

# A Playing Pitch Strategy for Bristol 2017-2022



## Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy Overview

### Vision

- To protect, enhance and provide the right combination of playing pitches to meet the current and future needs of the city’s population.
- To increase participation in playing pitch sports through offering the best player/participant experience possible in terms of playing pitches and ancillary facilities at the most cost effective price to both the user and provider.

### Priority sport specific actions (that reflect the key issues and findings)

	Protect	Enhance	Provide
<b>Cricket</b>	The cricket sites within the Bristol boundary to prevent no further displaced demand out of the city	The quantity, quality and availability of the “pay and play” cricket facility stock to meet the club’s needs	New cricket facilities within Bristol to meet the demand from Bristol residents and prevent any further displaced demand out of the Bristol boundary
<b>Football</b>	The overall quantity of pitches in the city to cope with future demand from all age groups	The large number of poor pitches and changing facilities- specifically the ones most heavily used	Develop a balance of adult, youth and mini football pitches that provides the best fit for the city’s demands
<b>Hockey</b>	The number and quality of hockey suitable (sand based) AGPs in the city	The number of hours that sand based AGPs are made available for hockey throughout the week	Additional playing and training time for the development of hockey in the south of the city
<b>Rugby Union</b>	The current sites within the Bristol boundary so no more are displaced to outside the city	The large number of poor quality pitches in the city through alternative usage patterns, improved standards of maintenance and capital interventions	Access to 3G artificial grass pitches in strategic locations that are World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant for competitive training and match play

### Bristol needs summary

- There is a need to significantly increase the number of “good” standard grass pitches in the city
- BCC Parks need to rationalise changing provision, improve the facilities at selected sites within budget limits and maximise usage of facilities in order to improve cost effectiveness
- There is a need to utilise all pitches in the city regardless of ownership

### The big challenges/opportunities

- BCC Parks, who manage and maintain circa 20% of all pitches, face a reduction in it’s budget
- A review of all BCC Parks pitch/facility tariffs by the end of 2017/18 season
- To pursue alternative cost effective options for the ongoing provision, management and maintenance of BCC Parks grass pitches and ancillary facilities in line with the tariff review
- New forms of games and changing patterns of demand
- A growing number of rubber crumb AGPs
- Major property developments in areas bordering Bristol boundary

### Key messages

- **Pitches should not be considered as sport or age specific but as part of an overall stock of playing field land that can be used for many sports.**
- **The overall quantity of pitches (i.e. playing field space) is adequate to meet current and future demand.**
- **Considerable work is required to provide the right combination of pitches and to improve the overall quality of pitches and changing provision in the most cost effective way.**

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## Key drivers

There are several benefits of having a playing pitch strategy (PPS) in place. These are listed in [Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance](#).

The key drivers for the Bristol PPS are:

- The need for evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- The need to inform the assessment of planning applications and proposed developments, both within the city and the surrounding areas.
- Potential changes to the supply of provision due to education capital programmes (specifically primary school supply).
- Local Authority budgetary pressures seeking to ensure the most efficient and cost effective management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- The need to develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies, provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- Prioritisation of any internal and external capital and revenue investment.
- The need for a 'strategic approach' to getting the right facilities in the right places, to maximise existing budgets and attract investment from other sources including NGBs and lottery funding.

## Vision

The vision for the Bristol PPS (2017-2022) is:

- To protect, enhance and provide the right combination of playing pitches to meet the current and future needs of the city's population.
- To increase participation in playing pitch sports through offering the best player/participant experience possible in terms of playing pitches and ancillary facilities at the most cost effective price to both the user and provider.

## Objectives

The objectives of the strategy:

1. To utilise Sport England's guidance on developing a PPS to ensure a comprehensive overview of Bristol's pitches is developed.
2. To work in partnership with the relevant National Governing Bodies to the mutual benefit of all (local authority, NGBs, Bristol's sporting population and Sport England).

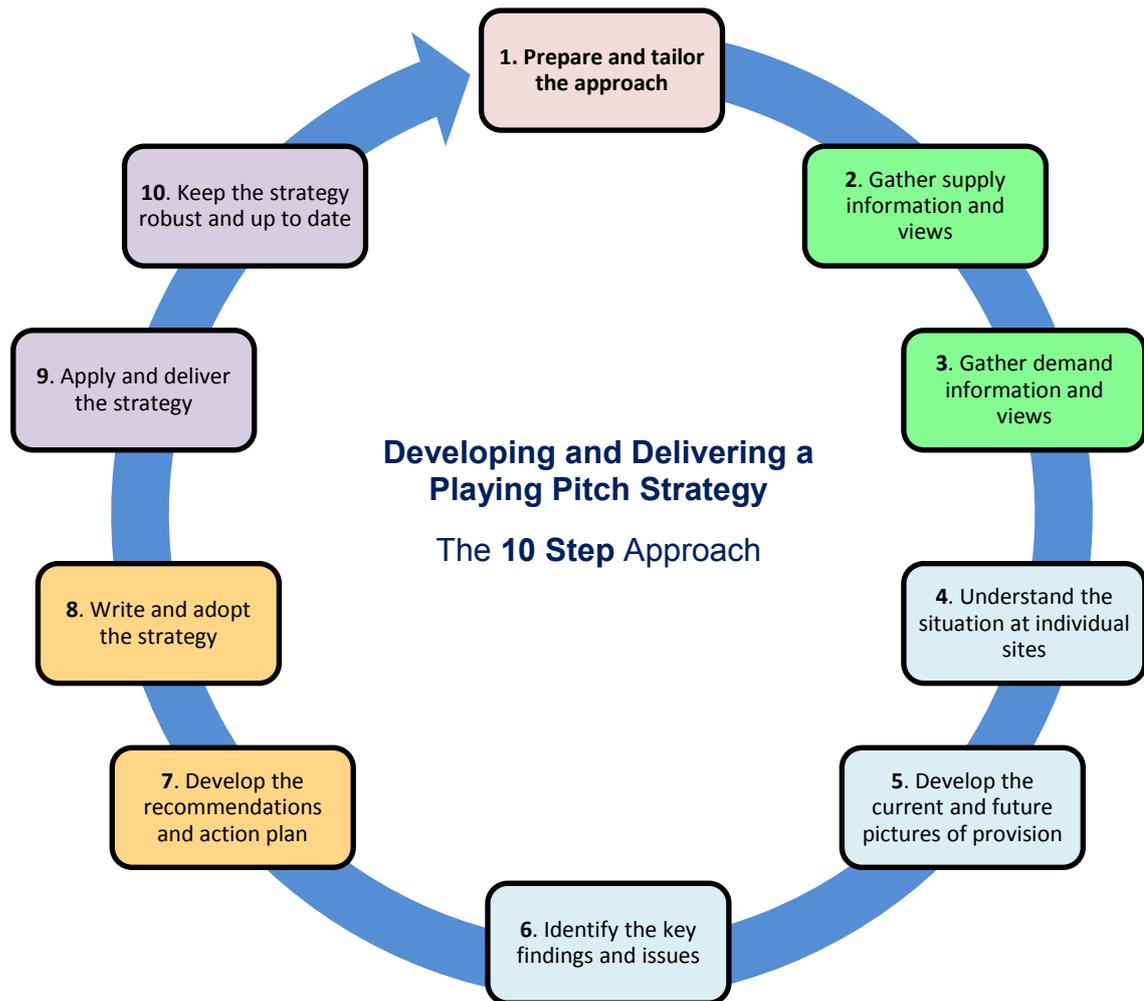
3. Collect and collate relevant data in a format that allows easy analysis and interrogation.
4. Utilise the data to build a clear picture of the playing pitch provision in Bristol.
5. Identify the key findings, issues and challenges facing Bristol playing pitch provision both now and in the future.
6. Write and adopt a strategy, including a clear set of recommendations and an action plan.
7. Develop a team of people to deliver the action plan and recommendations, to keep the data set up to date at least every other year and to explore potential future work emerging from the data.

# Methodology

## The new guidance and process

For detailed information on the methodology followed, please see [Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance](#) (2013).

Figure 1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach



For more information on the project team, the original project brief and the development of the PPS, please see the separate document “Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy: Background and Evidence”.

## **Key features of Bristol**

For a comprehensive overview of Bristol's population profile and its sports participation patterns, please see the Portfolio of Evidence (2013) document produced by Continuum Sport and Leisure as part of the wider Bristol Sport Strategy work.

### **Population**

Bristol is England's 7<sup>th</sup> largest city outside of London and the 10th largest local authority in England with an estimated population of 449,300 in October 2015. Bristol is the largest city in the South West and one of the eight 'Core Cities' in England.

### **Age structure**

The median age of people living in Bristol in 2014 was 33.4 years old, this compares to the England and Wales median of 39.9 years. In both 2001 and 2011 the largest single age group in Bristol was 20-29 year olds, followed by 30-39 year olds. People in these age ranges are statistically more likely to take part in sport and physical recreation than the population as a whole.

### **Growth**

If recent trends continue, the total population of Bristol is projected to increase by 95,700 people over the 25 year period (2012-2037) to reach a total population of 528,200 by 2037. This is a projected increase of 22.1% which is higher than the projection for England of 16.2%.

Pressure for additional playing pitches will arise from the projected population growth. This rise will increase pressure on existing pitches and as new communities are built and developed, drive demand for new provision. Given the relatively limited opportunities for identifying sites for new housing in a heavily urbanised area, playing pitches are likely to come under development pressures.

### **Socioeconomic profile**

Bristol is a one of England's eight Core Cities, meaning it is one of the economically most important cities outside of London. It is an employment hub and has relatively high skills and income levels. In comparison with the regional and national averages, Bristol has a larger proportion (32.6%) of working age residents who fall within the top two socio-economic groups (NS-SEC 1, 2). This reflects the relative affluence of Bristol as a city. As participation levels are very closely correlated to affluence, this again points towards a high level of demand for playing pitches.

However, this overall picture masks some severe deprivation. Bristol is significantly more deprived than each of its geographical neighbouring local authorities. Some areas in the

south, north and north-west of the city are amongst the 20% most deprived in the country and 32 of the 252 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) are in the bottom 10%. Of these, 14 are in the most deprived 5% nationally, with nine in the most deprived 2%. The areas concerned are often densely populated, with few opportunities to access space-extensive sports facilities such as playing pitches. Ensuring equality of opportunity to access pitches will be an important component within the Bristol PPS.

### **Resource Pressures**

In common with all local authorities, Bristol City Council is required to find significant savings in its budget. As part of the council's facilities portfolio, the provision and management of playing pitches needs to be operated in as cost-effective a manner as possible.

### **Wider geographical area**

Bristol's neighbouring local authorities are generally less densely populated and more rural. There are numerous sports clubs from Bristol based outside the boundary of the city. There are several instances in the north of the city where one end of a street may be in Bristol and the other in South Gloucestershire. This proximity highlights the need to consider pitch provision in the wider area and not just Bristol in isolation.

A major new housing development is planned in South Gloucestershire that will sit on the northern boundary of the city. The development, known as the "Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood" will have approximately 5,700 new homes. New playing pitches are also part of the plans however there is likely to be an impact on the current stock of playing pitches in South Gloucestershire and north Bristol.

For more information on the neighbouring local authorities and their pitch provision, see the separate document "Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy: Background and Evidence".

### **Sport participation and profile**

Sport England's key participation measure for the period 2012-2016 is the proportion of people (16+) playing sport once a week for at least 30 minutes. This was measured by the [Active People Survey](#) (replaced in 2017 by the [Active Lives Survey](#)).

The latest survey statistics (at time of writing, Active People 10) show that 37.2% of Bristol's adult population (aged 16+) regularly participate in sport by this measure. This is above the national average of 35.8% and the average for the south west of 36.5%.

It is also helpful to compare Bristol's once a week participation in sport with that of the other seven Core Cities. Manchester is home to the largest proportion of adults who

participate in sport once a week (40.3%), followed by Newcastle at 37.8%. Bristol ranks third with the lowest performing Core City against this measure being Birmingham at 34.5%.

Sport England market segmentation data for Bristol indicates that for three of the four dominant market segments, football and cricket feature highly amongst the typical participation profile. This suggests that demand for the pitch sports is likely to be higher than the national average.

### **Pitch sports played in the city**

The dominant pitch sports played in the city are Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby Union. This PPS therefore focuses on these sports. Lacrosse, Rugby League, American Football, Baseball, Softball and Rounders are all acknowledged as being played in the city but to a considerably lesser extent, they therefore fall outside the scope of this study.

## Local strategic influences

### The Corporate Strategy 2017-2022 (Bristol City Council)

This acknowledges Bristol is a successful city, but that the Council faces extreme financial challenges. With a rapidly growing population, it is experiencing an increasing demand for services and diminishing financial resources.

This strategy acknowledges the important role that key partners such as schools, clubs and other organisations have to play in maintaining and providing playing pitch provision and identifies the need to ensure playing pitch provision is delivered in the most cost effective way for the provider and user.

This strategy provides the evidence base to help secure external funding and will help inform decision making where the future ongoing management and maintenance of playing pitch provision needs to respond to reduced council budgets.

The Council must re-think how it delivers playing pitch provision. The potential implications of this are addressed by the PPS and include the need to carry out in the future:

- A review of the distribution of council-owned pitches. Single pitch sites and sites with changing facilities that are only used by one set of teams at a time, are more expensive to maintain than the larger sites. The PPS steering group will need to examine the levels of use of the smaller sites to confirm that all remain viable.
- The delegated management of pitches and associated facilities to local clubs (asset transfer) offers some potential cost savings, although capacity building within the club sector will be important, to ensure that any clubs taking on the management of pitches have the financial resources and technical expertise to sustain the operation. A review of possible sites will be undertaken.
- A review of all fees and charges related to pitch hire to ensure that these more closely cover the associated cost of delivering grass pitch provision.
- A review of all sites to consider cost effective access systems which avoid disproportionate and expensive staff costs associated with unlocking changing provision at weekends.
- A review of existing changing provision which results in investment in and rationalisation of existing provision and where necessary more appropriate ancillary provision being provided.

The PPS aims to provide clarity about the way forward and allow the Council to focus on key issues that it can directly influence and address.

## **Bristol: Sport4Life- A strategy for sport and active recreation 2013-2018**

Bristol City Council, Sport England and several key partners worked together in 2012/2013 to produce a new strategy for sport and active recreation for the city. Bristol:Sport4life - A strategy for sport and active recreation 2013-2018 recommended the completion of an up to date Playing Pitch Strategy for the city.

## **Wider strategic influences**

Sport England and the independent National Governing Bodies have national strategic policies and priorities that relate to pitch sports. The National Governing Bodies also utilise their national policies and strategies to develop local strategic priorities. For more information on these please see the separate document "Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy: Background and Evidence".

## Overview of key findings, recommendations and scenarios

To see more comprehensive summary tables of the key findings including information on current demand, future demand, specific calculations on the supply / demand balance and AGP provision, please see the separate document "Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy: Background and Evidence".

### Sport specific and general overview of pitch provision

Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013) warns against using area wide summary figures of pitch supply / demand balances. This is because area wide (or city wide in the case of Bristol) figures can miss-represent the situation on a more local level. For example, an over-supply of pitches in the far north of the city does not solve the problem of an under-supply in the far south of the city. Notwithstanding this, the following table is included to provide a simple overview of pitch supply in the city.

	<b>Total amount of potentially useable capacity if overplayed pitches are "re-allocated", when future demand (up to 2026) and current displaced demand is considered (figures in match equivalents)</b>
<b>Adult Football</b>	15.2
<b>Junior Football (youth 11v11)</b>	-12
<b>Junior Football (youth 9v9)</b>	-7.5
<b>Junior Football (mini 7v7)</b>	21.5
<b>Junior Football (mini 5v5)</b>	10.5
<b>Cricket</b>	-461.5 (cricket is looked at across a whole season)
<b>Senior Rugby Union</b>	-17.3
<b>Artificial pitches (hockey suitable/sand based)</b>	
	There is adequate provision of hockey suitable AGPs in the city.
<b>Artificial pitches (rubber crumb)</b>	
	There is significant new (built in 2016) provision of rubber crumb pitches. Further analysis of supply/demand balance required once facilities are in full use.

- Positive figures represent the amount of unused capacity. This could be pitches with some spare capacity and/or unused pitches.
  - Negative figures represent a need for more supply of this pitch type. Pitches may be being overplayed or the wrong size of pitch is being used to meet the shortfall.
  - There is a need to provide the right combination of youth and mini football pitches for the needs of the city.
  - The undersupply in senior rugby union pitches is due to clubs overusing their pitches for matches and training, with many pitches being poor in quality. The aim of the clubs and the RFU is to rectify this issue by improving the quality of pitches so they can sustain more play/use.
  - The large undersupply in cricket provision is primarily due to the amount of displaced demand (teams from Bristol playing outside the city that want to play in the city).
  - It has been identified that there is enough playing field land in the city. The challenge is to find sustainable cricket pitch solutions through reinstating old pitches, making use of available but unused pitches, improving the current stock of pitches to increase their capacity and considering creating new cricket pitches on adult football sites that are underused.
  - There is adequate supply of hockey suitable sand based artificial pitches. But they are not always accessible by hockey clubs.
  - The significant recent increase in provision of rubber crumb artificial pitches should alleviate football use of hockey suitable artificial pitches.
- 
- **Pitches should not be considered as sport or age specific but as part of an overall stock of playing field land that can be used for many sports.**
  - **The overall quantity of pitches (i.e. playing field space) is adequate to meet current and future demand.**
  - **Considerable work is required to provide the right combination of pitches and to improve the overall quality of pitches and changing provision in the most cost effective way.**

## Key findings / issues that cover multiple sports

Key findings	Recommendation
<b>Protect</b>	
There are a number of pitches that are used by community teams but they do not have a community use agreement with the owner. In theory the owners could stop access at any time.	Negotiate and secure community use agreements at the non-secured sites currently used by the community. Identify and prioritise the sites where loss of access would have the biggest impact on community provision.
There is a significant amount of Bristol based teams (especially cricket) using sites outside of Bristol.	When considering disused sites and any changes in pitch provision, include consideration of all displaced demand.
BCC Parks sites are heavily subsidised by the local authority. Significant budget pressures mean that all BCC expenditure is under review by the authority.	A review of all fees and charges related to BCC parks pitch hire will be carried out to ensure that these more closely cover the associated cost of delivering grass pitch provision. Work with key partners and users to ensure any proposed changes to fees and charges are fully consulted on.
The research process has highlighted frequent examples of pitch and site usage being considered in isolation- especially when the desire is to develop the land.	Pitches should not be considered as sport or age specific but as part of an overall stock of citywide playing field space.
BCC Parks single pitch sites* are under threat due to the inefficiencies of managing and maintaining the facilities on site.	Protect single pitch sites in areas that have no other provision and the sites are seen as an essential part of community life.
<b>Enhance</b>	
There are a large number of sites with poor changing facilities (not just BCC sites).	Identify and prioritise the sites where improvements would have the biggest impact on community provision.
Many changing rooms have poor accessibility and lack segregation areas.	Consider equality issues when building new / renovating old changing facilities.
There is a need for enhanced ancillary facilities other than changing provision (parking/flood lights/social areas) at some sites.	Identify and prioritise the sites where improvements would have the biggest impact on community provision.
There is no comprehensive data held on the maintenance arrangements at all the sites. This raises questions about opportunities to share knowledge and economise on maintenance costs.	Set up a working group to enable the sharing of knowledge, skills and expertise in the management and maintenance of pitches.
The large number of adult pitches in local authority ownership suggests potential to investigate whether any asset transfers are appropriate for some sites.	Local authority to identify and consider any appropriate sites for potential delegated management / community asset transfer.

Strategic decisions / planning have to consider the participants free will to choose where they play or train and independent supplier's free will to choose their costs, users and pitch set up.	Develop and utilise a prioritisation process to ensure investment at key sites has the maximum impact on the PPS vision.
<b>Provide</b>	
BCC Parks changing provision requires both investment and rationalisation.	Proactive partnership working and learning from other cities is required to ensure ancillary facilities are delivered in the most cost effective way for the provider and user.
There are numerous sites in and around the city that are not available for community use but would be of benefit to the local community.	Identify and prioritise the sites where access would have the biggest impact on community provision.
The PPS steering group has the potential to facilitate the development of new sites and improvements to current sites.	There is a need to provide a clear statement of support or otherwise for all proposed projects. Develop and utilise a prioritisation process to ensure all supported projects have the maximum impact on the PPS vision.
Modern access systems to Parks changing provision and ancillary facilities to improve match day efficiencies (reduce staff costs).	Work with key partners and users to ensure any proposed changes do not reduce pitch accessibility to current users.
There is an undersupply of "good" quality grass pitches across the city.	Identify and prioritise the sites where improvements would have the biggest impact on community provision.
There is a changing pattern of participation in pitch sports that suggests a need for more artificial pitches and all weather training facilities.	Carry out further work in to artificial pitch scenarios taking in to account all new and proposed provision.
There are major new housing developments proposed around the city's borders that will place increased demand on pitches in these areas and within the city.	When considering disused sites and any changes in pitch provision, include consideration of all displaced demand (especially as the respective local demand may increase).
The overall quantity of playing field space is adequate to meet current and future demand, as well as some of the displaced demand (Bristol teams playing outside the area). However current pitch configurations may need to change.	Scenario testing is required to provide the right combination of pitches at each site to meet local and city wide demand.

\*single pitch sites: see definition on next page.

## **Key multi-sport/large site scenario**

### Relevant key findings

- BCC Parks single pitch sites\* are under threat due to the inefficiencies of managing and maintaining the facilities on site.
- BCC Parks sites are heavily subsidised by the local authority. Significant budget pressures mean that all BCC expenditure is under review by the authority.
- The large number of adult pitches in local authority ownership suggests potential to investigate whether any asset transfers are appropriate for some sites.\*\*
- Modern access systems to Parks changing provision and ancillary facilities to improve match day efficiencies (reduce staff costs).
- BCC Parks changing provision requires both investment and rationalisation.

\*single pitch sites refer to sites that have only one adult pitch/user of the changing provision available. For example, a site with a changing room, two junior pitches and one adult pitch is a single pitch site if the junior teams do not use the changing facility. Sites that have only one junior pitch and no changing provision are not included in this definition.

\*\*Asset transfers of the changing facility are possible but the associated pitches could only be leased. Facilities currently used by more than one user/club would require detailed arrangements to allow other clubs to continue using them.

### **Summary of issue**

Bristol City Council faces significant budget pressures and as such must re-think how it delivers all aspects of playing pitch provision. The key findings highlighted above inter-relate and require reviewing together in a “five point review”.

Several of the BCC Parks changing facilities are in poor condition and require investment to keep them serviceable. However the total capital investment required to improve all these facilities is estimated at circa £3 million- an amount which is unlikely to be available from the local authority and the key partners. Some of the poor sites will be viable for investment. Some of the sites may have to be utilised differently in order to maximise the resource available. For example, the sites with poor changing facilities that do not attract any investment could still be used for junior pitches. Conversely, the sites with better changing facilities should be used by adult teams and usage of these sites across the season needs to be maximised to increase efficiencies.

No specific financial savings target has been set, however through a combination of the five areas identified proposals will be taken forward for council approval.

## The potential impact on provision

The five point review will look at various scenarios that may include a combination of the following:

- A reduction in the level of service provided by the BCC Parks team (for example, goal posts left out all season)
- An increase in cost to the user for facility / pitch hire
- An increase in the user undertaking tasks themselves (such as putting up goal nets and cleaning changing rooms)
- Some changing facilities being closed
- Some changing facilities being improved / invested in
- Some teams moving to sites more suitable for their needs (for example changing rooms are not a league requirement for most of the youth leagues).

## Fees and charges review

Council football pitch and cricket pitch hire is heavily subsidised. Here, to give an example, the current costs to the user and the council of hiring an adult football pitch (and changing provision) are stated below with some of the variables considered, along with options for a reduction in subsidy.

### A table to show the various hire cost options of an adult football pitch

<b>Adult seasonal booking (based on 12 home games)</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>	<b>Casual (one off bookings) (£)</b>
Full facilities	657.71	67.58
Half facilities (equipment only)	444.19	45.05
Netham – Full Facilities	724.23	74.03
Netham – Half facilities (equipment only)	488.19	50.43
Pitch only	229.61	

## Cost of providing football facilities in Parks

The costs associated with providing an adult football pitch and changing provision includes the following:

- Maintenance of the pitch (grass cutting, seeding, draining etc)

- Maintenance of the changing room building and services/utilities
- Cost of utilities (electricity, water)
- Cleaning of changing room
- Attendant (unlocking/locking facility, putting goal posts and nets up, and also away after the game).

Each of these costs vary slightly at each site and there are also costs that can be potentially reduced. For example, it is cheaper, in theory, to leave the goal posts up all season long, rather than put them up and away for each game. Making use of “Access Control “ technology rather than having an attendant on site, teams could unlock the facilities and stores themselves, put the nets up themselves and could also clean the changing rooms. Costs per match are also reduced when more games are played on each pitch.

Taking all these things in to consideration and reducing overheads wherever possible, the cost of providing a pitch and changing facility is £208 per pitch. Current cost to the user is around £54.81 per match, which is roughly £2 per person. This represents a circa 75% subsidy for each match played.

**A table to show potential costs to the participant if the subsidy changes**

<b>Average cost per football game (£)</b>	<b>Cost to hire (£)</b>	<b>Council subsidy (£)</b>	<b>% subsidy</b>	<b>Cost per player (11 a side plus 2 subs each = 26) (£)</b>
208	54.81	153.19	73.6	2.11
208	104	104	50	4
208	156	52	25	6
208	208	0	0	8

There is also an opportunity to consider a more structured charging system for both the sports playing surface, sports duties attendance and the pavilion / changing room to reflect the service and quality supplied. The combination could be used to set new sustainable hire rates and allow the clubs to have a choice as to the set package they wish to buy.

**A table to show BCC Parks changing provision (owned and managed) and potential actions**

	<b>Brief site summary (N.B. not used = in 2016/17)</b>	<b>Single pitch site*?</b>	<b>Appropriate for changing room CAT with pitch licence</b>	<b>Suitable for an access system to changing/equipment?</b>	<b>Fees and charges review</b>	<b>PPS Action Plan score (improve poor changing facilities)</b>	<b>Key information when considering possible investment or rationalisation of changing provision?</b>
<b>BEGBROOK GREEN PARK</b>	1 adult, 1 mini pitch. Used.	Yes	Possible	Yes	Yes	Assessed as “satisfactory” and therefore not identified for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Good - performing as intended and operating efficiently.</li> <li>• Pitches rated as “standard”.</li> <li>• Small site. Not an FA priority.</li> </ul>
<b>CANFORD PARK</b>	2 adult football, 1 mini. Adult used, mini not used.	No	Possible but difficult as multi-users	Yes	Yes	Assessed as “satisfactory” and therefore not identified for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Good - performing as intended and operating efficiently.</li> <li>• Pitches rated as “standard”.</li> <li>• Small site. Not an FA priority.</li> <li>• Close to University of Bristol Coombe Dingle site.</li> </ul>
<b>DUNDRIDGE FARM PLAYING FIELDS (D REC / D PARK)</b>	4 adult football, 1 youth. Used.	No	Possible	Yes	Yes	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Poor/Bad - Exhibits various defects, each of which might not be significant on their own but together need attention on a planned basis. Also exhibits some major deterioration. Serious risk of imminent breakdown or health and safety hazard.</li> <li>• Pitches rated as “standard”.</li> <li>• Used only for Junior Football (so changing facilities are not a league requirement).</li> <li>• Multi-pitch site so an FA priority.</li> </ul>

<b>EASTVILLE PARK</b>	6 adult football. Only 2 used.	No	Possible but difficult as multi-users	Yes	Yes	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Satisfactory - Performing as intended requiring minor repairs.</li> <li>• Multi-pitch site so an FA priority.</li> <li>• Sloping site- pitches rated as “poor”.</li> <li>• Recent usage has dropped significantly.</li> </ul>
<b>GREVILLE SMYTH PARK</b>	3 adult football. All used for junior football.	No	Possible	Yes	Yes	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Poor - Exhibits various defects, each of which might not be significant on their own but together need attention on a planned basis.</li> <li>• Pitches rated as “standard”.</li> <li>• Multi-pitch site so an FA priority.</li> <li>• Used only for Junior Football (so changing facilities are not a league requirement).</li> <li>• Not currently used for changing.</li> <li>• Main user is Ashton Boys FC who would like a new clubhouse and changing rooms. FA consider this large youth club as a priority so funding is possible.</li> </ul>
<b>KINGS HEAD LANE PARK</b>	1 adult football, space for 2. Used.	Yes	Possible but difficult as multi-users	Yes	Yes	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Poor - Exhibits various defects, each of which might not be significant on their own but together need attention on a planned basis.</li> <li>• Small site so not an FA priority.</li> <li>• Pitches rated as “poor”.</li> <li>• Serves an area of deprivation with good local demand for the pitches.</li> </ul>

<b>MULLER ROAD PLAYING FIELDS</b>	3 adult football, 2 junior football, 1 mini football. Used by community and Fairfield School.	No	Planned	Yes	Yes	Assessed as “satisfactory” and therefore not identified for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Poor - Exhibits various defects, each of which might not be significant on their own but together need attention on a planned basis.</li> <li>• Site to be used by Education (Fairfield School). Additional funding available to ensure site is appropriate for education and community needs.</li> </ul>
<b>NETHAM PARK</b>	4 adult football, 1 junior football, 1 cricket. Used.	No	Possible but difficult as multi-users	Yes	Yes	Assessed as “satisfactory” and therefore not identified for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Good - performing as intended and operating efficiently.</li> <li>• Multi-pitch (&amp; sport) site so an FA priority however site has already received substantial funding.</li> <li>• Pitches rated as “standard”.</li> </ul>
<b>OLDBURY COURT ESTATE</b>	3 junior football, 1 cricket. Used.	No	Possible but difficult as multi-users	Yes	Yes	Assessed as “satisfactory” and therefore not identified for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Satisfactory - performing as intended requiring minor repairs.</li> <li>• Junior football only on site.</li> </ul>
<b>REDCATCH PARK</b>	2 adult football. Used.	No	Possible but difficult as multi-users	Yes	Yes	Assessed as “satisfactory” and therefore not identified for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Satisfactory/Poor - Performing as intended requiring minor repairs. But also exhibits various defects, each of which might not be significant on their own but together need attention on a planned basis.</li> <li>• Pitches rated as “poor”.</li> <li>• Small site so not an FA priority.</li> <li>• Serves an area of deprivation with good local demand for the pitches.</li> </ul>

<b>ST ANNES PARK</b>	Single adult pitch. Not used.	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Not in use so not scored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Bad - Life Expired - Exhibits major deterioration. Serious risk of imminent breakdown or health and safety hazard. Currently not operational.</li> <li>• Pitch rated as "poor".</li> <li>• No current user of pitch.</li> <li>• Changing facility to be demolished in 2017</li> </ul>
<b>THE DOWNS (DURDHAM DOWNS)</b>	30 adult football. Used.	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	Assessed as "satisfactory" and therefore not identified for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition Grade: Satisfactory - Performing as intended requiring minor repairs.</li> <li>• Very large site so an FA priority.</li> <li>• All pitches rated as "standard" but some are "poor".</li> <li>• Changing rooms are very small with poor facilities for match officials.</li> </ul>

## **The likely path ahead**

The PPS five point review will be utilised to help guide this process but will not be the only consideration in moving proposals forward. Local demand (current users) and the relevant National Governing Body will have a critical input as decisions are made. The PPS covers the four main pitch sports but council Parks sites also support tennis, bowls and other community organisations.

Project viability is recognised as a major variable in delivering any potential projects and actions. The PPS can identify priority projects and actions but the level of funding/investment available from key partners and local political issues will have a significant impact on the way forward.

## Cricket key findings

Key findings	Cricket recommendations
<b>Protect</b>	
There are a large number of pitches used by Bristol teams outside of the city boundary, suggesting a need to protect all current cricket pitches in the city to prevent further displaced demand.	When looking at potential city wide pitch changes, there is no room for reducing the number of cricket pitches.
<b>Enhance</b>	
There is a lack of “good” quality cricket facilities, with the pay and play ones mostly rated as “poor”.	Council owned pay & play cricket facilities require investment. Identify and prioritise the sites where improvements would have the biggest impact on community provision.
Many of the clubs that own their own ground require support to improve the facilities.	Identify and prioritise the sites where improvements would have the biggest impact on community provision.
<b>Provide</b>	
Considering the large number of pitches used outside the city boundary, there is a need to explore <u>all</u> forms of new/additional provision in the city (nets, indoor, artificial wickets etc.)	When looking at potential city wide pitch changes, there is a clear identified need for additional cricket stock.
There is demand (largely from the South Asian cricket community) for additional quantity and availability of “pay and play” cricket pitches/facilities. Purchasing land for a new ground within the city is not a realistic goal for these clubs.	When looking at potential city wide pitch changes, there is a clear identified need for additional pay & play cricket stock.

## Key cricket scenario

Relevant key findings:

- There are a large number of pitches used by Bristol teams outside of the city boundary, suggesting a need to protect all current cricket pitches in the city to prevent further displaced demand.
- Considering the large number of pitches used outside the city boundary, there is a need to explore all forms of new/additional provision in the city.
- There is demand (largely from the South Asian cricket community) for additional quantity and availability of “pay and play” cricket pitches/facilities.

### **Summary of issue**

There are not enough cricket pitches in the city to accommodate all the demand. Some of the pitches used outside of the city by Bristol teams are also under threat due to similar PPS work by South Gloucestershire Council. It has been identified that there is enough playing field land in the city, the challenge is to find sustainable cricket pitch solutions.

### **The potential impact on provision**

It is possible to identify some additional cricket provision in the city. However the challenge is to provide enough new pitches, of the right quality and at an affordable rate for the user. If this is not achieved we are likely see some cricket teams fold.

### **The likely path ahead**

Re-instating former pay and play cricket pitches at Blaise Castle and/or Oldbury Court Estate is a realistic (but still financially challenging) first step. Finding sites that are suitable for clubs to relocate to on a more permanent basis is a more difficult proposition. Clubs will need to raise funds themselves and be proactive in searching out funding opportunities. As citywide pitch changes are considered, the possibility of a cricket team/club being based at the site in question should be considered on every occasion.

## Football key findings

Key findings	Football recommendations
Protect	
There is a need to protect the overall quantity of pitches in the city to cope with future demand from all age groups.	When looking at potential city wide pitch changes, although some re-distribution of pitches across the age groups is required, the total number of football pitches in the city will ideally not decrease.
Enhance	
There is a lack of “good” quality pitches in the city.	Identify and prioritise the sites where improvements would have the biggest impact on community provision.
There are several multi-pitch sites with poor quality changing provision.	Identify and prioritise the sites where improvements would have the biggest impact on community provision.
There are several publicly owned single pitch sites in the city that may not be economically viable.	Single pitch sites to be evaluated against economic viability AND local need.
Provide	
There is a small oversupply of adult football pitches and not enough mini football pitches to meet current demand.	When looking at potential city wide pitch changes, although some re-distribution of pitches across the age groups is required, the total number of football pitches in the city should not decrease.
There are a number of youth and mini pitches (mostly schools sites) that are not available for community use.	PPS Steering group to liaise with the Bristol Access to Schools working group to communicate with identified schools.
There is a need to provide the right combination of 5v5, 7v7, 9v9, and 11v11 junior pitches in the city.	When looking at potential city wide pitch changes and re-distribution of pitches across the city, also consider the AGP scenario work.

**N.B. The majority of “multi-sport” sites referred to in the section above (those that are affected by the BCC budget pressures) are primarily football sites.**

## **Key football scenario**

Relevant key findings:

- There is a lack of “good” quality pitches in the city.

## **Summary of issue**

The majority of the pitches maintained by Bristol City Council (the largest pitch provider in the city) are on “natural” ground or former landfill sites, not fully constructed pitches. We are unlikely to see the scale of money required to do improvements to all of the pitches in the form of re-grading / construction, sub-surface drainage piping and surface drainage sand banding. A realistic scenario is therefore to invest in grounds maintenance machinery, staff time and training with the aim to improve pitches by concentrating on providing conditions suitable for good sward growth and working with the existing substrate to improve drainage.

This option is possible as the BCC Parks Grounds Maintenance team are an “in-house” organisation that have recently received significant investment.

## **The potential impact on provision**

Pitch improvements will improve the participant’s playing experience and also potentially offer fewer cancelled matches due to inclement weather, which can help to maintain participation levels. Improving a grass pitch will invariably increase it’s carrying capacity- the number of games it can sustain a week. There is therefore the theoretical possibility of increasing the quality of the pitches and decreasing the quantity, whilst maintaining the number of games that can be held on a weekly basis.

New grounds maintenance machinery will also potentially make it possible to convert areas not previously used as pitches. This will be advantageous when considering the need for more mini and junior football pitches.

## **The likely path ahead**

The FA are keen to partner with Bristol City Council to explore this option further and potentially invest in significant new equipment for the city. The priority would be to improve BCC football pitches but the Parks grounds maintenance department are a “traded service” and therefore the equipment can be made available to other football clubs/pitches and also other sports.

NOTE: See AGP scenario below for further football related scenario.

## Hockey key findings

Key findings	Hockey recommendations
<b>Protect</b>	
Some sand based AGPs in the country are being turned in to 3G rubber crumb pitches. There is a need to maintain or increase the number of sand based pitches in the city.	Identify any providers looking to change their sand based AGP to a 3G.
No clubs in the city own their own ground. Community use agreements need to be robust.	Identify any clubs at risk through understanding facility provider future plans and ensure the community use agreements clubs have in place are robust.
<b>Enhance</b>	
There are not enough mid-week training hours available on sand based AGPs to meet the needs of hockey. This is mostly due to football usage.	The proposed increase in 3G AGPs in the city should represent an opportunity to move some football usage from sand based AGPs, freeing up space for hockey. Look to facilitate this at the sites most in demand for hockey training.
<b>Provide</b>	
The majority of hockey provision is in the north of the city with very little in the central & east and south of the city.	Support the development of any proposed new sand based AGPs, where they are considered strategically important by the PPS steering group.
The majority of hockey provision is in the north of the city with very little in the central & east and south of the city.	Facilitate the use of the sand based AGPs in the South and Central & East of the city for Hockey clubs.

## Key hockey scenario

Relevant key findings:

- Some sand based AGPs in the country are being turned in to 3G rubber crumb pitches. There is a need to maintain or increase the number of sand based pitches in the city.
- No clubs in the city own their own ground. Community use agreements need to be robust.

## Summary of issue

Bristol hockey facility provision is dominated by The University of Bristol and various private schools. The clubs do not have control over the long term future of these facilities and hockey.

### **The potential impact on provision**

A change in the availability of these facilities would cause a major problem for Bristol based hockey clubs. All the new artificial pitch provision in the city being planned is 3G rubber crumb surfaces (not suitable for hockey).

### **The likely path ahead**

Talking to facility providers and understanding their future intentions is required. Implementing or improving community use agreements at key hockey sites is also a sensible next step. Partnering and investing in current facilities as the need to re-surface / update them may also be a possibility.

NOTE: See AGP scenario below for further hockey related scenario.

## Rugby Union key findings

Key findings	Rugby Union recommendations
<b>Protect</b>	
There are a large number of pitches used by Bristol teams outside of the city boundary, suggesting a need to protect all current rugby pitches in the city to prevent further displaced demand. However there is no immediate demand/requests from teams to move back to Bristol.	Identify a list of priority sites in the city; consider what protection is currently in place and the advantages of improving the protection.
<b>Enhance</b>	
There are a low percentage of rugby pitches graded as “good”.	Identify and prioritise the sites where improvements would have the biggest impact on community provision.
There are a high percentage of senior rugby union pitches graded as “poor”.	Identify and prioritise the sites where improvements would have the biggest impact on community provision.
<b>Provide</b>	
There is a lack of mini rugby specific pitches in the city.	Identify the number of “temporary” pitches used at sites not picked up in this study. Identify and prioritise the sites where new provision would have the biggest impact on community provision.
There is a lack of World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G artificial pitches in the city.	Support the development of World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G AGPs in the city where they are considered strategically important by the PPS steering group.

### Key rugby union scenario

Relevant key findings:

- There are a high percentage of senior rugby union pitches graded as “poor”.
- There is a lack of World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G artificial pitches in the city.

### Summary of issue

The common cause of the poor rugby pitches is that they are “overplayed”. Poor maintenance regimes (reducing carrying capacity), training on the main pitch and juniors playing on the main pitch are all reasons for this.

### **The potential impact on provision**

Poor quality pitches result in more games being cancelled and the player/participant experience being poor.

### **The likely path ahead**

Rugby clubs only have so much space, therefore creating separate training pitches and junior pitches is not easily done. The increase in planned World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant 3G rugby pitches in the city (and the surrounding area) offers the possibility of some mid-week training taking place away from club's home ground. This will have cost implications but these can be balanced against the improvements in pitch quality.

## **Future supply**

Forthcoming/new changes in provision:

- Coombe Dingle (planning approved & facility installed late 2016): additional new full size 3G AGP that will be FIFA 2\* and World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant; potential change to grass pitch layouts and total number of grass pitches.
- Bonnington Walk (planning approved & facility installed early 2017): two new full size 3G AGPs (both World Rugby Regulation 22 and FIFA 2\* compliant), loss of one grass pitch, additional built facilities on site (site crosses border in to South Gloucestershire). This site is intended to be a key site for Rugby Union development in the region. The RFU and Bristol Combination both support the project and are key partners.
- Oasis Academy John Williams (planning approved & facility installed late 2016): new full size 3G FIFA 2\* compliant pitch.
- South Bristol Sports Centre (planning approved & facility installed summer 2016): six new 3G 5-a-side football courts.
- Horfield Leisure Centre (planning approved & facility installed late 2016): six new 3G 5-a-side football courts.
- Dings Rugby Club, Frenchay, South Gloucestershire (planning approved): new full size 3G AGP that will be World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant.
- University of West of England, Frenchay, South Gloucestershire (planning decision pending): two new full size 3G pitches.

## **Key future supply scenario**

Relevant key findings:

- There are a significant amount of Bristol based teams using sites outside of Bristol.
- There is a changing pattern of participation in pitch sports that suggests a need for more artificial pitches and all weather training facilities.
- Strategic decisions / planning have to consider the participants free will to choose where they play or train and independent supplier's free will to choose their costs, users and pitch set up.
- There are not enough mid-week training hours available on sand based AGPs to meet the needs of hockey. This is mostly due to football usage.

## **Summary of issue**

3G rubber crumb artificial pitches are suitable for football and rugby matches (and training) if built to the NGB's specifications, and they are also usually built with flood lights. Smaller 3G courts and 3G pitches that don't meet The FA's standard can be used for football training. There are several new facilities either planned or installed within Bristol and at least two more planned for South Gloucestershire.

## **The potential impact on provision**

Due to the number of hours that these facilities can be available for on a weekly basis, without significantly deteriorating, these pitches offer a significant change in supply for the city. The FA are encouraging mini and youth football to play their matches on accredited 3G pitches and have also changed their rules allowing more senior football to make use of these facilities. These pitches are expected to be most in demand during periods of inclement weather.

In theory there is the potential for the total number of football sites to decrease, possibly helping to meet the demand for cricket sites or minority sports and informal recreation. There is also the potential for football training to move off sand based artificial pitches and on to the new 3G provision. This in turn could help with the demand for hockey training space in the mid-week.

## **The likely path ahead**

3G pitches, of any type, require significant monthly maintenance and a sinking fund of circa £25,000 a year over 10 years to cover the cost of carpet replacement. Every new site will have a business plan and require a number of hours of weekly use, at a certain income level, to cover these significant overheads.

The relatively sudden increase in 3G pitch supply in and around Bristol in the latter part of 2016 suggests a review of the strategic need for similar facilities would be prudent before any further new/planned pitches are considered for funding.

N.B. See **Estimating supply and demand of 3G (rubber crumb) AGPs** in the separate document "Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy: Background and Evidence".

**These key findings and recommendations have been further developed in to site specific and sport specific action plans. Please see the separate document "Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan".**

## **Next steps: keeping the strategy robust and up to date**

### **Steering group and the next phase**

The steering group that has overseen and driven the development of this strategy includes the following:

- Bristol City Council Officers from Sports, Parks and Planning
- Sport England Planning Manager
- National Governing Body Relationship / Facility / Investment / Development Managers of Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby Union.

One of the objectives stated earlier in the strategy is to:

“Develop a team of people to deliver the action plan and recommendations, to keep the data set up to date at least every other year and to explore potential future work emerging from the data.”

The steering group will assume responsibility for this and will seek to ensure the following processes and actions are instigated.

### **Delivering the action plan and monitoring/updating the dataset**

To make this PPS a success the strategy itself should be considered the starting point. Delivering the actions and steering the direction of travel over the longer term will require a proactive approach from all partners. The work undertaken and the development of the action plans provide a framework for facility provision development for the four relevant sports in the coming years.

The council will seek to work with the individual sports on an ongoing basis with formal monitoring and progress meetings taking place biannually. A full steering group meeting, where city wide issues that affect all the sports can be discussed, will take place on annual basis. An annual report on progress and strategic developments will also be made available for the purposes of wider partner communication.