

Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance

An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy

Appendix 1g



Key Findings and Issues Sub Questions

To help the project team answer the five key findings and issues questions set out under Step 6 of the main guidance document, and to act as reminder of the areas covered in the previous steps, the following sub-questions are provided. The list of sub-questions is not meant to be exhaustive and not all will necessarily be appropriate. The list is meant to act as a guide to help highlight possible key findings and issues that may be relevant to the study area.

What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?

Supply

- Are pitches well distributed in relation to the population they serve and are there any geographical concentrations?
- Are there a large number of multi-pitch, multi-sport sites and/or a significant number of small/single pitch sites?
- To what extent are pitches over marked? Does this occur more in particular geographical areas and how does this impact on the sport(s)?
- Is there a mixture of AGPs with different surface types? Are any AGPs in need of resurfacing? Are there any restrictions on the hours AGPs are available for in the peak period? How many AGPs do not benefit from appropriate sports lighting and why is this (e.g. funding, planning restrictions etc)?
- Are there any sites with the potential to mark out any additional pitches and/or training areas?
- Are there any sites where playing pitches were formally marked out but are currently disused?
- Is security of tenure a particular issue for some sports and their clubs?
- What is the breakdown of pitches per ownership and management type? Is a sport and/or type of play particularly reliant on one type of provider?
- Are there a considerable number of sites and pitches which are not available to the community, or are available but unused and why is this?
- For those sites that are available to the community what proportion provide secured and unsecured use? Are any sports, types of play or geographical locations particularly reliant on unsecured sites?
- Are there any educational establishments (and other providers) which would like to make their provision available to the community, or provide secured community use where the provision is already available, but there are current barriers to doing so?
- Are there any issues with the cost of hiring/leasing sites and is this prohibiting their use? How do costs compare between ownership/management types, different quality ratings and neighbouring areas?

Demand

- Where and when do the teams play their competitive fixtures and train? Are there any geographical concentrations of demand for particular pitch types?
- What is the level and nature of participation in the area? Is participation and the number of clubs and teams increasing or decreasing? Are clubs running the same number of teams but having to increase their overall membership in order to do so?
- What is the presence of the sport in the area and the nature of the clubs (e.g. large number of established clubs and strong leagues, a small number of large clubs running a significant number of teams across the age groups, a large number of single team clubs)?
- Is there a significant amount of training activity on natural and/or artificial grass pitches or is other provision used?

- Due to their level of play do some clubs have specific requirements for pitch and ancillary provision?
- How are AGPs used (a competitive and/or training facility) and does this differ by surface type?
- Is there a high degree of casual use affecting any sites and pitches? Does this affect some pitch types more than others and is this focussed in any particular geographical locations?
- Do educational establishments use/hire pitches over and above their own provision?
- Is a significant amount of demand met on educational sites for particular sports?
- Are there a significant number of teams using sites within the study area whose players predominantly reside outside of the area? Is any imported demand focussed in a particular location?
- What is the nature and extent of any displaced demand? Why is the demand displaced, would those generating it prefer to play within the study area and if so where?
- Has any unmet and latent demand been identified and if so why can't this demand be met by current provision? Are there any geographical concentrations of unmet and latent demand?

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?

- On balance across the sites available to the community, and also for those with just secured community use, is provision being overplayed, is it at capacity or is there some spare capacity? For football, rugby union and rugby league what is the situation within the peak period and throughout the rest of the week? What is the situation for hockey matches on the peak day?
- What is the total number and nature of sites in both categories which may be overplayed or where spare capacity exists? Why is this and does it relate to small amounts spread across a number of sites and wide geographical area, or larger amounts at a few sites in any concentrated locations?
- Is there a suitable level of spare capacity to allow for flexibility in how the sites and pitches are used?
- What is the nature, location and extent of play that is potentially at risk as it takes place at unsecured sites? Are there particular areas, sports and types of play that are particularly reliant on such sites?
- What is the extent, nature and reasons for any identified displaced, unmet and latent demand?
- Are there any recurring views and opinions, particularly from the users and providers of pitches, as to the adequacy of provision to meet current demand? Do these highlight any geographical variations?
- What is the situation at priority sites and is this hindering the development of a sport/type of play?
- Do educational establishments have adequate provision of their own, or secured access to other provision, to meet their current demand?
- Are there any competing pressures on the use of sites and pitches e.g. between sports for the use of AGPs and/or with other uses such as events and other regular activities on natural grass pitches?

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

- What is the overall quality of pitches and ancillary provision? Are there any notable differences by ownership, management and availability categories and geographically within the study area?
- Are there any recurring issues with the quality of provision which is adversely affecting the current carrying capacity of some sites and/or the standard of provision to meet certain required league requirements?
- Are the sites and pitches adequately maintained? Are there notable differences in the maintenance regimes afforded to sites within different ownership, management and availability categories?
- Are there concerns over the cost of maintaining the sites? Are any providers looking to reduce the level of maintenance they currently provide due to costs or charge more for the use of the pitches?

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

Supply

- Are there any known forthcoming changes to the supply of provision and how may they impact the ability of the supply in the area to meet current and future demand?
- Is there any uncertainty regarding the future use and accessibility of any sites?

Demand

- How many sports clubs have plans to develop additional teams or undertake additional training and other activity? Where are they located and what additional pitch/training provision may this require?
- What affect may population change have on the number of teams for the relevant age groups and what might this mean in terms of the demand of pitch provision?
- Will there be any geographical concentrations of population change within particular age groups and therefore demand for certain pitch types?

- What participation projections has the project team used? What might this mean in terms of the demand for provision and what trends and information fed into these projections?
- How will any forthcoming changes in how the sports are played affect the demand for provision?
- Is there a growing need for a certain pitch type due to the high demand from a particular age group?
- Are there particular sports development programmes and initiatives that are likely to affect the future demand for provision?
- Is there likely to be greater additional demand for one type of AGP surface compared to others?
- Is there likely to be significant future demand from educational establishments for additional provision?

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

- To what extent may the current provision available to the community, and also just those sites with secured community use, be able to meet the future demand? For football, rugby union and rugby league what is the situation within the peak period and throughout the rest of the week? What is the situation for hockey matches on the peak day?
- Will there be any particular pressures on certain geographical locations where future demand may be concentrated and/or where pitch provision may be limited?
- To what extent can any future demands for access to different types of AGP surfaces be met?