial wicket will sustain 60 match equivalents throughout the season; a grass wicket will sustain only 5

There is a great deal of casual play in the borough; artificial strips could be installed at the key hub sites in the borough to encourage this play and to support other formats of the game.

#### 3.4.3 Recommendations Cricket

**Protection** of pitches should be retained against all current club sites. Those schools with cricket facilities especially Hollingworth and Wardle Academies, St Cuthbert's and Sandbrook should also be protected.

The protection of all current pitches will help to ensure the decline in cricket pitches across the borough is halted.

**Enhanced** provision can be delivered through improved maintenance, better on site facilities, reduced unauthorised access and investment in club house and changing improvements. Detailed improvements are shown in the site specific recommendations. In addition, capacity issues can be accommodated on those sites with non-turf wickets with a change in acceptance of league matches being played on artificial wickets.

**Providing** new provision for cricket in the form of non-turf wickets is planned in each of the four townships to redress the decline in grass cricket pitches and meet the demand of casual play. Locations will be prioritised and selected where they can support a shortfall in capacity of adjacent or nearby clubs.

This work will closely align with the emerging strategic direction for cricket in parks with transferable lessons from the pilots already trailed in Bradford and Manchester. The capital investment of an artificial wicket will be funded from Section 106 Formal Sports provision with maintenance agreements sought with ECB and local clubs to formulate sustainable revenue and business plans.

### 3.5 Rugby Football Union

#### 3.5.1 Key Issues

- There are only 2 rugby union clubs in the borough; Rochdale and Littleborough
- There are 29 teams but only 1 women's team and 3 girls teams
- Both sites are over played
- Training takes place on dedicated pitches
- There is demand for increased training facilities

#### 3.5.2 Scenarios

- Significant improvements are required to the maintenance programme at Rochdale Moorgate RUFC. If maintenance was increased from poor to good across the five pitches this would increase capacity by 4.5 match sessions per week which would not only address overplay but also build additional future capacity. Alternatively increasing maintenance to standard and further reducing training on the match pitch through access to a dedicated floodlit training area would also address shortfalls.
- Similarly increasing pitch maintenance from poor to good quality at Littleborough RUFC would increase weekly capacity by 1 match sessions for each pitch and would also address overplay and also build a small amount of future capacity.
- Securing additional land for training purposes at Littleborough would reduce the play on the match pitches
- Improvements to the club house and changing facilities at Littleborough would help with player retention and support the growth of women's teams

#### 3.5.3 Recommendations

- Address overplay at Rochdale RUFC via improvements to maintenance schedule and increasing the number of floodlit pitches to ensure that game time and training time can be appropriately managed to avoid overuse of one pitch.
- The pitches at Littleborough RUFC would greatly benefit from a new drainage system.
- Consider the allocation of S106 monies to assist Littleborough RUFC with improvements to the club house
- Review council land ownership in the vicinity of Littleborough RUFC to see if additional land for training could be made available.
- To work with schools and/or academies to maximise access to pitches currently unavailable for community use that are located on educational sites.

### 3.6 Rugby league pitches

#### 3.6.1 Key issues

- ❖ There are 3 rugby league clubs in the borough; 2 in Rochdale and 1 in Pennines
- ❖ Capacity issues exist at Rochdale Mayfield and at Littleborough due to shared use of the sites with rugby league, football and cricket at Littleborough and with football only at Mayfield.
- ❖ Changing inadequacy highlighted at Firgrove
- ❖ Floodlighting for training highlighted by all clubs
- ❖ Demand can be met across all pitches if used

#### 3.6.2 Scenarios

- ❖ Littleborough RLFC shares a ground with Littleborough RUFC. The scenarios set out above apply here also
- ❖ Improved maintenance at Mayfield RLFC would help to improve capacity. The development of an additional pitch for training would also assist.

- ❖ Improvements to the pitches and changing rooms at Firgrove will assist Rochdale Cobras.

### 3.6.3 Recommendations

- ❖ Where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality, review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- ❖ Work to reduce training on match pitches through access to dedicated training areas.
- ❖ Improvements to be carried out at Firgrove to changing rooms and showers.
- ❖ Mayfield has secured funding for pitch improvements

## 3.7 Hockey pitches (AGPs)

### 3.7.1 Key issues

- There are 2 hockey clubs in the borough – one men's and 1 ladies. Both clubs play on the same site
- No capacity or demand issues

### 3.7.2 Recommendations

- To ensure that the AGP at Oulder Hill School remains available for use by the hockey clubs as a priority.
- The council/ planning authority should plan for always having at least one full sized sand based/filled, floodlit AGP suitable for and meeting the criteria for competitive hockey and training.

## 3.8 Lacrosse

- 1 club; all male
- 7 teams; 3 adult; 4 teams U19; U16; U14; U12
- 2 pitches used on 1 club owned site
- No capacity or demand issues

### 3.8.1 Recommendations

- Support the club in its development activities

## 3.9 Rounders

- Rounders is widely played in the borough and in schools but there is only 1 Ladies League comprising 28 teams all ladies aged 16+
- League plays at Firgrove over 6 pitches
- Changing not used only WC
- Site/ pitch satisfaction very high
- Some capacity issues:
- Play commences after football season ends
- Location can clash with Rugby League pitches
- Unlikely demand issues from league only
- 

### 3.9.1 Future Picture of Provision

The future picture of rounders will depend on the sustainability and survival of the league and committee; however, a number of Link4Life staff are involved in rounders either personally and through continued annual funding from Rounders England to grow interest in the game, develop coaching and skills.

### **3.10 Bowling greens**

Bowling greens have not been officially assessed as part of this playing pitch strategy however Crown green bowling is popular in Rochdale borough. It is a distinctive part of the sporting and cultural scene and is popular with many older people who do not take part on other active sports. The Sport England Active People survey suggests that the numbers participating in the sport is declining.

The council provides 24 bowling greens in 20 locations throughout the borough. 9 are located within formal parks, 7 are within smaller recreation areas and 8 are stand-alone facilities. All except Summit have at least one pavilion or building for use by the bowlers.

In addition to the council facilities there are at least 16 private greens / clubs throughout the borough

#### **3.10.1 Recommendations**

- Undertake a formal review of bowling green supply and demand
- Address spare capacity and maximise the availability of bowling greens for pay and play in order to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and the revenue generated by sites.
- Support clubs which plan to attract younger people through hosting events such as family days as well as establishing links with local primary schools.
- Where demand exists, ensuring that quality is sustained or improved.

## 4 PART 4: Strategic Recommendations

The strategic recommendations for the strategy have been developed from the key issues cutting across all outdoor sports and categorised under each of the strategy aims. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

#### Recommendations:

- a. Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.

### 4.2 Recommendation a – Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through local planning policy

Based on the outcomes of the playing pitch strategy enhance local planning policy and emphasise the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 73) and highlight Sport England's statutory consultee role on planning applications that affect playing field land.

NPPF paragraph 74 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

The protection of recreational open space within the borough, including playing pitches, was covered under policy G/3 'Protection of Existing Recreational Open Space' of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The UDP has now been replaced, in part, by the Core Strategy. This plan includes policies C8 'Improving community, sport, leisure and cultural facilities' and G6 'Enhancing green infrastructure' both of which support the protection and enhancement of open spaces, including playing pitches. However, as the Core Strategy does not include any site specific designations, policy G/3 of the UDP is saved until it is replaced by a Site Allocations or other Development Plan Document. Therefore the current policy position retains policy G/3 of the UDP which should be read in conjunction with policies C8 and G6 of the Core Strategy.

The supporting text to policy C8 acknowledges the importance of up to date assessments of open space in order to inform decision making. The Playing Pitch Strategy therefore forms

an important part of the evidence base going forward and will also help to inform the subsequent Site Allocations or other Development Plan Document. This will form the basis for the ongoing protection and enhancement of those pitches which are considered necessary to meet the needs of the borough.

**Lapsed and disused** – pitches that were formerly playing pitches but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use within the last five years (lapsed) or longer (disused).

It is important to understand that where a pitch is identified as being lapsed, underused or of poor quality this does not necessarily mean that the facility is surplus to requirements. Equally where proposed development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches. The Playing Pitch Strategy may, if appropriate, be used to inform a Development Management decision. However, all applications are assessed by the council on a case by case basis.

Sport England's playing field policy only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all sports, the site concerned has no special significance to sport and the development involves measures to address any deficiencies in terms of quality or accessibility identified by the PPS. Playing Pitch Strategy guidance similarly states that loss of such sites without appropriate replacement should not be considered except in very limited circumstances where the assessment has clearly shown:

That there is an excess of accessible provision with secured community use in the study area, and;

The particular provision at a site to be surplus to requirements identify any is not of special interest to sport.

It may be appropriate to dispose of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Strategic Sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e).

Any planning applications as such would have to show that new playing field land was being created on a Strategic Site that represented at least equivalent replacement for the playing field(s) being lost.

In terms of mitigation it is important, where possible and appropriate for a particular sport, that this takes place in an area that is accessible to the playing field that is lost to avoid a scenario where a redundant playing field is lost in an area which has deficiencies and is replaced on the other side of the authority.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be dedicated to community use to help address any unmet community needs. Closed school playing fields should be considered in the first instance for becoming community playing fields for meeting the needs identified in the Strategy before being considered for other uses.

The following should be considered when assessing the suitability of conversion of former school playing fields for community use:

Location and willingness of LA/club or other party to take on ownership/lease /maintenance

- Size
- Quality
- Physical accessibility
- History of community access
- Availability of ancillary facilities

#### **4.3 Recommendation b – Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements**

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or the County Sports Partnership (CSP) to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>6</sup>. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. It is recommended that security of tenure should be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities.

There are a number of sites in Rochdale where security of tenure for the club/user needs to be secured (on private or industrial playing fields for example). This also often refers to education sites where formal community use agreements are not in place. NGBs can often help to negotiate and engage with schools, particularly academies where the local authority may not have direct influence. For further information on this, please refer to Objective g.

In addition there are a number of examples in Rochdale where long term leases could be put into place for the continued use of a site. Each club should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which takes into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities.

To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

#### *Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations*

Club	Site
Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award. Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable	Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a boroughwide

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

Club	Site
<p>local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>significance) but which offer development potential. For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p> <p>An NGB/Council representative should sit on a management committee for each site leased to a club.</p>

The Council can further recognise the value of Clubmark/Charter Standard by adopting a policy of prioritising the clubs that are to have access to these better quality facilities. This may be achieved by inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial.

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

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

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields.

### ***Community Asset Transfer***

The Council should work towards adopting a policy which supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take ownership of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process:

[http://www.sportengland.org/support\\_advice/asset\\_transfer.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx)

## **4.4 Recommendation c – Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so**

### **4.4.1 Education sites**

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Rochdale pricing policies at facilities can be barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools, especially academies, to open up 3G provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address underlying problems. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools and colleges to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to grass pitches for community use is limited.

The Assessment Report identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- Many sites are underutilised, especially for competitive play for football.
- Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- There is no strategic guidance as to which clubs are allocated the use of playing pitch facilities (i.e. in accordance with a strategic need).
- There are a number of school sites where a community use agreement is in place but it is not clear whether the agreement is being upheld.
- There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing community use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England's Schools toolkit and Sports organisations toolkit.  
([www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning))

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. This need to be examined against these issues:

The analysis provides a clear indication of the future pitch requirements and provides a basis for partners to negotiate.

Community use should not impact on the needs of schools to deliver curricular and extracurricular activities

Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/>

It is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector but supported by a range of other sectors including sport and leisure is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased/better use of school facilities. Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- To better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- Ensure community use agreements are upheld
- Identify and pilot one school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the area.

- Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- Ensure that pitch provision at schools is sufficient in quality and quantity to be able to deliver its curriculum. Once this has been achieved provision could contribute to overcoming deficiencies in the area.

Although there are a growing number of academies and college sites in Rochdale, which the Council has no control over the running of, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, the relevant NGB has a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver the strategy and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

Another mechanism to be utilised in relation to securing community access of schools is Sport England's Access to Schools programme.

## AIM 2

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

### Recommendation:

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

### 4.5 Recommendation d – Improve pitch quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality, including for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. These are explored in more detail below.

#### 4.5.1 Addressing quality issues

Generally where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, review/improve maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring existing maintenance of good quality pitches continues is also important.

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

For the purposes of the Quality Assessments, this Strategy will refer to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as Good, Standard or Poor quality. In Rochdale, for example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.

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

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

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, poor levels of maintenance coupled with inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior. For rugby union, drainage is natural and inadequate. Please refer to the Sport England/NGB quality assessments. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this.

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces:

[www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/)

#### 4.5.2 Addressing overlay

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitches stock; it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Each NGB recommends a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take:

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union*	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		

Please note that the RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme afforded to a site.

There are also a number of sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These sites should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than other sites but demand could increase if the quality was to increase. Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being over played, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular.

There is also a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites. Therefore, work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.

#### **4.5.3 Increasing pitch maintenance**

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be 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 provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

For example, the FA, ECB and RFL in partnership have recently introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and have been working in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a Grass Pitch Maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots football clubs with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the club's playing surface.

In relation to cricket, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, 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 the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards that are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. Please note that PQS assessments are also available for other sports.

#### **4.6 Recommendation e – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) for the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

Rochdale borough is organised into 4 township areas. These have been adopted as sub areas for the purposes of this study. The council proposes that there should be a formal sports / grass pitch hub in each township. These sites will be the most popular and will need to be of the highest standards to accommodate a sufficient number of matches. This mainly applies to football pitch hire as this is the most widely played sport in the borough and because football clubs are most reliant on hiring pitches from other providers; cricket and rugby clubs tend to own their own facilities.

The council vision is that these sites should offer a range a sports and not just football and the intention is to try to develop a full grass / pitch sports offer at each site. This accords with the 'Parklife' model promoted by the FA aimed at boosting grass roots participation.

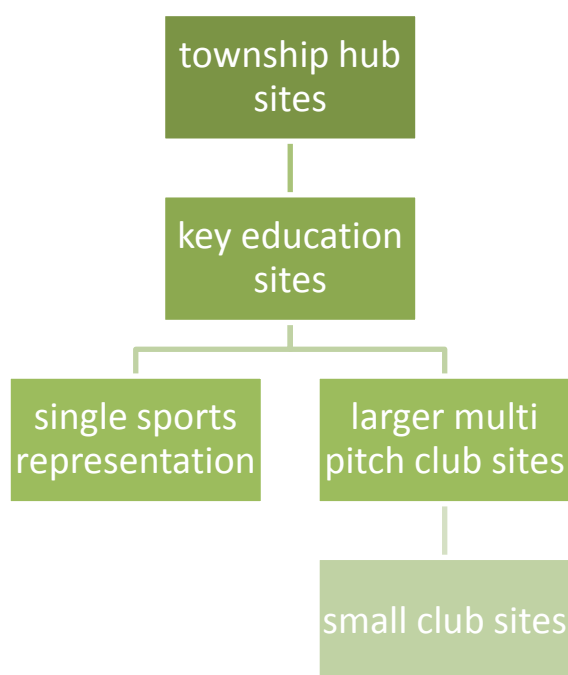
These hub sites will be the focus for improvement and investment

The education establishments in the borough have a good range of sports facilities. Almost all of the high schools have AGPs although not all are full sized. Some of these facilities are key to ensuring the full range of facilities is on offer within each township area.

Also a priority will be the single sports sites where these are the only incidence of this sport in the borough. This is so that the presence of these sports can be retained. Where there is

pressure on these sites in terms of capacity the council will seek to work with the clubs and governing bodies to provide off site facilities for training.

There are a number of larger club sites in the borough that accommodate more than one pitch and cater for both adult and junior play. These are important as the presence of both adult and junior teams within the club helps with the retention of players post 16. There are also a number of multi team junior clubs within the borough. Youth football is a growth area and these clubs place great demand on the pitch stock.



#### **4.7 Recommendation f – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

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 playing pitch facilities.

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

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

Please refer to Appendix Two for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

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. However, one of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is

therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health through, for example, the CCG.

### AIM 3

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

### Recommendations:

- g. Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock.
- h. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

#### **4.8 Recommendation g - Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations.

It is important that the current levels of grass pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the future demand for provision identified in Rochdale can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- The re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.
- Securing long term community use at school sites.
- Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

While maximising the use of existing pitches offers scope to address the quantitative deficiencies for most sports, new or additional cricket squares on public or private fields, as well as improving existing wickets is required to meet the levels of demand identified for cricket both now and in the future.

There may be a requirement to protect some senior football pitches as this provides the flexibility to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). However, further work should be undertaken on this as an action for the Council/NGBs. Furthermore the re-designation of adult pitches that are not currently used may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

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

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

*Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Future development trend</b>	<b>Strategy impact</b>
Football	The needs of the game will change significantly from the 2016/17 season with the change in direction of government and Sport England policy	Funding likely to be directed towards hub sites
	Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained based on current trends and the move to small sided football. County FA focus to maintain growth of youth football through to adults.	Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required.
	An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment over the next two years (2014-2016) from Sport England to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions.	A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.
	Despite scenarios looking at increased play on AGPs the quality of natural grass pitches remains	Need to ensure a there is the right mix of facilities to meet demand.

	important	
Cricket	Demand is likely to continue in Rochdale for both grass and non-turf wickets for both junior and adult participation.	High peak time usage for good quality grass pitches at club sites will continue, however, a likely increase in demand for non-turf wickets if LMS is established in the Borough.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
	Following the success of Park Run the ECB is trialling 'Park Cricket' to introduce people to the game and encourage participation	Encourage causal play through the provision of artificial wickets for community use
Rugby union	The national facilities strategy focusses on strengthening clubs and the communities around them.	Local clubs need support to be sustainable and need investment in facilities to retain players and volunteers.
	Seek to encourage the women's and girls game	Local clubs will need support to improve facilities to meet this demand
Rugby league	The RFL will be publishing a new strategy in 2017	Sustain current levels of access to grass pitches and improve pitch quality/capacity to accommodate current and future growth.
AGPs	Demand for 3G pitches for competitive football will increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly mini and youth will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches.	Ensure that access to new AGP provision across the Borough is maximised and that community use agreements are in place.
	Provision of 3G pitches which are World Rugby compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on	Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf">http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf</a> look to develop dual use facilities where appropriate

	rugby pitches.	
	There is a need to retain a hockey standard facility within the borough	

#### **4.9 Recommendation h - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Council should use, and regularly update, the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be converted to dedicated community use to help address any unmet community needs.

## 5 PART 5: ACTION PLAN

### Introduction

The site-by-site action plan list seeks to address key issues identified in the accompanying Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make..

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to compile a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding.

### Management and development

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

- Financial viability.
- Security of tenure.
- Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- Football investment programme/3G pitches development with The FA.
- Impact on all sports that use a site regardless of the sport that is the subject of enhancements.

### Action plan

#### *Partners*

The column indicating Partners refers to the main organisation that the Council will liaise with in helping to deliver the actions. The next stage in the development of the action plan will be to agree a Lead Partner to help deliver the actions.

#### *Site hierarchy tier and priority level*

Township hub sites have a **high** priority level as they have borough wide importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Key education sites are also a high priority

Clubs sites that cater for sports with only a limited offer in the borough and larger multi pitch club sites are a **medium** priority and have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Low** priority sites are club sites with local specific importance and have been identified on a site by site basis as issues appertaining to individual sites but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment

### **Costs**

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

(L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above. These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at [www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf](http://www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf)

### **Timescales**

The action plan has been created to be delivered over a ten year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based.

Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

### **Aim**

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

## ROCHDALE (BOROUGH) SUMMARY

### *Football – grass pitches*

	Total Number of Pitches	Spare Capacity in match equivalents	Over play in match equivalents	Future demand in match equivalents	Latent demand
Adult	64	66	5	-3	7
Junior	37	24	7	7	
Mini	15	44	0	5	

- Overall in Rochdale there is an oversupply of pitches.
- There are sufficient pitches to meet current demand
- There are sufficient pitches to cater for predicted population growth over the timescale of this strategy
- There are sufficient pitches to if all the people who say they want to play football decide to get active
- There is capacity at all of the council's proposed key hub sites
- There is over play at some sites within the borough but this is largely down to the designation of pitches rather than the capacity of the site

### *3G pitches*

- The FA model suggests that overall in Rochdale there could be a shortfall of full sized floodlit 3G pitches to meet demand. The scenario suggests 13 are needed and there are currently 8.
- There is a need for a full sized pitch in the Pennines sub area
- There is a desire for a rugby standard AGP for training purposes
- There is a need to retain a hockey standard AGP in the borough.

### *Cricket*

	Total Number of Pitches	Spare Capacity in match equivalents	Over play in match equivalents	Future demand in match equivalents	Latent demand
	22	102	70	12	20

- There is sufficient capacity for cricket to meet current and future needs when the borough is viewed as a whole. There is overplay however at some sites and others are not played at or near capacity. The main incidence of over play is at Walsden CC which is outside the borough although the team plays in the Pennines League
- Over play can be addressed by moving to the use of artificial grass wickets

### ***Rugby Union***

	<b>Total Number of Pitches</b>	<b>Spare Capacity in match equivalents</b>	<b>Over play in match equivalents</b>	<b>Future demand in match equivalents</b>	<b>Latent demand</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>

- There is no spare capacity on existing senior rugby union pitches within Rochdale that are available for community use. Poor pitch quality is a contributing factor in pitches being overplayed. Increased maintenance and potential investment in drainage would increase capacity at Rochdale and Littleborough RUFC and, therefore, alleviate some overplay.
- There are 4 high schools with dedicated rugby pitches. Only one of these has secured community use
- There is capacity at each of the council's hub sites. Rugby pitches could be developed to meet demand

### ***Rugby league***

	<b>Total Number of Pitches</b>	<b>Spare Capacity in match equivalents</b>	<b>Over play in match equivalents</b>	<b>Future demand in match equivalents</b>	<b>Latent demand</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

- There is sufficient capacity in the borough as a whole to meet current demand for rugby league
- There is sufficient capacity to meet future demand
- There is sufficient capacity if all the people who want to play rugby league decide to get active
- The site at Mayfield is overplayed but the club has secured funding to develop an additional pitch
- The site at Littleborough Rakewood is potentially over played but this is due to shared use and poor maintenance rather than the specific demand for rugby league

### ***Hockey***

- consultation suggests that there is currently no unmet demand in Rochdale,

### ***Lacrosse***

Consultation suggests that there is currently no unmet demand in Rochdale

## ***Rounders***

Consultation suggests that there is currently no unmet demand in Rochdale

## ***Rochdale Growth Scenario***

Rochdale Council is currently working with the other Greater Manchester Authorities on a growth strategy and spatial framework for the combined Greater Manchester city region as part of the growth and reform plans for the area.

The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework will be a joint plan to manage the supply of land for housing and employment. The draft plan is to be issued for consultation later in 2016.

The potential is for Rochdale Borough to get considerably more new homes largely concentrated along the M62 corridor.

At present the actual numbers of new homes is not known and thus the impact on population growth and demand for pitches cannot be predicted. It is likely that there is sufficient capacity in the borough although some investment in new facilities may be needed in Area B Middleton and Area C Pennines where spare capacity is most limited. This could take the form of the reinstatement of lapsed or disused pitches or could require the provision of new artificial pitches depending on the levels of demand generated.

## ***Heywood Summary – Sub Area A***

### ***Township Hub Sites***

Heywood Sports Village is the central sports hub for Heywood. It offers a mix of natural grass and artificial pitches plus fitness facilities. It is primarily football focussed.

The facilities and operation here are closely aligned to the 'Parklife' model currently being promoted by Sport England, the FA, the Football Foundation and the premier League – a multi sports model centred around AGPs with fitness facilities on site to reduce dependence on public subsidy

The full sized AGP has recently been resurfaced and supports a range of competitive and casual use

It is proposed that a cricket strip should be added to support causal use, provide capacity for Heywood CC and possibly promote participation through different forms of the game

There is 1 junior pitch at the edge of the site in very poor condition. There is sufficient capacity on site and in the Heywood sub area and as such it is proposed that this pitch is released for development. There is also some land at the rear of site not in formal sports use. The area is not big enough for an additional pitch and is not used for training. It is proposed that this area is also released to allow the extension of an adjoin allotment site.

Key Education Sites – there are no key education sites identified in the area. Heywood Sports Village provides the full range of facilities and no supplementary sites are needed.

Heywood Cricket Ground is a priority site as it is the only cricket pitch in the Heywood sub area

Sutherland Road and Darnhill Playing Fields are the only multi pitch club site in the area. Both sites are used by Roach Dynamos Football Club. Junior Play is concentrated on the Sutherland Road pitches and adult play at Darnhill Playing Fields.

### **Football – grass pitches**

*Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand*

	<b>Total Number of Pitches</b>	<b>Spare Capacity in match equivalents</b>	<b>Over play in match equivalents</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Junior</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mini</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

- ◀ there is sufficient capacity to meet current demand
- ◀ there is sufficient capacity to meet future and latent demand

### **Football – 3G pitches**

There are only 2 AGPS in Heywood – at Heywood Sports Village and at Holy Family RC and CE College. Only Heywood Sports Village is available for community use

### **Cricket**

There is only one cricket club in the area. It is overplayed.

Potential to provide artificial strip at Heywood Sports Village to cater for causal demand

### **Rugby union**

- ◀ No clubs in the Area.

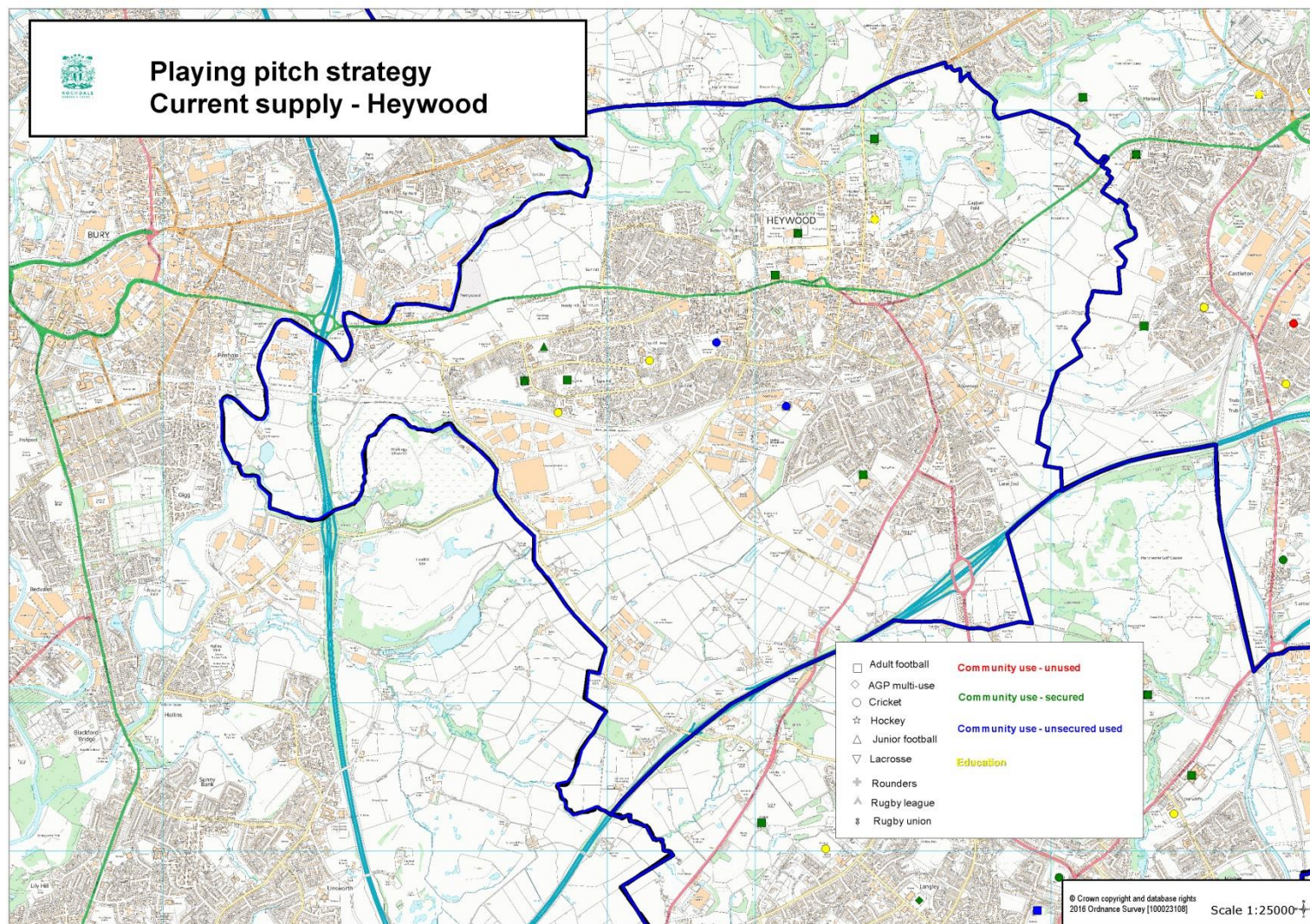
### **Rugby league**

- ◀ No clubs in the area

### **Hockey**

- ◀ No clubs in the area

# ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016-2026



ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016-2026

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
HEYWOOD CRICKET CLUB	1	Secured	Area A	Cricket	R	lack female changing facilities	Pitch is overplayed. Encourage club to develop an artificial strip for competitive use. Look at off site training	H	L	S	Y	club / council	Enhance
HEYWOOD SPORTS VILLAGE	1	Secured	Area A	AGP	G	Pitch refurbished Spring 2016	Continue to develop as key hub site for Heywood township area - see separate section on hub sites - lapsed junior pitch could be released for development	H	O	M	YES	Trust / Council	
	4	Secured	Area A	Junior Football not marked out	G	problem with builders rubble under the surface - capacity is not needed to meet demand in the area	release site for alternative uses / development	H	0	M	n/a	council	
	1	Secured	Area A	Adult Football	G	Pitches here and at Sutherland Road used by 1 club. Difficult to allocate demand across the sites	no action required continue to monitor	M	0	L	N/A	Council	
	1	Secured	Area A	mini soccer 5v5	G	A number of grass pitches catering for different formats of the game but mainly junior play. No facilities on site	Work with club regarding provision of basic toilet / clubhouse facilities site. Changing accommodation not necessary as junior play. Issues of car parking need to be addressed	M	M	M	No	club	
	4	N/A	Area A	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
BULLOUGH MOOR RECREATION GROUND, ARGYLE STREET, HEYWOOD	4	N/A	Area A	Adult Football not marked out		area well used for casual and training purposes	retain as informal recreational space	L	0		N/A	Council	
	4	N/A	area a	Adult Football not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	release site for alternative uses / development	L	0	S	n/a	council	
BROWNHILL LEARNING COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL Darnhill Site	3	N/A	Area A	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from schools	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
HOLY FAMILY RC AND CE COLLEGE	3	N/A	Area A	Junior Football 9v9	A		The school advise that this is not available for community use, however one FC survey identifies use: - seek to secure joint use by other schools and wider community	L	0	L	N/A	School / Diocese	

ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016-2026

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
NELSON STREET RECREATION GROUND, HEYWOOD	4	Secured	Area A	Junior Football not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	release site for alternative uses / development	L	0	M	n/a	council	
OUR LADY & ST PAUL RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	1	Secured	Area A	Junior Football 9v9	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
PHOENIX RECREATION GROUND	1	Secured	Area A	Adult Football	A	team would like to refurbish the club house	work with club to identify funding to refurbish the club house	L	L		No	Club/ Council	
QUEENS PARK	1	Secured	Area A	Adult Football	G	no changing facilities	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	L		N/A	Council	
SIDDAL MOOR SPORTS COLLEGE	2	Secured	Area A	Adult Football	G	school no longer has sports college status	sufficient capacity on site to meet demand but pitches may need to be reallocated	L	L		No	School	
ST LUKES C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area A	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
ST LUKES C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area A	Rounders	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
ST MARGARET'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area A	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
WALTON STREET RECREATION GROUND, HEYWOOD	4	Secured	Area A	Adult Football not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	retain as informal recreational space	L	0		N/A	Council	
WOODLAND COMMUNITY PRIMARY	4	Unsecured	Area A	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	G	in use 7hrs/ day by <80% KS1 & KS2 pupil but this could include use of tarmac MUGA	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	

## ***Middleton Summary Sub Area B***

### **Township Hub Sites**

The council's proposed hub site for Middleton Township is Bowlee Playing Fields. Bowlee provides a range of grass pitches plus changing facilities. There is no AGP on site but the playing fields are in close proximity to a number of schools with AGP facilities. St Marys RC Primary, St Anne's Academy and Cardinal Langley High School have been prioritised as Key education sites as they provide facilities to supplement Bowlee.

The pitches at Bowlee have been assessed as being in standard condition and capable of supporting the current levels of demand. The AGP at St Mary's is potentially over played and in poor condition. It is recommended that greater community access is secured to the AGP facilities at Cardinal Langley and St Anne's Schools. Funding also needs to be identified to replace the AGP at St Marys.

The cricket strip at Bowlee has fallen into disrepair and it is recommended that this is reinstated to support causal play in the area and to provide additional training facilities for Middleton CC.

The Sports Arena at Hopwood Hall College fulfils the vision of a Sports Hub for Middleton. It provides grass pitches for a variety of pitch sports plus AGPs. There are fitness facilities also on site.

The site has capacity for current and future use.

Middleton Cricket Club is a priority site as it is the only Cricket pitch in the Middleton sub area. Likewise Alkington Mossway is a priority sites as it is the only rugby league facility in the area.

Limefield recreation ground is home to Middleton Lads and Girls Football club and is a priority as a multi pitch site for a large junior club.

### **Football – grass pitches**

*Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand*

	<b>Total Number of Pitches</b>	<b>Spare Capacity in match equivalents</b>	<b>Over play in match equivalents</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Junior</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Mini</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- ◀ there is sufficient capacity to meet current demand
- ◀ there is sufficient capacity to meet future and latent demand

### **Football – 3G pitches**

- ◀ There are 4 AGPS in Middleton – St Anne's Academy, Cardinal Langley, The Sports Arena and St Marys Primary School. All are available for community use but the use at St Anne's is limited. St Marys is potentially over played and the surface will need replacing in the next 12 months (17/18)

### **Cricket**

- ◀ There is only one cricket club in the area. It is at capacity.
- ◀ Potential to provide artificial strip at Bowlee to cater for causal demand

### **Rugby union**

- ◀ No clubs in the Area.

### **Rugby league**

- ◀ Rochdale Hornets RLFC have reinstated the pitches at Moss Way, Alkrington as a training facility

### **Hockey**

- ◀ No clubs in the area

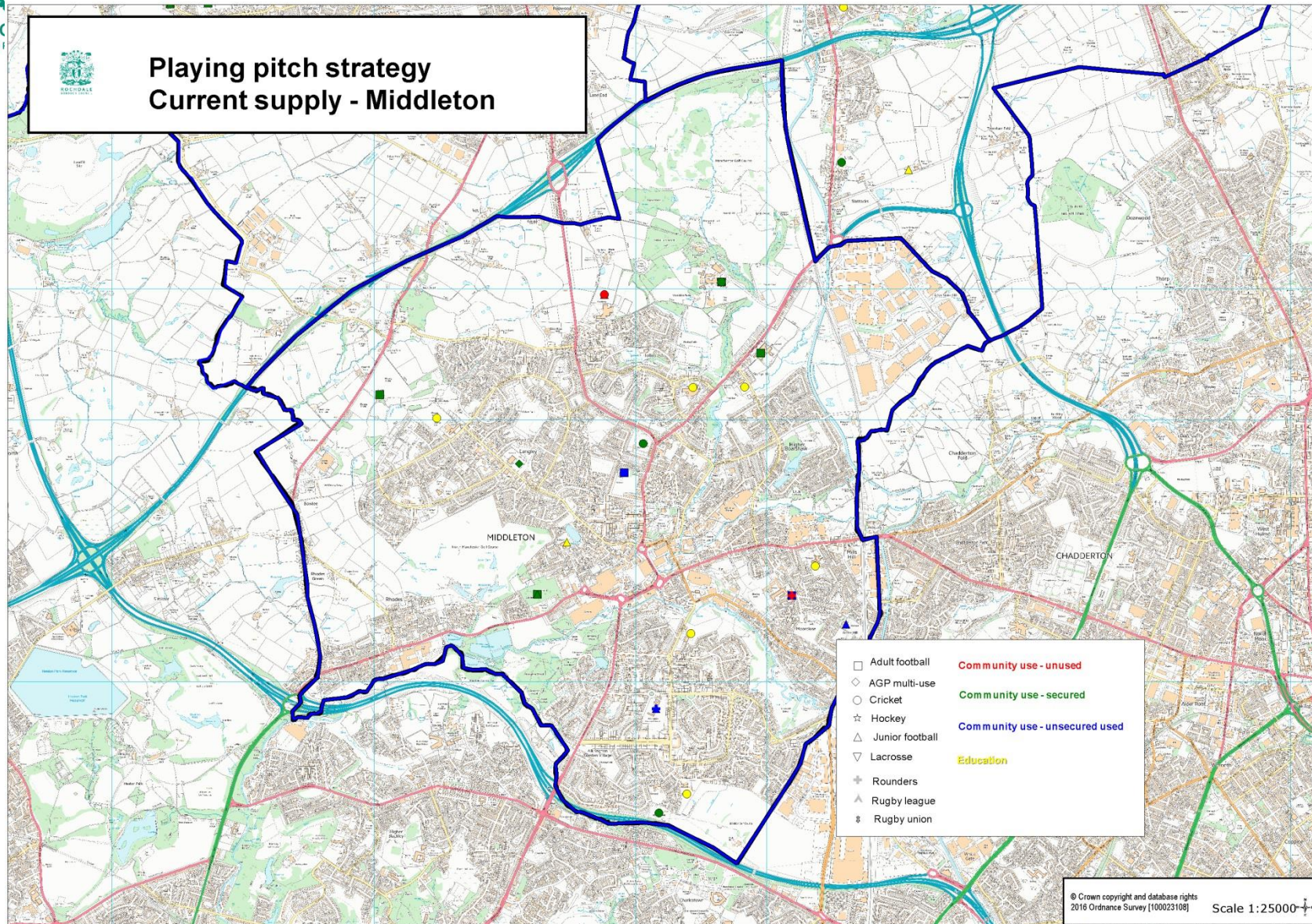


# ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016-2026

ROCHDALE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



## Playing pitch strategy Current supply - Middleton



*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
BOWLEE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area B	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	G	Wish to improve pitches & use sports centre for changing	Bowlee School is adjacent to Bowlee playing fields - the councils key hub site for the Middleton area. It is also close to St Marys ATP. Site to form a gateway to improve access and linkages - see section on hub sites	H	M	M	N	School	Enhance
BOWLEE PLAYING FIELDS	1	Secured	Area B	Adult Football	G	Most play here is casual / informal and thus difficult to quantify. Proposal by Rochdale AFC to develop 3G facilities	Bowlee is key hub site for Middleton Township but is underutilised. See separate section on hub sites	H	M / H	M	N	Council	Enhance
CARDINAL LANGLEY RC HIGH SCHOOL	1	Secured	Area B	AGP	G	Demand from clubs for more community hours	Seek to secure continued community use of the site through formal written agreement	H	0	M	N/A	Salford Diocese/School	
MIDDLETON CRICKET CLUB	1	Secured	Area B	Cricket	A	need separate changing facilities	S106 funding in place to improve facilities. Need to look at capacity. Possible off site artificial wicket	H	L	S	Yes	club	
ST ANNE'S ACADEMY	1	Unsecured	Area B	AGP	G	Full sized AGP. Not FA accredited, limited availability outside of school hours	Seek to secure extended community use	H	L	M	N/A	Council	
ST MARYS STP RC PRIMARY MIDDLETON	1	Secured	Area B	AGP	A	No response received from school. Facility managed by Link4Life, priority for school use until 5.30pm	Overplay on AGP -Look into develop capacity on neighbouring school sites AGP surface needs replacing. Look at potential dual use with Hockey	H	M	S	NO	School / Trust	
LIMEFIELD RECREATION GROUND	1	Secured	Area B	Adult Football	A	no clubhouse and insufficient capacity in bad weather	Monitor future use by the club. Clubs intention is to expand .There is a requirement for further funding to make pavilion fit for purpose.	M	M	S	No	Council	
THE SPORTS ARENA@HOPWOOD	1	Secured	Area B	Junior Football 7v7	A		Well used site catering for different sports and different age groups. Seek to work provider to ensure facility is maintained.	M	0	M		Council	
ALDERMAN KEY SCHOOL (CLOSED)	4	N/A	AREA B	Junior Football not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	release site for alternative uses / development	L	0	S	n/a	Council	
ALKRINGTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	1	Unsecured	Area B	Junior Football 9v9	A	well used by school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
ALKRINGTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	1	Unsecured	Area B	Rounders	A	well used by school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
ALKRINGTON MOSS PRIMARY SCHOOL (CLOSED)	4	N/A	Area B	informal multi-purpose; not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	release site for alternative uses / development	L	0	S	n/a	Council	
BOARSHAW ROAD, MIDDLETON	4	N/A	Area B	Adult Football not marked out		Adjacent to cemetery. Capacity not needed to meet demand in the area	retain as possible future extension to the cemetery	L	0	L	n/a	COUNCIL	
BONSCALE PARK	4	N/A	Area B	Junior Football not marked out		A site which is part of the Langley Land Pooling Agreement (LPA) between Rochdale Council and Riverside Homes	retain as informal open space until development proposals finalised	L	0		N/A	Council	
ELM WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area B	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
HOLLIN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL (CLOSED) (SHARED WITH NEWLANDS SCHOOL)	3	N/A	Area B	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS	4	Secured	Area B	Adult Football not marked out	G	capacity not required to meet demand in the area	retain as informal recreational space	L	0		N/A	Council	
LITTLE HEATON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	Secured	Area B	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
MIDDLETON PARISH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	1	Unsecured	Area B	Adult Football	A	club not happy with standard of maintenance on the pitch	look to relocate club to more suitable facility unless maintenance issues can be resolved with school	L	L		n/a	club / school	
MIDDLETON PARISH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	Unsecured	Area B	Junior Football not marked out		Pitch has PROW causing many problems	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
MIDDLETON TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL	2	Unsecured	Area B	Adult Football	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
MOSS WAY PLAYING FIELDS (ALKRINGTON)	4	N/A	Area B	Adult Football not marked out		team (Alkrington Dynamos) now use Heywood SV, The Sports Arena @Hopwood and Cardinal Langley	Football use has lapsed. Site to be used for Rugby league	L	L		Yes	club	

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
PARKFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area B	Junior Football 9v9	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
ST ANNE'S ACADEMY	1	Unsecured	Area B	Junior Football 9v9	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	L		N/A	Council	
ST. GABRIELS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	1	Unsecured	Area B	Junior Football 7v7	G	single pitch of standard quality used by school and Middleton Lads and Girls FC	Seek to secure continued community use of the site through formal written agreement	L	L	M		Council	
	3	Secured	Area B	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
ST JOHN FISHER RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area B	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
ST PETER'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area B	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
ST THOMAS MORE RC PRIMARY	3	N/A	Area B	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
WINCE CLOSE, MIDDLETON	4	Secured	Area B	Junior Football not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	retain as informal recreational space	L	0		N/A	Council	

## **Pennines Summary – Area C**

### **Township Hub Sites**

Littleborough Sports Centre is the hub site the Pennines area. It offers a mix of natural grass and artificial pitches plus fitness facilities; the AGP however is very small. There are currently no full sized artificial grass pitches in the Pennines Area. There is an area at Littleborough Sports Centre that used to be a 'regra' all weather pitch. This has not been maintained and has fallen into disuse. It would however provide an ideal sub base for a new generation artificial surface. It is recommended that a full sized AGP facility is developed in the Pennines area. Consideration should be given to this facility catering for the rugby playing community in the borough as there is currently no rugby accredited or suitable AGP.

The grass pitches are used primarily for football. There is good quality changing accommodation but it does not comply with league requirements for separate changing rooms for match officials. It is recommended that the accommodation is reviewed and provision made to satisfy this requirement.

It is proposed that a cricket strip should be added to support casual use, provide capacity for Littleborough CC and possibly promote participation through different forms of the game

Key education sites – the Pennines sub area is the only one of the sub areas to have more than one centre. It is made up of the Littleborough, Milnrow and Wardle settlements. It is proposed that Hollingworth Academy is made a priority site to provide facilities to supplement Littleborough Sports centre. Hollingworth Academy has an AGP (not full sized) plus grass pitches. Continued community use will need to be formally secured.

Littleborough Rakewood site is a key multi pitch site. It is also the only venue in the sub area where rugby league and rugby union are played.

Whilst there is capacity at Littleborough Sports Centre and within the sub area as a whole for open age football it is recommended that the pitch at Dearnley playing fields is reinstated to assist with capacity issues at Rutherford Park for Wardle Football Club. The Rutherford Park site is constrained and Wardle FC has a good track record of retaining players from junior football to open age and on to veterans.

### **Football – grass pitches**

*Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand*

	<b>Total Number of Pitches</b>	<b>Spare Capacity in match equivalents</b>	<b>Over play in match equivalents</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Junior</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mini</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

- ◀ There is sufficient capacity to meet current demand, the overplay can be managed within the sub area but may require some resignation of pitches. It is proposed that the pitch at Dearnley playing fields is reinstated to address a localised capacity issue
- ◀ there is sufficient capacity to meet future and latent demand

### **Football – 3G pitches**

- ◀ There are 4 AGPs in the Pennines area although none is full sized. Capacity is limited as all the AGPs are located on school sites

- ◀ There is a need for a full sized AGP in Pennines that is available full time for community use. It is recommended that this is developed at Littleborough Sports Centre

### **Cricket**

- ◀ There are 4 cricket clubs in Pennines plus Walsden cricket club which is outside the borough but plays in the Pennines League. Walsden Cricket pitch is over played. Littleborough Cricket pitch is also over played but only marginally.
- ◀ Potential to provide artificial strip at Littleborough Sports Centre to cater for causal demand and to provide additional capacity for Littleborough Cricket club

### **Rugby union**

- ◀ There is one rugby union club in the area. The site at Littleborough Rakewood is overplayed.

### **Rugby league**

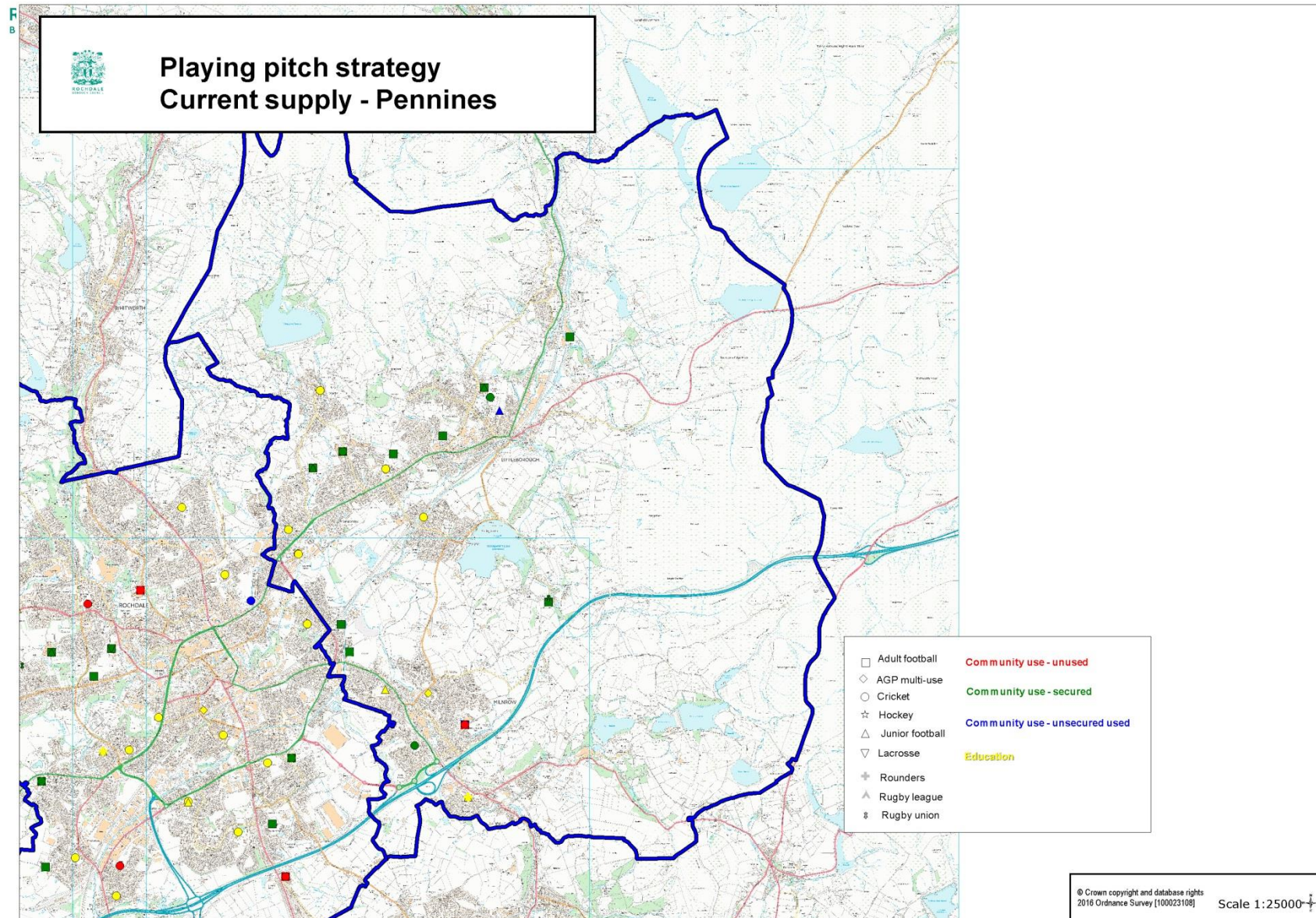
- ◀ There is one rugby league club in the area. The site at Littleborough Rakewood is over played

### **Hockey**

- ◀ No clubs in the area



# ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016-2026



*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
HOLLINGWORTH ACADEMY BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE	1	Unsecured	Area C	AGP	A	Not full sized. Limited hours available for community use	possible hub site for Pennines to complement Littleborough - seek to secure community use	H	L	S	NO	council / School	
LITTLEBOROUGH SPORTS CENTRE	1	Secured	Area C	AGP	G	AGP on site is too small for competitive play. Changing rooms do not meet league requirements for separate facilities for officials	look to develop site as hub site for Pennines Township - see separate section on hub sites	H	M	S	No	Council/ Trust	
LITTLEBOROUGH SPORTS CLUB (RAKEWOOD)	1	Secured	Area C	Adult Football , Cricket , Senior Rugby League , Senior Rugby Union	A		Improve changing facilities and club house to help retain players - especially women	H	M	M	in part	Council/ club	
	1	Secured	Area C		A	Site is used for other sports. Football and cricket marked on the outfield	Improve maintenance to improve pitch capacity.	H			No		
	1	Secured	Area C		A	Changing facilities and club house in poor condition	work with club and governing bodies to identify funding to make improvements	H	M	M	IN PART		
WARDLE HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY	1	Secured	Area C	Adult Football	R	some junior and youth football may take place on AGP	Should be possible to manage demand within the site.	H	L		N/A	School	
LITTLEBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB	1	Secured	Area C	Cricket	R	more space required to accommodate training and introducing cricket to children	Pitch is overplayed. Encourage club to develop an artificial strip for competitive use. Look at off site training	M	L	M	No	club	
ASHBROOK HEY LANE	4	N/A	AREA C	Adult Football not marked out			retain as informal recreational space	L	0		N/A	Council	
CLEGG'S PLAYING FIELDS, Huddersfield Road, Newhey	4	Secured	Area C	informal multi-purpose; not marked out		Identified disused site	retain as informal recreational space	L	0		N/A	Council	
CLEGGSWOOD AVENUE, LITTLEBOROUGH	4	Secured	Area C	Adult Football not marked out		too wet for formal lettings but well used for casual play	retain as informal recreational space	L	0		N/A	Council	
DEARNLEY PLAYING FIELDS	1	Secured	Area C	Adult Football		Adult grass pitch of standard quality. Used for junior football by one club. Capacity for shared use	Review the layout of the site and consider marking as 2 junior pitches running north south across the site rather than one adult running east west.	L	M	M	yes	Council	
FOTHERGILLS (GREENVALE )	1	Secured	Area C	Adult Football	G	only pitch recorded as poor quality in the borough	no action required continue to monitor	L	0		N/A	Club	

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
HALLIWELL STREET, MILNROW	4	Unsecured	Area C	Adult Football not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	release site for alternative uses / development	L	0	M	n/a	council	
HARE HILL HOLY TRINITY PITCHES	1	Unsecured	Area C	Mini Soccer 7v7	G	Used on Saturdays and school days. No changing facilities	FORMALISE TENANCY AGREEMENT TO PROTECT SCHOOL USE	L	0	M	n/a	School	
LITTLEBOROUGH SPORTS CLUB (RAKEWOOD)	1	Secured	Area C	Adult Football , Cricket , Senior Rugby League , Senior Rugby Union	A	capacity does not exist at peak times	Look at land in council ownership for possible training pitch.	L			No	Council/ club	
MILNROW CRICKET CLUB	1	Secured	Area C	Cricket	G	No issues	no action required continue to monitor	L	0		N/A	Council	
MILNROW PARISH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area C	AGP		no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
MOORHOUSE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area C	Junior Football 7v7	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
NEWHEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	N/A	Area C	Cricket not marked out	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
NEWHEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area C	Junior Football 9v9	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
NEWHEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area C	Rounders	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
NEWHEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	N/A	Area C	Rounders not marked out	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
OAKCLIFFE ROAD RECREATION GROUND, LITTLEBOROUGH	4	Secured	Area C	Junior Football not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	retain as informal recreational space	L	0		N/A	Council	
RUTHERFORD PARK	1	Secured	Area C	adult football	A	Only 1st and 2nd teams play here. No capacity at peak times for 3rd team. Funding in place for new adult pitch	Club would like to create 2nd full sized pitch on site but expense cannot be justified when there is sufficient capacity elsewhere in the sub area. Look at Dearnley. New club house needed	L	M	M	Yes	Club / FA / Council	
RYDINGS SCHOOL (CLOSED) PLAYING FIELD, WARDLE	4	Unsecured	Area C	Junior Football not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	release site for alternative uses / development	L	0	S	n/a	council	
SACRED HEART RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area C	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
SMITHY BRIDGE FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area C	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	



ROCHDALE

ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016-2026

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
ST ANDREW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area C	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	L		N/A	Council	
ST JAMES' CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area C	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
WALSDEN CRICKET CLUB	1	Secured	Area C	Cricket	R	site is overplayed	Club is located outside of Rochdale Borough so council resources cannot be allocated to assist the club. However club could make use of facilities within the borough for training use	L	L		N/A	Council	
WARDLE RECREATION GROUND AND CLOUGH STREET PLAY AREA	4	N/A	Area C	Junior Football not marked out	G		Site re-instated to meet community demand	L	L	L	COMPLETE	COUNCIL	
WHITTLES PARK (Fothergill & Whittles FC)	1	Secured	Area C	Adult Football	G	poor pitch, poor maintenance poor changing	no action required continue to monitor	L	0	L	N/A	CLUB	

## **Rochdale Summary – Area D**

### **Township Hub Sites**

Firgrove playing fields is the key multi sports hub site for the Rochdale Township area. It is technically in Pennines Township but is located close to the township border. It provides a range of natural grass pitches plus changing rooms. Firgrove playing fields supports rugby league and rounders as well as football.

The changing accommodation is in need of an upgrade and it is recommended that this takes place in order to assist with club satisfaction and player retention.

There is no AGP at Firgrove and training is not permitted on the pitches under the terms and conditions of use for the site. The facilities at Firgrove can be supplemented by those at Kingsway Park High School where the leisure facilities, pitches and AGP are managed by the council's leisure partner Link4Life

Kingsway Park High School is a key education site.

Oulder Hill School is also a key education site as it is the only site in the borough where hockey is played.

Mayfield Rugby Club is a priority site as it is the only club site supporting rugby league (Rugby league is also played at Firgrove)

Rochdale Rugby Union Club is a priority site as it is the only site in the sub area where rugby union is played

Rochdale Squash Cricket and Lacrosse club is a priority site as it is the only site in the borough where lacrosse is played

### **Football – grass pitches**

*Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand*

	<b>Total Number of Pitches</b>	<b>Spare Capacity in match equivalents</b>	<b>Over play in match equivalents</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Junior</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Mini</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>

- ◀ there is sufficient capacity to meet current demand
- ◀ there is sufficient capacity to meet future and latent demand

### **Football – 3G pitches**

- ◀ There are 5 AGPS in Rochdale. 3 are full sized. Capacity is limited on some sites

### **Cricket**

- ◀ There are 5 cricket clubs in the area. There are no capacity issues. There is sufficient capacity to meet current and future demand.
- ◀ There is extensive casual play in the area that has been difficult to quantify. It is proposed that the provision of artificial strips in key locations may assist in capturing this participation.

### **Rugby union**

- ◀ There is one rugby union club in the area. The site at Moorgate is over played.

### **Rugby league**

- There are 2 rugby league clubs in the area. There is sufficient capacity overall but there are issues of overplay at Mayfield

### **Hockey**

- There are 2 hockey clubs in the area. Both play at Oulder Hill School. There is sufficient capacity to meet current and future demand.

### **Rounders**

- The Rochdale Ladies Rounders league plays at Firgrove. There are 28 teams in the league. All matches are played on this central venue. There are no capacity issues.

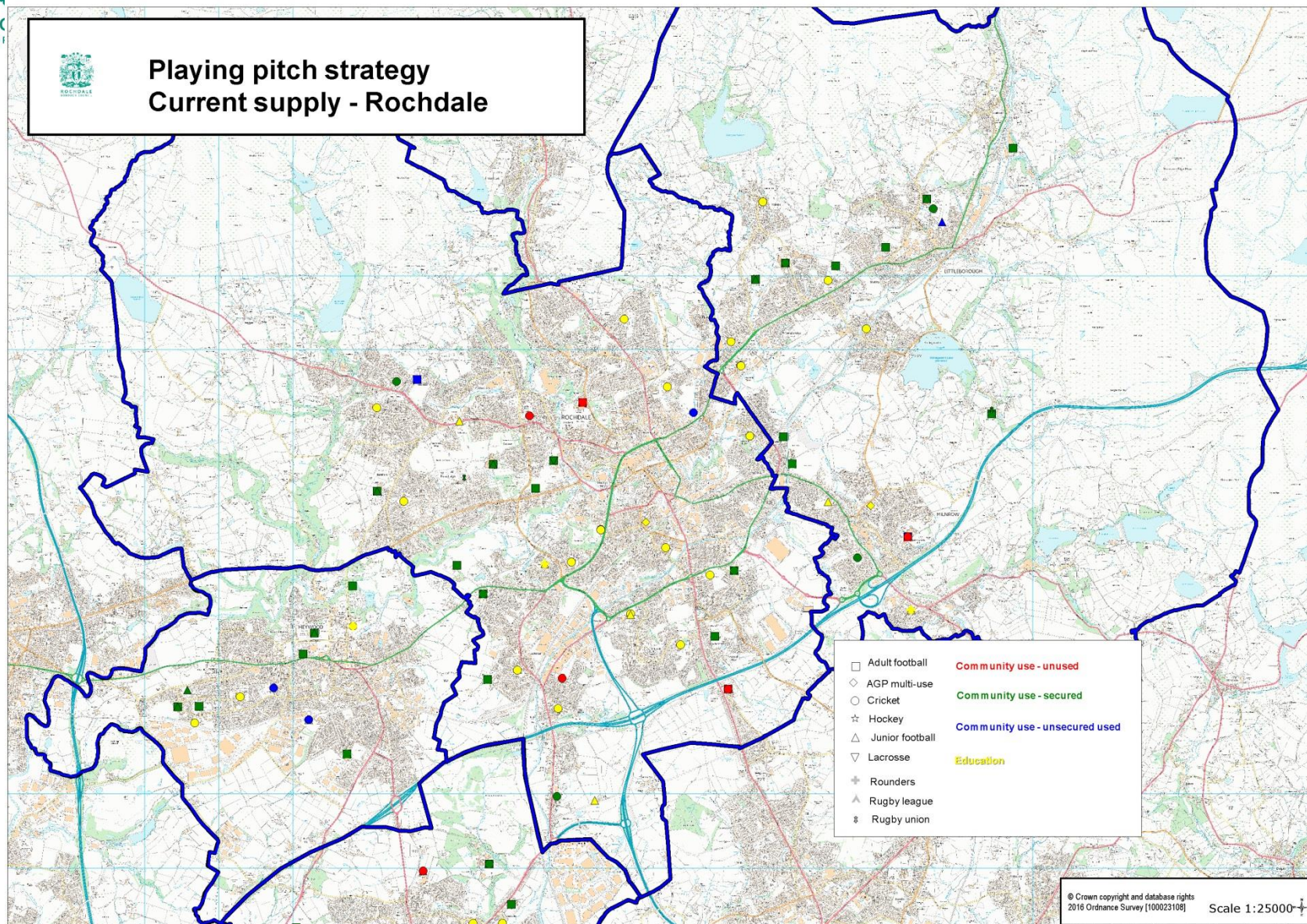


# ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2016-2026

ROCHDALE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



## Playing pitch strategy Current supply - Rochdale



*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
FIRGROVE RECREATION GROUND PLAYING FIELDS AND PAVILLION	1	Secured	Area D	Junior Football 9v9	G	Juniors play on Saturdays, capacity for Sundays.	Sufficient capacity on site to meet demand. Continue with current maintenance regime and practices. Improvements to be made to the changing rooms. Unlikely that floodlighting will get planning consent - to be investigated	H	L	S	yes	Council	protect
KINGSWAY PARK HIGH SCHOOL	4	Secured	Area D	Rugby League not marked out	G		Develop as a hub site to supplement Firgrove for Rochdale township area. Additional land likely to be transferred to the school.	H	M	S	YES	School/ Trust	
MAYFIELD SPORTS CENTRE	1	Secured	Area D	Adult Football	G	Shared use with Rugby League felt to be incompatible. Only site in the borough with stands and turnstiles to facilitate play in the higher leagues	instate mobile goal posts so facilities on site allow football club to meet league requirements without compromising use for rugby league	H	L	S	Yes	Club / FA	
	1	secured	Area D	Senior Rugby League	R		Improve maintenance to improve pitch capacity. Funding in place to create an additional pitch	H	H	L	Yes	Club	
OULDER HILL LEISURE COMPLEX (WITHIN OULDER HILL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE)	1	Secured	Area D	AGP	G	Sand dressed AGP Full sized suitable for Hockey Use	Seek to secure continued community use of the site through formal written agreement	H	0		N/A	School	
	1	Secured	Area D	Adult Football	G	grass pitches of standard quality	demand can be managed on site through reallocated of pitches to different formats of the game	H	0		n/a		
	1	Secured	Area D	Cricket	A	draining and new mobile nets required	Recommendation to improve maintenance to retain quality of pitches.	H	L				
ROCHDALE CRICKET LACROSSE AND SQUASH CLUB	1	Secured	Area D	adult football	A	St Clements JFC play here. Known usage by Rochdale AFC but not quantified	no action required continue to monitor	H	L			Club	
	1	Secured	Area D	Lacrosse		Arrangement for RAFC groundsman to maintain in return for use		H	O	L	N/A		
ROCHDALE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB (MOORGATE)	1	Secured	Area D	senior rugby union	R	No RFU 3G for training - indoor general fitness only	Increase site capacity through improved maintenance. Review joint buy in solutions. Support the club to develop a fifth pitch /The hollow	H	L		No	Club / Council	
MATTHEW MOSS HIGH SCHOOL	1	Secured	Area D	Adult Football	A	Well used for competitive play training by the community. FA standard AGP	Site has capacity for additional play. Work with school to secure continued community use	M	L	M	No	School/ Council	

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
NORDEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	1	Unsecured	Area D	Adult Football	G	play on site is mainly juniors	sufficient capacity on site to meet demand but pitches may need to be reallocated	M	L		n/a	Club	
TOP OF THE LANE/ HOLLIN LANE PLAYING FIELDS, BAMFORD	1	Secured	Area D	Mini Soccer 5v5	G		no action required continue to monitor	M	L		N/A	Council	
ALICE INGHAM RC PRIMARY	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	G	open to discussion about community use but capacity limited by lack of facilities	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
ALL SAINTS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
BALDERSTONE PARK (former high school pitch)	1	Secured	Area D	lapsed			Leader proposing to reinstate football pitch and to building changing / community rooms using s106 from adjoining development	L	M		s106	Council	
BAMFORD ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
BAMFORD FIELDHOUSE CRICKET CLUB	1	Secured	Area D	Cricket	G	agreed NTA, club views and capacity – no action required but nets raised in 2015	no action required continue to monitor	L	L		N	Club	
BEECH HOUSE SCHOOL (use Mandale Park)	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	FORMER LAND FILL SITE	Formalise tenancy agreement to protect school use	L	L		Y	Council	
BELFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
BRIMROD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
BROADFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
BURTON PARK (leased as SANDY BROW PLAYING FIELDS Nr Sandy Lane)	1	Secured	Area D	Adult Football	G	Club would like more teams but cannot accommodate on this site. Not enough good pitches available at peak times	no action required continue to monitor	L	0		N/A	Club	
CALDERSHAW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL (SHARED WITH ST. VINCENTS RC PRIMARY)	3	N/A	Area D	Mini Soccer 5v5	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
CASTLETON PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	Unsecured	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
DEEPLISH PRIMARY ACADEMY	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
FALINGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL/ LENNY BARN PLAYING FIELDS	2	secured	Area D	AGP	G	pitch is believed to be available for community use but not quantified at present	Capacity is not needed to meet demand in the area. Site used for training and casual use. No actions required. Continue to monitor	L	0		N/A	council	
FOX PARK /SACRED HEART FC (PPG 17 list Belfield Sports Ground)	1	Secured	Area D	Adult football	G	plans to improve pitches and facilities to allow for expansion	no action required continue to monitor	L	0		N/A	Club	
GREENBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
HAMER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
HEALEY FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
HEYBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	Unsecured	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
INGS LANE RECREATION GROUND, INGS LANE, ROCHDALE	4	Secured	AREA D	Adult Football not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	retain as informal recreational space	L	0		N/A	Council	
KENTMERE ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	Secured	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
LOWER PLACE	4	Secured	Area D	Junior Football not marked out	G	land allocated to Lower Place Primary School	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L			No		
	4	Secured	Area D	Mini Soccer not marked out	G			L			No		
	4	Secured	Area D	Cricket		artificial wicket in poor state of repair	look to reinstate strip for casual use	L	L	M	Yes		
MARLAND HILL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	Secured	Area D	Junior Football 7v7	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
MEANWOOD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	Unsecured	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
NORDEN CRICKET CLUB	1	Secured	Area D	Cricket	G	no issues	no action required continue to monitor	L	L		N/A	Club	
SANDBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area D	cricket	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
SHAWCLOUGH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	N/A	Area D	Junior Football not marked out	A	School use many other facilities because they cannot use this; it is more of a public park because it is not fenced off and is not playable for most of the time.	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
SPRINGFIELD PARK	1	Secured	Area D	adult football	G	Club would like to expand and bring disused pitches back into use. Need to improve changing facilities	Sustain quality and seek to maximise use.	L	L		N/A	Council	
	4	Secured	Area D	Adult Football not marked out	G		There is capacity elsewhere in the borough .Retain the pitches as open space as part of the Park	L	L		N/A		
	4	Secured	Area D	Cricket not marked out	G		Monitor usage with a view to formalising use and improve standard	L	L		N/A		
SPRINGHILL PLAYING FIELDS	1	Secured	Area D	adult football	G	club struggling with unauthorised use and vandalism at site	Support club with on-going issues	L	L		N/A	Club /Council	
SPRINGHILL PLAYING FIELDS	4	Secured	Area D	Adult Football not marked out	G	pitches could be reinstated in sufficient demand to justify investment	Monitor future demand and support club moving forward	L	L		N/A	Club /Council	

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
ST CUTHBERT'S RC BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE	2	Unsecured	Area D	Adult Football	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	L		N/A	Council	
ST EDWARDS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	N/A	Area D	Cricket not marked out	A	Only marked for sports day or individual sports when required	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
ST EDWARDS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	Only marked for sports day or individual sports when required	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	
ST JOHN'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	Unsecured	Area D	AGP	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
ST JOHN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL THORNHAM	3	Unsecured	Area D	Junior Football 7v7	G		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A		Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	COUNCIL	
ST WILFREDS SCHOOL (CLOSED) PLAYING FIELD, ROCHDALE	4	Unsecured	Area D	Cricket not marked out		capacity not required to meet demand in the area	release site for alternative uses / development	L	0	M	n/a	council	
STONEFIELD RECREATION GROUND	4	N/A	Area D	Adult Football not marked out	G	Capacity not needed to meet demand in this area	retain as informal recreational space	L	L		No	Council	
THORNHAM CRICKET CLUB	1	Secured	Area D	Cricket	G	Unlikely to be capacity at peak times. Club requires more facilities for growing youth teams	no action required continue to monitor	L	L		N/A	Club	

*Site	Community use category	Security of community use	Sub Area	Pitch Type	*Comparison	Key Issues and Views	Recommendations and Actions	Priority	Cost	timescale	Resources Identified	Lead	AIM
WHITTAKER MOSS PRIMARY	3	N/A	Area D	informal multi-purpose; not marked out	A	no response received from school	Protect through planning. Community use not vital to meet demand in the area	L	0		N/A	Council	

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