

Cabinet

Meeting: Wednesday, 16th September 2015 at 6.00 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

| Membership: | Cllrs. James (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy) (Chair), Dallimore (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods), Noakes (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure), D. Norman (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) and Porter (Cabinet Member for Environment) |
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| Contact: | Atika Tarajiya Democratic Services Officer 01452 396127 atika.tarajiya@gloucester.gov.uk |

| AGENDA | |
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| 1. | APOLOGIES |
| | To receive any apologies for absence. |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST |
| | To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non-pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes. |
| 3. | MINUTES (Pages 7 - 14) |
| | To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2015. |
| 4. | PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) |
| | The opportunity is given to members of the public to put questions to Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs provided that a question does not relate to: |
| | Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings, or Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council Officers |

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

To receive any petitions or deputations provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to:

- Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or
- Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings

6. THE COUNCIL'S CULTURAL STRATEGY-REVISION 2017 (Pages 15 - 18)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure seeking approval to begin the process of updating the Council's Cultural Strategy which is due for revision in 2017.

7. CULTURAL STRATEGY UPDATE: JANUARY - JUNE 2015 (Pages 19 - 46)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure updating Members on the progress that has been made in achieving the Cultural Strategy's targets from January to June 2015.

8. RUGBY WORLD CUP UPDATE (Pages 47 - 52)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy updating Members on progress against the key issues for the delivery of the Rugby World Cup 2015.

9. DRAFT GLOUCESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY (Pages 53 - 264)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning seeking approval for the Draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy for the purposes of public consultation.

10. | CORPORATE PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 1 EXCEPTIONS (Pages 265 - 276)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources highlighting performance against the current agreed indicators for the period April 2015 to June 2015 in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2014-17.

11. | FINANCIAL MONITORING QUARTER 1 REPORT (Pages 277 - 290)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources updating Members on financial monitoring details including budget variances, year-end forecasts, and progress made against agreed savings targets for the 1st quarter ended 30th June 2015.

12. ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT UPDATE (Pages 291 - 296)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure updating Members on the work done by Gloucester City Council to support current and ex-service personnel as part of the Gloucestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant and to seek ongoing endorsement of such activity.

13. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) SIX MONTHLY REPORT ON USE OF RIPA POWERS (Pages 297 - 300)

To consider the report of the cabinet Member for Performance and Resources updating Members on the Council's use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

14. MURRAY HALL TUFFLEY LANE GLOUCESTER AND LAND AT COLWELL AVENUE HUCCLECOTE GLOUCESTER (Pages 301 - 308)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy seeking approval of the intended disposal of the freehold interests of Murray Hall, Tuffley Lane and land at Colwell Avenue, Hucclecote to the relevant Scout Associations at market value.

15. 23, 25, 27 AND 29 COMMERCIAL ROAD, GLOUCESTER (Pages 309 - 320)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy seeking approval to acquire and sell nos 23, 25, 27 and 29 Commercial Road, Gloucester.

16. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve:-

"That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public are present during consideration of this item there will be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended".

Agenda Item No. Description of Exempt Information

Paragraph 3: information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

17. | 23, 25, 27 AND 29 COMMERCIAL ROAD, GLOUCESTER (Pages 321 - 332)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy seeking approval to acquire and sell nos 23, 25, 27 and 29 Commercial Road, Gloucester.

Jon McGinty
Managing Director

D.R. M. L. L.

Date of Publication: Tuesday, 8 September 2015

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows -

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

Sponsorship Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than

from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Contracts Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil

partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest)

and the Council

(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are

to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged

Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area.

For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the

land or to receive income.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Licences

Council's area for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) -Corporate tenancies

(a) the landlord is the Council; and

(b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has

a beneficial interest

Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where -

(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and

(b) either -

i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that

body: or

ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with

Land

Securities

whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, "securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

Access to Information

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For further details and enquiries about this meeting please contact Atika Tarajiya, 01452 396125, atika.tarajiya@gloucester.gov.uk.

For general enquiries about Gloucester City Council's meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

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Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the Public and Press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

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- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.





CABINET

MEETING: Wednesday, 15th July 2015

PRESENT: Cllrs. James (Chair), Dallimore, Norman, Organ and Porter

Others in Attendance

Jon McGinty, Managing Director Ross Cook, Corporate Director Shirin Wotherspoon, Solicitor

Atika Tarajiya, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Noakes

19. WELCOME TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy (Councillor Paul James) welcomed Jon McGinty as the new Managing Director to the meeting.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to amendment of minute item 11:

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods updating Members on the progress of implementing Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) and Public Health interventions.

Councillor Dallimore reported that the focus of the report was on the progress made in the last 12 months, though the scheme had been in operation since 2012. She advised Members that the *Clinical* County Commissioning Group (CCG) had been successful in their bid to the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund and secured additional *funding* £1 million for the continuation of the Social Prescribing project.

Cabinet Members endorsed the approach acknowledging that the City Council had adapted their approach around the ABCD model. They were pleased to note that Councillor Dallimore would be leading on this topic at the Local Government Association (LGA) conference, as part of a peer review, later in the year.

22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

Mr Steve Morgan congratulated the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy (Councillor Paul James) on the continuing success of the Regeneration Strategy which promoted economic growth and employment within the City. He questioned if the Cabinet Member agreed the importance of preserving open green spaces at a time when current regeneration schemes and future planned growth exerted additional pressures on the City's landscape, and queried if either a debate at full Council or a further report to Cabinet could be arranged demonstrating the reduction in the number of open green spaces within the City.

Councillor James agreed that the City's green spaces were valuable and should be safeguarded and explained that efforts were focussed on the development of brownfield sites. He explained that the adopted Open Space Strategy set out the City Council's plans in protecting and managing the City's open spaces. The Corporate Director reported that a component of the Open Space Strategy was an individual action plan for each of the City's wards outlining specific aims and issues. Councillor James remarked that this issue would be discussed with Officers further, and any pertinent information would be relayed in an appropriate manner.

Mr Roger Critchley asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning (Councillor Colin Organ) whether he acknowledged that although there had been significant housing developments in Hempsted over recent years there had been little improvements to existing facilities such as doctors' surgeries.

Councillor Organ acknowledged the need for developing facilities in line with new developments. He noted that Hempsted were working towards an adopted neighbourhood plan and questioned if appropriate representations had been made to other service providers such as the NHS.

Mr Critchley asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning if planning applications concerning Hempsted should not be determined until the emerging Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted and asked for assurance that the City Council would not authorise permission for any more green field development until all brownfield sites were fully developed.

Councillor Colin Organ stated that it was outide the City's remit to not determine planning applications. He advised that brownfield sites were a preferred location for the new developments however this would be dependent on the Joint Core Strategy (JCS). He advised that the JCS was a strategic development plan for the City, which once adopted, would enable neighbourhood plans to be reviewed. He observed that if appropriate, a written response to the questions would be provided with more detail.

15.07.15

23. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions and deputations.

24. PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR GLOUCESTER

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy seeking approval to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) Task group to consider the feasibility of setting up a BID in Gloucester.

Councillor James summarised key areas of the report, commenting that the principle aim of the BID would be a business led initiative that would fund additional resources and services to the City Centre without any extra costs to the taxpayer. He explained that the BID would be implemented following a ballot process and that the BID Task Group would represent, manage and steer the BID's activities towards a successful ballot. He reported that the Conservative manifesto pledged to support BIDs, noting that the City of Worcester had a successful BID in place and that Cheltenham Borough Council were also in the process of setting up a BID and were further along in this process.

In response to a query from the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources (Councillor David Norman) on the costs of setting up a BID, Councillor James explained that there were costs associated with the ballot process and the levy charge if the BID was successfully implemented. He reported that the exact costs of the ballot process were unknown at this point though a detailed business plan would be presented to Cabinet with more detail. He advised that although the Council were able to recuperate the costs of the ballot process back from the successful BID after a period of five years, this money would be re-allocated on BID programmes instead. He stated that Council would also be liable to pay the BID levy on properties they owned within the BID area though he anticipated that this would be a modest cost.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods (Councillor Jennie Dallimore) commented that this was an example of the City Council enabling rather than leading businesses. She observed that there could be other areas in the City that could benefit from similar schemes in future, recognising that this would have to be driven by business appetite.

Cabinet Members endorsed the approach acknowledging that a BID would promote growth in the City and would demonstrate the City Council's commitment to the City Centre Economy. They noted that all partners would need to work together in times of financial uncertainty to ensure success and welcomed the comprehensive business plan that would provide greater detail on the proposal.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the principle of a Gloucester BID be supported.
- 2. That the establishment of a BID Task Group be supported.

3. That authority be delegated to the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development Service, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy to co-ordinate and allocate staffing resources within the Economic Development Team to provide administrative support to the BID Task Group.

25. CITY CENTRE INVESTMENT FUND ALLOCATIONS AND UPDATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy updating Members on the projects within the City Centre Investment Fund delivery programme.

Councillor James highlighted key areas of the report commenting that the public toilets for Kings Square were scheduled for early September and the remainder of the fund would be allocated to the Tourist Information Centre (TIC). He stated that despite press reports, plans to improve the façades of Kings Walk Car Palk and Eastgate Shopping Centre were not being scrapped, explaining that the upper levels of the car park would be painted as an interim solution and cladding on the lower half of the building would be piloted, a test panel of which could be inspected by Members in situ.

Councillor James commented that the plans for the Eastgate Shopping Centre could be delayed as the legal agreement had to be signed by five parties. He reported that the existing Christmas lights, which had been in operation since 2006, would be replaced as they became less efficient over time and public opinion on the final design would be sought.

Cabinet Members welcomed the proposals noting that they aimed to provide best value and long term viability.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the good progress being made to deliver the City Centre Investment Fund be noted.
- 2. That £70,000 of the public toilet allocation be used to provide a new facility at Kings Square, the balance to remain allocated to the Tourist Information Centre, subject to the outcome of detailed feasibility studies.
- 3. That an interim solution of painting the façade of the Kings Walk Car Park be delivered in time for the Rugby World Cup, subject to the owner's approval pending the delivery of the permanent façade treatment.
- 4. That Officers deliver immediate improvements at the City Museum, as detailed in Section 4.3, and continue to work with the Heritage Lottery Fund to make a further bid.
- 5. That the prioritisation of Eastgate Street frontage of the Kings Walk Car Park and the Eastgate Shopping Centre, for the treatment of their facades be confirmed, subject to detailed costs and that the Eastgate Link Bridge be reconsidered in the light of the proposals for the Kings Walk car park frontage when fully developed.

26. REGENERATION OF GREATER BLACKFRIARS

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy updating Members on progress to deliver the successful Regeneration of the Greater Blackfriars area of Gloucester City Centre.

Councillor James reported that the project had secured £4.13M from the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) and Growth Deal predominantly for the de-risking of the site and noted that the Master plan had been received remarking that it was indicative and could be subject to change. He commented that City and Country would be holding a public consultation on the former prison site and acknowledged that a mix of residential and commercial property would increase the attractiveness of the area.

Cabinet Members endorsed the proposals recognising that the site could develop to become an important tourist link and attraction between the dynamic Quays regeneration, Cathedral and future projects within the City.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the good progress being made in the delivery of the regeneration of the Blackfriars area be noted.
- 2. To note that Governance arrangements, led by the Project Board, are in place.

27. RUGBY WORLD CUP UPDATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy informing on progress against the key issues for the delivery of the Rugby World Cup 2015 (RWC15).

Councillor James highlighted the key areas of the report noting the breadth of RWC and community events planned across the City. He commented that early pledges for the commemorative bench in Kings Square had been received and expressed his hope that these would continue.

Cabinet Members welcomed the update acknowledging that the event would be an important tourist attraction that was expected to generate £43M into the City's economy. They were pleased to note that the community events would attract a wide audience from across the City and that the tickets allocated to Members could be used to recognise individuals not affiliated with any particular group. Councillor Norman requested a further update on any grants and sponsorships awarded for the RWC15.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made so far regarding the preparations as part of Gloucester's Host City arrangements for the Rugby World Cup 2015 be noted.

28. MUSEUMS SERVICE EVENTS PLANNED FOR JULY - DECEMBER 2015

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure informing Members of forthcoming events planned for the City and Folk Museums from July to December 2015.

Cabinet Members were pleased to note the variety of events planned, observing that staff at the Museum had taken steps to make events more interactive and modern. Councillor Organ commented that staff were assisting in getting artefacts on display at the Retro Festival as the Museums were not in the direct vicinity of the gate streets and acknowledged that active promotion would increase residents' awareness of planned events.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the schedule of events listed in paragraphs 3.1 3.12.1, which support the recommendations of the Cultural Services Review aimed at increasing footfall and revenue into the Museums be noted
- 2. That the report and the Appendix be widely distributed.

29. MARKETS STRATEGY UPDATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy updating Members on the City Council's progress with the Markets Strategy action plan and the options available for additional car parking at Hempsted Meadows Carboot site.

Councillor James explained that although the option to extend the car parking at Hempsted Meadows had not been pursued due to costs related to flooding and drainage issues, innovative new options were currently being explored. He advised that the location of the new purpose built indoor market could soon be confirmed as plans for Kings Quarter and Blackfriars projects continued to develop and noted that the City Council were trying to minimise the impact of service charges to traders associated with necessary repair works to the current indoor market.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the contents of the report be noted.
- 2. That the success of the Hempsted Meadows Carboot under new management be noted.
- That the City Council will not proceed with the available options for additional parking at Hempsted Meadows Carboot site as listed in Appendix 1 due to the costs.
- 4. That commitment to the provision of a new indoor market in either Kings Quarter or Blackfriars be reaffirmed.

30. HKP RECEPTION

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources updating Members on the new HKP (Herbert, Kimberly and Philpotts) reception design and processes.

Cabinet Members endorsed the changes and were pleased to note the 72% positive feedback from the Gov Metric System. Councillor David Norman reported that options to promote the large meeting room in the reception area were being explored as it was currently being underutilised.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

Time of commencement: 18:00 hours Time of conclusion: 19:15 hours

Chair



Agenda Item 6



Meeting: Cabinet Date: 16 September 2015

Subject: The Council's Cultural Strategy-Revision 2017

Report Of: Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: Yes Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Martin Shields, Corporate Director

Email: martin.shields@gloucester.gov.uk Tel: 396745

Appendices: None

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 Cabinet is being asked to approve the start of the process to update the Council's Cultural Strategy which is due for revision in 2017.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:
 - (1) It be recorded that the Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure has set up an informal Interim Gloucester Culture Board to help shape the Council's Cultural Strategy.
 - (2) A revised Cultural Strategy and associated Business Plan come before Cabinet for endorsement in due course, before going on to full Council for approval and adoption.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The City Council is currently working with "Towards a cultural strategy" which was produced jointly by the City Council and the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company in 2007. This document is, in large part, still valid today but Gloucester has moved on significantly in this time and a new, reinvigorating strategy is now required. Recently an informal Interim Gloucester Culture Board has been established by the Cabinet Member for Culture & Strategy to assist the Council in this process.
- 3.2 The tasks of this group, following a consultation process, will include assisting the Council in producing a Cultural Strategy for Gloucester with an associated business plan. This strategy, once endorsed by Cabinet, will be presented to Council for approval and adoption.

- 3.3 When the strategy is approved, the Council may consider the retaining the Gloucester Culture Board as a formal advisory Board to advise the Council in the delivery of the strategy.
- 3.4 The informal Interim Gloucester Culture Board will also be looking to set up a Culture Forum with practitioners from across the sector to support networking, ideas generation and project working.
- 3.5 The Interim Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure with the Vice-Chair position filled by Donna Renney from GUST who runs the History Festival and who can offer an external view and expertise.
- 3.6 Other members of the board include; Stephen Lake, Dean of the Cathedral; Stephen Marston, V-C of Gloucestershire University; Pippa Jones, CEO of Create Gloucestershire and a representative on the LEP; Jason Smith, CEO, Marketing Gloucester; Simon Jutton, South West Relationships Manager (Torbay) Arts Council and Kate Danielson, Kate Danielson Associates & GUST.
- 3.7 The Mission Statement of the Interim Gloucester Culture Board is: to ensure culture is at the heart of the City for the good of all.
- 3.8 When culture is at the heart of the City, we will achieve:
 - Thriving Residents improved quality of life generally via cultural provision, choice, social mobility, improved employability, lifelong learning, individual progression routes, access, active citizenship, representation, social cohesion, civic pride, confidence and ambition, improved health, championing diversity.
 - Thriving City a distinctive cultural identity for Gloucester locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
 - Thriving Economy increased visitor numbers bringing increased economic and social benefits; improved reputation of the City locally, in Gloucestershire and nationally; provision of opportunities for local young people which will help retain the University's graduates.
- 3.9 In order to achieve this, the Interim Gloucester Culture Board will assist the Council to apply for funding from the Arts Council which will be used to undertake wide consultation, an audit of what we have already in the City, reference to other strategies and documents and then to finally produce the strategy and business plan.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Members could support the continuation of the current arrangements whereby Officers report activity taking place under the strategy on a half yearly basis. However, this is not recommended as:
 - The current strategy comes to an end in 2017.
 - The proposed arrangements introduce a wider range of partners and expertise into the debate, who are well placed to advise and inform Cabinet and Officers for the future delivery of the Cultural Strategy.

 The Arts Council is giving its support to the new initiatives and has said that without a revised Cultural Strategy, Gloucester will be unable to attract any significant funding for culture in the City.

5.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

5.1 This report draws upon assets from within Gloucester by using the expertise of those invited to join the Interim Board. Once the strategy has been determined the strengths held within the wider communities across Gloucester can be utilised to support the delivery of the strategy at community level.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 The current strategy is tired and needs reviewing with fresh eyes and expertise to ensure that the new strategy is modernised and is fit for purpose for the years ahead. The development of a Gloucester Culture Board will ensure this happens and the recommendations arising from the Board will be considered by Cabinet and Council for implementation as deemed appropriate to deliver the cultural elements of the Council Plan.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

7.1 A new Cultural Strategy will develop from the work of the Interim Board. When Council considers the adoption of the new Cultural Strategy, it may decide to retain the Interim Gloucester Culture Board as a formal advisory board of the Council. It will then be possible for recommendations from the Board to be reported by the Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure to Cabinet for approval and adoption as appropriate, to meet the objectives of the Council Plan.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 Funding is being sought from the Arts Council to support the production of a new, comprehensive strategy. Match funding may be required from the City Council, the details of which will become clearer once a specification for the work has been drawn up by the Interim Board.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Council has various statutory powers to undertake cultural and leisure activities in the City, including sections 144 and 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 9.2 As mentioned in the report the Interim Gloucester Culture Board is a group set up by the Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure to assist the Council in the development and revision of the Council's Cultural Strategy. It is not a formal board of the Council at this stage and does not have decision making powers. Full Council, when considering the adoption of the revised Cultural Strategy, may decide to retain the group as a formal advisory Board of the Council to provide assistance and advice in the delivery of the Strategy.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

10.1 There is a risk that the newly formed Culture Board will make recommendations that are neither deliverable from a financial point of view or in line with the Council Plan.

This risk is mitigated by having Officers supporting the Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure who is currently chairing the Board and who can provide advice and

guidance on Council funding and priorities.

10.2 Development of a Gloucester Culture Board will greatly enhance the opportunities

for culture in the City as it will contain a wide variety of members from a range of backgrounds and expertise, all with an interest in ensuring that culture in the City

flourishes.

10.3 Support of the Gloucester Culture Board from the Arts Council will put Gloucester in

a much stronger position to attract external funding once the new Cultural Strategy

is in place.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

11.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual

negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 There are no community safety implications associated with this report.

Sustainability

12.2 The development of a new Cultural Strategy will ensure the sustainability of culture

and heritage in the City for generations to come.

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 There are no staffing or TU implications associated with this report.

Press Release drafted/approved

12.4 The Interim Board will not be putting out a press release directly but may do so

through the Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure or Officers.

Background Documents: Existing Cultural Strategy 2007-17.



Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Date: 14 September 2015

Cabinet 16 September 2015

Subject: Cultural Strategy Update: January – June 2015

Report Of: Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Lucy Chilton, Visitor Services Manager

Email: lucy.chilton@gloucester.gov.uk Tel: 396570

Appendices: 1. Achievements from January to June 2015

2. Planned activities from July to December 2015

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the progress that has been made in achieving the Cultural Strategy's targets from January to June 2015.
- 1.2 In addition to the achievements made, an action plan has been produced to show the planned activity from various stakeholders from July through to December 2015. The aim of this is to ensure that the Cultural Strategy aims and objectives are achieved and to identify areas that may need further work.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** is asked to consider the information contained in the report and make any recommendations it considers appropriate to Cabinet.

2.2 **Cabinet** is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) The achievements made in delivering the Cultural Strategy from January to June 2015 be noted.
- (2) It be noted that the planned activities by various stakeholders are recognised as contributing to the Cultural Strategy aims and objectives.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

3.1 Members were last updated on progress about the Cultural Strategy action plan six months ago in a bid to provide an effective feedback mechanism on how well the City was achieving its cultural targets.

- 3.2 It was agreed with senior management that the format of the update was to be changed to include the planned activities for the next 6 months by all City partners. This will inform and update Members and will highlight any potential gaps in fulfilling the aims of the strategy.
- 3.3 The strategy proposed seven distinct action areas over a ten-year period starting in 2007. The seven areas are:
 - Making sense of the City Centre creating an attractive and vibrant City Centre.
 - Rethinking heritage and cultural tourism improving access, visibility and quality of heritage facilities with a particular emphasis on the water/maritime history.
 - Raising the stakes for creativity making provision for the growth in creative industries.
 - Broadening Gloucester's excellence in sport.
 - Enjoying and supporting diversity.
 - Planning for a 'transformational' project.
 - Marketing and promoting Gloucester.

A full version of the strategy can be viewed on the City Council's website at http://www.gloucester.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/Pages/Evidence-Base.aspx#culturalstrategy

3.4 Progress over the last six months has been significant and varied. This update is in no way comprehensive, but does indicate the extent of cultural activity taking place in our City. Around twenty people were contacted from the City Council and local cultural organisations to request information on what has been achieved in the last six months in relation to the seven strands of the Cultural Strategy.

3.5 MAKING SENSE OF THE CITY CENTRE

This strand of the Cultural Strategy is about physical improvements to the City Centre and its buildings, as well as the interpretation and animation of the City and its public realm. This strand is about linking up various areas of the city including the Docks and City centre and providing public art of iconic status which leave strong impressions on visitors and residents.

3.6 RETHINKING HERITAGE AND CULTURAL TOURISM

The second strand of the Cultural Strategy looks to improving access, visibility and the quality of heritage facilities and attractions in the City. There is a real appetite for heritage and cultural tourism, not only from visitors but also our residents. To address this interest, a range of initiatives and projects have been developed that increase residents' pride in their City.

3.7 RAISING THE STAKES FOR CREATIVITY

Raising the stakes for creativity is about increasing opportunities for participating in arts including increasing activity in our schools and developing creative industry workspace in the City.

3.8 CONSOLIDATING GLOUCESTER'S REPUTATION FOR SPORTING EXCELLENCE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

This element of the Cultural Strategy requires the right balance between developing world class provision of sporting facilities and achievement with access for all.

Gloucester has the lowest participation rates in sport in the County and therefore, increasing participation is important.

3.9 ENJOYING AND SUPPORTING DIVERSITY

Gloucester is home to a large number of community groups representing different faiths, cultures, genders and generations. Being one of the most diverse cities in England, it's important that all communities feel as though they are involved in the life of the City.

3.10 PLANNING FOR A TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT

The Cultural Strategy suggests that the transformational project should be of international importance and be based on a strong public and private partnership. At the time of developing the Cultural Strategy in 2007, it was not clear what this project should be; only that it should put Gloucester on the map. A number of smaller projects could be described as transformational.

3.11 MARKETING AND PROMOTING GLOUCESTER

The consultees involved in helping to create the City's Cultural Strategy felt that Gloucester should make more of what already existed in the City and that the cultural message should be woven into Gloucester's marketing approach. The new cultural image that the consultees refer to is set out in strands 2 and 3 of the Cultural Strategy; however, they include making our heritage and culture more accessible and developing Gloucester's image as being a cool place to be.

In tandem with this, residents should feel involved in their City through regular communications and public events. They also advised that Gloucester's brand should be significantly improved. This was one of the purposes in the creation of Marketing Gloucester who have worked in consultation with partners to develop a brand for the City.

- 3.12 Appendix 1 shows the achievements made from January to June 2015.
- 3.13 Appendix 2 indicates the planned cultural activities due to take place from July to December 2015 from the various cultural partners.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

- 4.1 The current Cultural Strategy does not consider the skills that are available within the communities of Gloucester. It is clear that from some of the activities described that the communities within Gloucester have the necessary skills and assets to contribute to Gloucester's cultural activities.
- 4.2 The newly established Gloucester Culture Board will be able to determine the strengths held within the community and establish how the community can help deliver the strategies aims and objectives.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 Not applicable for this report.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 The progress made during the last six months has been significant and has contributed to achieving the objectives of the Cultural Strategy.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 7.1 It is clear that a significant amount of work has been done over the past 6 months contributing to the Cultural Strategy. The City Council and Marketing Gloucester are both key drivers in all future works in the City and with 2015 being Gloucester's BiG Year, cultural development will certainly improve this year.
- 7.2 It has however been widely recognised that the time has come to review Gloucester's Cultural Strategy. An interim Gloucester Culture Board has been established whose mission is "to ensure culture is at the heart of the City for the good of all". They are working to produce an up to date Cultural Strategy with the aim of producing:
 - Thriving Residents quality if life generally via cultural provision, choice, social mobility, improved employability, lifelong learning, individual progression routes, access, active citizenship, representation, social cohesion, civic pride, confidence and ambition, improved health and championing diversity.
 - Thriving City a distinctive cultural identity for Gloucester locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
 - Thriving Economy increased visitor numbers bringing increased economic and social benefits; improved reputation of the city locally in Gloucestershire and nationally, increasing opportunities for local young people which will help retain University graduates.
- 7.3 The Arts Council has representation on this Interim Board, along with representatives from the University, the Cathedral and Create Gloucestershire.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications relating to this report at this stage.

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

10.1 None at this stage. Appropriate risk management will be undertaken for each project as they arise.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

11.1 A People Impact Assessment will be completed in conjunction with the new Cultural Strategy which will be produced by the Gloucester Culture Board.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 Gloucester City Safe has the sole intention of facilitating the reduction of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour which can blight both day and night time economies. The work of the partnership supports the delivery of this strategy.

Sustainability

12.2 Sustainability issues will be addressed within individual projects within the action plan.

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 Not applicable.

Press Release drafted/approved

12.4 Not applicable.

Background Documents: None



Appendix 1 - Achievements from January to June 2015

| MAKING SENSE OF THE CITY CENTRE | |
|---|-------------------------|
| The upstairs gallery space at the City Museum has been developed to | Gloucester City Council |
| continue the story of Gloucester's History from the Tudors to the present day. | Museums |
| Gloucester Folk Museum worked closely with the Soldiers of Gloucestershire | Gloucester City Council |
| Museum in February and April 2015, to offer free WWI workshops for families. | Museums |
| The workshops were run by staff from the Soldiers Museum, and were very | |
| popular. | |
| An interpretation panel is being produced to become a permanent fixture | Gloucester City Council |
| outside the glass of the Eastgate Chamber. It is in the final stages of | Museums |
| development and will be fixed into place in the coming months. | |
| The City Council has offered sixteen grants totaling £75,847.60 within the City | Gloucester City Council |
| Centre Historic Areas Grant Scheme. The most recent grant offers include | Environmental Planning |
| repairs works to 24, 33 and 42-44 Westgate Street, 3 College Street, Hayden | |
| Taylor, 20 Southgate Street and Lilly's restaurant. | |
| The THI Southgate Street Scheme has awarded three further grants to 150- | |
| 152 Southgate St, 65 Southgate St and 7 Priory Place. A further public realm | |
| improvement grant was awarded for cladding a modern unsightly property at | |
| 39-41 Southgate Street, to improve the character and quality of the | |
| conservation area. | |
| A recently re-discovered bronze plaque which honours those City Council | Gloucester City Council |
| staff that lost their lives in WW1 has been cleaned and fixed to the side of | Environmental Planning |
| North Warehouse. | |
| A public realm strategy is currently being drafted for the City; this strategy will | Gloucester City Council |
| review and recommend materials for paving, highways and street furniture | Environmental Planning |
| within the City, as well as, identifying key linkages and routes across the City. | |
| Once drafted the document will be subject to period of consultation prior to | |
| adoption as supplementary planning guidance. | |

| On March 27th a plague was unvailed on the Masonia Hall in Cross Kova Lang | Clausester City Council |
|--|---------------------------|
| On March 27 th a plaque was unveiled on the Masonic Hall in Cross Keys Lane | Gloucester City Council |
| explaining the history of the building. RETHINKING HERITAGE AND CULTURAL TOURISM | Environmental Planning |
| | Olava a dan Oita Oassa il |
| The Museums Service held another Richard III festival, hosting world | Gloucester City Council |
| renowned speakers and experts in their field, building on the success of last | Museums |
| year's events. The festival highlighted the City's rich medieval history and its | |
| place at this time on the national stage. | |
| The Museums Service now use social media to enable more effective use of | Gloucester City Council |
| digital platforms, providing more access to objects in the collection through | Museums |
| digital communication. | |
| The City Museum held a day of talks in April 2015 in partnership with the | Gloucester City Council |
| WEA (The Worker's Educational Association). A series of historical talks took | Museums |
| place, looking at various aspects of Gloucester's history. They were well | |
| received, most especially the 'Gloucester Trades in 1608' talk. | |
| March 2015 saw the annual Residents Weekend which included a variety of | Marketing Gloucester |
| tours and talks across the City by the Gloucester Civic. Over 500 Gloucester | |
| residents took the opportunity to find out more about their City. The Tourist | |
| Information Centre was the main outlet for passes and tickets during the | |
| weekend's events. | |
| Heritage of the waterways was celebrated with the bi-annual Tall Ships | Marketing Gloucester |
| Festival. Over 126,000 people attended the event over the three day festival | |
| in May. | |
| A Gloucester History Festival Committee was set up in January to manage all | Marketing Gloucester |
| aspects of the established festival. There has been a concerted effort to | _ |
| increase the profile of the event by attracting better known speakers. BBC | |
| historians Dr Janina Ramirez and Tom Holland, plus Nicholas Soames MP - | |
| grandson of Winston Churchill. | |
| The Henry III Committee has been set up in partnership with Gloucester Civic | Marketing Gloucester |

| Trust, Gloucester Cathedral and Gloucester City Museums to explore the City's celebration of the coronations of Henry III. Next year will be the 800 th anniversary of his coronation – the last time an English/British monarch was crowned outside of London. The same committee will also look at the Aethelflaed anniversary in 2018. | |
|--|-------------------------|
| A condition survey has been commissioned to assess 26 Westgate Street as | Gloucester City Council |
| part of the investigation works related to the feasibility of the TIC move. This | Environmental Planning |
| work is due to be completed by the end of July. | |
| A lighting scheme for the Grade II listed Constitution House was completed, | Gloucester City Council |
| as part of the Lighting Strategy Grant Scheme, which offers up to a 60% grant | Environmental Planning |
| towards the design, procurement and installation of architectural lighting to | |
| historic and landmark buildings in the City Centre. Constitution House was lit | |
| with two 150w LED floodlights aimed at the main façade onto Constitution | |
| Walk. | |
| The Eastgate Portico lighting scheme has been completed also with the help | Gloucester City Council |
| of the Lighting Strategy Grant Scheme, with the Eastgate Shopping Centre | Environmental Planning |
| providing 40% of the total cost. The main features of the Grade II listed | |
| structure were lit up, including the bell tower, clock, coat of arms features and | |
| stone archways. The lighting scheme draws attention to one of the few | |
| remaining historic structures on the south west side of upper Eastgate Street. | |
| The City Archaeologist has been working with colleagues in Asset | Gloucester City Council |
| Management to repair the entrance way to the King's Walk Bastion. Further | Environmental Planning |
| works are needed before the site is publicly accessible but the entrance way | |
| is now easier and safer to use, and conforms to all appropriate health and | |
| safety requirements. | |
| Historic gates which once lined the Eastgate Market were found at the | - |
| Gloucester City Council depot in Chase Lane. The cast iron structures were | |
| among six metal gates that formed the entrance to the market but were | |

| removed in 1969. | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Blackfriars opened its doors to the first two Brownie group visitors who have | Gloucester City Council |
| done educational activities onsite that contribute to their badges and was | Blackfriars |
| used as the inspiration for a performance piece by students from the | |
| University of Gloucestershire called 'Softening the Stone'. | |
| March saw the Strike a Light Festival come to Gloucester Guildhall. Packed | Gloucester City Council |
| crowds were welcomed over the 4 days and enjoyed music, spoken word and | Guildhall |
| theatre in abundance. The performers were predominantly young people who | |
| have grown up in the area. | |
| BiG Knit has grown into an official craft group which is open to everyone. The | Gloucester City Council |
| group are currently knitting for charities to keep people warm this winter as | Community |
| well as yarn bombing for fun. The group has inspired yarn bombing on | Engagement |
| Worcester Street which has transformed the corner of Gouda Way. | |
| RAISING THE STAKES FOR CREATIVITY | |
| Gloucester City Museum hosted the 'Cut it Out' exhibition featuring local and | Gloucester City Council |
| international street artists. This attracted people into the Museum that may not | Museums |
| necessarily have been initially interested in the more traditional art collections. | |
| The Museum's monthly art club has steadily built in numbers giving adults a | Gloucester City Council |
| chance to try out new art techniques and refine others in a relaxed and | Museums |
| supportive environment. The monthly sewing club is also steadily growing in | |
| membership and involves people working on a whole host of textile related | |
| projects. | |
| The City and Folk Museums will host the Arts Council funded 'Scriptorium' | Gloucester City Council |
| plays, written by local playwrights and performed by local companies. The | Museums |
| project provides paid work for local directors, actors and playwrights, | |
| providing them with the opportunity to produce plays about Gloucester- | |
| specific events, increasing awareness of Gloucester's historical wealth. | |
| An art psychotherapy group use both museums as venues for their therapy | Gloucester City Council |

| sessions for young people. The group uses art based items in the collection as a spring board for dealing with difficult issues in their lives | Museums |
|--|-------------------------|
| As part of the Town Heritage Initiative, the first phase of repairs to the walls at | Gloucester City Council |
| St Mary de Crypt churchyard were completed in June, and the work was | Environmental Planning |
| undertaken with Gloucestershire College, offering a training opportunity in | |
| stonework and the use of lime mortar for construction students. | |
| The City Archaeologist has been running a second volunteer archaeological | Gloucester City Council |
| excavation on Robinswood Hill as part of the 'All Paths Lead to the Hill | Environmental Planning |
| Project', so far approximately 70 volunteers have helped out on site and a talk | |
| is planned later in the year. | |
| Since January, Marketing Gloucester have employed at least 200 artists – to | Marketing Gloucester |
| perform during Residents Weekend, Tall Ships, Sea Shanty Festival, Lantern | |
| Festival, Gloucester Carnival and World in Union (street dance day). | |
| Marketing Gloucester have successfully received arts council funding of | Marketing Gloucester |
| £85,000 to provide free cultural entertainment in the City Centre during the | |
| Rugby World Cup. This includes work with local community groups and | |
| schools. | |
| Marketing Gloucester has been working hard behind the scenes with the lead | Marketing Gloucester |
| up to the Gloucester Scrumpty Trail, taking place during the summer of 2015. | |
| Twenty 5-foot tall sculptures are currently with local and national artists for | |
| painting. The team has managed the entire project, dealing with the model | |
| makers at the conceptual and manufacturing stages. They secured the | |
| sponsorship for each sculpture and held a launch event during the Gloucester | |
| Tall Ships Festival, pairing up sponsors with artists. The trail is deliberately | |
| timed to coincide with Gloucester's festival season and the Rugby World Cup. | |
| It is expected to attract 300,000 visitors over three months. | |
| Gloucester City's gate streets were spruced up as part of the City Centre | - |
| spring clean campaign. Residents, visitors, groups and businesses came | |

| together to help spruce up the City. | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Gloucester Schools Partnership held a week long exhibition at Blackfriars, | Gloucester City Council |
| which showcased the work of Primary School children from 22 different | Blackfriars |
| primary schools around Gloucestershire. | |
| Blackfriars has hosted the annual Cotswold Monochrome Exhibition for the | Gloucester City Council |
| third year running. | Blackfriars |
| There has been a variety of theatrical performances at Blackfriars between | Gloucester City Council |
| January and June including Toad of Toad Hall by Tyger Productions, two | Blackfriars |
| performances by performing arts students from the University of | |
| Gloucestershire and 'Nothing Changes' by Spaniel in the Works. | |
| CONSOLIDATING GLOUCESTER'S REPUTATION FOR SPORTING | |
| EXCELLENCE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY | |
| Oxstalls hosted a Great British Tennis weekend event to attract new | Aspire |
| participants to tennis with 114 attending. Excitingly two thirds of these were | |
| completely new to Oxstalls and the team achieved a significant sign up of | |
| customers into their club programme. | |
| Oxstalls ran an International Tennis Federation wheelchair event which | Aspire |
| attracted participants from all over Europe. | |
| After securing funding with Active Gloucestershire, Aspire were able to deliver | Aspire |
| tennis through the Sportivate programme at Tewkesbury Secondary School | |
| and Dene Magna School. Based on the success of these programmes | |
| Oxstalls has been chosen as the first Centre to trial a new and innovative | |
| access program on a school dual use site. The Oxstalls has facilitated | |
| successful grant funding applications of over £5k to open these facilities to the | |
| wider community. | |
| Oxstalls retained its LTA performance Centre status, and is now the only | Aspire |
| Centre to hold this prestigious quality mark in Gloucestershire. This | |
| performance status demonstrates the hard work our children and coaches | |

| have put in developing tennis and underlines Oxstalls importance in the South West. | |
|--|--|
| Oxstalls has been successful in gaining further funding for 2014-2016 (£2.5k) from the Tennis Foundation. The Disability Network Club plans are progressing well delivering an activators course and links with Worcestershire College for visually impaired tennis. | Aspire |
| Working with Gloucester Police and the City Council, Aspire have provided vouchers for activation at GL1 to be given to children and young people who through the Positive Ticket Scheme have been identified as positive role models for others in the City | Aspire |
| Aspire; in partnership with Gloucester City Homes, City Council and Barnwood Trust are in the last year of funding for a Community Builder operating the asset based Community Programme (ABCD). ENJOYING AND SUPPORTING DIVERSITY | Aspire |
| The Museums Service are continuing to support various local community groups through hires, providing a safe space for local people to meet on a regular basis. The City Museum continues to support the Chinese Women's Guild, as it has done through past years. They also support the NHS funded 'Ageing Well' project, which continues to thrive. | Gloucester City Council Museums |
| Gloucester's Clock Tower Park hosted its annual May Fair event to encourage residents and visitors to use their local parks and open spaces, promote friends groups and to showcase some of the great initiatives happening across the City. Over 1500 people attended the event which also encouraged visitors to sign up to the friends group or to volunteer in their local area. The impact of the local event was enormous compared to the cost which was very minimal. | Gloucester City Council Community Engagement |
| Gloucester Tourist Information has gone mobile. The team have taken the service out and about to promote the City and the Rugby World Cup to those | Gloucester City Council Tourist Information |

| who may not necessarily visit the office on Southgate Street. Presence has | Centre |
|---|-------------------------|
| included the Forest Outdoor Activities Show, Eastgate Shopping Centre, | |
| Gloucester Tall Ships Festival and City Centre markets. | |
| Gloucester City Council held the fun day at the Gloucestershire Action for | Gloucester City Council |
| Refugees and Asylum Seekers for Eastern Europeans on March 21 st . | Community |
| Participants learnt how to behave in this country as well as arts and crafts, | Engagement |
| English (hot cross buns) and Czech cake and Czech dancing. | |
| PLANNING FOR A TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT | |
| Gloucester City Museums Service planned throughout this period for the | Gloucester City Council |
| WOW! Rugby exhibition to coincide with Gloucester being a host venue for | Museums |
| the Rugby World Cup. Many links and contacts with local clubs, supporters, | |
| Kingsholm Rugby Heritage group, school rugby teams and local collectors | |
| were forged to help bring the exhibition together. | |
| The Principal Conservation and Design Officer and City Archaeologist are | Gloucester City Council |
| busy working with the project managers and consultants developing the many | Environmental Planning |
| Heritage Lottery Funded schemes within the City, most recently excavations | |
| at Gloucester Cathedral have been undertaken. The works seek to | |
| understand the depth and condition of the human burials on the site (which | |
| has been a cemetery since the 11 th century at least). This information will | |
| enable a design to be agreed which causes as little as possible disturbance to | |
| the burials on the site. Formal pre-application discussions have commenced | |
| with Llanthony Priory, Project Pilgrim and Discover Decrypt who are all | |
| developing Stage 2 bids. | |
| Discussions with a potential developer have recently been undertaken and | Gloucester City Council |
| the £4.2 million regeneration budget for Blackfriars will be utilized in | Environmental Planning |
| completing structural surveys and condition surveys for the properties. Briefs | |
| have been produced and are with the County Council to procure through the | |
| new joint working venture to bring forward the wider Blackfriars site including | |

| options appraisals, assessments of significance and archaeological elevation. | |
|--|-------------------------|
| A meeting was held with the new owners of Gloucester Prison - City and | Gloucester City Council |
| Country, to discuss the first steps in moving forward in regards to this exciting | Environmental Planning |
| project. Officers at the meeting included the archaeology, conservation and | |
| urban design specialists together with officers from Historic England. A | |
| stakeholder event took place on the 14 th May together with wider public | |
| consultation event. A second stakeholder meeting is taking place on the 16 th | |
| July. | |
| A number of cladding scheme are being considered at present and detailed | Gloucester City Council |
| designs are being developed for these projects. The focus at present is | Environmental Planning |
| developing an appropriate design for the cladding of the south west façade of | - |
| the Kingswalk Shopping Centre and the link bridge of Eastgate Shopping | |
| Centre. Numerous designs using a variety of materials have been considered | |
| to date. Plans are being drawn up by a local architectural practice and a large | |
| sample panel has been commissioned to show the colour, finish and join | |
| pattern of one of the main materials under consideration, which is a coloured | |
| stainless steel. A planning application has been submitted. | |
| Blackfriars hosted the third CAMRA Beer Festival, which attracted over 2000 | Gloucester City Council |
| visitors over the course of two days. | Blackfriars |
| The University of Gloucestershire held a social evening for scholars from | Gloucester City Council |
| around the world at Blackfriars. For one of the delegates this was the first time | Blackfriars |
| they had ever left Mexico. The group enjoyed a civic trust guided tour, dinner | |
| and drinks. | |
| MARKETING AND PROMOTING GLOUCESTER | |
| The Museums Service was chosen by Culture 24 from Museums across the | Gloucester City Council |
| country to feature in an Arts Council funded series of short films highlighting | Museums |
| what Museums have to offer to visitors and the depth of the collections that | |
| are held across the nation. The films will 'go live' late in the Summer. | |

| The Museums Service run regular tours of the Eastgate Chamber, taken by the resident Roman soldier 'Lucius Sita' in full uniform. Awareness of the tours has increased over the last few years, and have become hugely successful. Therefore more and more tours are being offered to cope with demand. This summer will see the Eastgate Chamber open every Saturday throughout the school holidays, with a Roman Soldier at the site itself to publicise this important local landmark. | Gloucester City Council Museums |
|---|--|
| Marketing Gloucester created the brand 'Gloucester 2015 – Our BiG Year' to encapsulate the wealth of activity taking place during the City's year in the spotlight. The umbrella brand allows Marketing Gloucester, Gloucester City Council and other third parties to tie in with events and initiatives taking place this year with the Rugby World Cup, Gloucester Tall Ships, the Scrumpty Sculpture Trail and major festivals. The brand has been supported by local media, event organisers ad other organisations. | Marketing Gloucester |
| Gloucester Tourist Information Centre organised the 'Cherry & Whites Challenge' as part of English Tourism Week. The aim was to increase footfall into the City's visitor attraction, promote the Rugby World Cup and to really show the importance of tourism within a destination. | Gloucester City Council Tourist Information Centre |
| A new Gloucester Museums Pass is currently in the planning stages with implementation due in July ready for the summer. Partners include the City and Folk Museums, the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum and the Waterways Museum with the Tourist Information Centre being a central visitor point and Marketing Gloucester behind the promotion. The aim is to encourage more use out of the City's historic museums. | Gloucester City Council Tourist Information Centre |
| Gloucester Tourist Information Centre staff have completed the World Host programme in preparation for the Rugby World Cup. The programme looks at delivering customer service during international and the completion of the course contributes to the ambition of Gloucester becoming a World Host City. | Gloucester City Council Tourist Information Centre |

| The City was a finalist in the National Coach Tourism Awards in the 'Coach | Gloucester City Council |
|---|-------------------------|
| Friendly Destination' category. This is the first year the City as a whole | Tourist Information |
| entered the awards but was pipped to the post by Liverpool. | Centre |
| Coach passengers to the City's Westgate Street Coach Park have increased | Gloucester City Council |
| by 27% compared to January-June 2014 with an increase of 18% in coaches | Tourist Information |
| visiting the Coach Park. | Centre |
| The Coach Bookings Team produced a 'Historic Treats & City Treats' better | Gloucester City Council |
| known as a discount book full of voucher for coach passengers. Over 40 | Tourist Information |
| independent businesses submitted offers to encourage increased spend in | Centre |
| the City. | |
| The Blackfriars team ran the first ever Blackfriars internal event, The Hatters | Gloucester City Council |
| Tea Party. Over 300 parents, grandparents and children visited the site for an | Blackfriars |
| interactive tea party with characters from Alice in Wonderland, live screenings | |
| of the Disney classic and Tim Burton film, hat making workshops, face | |
| painting and more. | |

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Appendix 2 - Cultural activities planned from July to December 2015

| Making sense of the City Centre | |
|---|---|
| Continuing with the new displays in several of the Folk Museum's key galleries and upstairs City Museum galleries to help both local and national visitors make sense of the story of Gloucester's history. This will allow artifacts that have previously been in stores to be out on display and the history that is highlighted to better represent Gloucester's diverse communities. | Gloucester City Council Museums |
| A plaque has been prepared to commemorate the famous Methodist preacher, George Whitefield, who was born in Gloucester 200 years ago last year. The plaque will be fixed under the archway to the former St Mary de Crypt School, where he was a pupil. A further plaque has been commissioned for the Old Crown Inn, Westgate Street. It will explain the pub's role as the headquarters for the military governor of Gloucester, LtCol. Edward Massie, during the Siege of Gloucester. It is hoped to have this in place by Gloucester Day. | Gloucester City Council Environmental Planning |
| Dendrochronological dating of the Folk Museum will allow the story of a key City Centre historic building to be better understood. The results will be publicized to raise the building's profile and also to inform tours and information panels in the building itself. | Gloucester City Council Museums |
| Interpretation panels will be installed in the Folk Museum garden to highlight features such as the (miniature) Tudor Knot garden that complement the building. | Gloucester City Council Museums |
| A new interpretation board is being drafted for Eastgate Chamber and interpretation boards will be erected at Kimbrose and the Spa. | Gloucester City Council Environmental Planning |
| Gloucester City Council are looking at holding an awards ceremony in October 2015. The last one was held in 2012. Awards will be given for completed schemes since then under a variety of headings i.e. Best New | Gloucester City Council Environmental Planning |

| Building, Best Major Restoration & Most Improved Public Area. Nominations | |
|---|-------------------------|
| will be sought over the summer months. | |
| By the end of the year it is anticipated that three further property grants will be | Gloucester City Council |
| awarded for no's 61 and 63 Southgate St, plus no 141. Four projects will have | Environmental Planning |
| begun on site at 65, 150 & 152 Southgate St and 7 Priory Place. The project | |
| at no 57 Southgate St should be completed. A small works fund has been | |
| agreed with the project funders Heritage Lottery and will be promoted offering | |
| grants of up to £5,000 for standalone repair and re-instatement of features. | |
| Marketing Gloucester has been working on the City Centre map displays for | Marketing Gloucester |
| used during the Rugby World Cup. The thirty double sided displays will have | |
| the Rugby World Cup Fanzone and Kingsholm Stadium clearly marked in | |
| preparation for visitors here specifically for the tournament. The vinyls for the | |
| displays will be applied in early August and permanent replacement will take | |
| place thereafter. | |
| Marketing Gloucester will be applying to install 4 digital signs around the city | Marketing Gloucester |
| as per the Tourism Strategy. | |
| Blackfriars will host its largest ever guided tour in September, when over 90 | Gloucester City Council |
| Architectural Historians are visiting the site to learn about its history. | Blackfriars |
| The Neighbourhood Management team at Gloucester City Council have been | Gloucester City Council |
| working with the University of Gloucester to pull together content for the | Community |
| screens at the Rugby World Cup fanzone. The team will be pulling together | Engagement |
| content including current affairs, how the city is preparing for the event, sports | |
| journalism and match analysis along with interviewing local residents, players | |
| and supporters. A Gloucester Stories competition will be run to capture | |
| people stories about Gloucester to show city price and increase the buzz | |
| around the city. | |
| RETHINKING HERITAGE AND CULTURAL TOURISM | |
| A detailed architectural lighting design is being developed for St. Nicholas | Gloucester City Council |

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| plus Nicholas Soames MP – grandson of Winston Churchill. Tickets will | |
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| become available from the end of July. | |
| The annual History Festival will take place at Blackfriars in September, with | Gloucester City Council |
| the largest program so far and an extension of the talks to one weekend date | Blackfriars |
| on Sunday 20 th . | |
| RAISING THE STAKES FOR CREATIVITY | |
| Both Museums will host the Arts Council funded 'Scriptorium' plays, written by | Gloucester City Council |
| local playwrights and performed by local companies. The project provides | Museums |
| paid work for local directors, actors and playwrights, and gives them the | |
| opportunity to produce plays about Gloucester-specific events, to increase | |
| awareness of Gloucester's historical wealth. | |
| As part of the THI, Gloucester City Council are working with the Young | Gloucester City Council |
| Gloucestershire, the College and Woodchester Mansion to repair section of | Environmental Planning |
| walls at St Mary De Crypt Church. The next phase will be completed in | |
| October. Three training courses will be run for conservation professionals and | |
| for property owners funded by the Heritage Lottery THI scheme. The first | |
| taking place in June and July on timber windows and roof lights, the others in | |
| October on property maintenance. | |
| Strike a Light and Marketing Gloucester have teamed up to deliver a range of | Marketing Gloucester |
| cultural activities over the Rugby World Cup. Performances include the Red | |
| Hot Chilli Pipers, the Kapa Haka Tale and Haka Day Out by Corey Baker | |
| Dance, Joji Hiroti and Taiko Drummers, a rugby flash mob in conjunction with | |
| Avant Garde Dance and Ensemble Rustavi. | |
| Kings House creative hub is planned to open in the near future with areas for | Marketing Gloucester |
| performance and visual arts practioners. This has been driven by Marketing | |
| Gloucester with much support from various departments of Gloucester City | |
| Council. | |
| An interim Gloucester Culture Board has been formed with key partners | Gloucester City Council |

| coming together to consider how the city ensures that culture is at the heart of the city, for the good of all. They are working towards am updated Cultural Strategy for Gloucester which will involve a great deal of consultation with groups and individuals across the city. A fully constituted Gloucester Culture Board will then be set along with an accompanying Cultural Forum. | / Marketing Gloucester / City Partners |
|--|---|
| The Gallery space at Gloucester Guildhall will play host to less traditional watercolour exhibitions and display more vibrant and varied artwork that will appeal to a wider age range – young artists may be encouraged to exhibit their work in turn. | Gloucester City Council Guildhall |
| Gloucester Guildhall are working on holding more immersive one-off film screening experiences, akin to Secret Cinema, which is a format younger people are familiar with – offering innovative cinema not available elsewhere in Gloucester. | Gloucester City Council Guildhall |
| A more concerted effort to schedule films that the other cinemas in Gloucester are not showing, but that have been culturally acclaimed – residents won't have to travel to Bristol to see high quality niche cinema. | Gloucester City Council Guildhall |
| There will be a further three theatre companies performing shows at Blackfriars between July and December – Ignite Theatre, Tyger Productions and IKProductions. | Gloucester City Council Blackfriars |
| CONSOLIDATING GLOUCESTER'S REPUTATION FOR SPORTING EXCELLENCE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY | |
| Sportbeat is returning for its third year in Plock Court. The now established music festival, combined with various sports will have a focus on rugby along with big music names such as The Fratellis, De La Soul, Grandmaster Flash and Jaguar Skills. | - |
| Marketing Gloucester are planning a weekend of fun filled Rugby activity at Gloucester Park on the 18 th July. Activities include a youth touch rugby tournament, skills sessions for children | Marketing Gloucester |

| The City Museum's WOW Rugby exhibition will highlight opportunities for | Gloucester City Council |
|---|-------------------------|
| people to get involved in the sport of Rugby regardless of their skills or fitness | Museums |
| levels. Care will be taken to champion it as an accessible and inclusive sport. | |
| Oxstalls is working on a bid to host monthly county training which will provide | Aspire |
| further opportunities to the most talented, and determined Gloucestershire | |
| children to access our program. | |
| Oxstalls will be hosting the National Wheelchair championships in December | Aspire |
| 2015. | - |
| GL1 will be trialling the concept of a crèche with a local provider on Eastgate | Aspire |
| Street on Tuesdays in the summer holiday's to see if there is a demand for | |
| the product, linking in with Health and Fitness classes and junior | |
| programmes. | |
| Gloucester Rugby and Gloucester Quays are teaming up to provide the | - |
| Gloucester Rugby Beach Weekender over the August Bank Holiday featuring | |
| beach rugby 7's tournaments, appearances from Gloucester Rugby players, | |
| interactive challenges, local food and drink and lots more. | |
| Marketing Gloucester have been liaising with Visit England, Visit Britain and | Marketing Gloucester |
| others to maximize the impact of the Rugby World Cup, using above and | |
| below the line channels in multiple languages to promote Gloucester. The | |
| city is recognized as being in the top 12 Towns and Cities for Sport in the | |
| country. | |
| On the 5 th September, there will be a ball pass and spectacular in Gloucester | Marketing Gloucester |
| City Centre to celebrate our BiG year for the Rugby World Cup. | - |
| ENJOYING AND SUPPORTING DIVERSITY | |
| The 53 rd Jamaican Independence Day Celebrations occurs at the beginning of | - |
| August where children and adults fill the sky with kites and get involved in the | |
| Caribbean theme. | |
| The sixth Underground Festival provides an opportunity for local bands to | Gloucester City Council |

| perform on stage across three stages in Gloucester Guildhall. The Festival | Guildhall |
|---|-------------------------|
| will take place on the 26 th and 27 th September. | |
| Barton & Tredworth Cultural Fayre is in its 3 rd year and each year it gets | Gloucester City Council |
| better and better. The 22 nd August will see a celebration of cultures in Barton | Community |
| and Tredworth, providing free food, entertainment and performances. The | Engagement |
| fayre provides residents with a taste of the lives of their neighbours from other | |
| cultures. | |
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| PLANNING FOR A TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT | |
| Heritage Lottery Schemes within Gloucester – Stage 2 submissions are due | Gloucester City Council |
| for Project Pilgrim, Discover Decrypt and Llanthony Priory. | Environmental Planning |
| The planning applications for a number of high profile sites in the city | Gloucester City Council |
| including the Prison, Bakers Quay and the Bus Station are due. | Environmental Planning |
| Marketing Gloucester has been investigating bringing the Tour of Britain cycle | Marketing Gloucester |
| race to Gloucester, national velodrome race and the possibility of reinstating | |
| Gloucester Race Course for point to point and other race meetings. | |
| MARKETING AND PROMOTING GLOUCESTER | |
| 'The World in Union' is this year's theme at Gloucester Carnival. Marketing | Marketing Gloucester |
| Gloucester in conjunction with the Gloucester Carnival Arts Partnership | J |
| provides an inclusive approach, welcoming all cultures and social groups to | |
| participate. | |
| Gloucester hosts its first Classic and Retro Festival where the gate streets will | Gloucester City Council |
| overflow with nostalgia from classic cars, vintage fashion and music. | _ |
| Marketing Gloucester, in conjunction with Team MSB are organising | Marketing Gloucester |
| Gloucester in Union, an afternoon of dance and music with local youth acts | |
| and the Jam Collective. | |
| Marketing Gloucester has supported events which appeal and are derived | Marketing Gloucester |
| from our diverse community, including carnival, music in the park and the | |
| Schools Scrumpty competition which engaged 10,000 children across the | |
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| city's schools. Marketing Gloucester created the brand 'Gloucester 2015 – Our BiG Year' to Marketing Gloucester Consequence of Sectivity taking place during the city's year in the | |
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| on appendicts the wealth of activity taking place during the city's year in the | |
| encapsulate the wealth of activity taking place during the city's year in the | |
| spotlight. The umbrella brand allows MGL, Gloucester City Council and other | |
| third parties to tie in with events and initiatives taking place this year with the | |
| Rugby World Cup, the Scrumpty Sculpture Trail and History festival along | |
| with lantern procession all achieving the goals of promoting the city. The | |
| brand has been supported by local media, event organisers and other | |
| organisations. | |
| Marketing Gloucester will continue to organise familiarisation trips for coach Marketing Gloucester | |
| operators and group tour operators, domestic and foreign press – particularly | |
| during the Rugby World cup period. | |
| There is a schedule of PR in press, on radio and TV as well as above the line Marketing Gloucester | |
| promotion that will continue to promote the city, including a 100,000 'What to | |
| do and see' brochure and the 200,000 Scrumpty Trail leaflet distributed | |
| through distributors. | |
| Gloucester Guildhall has recently released a new hires brochure, which is Gloucester City Council | cil |
| incorporated with the facilities available at Gloucester Blackfriars and Guildhall | |
| Gloucester Folk and City Museums. In addition to this on Tuesday 10 th | |
| November, the Guildhall will be hosting an open evening to promote the | |
| facilities available throughout the venue. | |
| The Blackfriars team are currently planning their next internally run event, Gloucester City Counc | cil |
| Blackfriars Choir Festival for Christmas, which is due to be held on Saturday Blackfriars | |
| 21 st November. | |
| In October Gloucester Guildhall is hosting the city's first 'Glostoberfest', Gloucester City Counc | cil |
| bringing a slice of Bavarian brilliance to the City Centre. There will be music, Guildhall | |
| food and one-off beers for the inaugural event, which if successful will | |
| become an annual event thereafter. | |

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Deans Walk Arts Project will celebrate Gloucester being a host city. Local artists an older and young peoples clubs have worked together to create a mural based on their memories of the city, where both the artists and young people will then interpret and paint onto the wall. The intergenerational work is pushing boundaries between the two age groups and giving all a taste of new hobbies or skills. The project will be funded by local businesses with residents taking the lead.

Gloucester City Council Community Engagement This page is intentionally left blank



Meeting: Cabinet Date: 16 September 2015

Subject: Rugby World Cup Update Report

Report Of: Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Economy

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Ross Cook, Corporate Director

Email: ross.cook@gloucester.gov.uk Tel: 396972

Appendices: None

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on progress on the key issues for the delivery of the Rugby World Cup 2015 (RWC15).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the progress made so far regarding the preparations as part of Gloucester's Host City arrangements for the Rugby World Cup 2015 be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

3.1 The report provides an update on the main areas of our Rugby World Cup preparations, which is now the culmination of over three years work by many people inside and outside the City Council. The Host City Agreement between the Council and England Rugby 2015 places certain obligations on the Council, but our activities are greatly in excess of what we are required to do as the Council is determined to make the most of this opportunity for the benefit of Gloucester's residents and businesses.

3.2 Fanzone

- 3.2.1 Marketing Gloucester are leading on the development and delivery of the Fanzone and in recent weeks have been working with a number of partners with regard to the different elements in and around it, including the structure of the site, but also the content on each day it is open. As previously advised, the main Fanzone will be a mock Rugby Stadium (in Orchard Square in the Docks) and there will be a separate Family Zone based in Mariners Square.
- 3.2.2 Orchard Square has now been cleared and so is ready for the Fanzone installation. The final plans for the look and feel of the Fanzone have now been agreed and set up of the site will commence in the week before the first match.

- 3.2.3 Since the last update, there have been a number of changes to the plans for the Family Zone. The initial plan was to include a Beach Rugby Pitch as the main focus for the Family Zone and a number of Partners (RFU, GRFU, Gloucester Rugby) would use the pitch to hold training sessions and other activities. However, having taken on board comments from the residents in and around that area, it has been agreed to remove this from the plans and the Family Zone will include a number of "Have a Try" activities such as an inflatable obstacle course, inflatable speed pass, inflatable precision pass and inflatable line out wall.
- 3.2.4 In addition, the RFU and GRFU are looking to set up an Activation site at Llanthony Priory and this will be branded as a Festival of Rugby event. They will be holding a series of training and try out sessions with the aim of getting more people involved in rugby.
- 3.2.5 The changes to the Family Zone mean that we have been able to reduce the planned spend on the Fanzone and Family Zone and so are now looking at the feasibility of providing some sort of Fanzone in Gloucester for the knock-out stages of the tournament. In line with the requirements of the Host City Agreement, we had originally planned to provide a Fanzone for the duration of the Group Stages. This was driven by the need to provide the Fanzone while the majority of visitors were in the city, the constraints of budget, the amenity of Docks residents and the wish to allow businesses in the city, particularly in the city centre, to benefit from the knockout stages. However, as the tournament gets closer and the excitement continues to build, we recognise that there may well be interest in being able to watch the matches on a big screen in the city in the latter stages, particularly if England progress past the pool stage. We are therefore looking at the options of whether to set up a new Fanzone in the City Centre to show the knock-out matches, which will take place over three weekends.
- 3.2.6 The ability to do this will depend on the overall budget available and, potentially, on support from external partners and businesses.

3.3 Cultural / Events Programme

- 3.3.1 As detailed in the last report, Marketing Gloucester, supported by the City Council, applied to the Arts Council for funding for a RWC Cultural Programme. The funding has been confirmed and £85,000 awarded to deliver a programme of international entertainment during the RWC period.
- 3.3.2 Plans for the 5 x themed weeks in the City Centre are now progressing and will include
 - w/c 19 September American themed events such as with Lindy Hop dancing, a Lindy Hop flash mob, swing music, Harleys and American cars;
 - w/c 25 September Scottish themed events including Bagpipes, and Highland dancers.
 - w/c 03 October Japanese themed (plans to be confirmed);
 - w/c 10 October Georgian themed week, street dance battle; and
 - w/c 17 October Argentinian themed events Tango dancers

- 3.3.3 There will be activities in Kings Square on most Saturdays throughout the Group stages.
- 3.3.4 The Scrumpty Trail, which is being promoted as part of the Festival of Rugby, has been a great success and has drawn tens of thousands of people into the City. One of the RWC Legacy strands was to promote the City as a tourism destination and it is clear that this sort of activity has put Gloucester on the map.
- 3.3.5 Coverage from the Rugby World Cup Trophy visiting Gloucester has also helped raise the profile of the City with photos of the different locations being used by both local and national media.
- 3.3.6 The City will be hosting the Welcome Ceremony for the Scotland Rugby team on 17 September. Hosting such a prestigious event for one of the Home Nations will continue to promote the City as a location for high profile events.
- 3.3.7 The WOW Rugby exhibition at Gloucester Museum has been very popular and coverage of the Living Statute in the City Centre has raised its profile even higher. The exhibition continues throughout the RWC period and so will be a welcome addition to the cultural programme on offer.
- 3.3.8 A number of businesses have already decorated their premises as part of the celebrations and will be running events throughout the RWC. We would encourage everyone to get involved in any way they can, so as to make the most of this exciting opportunity to promote Gloucester with the eyes of the world upon us.

3.4 Community Events

- 3.4.1 Having allocated £15,000 of grant funding to promote community events and activities, both in the build up to and throughout the tournament, we are now seeing numerous events being promoted across the City, such as exchange of Japanese and Chinese Culture in Kingsholm with opportunities to try foods like Sushi and Rahmen, all linked together with a Rugby quiz; Rugby themed sports days in Barton; and an inter-community athletics fun event at Blackbridge Jubilee Athletics track. These are great opportunities for communities to both celebrate the RWC and promote activities in their local area. This will also help create a lasting legacy as more people get involved in activities within their local community.
- 3.4.2 In addition, we will be using the Fanzone, on days when matches are not being shown, to showcase films made by local people about Gloucester. We recently announced "Gloucester Stories" a short film competition where the winners will have their films broadcast at the Fanzone as well as other locations across the City, and online.
- 3.4.3 The competition is open to anyone, and stories must centre around the City of Gloucester.

3.5 City Dressing

3.5.1 The City Dressing Programme has commenced with over 100 lighting column banners being installed across the City. Having now taken delivery of the

- remainder of the banners and bunting, we have now commenced installation of the dressing throughout the City and along the walking routes to and from the City Centre to the Fanzone and Kingsholm Stadium.
- 3.5.2 We are awaiting confirmation from Network Rail for permission to install banners on the two railway bridges. This is getting very tight for time, but we still plan to install these before the first match.
- 3.5.3 There has been some really exciting community activity to tidy up the footpath along Deans Walk and this will now leave a lasting legacy with a new mural along the ways of this well used walking route to Kingsholm.
- 3.5.4 Street cleansing plans for both before and during the tournament are now at an advanced stage, and many of the streets in and around Kingsholm have been "Deep Cleaned". Amey and Neighbourhood Management will be monitoring the streets and open spaces throughout the period so as to ensure the City looks at its best.
- 3.5.5 Works to tidy up Kings Square are proceeding and the new paving has now been installed and the low level walls repainted. Due to the number of events taking place in Kings Square throughout the World Cup, a temporary toilet will be installed during this period.
- 3.5.6 As detailed in the last update report, a Crowdfunding bid has been launched in an effort to secure a lasting commemoration to Gloucester's role in this year's Rugby World Cup. It is planned to install a new stone bench King's Square.

3.6 Host City Ticket Allocation

3.6.1 We have now taken receipt of the 500 Host City tickets and plans are being put in place to distribute these to the chosen groups and individuals. We have notified all of the Community Groups who have been chosen to receive tickets and will be arranging for them to collect them ahead of the first match.

3.7 Communications

- 3.7.1 The Rugby World Cup edition of City Life is now being distributed across the City. We have ordered an additional 10,000 copies so that visitors to the City can pick up a souvenir copy during their visit.
- 3.7.2 We are now finalising plans for a final mail drop to residents living in and around Kingsholm Road, as well as in and around the Docks. This will include final information regarding road closures and delivery of an "Access Permit" that will provide residents access to and from their properties when Kingsholm Road is closed.

3.8 Volunteering

3.8.1 The volunteering plans are now being finalised. Localised training for the Pack (ER2015) Volunteers has commenced and we are now looking at the final number of volunteers needed for the 11 days of the Fanzone. We will be looking to

provide a uniform for all volunteers and Civica have kindly provided £2000 to help fund this.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

4.1 Plans for the RWC are evolving all of the time and further information will be shared with all Members whenever it is available.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 We are still within the agreed budget and the changes to the plans for the Family Zone will free up some additional resource. However, delivery of the whole project within budget is reliant on a number of income streams (sale of TIC merchandise, income for cost of the stone bench) and so this could impact on the final costings.
- 5.2 If it is decided to extend the period of the Fanzone, this will have an impact on the budget. However, it is proposed to use the events contingency of £25,000 to help cover the costs of this.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 As part of the host City agreement we must fulfil certain criteria which were agreed upon at the signing of the host city document.

7.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 7.1 The main risk is that of exceeding the initial budget of £350,000. This is being closely monitored by the Project Board.
- 7.2 The benefit and expectation of the economic impact on the City of Gloucester is high as we anticipate a fantastic six weeks of sport and entertainment.

8.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

8.1 None at present.

Sustainability

8.2 None at this stage.

Staffing & Trade Union

8.3 None at this stage.

Background Documents: None





Meeting: Cabinet Date: 16 September 2015

Subject: Draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy

Report Of: Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: Yes Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Adam Gooch, Senior Planning Officer

David Pritchett, Interim Neighbourhood Services

Manager

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Appendices: 1. Final Draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 – 2025

Artificial Grass Pitch – Scenario Paper
 Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report

4. Consultation Summary & Key Questions

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Members with a summary of the outputs of the final draft Playing Pitch Strategy and seek authorisation to publish it for a six-week period of public consultation, before consideration by Council for adoption.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the final draft Playing Pitch Strategy, as provided at Appendix 1, and the Artificial Grass Pitch – Scenario Paper, as provided at Appendix 2, be approved for the purposes of public consultation.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The availability of a sufficient number and quality of playing pitches to provide for the community's current and future sports needs is important in terms of encouraging participation in sport and physical activity, and for general health and wellbeing.
- 3.2 National Planning Policy requires local authorities to carry out an assessment of the needs for sports and recreational facilities as well as opportunities for new provision. Furthermore, the preparation and adoption of a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) forms a key deliverable in the Council Plan 2014 2017.
- 3.3 With this in mind, Officers appointed consultants Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP) in September 2014 to prepare a PPS for the City, covering 2015 2025. The key outputs of the PPS are as follows:
 - To inform the emerging planning policy (Joint Core Strategy and Gloucester City Plan);
 - To inform the Council's future sports and health strategies and investment plans;

- Ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of sports facility provision in response to identified pressures;
- To provide adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting sport and leisure facilities;
- To inform land use decisions in respect of future use of existing sport and leisure facilities; and
- Provide the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality, and accessibility of outdoor sport, physical activity facility provision, and playing pitches.
- 3.4 The draft PPS covers the following outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities; football; cricket; rugby union; rugby league; bowls; and tennis courts. It also considers Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) which can be used by several sports.
- 3.5 It primarily covers the administrative areas of Gloucester City. It does however also consider communities living on the edge of the City in the wider 'travel to play' area, acknowledging that the catchments for sports pitches will in some cases go beyond administrative boundaries.
- 3.6 To ensure robust and credible outcomes, the draft PPS has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' and led by a steering group which includes officers, representatives from the relevant National Governing Bodies, Sport England, Active Gloucestershire and Aspire Sports and Cultural Trust.
- 3.7 It has been prepared over a period of 12 months, so as to align with the affiliation processes and playing season for the different sports. It has been informed by a significant amount of information from sports clubs, key stakeholders and schools. For example, questionnaires were sent to all sports clubs and face-to-face interviews were held with some of the larger clubs. This was undertaken to gather views / information on the quality of pitches clubs play on, their security of tenure, the numbers of teams / players and future club development plans.
- 3.8 Interviews were also held with key stakeholders in the provision of sports facilities or generators of demand, such as secondary schools, the University of Gloucestershire, Hartpury College and Aspire Sports and Cultural Trust.
- 3.9 On-site quality assessments were undertaken on all pitches, both public and private, in accordance with sport-specific criteria set out in Sport England's guidance.

4.0 Summary of outcomes by sport

- 4.1 The information gathered, together with an understanding of factors that will affect participation in the different sports, such as population growth, participation trends and funding priorities of the NGBs, were analysed to provide an assessment of the adequacy of provision for current and future communities.
- 4.2 Below is a summary of the main outcomes and issues identified through the assessment process on a sport-by-sport basis. The full Assessment Report is provided at Appendix 3 for information.

Football

- There are 92 grass football pitches, of which 79 are known to be available at some level for community use. A total of 166 football teams were identified as playing on pitches in Gloucester City.
- 56% of football pitches available for community use were assessed as being poor quality, 29% as standard quality and 15% as good. Some sites are subject to overplay.

- 53% of changing facilities were described by clubs as good, 37% as standard and 10% as poor. Particular concerns expressed regarding the size and number of changing facilities at Oxstalls Sports Park.
- Limited issues of clubs from Gloucester not being able to play in the City.
- Clubs report a lack of access to affordable floodlit training facilities and Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs), particularly those built to a '3G' standard.
- There is a current shortfall of match sessions at some football formats but increases in future demand would cause a shortfall across all formats.

'3G' standard pitches

- There are currently no 3G pitches in the City.
- The FA model suggests there is a current shortfall of three full-size 3G pitches to meet demand for football training.
- There is a growing demand for all age groups to play on 3G pitches, particularly at youth level but in Gloucester also at adult level as this is where there is a greatest shortfall of grass pitches.
- The draft PPS recommends that a 3G pitch 'sub-strategy', setting out how 3G pitches could be delivered in the City. This has been prepared by officers, working with the relevant NGBs, and is provided as Appendix 2. Further information is provided at Section 6 of this report.

Cricket

- There are 14 grass cricket squares in Gloucester, all of which are available for community
 use. There are six artificial wickets; five located at schools sites and one at Bishops College
 but which is not suitable for use.
- Three cricket squares found to be good quality, ten standard quality and one poor quality. Generally the condition of squares is adequate but outfields tend to be poor.
- Demand is falling for cricket, reflected by a reduction in the number of cricket pitches over time. However this would likely increase with improvements to pitch quality.
- In contrast to the picture nationally, cricket clubs in Gloucester tend to lack security of tenure and are therefore quite 'nomadic'. This can affect longterm development plans for clubs and therefore participation.
- Overall there is sufficient capacity within Gloucester to accommodate current and future demand on existing squares – but there is a lack of access to high quality playing and ancillary facilities.

Rugby Union

- There are 48 senior rugby pitches located across 23 sites, of which 39 are available for community use. There are also 5 mini pitches. Most pitches are located at school or sports club sites.
- There are 31 senior teams of which just one ladies team at Hucclecote RFC, as well as 25 junior boys teams and 36 mini teams.
- There are four standard quality pitches at Archdeacon Meadow, otherwise all other pitches in the City were assessed as poor.
- There are significant issues relating to overplay on pitches, generally due to excessive training, sustained weekly junior use and limited capacity on poor quality pitches.
- There are currently no 'World Rugby' standard AGPs in the City.
- Overall there are insufficient pitches in Gloucester to provide for current and future demand.

Hockey

 There are four AGPs suitable for competitive hockey play – though only three are available for use by hockey clubs. All four were assessed as standard quality.

- There are three hockey clubs playing in the City of which Gloucester City Hockey Club is the largest and has plans to increase men's and junior's participation.
- Clubs identified a lack of changing facilities at Oxstalls Sports Park as an issue.
- Overall Gloucester is at present adequately provided for AGPs suitable for hockey but access to pitches for training is an issue and reported to be a limiting factor in the growth in participation. The lack of 3G pitches is a big factor in creating mid-week capacity issues as many hockey suitable AGPs are used for football and rugby union training. Hockey can only be played on sand-dressed AGPs.
- Concerns expressed over the implications for hockey as a result of the University of Gloucestershire's plans for expansion at their Oxstalls Campus and potential loss of AGPs.

Rugby league

- There are no pitches specifically marked for rugby league in the City play currently takes place at Bishop's College on a flood-lit rugby union pitch.
- The University of Gloucestershire has two rugby league teams (with links to All Golds RLFC), but both play outside of the City. The other team is Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC, which plays in the City.
- There is likely to be increased participation in rugby league due to club expansion plans and rugby league initiatives.
- The draft PPS does not identify any specific need for specific rugby league pitches given cross-over with rugby union pitches.

Bowls

- There are seven grass bowling greens and one artificial green in Gloucester.
- There are eight clubs using bowling greens in the City with reports that membership has remained static in the last three years.
- All greens were assessed as good quality with the exception on one at Tuffley Park which was assessed as standard quality. There is however evidence of overplay at two greens.
- Overall, the City is generally well-served for bowling greens at present and in the future.

Tennis

- There are a total of 75 tennis courts in the City across 17 sites (both tennis clubs and parks). There are nine courts on Council managed sites. An additional 278 courts are unavailable for community use, most of which are located at schools and unavailable because of a lack of flood lighting.
- 16% of courts were assessed as good quality, 36% average and 48% poor.
- Oxstalls Sports Park is the key venue for tennis development in the City.
- Overall, there are enough tennis courts in Gloucester to cater for current and future demand and casual use, though there is insufficient access to good quality flood lit courts required for the development of tennis at some clubs.

5.0 Vision, Strategy Recommendations and Action Plan

- 5.1 Using the research and analysis summarised above, a draft PPS has been developed which provides:
 - A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches;
 - A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sportled improvements to provision;
 - A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock; and
 - A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

- 5.2 The Vision for the Gloucester PPS is:
 - 'To provide an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities, which provide opportunities for all residents to access good sport, physical activity and recreational facilities.'
- 5.3 Following on from this, the draft PPS provides a range of sport-specific recommendations to address the key issues identified through the earlier stages of the process. As an example, this includes for rugby union the need to work with clubs to review pitch quality issues on those pitches assessed as 'standard quality' or 'poor quality' in order to help reduce overplay. The full schedule of sport-specific recommendations can be found at Part 3 of the draft PPS.
- 5.4 The draft strategy then sets out three overarching Aims and, sitting underneath this, a series of Strategic Recommendations. These are summarised below for information. Full detail is available at Part 4 of the draft PPS.

AIM 1 – To protect the existing supply of sports pitches for meeting current and future needs.

To achieve this aim, it makes the following Strategic Recommendations:

- (a) Protect sports facilities 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.

AIM 2 – To enhance outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

To achieve this aim, it makes the following Strategic Recommendations:

- (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.

AIM 3 – To provide new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

To achieve this aim, it makes the following Strategic Recommendations:

- (g) Secure planning gain for playing pitches from housing growth.
- (h) Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock.
- (i) Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- 5.5 Finally, the Action Plan sets out a range of different recommended actions / aims for all playing pitch sites in the City, within a defined hierarchy and level of priority, associated delivery partners, indicative timescales and costs. The full Action Plan of provided at Part 5 of the draft PPS.
- In terms of delivery, the draft PPS is clear that the delivery of the Vision, Aims, Strategic Recommendations and Action Plan will require the continuation and expansion of key partnerships between the City Council, NGBs, Sport England, schools, further / higher education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain, enhance and deliver playing pitches. Delivery of the PPS is the responsibility of and relies on, all stakeholders.

5.7 Please note that since the draft PPS and Assessment Report were provided to the City Council, the circumstance with regard to Innsworth Lane Sports Ground has changed. At the time the documents were prepared, the site was disused following flooding. Since then, it has been restored and football play has recently resumed. The documentation will be amended accordingly post-consultation.

6.0 Artificial Grass Pitches – Scenario Paper

- 6.1 The 'Assessment Report' and draft PPS show that the delivery of a suitable number and type of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) will be critical in delivering the Vision and recommends that a 'sub-strategy ' is prepared, showing how these could be delivered in the City.
- 6.2 It is important there is a sub-strategy is in place to ensure adequate provision is made for each of the different sports. There is capacity in the City for three 3G standard AGPs, with one constructed to 'World Rugby' standard, to enable football and rugby union play. At the same time, it is also important that other forms of AGP (sand-dressed and sand-based) are maintained in the City for hockey purposes (3G standard pitches cannot be used for competitive hockey).
- 6.3 In response, the City Council has worked with the Football Association, Rugby Football Union and England Hockey to begin this process by preparing a 'Scenario Paper'. It sets out three different scenarios, having regard to proposals that are currently emerging that would affect the number of AGPs in the City.
- 6.4 The 'Artificial Grass Pitch Scenario Paper' is provided as Appendix 3 to this report and, subject to agreement from Cabinet, will be published alongside the draft PPS for public consultation.

7.0 Public Consultation

7.1 Officers have prepared a 'Consultation Summary and Key Questions' document, setting out the main aims and recommendations of the draft PPS and AGP Scenario Paper, along with key questions for the public consultation. This is provided at Appendix 4 for Members' information.

8.0 Asset Based Community Development Considerations

- 8.1 The draft PPS has been developed by Officers and the consultants in partnership with the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and with input from the sports clubs, schools and key stakeholders for whom the strategy will ultimately effect.
- 8.2 The final part of the process is to publish the draft PPS for public consultation, amend as necessary and present to Council for adoption. After this, it will be necessary for all stakeholders, including sports clubs, to work collectively to deliver the PPS vision.

9.0 Alternative Options Considered

9.1 During the preparation of the PPS various different alternatives, or scenarios, to address the issues identified at the assessment stage of the process were considered, and the most suitable / deliverable strategy identified. The different scenarios considered are clearly presented in the draft PPS.

10.0 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 The PPS has now reached the final draft stage and the final part of the process is to consult on its findings and recommendations, before adoption by the Council.

11.0 Future Work and Conclusions

11.1 Following the conclusion of public consultation, Officers will review consultation responses and, working with the PPS steering group, make amendments to the strategy as appropriate. Once this has been completed, the final PPS will be presented to Council for adoption early in the new year.

12.0 Financial Implications

12.1 Officers are seeking approval from Members to agree the draft PPS for the purposes of public consultation. The only financial implications at this stage are those relating to undertaking the consultation, which will be staff resources and absorbed within existing budgets.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report)

13.0 Legal Implications

13.1 The draft PPS will not in itself have a special legal status. However, it will form the body of evidence that may be taken into account when the draft development plan is to be considered and as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report)

14.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 14.1 A risk register has been completed and identified the main risks at this stage of the process as being a failure to adopt the PPS, a delay in the adoption of the PPS, or the adoption of an inappropriate PPS.
- 14.2 The draft PPS has been prepared over the past 12 months with involvement from key officers, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) sports clubs and other key stakeholders and in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' and so represents a robust strategy based on sound evidence.
- 14.3 In terms of controls, public consultation represents the final part of the process and will ensure the PPS is fit for purpose and deliverable in advance of being presented to Council for adoption. A clear timetable has been put in place by the PPS steering group to take the strategy forward to adoption.

15.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

15.1 A PIA 'Screening' has been undertaken and shows that the draft PPS would not effect a particular group any differently to any other. A full PIA is not therefore required.

16.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

16.1 N/A

Sustainability

16.2 Once adopted, the Playing Pitch Strategy for Gloucester will have a positive effect on sustainability in Gloucester, providing a framework for protection, enhancement and provision of playing pitches in the City for the next five years. It will also set a good

foundation for the ongoing consideration of playing pitches through future updates to the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Staffing & Trade Union

16.3 Not applicable

Press Release drafted/approved

16.4 An approved press statement will be released should the draft strategy be approved for the purposes of public consultation.



FINAL DRAFT GLOUCESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2015 - 2025

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration



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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Gloucester. 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 2015 and 2025. 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
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby union pitches
- Rugby league pitches
- Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- Bowling greens
- Tennis courts

The main drivers for undertaking a Playing Pitch Strategy are:

- To provide 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.
- To inform the protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and S106 and CIL schedules.
- To inform land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the City;
- To provide a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches across the City;
- ◆ To support external funding bids and maximise support for playing pitch facilities;
- To provide the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

1.1 Structure

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

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

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Gloucester, which should be implemented from 2015 to 2025. 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 must be translated into local plan policy 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/higher 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). 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.

1.2 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 Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy:

'To provide an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities, which provide opportunities for all residents to access good sport, physical activity and recreation facilities'.

1.3 Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings from the Gloucester Playing Pitch Assessment Report. Surplus or deficit in provision is shown in match sessions, whereby 0.5 match sessions represents a team requiring a pitch once every fortnight based on a home and away league structure.

| Sport | Current demand | Future demand (2037) |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Adult football | Shortfall of 9 match sessions | Shortfall of 17.5 match sessions |
| Youth football 11v11 | Shortfall of 6.5 match sessions | Shortfall of 12 match sessions |
| Youth football 9v9 | Minimal match sessions available | Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions. |
| Mini football 7v7 | Shortfall of 1 match session | Shortfall of 3 match sessions. |
| Mini football 5v5 | Minimal match sessions available | Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions. |
| | | |
| Football (3G AGPs) | Potential shortfall of up to 3 3G pitches based on FA model for training. | Potential further shortfalls based on FA model for accommodating competitive play. |
| | | |
| Cricket | Current demand is being met in terms of quantity but shortfalls in terms of quality on majority of pitches. | Likely to increase further due to potential increase in teams if quality of pitches increases. |
| | | |
| Senior rugby union | Shortfall of 49 match sessions | Shortfall of 51 match sessions |
| Mini rugby union | No shortfall of match sessions | Shortfall of 5 match sessions |
| Rugby union (3G AGPs) | Current shortfall of at least 1rugby union compliant 3G pitch | Future shortfall of union compliant 3G pitches |
| | | |
| Hockey (Sand AGPs) | Current demand is being met | Future demand may not be met in light of potential pitch loss |

PART 2: AIMS

The Gloucester PPS is a strategy not just for the local authority, but holistically for sport across the City as a whole.

Delivery of the Strategy is the responsibility of and relies on, all stakeholders.

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 1 below). It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Strategy and Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

To **protect** sports facilities for meeting current and future needs

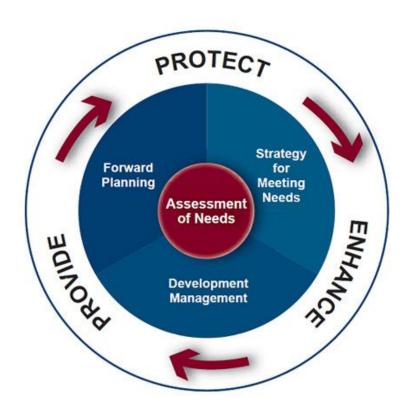
AIM 2

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

Figure 1: Sport England Planning for Sport objectives



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.

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.

The quality of pitches in Gloucester City has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments (as determined by the National Governing Bodies) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating. Further detail regarding pitch quality and non-technical assessments can be found with the sport specific sections of the assessment report.

Football pitches

Key issues - grass

- Most football pitches available for community use are assessed as being of poor quality (56%) with less than third as standard quality (29%) and 15 assessed as good.
- There are 20 pitches overplayed across eleven sites, by a total of 29 match equivalent sessions.
- Plock court has an insufficient number of changing rooms to adequately service all pitches/sports.
- Three teams report unmet demand and having to turn away players they cannot accommodate; Quedgeley Wanderers FC, Tuffley Rovers FC and Longlevens FC.
- Tuffley Rovers FC has unsecured tenure of its home site at British Gas Sports Field but has recently been awarded Sport England Protecting Playing Fields funding towards negotiating purchase of the land.
- There is a total of 15 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across the City, of which nine are on adult pitches. There is a further 11 match equivalent sessions available on pitches which currently have no recorded play.
- ◆ There is a shortfall of match sessions at adult (9), youth 11v11 (6.5) and mini 7v7 (1) formats to accommodate current demand, whilst increases in future demand would cause a shortfall at all formats.
- Clubs report a lack of access to affordable floodlit training facilities, particularly AGPs of which there are no 3G pitches.

Scenarios - grass

- **Improving pitch quality** on overplayed pitches (either through increased maintenance or drainage improvements in order to increase pitch capacity) to either standard or good quality will help to accommodate overplay expressed.
- However, given the cost of doing such work for all poor and standard quality pitches the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football.
- All of the eleven overplayed sites have poor (nine) or standard (two) quality pitches. If the pitches at these sites were improved to good quality (therefore increasing the capacity) it would address overplay on 16 of 20 pitches and create eight match sessions of spare capacity on adult pitches and thus further reducing future shortfalls to 9.5 adult match sessions.

- There would be an additional 6.5 sessions available on youth 9v9 pitches, creating spare capacity of four available sessions, whilst an extra two sessions available on mini 7v7 pitches would reduce future shortfalls to just one match session.
- Increasing the quality of Beaufort Community School (youth 11v11), Gloucester Academy and Heron Park will not address overplay, however, reducing current use and transferring play to sites with spare capacity will address overplay (one adult match session and 2.5 youth 11v11 match sessions).
- Further to this, increasing the quality of other sites which currently have spare capacity from poor quality to good will further increase capacity to meet shortfalls identified. For example, improving adult pitches at Plock Court, Kingsway Sports Field and Kingsway Manor Farm would provide an additional 12 match sessions of spare capacity which would accommodate current shortfalls on adult pitches and would help reduce the future shortfall
- Utilising spare capacity Three adult pitches each express 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity in the peak period which if retained could help to sustain/improve quality.
- This leaves 21.5 match sessions as actual spare capacity on adult pitches and is enough to cater for a future shortfall in youth match sessions (20.5).
- Opening up sites which are currently unavailable for community use i.e. school sites or increased activity at sites currently unused will accommodate future demand for mini pitches and unmet demand expressed by some clubs.
- Accommodating unmet demand were Tuffley Rovers FC to create a further three mini 5v5 teams (based on 10 players per squad) at Randwick Park, the mini 7v7 pitch currently used has spare capacity but not at peak time. Therefore there is a requirement for an additional specific mini 5v5 pitch at Randwick Park. Improving pitch quality from poor to at least standard at Longlevens Recreation Ground would both eliminate overplay and create 0.5 match sessions at peak time to field a fifth adult team.
- Summary if pitch quality/overplay is addressed and access to existing pitches is maximised there would be no requirement for new grass pitches to be sought in Gloucester.

Recommendations – grass

- In a phased approach, look to transfer 25% of youth football (mini and 9v9) onto 3G for match play and establish a mix of 3G use and grass pitch in order to better achieve sustainability.
- Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as standard or poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- Further investigate provision of joint sport maintenance equipment bank/s to better service the needs of clubs.
- Seek to develop Hub sites to service North and South of the City and explore options for Hub sites to cross subsidise grass pitches improvement across the City, for example at Plock Court.
- Where appropriate reduce usage on overplayed sites and transfer play to local sites which have spare capacity.
- Work with schools where possible to maximise and secure access to pitches on school sites which are currently unavailable for community use.
- Small amounts of existing spare capacity to be retained to help protect/improve pitch quality.
 - Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.

Key issues - 3G

- The FA model suggests that there is a current shortfall of three full size 3G pitches to meet demand for football training. There are a number of proposals regarding the creation of new 3G pitches or conversion of existing sand based surfaces.
- There is also a growing demand for all age groups to play on 3G pitches, particularly at youth level but in this instance also at adult level where there is the greatest shortfall of grass pitches.
- From 2014/15 only 3G pitches with a valid performance test and listed on the FA Register can be used for competitive play. At present, there are no 3G pitches located within Gloucester and therefore no AGPs have undergone the FA's performance test to allow league competitive football to be played. Please note this is the responsibility of the pitch provider and has an associated cost of £1,500.

Scenarios - 3G1

- There are currently 44 mini teams playing within Gloucester. In order to accommodate all teams, four 3G pitches would be required.
- ◆ There are currently 23 youth 9v9 teams playing within Gloucester. In order to accommodate all teams and, therefore, 12.5 match equivalent sessions, three 3G pitches would be required.
- ◆ There are currently 45 youth 11v11 teams playing within Gloucester. In order to accommodate all teams and, therefore, 22.5 match equivalent sessions, eight 3G pitches would be required.
- There are currently 20 adult teams playing on Sunday in Gloucester. In order to accommodate all teams playing on this day, five 3G pitches would be required.

Recommendations - 3G

- Increase provision of 3G pitches in the City (current shortfall of up to three full size).
- Develop a 3G Pitch Strategy for the City which takes into consideration current proposals and optimal strategic location to effectively service all areas of the City.
- In partnership with EH look to convert one sandbased AGP to a 3G surface whilst maintaining adequate provision to accommodate hockey demand.
- Retain some use of sand AGPs for football training in order to ensure continued sustainability of existing provision.
- In a phased approach, look to transfer 25% of youth football (mini and 9v9) onto 3G for match play and establish a mix of 3G use and grass pitch in order to better achieve sustainability.
- Ensure that new 3G pitches are tested and subsequently FA registered. In addition, ensure that future 3G pitches are used to maximum potential to allow for future back to back programming of mini/youth matches at peak times.
- Ensure that sinking funds (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface replacement when required) are in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term.

¹ Please refer to Appendix 3 for the full football scenario of programming 3G pitches for competitive play.

Cricket pitches

Key issues

- Three squares are considered good quality and 10 standard quality with one poor quality square at Hucclecote Playing Field (managed by Harlequins Cricket Club on Council land). Clubs generally report the condition of squares as adequate but highlight issues with outfields being poor quality.
- There has been a reduction in the number of cricket pitches as a reflection of the decline in demand for cricket over the past decade albeit pitch quality has also affected usage.
- Only Gloucester Winget CC has secure tenure of its home site, whereas all other clubs rent school or Council pitches. This may explain the previously nomadic nature of clubs and limits potential for development and access to grant funding.
- Plock Court is underused and King George V is used only on a Saturday but is booked up throughout the 2015 season.
- Crypt School is overplayed by a total of 25 match sessions per season. The pitch only
 contains five grass wickets and with school fixtures and community use by AIW CC it is
 deemed to be overplayed.
- Of those sites with existing community use, there are five which show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Gloucester.
- Overall there is sufficient capacity within Gloucester to accommodate current and future demand on existing squares, however; there is a lack of access to high quality playing and ancillary facilities.
- It is likely that provision of new good quality pitches in Gloucester would increase demand to play cricket.

Scenarios

- Addressing overplay all overplay is located at Crypt School where there are only five wickets to accommodate a relatively large number of school teams as well as community use. Addition of further wickets to the square would help to reduce the level of overplay should the outfield area be large enough to accommodate them. Alternatively, use of an additional square would also help to reduce the level of overplay on the school square.
- Improving quality there is a lack of good quality cricket provision, both playing surfaces and ancillary facilities, in Gloucester. Improvements to the quality and/or quantity of cricket pitches to address this is likely to both increase the quality of match play and practice and meet likely unmet demand.

Recommendations

- Work with clubs to review quality issues on those pitches assessed as standard and poor quality, including outfield areas which are of lesser quality in relation the square at some sites.
- Address overplay where possible through increasing the number of wickets on squares or seeking access to additional provision.
- Establish security of tenure where viable and there is currently no written agreement in place, particularly at school sites or those sub-let through other providers.
- Explore potential to restore the squares previously marked at Plock Court (to good quality) if required in addition to the retained square which is currently unused to help meet any growth or potential increases in demand.
- Work with clubs to ensure appropriate access to and quality of ancillary facilities supports provision of pitches/sites.
- Utilise spare capacity at club sites to accommodate possible future demand for informal formats of cricket and junior/women/girls development.

Rugby union pitches

Key issues

- There are four standard quality pitches at Archdeacon Meadow; otherwise all other pitches within the City are assessed as poor quality.
- One site is currently available for community use but unused at Saintbridge Recreation Ground. In addition, the Lannett, which was previously unused, has recently been transferred over to football pitches.
- Clubs typically train on match pitches where there is full or partial floodlighting. The nearest World Rugby compliant AGP is at Hartpury College which clubs make ad hoc use of when required.
- Fourteen sites currently used by community clubs in some capacity are overplayed by a total of 53.75 match equivalent sessions per week, all of which are senior pitches.
- Overplay is generally due to excessive training use of pitches, sustained weekly junior use and limited capacity on pitches due to poor quality.
- There is spare capacity of five match equivalent sessions across six sites with senior rugby union pitches at senior peak time and seven sessions available at junior peak time. There are two match sessions available on mini pitches.
- Overall there are insufficient pitches in Gloucester to service current and future demand, totalling a future requirement for a further 51.25 and 4.75 match equivalent sessions on senior and mini pitches respectively.
- University of Gloucestershire and Aspire Trust plans for the development of Bishop's College include at least one new AGP suitable for rugby union/league training and match play.

Scenarios

- Improving pitch quality significant improvements are required to the maintenance programme at all sites where all but one (Archdeacon Meadow) score an M0 rating (poor maintenance). Where sites are currently assessed as poor, if maintenance was increased to good this would increase capacity by 55.5 match sessions per week on senior pitches available for community use across Gloucester.
- Moving training off match pitches² there is currently 26.25 match sessions of training on match pitches in Gloucester across nine sites which contribute significantly to pitches being overplayed.
- Current shortfalls can be dealt with through a mixture of improving pitch quality and providing access to more floodlit pitches to accommodate training.

Recommendations

- Work with clubs to review quality issues on those pitches assessed as standard and poor quality in order to help reduce overplay.
- Work to reduce training on match pitches through access to dedicated floodlit training areas, including options to provide full size 3G pitches in partnership with the FA which are World Rugby compliant to help address shortfalls.

² Please refer to Appendix Two for the full rugby scenario relating to training.

Rugby league pitches

Kev issues

- ◆ There are no pitches specifically marked for rugby league in Gloucester City and teams play on rugby union pitches.
- Only Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC plays within the City. Both All Golds RLFC and the University export demand to Cheltenham where teams play at the Prince of Wales Stadium.
- Rugby league interest and participation is likely to increase in the future. Gloucester Warriors RLFC has added an infrequent second team and the University has plans to significantly increase the number of students.
- There is great potential for crossover of players between both codes of rugby given the popularity of rugby union in Gloucester City.
- Despite the lack of a specific rugby league pitch, Gloucester is currently adequately served for pitches for rugby league use. Given the cross code transfer of players and the number of fixtures each season, continued play on rugby union pitches with vigilant management of usage is suitable.

Scenarios

- Marking of a specific rugby league pitch this would only be used in the summer rather than all year round, protecting quality and reducing the current sustained use through both rugby league and rugby union seasons.
- Use of 3G pitches use of any potential new AGP (which is RFL Community Standard) to accommodate match play would allow the dual code pitch currently in use time for remedial work throughout the summer, whilst it would also enable University of Gloucestershire BUCS teams to play within Gloucester rather than in Cheltenham.
- There is sufficient provision on rugby union pitches to accommodate current rugby league demand in the City which is at present limited to a lower standard of play. Any increase in demand at community club level may present a case for access to more specific rugby league pitches.

Recommendations

- Ensure that rugby league continues to be accommodated and provided for in Gloucester.
- Explore opportunities to provide a full size 3G pitch in partnership with the RFU/FA which is RFL Community Standard compliant to address displaced demand.
- Reassess demand in three years time in order to identify if demand has increase to warrant the need for dedicated rugby league pitches to be provided in Gloucester.

9

Hockey pitches (AGPs)³

Kev issues

- There are four AGPs suitable for competitive hockey within Gloucester City, of which, there are two sand filled and two sand dressed surfaces. However, only three are currently used for hockey with Severn Vale School being used for football only.
- Although all four AGPs are assessed as standard quality, some are better in relation to others. Oxstalls Sports Park achieved the highest score (78%) whilst St Peter's Roman Catholic High School and Severn Vale School scored the joint lowest (56%) of the four pitches.
- With the exception of Oxstalls Sports Park, which was resurfaced in 2012, the other three pitches are in excess of ten years old and may require future surface replacement.
- Plock court has an insufficient number of changing rooms to adequately service all pitches/sports.
- There are three clubs using AGPs in the area. Gloucester City HC is the largest club based in the City, whilst both Cleevillians HC and Painswick HC import demand due to a lack of facilities in their local communities.
- Gloucester City HC is the largest club in the City. Membership is growing and the Club plans to add a fifth men's senior team and to double junior participation.
- The Club reports that it struggles for additional available pitch capacity at Oxstalls Sports Park and believes that with continued growth it will be limited by a lack of available pitch capacity at appropriate times for juniors.
- Cleevillians HC trains outside of the City in Innsworth. The Club would like to train at Oxstalls Sports Park if possible.
- Overall Gloucester is adequately provided for with regards to AGPs suitable for hockey matches at present. However, access to pitches for hockey training is a key issue as all AGPs are operating at capacity midweek primarily due to football training.
- The absence of 3G pitch provision in Gloucester plays a large part in the midweek capacity issues of hockey suitable AGPs as many are used for football and rugby union training.
- University of Gloucestershire has plans for the development of its Oxstalls Campus which will include the likely loss of the sand based AGP although there will be a replacement of a 3G pitch/s at Plock Court.

Scenarios

- Current demand At peak time for match play (Saturday) there is a current requirement for five match sessions to accommodate all teams from Gloucester based clubs and one match session by Painswick HC. Based on playing matches on a Saturday, home and away and taking into consideration programming constraints and training needs this equates to the need for three full size sand AGPs to service the City.
- Future demand Gloucester City HC has plans to add one more senior team playing on Saturday and a number of junior teams playing Sundays. Should this happen, three AGPs would still accommodate this level of use.
- Current and future demand there is a need for three full size hockey suitable AGPs to service current and future demand for competitive hockey in Gloucester (if programming is maximised).

³ Competitive league hockey matches can only be played on sand based, sand dressed or water based pitches. Although 40mm 3G can be considered suitable for some recreational and school use this surface is not suitable for club matches.

- If the AGP is lost at the University this will reduce provision in the City to three. This will create displacement of hockey teams which will need to be re accommodated. Loss of the pitch and displacement of University teams would need to be mitigated by an improvement in pitch quality and secured hockey access at an alternative site.
- Accommodating training increasing provision of 3G pitches will provide additional capacity for sand AGPs to accommodate hockey training. The extent of this is currently unknown, though it is likely that Gloucester City HC will be able to accommodate all training and match play at the same site as desired.

Recommendations

- Prioritise and retain three sand AGPs to accommodate current and future hockey demand and to ensure continued sustainability.
- Oxstalls Sports Park to be protected for long term hockey use.
- Ensure pitch quality is of a good standard and ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain sand AGP pitch quality in the long term.
- Maximise use of existing sand AGPs to accommodate (as a priority) Gloucester clubs training and competitive demand through effective programming.
- Work with Gloucester City HC to help facilitate membership growth and ensure sufficient access to Oxstalls Sports Park.
- Work with stakeholders in potential new 3G pitch developments to fully determine capacity which may be made available through transfer of football demand.
- If the sand AGP ensure mitigation through an improvement in existing pitch quality and secured hockey access at an alternative site.

Tennis courts (outdoor)

Key issues

- There are 28 outdoor courts unavailable for community use, most of which are located at schools sites and are generally made unavailable due to lack of floodlighting, lack of staffing or security issues.
- A total of 12 courts (16%) are assessed as good quality and 27 courts (36%) assessed as average quality. The majority of courts (48%) are assessed as poor quality.
- There are six clubs based within Gloucester, though Dowty TC is also located outside of the authority nearby and is considered to accommodate demand from residents.
- St Peter's TC reports that the Club is limited by the lack of good quality courts at the school and has a high level of unmet demand.
- Oxstalls Sports Park is a key venue for tennis development in Gloucester City. The tennis programme provides coaching for both juniors and seniors and is also available for social play.
- Virgin Active Health Club is not widely available for community use but has a strong tennis focus and caters for a significant level of demand from residents.
- There are enough tennis courts in Gloucester to cater for demand and casual use, though there is not sufficient access to available good quality floodlit courts required for the development of tennis at some clubs.

Recommendations

- Improve court quality and seek investment to sites which are available for public/community use.
- Ensure clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played.
- Maximise use of school courts to ensure that future demand for courts can be met in Gloucester.

Bowling greens

Key issues

- All greens in the City are assessed as good quality with the exception of the green at Tuffley Park which is standard quality.
- There are no Council operated bowling greens and the majority of sites are operated by clubs with lease agreements securing tenure. There is one education site, where one green is located at Sir Thomas Rich's School.
- There is a general perception that the quality and maintenance of privately/club owned and maintained greens are of a good standard. This is likely to be due to cost of upkeep or a lack of equipment and knowledge of maintenance.
- There are eight clubs using bowling greens in Gloucester City. Generally clubs in Gloucester City report that membership levels have remained static in the last three years
- Barnwood BC shows evidence of overplay at Barnwood Bowling Club. It is also likely that the green at Caer Glow Bowling Club is overplayed due to the additional usage from Co-Op BC which shares the site.
- Gloucester City is generally well served for bowling greens at present as the nature of play is club focused, most of which have security of tenure at home sites. The key issue facing bowls clubs is the national decrease in playing members and sports development factors rather than a lack of accessible facilities.

Recommendations

- Ensure that quality of greens and appropriate maintenance is applied to sites which are considered to be being played to capacity and beyond.
- 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.

PART 4: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy.

Implementation must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to also meet planning considerations.

AIM 1

To **protect** sports facilities for meeting current and 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.

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.

Future local plan policy should seek to protect facilities and the scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community such as the strategic sites and key centres should be considered. For example, through the Fields in Trust programme (www.fieldsintrust.org).

Gloucester emerging Local Plan

The Local Plan for Gloucester will consist of two separate documents – the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and Gloucester City Plan (GCP). The JCS is a partnership between Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council. It will address strategic level planning issues, including housing requirements, an overall development strategy including site allocations and a range of development management policies. Of particular relevance to the Playing Pitch Strategy is Policy SA1, which identified a number of strategic allocations, including some of the edge of Gloucester city, Policy INF5 'Social and Community Infrastructure' and Policy INF4 'Green Infrastructure'.

At the time of writing (summer 2015) the JCS has been submitted to the Government and is currently being considered at the Examination in Public (EiP) and its policy provisions may therefore be subject to change. More information is available at www.gct-ics.org.

Sitting underneath the JCS will be the Gloucester City Plan (GCP). This is in the early stages of preparation but will provide more localised site allocations and development management policies, including the approach to be taken to playing field provision in the city. More information is available at www.gloucester.gov.uk/cityplan.

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:

- 1. That there is an excess of accessible provision with secured community use in the study area, and;
- 2. The particular provision at a site to be surplus to requirements identify any is not of special interest to sport.

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 addition, any loss of low value playing pitch sites should be identified through the emerging Local Plan.

For further information please refer to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy - 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' Policy Exception E4 which can be found at:

http://www.sportengland.org/media/123579/policy-exception-4.pdf

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

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 and 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)⁴. 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), though only where facilities are considered to be of an acceptable standard prior to such club committing to long term occupancy. This should be considered where possible so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities, whether solely in conjunction with the Council.

There are some sites in Gloucester 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.

⁴ http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits

In addition there are a number of examples in Gloucester 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. Coney Hill RFC is one such club which is now a limited company and has aspirations to develop the site, having expressed interest in asset transfer or a longer term lease on the land.

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 local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links. 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. Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified. Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards. All info relating to clubs contained in a robust business plan that shows sustainability and growth. | Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City wide significance) but which offer development potential. For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate. As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club). Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site. An NGB/Council representative should sit on a management committee for each site leased to a club. |

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 continue to 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. Active Gloucestershire is able to support these clubs towards asset transfer, including developing a greater business focus and participation schemes in order to ensure sustainability.

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

Recommendation c - Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so

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.

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. Community use of school pitches is often restricted by basic maintenance regimes which limit pitch capacity combined with typically high levels of school use throughout the week, therefore in practice pitches may not be of suitable quality to sustain further use. 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)

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.

There are a growing number of academies and college sites in Gloucester where sports facilities are available, that the Council has not control over. However, 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.

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

Recommendation d - Improve 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.

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 Gloucester, 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/

Also, see 'The FA Guide to 3G Football Turf Pitch Design Principles and Layout':

www.replaymaintenance.co.uk/downloads/ftp-tech-guide.pdf

Addressing overplay

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 | Natural Inadequate (D0) | 2 per week | 1.5 per week | 0.5 per week |
| union* | 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.

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.

It is recommended that NGBs work together to seek opportunities at club sites to establish maintenance equipment banks which can be shared between local clubs. This could also extend to the sharing of good practice and expertise. Further work should be carried out to form a City wide maintenance approach which determines and addresses the most effective method of increasing the quality and regularity of pitch maintenance across all grass pitch sports.

For example, the FA and ECB have together recently introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme in partnership with Institute of Groundmanship (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 football 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.

Recommendation e – Adopt a tiered hierarchy of provision to help prioritise investment and improvement of sites

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach a tiered approach to the investment and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities should be used. Please refer to Part 5: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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. However, it is important 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 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

AIM 3

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

Recommendations:

- g. Secure planning gain for playing pitches from housing growth
- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendation g - Secure planning gain for playing pitches from housing growth

Population/housing growth scenario

The current resident population in Gloucester City is 124,5625. By 2031 (to reflect the Joint Core Strategy which shows how the area will develop during the period up to 2031) the City's population is projected to increase to 143,882⁶ which is an increase of 19,320 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 15.5%) according to ONS data. This level of future demand has already been factored into the calculation to identify shortfalls in provision.

As part of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) four 'Strategic Allocations' that form urban extensions to Gloucester are proposed. The proposed number of new homes at each of these allocations is set out below:

| Location | Number of new homes |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A1 – Innsworth | 1,250 new homes |
| A2 – North Churchdown | 532 new homes |
| A3 – South Churchdown | 868 new homes |
| A4 – North Brockworth | 1,500 new homes |

In addition, there is an urban extension to the south of the City (in Stroud District) at Hunt's Grove. Altogether, when taking into account the part of the site that already has planning, plus that to be allocated as part of the Stroud Local Plan, Hunt's Grove will provide 2,500 new homes and 20 hectares of employment land.

⁵Source: ONS Mid-2013 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex and ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2032. Released: 29 May 2014

⁶ Source: ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2037. Released: 29 May 2014

Using team generation rates from the PPS it is possible to estimate the level of provision likely to be generated from the development:

| Location | Additional teams | Pitch requirement ⁷ |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| A1 – Innsworth | 1 adult football | 1 adult football |
| | 2 youth football | 1 youth11v11 football |
| | 1 mini football | 1 mini football |
| | 1 senior rugby | 1 senior rugby union |
| | 2 mini/midi rugby | 1 mini/midi rugby |
| A2 – North Churchdown | 1 adult football | 1 adult football |
| | 1 youth football | 1 youth 11v11 football |
| | 1 mini football | 1 mini football |
| A3 – South Churchdown | 1 adult football | 1 adult football |
| | 1 youth football | 1 youth 11v11 football |
| | 1 mini football | 1 mini football |
| | 1 senior rugby | 1 senior rugby union |
| | 1 mini/midi rugby | 1 mini/midi rugby |
| A4 – North Brockworth | 2 adult football | 1 adult football |
| | 2 youth football | 1 youth 11v11 football |
| | 1 mini football | 1 mini football |
| | 1 adult cricket | 1 cricket |
| | 1 senior rugby | 1 senior rugby union |
| | 2 mini/midi rugby | 1 mini/midi rugby |

Refer to Appendix Four for the full scenario by Area.

NB the increase population in each development alone is not enough to generate hockey teams. However, ONS population increases across the City applied to TGRs suggest that one junior hockey team will be created and some increase in participation at an adult level but not enough to generate a full new team. It is important to note that housing projections are subject to change and that the projections above only reflect current estimations.

The exact nature and location of provision associated with these developments will be fully determined through the local planning process and in partnership with each specific NGB, which may for example include upgrading of facilities at existing sites where appropriate.

⁷ Based on one team sharing a pitch and playing on a home and away basis

Recommendation h - 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 Gloucester 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 coloured line markings within 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.

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some 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

| Sport | Future development trend | Strategy impact | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Football | The needs of the game will change significantly from the 2013/14 season with the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands will change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football). Demand for senior football is likely to | Consider re-allocating leases to Community Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities. Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review. Sustain current stock but consideration given | | | |
| | 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. | 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. | | | |
| Cricket | Demand is likely to increase if quality is improved. There are currently (2015) no informal formats of cricket operating in Gloucester. | Increase in peak time usage for good quality grass wickets at club sites. Likely increase in demand for non turf wickets if informal formats of cricket are established. | | | |
| | 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. | | | |
| Rugby union | The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision in Gloucester. | Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate. | | | |
| Rugby league | RFL is working towards growing rugby league participation including through growth at junior clubs, Play Touch RL and 9 aside RL. | Review the need for dedicated rugby league pitches in the next three years. Seek 3G pitch venues for Play Touch and grass pitches for 9 aside. | | | |
| 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. Provision of 3G pitches which are World Rugby compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches. | Ensure that access to new AGP provision across the City is maximised and that community use agreements are in place. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf | | | |

| Sport | Future development trend | Strategy impact |
|--------|---|--|
| Bowls | The general trend of demand for bowling greens remains static and it is not thought likely that future demand will result in the need for new greens. | Current and future demand for bowling greens is being met by provision in Gloucester. |
| Tennis | It is likely that future demand for access to tennis courts in Gloucester will remain static. | Tennis courts in Gloucester can generally accommodate current demand and anticipated future demand. However, the poorer quality courts, especially parks courts, will require future investment in order to retain usage, even for recreational play. Increasing court capacity through floodlighting and/or increasing the quality of parks provision could build in future capacity to accommodate growth. |

Recommendation i - 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.

Some sites in Gloucester may also have the potential to accommodate more pitches which may be a solution to meeting shortfalls identified.

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. Recommendation e below explains the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed through the implementation of the strategy.

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

Recommendation e - Adopt a tiered hierarchy of provision to help prioritise investment and improvement of sites

To allow for facility developments to be prioritised and programmed within a phased approach a tiered model to for the improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities is useful.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a City-wide context i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport by sport basis or across the City as a whole.

Gloucester's tiered site criteria

| Hub sites | Key centres | Local sites | Reserve sites |
|---|---|---|---|
| Strategically located. Priority sites for NGB. | Strategically located within the analysis area. | Services the local community. Likely to include education sites. | Services the local community. |
| Accommodates three or more good quality grass pitches. Including provision of at least one AGP. | Accommodates two or more good quality grass pitches. | Accommodates more than one pitch. | Likely to be single- pitch site. |
| Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue. | Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue. | Single or multi-sport provision. | Supports informal usage and/ or training etc. |
| Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines. | Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines. | Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract. | Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting and line marking as required. |
| Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches. | Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches. | Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required). | No requirement for access changing to accommodation. |

Hub sites are of City wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi sport. These have been identified on the basis of high impact on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities__planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_hubs.aspx

For hub sites, NGB financial modelling suggests that multi 3G pitch sites are more sustainable in the longer term. However, the only existing site which is likely to be able to accommodate a double 3G pitch site is Plock Court/ University of Gloucester.

Key centres although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider). However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Hub sites and Key Centres to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites which are generally one and two pitch sites and may be Council owned hired to clubs for a season or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. However, they are also likely to be private club sites serving one particular sport.

The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in n adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

Reserve sites could be used as overspill for neighbouring sites and/or for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They are most likely to be single-pitch sites with no ancillary facilities.

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.
- Availability of funding for hub site development.
- 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.

Priority level

In addition to determining where the site sits within the tiered hierarchy of provision, the level of priority should be determined. For example, a Hub Site is likely to have a high priority attached unless for example it is already established and therefore may have a low priority. A local private cricket or rugby club could have anything from high priority to low priority attached to it depending on a number of factors such as NGB priority and the impact the recommendation will have on addressing shortfalls/issues identified.

High priority sites have City 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.

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 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

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

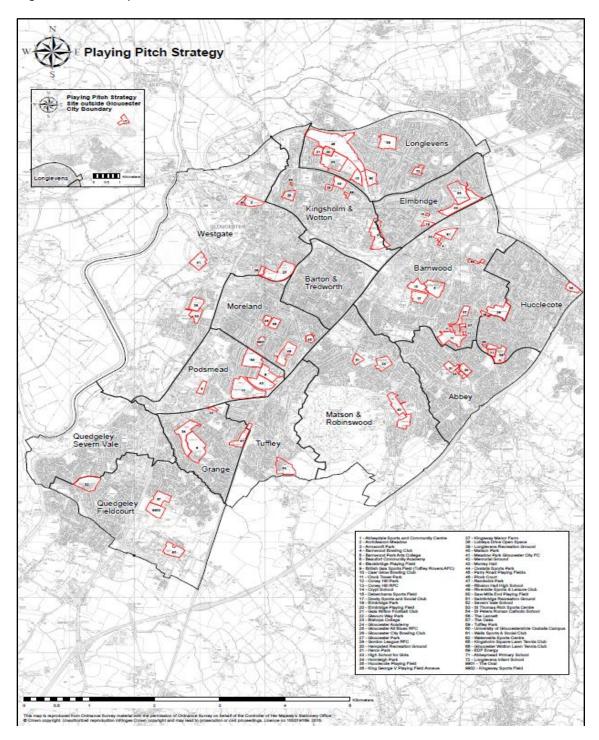
Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

Site ID

Please note that although allocated Site ID numbers most often run in chronological order there are instances where numbers are missing. This is due to where pitches/sites are now no longer used or have been removed due to duplication.

Please also refer to Appendix Six for sport by sport maps of provision which are taken from the Assessment Report.

Figure 1: Site map



| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ⁸ | Cost ⁹ | Aim |
|------------|---|-------------|-------------|--|---|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Abbeydale Sports and Community Centre | AGP | Community | One standard quality small sized AGP used by all Abbeymead Rovers FC teams and Gloucestershire College for training. | Ensure sufficient access for club training whilst maximising usage at weekends and through commercial lets. | Club FA | Local (low) | L | - | Protect |
| 2 | Archdeacon Meadow | Cricket | School | Three standard quality squares with 10, eight and four wickets respectively. The King's School offsite sporting venue used solely for school sport and therefore unavailable for community use. Spare capacity of 80 matches. | Explore potential for future community use and ascertain current barriers to use. Continue to develop cricket within the school and maximise use through PE and school fixtures. | Council ECB | Local (low) | M | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | Rugby union | | Four standard quality pitches which are marked over the cricket outfields. Used heavily by the school for school matches on Saturday, midweek training and curricular PE. Site is subsequently overplayed by 1.5 match sessions per week. | In the short term look to transfer training use from match pitches in order to reduce the level of overplay. In the longer term seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to increase capacity available. | Council RFU | | S-M | L-M | |
| 3 | Armscroft Park (Gloucester Old Boys RFC) | Rugby union | Sports Club | Two poor quality council pitches managed by AMEY and used by Gloucester Old Boys RFC. Spare capacity of one match sessions per week available at peak time. | Improve pitch quality and seek options to maximise use to accommodate future demand. | Council RFU | Local (medium) | М | M | Protect Enhance |
| 4 | Barnwood Bowling Club | Bowls | Sports Club | Good quality flat green which serves 82 members and is therefore overplayed. Club recently received funding to improve surrounding access areas. | Continue to sustain standard of maintenance in order to protect green quality. Consider use of additional suitable greens in order to alleviate some overuse. | Club | Local (low) | L | L | Protect Provide |
| 5 | Barnwood Park Arts College (Coney Hill RFC) | Football | School | One youth 11v11 and two 9v9 pitches, all assessed as poor quality and unavailable for community use. All are overplayed as a result of curriculum use and school fixtures. | Improve pitch quality through an increase in maintenance investment in order to increase capacity available and potential future community use. | Council FA | Key centre (medium) | М | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | Cricket | | Good quality six wicket square cut and used by Arcadians Nine Elms CC. Outfield quality significantly poorer, very undulating and uneven. Sublet from Coney Hill RFC which rents from the school, also providing changing facilities. Capacity for a further seven matches per season. | Look to establish long-term security of tenure for the Club. Alternatively, investigate other potential sites which may offer greater security if required. Improve outfield quality and in the longer term consider adding additional wickets if demand increases. | Council ECB | | S-M | М | |
| | | Rugby union | | One poor quality senior pitch used by Coney Hill RFC first team. Limited curricular use and school fixtures. Overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week. | Improve pitch quality in order to increase capacity for school and community use. | Council RFU | | М | M | |
| | | Tennis | | Six poor quality tarmac courts also overmarked for netball. Not available for community use and not floodlit. | Look to make improvements where possible, including re-lining. | Council LTA | | L | L-M | |

 $^{^8}$ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) 9 (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ¹⁰ | Cost ¹¹ | Aim |
|------------|---|----------------|----------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6 | Beaufort Community School | Football | School | Two adult and two youth 11v11 pitches, all assessed as poor quality. Community use by Tuffley Rovers FC adult and youth teams and Barton Rovers FC. All pitches are overplayed through a combination of school use and consistent club use. | Improve pitch quality through an increase in maintenance investment in order to address overplay and build future capacity for community and school use. | Council FA | Key centre (medium) | S-M | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | Cricket | | One good quality non-turf wicket, unavailable for community use. | Explore options for future community use if demand in the Area increases. Consider potential use for informal or midweek cricket if required. | Council ECB | | M-L | L | |
| | | Rugby union | | One rugby union pitch and two football pitches marked for rugby union until January. Available for community use but currently only used by school. All three pitches overplayed due to a significant amount of school use. | Improve pitch quality to increase capacity available and potential future community use. | Council RFU | | M | М | |
| | | Tennis | | Three standard quality tarmac courts with floodlighting. Available to hire but currently unused. | Seek options to maximise use to accommodate future community demand for use by clubs or potential for creation of a satellite club. | Council LTA | | M | L | |
| 8 | Blackbridge Playing Field | Football | County Council/ Council | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch used by Tuffley Rovers FC. Spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions available at peak time. The site is part of community led proposals, supported by the City and County Councils, to form a sporting hub venue incorporating the existing running track. | Improve pitch quality and maximise use. Determine potential for the creation of a hub venue to serve the south of the City including options for 3G pitch provision and additional grass pitches. Potential site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme. | County Council FA RFU | Hub (medium) | М | Н | Protect Provide Enhance |
| 9 | British Gas Sports Field (Tuffley Rovers AFC) | Football | Sports Club | Standard quality adult pitch home to Tuffley Rovers FC. Less than three years tenure remaining on the lease from National Grid. Club recently received in excess of £43,000 from Sport England Protecting Playing Fields to help towards securing future tenure. | Support the Club in negotiations to secure long term tenure of the site, either through lease or by purchase of the land. Also help the Club in further development of the site and progression towards Step 5 football. | Club FA | Local (high) | S-M | М-Н | Protect Enhance |
| 10 | Caer Glow Bowling Club | Bowls | Sports Club | Good quality flat green also used by Co-op BC. Club has in excess of 50 members and the green is likely to be overplayed taking into contention additional use from Co-op BC. | Continue to sustain standard of maintenance in order to protect green quality. Consider use of additional suitable greens in order to alleviate some overuse. | Club | Local (low) | М | L | Protect |
| 11 | Clock Tower Park | Football | Council | Standard quality adult pitch used by Abbeymead Rovers FC U13s teams. 0.5 match sessions available at peak time. | Seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality. Could accommodate usage from overplayed sites. | Council FA | Local (low) | M | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | Tennis | | Two poor quality tarmac courts without floodlighting. No recorded use beyond likely casual play. Metal nets render the site unsuitable for club use. | Look to make improvements to quality where possible, including resurfacing and re-lining. Ensure accessibility for social play and maximise use through community participation events where possible. | Council LTA | | М | L | |
| 12 | Coney Hill Park | Football | Council | Poor quality adult pitch used by three single adult teams including some training. Changing facilities provided at Coney Hill RFC. Overplayed by 1.5 match sessions. | In the short term transfer training from match pitches in order to alleviate overplay. In the longer term improve pitch quality or seek options to relocate pitch on another site and retain this site as strategic reserve. | Council FA | Local/ Reserve (low) | S-M | L-M | Enhance |

Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ¹² | Cost ¹³ | Aim |
|------------|--|---------------------|-------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 13 | Coney Hill RFC | Rugby union | Sports Club | Two poor quality senior pitches, one used for both senior and junior matches and subsequently overplayed by 4.5 match sessions. The other pitch is unused other than to accommodate matches for infrequent club teams such as Vets and therefore has 0.5 match sessions available at peak time. | Seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality to help address overplay. Make greater use of the unused pitch onsite in order to distribute play. Seek options for floodlighting. Support the club in determining potential for asset transfer or negotiation of a longer term lease. | Club RFU Council County Council | Local (high) | O | L | Protect Enhance |
| 14 | Crypt School | Football | School | Three good quality pitches unavailable for community use, of adult, youth 11v11 and 9v9 sizes. Adult pitch overplayed by one match session and both youth pitches to capacity due to curricular use and school fixtures. | Retain for school use and ensure maintenance is sufficient enough to maintain quality. | Council FA | Local (medium) | L | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | Cricket | | Good quality square with five wickets, used by four school teams and AIW CC midweek and at weekends. Overplayed by 25 matches per season. Poor pavilion and changing facilities. | Work to improve pavilion facilities to provide changing provision which adheres to league requirements. Consider additional wickets to address overplay. | Council ECB | | М | Н | |
| | | Rugby union | | Three poor quality senior pitches unavailable for community use to protect quality given substantial school use. | Improve pitch quality and seek options to establish community use in the future. Potential partnership could be established with local club. | Council RFU | | М | M | |
| | | Tennis | | Two standard quality tarmac courts, unavailable for community use due to the lack of floodlighting. | Continue to develop tennis and maximise use by the school. If demand increases, seek options for floodlighting and establish community use. | Council LTA | | L | М | |
| 15 | Debenhams Sports Field | Football Cricket | University | Site recently purchased by University of Gloucestershire, previously including one cricket square and overmarked adult football pitch. Disused and untended to for last two years. | Continue to work with the University to establish best options for provision of pitches. Good quality cricket pitch to be re provided to meet shortfalls in quality in the City. Provision of 3G pitch at Plock Court satisfies re provision of grass football. | University FA ECB | - | S-M | Н | Provide |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | Football | Sports Club | Six good quality adult pitches used mostly by FC Lakeside amongst other teams. One mini 5v5 and one two 7v7 pitches all of good quality with no recorded play from Gloucester teams. All pitches show available match sessions however anecdotal evidence suggests they are played to capacity by additional clubs from neighbouring authorities. | Support use of the site for Gloucester based teams and residents given close proximity to the City. | Sports Club FA LTA | Key centre (medium) | L | L | Protect |
| | | Bowls | | One good quality flat green which serves circa 51 members. Likely capacity for some additional play. | | | | | | |
| | | Tennis | | Two good quality courts without floodlighting used by Dowty TC. | | | | | | |
| 19 | Elmbridge Park (Windfall Way Open Space) | Football | Council | One poor quality adult pitch played to capacity by Gloucester Elmleaze FC and Abbeymead Rovers youth. | Improve pitch quality or seek options to relocate pitch on another site and retain this site as strategic reserve. | Council FA | Local/ Reserve (low) | S-M | L-M | Enhance |

¹² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ¹⁴ | Cost ¹⁵ | Aim | | | |
|------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 20 | Sandyleaze Open Space (Elmbridge Playing Field) | Football | Sports Club | Poor quality adult pitch played to capacity by Old Richians FC. | Improve pitch quality through an increase in maintenance investment in order to build strategic reserve/future capacity. | Club FA | Key centre (medium) | M | L | Protect Enhance | | | |
| | (Old Richians RFC) | Rugby union | | Two poor quality senior pitches used by Old Richians RFC for senior and junior matches and weekend training. Overplayed by 3.25 match sessions given added use by Sir Thomas Rich's School for Saturday morning fixtures. One mini pitch with spare capacity as much mini play takes place on the neighbouring school pitches. | Make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to increase capacity available. In the short term look to transfer training use from match pitches in order to reduce the level of overplay. Consider the mini pitch to be converted into a floodlit training area. | Club RFU | | S-M | L-M | | | | |
| 21 | Gala Wilton Football Club | Football | Sports Club | One poor quality adult pitch overplayed by 0.5 match sessions. Lease on the site has expired and the Club hopes to negotiate a long term lease with the Council for both the pitch and clubhouse building. The Club has desires to install floodlighting in order to meet Step 6 criteria and has planning permission to do so. | Although the grant can only be applied for when promotion is gained, support the Club in negotiating a long term lease on the site so that it may in the future apply for grant funding for floodlighting. Seek to improve pitch quality through greater maintenance to eliminate overplay. | Council Club FA | Local (medium) | O | М | Protect Enhance | | | |
| 22 | Glevum Way Park | Football | Council | One standard quality adult pitch with one match session available at peak time. One mini 7v7 pitch with no spare capacity at peak time and two mini 5v5 pitches which are currently unused. Site used by Abbeymead Rovers FC junior and girls sections. | Improve pitch quality and seek to make greater use of available capacity and unused pitches to address current shortfalls – potential to convert to youth/adult pitch. | Council FA | Local (medium) | O | L-M | Protect Provide | | | |
| 23 | Bishop's College (Old Centralians RFC) | Football | County Council Aspire | Two good quality pitches used by teams playing both Saturday and Sunday. 0.5 match sessions available at peak time. | Multi NGB approach to be taken regarding intentions for potential future development of the site, including impacts on the adjacent | Aspire University Council | ity (medium) | ersity (medium) | versity (medium) | , | S-M | M-H | Protect Enhance |
| | , | Cricket | | One non-turf wicket of poor quality and not suitable for use. | Plock Court which operates synergistically alongside Bishop's College, as well as the | FA ECB | | | | | | | |
| | | Rugby union | | Two poor quality senior pitches, one of which is floodlit and also used throughout the | associated development of Debenhams Sports Field. Ensure no loss of provision for any resident sport and agree upon optimal | RFU RFL | | | | | | | |
| | | Rugby league | | summer by Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC. Used by Old Centralians RFC for matches and by other clubs for floodlit training. Intended location for proposed 3G developments. | pitch configuration should development go ahead. | IXI L | | | | | | | |

Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ¹⁶ | Cost ¹⁷ | Aim |
|------------|--|----------------|-------------|---|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 24 | Gloucester Academy (Old Centralians RFC) | my Football | School | Standard quality adult pitch used by the school and a number of community adult teams. Overplayed by 1.5 match sessions taking into account all use. | Seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to reduce level of overplay. Site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme. | Council FA | Key centre (high) | S | L | Protect Enhance Provide |
| | | Cricket | | Standard quality square with five wickets, as well as one non-turf wicket. Outfield area is too small and therefore not suitable for senior cricket. Currently only used by junior school teams. | Continue to develop cricket at the school and link with local clubs. Determine the potential for community use by junior club teams where suitable and if demand exists in the future. | Council ECB | | L | L | |
| | | Rugby union | | One poor quality senior pitch used by both the school and by Old Centralians RFC. The Club plays in the national leagues and is frustrated that the pitch is usually in unplayable condition from November and February. Club and school are keen to convert the pitch to a World Reg 22 AGP. | Investigate potential for installation of a functioning drainage system. Coupled with that improve maintenance, particularly to enable greater drainage of water. Explore longer term aspirations of a World Rugby compliant 3G AGP should there be no other viable drainage solution. | Council Club RFU | | O | M | |
| | | Tennis | | Three poor quality tarmac courts with floodlighting though unavailable for community use. | Look to make improvements to quality where possible, including resurfacing/re-lining and investigate potential future demand for community use. | Council LTA | | L | М | |
| 25 | Gloucester All Blues RFC (Alney Island) | Rugby union | Sports Club | Council owned site with no long term lease. Two poor quality senior pitches which for several years were unusable due to flooding from the nearby river. Training on pitches using mobile floodlights. Club to return to play here for 2015/16 season though pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match sessions. Unused mini pitch also marked as the Club tries to begin a junior section. | Support the Club in starting and developing a junior section and further growth. Seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to reduce level of overplay. Look to transfer training use from match pitches to alleviate overplay and upgrade floodlighting as appropriate. | Club RFU Council | Local (medium) | M | M-H | Protect Enhance |
| 26 | Gloucester City Bowling Club | Bowls | Sports Club | Two good quality flat greens, one of which is an artificial surface shared with Gloucester Spa BC which is also onsite. Clubhouse is also shared between the two clubs. | Continue to sustain standard of maintenance in order to protect green quality. Maintain inter-club relationship to ensure the site remains a high activity area for bowls. | Clubs | Local (medium) | L | L | Protect |
| 27 | Gloucester Park | Football | Sports Club | Good quality adult pitch marked onto the cricket outfield, used by Tredworth Tigers FC adult team. Spare capacity of 2.5 match sessions, of which 0.5 are available at peak time. | Uphold standards of maintenance to ensure pitch quality remains good, whilst managing use between football and cricket seasons to avoid fixture clashes. | Club FA | Key centre (low) | _ | L | Protect |
| | | Cricket | | Standard quality square with 10 wickets, played to capacity by Gloucester City Winget CC, therefore no capacity for additional play. Lack of car parking provision. | Sustain and further improve quality of maintenance in order to ensure square quality is able to sustain play up to capacity. In the longer term, seek to resolve issues regarding lack of parking space and access to off road parking onsite. | Club ECB | | M | М | |
| | | Bowls | | Good quality flat green used by Gloucester Spa BC. Clubhouse is also shared between the two clubs. | Continue to sustain standard of maintenance in order to protect green quality. Maintain inter-club relationship to ensure the site remains a high activity area for bowls. | Clubs | | L | L | |

¹⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ¹⁸ | Cost ¹⁹ | Aim |
|------------|---|----------------|-------------|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 29 | Gordon League RFC | Rugby union | Sports Club | Two poor quality senior pitches used by senior club teams and Gloucestershire College for matches. One match session available at senior peak time. One further poor quality senior pitch with floodlighting used for all training, overplayed by 2.5 match sessions per week. | Address pitch quality and surface issues including suspected broken drain underneath Pitch Two. Work to improve quality of maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to increase capacity available to accommodate the establishment and growth of planned junior section. | Club RFU | Local (high) | S-M | M | Protect Enhance |
| 30 | Hempsted Recreation Ground | Football | Council | Poor quality adult pitch used by Trinity & Quedgeley United FC. Spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions available at peak time. | Improve pitch quality through an increase in maintenance investment and seek to make greater use of available capacity and unused pitches to address current shortfalls – potential to convert to youth pitch. | Council FA | Local (low) | М | L | Protect Enhance |
| 31 | Heron Park | Football | Council | Poor quality adult pitch used by Abbeymead Rovers FC mens, womens and youth 11v11 teams. Overplayed by 2.5 match sessions. | In the shorter term transfer play to sites with spare capacity and in the longer term improve quality through an increase in maintenance investment in order to address overplay. | Council FA | Local (medium) | S | L | Protect Enhance |
| 33 | High School For Girls (Spartans RFC) | Rugby union | School | One poor quality senior pitch used little by the school other than for athletics in summer. Community use by Spartans RFC senior and junior sections for matches and training. Overplayed by one match session per week. | Explore options to create a floodlit training area in order to accommodate training and reduce overplay on the match pitch. | Council RFU | Local (medium) | М | M | Protect Enhance |
| | | Tennis | | Six standard quality tarmac courts currently only used by the school. Plans for the installation of a key fob entry system to increase community use in conjunction with Oxstalls Sports Park. Recently been awarded LTA funding to help install. | Work to increase community use and establish the site with a focus on social and unorganised tennis in the area. | Council Aspire LTA | | М | L | |
| 34 | Holmleigh Park | Football | Council | Two poor quality adult pitches currently unused and therefore have two match sessions available at peak time. One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch used by Tuffley Rovers FC and overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week. | Improve pitch quality through an increase in maintenance investment and maximise use to help address shortfalls. | Council FA | Local (medium) | S | L | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 35 | Hucclecote Playing Field (Hucclecote RFC) | Cricket | Sports Club | Poor quality square with eight wickets, with the outfield overlapping the rugby union pitch. Used by Gloucester Harelquins CC which sublets from the rugby club and has no subsequent confirmed security of tenure. Spare capacity for an additional 26 matches per season. | Work to establish security of tenure for the cricket club beyond the next three years. Seek to improve square quality through better maintenance and sufficient access to equipment and specialist knowledge. | ECB Council | Key centre (high) | S | L-M | Protect Enhance |
| | | Rugby union | | One poor quality senior pitch and three poor quality mini pitches used by Hucclecote RFC. Senior pitch is overplayed by 0.5 sessions per week due to senior and junior matches, whilst mini pitches have 2.25 matches capacity, none of which are available at peak time. | Seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to increase capacity available. | RFU Council | | S | L-M | |

¹⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ²⁰ | Cost ²¹ | Aim |
|------------|--|----------------|-------------------------|--|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 36 | King George V Playing Fields (Hucclecote RFC) | Football | Council | Four poor quality mini 7v7 pitches, also used for both 5v5 and youth 9v9 matches but Hucclecote YFC junior section. No spare capacity available at peak time. | Seek additional pitch capacity in order to reduce current use of overmarked pitches. Work towards improving maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to increase future capacity available. Potential site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme. | Council FA | Key centre (medium) | М | M | Protect Enhance |
| | | Cricket | | Standard quality ten wicket square used as a secondary location by Ullenwood Bharat CC to accommodate imported demand from its third and fourth senior teams. Spare capacity for an additional 31 matches per year. | Determine intentions for continued use of the site by imported teams given the new ground developments the Club is undertaking outside of Gloucester. Improve quality and seek to maximise use of spare capacity for future demand. | Council ECB | | S-M | M | |
| | | Rugby union | | One poor quality senior pitch used by Hucclecote RFC mini and junior teams as a secondary venue for matches and training most weeks. Subsequently overplayed by one match session per week. Club would like to relocate all use back to the main club site. | Support movement of play onto new junior pitch which will run adjacent to Hucclecote Playing Field, whilst retaining use of this site to accommodate play as required. Seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to increase capacity available. | Council RFU | | S | L | |
| 37 | Kingsway Manor Farm | Football | Council | One poor quality adult pitch currently unused and therefore available at peak time. | Improve quality and maximise use. Alternatively if low value site re provide pitches/investment in capacity at a hub site and retain as a reserve site. | Council FA | Local/ Reserve (low) | М | М | Enhance Provide |
| 38 | Lobleys Drive Open Space | Football | Council | Two mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch all of poor quality, used by Abbeymead Rovers FC junior section. No capacity available for additional 7v7 play, whilst the 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week. | Improve pitch quality through an increase in maintenance investment, both for use and to reduce level of overplay and build future capacity. | Council FA | Local (medium) | М | L | Protect Enhance |
| 39 | Longlevens Recreation Ground (Longlevens RFC & Dowty RFC) | Football | Council/ Sports Club | Two poor quality adult pitches used mainly by Longlevens FC adult and youth 11v11 teams. Overplayed by 1.5 match sessions. Unmet demand for 0.5 adult match sessions. One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch played to capacity, also used in part for rugby union training. | Improve quality through an increase in maintenance investment in order to better pitch quality for use, to reduce level of overplay and to accommodate unmet demand. Site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme. | Council Club FA | Key centre (high) | O | L | Protect Enhance Provide |
| | | Rugby union | Council/ Sports Club | Two poor quality senior pitches used for matches by Longlevens RFC senior and junior teams. Also used by Dowty RFC. Overplayed by three match sessions per week. | Improve pitch quality/maintenance in order to address overplay. Explore options for access to dedicated floodlit training area to alleviate use of match pitches. | Council Club RFU | | S | М | |
| 40 | Matson Park (Matson RFC) | Rugby union | Sports Club | Two poor quality senior pitches used by Matson RFC senior and junior sections for both matches and training. Overplayed by five match sessions. | Improve quality and transfer training use from match pitches in order to address overplay. | Council RFU Club | Local (medium) | М | М | Protect Enhance |
| 41 | Meadow Park (Gloucester City FC) | Football | Sports Club | Step 2 ground which has been unusable since being flooded in 2007. The club currently plays in Cheltenham but wants to return to the ground and hopes to build a new 3G stadia pitch. | Support the Club in applications for grant funding as well as determining potential for a proposed 3G stadia site, including community use access. | FA Club | Key centre (high) | M-L | Н | Provide Enhance |

²⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ²² | Cost ²³ | Aim |
|------------|--|----------------|-------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 42 | Memorial Ground (Old Cryptians RFC & Widden Old Boys RFC) | Rugby union | Sports Club | Four poor quality pitches, two of which are used by Old Cryptians RFC and two by Widden Old Boys RFC, each with separate lease agreements. All four pitches are overplayed, particularly the fully and partially floodlit pitches which are overplayed by three and six match sessions respectively, largely due to training use in excess of match play. | Transfer training use from match pitches and improve quality/maintenance in order to address overplay and build future capacity. Look at options to upgrade floodlit where possible. Support Widden Old Boys RFC in plans to improve ancillary facilities and repair the existing roof. | RFU Sports Club | Local (high) | S-M | М | Protect Enhance |
| 43 | Murray Hall | Football | Council | Mini 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. Currently unused and therefore is available at peak time. | Improve quality through an increase in maintenance investment and maximise usage to address shortfalls by establishing a resident club. | Council FA | Local (low) | М | L | Protect Enhance |
| 44 | Oxstalls Sports Park | AGP | Council Aspire | One standard sand dressed pitch with floodlights, resurfaced in 2012. Used intensively by Gloucester City HC for matches and training as well by Cleevillians HC. Much competition with football training demand. | Priority hockey site and should have long term protection of this AGP for hockey. Seek to increase capacity available for midweek hockey training whilst working closely with Gloucester University re proposed 3G developments to ascertain potential effects and transfer of midweek football demand from this pitch. Ensure sinking fund is in place for further future re carpeting. | Council Aspire EH FA University | Key centre (high) | М | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | Tennis | | Four good quality clay courts with floodlighting. Key tennis focus site within the City, also providing indoor provision. Also used by Gloucester College students. | Continue to maintain court quality and provide outdoor provision onsite, maximising use of floodlights alongside indoor facilities throughout the autumn and winter seasons. Link in with wider plans for outdoor provision at school satellite venues. | Aspire Council LTA | | L | L | |
| 45 | Parry Road Playing Fields | Football | Council | Standard quality adult pitch, currently unused and therefore available at peak time. To be remarked for 2015/16 season as two youth football pitches for new club Heart of Gloucester FC consisting of one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch. | Support further club growth as appropriate. Improve quality/maintenance and support establishment and development of the new resident club. | Council FA | Local (medium) | S | L | Protect Enhance Provide |

²² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ²⁴ | Cost ²⁵ | Aim |
|------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 46 | Plock Court | Football | Council Aspire | Four poor quality adult pitches primarily used by teams from the Gloucester & District Sunday Football League. 0.5 match sessions available at peak time. Also one unused youth 9v9 pitch available at peak time. Changing provision is insufficient and is restricting the growth of the league. | Improve pitch quality and maximise usage of all pitches. Consider reconfiguration of adult pitches to address mini/youth shortfalls. Linked to maximising use, explore options for funding to improve/increase the size/availability of changing facilities in order to maximise pitches available to Sunday league teams and help facilitate growth. | Aspire Council FA University | Hub (high) | S-M | Н | Protect Enhance Provide |
| | | Cricket | | Standard quality square with 10 wickets, currently unused in the absence of demand. Marked and maintained as a reserve facility. Previously had six squares which are able to be reinstated should demand for cricket increase. | Site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme. Improve quality and maximise use. Establish a club currently playing elsewhere with no security of tenure to use this site should there be an increase in quality, particularly the provision of suitable ancillary and changing facilities. Potential investment from loss of cricket at Debenhams Sports Field could help to facilitate this. | Aspire Council ECB University | | S-M | M | |
| | | Rugby union | union | No pitches currently marked but the site previously had one junior pitch which is able to be marked again should there be future demand. | Explore potential demand amongst clubs in the area and determine whether reinstating this pitch could address shortfalls at club sites in the locality. | Aspire Council RFU | | S-M | L-M | |
| 47 | Randwick Park | Football | Council | Poor quality adult pitch currently unused, therefore available at peak time. Standard quality mini 7v7 pitch used by Tuffley Rovers FC with no spare capacity available at peak time. | Improve pitch quality through an increase in maintenance investment and maximise use. | Council FA | Local (low) | М | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | Tennis | | One poor quality tarmac court without floodlighting. No recorded club use though it is likely that the court is used occasionally for social and non-organised tennis. | Seek to improve court quality and ensure access for continued irregular use by local residents. | Council LTA | | L | L-M | |
| 48 | Ribston Hall High School | Football | School | Two poor quality adult pitches used by Tredworth Tigers FC U13s. Overplayed by 1.5 match sessions when taking into consideration weekly school use. | Seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to increase capacity available. | Council FA | Local (low) | М | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | AGP | | Small sized sand dressed AGP mainly used by all girls school for hockey practice but lacking floodlights. Also marked as four tennis courts for use in the summer. | Determine scope for installing floodlighting and whether the site has further potential to be used to accommodate football and hockey training demand in the evenings. | Council FA EH | | М | L-M | |
| | | Tennis | | Three tarmac courts of standard quality without floodlighting, currently unused other than by the school. | Continue to develop school tennis and try to make improvements to court quality where possible. | Council LTA | | L | L | |
| 49 | Riverside Sports & Leisure Club | Tennis | Commercial | Four good quality tarmac courts with floodlighting. Used by Riverside TC which has two teams. | Continue to provide good quality floodlit facilities for club members and ensure access to sufficient court time for matches and coaching. | Sports Club LTA | Local (low) | L | L | Protect Enhance |

²⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ²⁶ | Cost ²⁷ | Aim | |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 50 | Saw Mills End Playing Field | Football | Sports Club | Standard quality adult pitch used by Longlevens FC 1 st and Ladies teams. Spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions available at peak time. Site currently meets required Step 6 standard but floodlighting does not comply with Step 5 specifications, limiting the team progressing to the next tier of the pyramid structure. | Support the Club in development of facilities to the required Step 5 standard, particularly floodlighting, enabling the Club to achieve promotion in practice. | Club FA | Local (medium) | M | L-M | Protect Enhance | |
| 51 | Saintbridge Recreation Ground | Rugby union | Council | Poor quality senior pitch currently not cut or lined ready for play due to a lack of demand. | Explore potential demand amongst clubs in the area and determine whether reinstating this pitch could address shortfalls at club sites in the locality. Quality would need to be improved if demand exists. | Council RFU | Local (medium) | O | М | Provide | |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | Football | | One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of poor quality and unavailable for community use due to school concerns regarding security and access to the rear of the building. Each pitch overplayed by two match sessions when taking into consideration weekly school use. | Work with the school to address concerns regarding community use and potential to make pitch accessible for future use. Seek to improve pitch quality through increased level and standard of maintenance. Site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme. | Council FA | Key centre (high) | S | L-M | Protect Enhance Provide | |
| | | Cricket | | One good quality non-turf wicket, used only by the school and not made available for community use. | Work with the school to address concerns regarding community use and potential to make pitch accessible for future use. | Council ECB | | L | L | | |
| | | Rugby union | | Poor quality senior pitch unavailable for community use due to school concerns regarding security and access to the rear of the building. | Work with the school to address concerns regarding community use and potential to make pitch accessible for future use. | Council RFU | | S | L-M | | |
| | | AGP | | Standard quality sand filled surface well in excess of 10 years old and requiring replacement. No hockey use and instead used significantly for football by both school and community clubs. | Improve pitch quality. England Hockey to identify priority for this AGP to be retained as sand for hockey use. If to be retained as sand surface ensure hockey can be accommodated as a priority. Decision to be reached by FA and EH in the context of Citywide Strategy for 3G pitches. | Council FA EH | | М | Н | | |
| | | | Tennis | | Six poor quality tarmac courts used infrequently for pay and play beyond school use. Managed by Quedgeley Community Trust. | Continue to work with Oxstalls Sports Park towards plans for key fob entry system and to increase court usage through creation of a satellite club onsite. | Council Trust Aspire LTA | | L | L | |

²⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ²⁸ | Cost ²⁹ | Aim |
|------------|--|----------------|------------|--|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre (Old Richians RFC) | Football | School | One standard quality adult football pitch which overlaps the cricket outfield, not made available for community use. Two further adult pitches are used dually for both football and rugby union. All three pitches are at capacity when considering weekly school use and fixtures. | Retain for school use. Manage dual use pitches carefully so not to negatively impact on pitch quality. | Council FA | Key centre (medium) | _ | L | Protect Enhance |
| | R | Cricket | | Good quality five wicket square used by school teams and played to capacity. Previously had community use but now unavailable due to issues regarding proximity of changing and pavilion facilities to the playing area as per league regulations. | Explore potential future use given good quality pitch. | Council ECB | | S-M | М | |
| | | Rugby union | | Four poor quality senior pitches, two of which are also used for football. Heavily used by 17 school teams for training and matches. Two far pitches are also used by Old Richians RFC junior section and are overplayed by eight match sessions, whilst the two remaining pitches are overplayed by six match sessions. | Look to transfer training use from match pitches in order to reduce the level of overplay. Seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to increase capacity available. | Council RFU | | S-M | М | |
| | | Bowls | | One good quality green used by Sir Thomas Rich's BC. Likely that capacity is available for further use. | Continue to ensure required standard of maintenance and continued green quality. | Club | | L | L | |
| | | Tennis | | Seven poor quality tarmac courts overmarked for netball use. School would like resurface due to poor quality. No current community use. | Determine potential to resurface courts and make available for community use. Support the school in search of funding opportunities if required. | Council LTA | | М | М | |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | Football | School | Poor quality youth 9v9 pitch not made available for community use in order to protect surface quality for school use. Overplayed by two match sessions when considering school usage. | Improve pitch quality through an increase in maintenance investment and maximise use. Potential site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme. | Council FA | Key centre (medium) | М | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | Rugby union | | Three poor quality senior pitches not made available for community use in order to protect surface quality for school use and occasional Saturday morning fixtures. | Improve quality and retain for school use. | Council RFU | | М | L-M | |
| | | AGP | | Standard quality sand dressed pitch with floodlighting in need of surface replacement. Built in partnership with West Bromwich Albion FC academy which has exclusive access some nights, therefore limited community use capacity other than weekends. Used by Gloucester City HC as an alternate venue. | Improve pitch quality. England Hockey to identify priority for this AGP to be retained as sand for hockey use. If to be retained as sand surface ensure hockey can be accommodated as a priority. Decision to be reached by FA and EH in the context of Citywide Strategy for 3G pitches. | Council FA EH | | S | L | |
| | | Tennis | | Two areas with two and five poor quality tarmac courts respectively, regularly used as playground areas. Used by St Peter's Junior TC which reports unmet demand and a lack of access to good quality surfaces. | Determine potential to resurface courts and to increase community use and enable club growth. Support the school in search of funding opportunities if required. | Council LTA | | S-M | М | |

²⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ³⁰ | Cost ³¹ | Aim |
|------------|---|----------|-------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 56 | The Lannett | Football | Council | One senior and one mini rugby union pitch both of poor quality. Currently unused since previous club Tredworth RFC folded. Council has plans to mark as football pitches for Tuffley Rovers FC for 2015/16 season. | No current local demand for rugby pitch. Improve quality and retain as football pitch going forward to meet demand identified. Reevaluate potential as a dual sport site reinstating a rugby union pitch should a club register interest. | Council FA | Local (low) | S | L | Protect Enhance |
| 57 | The Oaks | Football | Council | Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches used by Abbeymead Rovers FC U9s. No capacity for further use at peak time. | Seek to make improvements to maintenance in order to better pitch quality, both for use and to increase capacity future capacity. | Council FA | Local (medium) | M | L | Protect Enhance |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | Football | Council | Two adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as standard quality. Well used, mainly by Gloucester City Ladies FC junior section. Available capacity of 1.5 adult match sessions and each on 7v7 and 9v9 pitches. | Maximise usage to address shortfalls whilst seeking to increase pitch quality through improved maintenance in order to further add to potential capacity. | Council FA | Key centre (medium) | M | L | Protect Enhance |
| | | Cricket | | Two standard quality squares, each with 12 wickets. Used mainly by Gloucester City Winget CC as a secondary site as well as some midweek play. Spare site capacity for an additional 90 matches per season. | Determine the requirement for two pitches onsite given demand in the area and current level of available capacity. Maximise use of available capacity through development of cricket and increase in demand. | Council ECB | | S | L | |
| | | Bowls | | Good quality green used by Winget BC. Membership of circa 33 and therefore capacity for additional play. | Support the Club in ensuring it has the required knowledge base and resources including equipment to continue to maintain the green to the same standard. | Council Club | | L | L | |
| 60 | University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) | AGP | University | Standard quality sand filled pitch with floodlighting. Owned by University of Gloucestershire. In excess of 10 years old and therefore requires resurfacing. Mainly used by student teams for training and BUCS hockey matches on Wednesday afternoons with no further capacity available. Plans for this pitch to be lost within current plans for development of the site to accommodate the University's Business School. | If this AGP is lost this will reduce provision in the City to three sand AGPs suitable for hockey. This will also create displacement of hockey teams which will need to be re accommodated. Loss of the pitch and displacement of teams would need to be fully mitigated by an improvement in pitch quality elsewhere and secured hockey access at an alternative site. | Council University FA EH RFU | Key centre (high) | S-M | Ι | - |
| 61 | Walls Sports And Social Club | Football | Sports Club | Two standard quality adult pitches, one overmarked by a youth 9v9 pitch and the other by mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches. Used by several clubs, mainly Gloucester City FC junior section. Each pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week due to intensified play from overmarked pitches. | Investigate potential to transfer some play to alternative pitches in order to reduce overplay. Also seek to better pitch quality through improved maintenance in order to help alleviate the level of overplay. | Sports Club FA | Local (low) | М | L | Protect Enhance |

³⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ³² | Cost ³³ | Aim |
|------------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 62 | Waterwells Sports Centre | Football | Parish Council | Two adult pitches, one youth 9v9 and one youth 7v7, all of which are poor quality and overplayed. The pitches drain poorly and the Club requires relevant equipment to spike the surface. Club aspiration for floodlighting. | Improve pitch quality/maintenance and link to establishing an equipment bank. In the longer term explore funding options for floodlighting when the Club gains promotion to a Step 6 league. | Parish Council Club FA | Local (medium) | S-M | M | Protect Enhance |
| | | AGP | | Small sized sand filled pitch operated by Quedgeley Parish Council. Used by Quedgeley Wanderers FC for training. | Ensure sufficient access for club training and existing unmet demand should further teams be created. Maximise commercial use from small sided social football use and other community groups. | Parish Council Club FA | | L | L | |
| 65 | Kingsholm Square Lawn Tennis Club | Tennis | Sports Club | Two standard quality grass courts cut and marked by the Club which is limited to local community use. | Support the Club as required to improve court quality. | Club LTA | Local (low) | L | L-M | Protect Enhance |
| 66 | Gloucester Wotton Lawn Tennis Club | Tennis | Sports Club | Two grass and three tarmac courts all of standard quality, none of which are floodlit. The Club reports demand for a further two hard courts because the lack of floodlighting greatly affects ability to host home fixtures at the beginning of the season. | Explore opportunities for access to additional courts and/or potential to install floodlighting in order to increase winter court capacity. | LTA Club | Local (medium) | S-M | M | Protect Provide |
| 69 | EDF Energy | Bowls | Private | One good quality green owned and operated by the industry sports club. Not available for community use. | Continue to sustain green quality to accommodate current membership through required maintenance procedures | Industry | Local (low) | L | L | Protect |
| | | Tennis | | Two standard quality tarmac courts without floodlighting. Private industry sports club and therefore unavailable for wider community use. | Continue to maintain court quality and provide sporting provision for industry employees. | Industry LTA | | L | L | |
| 71 | Abbeymead Primary School | Football | Council | Two youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are standard quality. Used by Abbeymead Rovers FC junior section. 1.5 match sessions available for youth 9v9 at peak time, with a further 0.5 sessions available for mini 5v5. | Retain spare capacity in order to help sustain/improve pitch quality. | Council FA | Local (low) | L | L | Protect |
| 72 | Longlevens Infant School | Football | Council | Youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches all assessed as standard quality. Used by Longlevens Infants FC. All show spare capacity but only one match session for youth 9v9 play is available at peak time. | Retain spare capacity in order to help sustain/improve pitch quality. | Council FA | Local (low) | _ | L | Protect |
| 73 | The Oval | Tennis | Council | Four poor quality tarmac courts without floodlighting. No recorded community use though it is likely that these courts are used infrequently for non-organised tennis. | Seek to improve court quality and ensure access for continued irregular use by local residents. | Council LTA | Local (medium) | M-L | М | Protect Enhance |

³² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Hierarchy tier (priority) | Timescales ³⁴ | Cost ³⁵ | Aim |
|------------|---|--|-------------|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 74 | Kingsway Sports Field (Hardwicke & Quedgeley | Football | Council | Poor quality adult football pitch currently unused and therefore available at peak time. | Improve quality and maximise use. Alternatively if low value site re provide pitches/investment in capacity at a hub site and retain as a reserve site. | Council FA | Key centre (medium) | S | L-M | Protect Enhance Provide |
| | Harlequins RFC) | Cricket | | Standard quality square with 10 wickets, used by Hardwicke & Quedgeley CC. Available capacity for a further 29 matches per season. | Improve quality and maximise use to accommodate future demand. | Council ECB | | M | M | |
| | | Rugby union | | Poor quality senior pitch used by Hardwicke & Quedgeley Harlequins for matches. Spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions available at senior peak time, or one match session at junior peak time. | In the short term retain spare capacity in order to sustain quality and in the longer term improve pitch quality/maintenance and maximise use. | Council RFU | | S-M | L-M | |
| 76 | Innsworth Lane Sports Ground | Football | Sports Club | Site previously damaged by flooding and subsequently unused. Changing facilities have since been restored, with room to mark youth 9v9 pitch upon further pitch remedial work. To be used by Longlevens FC junior section | Continue to restore the site to usable condition and support the Club in sustaining quality through required standard of maintenance. | Council FA Club | Local (medium) | М | М | Provide |
| N/A | Gloucester Civil Service Club | Football Cricket Rugby union Bowls Tennis | Private | Multi sport site previously managed by the Civil Service Sports Council (CSSC), sold to Redrow Homes in 2010 and left to become disused. | Should planning permission be submitted for change of use seek like for like mitigation for loss of sports facilities. | Council FA ECB RFU LTA | - | L | H | Provide |

³⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years) (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

PART 6: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Gloucester. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Gloucester can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the steering group should not end with the completion of the PPS document

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of developing the PPS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should form an on-going role of the steering group.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

Ideally the PPS could be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that would have been built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others)
- How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt
- Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Once the PPS is complete the role of the steering group should evolve so that it:

- Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and playing pitch provision in the area
- Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- Shares lessons learnt from how the PPS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- Ensures the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- Maintains links between all relevant parties with an interest in playing pitch provision in the area;
- Reviews the need to update the PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
 - Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
 - Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
 - Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside the regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships may be to hold annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings could look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings. The NGBs will also be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area. Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental working, including for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

Checklist

To help ensure the PPS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/

| | Stage E. Deliver the strategy and keen it robust and up to date | | Tick 🗸 | | |
|------|---|-----|-----------------------|--|--|
| Sta | ge E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date | Yes | Requires Attention | | |
| Ste | o 9: Apply & deliver the strategy | | | | |
| 1. | Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas? | | | | |
| 2. | Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence? | | | | |
| 3. | Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied? | | | | |
| Step | 10: Keep the strategy robust & up to date | | | | |
| 1. | Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date? | | | | |
| 2. | Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS? | | | | |
| 3. | Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role? | | | | |
| 4. | Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned? | | | | |
| 5. | Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes? | | | | |
| 6. | Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England? | | | | |

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. The strategy will:

- See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- Create more opportunities for young people
- Nurture and develop talent
- Provide the right facilities in the right places
- Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- Ensure real opportunities for communities

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- Maximise value from current NGB investment
- Places, People, Play
- Strategic direction and market intelligence
- Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- Market development

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.

- Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- 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.
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Game Strategy (2011 – 2015)

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- Growth and retention (young and adult players)
- Raising standards and behaviour
- Better players
- Running the game
- ◆ Workforce
- Facilities

'The National Game Strategy' reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built five-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of five-a-side teams in recent years.

The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)

The National Facilities Strategy sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the National Game. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game. The National Game is defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space. The role of facilities will be crucial in developing the game in England. One of the biggest issues raised from 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' by that of 84% respondents, was 'poor facilities'.

The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

- Building Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- Protecting -Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- Enhancing Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

The Strategy commits to delivering in excess of £150m (through Football Foundation) into facility improvements across the National Game in line with identified priorities:

- Natural grass pitches improved target: 100
- A network of new AGPs built target 100
- A network of refurbished AGPs target 150
- On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets
- Continue a small grants programme designed to address modest facility needs of clubs
- Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts

It also commits to:

- Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities
- Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis
- Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted

Champion Counties – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017)

"Champion Counties" - continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB's previous strategy: "Grounds to Play". The pillars are:

- ◆ Energising people and partnerships through effective leadership and governance
- Building a **V**ibrant domestic game through operational excellence and delivering a competition structure with appointment to view
- Engaging participants through the maintenance of existing facilities, supporting club/school links, supporting volunteers and expanding women's and disabilities cricket
- ◆ Delivering Successful England teams and world class global events

The key measures for the life span of the plan are as follows:-

- Increase the subset of participation measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500.
- Increase attendances at LV= CC, YB50 and FLT20 by 200,000.
- Complete sponsorship and broadcasting agreements through 2019.
- Win the World Test Championship and Women's
- ◆ World Cup in 2017.
- Win The Ashes and World Cup in 2015.
- ◆ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest Cricket Force from 2,000 to 2,200.
- Complete co-operation agreements for each of the 39 County Boards with their First Class County or Minor County partner.
- Deliver two world class global events in 2017 which exceed budget and exceed customer satisfaction targets.
- ◆ Increase the number of cricket's volunteers to 80,000 by 2017.
- ◆ Expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017.
- Award all Major Matches through 2019 by December 2014.
- ◆ To increase the number of TwelfthMan members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017.
- Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC.
- Provide First Class Counties with total fee payments of £144m between 2014 and 2017.
- For each £1 provided in facility grants through the Sport England Whole Sport Plan grant programme ensure a multiplier of 3 with other funding partners.
- Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightscreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues.
- Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million.
- Leverage the 2014 tour by India to engage with a minimum of 10,000 cricket supporters
 of Asian origin. Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of
 professional cricketers.
- Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000.
- Deliver an annual fixture for the Unicorns against a touring (Full, A or U19) ICC member nation.
- Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change.
- Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017.

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◆ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- Sustainable clubs
- Environmental Sustainability
- Geographical Spread
- Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- Pitch Size Guidance
- The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◆ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 2017
- Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 2017

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

EH has a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- Grow our Participation
- Deliver International Success
- Increase our Visibility
- ◆ Enhance our Infrastructure
- Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP) that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities

'The right pitches in the right places³⁶'

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- Single System clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ClubsFirst accreditation clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- Sustainability hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy

The new strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth:

The three participation "focus" areas are where tennis is consumed:

- 1. Deliver great service to CLUBS
- 2. Build partnerships in the COMMUNITY, led by parks
- 3. Enhance the tennis offer in EDUCATION

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

- 1. Becoming more relevant to COACHES
- 2. Refocusing on RECREATIONAL COMPETITION
- 3. Providing results orientated FACILITY INVESTMENT
- 4. Applying best in class MARKETING AND PROMOTION
- 5. JUMP STARTING THE PEAK SUMMER SEASON
- 6. Establishing a "no compromise" HIGH PERFORMANCE programme with focus.

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of 4 / 17/03/2015 partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround.

They include:

- 1. Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
- 2. Harnessing the full resource network
- 3. Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- 1,500 registered coaches.
- Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◆ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- County development officer appointed by each county association.
- National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- Be progressive.
- Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- Lead the sport.
- Support clubs and county associations.

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

In addition to using the planning system to lever in contributions through Section 106 or CIL, it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought to deliver much of the action plan. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving sports facilities.

| tig invests in community groups and to projects that |
|--|
| mprove health, education and the environment |
| Sport England is keen to marry funding with other |
| rganisations that provide financial support to create nd strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are |
| ncouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of |
| unding, and projects that secure higher levels of |
| artnership funding are more likely to be successful. |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| This trust provides financial help for football at all evels, from national stadia and FA Premier League |
| lubs down to grass-roots local development. |
| The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access |
| rant funding for playing projects that contribute to the |
| ecruitment and retention of community rugby players. |
| Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis o support a proposed project. |
| Projects eligible for funding include: |
| . Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch |
| mprovement, rugby posts, floodlights. |
| . Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower |
| acilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to |
| acilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch |
| naintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). |
| IFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting |
| nvironmental and nature conservation projects |
| nroughout the EU. |
| The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re- urfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year |
| Whole Sport's Plan. |
| m printing and the second of |

| Awarding body | Description |
|--|---|
| National Hockey Foundation | The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide |
| http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.c | range of organisations that meet one of our chosen |
| om/ | areas of focus: |
| | Young people and hockey. |
| | Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level. |
| | Smaller Charities. |

Protecting Playing Fields

SE launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over the next three years (2011-2014).

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds (with up to £2 million being awarded to projects in each round). Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

Sport England's 'Inspired Facilities' funding programme will be delivered via five funding rounds and is due to launch in Summer 2011 where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

- Organisations that haven't previously received a Sport England Lottery grant of over £10k.
- Projects that are the only public sports facility in the local community.
- Projects that offer local opportunities to people who do not currently play sport.

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces

Strategic Facilities Fund

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term. Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people
- Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

Funder's requirements

Below is a list of funding requirements that can typically be expected to be provided as part of a funding bid, some of which will fall directly out of the Playing Pitch Strategy:

- Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- Articulate what difference the Project will make.
- Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- Financial need and project cost.
- Funding profile (i.e., Who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- ◆ Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).
- Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- Assessment of risk.

Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

These costs are broken down into two areas:

- Facility capital costs
- Lifecycle costs

Facility capital costs

Facility capital costs are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external works.

Naturally, varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.

Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors.

The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by Planners and Developers when reviewing potential Planning Contributions to site developments.

Facility life cycle costs

Life cycle costs are how much it costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime.

It includes costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (day to day repairs).

The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost.

You should not underestimate the importance of regular maintenance and the expense in maintaining a facility throughout its life.

APPENDIX THREE: FOOTBALL AGP SCENARIO

Improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites. Given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football.

Summary of competitive teams playing on grass pitches in Gloucester

| Analysis area | No. of teams playing | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|--|
| | Adult | Youth 11v11 | Youth 9v9 | Mini 7v7 | Mini 5v5 | |
| GLOUCESTER | 55 | 45 | 23 | 25 | 19 | |

If all mini and youth football played on AGPs

In order to test the scenario a programme of play for AGPs has been created based on the current peak time demand for mini/youth pitches in Gloucester. In terms of programming; one full size AGP can accommodate four 5v5 pitches, two 7v7 pitches, two 9v9 pitches or one youth 11v11 pitch and any one time.

Mini 5v5 & 7v7 combined programme (Saturday)

| Time slot | Matches per full size AGP | Total teams/matches |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 9.30am – 10.30am | 8 x mini (5v5) | 19/10 |
| 10.30am – 11.30am | | |
| 11.30am – 12.30pm | 4 x mini (7v7) | 25/13 |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | | |

How many AGPs would be required if all mini teams were moved to 3G?

There are currently 44 mini teams in Gloucester which would require four AGPs if all were to play in the time slots highlighted in the table above.

Youth 9v9 programme (Saturday)

| Time slot | Matches per full size AGP | Total teams/matches |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 9.00am – 11am | 2 x youth (9v9) | 23/12 |
| 11am - 13.00pm | 2 x youth (9v9) | |

How many AGPs would be required if <u>all</u> youth 9v9 teams were moved to 3G?

There are currently 23 youth 9v9 teams which would require three AGPs on a Saturday to accommodate 9v9 play in the time slots highlighted in the table above.

APPENDIX FOUR: RUGBY UNION TRAINING SCENARIO

The high level of overplay at several rugby union club sites comes as a result of training demand concentrated on one pitch which is typically the only one with floodlights, therefore receiving a disproportionate level of use in relation to others. Designated pitches used for both training and matches in such manner are typically poor quality and receive little rest time due to persistent training use midweek, including through the winter when weather conditions are poor, causing long standing damage.

Removing some or all of the training demand from floodlit pitches onto other areas such as a designated floodlit training area away from match pitches or a World Rugby Reg 22 AGP would serve to both reduce the level of overplay and increase the potential to make effective improvements to pitch quality where required.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme as follows:

| | | Maintenance | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|--|
| | | Poor (M0) | Adequate (M1) | Good (M2) | |
| | Natural Inadequate (D0) | 0.5 | 1.5 | 2 | |
| age | Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1) | 1.5 | 2 | 3 | |
| Drainage | Pipe Drained (D2) | 1.75 | 2.5 | 3.25 | |
| 1 | Pipe and Slit Drained (D3) | 2 | 3 | 3.5 | |

This guide should only be used as a very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the last five years.

This scenario applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

| Potential capacity | Play is below the level the site could sustain | | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| At capacity | Play matches the level the site can sustain | | |
| Overused | Play exceeds the level the site can sustain | | |

Please refer to the Assessment Report for further detail and explanation.

Summary of rugby union club site capacity with the removal of current training demand from senior floodlit match pitches

| Site ID | Site name | Quality rating | Match equivalent sessions ³⁷ (per week) | Site capacity (sessions per week) | Capacity rating | Training demand (match sessions per week) | Comments | Projected capacity |
|---------|--|-------------------|---|---|--------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| 3 | Armscroft Park (Gloucester Old Boys RFC) | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| 13 | Coney Hill RFC | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 5 | 0.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 | Senior and junior midweek training and Sunday PM junior training | 1 |
| | | | 0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | - | - | 0.5 |
| 20 | Elmbridge Playing Field (Old Richians RFC) | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 4.25 +2 | 3 | 3.25 | 1.5 | Junior training at weekends in the absence of a fixture | 1.75 |
| 24 | Gloucester Academy (Old Centralians RFC) | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | - | - | 0.5 |
| 25 | Gloucester All Blues RFC | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 2.5 | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | Senior midweek training | 0.5 |
| 29 | Gordon League | M0 / D1 | 1.5 | 3 | 1.5 | - | - | 1.5 |
| | RFC | (Poor) | 4 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 3 | Senior midweek training and weekend training from County squad and mini section | 0.5 |
| 33 | High School For Girls | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | Junior midweek training | - |

| Site ID | Site name | Quality rating | Match equivalent sessions ³⁷ (per week) | Site capacity (sessions per week) | Capacity rating | Training demand (match sessions per week) | Comments | Projected capacity | |
|---------|---|-------------------|---|---|--------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | Hucclecote Playing Field (Hucclecote RFC) | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | - | - | 0.5 | |
| 36 | King George V Playing Fields (Hucclecote RFC) | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | Mini training at weekends in the absence of a fixture | - | |
| 39 | Longlevens Recreation Ground (Longlevens RFC) | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 4 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 3 | |
| 40 | Matson Park (Matson RFC) | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 8 | 3 | 5 | 5 | Senior and junior midweek training and mini weekend training | | |
| 42 | Memorial Ground (Old Cryptians RFC and Widden | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 3.5 | 0.5 | 3 | 2.5 | Senior training and junior training in the absence of matches | 0.5 | |
| | Old Boys RFC) | Old Boys RFC) | | 2 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Mini training at weekends in the absence of a fixture | 1 |
| | | | 6.5 | 0.5 | 6 | 4 | Senior and junior midweek training and Sunday PM junior training | 2 | |
| | | | 2.5 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | Mini team training Sunday PM | 0.5 | |

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| Site ID | Site name | Quality rating | Match equivalent sessions ³⁷ (per week) | Site capacity (sessions per week) | Capacity rating | Training demand (match sessions per week) | Comments | Projected capacity |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|--------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 0 +3 +4.5 +2 | 3 | 6.5 | - | - | 6.5 |
| | | | 1.5 +3 +4.5 +2 | 3 | 8 | 0,75 | Mini training at weekends in the absence of a fixture | 7.25 |
| 9902 | Kingsway Sports Field | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1 | - | - | 1 |

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APPENDIX FIVE: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIO

| Location | Number of new homes | Estimated population ³⁸ | % increase in population |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A1 – Innsworth | 1,250 new homes | 2,875 people | 2.3% |

| Sport | Age group | Current population within age group | Current no. of teams | Team Generation Rate | Future population within age group | Predicted future number of teams | Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population |
|----------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Football | Senior Mens | 25,470 | 60 | 425 | 26,056 | 61 | 1 |
| | Senior Women | 25,259 | 3 | 8420 | 25,840 | 3 | 0 |
| | Youth Boys | 4,414 | 61 | 72 | 4,516 | 63 | 2 |
| | Youth Girls | 4,215 | 7 | 602 | 4,312 | 7 | 0 |
| | Mini-Soccer Mixed | 5,916 | 44 | 134 | 6,052 | 45 | 1 |
| Cricket | Senior Mens | 32,646 | 21 | 1555 | 33,397 | 21 | 0 |
| | Senior Womens | 32,745 | 0 | 0 | 33,498 | 0 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 8,245 | 3 | 2748 | 8,435 | 3 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 7,880 | 0 | 0 | 8,061 | 0 | 0 |
| Rugby | Senior Mens | 23,047 | 41 | 562 | 23,577 | 42 | 1 |
| | Senior Women | 23,050 | 3 | 7683 | 23,580 | 3 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 4,725 | 24 | 197 | 4,834 | 25 | 1 |
| | Junior Girls | 4,347 | 2 | 2174 | 4,447 | 2 | 0 |
| | Mini rugby mixed | 8,599 | 36 | 239 | 8,797 | 37 | 1 |
| Hockey | Senior Mens | 25,470 | 10 | 2547 | 26,056 | 10 | 0 |
| | Senior Womens | 25,259 | 6 | 4210 | 25,840 | 6 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 3,732 | 5 | 746 | 3,818 | 5 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 3,529 | 4 | 882 | 3,610 | 4 | 0 |

³⁸ Based on an occupancy rate of 2.3 people

| Location | Number of new homes | Estimated population ³⁹ | % increase in population |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A2 – North Churchdown | 532 new homes | 1,223 people | 1% |

| Sport | Age group | Current population within age group | Current no. of teams | Team Generation Rate | Future population within age group | Predicted future number of teams | Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population |
|----------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Football | Senior Mens | 25,470 | 60 | 1:425 | 25,725 | 61 | 1 |
| | Senior Women | 25,259 | 3 | 1:8420 | 25,512 | 3 | 0 |
| | Youth Boys | 4,414 | 61 | 1:72 | 4,458 | 62 | 1 |
| | Youth Girls | 4,215 | 7 | 1:602 | 4,257 | 7 | 0 |
| | Mini-Soccer Mixed | 5,916 | 44 | 1:134 | 5,975 | 45 | 1 |
| Cricket | Senior Mens | 32,646 | 21 | 1:1555 | 32,972 | 21 | 0 |
| | Senior Womens | 32,745 | 0 | 0 | 33,072 | 0 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 8,245 | 3 | 1:2748 | 8,327 | 3 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 7,880 | 0 | 0 | 7,959 | 0 | 0 |
| Rugby | Senior Mens | 23,047 | 41 | 1:562 | 23,277 | 41 | 0 |
| | Senior Women | 23,050 | 3 | 1:7683 | 23,281 | 3 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 4,725 | 24 | 1:197 | 4,772 | 24 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 4,347 | 2 | 1:2174 | 4,390 | 2 | 0 |
| | Mini rugby mixed | 8,599 | 36 | 1:239 | 8,685 | 36 | 0 |
| Hockey | Senior Mens | 25,470 | 10 | 1:2547 | 25,725 | 10 | 0 |
| | Senior Womens | 25,259 | 6 | 1:4210 | 25,512 | 6 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 3,732 | 5 | 1:746 | 3,769 | 5 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 3,529 | 4 | 1:882 | 3,564 | 4 | 0 |

³⁹ Based on an occupancy rate of 2.3 people

| Location | Number of new homes | Estimated population ⁴⁰ | % increase in population |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A3 – South Churchdown | 868 new homes | 1,996 people | 1.6% |

| Sport | Age group | Current population within age group | Current no. of teams | Team Generation Rate | Future population within age group | Predicted future number of teams | Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population |
|----------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Football | Senior Mens | 25,470 | 60 | 1:425 | 25,878 | 61 | 1 |
| | Senior Women | 25,259 | 3 | 1:8420 | 25,663 | 3 | 0 |
| | Youth Boys | 4,414 | 61 | 1:72 | 4,485 | 62 | 1 |
| | Youth Girls | 4,215 | 7 | 1:602 | 4,282 | 7 | 0 |
| | Mini-Soccer Mixed | 5,916 | 44 | 1:134 | 6,011 | 45 | 1 |
| Cricket | Senior Mens | 32,646 | 21 | 1:1555 | 33,168 | 21 | 0 |
| | Senior Womens | 32,745 | 0 | 0 | 33,269 | 0 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 8,245 | 3 | 1:2748 | 8,377 | 3 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 7,880 | 0 | 0 | 8,006 | 0 | 0 |
| Rugby | Senior Mens | 23,047 | 41 | 1:562 | 23,416 | 42 | 1 |
| | Senior Women | 23,050 | 3 | 1:7683 | 23,419 | 3 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 4,725 | 24 | 1:197 | 4,801 | 24 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 4,347 | 2 | 1:2174 | 4,417 | 2 | 0 |
| | Mini rugby mixed | 8,599 | 36 | 1:239 | 8,737 | 37 | 1 |
| Hockey | Senior Mens | 25,470 | 10 | 1:2547 | 25,878 | 10 | 0 |
| | Senior Womens | 25,259 | 6 | 1:4210 | 25,663 | 6 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 3,732 | 5 | 1:746 | 3,792 | 5 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 3,529 | 4 | 1:882 | 3,585 | 4 | 0 |

⁴⁰ Based on an occupancy rate of 2.3 people

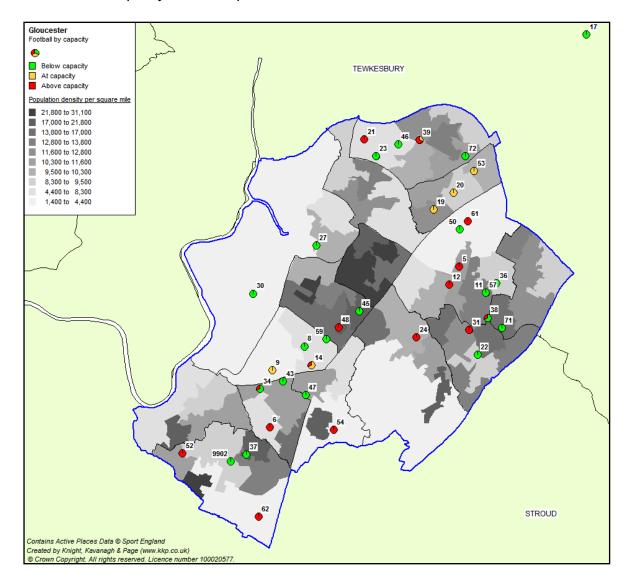
| Location | Number of new homes | Estimated population ⁴¹ | % increase in population | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| A4 – North Brockworth | 1,500 new homes | 3,450 people | 2.8% | |

| Sport | Age group | Current population within age group | Current no. of teams | Team Generation Rate | Future population within age group | Predicted future number of teams | Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population |
|----------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Football | Senior Mens | 25,470 | 60 | 1:425 | 26,183 | 62 | 2 |
| | Senior Women | 25,259 | 3 | 1:8420 | 25,966 | 3 | 0 |
| | Youth Boys | 4,414 | 61 | 1:72 | 4,538 | 63 | 2 |
| | Youth Girls | 4,215 | 7 | 1:602 | 4,333 | 7 | 0 |
| | Mini-Soccer Mixed | 5,916 | 44 | 1:134 | 6,082 | 45 | 1 |
| Cricket | Senior Mens | 32,646 | 21 | 1:1555 | 33,560 | 22 | 1 |
| | Senior Womens | 32,745 | 0 | 0 | 33,662 | 0 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 8,245 | 3 | 1:2748 | 8,476 | 3 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 7,880 | 0 | 0 | 8,101 | 0 | 0 |
| Rugby | Senior Mens | 23,047 | 41 | 1:562 | 23,692 | 42 | 1 |
| | Senior Women | 23,050 | 3 | 1:7683 | 23,695 | 3 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 4,725 | 24 | 1:197 | 4,857 | 25 | 1 |
| | Junior Girls | 4,347 | 2 | 1:2174 | 4,469 | 2 | 0 |
| | Mini rugby mixed | 8,599 | 36 | 1:239 | 8,840 | 37 | 1 |
| Hockey | Senior Mens | 25,470 | 10 | 1:2547 | 26,183 | 10 | 0 |
| | Senior Womens | 25,259 | 6 | 1:4210 | 25,966 | 6 | 0 |
| | Junior Boys | 3,732 | 5 | 1:746 | 3,836 | 5 | 0 |
| | Junior Girls | 3,529 | 4 | 1:882 | 3,628 | 4 | 0 |

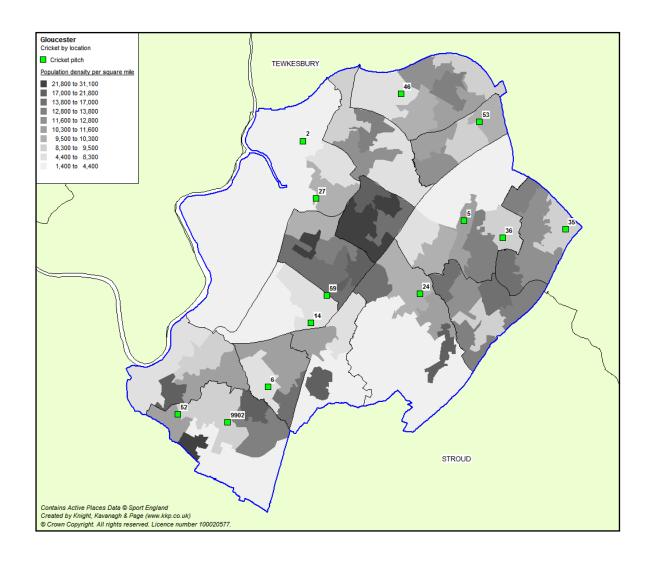
⁴¹ Based on an occupancy rate of 2.3 people

APPENDIX SIX: REFERENCE MAPS (BY SITE ID NUMBER)

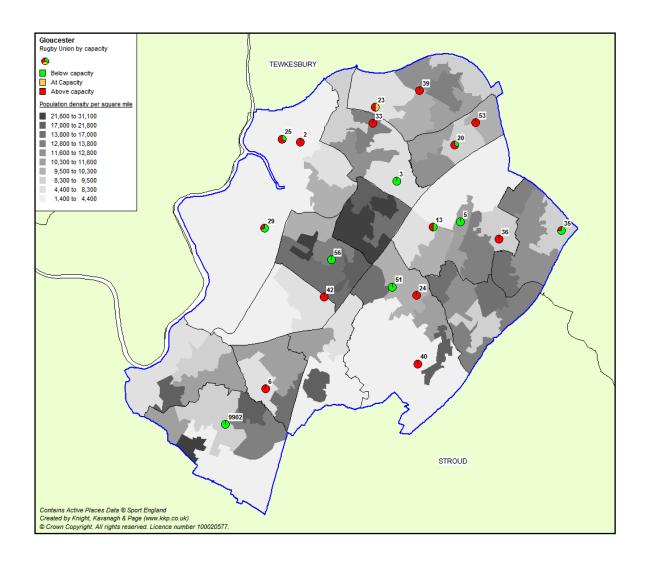
Location and capacity of football pitches in Gloucester



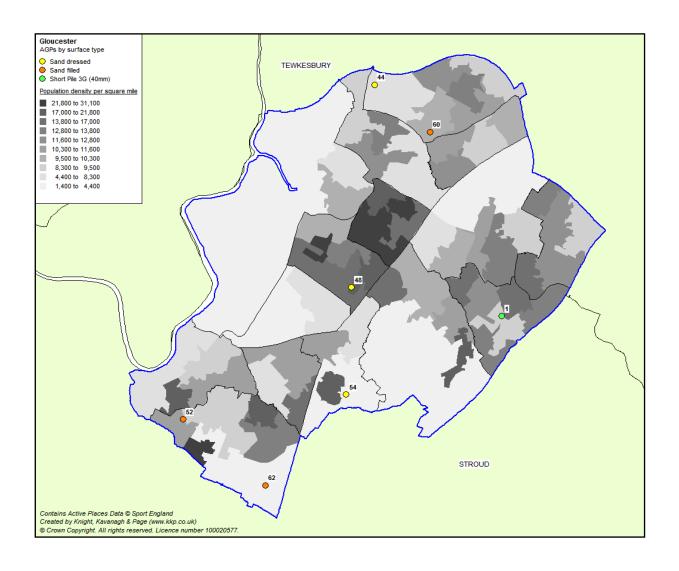
Location of cricket squares in Gloucester



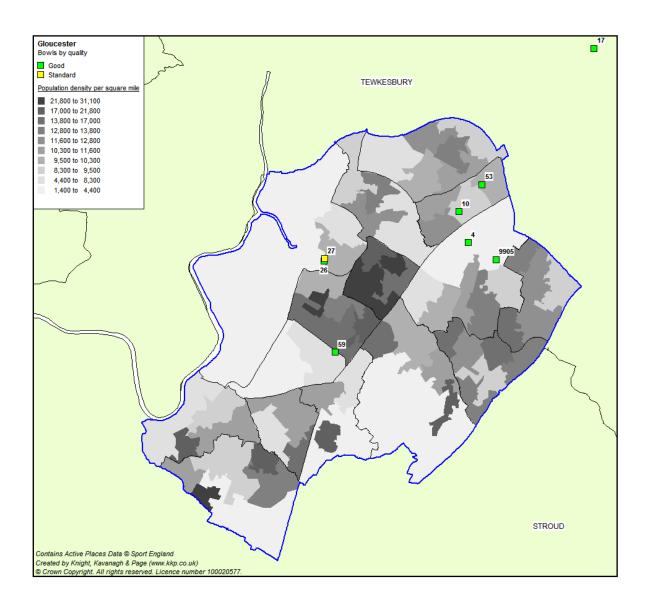
Location and capacity of rugby union pitches in Gloucester



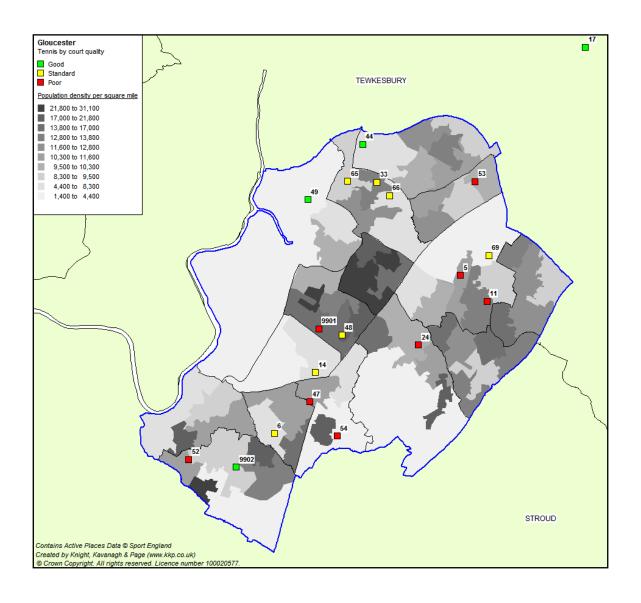
Location of full size AGPs in Gloucester



Location of bowling greens in Gloucester



Location of tennis courts in Gloucester







Draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy Artificial Grass Pitch – Scenario Paper September 2015

1.0: Introduction

The draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) sets out a vision for playing pitches in the City, which is:

'To provide an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities, which provide opportunities for all residents to access good sport, physical activity and recreational facilities'.

The 'Assessment Report' and draft PPS show that a suitable number of types of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) will be critical in delivering this vision.

This 'scenario paper' has been prepared jointly by the City Council and the Football Association, Rugby Football Union and England Hockey to begin the process of preparing and adopting a strategy for how AGPs could be delivered in the City.

This paper is subject to public consultation alongside the main PPS and your comments are invited on it.

2.0: Artificial Grass Pitches

There are several surface types that fall into the category of Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (third generation turf 3G), sand (filled or dressed) and water based.

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and appear on The FA 3G FTP register http://3g.thefa.me.uk/. A growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at all levels of football at and below the Conference North and South (Step 2) at present. Any new 3G being constructed for Step 3 and below must be built to meet the FIFA 1* performance standard, for Step 2 and above the FIFA 2* standard must be met. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces and whilst is not the preferred option it does serve an offer to football.

Hockey is played predominantly on sand-based / filled AGPs. Competitive play is limited on 3G pitches; 40mm pitches which meet the FIH performance standard may be suitable, in some instances, for beginner training, low level competitive matches are an option other than the preferred traditional Sand AGPs. However, this would be highly unlikely to meet the needs of hockey players in Gloucester and it is not the preferred option for The FA. There is a need therefore to maintain a suitable number of sand-based / filled AGPs to maintain and support the growth of hockey in the City.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union (this is also adopted by rugby league). The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place.



A summary of pitch types is provided at Table 1 below:

| Surface | Category | Comments |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Rubber crumb | Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad) | Rugby surface – can also meet football's standard - must comply with World Rugby type 22, requires a minimum of 60mm. |
| Rubber crumb | Long Pile 3G (55-60mm) | Preferred football surface (with or without shock pad – as long as it meets the relevant performance standard) |
| Rubber crumb | Short Pile 3G (40mm) | Acceptable surface for some competitive football as long as it meets the FIFA 1* performance standard |
| Sand | Sand Filled | Competitive hockey and football training |
| Sand | Sand Dressed | Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training |
| Water | Water based | Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated. |

Table 1: AGP type and sport suitability

3.0: Artificial Grass Pitch provision

Table 2 overleaf provides a summary of the current supply of AGPs identified in Gloucester. There are four full size AGPs as well as two at Hartpury College (just outside the study area) which are considered to accommodate a significant proportion of demand from within the City. However, there is no FA or World Rugby certified AGP within Gloucester suitable for competitive play, though Hartpury College has one of each. Two smaller AGPs at Abbeydale Community Centre and Waterwells Playing Field serve the training needs and five-a-side needs of local clubs and groups.

Appendix 1 identifies the location of all AGPs in the City, including those which are not full-size. It also shows the location of Blackbridge Playing Field and Gloucester City FC as potential locations for new AGPs.

| Site name | Ownership/ managemen t | No. of pitches / Size | Pitch type / Age | Certification | Non-Technical Assessment* |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Oxstalls Sports Park | Commercial | 1 pitch 40m x 30m 1,200 sq m | Sand Dressed 1996 (refurb 2012) | None | One standard sand dressed pitch with floodlights, resurfaced in 2012. Used intensively by Gloucester City HC for matches and training as well by Cleevillians HC. Much competition with football training demand. |
| Severn Vale School | School | 1 pitch 100m x 60m 6,000 sq m | Sand Filled 1994 | None | Standard quality sand filled surface well in excess of 10 years old and requiring replacement. No hockey use and instead used significantly for football by both school and community clubs. |



| Site name | Ownership/ managemen t | No. of pitches / Size | Pitch type / Age | Certification | Non-Technical Assessment* |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| St Peters Roman Catholic High School | School | 1 pitch 110m x 70m 7,700 sq m | Sand Dressed 2003 | None | Standard quality sand dressed pitch with floodlighting in need of surface replacement. Built in partnership with West Bromwich Albion FC academy which has exclusive access some nights, therefore limited community use capacity other than weekends. Used by Gloucester City HC as an alternate venue. |
| University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) | University | 1 pitch 100m x 60m 6,000 sq m | Sand Filled 2002 | None | Standard quality sand filled pitch with floodlighting. Owned by University of Gloucestershire. In excess of 10 years old and therefore requires resurfacing. Mainly used by student teams for training and BUCS hockey matches on Wednesday afternoons with no further capacity available. Plans for this pitch to be lost within current plans for development of the site to accommodate the University's Business School. |
| Hartpury College | College | 1 pitch 120m x 75m 9,000 sq m | Long Pile 3G (65mm), shock pad 2012 | World Rugby Reg 22 | Standard |
| Hartpury College | College | 1 110m x 60m 6,600 sq m | Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm) | | Poor |

Table 2: Full size AGPs in Gloucester

4.0: Current position and key issues

Football (3G AGPs)

- There are currently no full size 3G pitches within Gloucester. The FA model suggests that there is a current shortfall of three full size 3G pitches to meet demand for football training. Consideration needs to be given to any football use that currently takes place on sand based pitches.
- There is also a growing demand for all age groups to play on 3G pitches, particularly at youth level but in this instance also at adult level where there is the greatest issue with capacity due to quality and shortfall of grass pitches.
- From the 2014/15 season only 3G pitches with a valid performance test and listed on the FA Register
 can be used for competitive play. At present, there are no 3G pitches located within Gloucester and
 therefore no AGPs have undergone the FA's performance test to allow league competitive football to be
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^{*} Full 'Non-Technical Assessment' available in the Draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy 'Assessment Report'



played. Please note this is the responsibility of the pitch provider and has an associated cost of circa £1,500. Once a site passes the performance test and adheres to a quality maintenance schedule the facility can appear on The FA register for 3 years.

Hockey (Sand AGPs)

- There are four AGPs suitable for competitive hockey within Gloucester; Oxstalls Sports Park, Severn Vale School, St Peters High School and University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus).
- Three are used for hockey and Severn Vale School is solely used for football (Community use).
- St Peter's Roman Catholic High School and Severn Vale School scored the joint lowest for quality (both 56%) of the four pitches and given that the surfaces are over 10 years old will require refurbishment/replacement within the next few years and exact timescales are to be confirmed.
- Overall Gloucester is adequately provided for with regards to AGPs suitable for hockey matches at
 present. However, access to pitches for hockey training is a key issue as all AGPs are operating at
 capacity midweek primarily due to football training (given the absence of a 3G pitch).
- There is a need for three full size hockey suitable AGPs to service current and future demand for competitive hockey in Gloucester if 3G provision is provided to cater for footballs need and allow Hockey participation to grow.

Rugby union (3G AGPs)

- There is no World Rugby certified AGP within Gloucester suitable for competitive play, although Hartpury College has one (just outside the study area).
- Overall there are insufficient grass pitches in Gloucester to service current and future demand, totalling a future requirement for a further 51.25 and 4.75 match equivalent sessions on senior and mini pitches respectively.

5.0: Summary of AGP shortfalls

Table 3 below sets out current and future demand for AGPs in Gloucester, as determined by the draft PPS.

| Sport | Current demand | Future demand (2037) |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Football (3G AGPs) | Potential shortfall of up to 3 3G pitches based on FA model for training. | Potential further shortfalls based on FA model for accommodating competitive play. |
| Rugby union (3G AGPs) | Current shortfall of at least 1 rugby union compliant 3G pitch | Future shortfall of union compliant 3G pitches |
| Hockey (Sand AGPs) | Current competitive demand is being met and is accommodated on 3 sand AGPs. | Future demand may not be met in light of potential pitch loss at the University. |
| | Current training demand is at capacity due to use by football/rugby clubs. | |

Table 3: Identified AGP shortfalls from the PPS Assessment

6.0: Potential plans affecting AGP provision in Gloucester

- University of Gloucestershire proposes the redevelopment of its Oxstalls Campus which is likely to include the loss of the sand-based AGP, but with two new 3G pitch/s at Oxstalls Sports Park/Bishop's College
- Proposal at Gloucester City FC (currently displaced to Cheltenham) for a new 3G stadia pitch.



- Proposals for development of a 'hub site' at Blackbridge Playing Field which could accommodate provision of an AGP.
- At the time of consultation for the PPS, Severnvale School acknowledged the need to replace the AGP surface and stated that it would like to retain a hockey suitable pitch, although there is no current hockey use by community clubs.
- A significant amount of midweek capacity at St Peters High School is taken up by West Bromwich
 Albion FC academy teams. The professional football club is a partner and stakeholder in the AGP. The
 pitch is in need of replacing but given the football partnership it is more likely that the School/Club
 would want to replace it with a 3G surface.
- Potential for Waterwells Sports Centre to accommodate a 3G pitch to service Quedgeley Wanderers FC (early stages).

7.0: Recommendations from Draft Playing Pitch Strategy

Football (3G AGPs)

- Increase provision of 3G pitches in the City (current shortfall of up to three full size).
- Develop a 3G Pitch Strategy for the City which takes into consideration current proposals and optimal strategic location to effectively service all areas of the City.
- In partnership with EH look to convert one sandbased AGP to a 3G surface whilst maintaining adequate provision to accommodate hockey demand.
- Retain some use of sand AGPs for football training in order to ensure continued sustainability of existing provision.
- In a phased approach, look to transfer 25% of youth football (mini and 9v9) onto 3G for match play and establish a mix of 3G use and grass pitch in order to better achieve sustainability.
- Ensure that new 3G pitches are tested and subsequently FA registered. In addition, ensure that future 3G pitches are used to maximum potential to allow for future back to back programming of mini/youth matches at peak times.
- Ensure that sinking funds (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface replacement when required FA recommend £25k per annum in today's market) are in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term.

Hockey (Sand AGPs)

- Prioritise and retain three sand AGPs to accommodate current and future hockey demand and to ensure continued sustainability.
- Oxstalls Sports Park to be protected for long term hockey use.
- Ensure pitch quality is of a good standard and ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain sand AGP pitch quality in the long term.
- Maximise use of existing sand AGPs to accommodate (as a priority) Gloucester clubs training and competitive demand through effective programming.
- Work with Gloucester City HC to help facilitate membership growth and ensure sufficient access to Oxstalls Sports Park.
- Work with stakeholders in potential new 3G pitch developments to fully determine capacity which may be made available through transfer of football demand.

Rugby union (3G AGPs)

Work to reduce training on match pitches through access to dedicated floodlit training areas, including
options to provide full size 3G pitches in partnership with the FA which are World Rugby compliant to
help address shortfalls.

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Overall summary

- Providing new 3G pitches for football could (managed/programmed appropriately) free up capacity to accommodate future/unmet training demand for hockey.
- If the sand AGP was to be lost at the University it will result in three remaining AGPs to service hockey, Oxstalls Sports Park, St Peters High School (in need of replacement) and Severn Vale School (in need of replacement). Without like for like replacement of a sand AGP for hockey, all three remaining AGPs would need to be retained/protected for hockey use. However, hockey use would need to be maximised/negotiated at St Peters
- High School and Severn Vale School and the quality of both would need to be improved to ensure long term hockey use.

8.0: Potential scenarios

The following 3 scenarios are examples of how AGPs could be delivered across the City in order to contribute towards the PPS Vision. Appendix 1 shows the location of the different sites.

Scenario 1: University of Gloucestershire Proposal delivered

- 2 x 3G at University of Gloucestershire / Oxstalls Sports Park 1 being World Rugby compliant both FA compliant (potential loss of sand AGPs)
- 1 x stadia 3G at Gloucester City FC (possible issue on the hours of use for this site)
- 1 x 3G at either Blackbridge Playing Field (World Rugby compliant) or Waterwells Playing Field (FA compliant only) scoring matrix to identify the priority site
- 1 x sand at Oxstalls Sports Park
- 1 x sand at Severnvale school (surface upgraded)
- 1 x sand at St Peters school (surface upgraded)

Notes

- Displacement from Hartpury College to be looked at and will impact on the x4 3Gs proposed
- All new 3G subject to:
 - Usage showing good levels of use with developments plans for growth and minimal/no displacement:
 - Strong business case showing sustainability with strong maintenance and sinking funds in place;
 - Planning permission being secured; and
 - Capital funding in place to deliver the build.

Scenario 2: No development at University of Gloucestershire

- 2 x sand AGPs at University of Gloucestershire / Oxstalls Sports Park
- 1 x stadia 3G at Gloucester City FC
- 1 x 3G at either Blackbridge Playing Field (FA and World Rugby compliant) or Waterwells Playing Field (FA compliant only) scoring matrix to identify the priority site
- 1 x sand at Severnvale school (surface upgraded) Logically due to no hockey use of site, this site to resurface to 3G (FA compliant but small adult size pitch)
- 1 x sand at St Peters school (surface upgraded)

Notes

- Displacement from Hartpury College to be looked at and will impact on the x3 3Gs proposed
- All new 3G subject to:



- Usage showing good levels of use with developments plans for growth and minimal/no displacement;
- Strong business case showing sustainability with strong maintenance and sinking funds in place;
- Planning permission being secured; and
- Capital funding in place to deliver the build.

Scenario 3: Hybrid of Scenarios 1 & 2

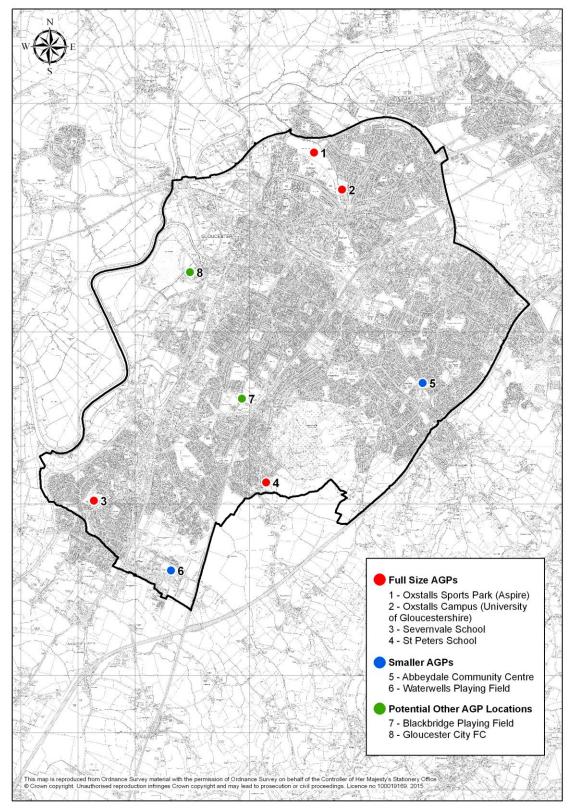
- 1 x 3G (FA and World Rugby compliant) at University of Gloucestershire / Oxstalls Sports Park
- 2 x sand based AGPs (one new) at University of Gloucestershire / Oxstalls Sports Park
- 1 x 3G at either Blackbridge Playing Field (FA and World Rugby compliant) or Waterwells Playing Field (FA compliant only) scoring matrix to identify the priority site
- 1 x sand at Severnvale school (Surface upgraded) Logically due to no hockey use of site, this site to resurface to 3G (FA compliant but small adult size pitch)
- 1 x sand at St Peters school (Surface upgraded)

Notes

- Displacement from Hartpury College to be looked at and will impact on the x3 3Gs proposed
- All new 3G subject to:
 - Usage showing good levels of use with developments plans for growth and minimal/no displacement;
 - Strong business case showing sustainability with strong maintenance and sinking funds in place;
 - o Planning permission being secured; and
 - Capital funding in place to deliver the build.



Appendix 1: Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) locations in Gloucester





GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
ASSESSMENT REPORT
JUNE 2015

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration



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GLOSSARY

3G Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)

AGP Artificial Grass Pitch

BC Bowling Club CC Cricket Club

CSP County Sports Partnership

ECB England and Wales Cricket Board

EH England Hockey
FA Football Association
FC Football Club
FE Further Education

FPM Facilities Planning Model GCC Gloucester City Council

GIS Geographical Information Systems

HC Hockey Club
HE Higher Education
JFC Junior Football Club

KKP Knight, Kavanagh and Page
GCB Gloucestershire Cricket Board
LDF Local Development Framework

LMS Last Man Stands

LTA Lawn Tennis Association NGB National Governing Body

NPPF National Planning Policy Framework

ONS Office of National Statistics
PQS Performance Quality Standard

PF Playing Field

RFL Rugby Football League RFU Rugby Football Union RFC Rugby Football Club

RLFC Rugby League Football Club

S106 Section 106 TC Tennis Club

TGR Team Generation Rate

U Under

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Gloucester City Council (the Council).

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

- Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◆ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- Stage D: Develop the strategy
- Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date

Stages A-C are covered in this report.

Stage A: Tailoring the approach

In order to meet the corporate priority of "encouraging participation in sport, physical activity and the arts, to promote physical and mental wellbeing", the assessment has the following aims:

- To inform the emerging planning policy within the Local Development Framework, particularly the Allocations and Sustainable Development Local Plan;
- ◆ To inform the Council's future sports and health strategies and investment plans;
- Ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of sports facility provision in response to identified pressures
- To provide adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting sport and leisure facilities;
- To inform land use decisions in respect of future use of existing sport and leisure facilities.
- Provide the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality, and accessibility of outdoor sport, physical activity facility provision, and playing pitches.

Scope of the project

The Assessment Report provides detail in respect of what exists in the City, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It also considers the demand for facilities based on population distribution and planned growth. The full list of sports facilities covered is set out below:

- Football pitches
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby league pitches
- Rugby union pitches

- Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- Bowling greens
- Tennis courts

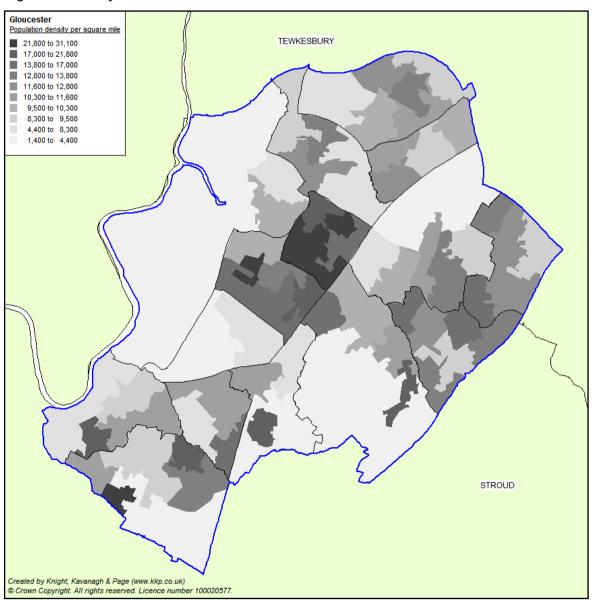
The extent of the study area

Gloucester is a city, district and county town of Gloucestershire in the South West region. It lies close to the Welsh border, and on the River Severn, approximately 32 miles northeast of Bristol, and 45 miles south-southwest of Birmingham.

The study area will not be broken down into analysis areas, instead it will comprise of the whole of the Gloucester City Council administrative area as a city wide approach including all 15 wards.

Gloucester City study area is bordered by Stroud to the South and Tewkesbury to the North. The wider 'travel to play' area includes Longford, Innsworth, Churchdown, Brockworth, Upton St Leonards, Hardwicke.

Figure 1.1: Study Area



What makes the study area different?

Nature of pitch sports

Rugby union is a key sport in the area and there are a relatively large number of teams and sites. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has a strong presence in the area and Gloucester is to be a host venue for the upcoming Rugby World Cup 2015. Various participation and promotional programmes leading up to the event are expected to further increase interest in the sport. Any legacy effect as a result may see increased demand for pitches.

Cricket is also a focus sport within Gloucestershire, as the level of club activity and participation has fallen in recent years. Gloucestershire Cricket Board acknowledges this and is keen to work with local clubs to develop both senior and junior cricket in the area in order to increase participation and the strength of local leagues.

Rugby League is a growing sport in Gloucestershire and the city is represented by Gloucestershire All Golds. The club is a semi-professional arm of the University of Gloucester but currently plays home games in nearby Cheltenham due to the lack of access to suitable facilities in Gloucester.

There are no private hockey club sites in Gloucester, with three of the four full sized, sand based AGPs based at education sites and the remaining one full sized, sand based AGP based at a local authority site.

One of the key drivers for the FA is to increase access to 3G pitches to meet demand from the Youth Review linked to priority for FA funding. There is currently no provision of full size 3G AGPs in Gloucester. It is also a priority to find a solution enabling Gloucester City FC to return to play in the City. Of all clubs, it plays at the highest level within the football pyramid structure and has been removed from the local community for the last eight years, exporting demand to nearby Cheltenham.

Geography and topography

The Gloucester landscape has experienced notably severe periods of flooding, the most recent in 2007. The presence of sites within flood zones may subsequently impact on pitch quality, maintenance regimes and capacity. Therefore, it is important to consider the potential and probability of flooding when looking at the strategic standing of such sites, in order to both protect surface quality and maintain use throughout the season for community teams.

Higher and Further Education

Gloucester University is looking to extend its sporting offering for students and representative teams alike, including plans for development to increase the number of facilities and subsequent level of community use. Several University teams currently play outside of the city in Cheltenham, or offsite in Gloucester across a range of sites.

It is also important to acknowledge the presence of local colleges, particularly Hartpury College. Though it is situated outside of the study area boundary, the college is notably esteemed for its sporting reputation and achievements on a site with an extensive range of high quality facilities. As such, it proves a significant attraction for demand to be exported out of the city and facilities are used by Gloucester RUFC and Gloucester City FC for training amongst others.

Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

It is essential that a PPS is based on the best and most accurate and up-to-date information available about the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides detail about how this information has been gathered in Gloucester.

An audit of playing pitches

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2010 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.

- ◆ Playing pitch a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◆ Playing field the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes AGPs.

Quantity

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site the following detail is recorded in the project database. (It is supplied as an electronic file):

- Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- Ownership and management type
- Security of tenure
- Total number, type and quality of pitches
- A description and the quality of the ancillary facilities

¹. www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

Accessibility

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of sports pitches also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- Available for community use and used pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- Secured community use there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.
- Available but unused pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- **No community use** pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or use by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- Disused pitches that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.
- Lapsed last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago (these fall
 outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the
 criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.

Disused/lapsed sites

| Site name | Sport(s) | Status | Comments |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Meadow Park (Gloucester City FC) | Football | Lapsed | The stadium was ruined by severe flooding in 2007. Pitch is now overgrown and the ground has been left dormant. Club plans to restore the ground to use and hopes to develop a new stadium onsite. |
| Gloucester Civil Service Club | Football Cricket Rugby union | Lapsed | Previously a multi club site managed by the Civil Service Sports Council (CSSC) which became unable to afford the costs of running the site and closed it to use in 2010. Later sold to Redrow Homes for development in 2011 despite an unsuccessful campaign from the local community to twice have the site registered as a community asset. No planning application for development has been submitted to date. |

| Site name | Sport(s) | Status | Comments |
|---|---------------------|---------|--|
| Debenhams Sports Field | Football Cricket | Disused | One cricket pitch previously overmarked with an adult football pitch. Recently bought by the University of Gloucestershire which has plans to develop the site though it is yet not clear whether this will include sporting provision. |
| Innsworth Lane Sports Ground | Football | Disused | Rendered unplayable by flooding. Changing facilities have since been restored and the pitch has potential to be repaired and brought back into use. Longlevens FC is keen to negotiate a lease on the site to mark a youth 9v9 pitch on which to accommodate some of its youth teams |
| Fielding & Platts (Sudmeadaow Road) | Football | Lapsed | Situated behind Meadow Park, the land forms plans Gloucester City FC have for the development of the site, therefore it is unlikely to be used for football in future. |
| Rear of Leven Close | Football | Lapsed | |
| Saintbridge Dry Balancing Pond | Rugby union | Disused | Previously one senior rugby union pitch used some years ago by Coney Hill RFC. Designed to flood when River Twyver overspills and access suitable to car parking is difficult. |

Quality

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a pitch being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

It is not just the quality of the pitch itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them is assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

The ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted with regard to quality and in some instances the quality rating adjusted to reflect this.

Developing a picture of demand

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important in order to carry out the full supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches tends to fall within the categories:

- Organised competitive play
- Organised training
- Informal play

In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport by sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available. Displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.

Future demand

Future demand is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure. Using population growth factors, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches in Gloucester.

Population growth

The current resident population in Gloucester is 124,5622. By 2031 (to reflect the Joint Core Strategy which shows how the area will develop during the period up to 2031) the City's population is projected to increase to 143,882³ which is an increase of 19,320 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 15.5%) according to ONS data.

Further to this there is predicted to be an increase across all team generation rate age groups in Gloucester ranging from just 2.3% increase for 18-55 year old men to 23% increase at mini age groups 10-15 year olds.

Team generation rates (TGR)

TGRs provide an indication of how many people it takes to generate a single team (for all pitch sports) and can help with estimating the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.

A TGR can be calculated by dividing the current population within an age group for a sport by the number of teams in the area within that age group. In order to calculate future demand for pitches, current team generation rates (TGRs) are used.

²Source: ONS Mid-2013 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex and ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2032. Released: 29 May 2014

³ Source: ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2037. Released: 29 May 2014

Future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Example

An area may have 10 youth boys' football teams of a particular age category and a current population of 900 boys within the relevant age group. This would equate to a TGR of one team per 90 boys in the age group (i.e. suggesting that it currently takes 90 boys within the age group to generate one team). A PPS may be looking ten years into the future at which point the population of this age group is projected to total 1,440. The TGR would therefore suggest that the projected increase of 540 junior boys within this age group may generate an additional six teams.

If it assumed that the six teams will play home and away fixtures they will demand a home pitch for matches every other week, equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions a week or three match equivalent sessions a week for the six teams. The breakdown of when matches are played in the study area suggests that two thirds take place on a Sunday morning and the other third on a Saturday morning. Allocating the six teams in line with this current breakdown would generate a demand for two match equivalent sessions during the peak period of Sunday morning and one elsewhere in the week (i.e. Saturday mornings). The project team should also indicate the likely training requirements for such teams based on knowledge of how teams currently train and any known changes in how training activity may take place (e.g. use of AGPs once a week).

Consultation

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for collection of detailed demand information and exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision. It focused on looking at how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

Understand how a site is being used

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows to identify:

| Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain. | |
|---|--|
| At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain. | |
| Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain | |

Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available at when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

Scenario testing

It may be useful to take some time at the beginning of this stage to explore the key findings and issues from the assessment work (Stage C) in order to develop the recommendations and actions. This will help to understand the potential impact of any recommendations and actions along with ensuring they are study area, sport and site specific. Looking at a number of relevant scenario questions will help to do this.

Section D: Develop the strategy

By completing Stages A, B and C it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Gloucester. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy (Stage D).

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Gloucester is Gloucestershire County FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 6 captures supply and demand for artificial grass pitches (AGPs). In the future it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of AGPs for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Consultation

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs playing in Gloucester. Contact details were provided by the County FA which also distributed the invitation to complete the survey via email. Consultation (either through a survey or face to face interview) represents a 70% club response rate and 89% team response rate. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report. The following clubs were met with face to face:

- Abbeymead Rovers FC
- ◆ Gala Wilton FC
- ◆ Gloucester City FC
- Longlevens FC
- Tuffley Rovers FC
- Quedgeley Wanderers FC

Consultation was also undertaken with the Gloucester and District Sunday League (GDSL) and the North Gloucestershire Football League, both of which responded by online survey.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 92 grass football pitches in Gloucester City. Of these, 79 are known to be available, at some level, for community use. There are no 3G pitches on which competitive football matches can be played. The map overleaf identifies all pitches within Gloucester City regardless of community use. See Table 2.11 for the key to the map.

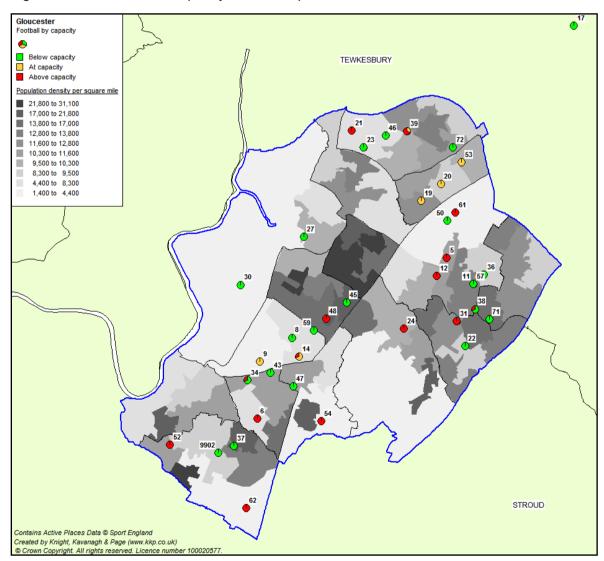
Table 2.1: Summary of grass pitches available for community use

| | Pitch type | | | | Totals | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|----|----|--------|----|
| | Adult Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5 | | | | | |
| All pitches | 47 | 5 | 15 | 18 | 7 | 92 |
| Pitches available for community use | 42 | 2 | 11 | 18 | 7 | 80 |

Most pitches in Gloucester City are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review. Adult pitches most used by both adult and youth teams (pitch numbers in brackets) include:

- Heron Park
- Dowty Sports & Social Club
- Waterwells Sports Centre
- Longlevens Recreation Ground
- Plock Court
- Tuffley Park

Figure 2.1: Location and capacity of football pitches in Gloucester



See Table 2.9 for key to the map.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Gloucester City has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments (as determined by The FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◆ Good
- Standard
- Poor

Pitch quality is primarily influenced by the carrying capacity of the site; often pitches are over used and lack the drainage necessary to improve quality.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (< 50%). It should be noted that all of the sites that received a 'standard' rating from the non-technical assessments scored between 50% and 57%.

The table below summarises the quality of grass pitches that are available for community use.

| Management | Ad | Adult pitches Youth pitches | | Mini pitches | | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----------------------------|------|--------------|----------|------|------|----------|------|
| | Good | Standard | Poor | Good | Standard | Poor | Good | Standard | Poor |
| City Council | - | 5 | 13 | - | 1 | 3 | - | 2 | 13 |
| Sports Club | 7 | 4 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| County Council | ı | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| School | - | 1 | 4 | - | 3 | 2 | - | 4 | - |
| Parish Council | - | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Trust | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| GLOUCESTER | 9 | 10 | 23 | - | 5 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 14 |

The non-technical pitch quality audit shows that just over half (56%) of pitches available for community use are poor quality and a further 29% are standard quality, with 15% assessed as good. Most youth pitches (62%) are assessed as poor quality and the remaining are standard (38%), with no good quality pitches. Most mini pitches are also assessed as poor quality (56%), with 32% standard and 12% good.

Further to this just over half of responding clubs (54%) believe there has been no difference in pitch quality, many of which play at Council managed sites and only 4% report that pitch quality is much poorer.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. Private site hire is often at full cost recovery. The maintenance and use of Council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues. Examples include Tuffley Park and Coney Hill which have in the past been subject to motorbikes ridden across the pitch.

Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table below. The comments are a combination of club feedback and site assessment information.

Table 2.3: Summary of pitch quality comments

| Site | Comments |
|------------------------------|---|
| Longlevens Recreation Ground | Pitches are uneven and are not cut frequently enough by the Council and they receive no remedial work. |
| Glevum Way Park | Very boggy pitches which are often waterlogged. |
| Saw Mills End Playing Field | The pitch is clay based which causes it to drain poorly. |
| Waterwells Sports Centre | Pitches have high clay content, inhibiting their ability to drain sufficiently. The surface requires de-compacting but the Club reports a lack of access to the required maintenance equipment. |
| Plock Court | Pitches drain poorly and water often gathers on the surface. |

One of the main reasons cited by clubs for a decline in pitch quality is related to reports of limited pitch maintenance or a lack of available funds to carry out appropriate maintenance. Other reasons cited for the decline in pitch quality include:

- Overmarked pitches
- High amount of rainfall this season (2014/15)
- Uneven and hard surfaces
- Overplay in bad weather
- Casual use
- Dog foul/litter
- Lack of investment and limited maintenance including infrequent grass cutting
- Lack of remedial work i.e. seeding
- Adult matches churning up pitches before afternoon youth games

Ancillary facilities

Changing facilities are an issue at some football sites. Some of the facilities are described as poor quality by users although all responding clubs stated they had access to changing rooms if required.

Clubs response to quality of changing facilities:

| Good | Standard | Poor | | |
|------|----------|------|--|--|
| 53% | 37% | 10% | | |

Of the clubs which provided a response to the question, most (53%) were of the opinion that changing facilities were good. A similar proportion (37%) report that provision was of standard or adequate quality. Just 10% suggest that changing room facilities are poor, most of which are located at Council owned sites such as Plock Court (not enough changing space) and Tuffley Park which was highlighted by clubs as particularly poor and that security was an issue.

Changing facilities at Oxstalls Sports Park (which also service the grass pitches at both Plock Court and Bishop's College) are highlighted as a concern for a number of clubs using either site. Many clubs playing in the GDSL use Plock Court on Sunday mornings and along with the league report that the size and number of changing rooms available is inadequate. The centre reduced changing provision to one communal male changing room to be shared with centre users; however, the increase in teams playing in the League and using the Plock Court pitches has caused this to become more congested. The League reports that its growth is limited because pitches at Plock Court are unavailable to use, not due to a lack of capacity but because there is insufficient changing provision to service each pitch.

The ancillary facilities at Longlevens Recreation Ground are poor and in need of refurbishment. The Club states that it struggles to generate revenue because of the poor quality of the social space and bar area which is in need of improvement and the Club believes that the poor quality facilities discourage people from using them.

In some cases clubs may report a lack of access to changing facilities but in reality do not require access to them. For example, Tredworth Youth FC has no changing facilities at Ribston Hall School but reports that most teams at mini level and younger juniors don't and wouldn't use them anyway. This is a particular trend nationwide in that most mini and junior teams are using changing facilities increasingly less and that access to toilet facilities are of greater priority.

Security of tenure

Only one club is considered to have unsecured tenure of its home site. Tuffley Rovers FC has three years remaining of a ten year rolling lease but is in the early stages of investigating opportunities to buy the land or negotiate a new long term lease. The Club is keen to develop the site and was recently successful in applying for Sport England Protecting Playing Fields funding of over £43,000 which will contribute towards securing tenure of the site.

Tenure of sites in Gloucester City is otherwise generally secure i.e. through a long term lease or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years at least, with most local authority sites ensuring community use is available whether owned by the Council or County Councils.

Football pyramid facilities

There are four clubs in Gloucester that play within the non-league football pyramid:

- Gloucester City FC (Step 2)
- ◆ Longlevens FC (Step 6)
- Tuffley Rovers FC (Step 6)
- Gala Wilton FC (Step 7)

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league/step above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading, as it is referred to, assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

Gloucester City FC plays at Step 2 of the football pyramid system and is the highest ranked of all clubs in the City. The Club has been unable to play at its home ground Meadow Park since 2007 when the site was ruined by severe floods. Such is the requirement for FA Grade B facilities and the absence of any other compliant ground in the City, the Club now plays at Cheltenham Town FC. The Club is keen to return to Gloucester as it suggests that it has lost the opportunity to attract youth players and renting a ground is not financially sustainable in the long term. It is currently exploring opportunities alongside Gloucestershire FA for the development of a new stadium at Meadow Park in Gloucester.

Longlevens FC plays in the Hellenic Football League at Step 6 of the football pyramid structure. The Club uses several sites but football at this level is played at Saw Mills End Playing Field, regarded as its premier venue. In the 2014/15 season the Club qualified for promotion to the Hellenic Premier Division (Step 5) but facilities do not meet Grade F requirements. For example, existing floodlighting does not meet the required lux levels and the Club has recently applied for funding to make improvements needed for the club to be promoted in practice.

Tuffley Rovers FC also plays at Step 6 in Division One West of the Hellenic Football League at British Gas Sports Field. The Club is also seeking promotion to the Premier Division and reports that it is unable to develop the site to meet the requirements for Step 4 football and beyond due to the lack of secure tenure. The land is leased on a ten year rolling agreement from National Grid with three years remaining on the current lease. The Club believes that National Grid are open to relinquishing the land and has begun talks about the potential to buy the land outright or to secure a 99 year lease which would increase opportunities to access grant funding. Access to the site is difficult up a steep gravelled hill and the gas mains running along the outskirts cause the surrounding areas to flood often.

Gala Wilton FC plays at Step 7 of the football pyramid structure in the Gloucestershire County Football League. The Club rents the pitch annually from the Council and has a lease on the clubhouse and changing rooms which has now expired. The site requires floodlighting in order for the Club to gain promotion to the Hellenic Football League (Step 6) although planning permission was granted in 2014 for installation. The Club intends to seek grant funding for the floodlighting but is restricted because it does not have evidence of long term site tenure required for most grant funding, whilst not being eligible for Football Foundation funding until Step 6. It is now hoping to negotiate a long term lease on the site as a whole with the Council.

Future developments

The University of Gloucestershire has plans to increase the number of students to 4,000, of which 2,400 are likely to play sport in some capacity based on current participation numbers. The University is keen to expand its sporting offering accordingly as well as continue to increase participation through the Active Universities programme. It plans to increase access to sporting provision at the Oxstalls Campus and would like to bring the majority of its competitive student sport back to play in the City.

Quedgeley Wanderers FC has desires for floodlighting on the main adult pitch at Waterwells Sports Centre and was recently unsuccessful in a bid for Sport England funding. Funding is available through the Football Foundation Football Stadia Improvement Fund although criteria requires that a club must have an adult team playing Step 6 football, which in the Gloucestershire area would mean the Hellenic League Division One or the Western League Division One (or higher). At present Quedgeley Wanderers FC first team plays in the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League which is not part of the football pyramid structure.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 166 teams are identified as playing matches on football pitches within Gloucester. This consists of 52 men's, three women's, 61 youth boys', seven youth girls' and 44 mini soccer teams (of which five are girls' only mini teams). No teams were identified as consistently playing home matches on AGP surfaces.

Clubs were asked whether there had been a change in the number of teams over the previous three years. The response rates for those which answered those relevant questions can be seen in the table below:

Table 2.4: Change in the number of teams over the previous three years

| Team type | | Clubs response | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| | Increased | Decreased | Stayed the same | | | |
| Adult | 9% | 9% | 82% | | | |
| Youth | 20% | 13% | 67% | | | |
| Mini | _ | 14% | 86% | | | |

In general, the number of teams has remained static for the most part, particularly at adult and mini level. Reported increases and decreases at youth are of similar proportions and increase at some clubs is likely to have been balanced by decreases at others. It is possible that some decreases at youth level may be influenced by switching from Saturday morning mini football to Sunday morning youth football.

In addition, rugby union matches and training sessions are typically held on Sundays which may generate some competition for demand between the sports.

An increase in mini teams does not always lead to an increase in adult teams because nationally there has been a trend of 11 aside adult men's teams decreasing due to players opting to play small sided versions of the game. The way in which people, especially adult men, want to play football is changing. People want to be able to fit it in to their busy lifestyle and the small sided formats and shorter games allow players to do this without giving up their weekends. If this trend continues there is likely to be an increase in demand for 3G pitches.

Leagues

Table 2.5: Summary of the main leagues servicing Gloucester teams

| League | Match day | Comments |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| Gloucester & District Sunday Football League (GDSFL) | Sunday AM | Decreased in size over the past decade from eight divisions to two but has recently grown due to the folding of the Cheltenham Sunday League which has seen an influx of teams join from neighbouring authorities. Some use of sports club pitches but a large number of teams play on council pitches where the league has bookings at three sites (Tuffley Park, Plock Court and Beaufort Community School). |
| Stroud & District Football League (SDFL) | Saturday PM | Almost as many City based teams play in the SDFL, dependant on preferred day of play as the league operates on Saturdays. |
| Gloucester Youth Association League (GYAL) | Saturday AM & Sunday PM | Most mini and youth teams (38) play in this league. Mini soccer takes place on Saturday mornings and youth matches are played on Sunday afternoons. |
| Gloucester Mini Soccer League (GMSL) | Saturday AM & Sunday PM | Mini soccer takes place on Saturday mornings and youth matches are played on Sunday afternoons like the GYAL. Less teams (16) play in this league. |
| Gloucestershire County Girls League (GCGL) | Sunday AM & PM | County FA run league which runs mini soccer in the morning and youth matches in the afternoon. |

The main league for adult football within Gloucester City is the Gloucester & District Sunday Football League. The league reports that it is looking to grow and amongst new applications a number of member clubs have expressed the desire to enter reserve or second teams. It states that the three sites currently in use are not enough to accommodate the requirements of additional teams wishing to use Council pitches and that access to more Council pitches and cost of hire are the main challenges limiting growth. Some teams play in a number of other leagues around the County including the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League and the Gloucestershire County Football League, both of which also play on Saturdays. All three women's teams play in the Gloucestershire County Women's Football League on Sunday afternoons.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the League.

Quedgeley Wanderers FC reports that it is currently operating at capacity and that it is not able to add more teams due to a lack of access to pitches, often having to refer interested players to other teams.

Tuffley Rovers FC also reports unmet demand due to a lack of pitch availability. It reports having to turn players away and that existing squads are bigger than it would like at most age groups, including approximately 50 children at U8s as part of only two teams.

Longlevens FC reports unmet demand at adult level and states that it has to turn players away because there is no capacity to accommodate them into current squads. The Club has talked about the possibility of a fielding a fifth men's team but there is a lack of available pitches onsite at Longlevens Recreation Ground and the Club is hesitant for any potential further adult teams to play offsite and away from the clubhouse where there is capacity to generate revenue.

Gloucester City FC reports that its youth and mini teams play across a variety of sites including Walls Sports & Social Club and Gloucester Academy. The Club reports the need for a permanent site where it can be based and where it would have the capability to store equipment.

Displaced demand

Displaced demand refers to Gloucester registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the Area for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply or in some cases quality issues.

In Gloucester most of the displaced demand comes from adult teams. Most derives from education establishments playing in neighbouring authorities, such as Gloucestershire College and the University of Gloucestershire which both use pitches in Cheltenham due a to an absence of onsite grass pitch provision on the respective campuses.

| Table 2.6: Summary of dis | splaced demand |
|---------------------------|----------------|
|---------------------------|----------------|

| Club | Team | Where displaced |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| University of Gloucestershire | 3 x adult men's | The Folley, Cheltenham |
| Gloucestershire College | 1 x adult men's | Cheltenham CSSC |
| Abbeymead Rovers FC | 4x adult men's (Training) | Millbrook Academy, Brockworth |
| Blackbridge FC | 1 x adult men's | Minsterworth Village Hall |
| Glevum Town FC | 1 x adult men's | Swindon Village Park, Cheltenham |
| Gloucester City Ladies FC | 1 x adult men's | Bridge Road, Frampton |
| Gloucester City FC | 1 x adult men's | Cheltenham Town FC, Cheltenham |
| Gloucester City FC | 1 x mini (U7) | 3G indoor, Brimscombe Indoor Soccer |

The University of Gloucestershire has five adult football teams which all play in Cheltenham at The Folley in the BUCS leagues on Wednesday afternoons. This is partly because the University has a campus in Cheltenham and subsequently some of its students are currently based there.

Gloucestershire College currently has one adult football team which also plays in Cheltenham at the Civil Service Sports Club. There is no outdoor sports provision onsite but the College states that it would require greater access to pitch provision in order to realise aspirations for a second men's team and the creation of a women's team.

Glevum Town FC previously played in Gloucester City but now plays in Swindon Village (Cheltenham). The Club is happy playing here but states that it would consider a move back to play in Gloucester at a suitable facility as many players live within the City.

Future demand

Population increases

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 2.7: Team generation rates

| Age group | Current population within age group | Current no. of teams | Team Generation Rate | Future population within age group (2031) | Predicted future number of teams | Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Senior Mens (16-45) | 25,470 | 60 | 1:425 | 27,749 | 65.4 | 5.4 |
| Senior Women (16-45) | 25,259 | 3 | 1:8420 | 26,644 | 3.2 | 0.2 |
| Youth Boys (10-15) | 4,414 | 61 | 1:72 | 5,324 | 73.6 | 12.6 |
| Youth Girls (10-15) | 4,215 | 7 | 1:602 | 5,150 | 8.6 | 1.6 |
| Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9) | 5,916 | 44 | 1:134 | 6,952 | 51.7 | 7.7 |

Population increases are likely to result in the greatest growth in participation at youth boy's level amounting to 12 additional teams. Participation is also anticipated to increase at adult level, enough to create five new men's teams, whilst it is likely that the additional players at women's level will join existing squads. Increase at youth girls' level is enough to create another team and mini soccer demand is expected to continue to develop, creating a requirement for seven additional teams.

It is important to note that there has been a recent decrease nationally in participation at adult level and that the number of FA affiliated adult teams playing competitive football has dropped. Similarly, there has been a decline in the number of youth players making the transition from youth football to adult leagues.

Participation increases

There is a focus on developing girl's football within Gloucester and this is likely to lead to more girls' teams in the future and therefore demand for more pitches.

Some clubs plan to increase the number of teams for next season, mostly at adult level. Some clubs also plan to add junior and mini teams, such as Gala Wilton FC which hopes to begin a junior section and Longlevens FC which hopes to continue to build upon its new established junior section.

Table 2.8: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

| Club | Comments |
|------------------------|--|
| Longlevens FC | Links to private coaching delivered in local primary school. Coach passes on a complete team of U12s each year which begun last season. Plans for two new boys youth 11v11 teams next season and considering a fifth men's team. |
| Cheltenham Athletic FC | Plans for a second adult team. |
| AFC Cheltenham | Plans for a second adult team. |
| Ramblers FC | Plans for a second adult team. |

| Club | Comments |
|---------------------|--|
| Hucclecote Youth FC | Intentions for three further boys youth 9v9 teams and a new mini team. |
| Gala Wilton FC | Club plans to add two boys teams at U14s and U16 age groups. |

A number of clubs (six) report realistic plans to increase the number of teams they provide, all of which identify that additional teams will be accommodated at current sites. Where quantified, clubs plan to provide an additional three men's, seven youth (boys), and one mini team. Tuffley Rovers FC also reports plans to establish girls' teams but was unable to quantify how many.

Imported demand

A number of teams based outside of the City import demand to use pitches in the area. Notably, there has been an influx of teams from the Cheltenham area since the Cheltenham Sunday League folded in 2012, which has led to clubs joining the GDSL.

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing football. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage.

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded in Gloucester:

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

Table 2.9 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

| Potential capacity | Play is below the level the site could sustain |
|--------------------|--|
| At capacity | Play matches the level the site can sustain |
| Overused | Play exceeds the level the site can sustain |

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use.

In order to reflect daily curriculum use, school team training, extracurricular clubs and fixtures, a supplement of match equivalent sessions has been added to pitches at school sites where appropriate (indicated in bold).

Some schools do not allow community use in order to manage poor quality pitches for their own use throughout the week. Schools may also play fixtures on Saturday mornings during the winter because of bad light after school which may limit capacity for community use, particularly in the case of youth and mini pitches as this coincides with the main junior football leagues which operate on Saturday mornings.

Beaufort Academy reports that it is unable to mark a youth 9v9 pitch for first year pupils because they cannot afford the additional cost of 9v9 sized goalposts. The School has 12 teams and reports having played over 100 fixtures last year midweek and on Saturday mornings.

Tuffley Rovers FC is looking to begin a girls section and has met with Ribston Hall High School to discuss the possibility of using the pitches. The School reports a lack of access to toilet and changing facilities as the main school building would remain closed and any community users would have to cover the cost of a member of staffing coming to both open and close the site to ensure it remains secure.

Table 2.9: Football pitch capacity analysis

| Site ID | Site name | Available for community use? | Type of tenure⁴ | Management | Pitch type | Pitch size | Quality rating | No. of pitches | Current play (in match sessions) | FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions) | Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play | Pitches available in peak period |
|------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---|--|---|--|
| 5 | Barnwood Park Arts College | No | Secure | School | Youth | (11v11) | Poor | 1 | - +3 | 1 | 2 | - |
| 5 | Barnwood Park Arts College | No | Secure | School | Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 2 | - +6 | 1 | 5 | - |
| 6 | Beaufort Community School | Yes | Secure | School | Adult | | Poor | 2 | 1.5 +4.5 | 2 | 4 | - |
| 6 | Beaufort Community School | Yes | Secure | School | Youth | (11v11) | Poor | 2 | 2.5 +6 | 2 | 6.5 | - |
| 8 | Blackbridge Playing Field | Yes | Secure | County Council/ Council | Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 9 | British Gas Sports Field (Tuffley Rovers AFC) | Yes | Unsecure | Sports Club | Adult | | Standard | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| 11 | Clock Tower Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Adult | | Standard | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 12 | Coney Hill Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Adult | | Poor | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 1.5 | - |
| 14 | Crypt School | No | Secure | School | Adult | | Good | 1 | - +4 | 3 | 1 | - |
| 14 | Crypt School | No | Secure | School | Youth | (11v11) | Good | 1 | - +4 | 4 | - | - |
| 14 | Crypt School | No | Secure | School | Youth | (9v9) | Good | 1 | - +4 | 4 | - | - |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | Yes | Secure | Sports Club | Adult | | Good | 6 | 5.5 | 18 | 12.5* | 5 |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | Yes-unused | Secure | Sports Club | Mini | (5v5) | Good | 1 | 0 | 6 | 6* | 1 |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | Yes-unused | Secure | Sports Club | Mini | (7v7) | Good | 2 | 0 | 12 | 12* | 2 |
| 19 | Elmbridge Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Adult | | Poor | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 0.5 |
| 20 | Elmbridge Playing Field | Yes | Secure | Sports Club | Adult | | Poor | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 21 | Gala Wilton Football Club | Yes | Secure | Sports Club | Adult | | Poor | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 0.5 | - |
| 22 | Glevum Way Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Adult | | Standard | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 22 | Glevum Way Park | Yes-unused | Secure | Council | Mini | (5v5) | Poor | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| 22 | Glevum Way Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Mini | (7v7) | Poor | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 23 | Bishop's College | Yes | Secure | Trust | Adult | | Good | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 0.5 |
| 24 | Gloucester Academy | Yes | Secure | School | Adult | | Standard | 1 | 1.5 +2 | 2 | 1.5 | - |
| 27 | Gloucester Park | Yes | Secure | Sports Club | Adult | | Good | 1 | 0.5 | 3 | 2.5 | 0.5 |
| 30 | Hempsted Recreation Ground | Yes | Secure | Council | Adult | | Poor | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 31 | Heron Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Adult | | Poor | 1 | 3.5 | 1 | 2.5 | - |
| 34 | Holmleigh Park | Yes-unused | Secure | Council | Adult | | Poor | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 34 | Holmleigh Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 0.5 | - |
| 36 | King George V Playing Fields | Yes | Secure | Council | Mini | 7v7 | Poor | 4 | 5.75 | 8 | 2.25 | - |
| 37 | Kingsway Manor Farm | Yes-unused | Secure | Council | Adult | | Poor | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

⁴ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in LA, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure. *Denotes capacity as per usage from recorded Gloucester teams. May not reflect true capacity subject to additional unrecorded use from teams outside of Gloucester

| Site ID | Site name | Available for community use? | Type of tenure ⁴ | Management | Pitch type | Pitch size | Quality rating | No. of pitches | Current play (in match sessions) | FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions) | Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play | Pitches available in peak period |
|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---|--|---|--|
| 38 | Lobleys Drive Open Space | Yes | Secure | Council | Mini | (7v7) | Poor | 2 | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 0.5 |
| 38 | Lobleys Drive Open Space | Yes | Secure | Council | Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 0.5 | - |
| 39 | Longlevens Recreation Ground | Yes | Secure | Council/ Sports Club | Adult | | Poor | 2 | 3.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 39 | Longlevens Recreation Ground | Yes | Secure | Council/ Sports Club | Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 43 | Murray Hall | Yes-unused | Secure | Council | Mini | (7v7) | Poor | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| 45 | Parry Road Playing Fields | Yes-unused | Secure | Council | Adult | | Standard | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 46 | Plock Court | Yes | Secure | Council | Adult | | Poor | 4 | 3.5 | 4 | 0.5 | 3 |
| 46 | Plock Court | Yes-unused | Secure | Council | Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 47 | Randwick Park | Yes-unused | Secure | Council | Adult | | Poor | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 47 | Randwick Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Mini | (7v7) | Standard | 1 | 2.5 | 4 | 1.5 | - |
| 48 | Ribston Hall High School | Yes | Secure | School | Adult | | Poor | 2 | 0.5 +3 | 2 | 1.5 | 2 |
| 50 | Saw Mills End Playing Field | Yes | Secure | Sports Club | Adult | | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0.5 |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | No | Secure | School | Adult | | Poor | 1 | - +2 | 1 | 2 | - |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | No | Secure | School | Youth | (11v11) | Poor | 1 | - +2 | 1 | 2 | - |
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | No | Secure | School | Adult | | Standard | 1 (+2) | - +6 | 6 | - | - |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | No | Secure | School | Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 1 +2 | 1 | 2 | - |
| 57 | The Oaks | Yes | Secure | Council | Mini | (7v7) | Poor | 2 | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 0.5 |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Adult | (111) | Standard | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1.5 |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Mini | (7v7) | Standard | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | Yes | Secure | Council | Youth | (9v9) | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 1 |
| 61 | Walls Sports And Social Club | Yes | Secure | Sports Club | Adult (+Mini) | (+5v5 & 7v7) | Standard | 1 | 2 +0.25 +0.25 | 2 | 0.5 | - |
| 61 | Walls Sports And Social Club | Yes | Secure | Sports Club | Adult (+Youth) | (+9v9) | Standard | 1 | 2 +0.5 | 2 | 0.5 | - |
| 62 | Waterwells Sports Centre | Yes | Secure | Parish Council | Adult | | Poor | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 | - |
| 62 | Waterwells Sports Centre | Yes | Secure | Parish Council | Mini | (7v7) | Poor | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | - |
| 62 | Waterwells Sports Centre | Yes | Secure | Parish Council | Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 1.5 | - |
| 71 | Abbeymead Primary School | Yes | Secure | Council | Mini | (5v5) | Standard | 2 | 1.5 | 8 | 6.5 | 0.5 |
| 71 | Abbeymead Primary School | Yes | Secure | Council | Youth | (9v9) | Standard | 2 | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| 72 | Longlevens Infant School | Yes | Secure | County Council | Mini | (5v5) | Standard | 1 | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | - |
| 72 | Longlevens Infant School | Yes | Secure | County Council | Mini | (7v7) | Standard | 1 | 2.5 | 4 | 1.5 | - |
| 72 | Longlevens Infant School | Yes | Secure | County Council | Youth | (9v9) | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 1 |
| 9902 | Kingsway Sports Field | Yes-unused | Secure | Council | Adult | | Poor | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Peak time

The peak time varies for the different pitch types. It is important to acknowledge that although most adult football is played Saturday afternoon (60% - 33 of 55 teams), peak time for adult pitches could also be considered as Sunday afternoon when the exact same number of youth teams play on adult pitches. This is because a large proportion of adult pitch demand is generated from the high number (33 of 45 - 73%) of youth teams playing 11 a side matches on adult pitches on Sunday morning. Peak time for mini soccer and youth 9v9 football is Saturday mornings.

Table 2.10: Actual spare capacity

| Site ID | Site name | Available for community use? | Pitch type | Pitch size | No. of pitches | Current play (match sessions) | Potential spare capacity (match sessions) | Match equivalent sessions available in peak period | Comments |
|------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 8 | Blackbridge Playing Field | Yes | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 11 | Clock Tower Park | Yes | Adult | | 1 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | Yes | Adult | | 6 | 5.5 | 12.5 | 5 | Also used by other clubs from neighbouring areas which are not captured, therefore true availability unknown. |
| 22 | Glevum Way Park | Yes | Adult | | 1 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 22 | Glevum Way Park | Yes | Mini | (7∨7) | 1 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Retain spare capacity to help manage poor pitch quality. |
| 23 | Bishop's College | Yes | Adult | | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0.5 | Spare capacity available at peak time every other week. |
| 27 | Gloucester Park | Yes | Adult | | 1 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity available at peak time every other week. |
| 30 | Hempsted Recreation Ground | Yes | Adult | | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 36 | King George V Playing Fields | Yes | Mini | 7v7 | 4 | 5.75 | 2.25 | - | No spare capacity available at peak time. |
| 38 | Lobleys Drive Open Space | Yes | Mini | (7∨7) | 2 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 0.5 | Retain spare capacity to help manage poor pitch quality. |
| 46 | Plock Court | Yes | Adult | | 4 | 3.5 | 0.5 | 3 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 47 | Randwick Park | Yes | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | 2.5 | 1.5 | - | No spare capacity available at peak time. |
| 50 | Saw Mills End Playing Field | Yes | Adult | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | Spare capacity available at peak time every other week. |
| 57 | The Oaks | Yes | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 0.5 | Retain spare capacity to help manage poor pitch quality. |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | Yes | Adult | | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1.5 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | Yes | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | Yes | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 71 | Abbeymead Primary School | Yes | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | 1.5 | 6.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity available at peak time every other week. |
| 71 | Abbeymead Primary School | Yes | Youth | (9v9) | 2 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 1.5 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 72 | Longlevens Infant School | Yes | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | 1.5 | 2.5 | - | No spare capacity available at peak time. |
| 72 | Longlevens Infant School | Yes | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | 2.5 | 1.5 | - | No spare capacity available at peak time. |
| 72 | Longlevens Infant School | Yes | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | Yes-unused | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | 0 | 6* | - | No identified use by City based clubs. Used by |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | Yes-unused | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | 0 | 12* | - | other clubs from neighbouring areas which are not captured, therefore true availability unknown. |
| 22 | Glevum Way Park | Yes-unused | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 34 | Holmleigh Park | Yes-unused | Adult | | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 37 | Kingsway Manor Farm | Yes-unused | Adult | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 43 | Murray Hall | Yes-unused | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 45 | Parry Road Playing Fields | Yes-unused | Adult | | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 46 | Plock Court | Yes-unused | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 47 | Randwick Park | Yes-unused | Adult | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |
| 9902 | Kingsway Sports Field | Yes-unused | Adult | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Spare capacity including availability at peak time. |

Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up (highlighted as green in the comments column in the table above) by area and by pitch type.

Table 2.11: Actual spare capacity summary

| Actu | Total | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|---|-----|----|--|--|--|
| Adult | Adult Youth (11v11) Youth (9v9) Mini (7v7) Mini (5v5) | | | | | | | |
| 9 | - | 4.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 15 | | | |

The table shows a total of 15 match sessions of actual spare capacity on pitches which are available for community use and currently used. There are a further 11 match equivalent sessions available on pitches which are available for community use but are currently unused, which have not been included in the table above.

Overmarked pitches

Some clubs report overmarking pitches in order accommodate a number of game formats in one area. This can subject pitches to sustained use, particularly in the specific areas where pitches overlap where use is focused, for example when a mini pitch is marked on the middle of an adult pitch. This is the case at Walls Sports and Social Club where two mini pitches are marked onto one adult pitch, with a youth 9v9 pitch marked onto the other adult pitch.

Hucclecote YFC reports a lack of pitches available at King George V Playing Fields and that the four mini 7v7 pitches onsite are subsequently used for three game formats. Mini 5v5 matches are played widthways in each half of the pitches to accommodate eight matches, whilst 9v9 matches are played widthways across two pitches which each form one half of the playing area.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). In summary, 20 pitches are overplayed across eleven sites, by a total of 29 match equivalent sessions. Only sites which have are overplayed and have current community use have been included in the overplay summary, therefore school sites which are overplayed due to curriculum use and school fixtures have been omitted from the table below. Overplay is mainly due to poor quality of pitches, of which 17 are assessed as poor quality. Pitches are often poor due to receiving little maintenance or remedial work and therefore have limited capacity for use.

Notably overplayed sites include Beaufort Community School where adult and youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by four and 6.5 match equivalent sessions respectively. This is primarily due to the poor quality pitches and weekly curriculum use exacerbated by the weekend community use by Tuffley Rovers FC. There is also a high level of overplay at Waterwells Sports Centre where pitches are poor quality but the adult pitch also used regularly by several youth teams playing 11v11 football.

Table 2.12: Overplayed sites

| Site ID | Site name | Pitch type | No. of pitches | Capacity rating |
|------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 6 | Beaufort Community School | Adult | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Beaufort Community School | Youth (11v11) | 2 | 6.5 |
| 12 | Coney Hill Park | Adult | 1 | 1.5 |
| 21 | Gala Wilton Football Club | Adult | 1 | 0.5 |
| 24 | Gloucester Academy | Adult | 1 | 1.5 |
| 31 | Heron Park | Adult | 1 | 2.5 |
| 34 | Holmleigh Park | Youth (9v9) | 1 | 0.5 |
| 38 | Lobleys Drive Open Space | Youth (9v9) | 1 | 0.5 |
| 39 | Longlevens Recreation Ground | Adult | 2 | 1.5 |
| 48 | Ribston Hall High School | Adult | 2 | 1.5 |
| 61 | Walls Sports And Social Club | Adult | 1 | 0.5 |
| | | (+Mini 5v5 & 7v7) | | |
| 61 | Walls Sports And Social Club | Adult | 1 | 0.5 |
| | | (+Youth 9v9) | | |
| 62 | Waterwells Sports Centre | Adult | 2 | 4 |
| 62 | Waterwells Sports Centre | Mini (7v7) | 1 | 2 |
| 62 | Waterwells Sports Centre | Youth (9v9) | 1 | 1.5 |

Table 2.13: Overplay summary

| Overplay | (match sessions pe | | Total | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|----|
| Adult Youth 11v11 | | Youth 9v9 | Mini 7v7 | |
| 18 | 6.5 | 2.5 | 2 | 29 |

2.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on Team generation rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases as well as club development plans.

Table 2.14: Summary of demand for adult pitches (in secured use)

| Pitch type | Actual | Demand (match equivalent sessions) | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|-------|
| | spare capacity⁵ | Overplay | Displaced | | Current | Future | Total |
| | | | demand | demand | total | demand | |
| Adult | 9 | 18 | 4.5 | | 9 | 4 | 17.5 |
| Youth 11v11 | - | 6.5 | - | | 6.5 | 5.5 | 12 |
| Youth 9v9 | 4.5 | 2.5 | - | | 2 | 4.5 | 2.5 |
| Mini 7v7 | 1 | 2 | - | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Mini 5v5 | 0.5 | - | - | | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 |
| Total | 15 | 29 | 4.5 | | 14 | 18 | 36.5 |

⁵ In match equivalent sessions

The table above shows that overall in Gloucester there is spare capacity to accommodate youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 teams at present. However, there is an undersupply of adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches. Across all pitch types there is a deficit of 14 match equivalent sessions at present. Intentions are for the currently unused adult pitch at Parry Road Playing Fields to be re-marked as two mini 7v7 pitches for the 2015/16 season which may help to reduce the deficit at mini level.

Future demand indicates the need for a further 18 match sessions, whilst a further 4.5 sessions are required to accommodate displaced demand. Therefore, there is an undersupply of match equivalent sessions available for each pitch type to accommodate future demand, to the total of 36.5 sessions overall. The currently deficit can be attributed to the significant level of overplay which is largely a product of poor quality pitches. This limits the capacity available and the overuse is then exacerbated by the demand from teams, particularly on adult pitches which in many cases are also used by youth teams to play 11v11 football.

In addition to the above, if community use is lost at British Gas Sports Field (Tuffley Rovers AFC) there would be a requirement to relocate two match equivalent sessions on adult pitches to accommodate existing demand.

Football - grass pitch summary

- The audit identifies a total of 92 grass football pitches in Gloucester City. Of these, 79 are known to be available, at some level, for community use.
- Most football pitches available for community use are assessed as being of poor quality (56%) with less than third as standard quality (29%) and 15 assessed as good.
- Changing facilities at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre which also service both Plock Court and Bishop's College were identified as a key issue for teams, particularly the GDSL.
- Tuffley Rovers FC has unsecured tenure of its home site at British Gas Sports Field but has
 recently been awarded Sport England Protecting Playing Fields funding towards negotiating
 purchase of the land.
- ◆ A total of 166 teams were identified as playing on pitches within Gloucester.
- ◆ Three teams report unmet demand and having to turn away players they cannot accommodate; Quedgeley Wanderers FC, Tuffley Rovers FC and Longlevens FC.
- There is displaced demand from Gloucester City FC which currently plays at Cheltenham Town FC (Cheltenham) in order to meet Step 2 requirements.
- Both Gloucestershire College and University of Gloucestershire teams export demand to Cheltenham. Both report the desire to play within the City, particularly the University which plans to expand its sporting offering for students at the Oxstalls campus in Gloucester.
- Clubs report a lack of access to affordable floodlit training facilities, particularly AGPs of which there are no 3G pitches.
- There is a total of 15 match sessions of actual spare capacity across the City, of which nine are on adult pitches. There is a further 11 match equivalent sessions available on pitches which currently have no recorded play.
- There are 20 pitches overplayed across eleven sites, by a total of 29 match equivalent sessions.
- There is a shortfall of match sessions at adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 formats to accommodate current demand, whilst increases in future demand would cause a shortfall at all formats.

PART 3: CRICKET

3.1: Introduction

Gloucestershire County Cricket Board (GCCB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including Gloucester City. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

Senior cricket is typically played on Saturday afternoons, however; there is also a notable level of demand for midweek matches. There are a number of local cricket leagues across Gloucestershire which service teams in the City, including:

- West of England Premier Cricket League (WEPL)
- Cheltenham & Gloucester Cricket Association
- Gloucestershire County Cricket League
- Gloucestershire Evening Cricket League

The youth league structure in Gloucester City tends to be club based matches which are played mid-week. Therefore there is usually no conflict with access to squares and any midweek matches are usually played on different nights. The two main leagues for junior cricket are the Gloucestershire Youth Cricket League and the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cricket Association junior section.

Consultation

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all cricket clubs playing in Gloucester. Contact details were provided by GCCB which also distributed the invitation to complete the survey via email. Consultation (either through a survey or face to face interview) represents a 57% club response rate. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report. The following clubs were met with face to face:

- Arcadians Nine Elms CC
- AIW CC
- Gloucester City Winget CC
- Kingsholm CC

3.2: Supply

In total, there are 14 grass cricket squares in Gloucester City all of which are available for community use. Seven cricket squares were identified at school sites. Dowty Sport & Social Club lies just outside of Gloucester but facilities are considered to serve Gloucester residents. There were previously two natural turf squares at the site which are now no longer cut due to an absence of demand.

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares in Gloucester. For a key to the map see Table 3.5.

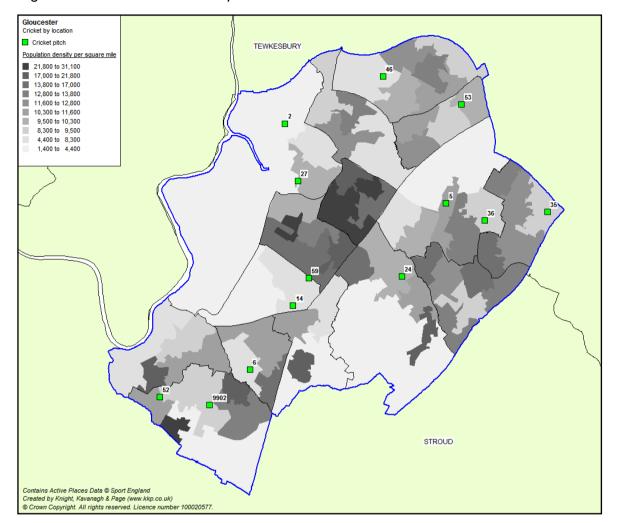


Figure 3.1: Location of cricket squares in Gloucester

Surface quality

The non-technical assessments carried out on cricket squares in Gloucester found three squares to be of good quality and 10 were of standard quality, with one poor quality square at Hucclecote Playing Field. Squares assessed as good quality were at Barnwood Park Arts College, Crypt School and Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre.

The square at Gloucester Academy is relatively new and is currently only used for school cricket. The pitch is quite small with a short boundary area and though the school is open to community use, the dimensions mean it is not suitable for senior play and therefore it has been excluded from the capacity analysis.

Like Gloucester Academy, the cricket square at Sir Thomas Rich's School is fairly new and was installed within the last three years. There is a pavilion accompanying the square and the pitch was used in part by Arcadians Nine Elms CC. The school is keen to have community use of the cricket square but the Club could not use it consistently because it does not meet league requirements regarding proximity to changing and tea facilities.

Clubs generally report the quality of squares to be adequate to good and none highlight any major issues. Both AIW CC and Arcadians Nine Elms CC believe that the quality of their home ground squares at The Crypt School and Barnwood Park Arts College has got progressively better over the past few years through continual improvement work carried out on pitches that are relatively newly established.

Clubs do, however; highlight outfield areas as a greater concern. For example, the outfield at Barnwood Park Arts College is very uneven and undulating, presenting potential safety issues regarding inconsistent bounce of the ball when fielding. The Club reports that the grounds maintenance team subcontracted by the school does not cut the grass short enough and that club volunteers regularly have to perform a further cut for the outfield to be suitable. Gloucester City Winget also highlights that because Gloucester Park must remain a publicly accessible area it is prone to surface damage and unofficial use from local youths, as well dog fouling from an estimated 40 to 50 dog walkers each day.

Maintaining high square 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. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and squares, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the square meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. The report identifies surface issues and suggests options for remediation together with likely costs.

Non-turf wickets

There are six non-turf wickets, of which, all are at school sites with the exception of the one at Bishop's College. This wicket is assessed as poor quality and is reported as not fit for use. No competitive senior club cricket takes place on non-turf wickets, although they may be used for training purposes with the aid of mobile nets or some junior matches.

There are two non-turf wickets at Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre which lie between the space where other grass pitches are marked in winter and are situated away from the natural turf square. Upon consultation, the school did not specifically highlight any competitive play on non-turf wickets though it is assumed that this is the case for younger age groups.

A non-turf wicket is considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility. None of the six non-turf wickets are situated on natural turf squares, therefore access and use is generally not limited by match play. Given the current supply and limited use, Gloucester is well served for non-turf wickets at present and in view of future demand.

Ancillary facilities

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities varies between clubs in Gloucester. AIW CC particularly reports pressing concerns regarding the quality of the dated pavilion at The Crypt School, reciprocated by the school itself which has desires for a new sports hall incorporating a new pavilion and was recently unsuccessful in its application for grant funding. AIW CC is of the opinion that pavilion and changing facilities are a key issue and that the club's recent success having successfully climbed the league structure from the bottom to play at Premier League level has brought these issues to a head. The Club is of the opinion that league facility requirements of WEPL are too stringent despite the good quality playing surface and that neither the Club nor school has the financial capability required to develop the site further.

Gloucester City Winget CC reports the lack of car parking provision as a key issue at Gloucester Park. The Club had no car parking area until a year ago when it agreed with a local construction company that employees could use the site for parking throughout the week in return for building a small car park area beside the clubhouse. This is still insufficient for match days and cars often have to drive across and park on the edge of the outfield because the neighbouring council car park is unable to be used at weekends.

Arcadians Nine Elms CC reports no issues with ancillary facilities provided by Coney Hill RFC and that there are enough changing rooms to cater for both sports at the beginning

Security of tenure

Clubs in Gloucester generally have unsecured tenure of sites, with most playing on either school or council owned pitches. Aside from Kingsholm CC which exports demand to Sandhurst where it owns the home ground, only Gloucester City Winget CC has secure tenure at Gloucester Park where it has 18 years remaining on the lease from the Council. There are two teams which pay rent for use of pitches at school sites. Arcadians Nine Elms CC is based at Coney Hill RFC and play at Barnwood Park Arts College which runs adjacent. The pitch is rented annually from the school by the rugby club as an extension of the existing rental agreement it has on the accompanying rugby union pitch. Arcadians Nine Elms CC subsequently sublets the cricket pitch through fees paid to Coney Hill RFC. Tenure is considered to be unsecured as the pitch is rented annually and there is no confirmation ensuring occupancy for the next three years or beyond.

Similarly, AIW CC plays at The Crypt School where it pays an annual sum for rent and maintenance of the pitch. The Club has long standing links with the school and several members were pupils there, though there is no formal written agreement guaranteeing tenure in the short term. The school reports a good relationship with the Club and is keen for this to continue, with no present intentions to cease community use.

Much like Arcadians Nine Elms CC, Gloucester Harlequins CC sublets the pitch at Hucclecote Playing Field from Hucclecote RFC. The Club pays an annual rent but has no written confirmation of use beyond the current season; therefore tenure is considered to be unsecure.

Four clubs use council owned pitches at King George V Playing Fields, Tuffley Park and Kingway Sports Field. All pay an annual rent for use and are considered to have secured tenure of the respective sites as part of the council's maintained sporting offering.

3.3: Demand

Cricket clubs in Gloucester generally have between one and three senior teams playing on Saturdays, with midweek teams at some clubs. There are 21 senior teams playing competitive matches on pitches within Gloucester although there are only three junior teams.

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. 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding is focused around women and girls and talent ID. At present, there are no ladies or girls cricket teams in Gloucester.

Over recent years, cricket in Gloucester has undergone a general decline, including decreases in the number of clubs and teams, a lack of strong coaching expertise available and a significantly low level of junior participation in comparison with most areas. Gloucestershire Cricket Board (GCB) reports that a number of teams in neighbouring authorities around the County have also encountered difficulties and that a decline in players has led to a number of amalgamations to create newly formed clubs. GCB is working in conjunction with local clubs to increase demand within the area, notably through schools initiatives such as the Chance to Shine coaching scheme which aims to teach skills and develop interest within PE lessons whilst guiding talented and interested children in the direction of local clubs.

Aside from those within the City boundary, there are a number of clubs which are based within proximity in neighbouring authority areas. Some of these clubs are considered to cater for Gloucester residents and attract demand as they are reasonably accessible for most. Clubs include:

- Kingsholm CC
- Churchdown CC
- Upton St Leonards CC
- Ullenwood Bharat CC
- Haresfield Gladiators CC

Temporal demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for cricket squares is Saturday PM (12 teams). There is no Last Man Stands (LMS) activity in the City, most likely due to the existence of the already established Gloucestershire Evening Cricket League which operates midweek. There is a distinct lack of junior teams with only three teams, all of which are at Gloucester City Winget CC.

Imported and exported demand

Ullenwood Bharat CC was identified as importing demand into Gloucester from nearby Birdlip (Cotswold). The Club has third and fourth teams which currently play at King George V Playing Fields in Gloucester as a secondary ground because all four teams play on Saturday afternoons.

The University of Gloucester has one cricket team which exports demand, playing in the BUCS leagues on Wednesday afternoons at Cinderford Cricket Club (Forest of Dean).

Kingsholm CC is based five miles out of the centre of Gloucester in Sandhurst (Tewkesbury), though considers itself a Gloucester club given it originates from the Kingsholm area. Most members travel from Gloucester and Cheltenham to play at the Club. It moved out of Gloucester when one of its patrons offered to purchase farming land in Sandhurst, on which the Club would be able to build its own ground and therefore have full ownership and management. The decision to leave Gloucester was therefore solely based on the appeal and advantages of having ownership of its home ground and access to better quality facilities, rather than a lack of access to pitches in the City.

Future demand

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 3.1: Team generation rates

| Age group | Current population within age group | Current no. of teams | Team generation rate | Future population within age group (2031) | Predicted future number of teams | Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Senior Mens (18-55) | 32,646 | 21 | 1:1555 | 33,383 | 21.5 | 0.5 |
| Senior Womens (18-55) | 32,745 | 0 | 0 | 32,882 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Junior Boys (7-17) | 8,245 | 3 | 1:2748 | 9,891 | 3.6 | 0.6 |
| Junior Girls (7-17) | 7,880 | 0 | 0 | 9,517 | 0.0 | 0 |

Population increases by 2031 are unlikely to result in the creation of further teams but may increase participation.

3.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality natural turf wicket should be able to take 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults). This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

| Potential capacity | Play is below the level the site could sustain |
|--------------------|--|
| At capacity | Play matches the level the site can sustain |
| Overused | Play exceeds the level the site can sustain |

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING SQUARE ASSESSMENT

Table 3.2: Natural turf cricket square capacity

| Site ID | Site name | Ownership/ management | Available for community use? | Teams accommodated | Quality rating ⁶ | No. of pitches | No. of grass wickets | Actual play (sessions per season) | Capacity (sessions per season) | Capacity rating (sessions per season) |
|------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 2 | Archdeacon Meadow | School | No | School 1st, | Standard | 3 | 10 | 30 | 50 | 80 |
| | | | | 2nd, U15, U14, U13, U12 | | | 8 | | 40 | |
| | | | | 013, 012 | | | 4 | | 20 | |
| 5 | Barnwood Park Arts College | School | Yes | Arcadians Nine Elms CC | Good | 1 | 6 | 23 | 30 | 7 |
| 14 | Crypt School | School | Yes | AIW CC, 4 school teams | Good | 1 | 5 | 50 | 25 | 25 |
| 27 | Gloucester Park | Sports Club | Yes | Gloucester Winget CC | Standard | 1 | 10 | 50 | 50 | - |
| 35 | Hucclecote Playing Field | Sports Club | Yes | Gloucester Harlequins CC | Poor | 1 | 8 | 14 | 40 | 26 |
| 36 | King George V Playing Fields | Council | Yes | Ullenwood Bharat CC 3rd & 4th | Standard | 1 | 10 | 19 | 50 | 31 |
| 46 | Plock Court | Trust | Yes | - | Standard | 1 | 10 | - | 50 | 50 |
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | School | No | 10 school teams | Good | 1 | 5 | 25 | 25 | - |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | Council | Yes | Gloucester | Standard | 2 | 12 | 30 | 120 | 90 |
| | | | | Winget CC, Quedgeley CC | | | 12 | | | |
| 9902 | Kingsway Sports Field | Council | Yes | Hardwicke & Quedgeley CC | Standard | 1 | 10 | 21 | 50 | 29 |

⁶ As derived from the non technical site assessments

3.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

Of those sites with existing community use, there are five which show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Gloucester, totalling 183 match sessions per season:

- Barnwood Park Arts College (7 match sessions)
- Hucclecote Playing Field (26 match sessions)
- King George V Playing Fields (31 match sessions)
- Tuffley Park (90 match sessions)
- Kingsway Sports Field (29 match sessions)

In addition no current use is identified at Plock Court where there is potential to accommodate 50 match sessions per season. In previous years the site was able to host six cricket pitches however the decline in demand has meant that only one pitch is now maintained and at present acts as a reserve site for cricket with no incumbent club team. Should demand increase, the leisure trust managing the site reports that there is the potential to reinstate these pitches.

Overplay

Only one site in Gloucester is considered to be overplayed, Crypt School by a total of 25 match sessions per season. The pitch only contains five grass wickets and with school fixtures and community use by AIW CC it is deemed to be overplayed.

Further to this, two sites are played to capacity, Gloucester Park (Gloucester Winget CC) and Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre (which is unavailable for community use).

3.6: Conclusions

Overall there is a sufficient supply of cricket pitches to cater for demand from clubs within Gloucester at peak time. Instead, the key issue is that there is a lack of access to high quality facilities across the City, particularly to cater for clubs playing at a high standard such as the WEPL. The decline in cricket over the last decade has led to a decrease in demand, with a number of clubs having folded or amalgamated in order to survive due to a lack of players or funds to keep operating. As a result, a host of newly established clubs have had to start from the bottom of the cricketing league structure with limited resources and cannot afford to own or develop their own site, leading most to rent council or school pitches. The surplus capacity across Gloucester is also a reflection of the very limited junior activity and teams which would otherwise contribute midweek use.

Gloucester has enough capacity to cater for both current and future demand but must seek to improve the quality of existing pitches and ancillary provision in use which may prove unattractive to potential players. This will also serve to attract better quality players and will provide a better environment to facilitate skill development through both a higher calibre of match play and practice.

Cricket summary

- In total, there are 14 grass cricket squares in Gloucester City all of which are available for community use. There are also six artificial wickets, five of which are located at school sites and one at Bishop's College which is not fit for use.
- There has been a reduction in the number of cricket pitches as a reflection of the decline in demand for cricket over the past decade albeit pitch quality has also affected usage. There were previously six squares at Plock Court where there is now only one which is also unused. Aspire Trust reports that these pitches could be reinstated in the event of an increase in demand.
- The non-technical assessments carried out on cricket squares in Gloucester found three squares to be of good quality and 10 were of standard quality, with one poor quality square at Hucclecote Playing Field.
- Clubs generally report the condition of squares as adequate but highlight issues with outfields being poor quality.
- There is some imported and exported demand identified on the fringes of Gloucester. For example, Kingsholm CC exports demand to nearby Sandhurst and Ullenwood Bharat CC imports from Birdlip.
- Of those sites with existing community use, there are five which show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Gloucester, totalling 183 match sessions per season.
- Only one site in Gloucester is considered to be overplayed, Crypt School by a total of 25 match sessions per season. The pitch only contains five grass wickets and with school fixtures and community use by AIW CC it is deemed to be overplayed.
- Further to this, two sites are played to capacity, Gloucester Park (Gloucester Winget CC) and Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre (which is unavailable for community use).
- Overall there is sufficient capacity within Gloucester to accommodate current and future demand on existing squares, however; there is a lack of access to high quality playing and ancillary facilities.
- It is likely that provision of new good quality pitches in Gloucester would increase demand to play cricket.

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into six areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. Gloucester City falls within South West Area, with a County Development Manager and a team of community rugby coaches that deliver core programmes in schools and clubs.

Their variety of programmes, which include 15 aside, 10 aside, 7 aside, Tag and the O2 Touch programme, all aim to increase and retain participation within the game. In order to sustain and increase participation in the game facilities need to be appropriate, affordable and accessible. Rugby union is very popular in the City, which is reflected by Gloucester being selected as one of the host cities for the forthcoming Rugby World Cup 2015 (RWC2015).

Club consultation

Face to face consultation was carried out with Hucclecote RFC, Gordon League RFC and Old Centralians RFC to discuss issues which are used to inform this section of the report. All other clubs were contacted by email and invited to register their views via an online survey. Only Hardwicke & Quedgeley Harlequins RFC did not submit a response.

There is one professional club in the City; Gloucester Rugby, playing at Kingholm Stadium which compete in the Aviva Premiership alongside other domestic and European competitions. As professional stadia it is of high quality/standard with no wider access for community use. The Club has a training base at Hartpury College where it has exclusive use of some of the pitches.

4.2: Supply

In total, 48 senior and five mini rugby union pitches are located across 23 sites in Gloucester City, of which, 39 pitches are available for community use. There are a further three senior pitches available at Hartpury College which are not used by City based clubs but have been acknowledged as possible alternatives for use if required.

There is no full size World Rugby Regulation 22 AGP in Gloucester City. The nearest is located at Hartpury College just outside of the study area and clubs both in the City and surrounding areas within Gloucestershire export demand to access it on occasions during the winter when required.

NB: The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to the RFU guidelines; 'Grass Pitches for Rugby' at www.rfu.com

For a key to the map overleaf see Table 4.3.

Unused sites

Gloucester All Blues RFC has one senior pitch which is currently unused as the site became unsuitable due to the effects of flooding over recent years. The Club currently uses Bishop's College for matches and training but has this season (2015) completed refurbishment of the clubhouse at its homeground and hopes to continue with the rejuvenation of the site in the hope that the pitches can again be used.

The Lannett is owned by the Council and has two senior rugby union pitches which were previously home to Tredworth RFC. The Club folded in 2014 due to a lack of revenue meaning the pitches are currently lying unused as is the clubhouse building which stands on the site. Due to the lack of use, the Council intends to convert the pitches to youth 11v11 football pitches for the 2015/16 season.

A rugby union pitch was previously marked at Plock Court over a footbridge beyond the existing grass pitches. The pitch is not quite senior size and was marked as a junior pitch but received no use. It is subsequently no longer marked in the absence of reported demand however is able to be brought into use if requested.

Gloucester Civil Service Club was previously a multi club site managed by the Civil Service Sports Council (as detailed earlier in the Lapsed Site Section) which was home to Gloucester Civil Service RFC. The Club relocated to Dowty Sport & Social Club but eventually folded.

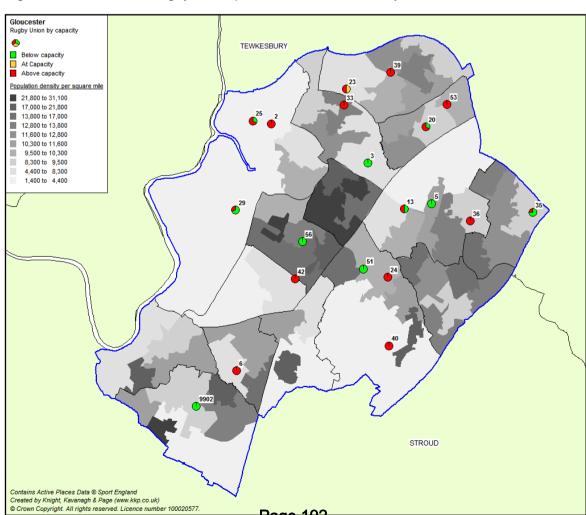


Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches in Gloucester City

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Ownership/management

Only Gordon League RFC has ownership of its ground with the majority of rugby union clubs in Gloucester City having a lease agreement. All clubs are considered to have secure tenure of the pitches. Old Centralians RFC is based at an education site (Gloucester Academy), however, the Club has a long term lease to ensure use of the pitch.

Coney Hill RFC currently leases its homeground from the Council although the Club is looking to gain greater security of tenure beyond the 23 years remaining on the agreement. The Club has aspirations to make improvements to the pitch nearest to the clubhouse and is in discussion with the Council regarding the acquisition of the pitches or a new extended lease agreement which would enable it to apply for grant funding (25 years as required by Sport England).

The Memorial Ground is owned by Gloucester Rugby and has a split lease agreement between the two resident clubs. There are four senior pitches, two of which are leased by Old Cryptians RFC whilst the remaining two are leased by Widden Old Boys RFC. Both clubs hold long term lease agreements in excess of 20 years, therefore tenure is considered to be secure.

The City Council owns three sites with four pitches which are managed by a commercial company. Two sites are currently used by community clubs whilst The Lannett is currently unused. Gloucestershire County Council owns the pitch at Saintbridge Recreation Ground which is managed by the City Council and too lies unused at present but could be marked out if required.

Pitch quality

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.

The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

Table 4.1: Definition of maintenance categories

| Category | Definition |
|----------|---|
| MO | Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme |
| M1 | Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme |
| M2 | Action is no improvements to maintenance programme |

Table 4.2: Definition of drainage categories

| Category | Definition |
|----------|---|
| D0 | Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch |
| D1 | Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch |
| D2 | Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch |
| D3 | No action is needed on pitch drainage |

Table 4.3: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores:

| | | | Maintenance | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|--|--|
| L | | | Poor (M0) | Adequate (M1) | Good (M2) | | |
| | Ð | Natural Inadequate (D0) | Poor | Poor | Standard | | |
| | Drainage | Natural Adequate (D1) | Poor | Standard | Good | | |
| | air | Pipe Drained (D2) | Standard | Standard | Good | | |
| | Δ | Pipe and Slit Drained (D3) | Standard | Good | Good | | |

The table below shows quality ratings for each of the sites in Gloucester based on non-technical site assessment scores.

Table 4.4: Site quality ratings

| Site ID | Site name | Ownership/ Management | Community use? | Pitch type | Non tech score | Quality rating | No. of pitches | Comments |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| 2 | Archdeacon Meadow | School | No | Senior | M1 / D1 | Standard | 4 | Offsite sports provision for the Kings School with no identified community access. Pitches undergo maintenance by school groundsman and are overmarked by cricket pitches in the summer. |
| 3 | Armscroft Park | Sports Club | Yes | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 2 | Council owned pitches maintained by AMEY. Gloucester Old Boys RFC reports that the pitch has got slightly better over the past year and that it drains better. |
| 5 | Barnwood Park Arts College | School | Yes | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 1 | Used by Coney Hill first team in preference over their pitches as it is flatter and bigger than the club pitches. Partially overmarked by cricket in the summer. |
| 6 | Beaufort Community School | School | Yes-unused | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 3 | Two of the pitches are marked for rugby union until January when they are they used for football. Limited maintenance by the Landscape Group which extends to cutting and lining. No remedial work due to cost. Water gathers at the bottom end of the pitches. |
| 13 | Coney Hill RFC | Sports Club | Yes | Senior | M0 / D0 | Poor | 2 | The pitches at the club are rutted through the middle where people have walked over and the natural drainage is not very good. |
| 14 | Crypt School | School | No | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 3 | The school does not make the pitches available to let by community clubs due to the poor quality, in an effort to manage the condition alongside weekly school use. |

| Site ID | Site name | Ownership/ Management | Community use? | Pitch type | Non tech score | Quality rating | No. of pitches | Comments | |
|------------|---|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|
| 20 | Elmbridge Playing Field | Sports Club | Yes | Senior Mini | M0 / D1 M0 / D1 | Poor Poor | 2 | Poor quality pitches used by Old Richians RFC. Adequate natural drainage. | |
| 23 | Bishop's College | Trust | Yes | Senior | M0 / D0 | Poor | 2 | Poor quality pitches maintained by AMEY and operated by ASPIRE trust. One floodlit pitch. | |
| 24 | Gloucester Academy | School | Yes | Senior | M0 / D0 | Poor | 1 | Pitch used by Old Centralians RFC and drains very poorly, often unplayable between November and February. Very limited maintenance by school and little additional work carried out by the Club. | |
| 25 | Gloucester All Blues RFC | Sports Club | Yes | Senior | M0 / D0 | Poor | 2 | Pitches are situated on a floodplain and have been lying unused for a number of | |
| 25 | Gloucester All Blues RFC | Sports Club | Yes | Mini | M0 / D0 | Poor | 1 | years having been rendered unusable by sewage and flooding from the nearby river. Have been sanitised and are ready to use again for the 2015/16 season. | |
| 29 | Gordon League Rugby Football Club | Sports Club | Yes | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 3 | Three pipe drained pitches, however the pipes under pitch two are suspected to have collapsed as evidenced by a sizeable hump in the middle section of the pitch. Training pitch three is very muddy and boggy and not very safe particularly for junior play. | |
| 33 | High School For Girls Grass Pitches | School | Yes | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 1 | Natural drainage but does so quite well according to the school. Maintenance subcontracted and has undergone fertilisation and aeration in the last few years. | |
| 35 | Hucclecote Playing Field | Sports Club | Yes | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 1 | Club received grant funding to carry out some remedial work a few years back but since then maintenance has been limited and inconsistent due to cost. | |
| 35 | Hucclecote Playing Field | Sports Club | Yes | Mini | M0 / D1 | Poor | 3 | | |

| Site ID | Site name | Ownership/ Management | Community use? | Pitch type | Non tech score | Quality rating | No. of pitches | Comments |
|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| 36 | King George V Playing Fields | Council | Yes | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 1 | Poor quality pitch maintained by AMEY and subject to public use and dog fouling. |
| 39 | Longlevens Recreation Ground | Sports Club | Yes | Senior | M0 / D0 | Poor | 2 | Pitches receive little maintenance beyond grass cutting and line marking, though the Club did do some aeration work this season. Uneven surface which has become compacted and public access means it is susceptible to dog fouling. Pitches situated on a floodplain. |
| 40 | Matson Park | Sports Club | Yes | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 2 | Two poor quality pitches which receive little to maintenance beyond cutting and lining by AMEY. Matson RFC reports poor grass coverage and that it is often too long as it isn't cut frequently enough. Subject to surface damage through public access. |
| 42 | Memorial Ground | Sports Clubs | Yes | Senior | M0 / D0 | Poor | 4 | Both resident clubs report drainage issues due to no underlying system, which causes water to gather in big pools and the pitch to become exceptionally muddy. |
| 51 | Saintbridge Recreation Ground | City Council | Yes-unused | Senior | M0 / D0 | Poor | 1 | Poor quality pitch currently unused and therefore uncut or marked for match play. |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | School | No | Senior | M0 / D0 | Poor | 1 | One poor quality pitch used and managed by the school. Unavailable for community use due to school concerns over security and allowing access to the rear of the site. |
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | School | Yes | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 4 | Maintenance carried out by subcontractor but limited to cutting and lining with no remedial work done. Two pitches also used for football until summer term. Pitches nearest the building slope so water pools in the goal area by the school. |

| Site ID | Site name | Ownership/ Management | Community use? | Pitch type | Non tech score | Quality rating | No. of pitches | Comments | |
|------------|---|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | School | No | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 3 | Three poor quality pitches used for PE lessons and by the ten rugby union teams for after school and occasional Saturday morning fixtures. Not made available for community use due to poor quality. | |
| 56 | The Lannett | Council | Yes - unused | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 1 | Poor quality pitches currently unused and | |
| 56 | The Lannett | Council | Yes-unused | Mini | M0 / D1 | Poor | 1 | not marked accordingly. Cut and lined by AMEY and can be made available upon request. | |
| 9902 | Kingsway Sports Field | Council | Yes | Senior | M0 / D1 | Poor | 1 | Relatively new pitch built in 2014 as part of wider community development of the site. Maintained by AMEY. | |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | College | Yes-unused | Senior | M2 / D3 | Good | 2 | Good quality pitches maintained by a groundsman employed by the college. First | |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | College | Yes | Senior | M2 / D3 | Good | 1 | team pitch used by the college club team in the national leagues. | |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | College | No | Senior | M2 / D3 | Good | 2 | Two pitches used exclusively by Gloucester Rugby which is based onsite for training and daily operations. There is no use by either the school or other community clubs. | |

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Gloucester have access to changing room provision for home games at their main sites.

Gloucester All Blues RFC has recently completed restoration and refurbishment of the clubhouse facilities at Castlemeads after the building was damaged along with the pitches by flooding. The site has two changing rooms which are old and poor quality, served by one communal shower area. The Club identifies improvement of changing facilities as a priority and has held outline talks with the RFU about flood proofing of any future development given the increased cost.

Coney Hill RFC is now a limited company with greater business focus and has aspirations to improve both the clubhouse and changing facilities as part of wider development of the site should it acquire ownership or secure longer term tenure. This includes fencing of the site and a spectator balcony as part of the clubhouse, overlooking the pitches. The changing rooms are used by a number of football and cricket teams, as the Club operates the neighbouring school cricket pitch and the nearby Council owned football pitch which are let with accompanying changing provision at the rugby club.

Widden Old Boys RFC also believes the changing accommodation at the Memorial Ground to be poor quality. There are currently four changing rooms, two home and two away, one of which has en suite shower facilities whilst the other three changing rooms share a communal block.

Gloucester Old Boys RFC recently received RFU Social Spaces grant funding to refurbish the bar area and has now identified the need to make improvements to changing and shower facilities. Old Richians RFC also has plans to make improvements to the clubroom at Elmbridge Playing Field and similarly received RFU grant funding to help do so.

Gordon League RFC is of the opinion that there is a need to make improvements to the social space and changing facilities onsite, particularly the toilets. The Club hopes to develop its small junior section but believes that the quality of provision is a barrier to holding junior and mini events onsite.

Clubs using Bishop's College for training or matches report insufficient access to changing provision provided by Oxtalls Indoor Tennis Centre. Changing facilities are shared with other site users which can cause congestion, particularly in the evenings when one communal male changing room may be used by football and hockey teams as well as people using the indoor tennis facilities.

Development

There are joint proposals by ASPIRE and the University of Gloucestershire to develop the Bishop's College site which currently has two senior rugby union pitches which are well used by community clubs for training and ad hoc match play. Plans for a sporting hub include the construction of a new World Rugby Reg 22 compliant AGP in place of the existing floodlit grass pitch, with intentions for a second World Rugby certified AGP to be built onsite shortly after. Both pitches would be available for community use and managed by ASPIRE, with changing facilities available at both the neighbouring Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre and a new sports centre which is also planned as part of the project. Intentions are for University teams to use the facility for both midweek afternoon matches and evening training sessions.

There are also proposals for another hub site towards the south of the City at Blackbridge Playing Field which is owned by Gloucestershire County Council. Intentions are for a multi-sport venue to incorporate the athletics club currently onsite and there is potential for plans to include rugby union provision including an AGP which would also likely be World Rugby compliant.

Old Centralians RFC has aspirations for a World Rugby certified AGP at Gloucester Academy. The Club plays in the national leagues and regularly has games called off due to the poor quality of the pitch. The RFU is similarly concerned with the quality of the pitch given the standard of competition and is supportive in the Club exploring opportunities to access grant funding alongside the Academy towards the possible construction of an artificial pitch in its place.

Hucclecote RFC is set to benefit from the creation of a new mini pitch which will enable more of its mini teams to play onsite rather than at King George V Playing Fields. A new pitch is set to be built on the land adjacent to Hucclecote Playing Fields funded by developer contributions linked to a local housing development. This pitch has been included in the capacity analysis and is hoped to be available for the 2015/16 season.

4.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Gloucester tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play, organised training and casual use.

Competitive play

Thirteen rugby union clubs play in Gloucester, providing a total of 94 teams. There are 31 senior teams, of which, there is just one ladies team from Hucclecote RFC. There are also 25 junior boys' teams and 36 mini teams. Only Old Richians RFC has girls rugby and fields specific girls teams at U13s and U15s age groups. HE and FE establishments contribute a further two teams, with Gloucestershire College and University of Gloucestershire each fielding one team playing midweek fixtures, though demand from the university is displaced in Cheltenham.

Table 4.5: Summary of demand by analysis area

| Team play | No. of rugby union teams | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----|----|--|--|
| | Senior Juniors Mini | | | | |
| Club leagues | 26 | 3 | - | | |
| Infrequent/friendlies | 5 | 24 | 36 | | |
| Student sport | 1 | - | - | | |
| TOTAL | 32 | 27 | 36 | | |

Longlevens RFC fields the most number of teams with 16, made up of three adult, six junior and seven mini teams. Old Richians RFC and Hucclecote RFC each also have a large number of teams with 14 and 13 respectively.

Some clubs highlight a decrease in junior teams over the last few seasons, particularly at Colts level. Spartans RFC, Gloucester Old Boys RFC and Coney Hill RFC all report a decrease in Colts teams due a lack of players to form a full team and that existing players of that age are now accommodated in senior squads playing senior rugby.

Surveys highlight a decrease in senior participation at a number of clubs. Longlevens RFC third team previously played league rugby but had to become an infrequent side, playing friendlies only, due the demands of first and second teams.

Matson RFC and Gloucester Old Boys RFC have experienced the same issue and each has lost a regular third team, citing a lack of registered players as the main reason. Gloucester All Blues RFC also lost a senior team and was reduced to just one team, largely as an effect of having to move from the home ground due to flooding, which may have caused some players to become disinterested.

Training

Training generally takes place either on match pitches which have full or partial floodlighting or on separate floodlit training areas. There is little use of AGPs for training other than ad hoc usage during the winter when pitches and training areas become exceptionally muddy and unusable for quality skill practice.

There is some unmet demand amongst clubs for access to a rugby suitable AGP and it is likely that the relatively small amount of training on AGPs at present is largely due to the absence of 3G provision in the City and the subsequent unsuitability of sand based surfaces for rugby union practice.

The majority of clubs train on match pitches where floodlighting allows. Only four clubs (Hucclecote RFC, Longlevens RFC, Old Centralians RFC and Old Richians RFC) do not train on competitive pitches at the homeground, either on separate floodlit training areas or on the floodlit pitch at Bishop's College which is a popular alternative floodlit pitch for training.

All other clubs train on at least one match pitch at the homeground in some capacity, often twice a week. Consistent training, particularly in poor weather conditions, can be a key contributor to poor quality pitches through overuse and a lack of time for rest and regeneration. Use of a separate floodlit area helps to reduce the demand on pitches, many of which already receive limited maintenance, which in turn will help to sustain existing pitch quality for match play.

Unmet and displaced demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering its growth. No rugby union teams identify specific unmet demand for grass pitches.

Displaced demand refers to existing demand which is exported outside of the study area or within the area but a distance from the local community. Demand from University of Gloucestershire is currently displaced, with games currently played in Cheltenham. This is partly because it also has a campus in Cheltenham and some students are based there, however; the University reports a desire to expand its sporting offering including facilities and for competitive student sport to be played within Gloucester.

Casual/unofficial use

Some of the responding clubs report issues with unofficial use or damage to pitches. Longlevens RFC, Gloucester Old Boys RFC and Coney Hill RFC all report their pitches to be subject to dog fouling and public access. Old Centralians RFC also highlights issues with littering by school pupils which is left on the Gloucester Academy site.

Other sports

There is additional demand for rugby union pitches from rugby league and American football teams. There are no specific rugby league pitches in Gloucester, therefore matches are usually played on rugby union pitches.

There is also use of rugby union pitches by Gloucester Centurions American Football Club (GCAFC). American Football is typically played on AGPs, specifically 3G surfaces; however, the absence of 3G provision within the City means that matches tend to be played on grass rugby union pitches. The Club plays most matches at Bishop's College but it does not have one fixed homeground location and is somewhat nomadic due to the lack of specific suitable facilities. Use of pitches is subsequently unquantifiable as it is so sporadic, with the Club using Kingsway Sports Field and Bishop's College amongst a host of other AGPs. It reports growth in participation and demand for more teams but is limited by a lack of appropriate facilities.

Future demand

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 4.6: Team generation rates

| Age group | Current population within age group | Current no. of teams | Team Generation Rate | Future population within age group (2031) | Predicted future number of teams | Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Senior Mens (19-45) | 23,047 | 41 | 1:562 | 25,013 | 44.5 | 3.5 |
| Senior Women (19-45) | 23,050 | 3 | 1:7683 | 24,027 | 3.1 | 0.1 |
| Junior Boys (13-18) | 4,725 | 24 | 1:197 | 5,420 | 27.5 | 3.5 |
| Junior Girls (13-18) | 4,347 | 2 | 1:2174 | 5,197 | 2.4 | 0.4 |
| Mini rugby mixed (7-12) | 8,599 | 36 | 1:239 | 10,418 | 43.6 | 7.6 |

Future population projections forecast an increase in demand for senior mens and junior boys' rugby amounting for the creation of at least three more teams across the City at each age group respectively. There is also anticipated demand for the creation of at least seven new mini rugby teams. Increases in both senior women's and junior girl's participation are relatively small and it is likely that new players would join to become part of existing squads.

Two clubs state intentions to add junior sections for next season. Gloucester Old Boys RFC plan to start a new junior section beginning with one mini team. Gloucester All Blues RFC also plans to re-establish a junior section beginning with a mini team, generating the activity which was lost when the Club had to move site due to flooding. The junior section at Gordon League RFC has not been in place for long, though the Club is continuing to develop junior participation and would like to establish greater links with local schools to help do so. Coney Hill RFC is the only club with plans for a further team at junior level, with intentions to add an U16s team for next season.

Two teams plan to add an additional senior team for next season. Gloucester All Blues RFC plans to return the home ground at Castlemeads for next season and intends to reinstate a second team playing in the Merit League, with the hope that a return to the local community will see resurgence in demand. Coney Hill RFC also plans to add a fourth senior team in line with its club development plan.

4.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality, and therefore the capacity, of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ◆ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
- Mini teams (U7-12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch.
- For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
- For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ◆ All male adult club rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon.
- Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of team equivalents.
- Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey as follows:

Table 4.7: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

| | | | Maintenance | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| | | Poor (M0) | Adequate (M1) | Good (M2) |
| | Natural Inadequate (D0) | 0.5 | 1.5 | 2 |
| rainage | Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1) | 1.5 | 2 | 3 |
| Drain | Pipe Drained (D2) | 1.75 | 2.5 | 3.25 |
| _ | Pipe and Slit Drained (D3) | 2 | 3 | 3.5 |

This guide should only be used as a very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the last five years.

Education sites

There are a large number of education sites with rugby union pitches within Gloucester. Rugby union is a very popular sport in the area and features heavily within the local curriculum, with most schools fielding a large number of school teams and playing frequent fixtures. Only Old Centralians RFC uses a school site (Gloucester Academy) as its homeground, though Old Richians RFC and Coney Hill RFC make use of pitches at Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre and Barnwood Park Arts College respectively as additional venues because they adjoin the homeground. Availability of school pitches is mixed and a number do not allow community use in order to manage poor quality pitches for weekly school use, they include St Peter's Roman Catholic High School, Crypt School and Severn Vale School.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Gloucester is Saturday afternoons and junior and mini teams play on Sundays on senior pitches. Therefore, the peak time for requirement of senior pitches is actually Sundays, but not for senior rugby as the majority of demand comes from junior and mini teams.

Table 4.8: Rugby union provision and level of community use within Gloucester City

| Site ID | Site name | Available for community use? | Security of tenure | Pitch type | Quality rating | No. of pitches | Match equivalent sessions ⁷ (per week) | Site capacity (sessions per week) | Capacity rating | Comments |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| 2 | Archdeacon Meadow | Yes-unused | Secure | Senior | M1 / D1 (Standard) | 4 | 2.5 + 3 +4 | 8 | 1.5 | Kings School has five rugby union teams playing fixtures on Saturday afternoons. The pitches are not used by any other community clubs. Three sessions and four sessions added to account for training and curriculum use respectively. |
| 3 | Armscroft Park | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | Two poor quality pitches used by the two senior teams at Gloucester Old Boys RFC. No training takes place on match pitches. |
| 5 | Barnwood Park Arts College | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | 0.5 +1 +1 | 1.5 | 0.5 | All girls school with just one rugby union team playing infrequent fixtures, approximately five matches per season. Two match sessions added to reflect weekly training and curriculum use. Pitch used by Coney Hill RFC first team on Saturdays. |
| 6 | Beaufort Community School | Yes-unused | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | 0 +5 +6 | 1.5 | 6.5 | One poor quality pitch available for community use but not currently used other than by the school. Training on pitches five times each week plus two sessions curriculum use added per pitch. |
| | | | | | | 2 | | 3 | | Two dual use pitches are used for rugby until January from when they are then used for football. |
| 13 | Coney Hill RFC | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 1 | 5 | 0.5 | 4.5 | Second team pitch also used for junior matches on Sunday mornings and all midweek training as it is partially floodlit. |
| | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Reserve pitch used to accommodate infrequent teams such as 3rds and Vets on occasions when both league teams are at home. |
| 20 | Elmbridge Playing Field | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 2 | 4.25 +2 | 3 | 3.25 | Two poor quality pitches used by Old Richians RFC for senior matches and junior matches and training. Both pitches also used weekly by Sir Thomas Rich's School to help accommodate fixtures on Saturday mornings. |
| 20 | Elmbridge Playing Field | Yes | Secure | Mini | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | 0.75 | 1.5 | 0.75 | One mini pitch onsite which can host some mini play but most is spread across Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre. |
| 23 | Bishop's College | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 1 | 4 | 0.5 | 3.5 | One poor quality pitch with floodlights, primarily used by a number of clubs as a floodlit training facility. |
| | | | | | | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | - | Pitches onsite used by Old Centralians RFC third team and also Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC during summer. All year round play therefore no further use recommended. |
| 24 | Gloucester Academy | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Poor quality pitch used by Old Centralians RFC playing in the national leagues. Used by first and second teams but regularly unplayable when subject to adverse weather conditions. |

⁷ Where university training usage is unknown two match equivalent sessions have been added to current play.

| Site ID | Site name | Available for community use? | Security of tenure | Pitch type | Quality rating | No. of pitches | Match equivalent sessions ⁷ (per week) | Site capacity (sessions per week) | Capacity rating | Comments |
|---------|--|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| 25 | Gloucester All Blues RFC | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 2 | 2.5 | 1 | 1.5 | Two poor quality pitches subject to flooding from the nearby river. Unusable for a long time but the Club has recently moved back to the site and plans to play here and train on the pitches using mobile floodlights from next season. Match equivalents based on reported planned use for next season. |
| 25 | Gloucester All Blues RFC | Yes | Secure | Mini | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | New pitch currently unused. The Club plans to add a mini section and has installed the pitch ready to do so. |
| 29 | Gordon League Rugby Football Club | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 2 | 1.5 | 3 | 1.5 | Used for matches by both Gordon League RFC senior teams as well as Gloucestershire College. |
| | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 1.5 | 2.5 | Floodlit training pitch used twice weekly for senior club training and mini training and matches. Also used by the County representative squad for training twice monthly. |
| 33 | High School For Girls Grass Pitches | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1 | Off site school provision with little curriculum use, though marked with an athletics track in summer. Community use by Spartans RFC senior and junior teams for matches and junior training. |
| 35 | Hucclecote Playing Field | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Poor quality pitch which hosts senior matches from three teams, along with infrequent matches by U14 and U15 teams throughout the month. |
| 35 | Hucclecote Playing Field | Yes | Secure | Mini | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 3 | 2.25 | 4.5 | 2.25 | Used by Hucclecote RFC mini teams approximately three weeks out of four for matches or training in the weeks with no arranged fixture. |
| 36 | King George V Playing Fields | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1 | One senior pitch used as an additional venue to accommodate Hucclecote mini teams and one U13 team for matches and or training most weeks. |
| 39 | Longlevens Recreation Ground | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | Two poor quality pitches used by Longlevens RFC seniors and juniors. Training on separate grass area. Also used by one senior team from Dowty RFC for matches. |
| 40 | Matson Park | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 | Two poor quality pitches used by Matson RFC senior and juniors sections. Training on match pitches. |
| 42 | Memorial Ground | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 1 | 3.5 | 0.5 | 3 | Floodlit pitch which is used by Old Cryptians for matches and senior training. |
| | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 0.5 | 1.5 | Old Cryptians RFC second pitch which is slightly smaller and used for junior and mini matches and training. |
| | | | | | | 1 | 6.5 | 0.5 | 6 | Partly floodlit pitch used by Widden Old Boys RFC for senior training twice and Junior training once each week, as well as for matches and some junior use at weekends. |
| | | | | | | 1 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 2 | Widden Old Boys RFC second pitch used mainly for junior matches and training on Sundays. |

| Site ID | Site name | Available for community use? | Security of tenure | Pitch type | Quality rating | No. of pitches | Match equivalent sessions ⁷ (per week) | Site capacity (sessions per week) | Capacity rating | Comments | |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|---|---|-----------------|---|--|
| 51 | Saintbridge Recreation Ground | Yes-unused | Secure | Senior | M0 / D0 (Poor) | 1 | - | 0.5 | 0.5 | One poor quality senior pitch currently unused. Previously used by Old Centralians RFC for 3 rd team matches but not quite big enough. | |
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 2 | 0 +3 +4.5 +2 | 3 | 6.5 | School has 17 rugby teams and has around six matches per week across the four pitches. Two training sessions weekly per age group on pitches due to building of sixth form block on training grids. 1.5 match sessions training per age group and one match curriculum use added across the four pitches. | |
| | | | | | | 2 | 1.5 +3 +4.5 +2 | 3 | 8 | Two pitches used by Old Richians RFC for mini fixtures and training every week on Sunday mornings. | |
| 56 | The Lannett | Yes-unused | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | - | 1.5 | 1.5 | One senior and one mini pitch currently unused. Previously home ground of Tredworth RFC | |
| 56 | The Lannett | Yes-unused | Secure | Mini | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | - | 1.5 | 1.5 | which recently folded. Club still own clubhouse onsite. At present unmarked but available if there were to demand for use. | |
| 9902 | Kingsway Sports Field | Yes | Secure | Senior | M0 / D1 (Poor) | 1 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1 | Senior pitch used by the one senior team at Hardwicke & Quedgeley Harlequins for matches. | |

All junior play takes place on adult pitches and this has been added to calculate the actual play on sites. Team equivalents for training sessions taking place on match pitches have also been added.

There are three additional pitches located at Hartpury College which are available for community use, though use by City based clubs tends to be on an ad hoc basis if required. These pitches have not been included within the capacity analysis as they are not used regularly by clubs and are likely to be subject to demand from other local areas such as Forest of Dean which subsequently has not been captured.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Six sites show spare capacity totalling 5 match equivalent sessions at senior peak time, of which, two sessions are available at currently unused sites at The Lannett and Saintbridge Recreation Ground. Eight sites show spare capacity at junior and mini peak time, at which there are seven match equivalent sessions (two at currently unused sites) across six sites for play on senior pitches. There are two sites with spare capacity on mini pitches, totalling two match sessions, of which 1.5 sessions are currently unused at The Lannett.

Table 4.9: Actual spare capacity on pitches available for community use

| Site | Site name | No. of | Actual spar | e capacity |
|------|-----------------------------------|----------|------------------|--------------------------|
| ID | | pitches | Senior peak time | Junior/Mini peak time |
| 3 | Armscroft Park | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 13 | Coney Hill RFC | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| 20 | Elmbridge Playing Field | 1 (Mini) | N/A | - |
| 25 | Gloucester All Blues RFC | 1 (Mini) | N/A | 0.5 |
| 29 | Gordon League Rugby Football Club | 2 | 1 | 1.5 |
| 35 | Hucclecote Playing Field | 3 (Mini) | N/A | - |
| 51 | Saintbridge Recreation Ground | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| 56 | The Lannett | 1 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| 56 | The Lannett | 1 (Mini) | N/A | 1.5 |
| 9902 | Kingsway Sports Field | 1 | 0.5 | 1 |

Overplay

Fourteen sites currently used by community clubs in some capacity are overplayed by a total of 53.75 match equivalent sessions per week. All pitches exhibiting overplay are senior size, there are no overplayed mini pitches.

Table 4.10: Overplay on pitches currently used by community clubs

| Site | Site name | No. of pitches | Capacity rating |
|------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| ID | | | |
| 5 | Barnwood Park Arts College | 1 | 0.5 |
| 13 | Coney Hill RFC | 1 | 4.5 |
| 20 | Elmbridge Playing Field | 2 | 3.25 |
| 23 | Bishop's College | 1 | 3.5 |
| 24 | Gloucester Academy | 1 | 0.5 |
| 25 | Gloucester All Blues RFC | 2 | 1.5 |

| Site | Site name | No. of pitches | Capacity rating |
|------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| ID | | | |
| 29 | Gordon League Rugby Football Club | 1 | 2.5 |
| 33 | High School For Girls Grass Pitches | 1 | 1 |
| 35 | Hucclecote Playing Field | 1 | 0.5 |
| 36 | King George V Playing Fields | 1 | 1 |
| 39 | Longlevens Recreation Ground | 2 | 3 |
| 40 | Matson Park | 2 | 5 |
| 42 | Memorial Ground | 4 | 12.5 |
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | 4 | 14.5 |

The pitches at Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre are used heavily for matches and training by the large number of school teams, in excess of the recommended usage. Additional use by Old Richians RFC mini teams on Sunday mornings further exacerbates the level of overplay. The poor quality of pitches and basic maintenance regime limits the recommended capacity available, which combined with the exceptionally high level of usage causes the pitches to be significantly overused. The School previously used grids marked separately from the pitches for training; however, the building of a sixth form block on the land meant the training was transferred to match pitches.

The Memorial Ground exhibits the largest amount of overplay of a homeground club site amounting to 12.5 match equivalent sessions. The site is split between two teams with two pitches each but the majority of overuse (eight match sessions) derives from Widden Old Boys RFC which has more teams than Old Cryptians RFC. The tendency for both clubs to make use of the pitches for training because they are floodlit and may be considered a low cost option impacts greatly on the level of overplay, with five of the match equivalent sessions of use attributed to training between the two teams across the site as a whole.

A significant cause of overplay in Gloucester aside from training on match pitches is the high level of junior section activity on Sunday mornings. The absence of leagues at both mini and junior level means that games are arranged on a friendly basis and are generally played less frequently than they would be in a home and away league structure. This means that junior and mini use of pitches is generally sustainable because teams will train or play onsite every week except for in the case of an away fixture. The high level of activity in conjunction with the popularity of rugby union within Gloucester leads to a constant demand for pitches on an almost weekly basis rather than fortnightly as would typically be expected of teams playing within leagues.

The lack of spare capacity and subsequent overuse of pitches is a reflection of generally poor pitch quality and a subsequent limitation in recommended pitch capacity per week. This is exacerbated by training demand or demand from other users, not allowing pitches to be repaired properly and imparting consistent use every few days throughout the season with little rest. Limited maintenance programmes in most cases are doing little to offset or compensate persistent use.

4.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand above, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas, based on match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.11: Summary of demand for rugby pitches

| Pitch type | Actual Demand (match equivalent sessions) | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------|----------------|---------------|-------|
| | spare capacity ⁸ | Overplay | Current demand | Future demand | Total |
| Senior (senior peak time) | 5 | 53.75 | 48.75 | 2.5 | 51.25 |
| Mini | 2 | - | 2 | 6.75 | 4.75 |
| TOTAL | 7 | 53.75 | 45.75 | 9.25 | 56 |

Overall there is a shortfall of 56 match equivalent sessions in Gloucester to accommodate current demand. Additional future demand of 9.25 match sessions will be required when considering future demand highlighted by clubs and team generation rates. Gloucester does not have the available capacity at present to accommodate these required match sessions.

Senior pitches are significantly overplayed by a total of 47.75 match equivalent sessions, with an extra 2.5 sessions to be required from expected future demand from senior teams. The high level of overplay can be attributed to three key factors. Firstly, many teams use at least one senior pitch for training due to the presence of partial or full pitch floodlighting. A high level of use is therefore focused on one pitch and in some cases one area of lighting on that pitch, particularly as many senior teams in Gloucester City prefer to train twice weekly. A good example of this is at the Memorial Ground where training from both Old Cryptians RFC and Widden Old Boys RFC on full and partially floodlit pitches accounts for much of the overuse. Secondly, junior teams play on senior pitches on Sunday mornings as do a number of mini teams, using half of a senior pitch to play matches widthways. Several teams have large junior sections and the absence of a junior league structure in Gloucester means that teams are often using the pitches most weeks. Thirdly, pitch maintenance across the City is generally poor, which plays a large part in influencing the limited capacity available on most pitches. Maintenance of Council sites is typically basic whilst clubs often find cost to be a challenge when trying to maintain their own pitches. Overall, the limited pitch capacity combined with significant use across the city culminates in the high level of overplay.

There are currently two match equivalent sessions available on mini pitches which are enough to cater for current demand, as mini teams often play on senior pitches. Future demand predicts a requirement for 6.75 match equivalent sessions on mini pitches based on teams using pitches three weeks in every four due to the nature of play and matches or training at the home site most weeks. Gloucester City is therefore underserved by 4.75 match equivalent sessions on mini pitches to accommodate future demand. The creation of a new mini pitch neighbouring Hucclecote RFC will help to alleviate overplay at King George V Playing Field where the Club currently has mini teams playing on the senior pitch.

⁸ In match equivalent sessions

Rugby union summary

- In total, 48 senior rugby union pitches are located across 23 sites in Gloucester City, of which 39 are available for community use. There are also five mini pitches.
- Most pitches are located at school or sports club sites, with the exception of King George V Playing Fields, The Lannett and Kingsway Sports Field which are operated by the Council and Saintbridge Recreation Ground which is managed by the Council.
- There are four standard quality pitches at Archdeacon Meadow; otherwise all other pitches within the City are assessed as poor quality.
- There are two sites currently available for community use but unused, at The Lannett and Saintbridge Recreation Ground.
- Clubs typically train on match pitches in the case of full or partial floodlighting. The nearest World Rugby compliant AGP is at Hartpury College which clubs make ad hoc use of when required.
- ◆ There are 31 senior teams, of which there is just one Ladies team from Hucclecote RFC. There are also 25 junior boys' teams and 36 mini teams. Only Old Richians RFC has girls rugby and fields specific girls teams at U13s and U15s age groups. Gloucester College and University of Gloucestershire each also field one men's team.
- There is spare capacity of 5 match equivalent sessions across six sites with senior rugby union pitches at senior peak time and 7 sessions available at junior peak time. There are two match sessions available on mini pitches.
- Fourteen sites currently used by community clubs in some capacity are overplayed by a total of 53.75 match equivalent sessions per week, all of which are senior pitches.
- Overplay is generally due to excessive training use of pitches, sustained weekly junior use and limited capacity on pitches due to poor quality.
- Overall there are insufficient pitches in Gloucester to service current and future demand, totalling a future requirement for a further 51.25 and 4.75 match equivalent sessions on senior and mini pitches respectively.
- University of Gloucestershire and ASPIRE Trust have proposals for the development of the Bishop's College site. This would include two new World Rugby AGPs available for training and match play, of which there are currently none in the City.
- Old Centralians RFC has aspirations for a World Rugby Reg 22 compliant pitch at Gloucester Academy and is working alongside the school and RFU to explore opportunities to access grant funding.

PART 5: HOCKEY

5.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH). Competitive league hockey matches can only be played on sand based, sand dressed or water based pitches. Although 40mm 3G can be considered suitable for some recreational and school use this surface is not suitable for club matches.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on the peak day (Saturdays) provided that the pitch has floodlighting.

Club consultation

There are two community hockey clubs based within Gloucester City; Cleevillians HC and Gloucester City HC. An online survey was completed by Cleevillians HC and face to face consultation was carried out with Gloucester City HC.

5.2: Supply

There are four full size artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Gloucester suitable for competitive hockey, of which, two are sand filled and two are sand dressed. There are no water based pitches. All four pitches are floodlit and available for community use. See Part 6 for full AGP details, a summary of hockey suitable AGPs is shown below.

Table 5.1: Provision of hockey suitable AGPs in Gloucester

| Site ID | Site name | Surface type | Floodlighting? | Quality rating | Quality score |
|------------|---|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 44 | Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre | Sand Dressed | Yes | Standard | 78% |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | Sand Filled | Yes | Standard | 56% |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | Sand Dressed | Yes | Standard | 56% |
| 60 | University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) | Sand Filled | Yes | Standard | 64% |

Quality

Of the four sand based AGPs in Gloucester, all are assessed as standard quality and no pitches are rated as good or poor. The pitch at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre was recently resurfaced in 2012 and is subject to significant use for both hockey and football, yet represents the better of the four. Severn Vale School and St Peters Roman Catholic High School were assessed as relatively inferior quality.

The AGP at Severn Vale School has previously been subject to mole damage. However, the surface has since been repaired and is in relative adequate condition given that the age of the carpet (21 years old) dictates the need for replacement. The School has aspirations to refurbish it but does not have the funds to do so. During the day the pitch is left open and used by pupils as a playground area.

5.3 Availability and usage

All hockey suitable AGPs in Gloucester are available for community use at some level and only the pitch at Severn Vale School is currently unused for club or university hockey.

Table 5.2: Summary of availability and usage

| Site ID | Site name | Surface type | Floodlit? | Quality ⁹ | Total number of hours available for community use during peak period | Football/ rugby usage | Hockey usage | Spare capacity |
|------------|---|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 44 | Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre | Sand Dressed | Yes | Standard | 34 | 59% | 32% | 9% |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | Sand Filled | Yes | Standard | 34 | 100% | - | - |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | Sand Dressed | Yes | Standard | 23 | 41% | 24% | 35% |
| 60 | University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) | Sand Filled | Yes | Standard | 34 | 87% | 13% | - |

Severn Vale School pitch is managed and operated by Quedgeley Community Trust and is available at weekends between 9am and 6pm for match play. Evening hire is available from 5pm until 9pm but the pitch used to capacity by local football teams and there is no spare capacity for hockey training.

The pitch at University of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) is used for hockey by student teams which play on Wednesday afternoons but also require the pitch for training in the evenings. There is some training additional usage from Cheltenham Ladies HC and developments sessions held as part of the England Hockey Player Pathway Programme. There is no use for match play at weekends and instead use is by social football groups or coaching courses.

⁹ Quality is assessed via a combination of non technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre is a key sporting centre within the City and as such is a popular and well used venue. This pitch is the main site for hockey in the area and hosts almost all matches and training by Gloucester City HC, along with Cleevillians HC matches. The two clubs take up full use of the pitch through the day on Saturdays for match play, with some junior play and occasional mixed matches on Sundays. The pitch is operating at capacity throughout the week due to the high volume of football and hockey training and both resident clubs seek further capacity for training sessions.

St Peter's Roman Catholic High School available from 6pm until 10pm throughout the week. The pitch was part funded by West Bromwich Albion FC which has exclusive access on Mondays and Wednesdays for its academy teams, which leaves little capacity otherwise. The school reports that the AGP is used at capacity throughout the week but there is some capacity available at weekends for matches around use by The King's School teams on Saturday morning. The school site is used by Gloucester City HC as an additional venue to accommodate both matches and training due to a lack of available capacity at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre.

5.4: Demand

Table 5.3: Summary of hockey demand within Gloucester

| Club | Number of teams | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| | Mens Ladies Juniors | | | | | |
| Gloucester HC | 4 | 4 | 9 | | | |
| Cleevillians HC | 2 | - | - | | | |
| University of Gloucestershire | 2 | 2 | - | | | |

Gloucester City HC reports that the changing facilities at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre do not have a separate area which can be used by officials, as required by the national league. A social area is used as a makeshift changing area for referees which is not suitable. Junior teams currently play infrequent matches in a monthly festival style format in Cheltenham and the Club states it would like to host one of these events but is unable to due to a lack of available pitch capacity.

The Club recently moved back to Plock Court from playing at St Peter's Roman Catholic High School and believes this will help towards plans to grow the junior section. Intentions are to develop links with the university which is nearby and to develop satellite clubs through partnerships with Hartpury College and local primary and secondary schools with the help of Active Gloucestershire. The Club has plans to double the size of the junior sections but believes it is limited from doing so due to the lack of capacity in suitable time slots, particularly training where late midweek times are not appropriate for juniors. The Club believes there is a small amount of capacity on Sunday mornings but is wary that this clashes with local football and rugby union leagues which may have an impact on demand.

Gloucester City HC is keen to be based nearer to its social venue at Riverside Sports Club and would like to access a pitch which is closer. The Club has held exploratory talks with some schools about the potential for a joint venture to create a new pitch. The Kings School is near to Riverside Sports Club and the Club believes it would be an ideal location; however the school plays hockey matches on Saturday mornings which would reduce the amount of capacity available to the Club at peak time.

Cleevillians HC traditionally originates from Bishop's Cleeve in Tewkesbury and would like to play there but due to an absence of facilities in the area is based within Gloucester City. Cleevillians HC plays at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre and has a long standing booking there on Saturday afternoons. Both teams train at Imjin Barracks, just outside of the study area in Innsworth. The Club would like to move training to Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre as well rather than using two different venues but is unable to due to a lack of midweek capacity.

Similarly, Painswick HC has a ladies team playing on Saturday afternoons as well as a summer league mixed team on Sundays. The team trains in Churchdown but imports demand and plays matches at St Peter's Roman Catholic High School. Cheltenham HC

also imports demand and uses the AGP at University of Gloucestershire once a week for training.

University of Gloucestershire has two men's and two ladies teams playing matches in the BUCS leagues on Wednesday afternoons. All teams play on the AGP at University of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) and use the same pitch for training in the evenings.

Hartpury College recently established a new students union and is seeking to cater for a wider range of sports including new hockey teams, though it does not have a hockey suitable AGP onsite. It is likely that any hockey teams created will import demand into Gloucester City to access pitches for both matches and training.

Future demand

Population increases

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

| Table 5.4 | Team generation | n rates |
|-------------|-----------------|---------|
| I abic o.T. | Toani gonorano | milaics |

| Age group | Current population within age group | Current no. of teams | Team Generation Rate | Future population within age group (2031) | Predicted future number of teams | Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Senior Mens (16-45) | 25,470 | 10 | 2547 | 27,039 | 10.6 | 0.6 |
| Senior Womens (16-45) | 25,259 | 6 | 4210 | 26,314 | 6.3 | 0.3 |
| Junior Boys (11-15) | 3,732 | 5 | 746 | 4,491 | 6.0 | 1.0 |
| Junior Girls (11-15) | 3,529 | 4 | 882 | 4,333 | 4.9 | 0.9 |

Population increases are likely to result in the greatest growth in participation at junior level amounting to an additional team for both boys and girls. Participation is also anticipated to increase at adult level, though not enough to warrant the creation of any new teams. Instead it is likely that the additional players will be assimilated into existing mens and womens squads respectively.

Gloucester City HC plans to add a fifth men's team for next season to initially play friendlies as required in order to demonstrate consistency before applying to join the league the following year. It also has plans to double the number of junior teams over the coming years subject to available pitch capacity suitable for junior training and matches.

5.5 Conclusions

Gloucester is adequately provided for with regards to AGPs suitable for hockey matches at present. Both Gloucester HC and Cleevillians HC identify a lack of capacity throughout the week to accommodate training. Access to midweek capacity is the key issue surrounding hockey in the City and is the main barrier to increasing participation and number of teams.

An important contributor to the lack of available midweek capacity for hockey training is the usage by football and rugby union teams for training. This is exacerbated by the lack of 3G pitches in Gloucester that may otherwise alleviate some of the use of existing

AGPs. Notwithstanding that from a sustainability point of view it may not be appropriate to move all football/rugby training away from sand AGPs.

Hockey summary

- ◆ There are four AGPs suitable for competitive hockey within Gloucester City, of which, there are two sand filled and two sand dressed surfaces. However, only three are used for hockey with Severn Vale School being used for football only.
- Although all four AGPs are assessed as standard quality, some are better in relation to others. Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre achieved the highest score (78%) whilst St Peter's Roman Catholic High School and Severn Vale School scored the joint lowest (56%) of the four pitches.
- With the exception of Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre, which was resurfaced in 2012, the other three pitches are in excess of ten years old and may require future surface replacement.
- There are three clubs using AGPs in the area. Gloucester City HC is the largest club based in the City, whilst both Cleevillians HC and Painswick HC import demand due to a lack of facilities in their local communities.
- Gloucester City HC has plans to add a fifth men's senior team next year. It also has plans to double junior participation through links with local education providers but believes it is limited by a lack of available pitch capacity at appropriate times for juniors.
- The Club reports the lack of changing provision at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre to be a problem, specifically the congestion caused by changing in a communal area and the lack of a separate changing area for officials as specified in the national league requirements.
- Gloucester City HC and Cleevillians HC both consider Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre to be their home site at which they are based, though both teams access other pitches for training due to a lack of available capacity. Both teams would like to train onsite as well.
- Cleevillians HC trains outside of the City in Innsworth. The Club would like to train at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre if possible.
- Gloucester City is adequately provided for with regards to AGPs suitable for hockey matches at present. However, access to pitches for hockey training is a key issue as all AGPs are operating at capacity midweek primarily due to football training. This is reported as a limiting factor in the growth of participation at Gloucester City HC.
- The absence of 3G pitch provision in Gloucester plays a large part in the midweek capacity issues of hockey suitable AGPs as many are used for football and rugby union training.
- University of Gloucestershire has recently purchased Debenhams Sports Field and has plans to develop the site as well as its Oxstalls Campus. It is currently unknown whether this includes the threat of losing the sand based AGP at Oxstalls Campus but doing so would exacerbate the existing shortfall of capacity available to accommodate training demand. Further investigation would be required to examine the extent of this if there was an increase in 3G pitches in the City which could accommodate some of the existing football training on sand AGPs.

PART 6: ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

6.1 Introduction

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

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini soccer and youth level. Only competition up to (but not including) regional standard can take place on a 40mm pile. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

Hockey is played predominantly on sand based/filled AGPs. Although competitive play cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for beginner training and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union (this is also adopted by rugby league). The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place.

Table 6.1: AGP type and sport suitability

| Surface | Category | Comments |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Rubber crumb | Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad) | Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22, requires a minimum of 60mm. |
| Rubber crumb | Long Pile 3G (55-60mm) | Preferred football surface |
| Rubber crumb | Short Pile 3G (40mm) | Acceptable surface for some competitive football |
| Sand | Sand Filled | Competitive hockey and football training |
| Sand | Sand Dressed | Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training |
| Water | Water based | Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated. |

6.2 Current provision

The table overleaf provides a list of the current supply of AGPs identified in Gloucester. There are four full size AGPs as well as two at Hartpury College (just outside the study area) which are considered to accommodate a significant proportion of demand from within the City. There is no FA or World Rugby certified AGP within Gloucester suitable for competitive play, though Hartpury College has one of each.

Table 6.2: AGPs in Gloucester

| ID | Site name | Ownership/ management | No. of pitches | Pitch type | Certification |
|------|---|--------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| 44 | Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre | Commercial | 1 | Sand Dressed | None |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | School | 1 | Sand Filled | None |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | School | 1 | Sand Dressed | None |
| 60 | University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) | University | 1 | Sand Filled | None |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | College | 1 | Long Pile 3G (65mm) with shock pad | World Rugby Reg 22 |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | College | 1 | Medium Pile 3G (55- 60mm) | |

6.3 Quality

All six pitches included in the analysis are assessed as standard quality; with the exception of the medium pile 3G at Hartpury College which is of poor quality. Though all pitches achieved the same quality rating, not all are comparable in condition and some are better than others. Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre represents the better of the four (78%), whilst Severn Vale School and St Peters Roman Catholic High School were assessed as relatively lesser quality (56%). University of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) scored 64% and therefore acts as the mid range amongst the three aforementioned pitches.

The carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately 10 years. Aside from the pitch at Oxtalls Indoor Tennis Centre which was recently resurfaced, three of the four AGPs in Gloucester are approximately 12 years old or greater and are due future carpet replacement.

The medium pile AGP at Hartpury College is also approximately ten years old and likewise requires surface replacement. The pitch has become compacted due to heavy use and the quality of line markings is poor. It was previously FA accredited for competitive football use but is yet to be recertified and as such competitive play is not supported at present.

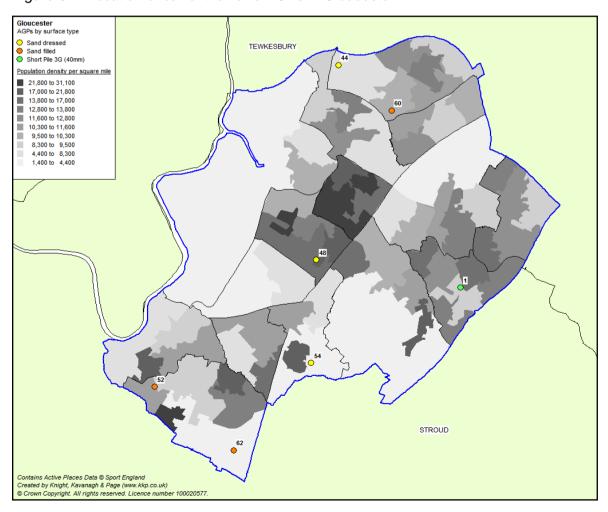
Severn Vale School acknowledges the need to replace the AGP surface and stated that it would like to retain a hockey suitable pitch, although there is no current hockey use by community clubs. The School reports previous problems with local wildlife which got into the base of the pitch and caused issues with the surface but this has since been resolved.

Table 6.3: Summary of quality

| Site ID | Site name | Surface type | Year built (refurbished) | Floodlit? | Quality |
|------------|---|--|--------------------------|-----------|----------|
| 44 | Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre | Sand Dressed | 1996 (2012) | Yes | Standard |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | Sand Filled | 1994 | Yes | Standard |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | Sand Dressed | 2003 | Yes | Standard |
| 60 | University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) | Sand Filled | 2002 | Yes | Standard |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | Long Pile 3G (65mm) with shock pad | 2012 | Yes | Standard |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm) | 2005 | Yes | Poor |

From 2014/15 only 3G pitches with a valid performance test and listed on the FA Register (http://3g.thefa.me.uk/) can be used for competitive play. This is to ensure the pitch has the same playing characteristics as natural turf and ensures that the pitches are safe to use.

Figure 6.4: Location of current full size AGPs in Gloucester



6.4 Availability

The following table summarises the availability of full size AGPs for community use in Gloucester. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 6.4: AGP availability define security of tenure

| Site ID | Site name | No. of pitches | Availability for community use? | Availability for community use in the peak period |
|------------|---|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 44 | Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre | 1 | Yes | Monday-Friday : 18hrs Weekend : 16hrs |
| | | | | Total: 34hrs |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | 1 | Yes | Monday-Friday : 18hrs Weekend : 16hrs |
| | | | | Total: 34hrs |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | 1 | Yes | Monday-Friday : 7hrs Weekend : 16hrs |
| | | | | Total: 23hrs |
| 60 | University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) | 1 | Yes | Monday-Friday : 18hrs Weekend : 16hrs |
| | | | | Total: 34hrs |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | 2 | Yes | Monday-Friday : 13hrs Weekend : 14hrs |
| | | | | Total: 27hrs |

Table 6.5: Summary of usage

| Site ID | Site name | Surface type | Floodlit? | Quality ¹⁰ | Total number of hours available for community use during peak period | Football/ rugby usage | Hockey usage | Spare capacity |
|------------|---|--|-----------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 44 | Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre | Sand Dressed | Yes | Standard | 34 | 59% | 32% | 9% |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | Sand Filled | Yes | Standard | 34 | 100% | - | - |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | Sand Dressed | Yes | Standard | 23 | 41% | 24% | 35% |
| 60 | University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) | Sand Filled | Yes | Standard | 34 | 87% | 13% | - |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | Long Pile 3G (65mm) with shock pad | Yes | Standard | 27 | 56% | N/A | 44% |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | Medium Pile 3G (55- 60mm) | Yes | Poor | 27 | 56% | N/A | 44% |

In the main, availability of provision in the peak period is generally good. Where there is provision on education sites, this is generally made available after school and at weekends.

There is spare capacity for hockey match play at weekends at St Peters Roman Catholic High School amounting to approximately 14 hours (35% the weekly pitch availability). Gloucester HC already makes use of the pitch as an overspill facility.

¹⁰ Quality is assessed via a combination of non technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

A significant amount of midweek capacity at St Peters Roman Catholic High School is taken up by West Bromwich Albion FC academy teams. The professional football club is a partner and stakeholder in the AGP and subsequently has exclusive access on Monday and Wednesday evening, limiting availability midweek albeit that Gloucester HC does also use the venue in addition to Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre for training.

Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre currently operates at capacity midweek accommodating football and hockey training demand, as well as social bookings and small sided football leagues. There is also a lack of spare capacity at weekends as the pitch is used by Gloucester HC senior and junior teams and Cleevillians HC, with slots only available on Sunday mornings when there is little demand.

Severn Vale School reports that the AGP onsite currently operating at full capacity by football users, with no use by hockey clubs. Bookings are managed by Quedgeley Community Trust; however, the School is hoping to transfer operation of all community use to the trust in order to increase community use across the site, particularly at weekends as this would help to eliminate current staffing limitations.

Hartpury College has two AGPs which are both currently operating at capacity during football training peak time, which is also be considered as rugby union training peak time. The College reports having to turn bookings away due to a lack of capacity at required times. The pitches are used heavily throughout the day by college students and for BUCS teams, as well as exclusive use of the World Rugby pitch by Gloucester RUFC as its daily training base facility. Despite this, both pitches have capacity throughout the weekend for fixtures as both are certified as match play.

Pricing and cost

All of the AGPs in Gloucester are available for community use, yet it should be acknowledged that cost of booking may influence usage of certain sites and possibly the process of travelling outside of the local community to access a site elsewhere in the local authority. Football clubs with many junior teams can often find it hard to identify capacity and pay for training slots for a high number of teams.

Table 6.6: Comparison of pitch hire costs for Gloucester City AGPs

| Site ID | Site name | Full pitch | | Pitch se | _ |
|------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | Block Booking | Casual Booking | Block Booking | Casual Booking |
| 44 | Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre | £72.50 per match £68 per hour | | £34 per half | |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | Unkı | nown | Unknown | |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | £47.50 per hour | £57 per hour | Unavailabl | e to hire |
| 60 | University Of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus) | £84 per match £60 per hour | | £35 pe | r half |
| 9903 | Hartpury College | Unknown | | Unknown | |
| N/A | Gloucestershire FA (Almondsbury) | £120 per match | | £42 per half | |

| Site ID | Site name | Full pitch | | Pitch segment (per hour) | |
|------------|---|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Block Booking | Casual Booking | Block Booking | Casual Booking |
| N/A | Allsaints Academy 3G (Cheltenham) | £60 per hour | | - | |
| N/A | Cheltenham College – sand based (Cheltenham) | £66 per hour | | 1 | |
| N/A | Stratford Park Leisure Centre – sand based (Stroud) | £69.70 per hour | | £69.70 per hour £31.90 per third | |

In comparison to similar facilities in neighbouring local authorities, sand based AGPs in Gloucester are competitively priced (£60-70 per hour), with St Peters Roman Catholic High School notably more affordable (£47-57 per hour) than most sand based pitches. Though there are no 3G pitches in the City itself, some clubs report travelling to access 3G pitches, particularly Gloucester City FC which uses the AGPs at Hartpury College.

6.5 Supply and demand analysis

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) – National Facilities Audit Dataset (January 2014)

The FPM is a model used as a starting point to help assess the strategic provision of sports facilities, including AGPs. The model is prescriptive and not predictive in that it does not provide precise estimates of the use of proposed facilities. Rather it prescribes an appropriate level of provision for any defined area in relation to demand and which reflects national expectations and policies. It is not a substitute for considering local club needs and should be used alongside any local assessment.

The bullet points below outline the conclusions drawn from the Sport England FPM run in Gloucester City. The run shows that satisfied demand is relatively high but that Gloucester City is supplied to capacity with full size AGPs, with demand balancing supply.

The bullet points below are concluding statements from the FPM model:

- Total demand is estimated to generate the need for a minimum of 4.1 pitches, compared to a current supply of 3.6 pitches
- There are two AGPs each in the North and South of the City. There are none in the central or eastern areas
- Most combined demand (96.8%) from residents is currently met by supply, which is higher than both regional and national figures
- There is subsequent combined unmet demand of 3.2%, equating to the capacity of 0.13 AGPs
- Gloucester AGPs are used at 96.7% of their capacity at peak times
- Overall there appears to be a good supply to meet demand for AGPs in the City, in particular sand based pitches. There are no 3G pitches in the City at this time. The FPM report does not justify the requirement of a new AGP in the City

Future plans for provision

University of Gloucestershire

ASPIRE has plans for the development of two new AGPs in conjunction with University of Gloucestershire. Intentions are for two new pitches, both of which would be FA and World Rugby certified, to be built on the old Bishop's College site behind Plock Court.

The University currently accesses sporting provision in Cheltenham where it has another campus but has ambitious plans to develop the sporting offering alongside an increase of 4,000 students, with all or most sports teams playing within Gloucester City.

Plans also include the building of a new sports hall with new changing facilities to service both the new AGPs and Plock Court, which would help to address the lack of changing space at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre.

University of Gloucestershire has recently purchased Debenhams Sports Field and has plans to develop the site which runs alongside the campus. Further detail is currently unknown together with the impact of provision at Oxstalls Campus, though any potential loss of the existing AGP would further increase the existing shortfall of capacity available to accommodate hockey training demand at peak time.

Old Centralians RUFC

The Club is located adjacent to Gloucester Academy where it plays on a poor quality rugby union pitch. The Club plays at a high standard in the National League but frequently has games abandoned or forced to move fixtures to other venues as the pitch is often unplayable between November and February. Both the Club and the Academy are keen to build a World Rugby AGP and has the support of the county RFU. Any potential development would require access to further funding and involved parties are hoping to explore funding opportunities created as part of the Rugby World Cup 2015 legacy.

Hartpury College

The College acknowledges the deterioration of the poor quality AGP onsite and has aspirations to resurface it. The College does not have funding in place at this time and stated it would likely seek the support of Gloucestershire FA to investigate possible funding opportunities in order to replace the existing surface with another FA certified pile.

Gloucester City FC

Gloucester City FC has experienced significant difficulty over the past decade since its ground was flooded for a third time and condemned for use. The Club has plans to return from playing in Cheltenham and aspirations to demolish the ground, raise the land, and to then build a stadia 3G pitch. It would use the pitch for both matches and training and is keen to maximise use of any future 3G through availability to the community as well as schools and groups throughout the day. Gloucestershire FA continues to support the Club in working towards a solution so that they can return to play within the City. At the time of writing, 'outline' planning permission has been approved for the demolition and redevelopment of the club's site at Sudmeadow Road.

Blackbridge sports hub

The local Councillor for Podsmead is driving proposals for a potential sports hub at Blackbridge, where Gloucester Athletic Club is currently based. Developments are at an early stage and plans for the proposed layout of the site including an AGP have yet to be drawn up before submitting for planning.

If all these proposals went ahead it would result in an additional four AGPs servicing Gloucester, including three World Rugby compliant and three FA certified 3G pitches. This would lead to Gloucester being adequately served for AGP provision.

The FA model

The FA considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The FA can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch type per hour from 5pm-10pm Mon-Fri and 9am-5pm Saturday & Sundays. It is estimated that one full size AGP can service 60 teams. On the basis there are 169 teams playing competitive football in Gloucester, there is a recommended need for three full size 3G pitches, currently there are none in the area.

There are, however, three smaller sized pitches that help to accommodate demand, for example from mini teams and for training. These can be seen in the table below:

| Site name | Surface type | Quality | Quantity | Size |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| Abbeydale Sports & Community Centre | Short Pile 3G (40mm) | Standard | 1 | 40x30 |
| Ribston Hall High School | Sand Dressed | Standard | 1 | 63x34 |
| Waterwells Sports Centre | Sand filled | Standard | 1 | 60x40 |

Local demand

Hockey

Gloucester is adequately provided for with regards to AGP surfaces suitable for hockey matches both at present and with the prospect of any future increase in demand. On balance, there is an undersupply of provision for training sessions when considering peak time training demand across all sports, due to a lack of 3G pitches in the City.

Football

Competitive football on 3G AGPs is generally not preferred in Gloucester City due to the absence of provision, with only one team (Quedgeley Wanderers FC Vets) currently playing competitive matches on 3G pitches in the Gloucestershire CFA Vets League held centrally at Hartpury College. Artificial surfaces are, however, used for training, with all sand based pitches used to capacity due to a lack of 3G surfaces. A number of mini and youth teams playing small sided formats of the game train on small sided pitches at the following sites:

- Abbeymead Sports & Community Centre (Abbeymead Rovers FC, Gloucester College)
- Waterwells Sports Centre (Quedgeley Wanderers FC)

Imported/exported demand

Gloucester City based teams such as Gloucester City FC and Tuffley Rovers FC export demand to access the pitches at Hartpury College for training. Gloucester City HC ladies first team also exports demand to nearby Cheltenham due to a lack of available capacity midweek at Oxstalls Sports Park.

Hartpury College has recently established a student union which will field additional sports teams in BUCS leagues. Some sports teams may have to look towards Gloucester City to access facilities, for example it is reported likely that the hockey team will seek use of Oxstalls Sports Park on Wednesday afternoons for matches.

St Peter's School reports hockey demand imported from Painswick HC which has one Ladies team using the AGP for matches on Saturdays. The School also highlighted use by The Kings School for hockey matches as the school has no AGP of its own.

Key trends and changes in demand for pitches

Demand from football for 3G AGPs has increased in recent years due to demand from clubs for training but also due to a growing acceptance by local leagues of use for competitive matches, where play on 3G pitches is now included within the FA Standard Code of Rule. This considered, the general condition of local authority pitches and increasingly limited budget for regular and adequate maintenance may lead more teams to consider AGPs as a possible alternative should it be financially viable.

A number of leagues around the country now use 3G pitches as central venues where all mini soccer play takes place, though this is not the case in Gloucester. Some vets leagues are also held at 3G central venues, for example, the CFA Vets League which was previously held on the 3G pitch at Hartpury College. This trend is likely to increase in the future and more mini soccer and vets leagues could be played exclusively on 3G pitches.

Given the poor quality weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where floodlights are in place (and Gloucester is no exception to this) or one pitch designated for all training in particular. This often results in deterioration in pitch quality coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

Nationally clubs identify the use of AGPs for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of AGPs for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

American football

Gloucester Centurions AFC currently uses grass rugby union pitches for both matches and training and is somewhat nomadic in its consistent use of various different sites. The Club reports that ideally it would like to play and train on a 3G pitch where it could be based but is unable to as there are none in the area. It states that because the dimensions of American football pitches are slightly larger, finding a suitably sized pitch of any nature is difficult. This is likely to translate to AGPs given typical dimensions of full sized AGPs including run off areas, although nonetheless the Club believes that use of a 3G surface would be preferred.

6.6 Conclusions

In summary, supply and demand analysis highlights that Gloucester is currently well served for hockey suitable AGPs but the absence of full size 3G pitch provision to service football and rugby is a priority.

AGP summary

- There are four AGPs in Gloucester all of which are sand based surfaces and are assessed as standard quality. With the exception of Oxstalls Sports Park, all require carpet replacement as they are more than 12 years old.
- There is also one 60mm pile 3G carpet compliant to World Rugby 22 standard and one FA certified 40mm pile 3G carpet at Hartpury College located in neighbouring Forest of Dean which services demand from the City.
- In the main, availability of provision in the peak period is generally good. Where there is provision on education sites, this is generally made available after school and at weekends.
- All full size pitches are operating at capacity for midweek training but most have some amount of spare capacity at weekends.
- The FA estimates that there is a need for three full size 3G pitches to service football training needs in Gloucester. Further to this, approximately a third of football clubs specified demand for access to 3G pitches.
- Demand also exists for a rugby compliant 3G surface in the City. In many cases floodlit grass pitches are overplayed due to training demand and which the provision of an alternate floodlit training facility would help to alleviate.
- A dedicated surface to accommodate football and rugby training would likely free up more hours accessible for hockey training. However, the sustainability of existing sand AGPs still needs to be maintained.
- In summary, supply and demand analysis highlights that Gloucester is currently well served for hockey suitable AGPs but the absence of full size 3G pitch provision to service football and rugby is a priority.
- University of Gloucestershire has recently purchased Debenhams Sports Field and has plans to develop the site as well as its Oxstalls Campus. It is currently unknown whether this includes the threat of losing the sand based AGP at Oxstalls Campus but doing so would exacerbate the existing shortfall for hockey training. Further investigation would be required to examine the extent of this if there was an increase in 3G pitches in the City which could accommodate some of the existing football training on sand AGPs.

PART 7: RUGBY LEAGUE

7.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the Championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game structure in the UK.

The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Club consultation

Gloucestershire Warriors RFC is the only club based and currently playing within Gloucester, whilst there are also two men's student teams fielded by University of Gloucestershire. All Golds RLFC is based across Cheltenham and Gloucester but currently plays in Cheltenham. Face to face consultation was carried out with All Golds RLFC and University of Gloucestershire, whilst Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC was able to register its views via telephone consultation.

7.2: Supply

There are no dedicated rugby league pitches marked out in Gloucester. The only site used for rugby league matches is Bishop's College, where the floodlit rugby union pitch is dually used for both codes of rugby.

The pitch is poor quality, most likely because it receives use all year round by rugby union teams for both matches and training and is used from March onwards by Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC. The Club is of the opinion that the pitch is generally good quality and that maintenance is of a satisfactory standard. However, having asked ASPIRE if the pitch could be subject to a 'rest period' was told that it was not necessary.

Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC make use of both pitches at Bishop's College, where the floodlit pitch is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions and the second pitch is considered to be played to capacity due to all year round use from rugby union and rugby league play.

7.3: Demand

All Golds RLFC is the largest club within the Gloucester area and operates semiprofessionally, with one senior team playing in RFL Championship One at weekends. All Golds RLFC is a club arm of the University of Gloucester and the two are strongly linked.

The University also has two student rugby league teams playing Wednesday afternoons in the BUCS League, with many of the players also making up part of the All Golds team.

All three teams currently play in Cheltenham at the Prince of Wales Stadium, though the university intends for both student teams to play in Gloucester in future. At present All Golds RLFC is happy to remain in Cheltenham. It is undecided as to a potential move back the City, particularly as the new leisure trust in Cheltenham is open to development ideas for the Prince of Wales Stadium and is keen to retain the Club. Teams currently train at various sites, including the AGP at University of Gloucestershire Oxtalls Campus and sites in Cheltenham.

The University of Gloucestershire has proposals alongside ASPIRE Leisure Trust to develop the site at Bishop's College to include the construction of two new 3G AGPs to be World Rugby Reg 22 certified, which in turn would meet RFL Community Standard criteria.

The University intends for both student rugby league teams to play matches and train on the new 3G pitches should the development go ahead, in order to provide a linked competitive programme with access to the sport science facilities at Oxstalls Campus. The proposals are part of University of Gloucestershire plans to develop the sporting offering for students at its Oxstalls Campus, the number of which is expected to increase by 4,000 students.

This is also likely to increase rugby league demand alongside participation initiatives such as the ongoing Active Universities programme. All Golds RLFC also runs participation programmes such as Play Touch Rugby League (PTRL) and links with local schools to deliver similar coaching such as the Sky Try initiative, both of which are likely to develop interest in the sport. The university also has aspirations to host one of the England youth academy squads, providing sports science support on campus and pitch provision either through the proposed new development or at the Prince of Wales Stadium in Cheltenham.

Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC plays on Saturday afternoons in the Conference South between March and September at Bishop's College. The Club has one senior team playing league fixtures but previously had a second team in 2012.

It has plans for a second team again next season to play friendly matches but is unable to commit to joining the West of England League because a number of players also play rugby union and the crossover of seasons means that there are not always enough players to consistently field a team each week.

The Club also links with All Golds RLFC as part of a holistic approach to rugby league in Gloucester and the two clubs share coaching knowledge and resources. Players from All Golds RLFC have the opportunity to play for Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC for example when not selected or coming back from injury and vice versa.

It also has aspirations for a junior section in the future but at present does not have the volunteer resources. It moved last season from playing matches at Elmbridge Playing Field (Old Richians RFC) in light of the proposed developments at Bishop's College and is keen to retain strong links with the university through partnership with All Golds RLFC, with intentions to be based at the newly developed site should proposals be accepted.

7.4: Conclusions

Despite the lack of a specific rugby league pitch, Gloucester is currently adequately served for pitches for rugby league use. Cross code pitch usage is not irregular within rugby league and given that there is only one team in the area playing less than ten matches a season, there is not a pressing requirement for a rugby league pitch and remarking existing pitches for rugby league is a more suitable option. Uncertainty as to whether All Golds RLFC wishes to be based in Gloucester means that future demand could be subject to change although given the matchday criteria to meet league requirements it is likely that the Club will continue to play at the Prince of Wales Stadium in Cheltenham. Any growth and addition of consistent junior or reserve teams at the Club may be centred in Gloucester given the strong links with the university and student players although the Club did not report any imminent increases in the number of teams.

Rugby league summary

- There are no pitches specifically marked for rugby league in Gloucester City. Play currently takes place at Bishop's College where the floodlit rugby union pitch is also used for rugby league.
- The University of Gloucestershire is a key driver behind rugby league in the area. It has two men's student teams and links to All Golds RLFC, its semi-professional club arm with one team playing in RFL Championship One.
- The only other club in the City is Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC, which too links with the university. The Club has one team playing Saturday afternoons at Bishop's College.
- Only Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC plays within the City. Both All Golds RLFC and the university export demand to Cheltenham where teams play at the Prince of Wales Stadium.
- University of Gloucester has proposals with ASPIRE to develop the site at Bishop's College
 to create two new RFL compliant 3G AGPs. Should this go ahead, intentions are for
 student teams to play matches and train on the 3G pitches. Gloucestershire Warriors RLFC
 is also keen to make use of any potential new facilities.
- Rugby league interest and participation is likely to increase in the future. Gloucester Warriors RLFC has added an infrequent second team and the university has plans to significantly increase the number of students.
- There are a number of rugby league initiatives taking place in the City which are likely to develop interest in the sport, including Play Touch Rugby League and the primary school Sky Try programme.
- There is great potential for crossover of players between both codes of rugby given the popularity of rugby union in Gloucester City.
- Despite the lack of a specific rugby league pitch, Gloucester is currently adequately served for pitches for rugby league use. Given the cross code transfer of players and the number of fixtures each season, continued play on rugby union pitches with vigilant management of usage is suitable.

PART 8: BOWLING GREENS

8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Gloucester are flat greens. Bowls England (BE) is the governing body responsible for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls across the Country. The bowling season for flat green runs from April to September.

Consultation

There are eight clubs using bowling greens in Gloucester, whilst Dowty BC (located in Cheltenham) has also been included in the analysis because it is considered to cater for demand from residents despite its location outside of the City. Four clubs replied to the survey, equating to a response rate of 44%. Several teams play on multiple days of the week as part of different leagues. The main leagues servicing the area are:

- Gloucestershire Bowls Association (Mens & Womens Sections)
- ◆ Glevum League
- County Bowls 2 Rink League (Mens & Womens Sections)

8.2: Supply

All seven bowling greens in Gloucester are flat greens, provided across seven sites. There are no double green sites, though the greens at Gloucester City BC and Gloucester Park are adjacent and there is some ad hoc sharing when required by the two resident clubs, which also share use of the one artificial green in the City at Gloucester City BC.

Gloucester
Bow by quality

Standard

Doublating destant per square rife

1 17,000 to 13,000

1 12,000 to 13,000

1 12,000 to 13,000

1 13,000 to 17,000

1 14,000 to 12,000

1 14,000 to 2,000

4 4,000 to 3,000

4 4,000 to 3,000

1 4,000 to 4,000

STROUD

Contains Active Places Data ® Sport England

Created by Kinght, Kawangah & Page (mink Actio out)

Created by Kinght, Kawangah & Page (mink Actio out)

Created by Kinght, Kawangah & Page (mink Actio out)

Figure 8.1: Distribution of bowling greens across Gloucester

Table 8.1: Key to map

| Site ID | Site name | No. of greens | Quality ¹¹ | Ownership |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 4 | Barnwood Bowling Club | 1 | Good | Sports Club |
| 10 | Caer Glow Bowling Club | 1 | Good | Sports Club |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | 1 | Good | Sports Club |
| 26 | Gloucester City Bowling Club | 1 | Good | Sports Club |
| | | + 1 artificial | | |
| 27 | Gloucester Park | 1 | Standard | Sports Club |
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | 1 | Good | School |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | 1 | Good | Sports Club |
| 9905 | EDF Energy Tennis Club | 1 | Good | Industry |

¹¹ Assessed via a non technical assessment

Quality

Non-technical site assessments show all greens in Gloucester to be assessed as good quality, with the exception of the green at Gloucester Park which is standard quality. No greens were assessed as poor quality. Green quality is generally good which may be influenced by the nature of management, with almost all operating as club sites. This is most likely due to increased ability to store maintenance equipment onsite and club members taking time to properly maintain the surface, whilst some greens have security from public access.

Barnwood BC reports that the green quality is much improved since last season, largely due to the hiring of a private subcontractor to carry out a higher standard of maintenance than was done previously.

Winget BC reports that the green at Tuffley Park reports that green quality has remained the same but that it has had previous issues with damage by foxes at night. The Club reports that the member who cares for the green is aging and that it has concerns as to the continuation of maintenance, though a younger member has begun to learn the relevant skills. The Club believes that if maintenance ever had to be subcontracted out then it would be crippled financially and that it would be very difficult to continue operating.

Ancillary facilities

Dowty BC is of the opinion that improvements are required at Dowty Sport & Social Club in order to foremost improve the quality of access pathways and areas surrounding the green. It also identifies further need to improve changing facilities, green fencing and storage facilities. The Club reports that it is limited in what improvements it is able to make because it is unable to apply for grant funding due to being a part of the overarching sports club.

Barnwood BC recently received Sport England Inspired Facilities grant funding to improve ancillary facilities. The Club is partway through the development which includes a new scoreboard and steps onto the green.

Winget BC recently submitted an application for grant funding towards the building of a new clubhouse at Tuffley Park. If successful, the Club intends to hire the building out as a function venue in order to generate revenue and increase involvement within the local community, which it believes could lead to being able to hire a contractor to help maintain the green.

There is a clubhouse at Gloucester City Bowling Club which services the two greens and the artificial green onsite. Gloucester City BC and Gloucester Spa BC each have use of a green, whilst the two clubs come together to share use of the artificial green and clubhouse building.

Ownership and management

Most greens operate as sports club sites on lease agreements, including Tuffley Park, Gloucester City Bowling Club and Gloucester Park which are all leased from the Council.

Barnwood BC is based at Barnwood Bowling Club where it has 61 years remaining on the lease from Barnwood Bowling & Tennis Co Ltd. Winget BC also leases the green at Tuffley Park and has 13 years remaining on the current agreement.

Caer Glow BC shares the green at Sisson Road with Co-Op BC which owns the site and to which it pays an annual rent for use. Dowty BC also pays an annual rent to Dowty Sport & Social Club for use of the green each season.

8.3: Demand

There are eight bowling clubs in Gloucester, each with multiple teams playing various evenings and afternoons throughout the week. Dowty BC is based at Dowty Sport & Social Club which is outside of the City boundary but is considered to service demand from City residents and has therefore also been included. The analysis below summarises information gathered from consultation with bowls clubs playing in Gloucester:

- The level of membership of clubs varies from 33 to 82 members
- Winget BC has the smallest membership with 33 members
- ◆ The largest club is Barnwood BC with 82 members and four league teams

Generally clubs and leagues in Gloucester report that membership levels have remained static over the last three years and no clubs have a waiting list for new members. The sport has experienced an overall decline in participation nationally which may be due to access to facilities in some cases; however, most clubs acknowledge a lack of interest in the sport amongst the local community, with few new bowlers taking up the sport. This adds to a player base which is largely drawn from the elderly community and in most cases the fall in numbers has been attributed to aging players, with a lack of younger or newer players coming into the sport to sustain demand. Barnwood BC reports two junior members whilst Dowty BC reports just one junior member. There are no junior leagues identified within the Gloucestershire area.

There are four main leagues based within the Gloucester City area. Many clubs, teams and bowlers may play in a number of these leagues simultaneously throughout the week and so although there may be a substantial number of teams; many are made up of the same players, thus representing a smaller player base.

8.4 Capacity analysis

Capacity is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon/evening when a popular league is operating but may be empty for the rest of the week.

Table 8.2: Bowling green capacity

| Site | Site name | No. of | Clubs | No of club members |
|------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------------------|
| ID | | greens | | |
| 4 | Barnwood Bowling Club | 1 | Barnwood BC | 82 |
| 10 | Caer Glow Bowling Club | 1 | Co-Op BC, Caer Glow BC | 50+ |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | 1 | Dowty BC | 51 |
| 26 | Gloucester City Bowling Club | 1 | Gloucester City BC | Unknown |
| 27 | Gloucester Park | 1 | Gloucester Spa BC | Unknown |
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | 1 | Sir Thomas Rich's BC | Unknown |
| 59 | Tuffley Park | 1 | Winget BC | 33 |
| 9905 | EDF Energy Tennis Club | 1 | EDF Energy BC | Unknown |

8.5: Conclusions

The largest club identified in the area is Barnwood BC with 88 members. The green caters for a large membership base and four teams playing consistently throughout the week, sometimes twice daily, in excess of the green capacity.

Caer Glow BC has a membership of 50 players across four teams playing both midweek and at weekends. The green is also shared with Co-Op BC which did not respond to the survey and therefore it is not possible to determine an accurate indication of level of use, though it is likely that the additional membership from Co-Op BC causes the green to be overplayed.

Winget BC has a membership of 33 players which make use of one green, therefore there is capacity for additional play and a growth in membership or access to pay and play.

Neither Gloucester City BC nor Gloucester Spa BC submitted a survey response and subsequently it is not possible to ascertain the level of usage, however; it is likely that there are no capacity issues due to the ability to make use of the shared artificial green which is onsite.

Bowls summary

- There are seven bowling greens in Gloucester City provided across seven single green sites. All are flat greens and there are no crown greens.
- ◆ There is one artificial green located at Gloucester City Bowling Club.
- All greens in the City are assessed as good quality with the exception of the green at Tuffley Park which is standard quality.
- There are no Council operated bowling greens and the majority of sites are operated by clubs with lease agreements securing tenure. There is one education site, where one green is located at Sir Thomas Rich's School.
- There is a general perception that the quality and maintenance of privately/club owned and maintained greens are of a good standard. This is likely to be due to cost of upkeep or a lack of equipment and knowledge of maintenance.
- Barnwood BC recently received grant funding for a new scoreboard and to make improvements to the access areas. Winget BC is similarly looking to apply for grant funding to improve ancillary facilities by building a new clubhouse at Tuffley Park.
- There are eight clubs using bowling greens in Gloucester City. Generally clubs in Gloucester City report that membership levels have remained static in the last three years
- Barnwood BC shows evidence of overplay at Barnwood Bowling Club. It is also likely that
 the green at Caer Glow Bowling Club is overplayed due to the additional usage from CoOp BC which shares the site.
- Gloucester City is generally well served for bowling greens at present as the nature of
 play is club focused, most of which have security of tenure at home sites. The key issue
 facing bowls clubs is the national decrease in playing members and sports development
 factors rather than a lack of accessible facilities.

PART 9: TENNIS

9.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Gloucester.

Consultation

A survey was distributed to all six tennis clubs in Gloucester, all of which provided a response. A survey was also sent to Dowty Sports & Social TC (based in Cheltenham) as it is considered to cater for demand from City residents though the Club did not submit a response. The six clubs based within Gloucester are:

- ◆ EDF Energy TC
- ◆ Gloucester Wotton LTC
- Kingsholm Square LTC
- Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre
- Riverside TC
- ◆ St Peter's Junior TC

9.2: Supply

There are a total of 75 tennis courts identified in Gloucester. The courts are located across 18 sites including private sports clubs, parks and centres. There are 28 courts (37%) unavailable for community use, most of which are at school sites.

Please note that for the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs.

There is only one single court site at Randwick Park. There are nine courts managed by the Council across four sites, four of which are located at The Oval.

Fourteen courts in Gloucester (19%) are floodlit, spread across four sites. Only eight of these courts are available and currently used, with four each located at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre and Riverside Sports and Leisure Club.

In addition tennis provision and coaching is available at Virgin Active Health Club which is not included in the analysis as it is not widely accessible to residents as a private members facility. Though it is not broadly accessible, the facility is likely to attract a significant level of demand from residents given the extensive tennis facilities onsite and professional tennis coaching available through membership, influencing the need and use of other sites in the City.

EDF Energy is also limited to public access and therefore not considered as widely available for community use. The courts are part of the overarching EDF Sports Club which provides leisure facilities for company members and as such use of the courts is exclusively for employees and their associate quests.

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Figure 9.1: Location of tennis courts in Gloucester

Please refer to Table 9.2 for a key to the map.

Just over half of courts in Gloucester are located at school sites (55%). Generally these are multipurpose facilities used as playgrounds and/or over marked with other sports such as netball. In most cases schools identify that provision is not floodlit or used outside of school hours. A summary of school provision is provided below:

Table 9.1: School provision summary

| School | Number of courts | Summary | |
|---|------------------|---|--|
| Barnwood Park Arts College | 6 | Courts overmarked with three netball courts. Poor quality and not available for community use. | |
| Beaufort Community School | 3 | Three standard quality tarmac courts overmarked for netball and with floodlighting. Available for use but no current club use. Reported lack of access due to use as cricket nets in summer during tennis season. | |
| Crypt School | 2 | Standard quality tarmac courts without floodlighting, therefore not made available for community use. | |
| Gloucester Academy | 3 | Poor quality floodlit courts overmarked for netball, used by school only. Unavailable for community use. | |
| High School for Girls | 6 | Six courts with accompanying changing pavilion, previously used by Glevum TC which no longer exists. School plans to increase community usage. | |
| Ribston Hall High School | 7 | Three tarmac courts with an additional four courts marked on the small sized AGP, none of which are floodlit. | |
| Severn Vale School | 6 | Six poor quality tarmac courts. Some occasional pay and play use operated by Quedgeley Community Trust but mostly school use. | |
| Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | 7 | Poor quality tarmac courts overmarked for netball use. School would like resurface due to poor quality. | |
| St Peters Roman Catholic High School | 7 | Separate areas of two courts and five courts, both often used as playground areas. Very poor facilities give tennis is a school focus sport and junior performance centre. | |

Table 9.2: Summary of provision site by site

| Site ID | Site name | Management | Availability for community use? | No. of courts | No. of floodlit courts | Court type | Court quality ¹² |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 | Barnwood Park Arts College | School | No | 6 | - | Tarmac | Poor |
| 6 | Beaufort Community School | School | Yes - unused | 3 | 3 | Tarmac | Standard |
| 11 | Clock Tower Park | Council | Yes | 2 | - | Tarmac | Poor |
| 14 | Crypt School | School | No | 2 | - | Tarmac | Standard |
| 17 | Dowty Sport & Social Club | Sports Club | Yes | 2 | - | Tarmac | Good |
| 24 | Gloucester Academy | School | No | 3 | 3 | Tarmac | Poor |
| 33 | High School for Girls | School | No | 6 | - | Tarmac | Standard |
| 44 | Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre | Trust | Yes | 4 | 4 | Clay | Good |
| 47 | Randwick Park | Council | Yes | 1 | - | Tarmac | Poor |
| 48 | Ribston Hall High School | School | Yes - unused | 3 | - | Tarmac | Standard |
| | | | | 4 | - | Sand dressed artificial | Standard |
| 49 | Riverside Sports & Leisure Club | Commercial | Yes | 4 | 4 | Tarmac | Good |
| 52 | Severn Vale School | Trust | Yes | 6 | - | Tarmac | Poor |
| 53 | Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre | School | No | 7 | - | Tarmac | Poor |
| 54 | St Peters Roman Catholic High School | School | Yes | 7 | - | Tarmac | Poor |
| 65 | Kingsholm Square Lawn Tennis Club | Sports Club | No | 2 | - | Grass | Standard |
| 66 | Gloucester Wotton Lawn Tennis Club | Sports Club | Yes | 3 | - | Tarmac | Standard |
| | | | | 2 | - | Grass | Standard |
| 69 | EDF Energy | Industry | No | 2 | - | Tarmac | Standard |
| 9901 | The Oval | Council | Yes | 4 | - | Tarmac | Poor |
| 9902 | Kingsway Sports Field | Council | Yes | 2 | - | Tarmac | Good |

 $^{^{12}}$ Assessed using a non-technical site assessment pro-forma and also takes account of user comments.

Quality

A total of 12 courts (16%) are assessed as good quality and 27 courts (36%) as standard quality. However, most courts (48%) are assessed as poor quality, all of which are tarmac surfaces and are located at school sites.

Table 9.3: Summary of the quality of courts by surface type

| Surface type | Good | Standard | Poor |
|--------------|------|----------|------|
| Clay | 4 | - | - |
| Artificial | - | 4 | - |
| Tarmac | 8 | 19 | 36 |
| Grass | - | 4 | - |
| Total | 12 | 27 | 36 |

Issues affecting court quality include evidence of moss, loose gravel, poor grip underfoot, and/or poor line markings. Some sites such as Clock Tower Park and The Oval also have metal nets which are unsuitable for club tennis, whilst courts at school sites are often also used as general playground areas and are therefore subject to regular use which often impacts on quality.

A key site which is assessed as poor quality is St Peter's Roman Catholic High School. The courts are used by St Peter's Junior TC. There are five courts which are overmarked for netball and are often used as a general playground area, whilst a further two courts are again used as a social area and for car parking, thus negatively impacting on their quality for use as a tennis area. There are, however, a further two courts located within a covered barn area which are primarily used. The Club uses the courts for around 30 hours a week but reports that its key challenge is access to more courts of better quality, particularly covered or indoor courts which can be used throughout winter. The Club and school have aspirations to improve facilities onsite and are investigating opportunities to secure funding for a possible dome or roof covering on the existing courts.

The courts at EDF Energy are managed by EDF Energy Sports and Social Club which is also responsible for maintenance. The courts were resurfaced approximately five years ago and the Club reports that the only quality issue regards the surrounding trees and root damage to the outer court surface.

Ancillary provision

Where tennis courts are located at park sites such as Randwick Park and The Oval, there is generally no accompanying changing provision as courts mainly cater for social and infrequent demand from residents, therefore there is no identified need. School sites receive little community use beyond social bookings such as at Severn Vale School where changing is provided within the sports centre section of the building. No community clubs highlighted key issues with ancillary or changing facilities or identified a need for greater access to provision.

Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre provides two communal changing rooms; one each for males and females and also services the surrounding pitches at both Plock Court and Bishop's College. This often leads to congestion as changing areas are shared between a multitude of sports and members, including those accessing tennis coaching through the centre, teams training onsite midweek and teams playing matches at weekends. The number of changing rooms was previously reduced based on demand, however; an increase in team sport demand has led to a requirement for more access to changing facilities.

9.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

The main league for competition in Gloucester is the Aegon Tennis League which caters for both men's and ladies singles as well as junior tennis from U8s. Senior doubles tennis is also played in the Dunlop Gloucestershire Summer Tennis League and Gloucestershire Seniors League. Additional mini tennis is played at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre as part of the red, orange and green LTA structure.

Table 9.4: Summary of demand within Gloucester

| Club | Total members | Men's | Ladies | Juniors |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| St Peter's Junior TC | 50+ Junior | - | - | 2 |
| Oxstalls TC | 210 Senior 610 Junior | 6 | 6 | 20 |
| Gloucester Wotton LTC | 65 Senior 18 Junior | 4 | 4 | - |
| EDF Energy TC | 50+ Senior | 2 | - | - |
| Riverside TC | Unknown | 1 | 1 | - |

St Peter's Junior Tennis Club was formed through St Peter's Roman Catholic High School as an extension of tennis delivered in curricular and extracurricular time, for pupils to develop their skills further through increased access to coaching. The Club has two teams at U14s and U18s playing in the National Junior Club League. All play generally takes place at the School with the exception of particularly important matches when the Club will often rent better quality facilities at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre or Virgin Active Health Club. Tennis is a focus sport at the School, which has been successful nationally given its comparable size and facilities.

Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre is a key venue for tennis within Gloucester, providing access to coaching, competitive tennis and social play for both seniors and juniors across indoor and outdoor facilities. The Club has a strong junior programme and has 14 teams between U8s and U18s including mixed teams playing in the Aegon Tennis League. The Club also has a strong senior section with ten teams playing doubles matches in the Gloucestershire Summer Tennis League.

EDF Energy TC is a relatively small club with just two senior teams. It is a section of the overarching sports and social club onsite which serves to provide leisure and sports activities for employees. The courts are owned by the sports and social club and are used for social play at lunchtimes and for evening matches when the summer light allows, with approximately 12 fixtures per year. The site is not widely accessible to community use as membership is limited to company employees and associate members with links to the company. However, the Club reports that membership is nonetheless increasing due to expansion of the company and an increase in employees.

Kingsholm Square LTC is a private members club which serves the residents of Kingsholm Square and Edwy Parade. Membership is restricted to estate residents only and therefore it is not possible for the general public to join. The Club has a full structure with a board and committee although tennis is restricted to social events and occasional matches between members. The Club pays a small rent to the Council as part of the lease and has a locked shed which contains a mower and bits of maintenance equipment.

The courts at High School for Girls were previously used by Glevum TC until the Club folded and are subsequently now unused beyond school tennis. The School reports that it would like to increase usage and would like to liaise with Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre in order to help do. It does have concerns regarding the security of the site and is exploring the possibility of fitting an electronic keypad to the entrance but is actively seeking to increase community use.

Informal tennis

Courts on education sites are largely unavailable for community use, likely due to the poor quality of areas where marked courts are used daily as playground and social areas. Both Beaufort Community School and Ribston Hall High School state that the courts are available to hire but upon consultation neither school identified any community use.

It is likely that demand for recreational play increases annually following events such as Wimbledon. Although it is hard to measure casual use as some courts, it is assumed that courts are generally busy throughout the summer months when weather is favourable. Council managed courts at park sites are often publicly accessible free of charge.

Unmet demand

St Peter's Junior TC identifies clear unmet demand for additional sessions and court space. The Club reports that as a leading junior performance centre in the South West it attracts demand from many junior players but regularly has to them away due to a lack of facilities and accessible courts onsite to accommodate the extra demand. The Club reports demand to be able to at least double participation with access to more courts and would be able to increase the number of junior teams from two to six.

Gloucester Wotton LTC is of the opinion that the three hard courts onsite are not enough to cater for current demand. The Club has aspirations to install floodlighting and is keen to investigate opportunities to access grant funding to fund the development. The Club highlights a need for at least two more hard courts as it is unable to host home fixtures until mid May due to the lack of floodlighting. It believes that with access to floodlit courts it would able to have another men's team as there would be more hours available throughout the evenings.

New developments

High School for Girls is keen to increase use of the courts onsite and in conjunction with ASPIRE leisure trust and Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre has successfully been awarded LTA grant funding of £5000 to install an electronic key fob entry system. This will help to resolve initial concerns the school had regarding access and security and will serve to increase availability to the community. The courts were previously used by Glevum TC which no longer exists but plans are for the site to act as a venue providing social and non-organised tennis participation for residents. Key fobs and court booking will be available through ASPIRE which will manage use on behalf of the school. The site may also act as a supplementary venue for Oxstalls Indoor Centre and its teams if required and long term plans include aspirations to install floodlighting. The centre plans to undertake a similar project at Severn Vale school in the next two years where it hopes to establish a satellite club set up through Active Gloucestershire.

9.4: Conclusions

In conclusion, there are enough tennis courts in Gloucester to cater for demand and casual use, though there is not sufficient access to available good quality courts required for the development of tennis at some clubs, particularly St Peter's Roman Catholic High School. There is a need for access to more hours of court time and as such greater access to floodlit courts, for example at Gloucester Wotton LTC, which would therefore increase the number of hours available throughout the year. Much of the tennis focus within Gloucester is centred at Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre which acts as a central performance and development hub. The facility contributes greatly towards the provision of both indoor and outdoor tennis and development of the sport as a whole across the City.

Tennis summary

- There are a total of 75 tennis courts provided in Gloucester City across 17 sites. Provision can be found on a range of sites including sports clubs and parks. There are nine courts across council managed sites
- There are 28 courts unavailable for community use, most of which are located at schools sites and are generally made unavailable due to lack of floodlighting, lack of staffing or security issues
- There are 14 floodlit courts, spread across four sites at Beaufort Community School, Gloucester Academy, Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre and Riverside Sports & Leisure Club
- A total of 12 courts (16%) are assessed as good quality and 27 courts (36%) assessed as average quality. The majority of courts (48%) are assessed as poor quality
- There are four clay courts, four artificial and 63 tarmac courts. There are a further four grass courts at Gloucester Wotton Lawn Tennis Club and Kingsholm Square Lawn Tennis Club
- There are six clubs based within Gloucester City, though Dowty TC is also located outside
 of the authority nearby and is considered to accommodate demand from residents
- St Peter's TC reports that the Club is limited by the lack of good quality courts at the school. The Clubs a high level of unmet demand and that it is turning away junior players regularly because it is unable to accommodate them onsite
- Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre is a key venue for tennis development in Gloucester City. It
 provides intra venue competition as well as league play through its club section. The tennis
 programme provides coaching for both juniors and seniors and is also available for social
 play
- There are plans to increase social and non-organised participation at High School for Girls, made possible by installation of a new electronic key fob security system through LTA funding. Use of the courts will be managed by ASPIRE leisure trust and Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre.
- Virgin Active Health Club is a private members club not included within the analysis as it is not broadly available for community use. It must be acknowledged that the facility has a strong tennis focus, range of good facilities, accessible coaching and opportunity for competition which attracts a significant level of demand from City residents
- There are enough tennis courts in Gloucester to cater for demand and casual use, though there is not sufficient access to available good quality floodlit courts required for the development of tennis at some clubs, particularly St Peter's Roman Catholic High School and Gloucester Wotton LTC.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. The strategy will:

- See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- Create more opportunities for young people
- Nurture and develop talent
- Provide the right facilities in the right places
- Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- Ensure real opportunities for communities

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- Maximise value from current NGB investment
- Places, People, Play
- Strategic direction and market intelligence
- Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- Market development

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site
 with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's
 area
- County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.

- A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- 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.
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Game Strategy (2011 – 2015)

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- Growth and retention (young and adult players)
- Raising standards and behaviour
- Better players
- Running the game
- ◆ Workforce
- Facilities

'The National Game Strategy' reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built five-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of five-a-side teams in recent years.

The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)

The recently launched National Facilities Strategy sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the National Game. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game. The National Game is defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space. The role of facilities will be crucial in developing the game in England. One of the biggest issues raised from 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' by that of 84% respondents, was 'poor facilities'.

The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

- Building Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- Protecting -Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- Enhancing Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

The Strategy commits to delivering in excess of £150m (through Football Foundation) into facility improvements across the National Game in line with identified priorities:

- Natural grass pitches improved target: 100
- A network of new AGPs built target 100
- ◆ A network of refurbished AGPs target 150
- On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets
- Continue a small grants programme designed to address modest facility needs of clubs
- Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts

It also commits to:

- Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities
- Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis
- Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted

Champion Counties – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017)

"Champion Counties" - continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB's previous strategy: "Grounds to Play". The pillars are:

- ◆ Energising people and partnerships through effective leadership and governance
- Building a Vibrant domestic game through operational excellence and delivering a competition structure with appointment to view
- Engaging participants through the maintenance of existing facilities, supporting club/school links, supporting volunteers and expanding women's and disabilities cricket
- Delivering Successful England teams and world class global events

The key measures for the life span of the plan are as follows:-

- Increase the subset of participation measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500.
- ◆ Increase attendances at LV= CC, YB50 and FLT20 by 200,000.
- Complete sponsorship and broadcasting agreements through 2019.
- Win the World Test Championship and Women's
- ◆ World Cup in 2017.
- Win The Ashes and World Cup in 2015.
- Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest Cricket Force from 2,000 to 2 200
- Complete co-operation agreements for each of the 39 County Boards with their First Class County or Minor County partner.
- Deliver two world class global events in 2017 which exceed budget and exceed customer satisfaction targets.
- Increase the number of cricket's volunteers to 80,000 by 2017.
- Expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017
- Award all Major Matches through 2019 by December 2014.
- To increase the number of TwelfthMan members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017.
- Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC.

- Provide First Class Counties with total fee payments of £144m between 2014 and 2017.
- For each £1 provided in facility grants through the Sport England Whole Sport Plan grant programme ensure a multiplier of 3 with other funding partners.
- Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightscreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues.
- Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million.
- Leverage the 2014 tour by India to engage with a minimum of 10,000 cricket supporters of Asian origin. Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of professional cricketers.
- Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000.
- Deliver an annual fixture for the Unicorns against a touring (Full, A or U19) ICC member nation.
- Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change.
- Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017.

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The recently launched RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- Sustainable clubs
- Environmental Sustainability
- Geographical Spread
- Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- Pitch Size Guidance
- The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◆ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 2017
- Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 2017

England Hockey (EH)

'The right pitches in the right places¹³'

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- Single System clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ClubsFirst accreditation clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- Sustainability hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

¹³http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places

2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy

The new strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth:

The three participation "focus" areas are where tennis is consumed:

- 1. Deliver great service to CLUBS
- 2. Build partnerships in the COMMUNITY, led by parks
- 3. Enhance the tennis offer in EDUCATION

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

- 1. Becoming more relevant to COACHES
- 2. Refocusing on RECREATIONAL COMPETITION
- 3. Providing results orientated FACILITY INVESTMENT
- 4. Applying best in class MARKETING AND PROMOTION
- 5. JUMP STARTING THE PEAK SUMMER SEASON
- 6. Establishing a "no compromise" HIGH PERFORMANCE programme with focus.

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of 4 / 17/03/2015 partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

- 1. Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
- 2. Harnessing the full resource network
- 3. Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- ◆ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◆ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- County development officer appointed by each county association.
- National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- Be progressive.
- Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- Lead the sport.
- Support clubs and county associations.



DRAFT GLOUCESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY CONSULTATION SUMMARY & KEY QUESTIONS SEPTEMBER 2015

Introduction

The availability of a sufficient number and quality of playing pitches to provide for the Gloucester community's current and future sporting needs is very important to encourage participation in sport and physical activity and for general health and wellbeing.

National planning policy requires local authorities to carry out an assessment of the needs for sports and recreational facilities as well as opportunities for new provision. Alongside this, Sport England has prepared guidance for local authorities setting out how a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) should be undertaken.

With this in mind the Council commissioned consultants, Knight Kavanagh and Page, to carry out the necessary research and prepare a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the City in accordance with the Sport England model. The draft PPS has now been completed and is subject to a 6-week period of public consultation before being presented to Council for adoption early in 2016.

What is a Playing Pitch Strategy?

The purpose of a Playing Pitch Strategy is to ensure that there is sufficient quality and quantity of different sports pitches to provide for a community's current and future needs. It helps, amongst other things, to inform investment plans and health strategies, ensure effective management and maintenance of sports pitches, and ensure that new developments provide the right amount and type of sports facilities for the community's needs.

Preparation of the draft Gloucester PPS

The draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy has been prepared by consultants Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP), with involvement from Council officers, the main National Governing Bodies (NGBs) (the Football Association, Rugby Football Union, England & Wales Cricket Board and England Hockey), Sport England and other key stakeholders.

It has been prepared using information provided directly from sports clubs and schools, and an on site assessment of all sports pitches in the City.

It covers the following outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities; football; cricket; rugby union; rugby league; bowls; and tennis courts. It also considers Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) which can be used by several sports.

Using the information collected, together with an understanding of the factors that will affect participation in the different sports (for example population growth and trends in the different sports), an assessment of the adequacy of playing pitches and their associated facilities for the current and future community has been undertaken.



What does the draft Gloucester PPS say?

The headline findings of the draft PPS are:

- Gloucester is very actively engaged in sport, with good levels of participation in most sports and plans to increase this in the future.
- Most clubs from the City are able to play in the City. There are only a few clubs which have been 'displaced' but in most cases there are plans to bring them back.
- There is currently a shortage of pitches available at the right time to provide for the current demand for football and rugby union and this will increase over time. There are however enough to provide for cricket, rugby league, bowls and tennis.
- Many pitches in the City aren't currently maintained to a particularly good standard, and are overplayed, which affects how often they can be used for competitive matches and training.
- On some sites, the lack of suitably located changing rooms, and / or issues with the quality of changing rooms, is affecting the ability of pitches to be played by some teams.
- There are several Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) in the City, but none built to a '3G' standard. There is also a shortage of flood-lit training facilities. AGPs can be used much more intensively than grass pitches and is one of the reasons the quality of grass pitches is suffering from overuse. Increasing the number of AGPs, including three '3G' pitches, is going to be critical in providing for the needs of the current and future community in Gloucester.

The draft PPS sets out a Vision for playing pitches in the City, followed by a number of different Aims and Strategic Recommendations. These are designed to deliver the Vision and address the issues identified through the assessment work.

In addition to the main PPS, the City Council, working with the NGBs, has prepared three different scenarios looking at how the Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) could be delivered in the City.

The Vision, Recommendations and AGP Scenarios are summarised below for your information, along with some key questions, to which we would welcome your views.

What we want from you

The draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy and 'Artificial Grass Pitch – Scenario Paper' have now been published for a 6-week period of public consultation. The consultation will run between XXXXXXXXX and XXXXXXXXX. Your comments are welcomed on both documents.

Please note the full draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy, Assessment Report and AGP Scenario Paper are available to download from the City Council's website at www.gloucester.gov.uk.

Further information

If you require any assistance in responding to this consultation, please contact either Adam Gooch or David Pritchett, details below.

Adam Gooch Planning Policy Service Telephone: 01452 396836

Email: adam.gooch@gloucester.gov.uk

David Pritchett Neighbourhood Services Manager Telephone: 01452 396785

Email: david.pritchett@gloucester.gov.uk



Key Questions

The Vision

The draft PPS sets out a Vision that provides a clear focus for the rest of the strategy. The Vision is:

'To provide an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities, which provide opportunities for all residents to access good sports, physical activity and recreational facilities'

Question 1

Do you agree with the Vision for the draft Playing Pitch Strategy?

Aims and Strategic Recommendations

AIM 1: To **protect** sports facilities for meeting current and future needs.

Recommendations:

- (a) Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through 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 need to do so.

AIM 2: To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

Recommendations:

- (d) Improve quality.
- (e) Adopted a tiered approach (hierarchy) for the management and improvement of sites (see page 28 of draft PPS).
- (f) Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.

AIM 3: To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is a current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- (g) Secure planning gain for playing pitches from housing development.
- (h) Rectify quantitative shortfalls in current pitches stock.
- (i) Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Question 2

Do you agree with the Aims and Recommendations of the draft Gloucester Playing Pitch Strategy?



Sport-Specific Recommendations

The following sport-specific recommendations have been identified through the assessment work. They provide recommendations on how some of the issues identified can be addressed in the future.

Football grass pitches - Recommendations

- In a phased approach, look to transfer 25% of youth football (mini and 9v9) onto 3G for match play and establish a mix of 3G use and grass pitch in order to better achieve sustainability.
- Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as standard or poor quality, prioritise
 investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to
 sustain/improve pitch quality.
- Further investigate provision of joint sport maintenance equipment bank/s to better service the needs of clubs.
- Seek to develop Hub sites to service North and South of the City and explore options for Hub sites to cross subsidise grass pitches improvement across the City, for example at Plock Court.
- Where appropriate reduce usage on overplayed sites and transfer play to local sites which have spare capacity.
- Work with schools where possible to maximise and secure access to pitches on school sites which are currently unavailable for community use.
- Small amounts of existing spare capacity to be retained to help protect/improve pitch quality.
- Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.

3G pitches – Recommendations

- Increase provision of 3G pitches in the City (current shortfall of up to three full size).
- Develop a 3G Pitch Strategy for the City which takes into consideration current proposals and optimal strategic location to effectively service all areas of the City.
- In partnership with EH look to convert one sandbased AGP to a 3G surface whilst maintaining adequate provision to accommodate hockey demand.
- Retain some use of sand AGPs for football training in order to ensure continued sustainability of existing provision.
- In a phased approach, look to transfer 25% of youth football (mini and 9v9) onto 3G for match play and establish a mix of 3G use and grass pitch in order to better achieve sustainability.
- Ensure that new 3G pitches are tested and subsequently FA registered. In addition, ensure that future 3G pitches are used to maximum potential to allow for future back to back programming of mini/youth matches at peak times.
- Ensure that sinking funds (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface replacement when required) are in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term.



Cricket pitches – Recommendations

- Work with clubs to review quality issues on those pitches assessed as standard and poor quality, including outfield areas which are of lesser quality in relation the square at some sites.
- Address overplay where possible through increasing the number of wickets on squares or seeking access to additional provision.
- Establish security of tenure where viable and there is currently no written agreement in place, particularly at school sites or those sub-let through other providers.
- Explore potential to restore the squares previously marked at Plock Court (to good quality)
 if required in addition to the retained square which is currently unused to help meet any
 growth or potential increases in demand.
- Work with clubs to ensure appropriate access to and quality of ancillary facilities supports provision of pitches/sites.
- Utilise spare capacity at club sites to accommodate possible future demand for informal formats of cricket and junior/women/girls development.

Rugby union pitches - Recommendations

- Work with clubs to review quality issues on those pitches assessed as standard and poor quality in order to help reduce overplay.
- Work to reduce training on match pitches through access to dedicated floodlit training areas, including options to provide full size 3G pitches in partnership with the FA which are World Rugby compliant to help address shortfalls.

Rugby league pitches – Recommendations

- Ensure that rugby league continues to be accommodated and provided for in Gloucester.
- Explore opportunities to provide a full size 3G pitch in partnership with the RFU/FA which is RFL Community Standard compliant to address displaced demand.
- Reassess demand in three years time in order to identify if demand has increase to warrant the need for dedicated rugby league pitches to be provided in Gloucester.

Hockey – Recommendations

- Prioritise and retain three sand AGPs to accommodate current and future hockey demand and to ensure continued sustainability.
- Oxstalls Sports Park to be protected for long term hockey use.
- Ensure pitch quality is of a good standard and ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain sand AGP pitch quality in the long term.
- Maximise use of existing sand AGPs to accommodate (as a priority) Gloucester clubs training and competitive demand through effective programming.
- Work with Gloucester City HC to help facilitate membership growth and ensure sufficient access to Oxstalls Sports Park.
- Work with stakeholders in potential new 3G pitch developments to fully determine capacity which may be made available through transfer of football demand.
- If the sand AGP ensure mitigation through an improvement in existing pitch quality and secured hockey access at an alternative site.



Bowling greens (outdoor) – Recommendations

- Ensure that quality of greens and appropriate maintenance is applied to sites which are considered to be being played to capacity and beyond.
- 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.

Tennis (outdoor) – Recommendations

- Improve court quality and seek investment to sites which are available for public/community use.
- Ensure clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played.
- Maximise use of school courts to ensure that future demand for courts can be met in Gloucester.

Question 3

Do you have any views on the sport-specific recommendations?

Question 4

Are there any other sport-specific recommendations that you think should be included?

Action Plan

The draft PPS includes a site-specific Action Plan. It seeks to address key issues identified through the assessment work, setting out recommendations for every playing pitch site in the City based on current levels of usage, quality, future demand and its potential for enhancement.

It is recommended that a 'hierarchy of sites' is adopted by the Council, in order to help prioritise investment and the improvement of different sites, based on their importance in providing sports facilities. The criteria for the 'hierarchy of sites' is provided below for your information.

| Hub sites | Key centres | Local sites | Reserve sites | | |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Strategically located. Priority sites for NGB. | Strategically located within the analysis area. | Services the local community. Likely to include education sites. | Services the local community. | | |
| Accommodates three or more good quality grass pitches. | Accommodates two or more good quality grass pitches. | Accommodates more than one pitch. | Likely to be single- pitch site. | | |
| Including provision of at least one AGP. | | | | | |
| Single or multi-sport | Single or multi-sport | Single or multi-sport | Supports informal | | |



| Hub sites | Key centres | Local sites | Reserve sites | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| provision. | provision. | provision. | usage and/ or training etc. | | |
| Could also operate as a central venue. | Could also operate as a central venue. | | | | |
| Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines. | Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines. | Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract. | Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting and line marking as required. | | |
| Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches. | Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches. | Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required). | No requirement for access changing to accommodation. | | |

The Action Plan then goes on, for each site, to set out the results from the assessment work, future recommended actions, partners required to deliver the actions, timescales and an indication of costs. The Action Plan and associated citywide map is provided separately to this document. Please refer to this for further information.

Question 5

Do you have any views on the Action Plan and hierarchy of sites?

Question 6

Do you agree with the recommendations for specific playing pitch sites? (please identify which of the playing pitch sites you are referring to in your response)

Artificial Grass Pitches - Scenario Paper

The Assessment Report and draft PPS show that the delivery of a suitable number and type of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) will be critical in delivering the Vision and recommends that a 'substrategy ' is prepared, showing how these could be delivered in the City.

In response, the City Council has worked with the Football Association, Rugby Football Union and England Hockey to begin this process by preparing a 'Scenario Paper'.

It is important there is a sub-strategy is in place to ensure adequate provision is made for each of the different sports. For example, one of the 3G pitches for which there is capacity in the City needs to be constructed to a 'World Rugby' standard. Equally, it is also important that other forms of AGPs (sand-dressed and sand-based) are maintained in the City for hockey purposes, as 3G standard pitches cannot be used for competitive hockey.

The Scenario Paper sets out three different scenarios, having regard to emerging proposals that would affect the number of AGPs in the City.

Full details are available in the AGP Scenario paper, which is available to download from the City Council's website.



Question 7

Do you have any views on the three scenarios for the delivery of AGPs in Gloucester?

Question 8

Are there any other scenarios that you think should be considered?



Meeting: Cabinet Date: 16 September 2015

Subject: Corporate Performance – Summary report Q.1 2015

Report Of: Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Ruth Silk, Business Improvement Officer

Email: ruth.silk@gloucester.gov.uk Tel: 396712

Appendices: 1. Summary report Q1. 2015/16

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the report showing performance against the current agreed indicators for the period April 2015 to June 2015 in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2014-17.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the Council's current performance as outlined in Appendix 1 be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 This report is a summary of the Council's quarterly performance. Providing clear information on the progress against the existing key indicators and main areas of the current Corporate Plan.
- 3.2 Indicators are reported on a monthly, quarterly, bi-monthly and annual basis to the Senior Management Team and Cabinet before being published on Gloucester City Council's website.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 The Senior Partnerships and Engagement Officer was consulted and no ABCD implications raised.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 There are no alternative options to this matter.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 To inform Cabinet of the Council's current performance.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 7.1 The Business Improvement Service in collaboration with Financial Services are carrying out an exercise to look at alternative software packages in order to merge the Corporate and Finance Performance reports.
- 7.2 All performance measures are reviewed and agreed on an annual basis with the relevant services managers and reviewed corporately when the Council Plan is updated.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The report is a look back upon performance in Q1 of 2015/16. As a result there are no direct financial implications arising from the report. Where performance in the year has created a financial implication, this will have previously been reported to Members as part of the budget monitoring process and, where necessary, allowed for in the Money Plan approved by Council in February 2015.
- 8.2 The Corporate Performance should be viewed in the context that the Council was able to increase its General Fund by £63k and improve the level of the Council's earmarked reserves by £2.09 million (including the closing HRA balance of £1.834 million) in the 2014/15 year.

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 This is not applicable as the content of this report are for information only.

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 10.1 Risk to reputation and lack of transparency
- 10.2 Share with everyone where we are now, the Council's success and overall performance

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

11.1 This is not applicable as the content of this report is for information only.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 Not applicable

Sustainability

12.2 Not applicable

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 Not applicable

Press Release drafted/approved

12.4 This is not applicable as information relating to the Council's performance monitoring is published on the City Council's website on a regular basis.





Appendix 1

Corporate Performance summary report

Q.1 2015

(April 2015 - June 2015)

Red / Amber / Green (RAG) rating – Unless otherwise stated, measures are awarded a 'Green' status where performance exceeds the target by 10%. Where performance is 10% or more below target, a 'Red' status is awarded. 'Amber' status is awarded where performance is within the 10% window of margin either side of the target.

*DOT - Direction of travel

| Measure | Target | Q.1 | Q.2 | Q.3 | Q.4 | *DOT | Notes |
|--|----------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|---|
| | Q.1 2015 | | | | | | |
| Growing Gloucester's Economy | | | | | | | |
| JSA Claimant rate The percentage of working age adults in Gloucester claiming jobs seeker's allowance. | 2.8% | 1.80% | | | | Ţ. | Lower is better County rate was 1.1% and the UK average was 2.5% for this quarter. The business support programme Service Level Agreement with Gloucestershire Enterprise Limited, has been renewed and provides a programme of subsidised training courses for both start up and existing city businesses. In 2015 to date (31/05/15) 109 city businesses had been supported through this. |

| Measure | Target Q.1 2015 | Q.1 | Q.2 | Q.3 | Q.4 | *DOT | Notes |
|--|-----------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|---|
| A City With Skills And Job C | Opportunities | | | • | • | • | |
| NEET Rate The percentage of 16 to 18 year olds living in Gloucester who are not in employment, education or training | 4.9% | 3.75% | | | | Û | Lower is better Work has continued with Westmoreland Services, Gloucestershire Gateway Trust and Job Centre Plus over job opportunities for young people in the city at Gloucester Services Southbound. |
| A Greener Gloucester | | | | | • | · | |
| Household refuse and Recycling The volume in tonnes of the refuse and recycling collected Phrough household collections. | 45.20% | 42.52% | | | | Î | Higher is better Officers have concentrated on reducing waste and increasing recycling, particularly food waste in areas where participation is lowest. As a result residual waste is 63t lower than the same quarter last year and food waste recycled is 6% higher. Work to finalise the roll out of additional items being collected has taken place. |
| Fly Tipping Fly tipping incidents reported to the Council by GCC Officers and by members of the public (Cumulative) | 250 | 590 | | | | 1 | Lower is better There has been an improvement in Fly tipping reporting which has resulted in a number of fly tipping incidents that have been investigated with several positive outcomes including the waste being removed, PACE interviews undertaken and warning letters sent. In addition a number of fly tipping prosecutions are currently going through the court system with dates confirmed in August, September and October. Further cases are currently being investigated which may result in additional enforcement action being taken. |

| Measure | Target Q.1 2015 | Q.1 | Q.2 | Q.3 | Q.4 | *DOT | Notes |
|--|--------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|---|
| | | | | | | | The Trade Waste Policy implemented in January 2015 is still having a positive effect in reducing the numbers of complaints regarding waste being left out and being attacked by gulls in the City Centre. Continued monitoring has identified a small number of businesses putting waste out for collection outside the permitted hours and those without an up to date Trade Waste Agreement. As a result enforcement action has been taken against two businesses for non-compliance. Further investigations are ongoing regarding other business premises. |
| A Distinctive Cultural Offer | For The City | | | | | | High an in batton |
| he number of visitors to the uildhall's cinema, workshops, and events programme (Cumulative) | 8,349 | 7,389 | | | | Î | Higher is better The film product has improved so audience figures have increased. Live event activity has continued to be led by smaller events and footfall has increased. Workshop attendances have been on a par with the 1 st Q of 2014. Overall, for attendance at ticketed events, the footfall is consistent with 2014 - with the ideas beginning to be implemented, it is expected that this will improve substantially in the future. |
| Visitors to the City and Folk Museums The number of visitors to the City Museum and Folk Museum (Cumulative) | 10,737 | 10,717 | | | | Î | Higher is better CITY Museum. Easter holidays were a great success, and workshops proved popular. A series of talks on topics of local interest were well attended. The Cut It Out exhibition which ran until 20 th June attracted many visitors FOLK Museum. Workshops have proved popular and the school holidays activities drew in over 1200 visitors (Easter and half term). Footfall was on target with the gardens always attracting visitors during good weather. |

| Measure | Target Q.1 2015 | Q.1 | Q.2 | Q.3 | Q.4 | *DOT | Notes |
|--|-----------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|--|
| Visitors to the TIC The number of visitors to the City's Tourist Information Centre (Cumulative) | 27,118 | 26,631 | | | | \Leftrightarrow | Higher is better Visitor numbers for the last quarter are comparable to the same period last year. We have been busy preparing for the summer season leading up to the Rugby World Cup. The TIC team have continued to promote the city and increase income outside of its office on Southgate Street by attending various events including, making use of the Hello Gloucester vehicle on Eastgate Street. The acquisition of 3 wireless card payment machines have enabled off site payments, increasing income to the service and the authority. Merchandise has been updated and 2015 has seen a push on Gloucester only gifts with the introduction of a number of Gloucester based gifts as opposed to generic souvenirs. The service continues to manage the Gloucester Coach Meet and Greet Scheme and during the first quarter, 216 coaches parked at Westgate Street Coach Park with nearly 9000 passengers visiting the city. |
| Affordable and Decent Hor | nes for all | | | | | | |
| Homelessness Prevention Successful Intervention Prevention Providing an overview of the success rate of preventative action taken by GCC to avoid homelessness, in context with the number of cases where GCC accepts a homeless duty of care. | 85% 75% | 85% 64% | | | | \iff | Higher is better The number of Homeless Households accepted with the main homelessness duty has risen by 29%, compared to the same period the previous year. The main reasons include termination of private sector tenancies, domestic violence and families no longer willing to accommodate. The following new initiatives are being introduced to prevent households from becoming homeless, increased incentives to private sector landlords, countywide places of safety scheme for households fleeing domestic violence, and working in partnership with Housing Strategy and |

| Measure | Target Q.1 2015 | Q.1 | Q.2 | Q.3 | Q.4 | *DOT | Notes |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-----|-----|-------------------|--|
| RAG Score = +/- 5% from target. | | | | | | | Social Care Commissioners to address increasing numbers of vulnerable households facing homelessness. |
| Sound Finances and Strong | Performance | | <u> </u> | | | | |
| Council Tax Collection Progress towards the annual collection of Council Tax (Cumulative) | 29.28% | 28.29% | | | | \Leftrightarrow | Higher is better We are continuing to see a slight drop in collection. We monitor this closely, and consider if there are any factors influencing this. It is considered that collection is slightly below target due to welfare reforms. |
| Business Rates Collection Progress towards the annual Collection of Business Rates. Cumulative) RAG Score = +/- 0.5% from previous year's performance. | 30.38% | 28.75% | | | | Ţ | Higher is better Performance continues to be below target. We consider this may be due to a change to a large Ratable Value that has re-aligned their payment schedule. As such we expect performance to recover next month. |
| The net income received from the city council's investment property – year to date Overview of the revenue and expenditure associated with the Council's investment property portfolio (Cumulative) | £311,655.00 | £353,4 84.00 | | | | Î | Higher is better Property income and expenditure have increased due to the acquisition of properties ready for the bus station redevelopment. Repairs and maintenance issues are in hand with little extraordinary expenditure required during this accounting period. |
| Improving performance | | | | _ | | T | |
| Customer calls resolved at point of contact Overview of customer phone | 79% | 78% | | | | Î | Higher is better This quarter Amey has undertaken a couple of significant waste exercises by not collecting garden waste bins |

| Measure | Target Q.1 2015 | Q.1 | Q.2 | Q.3 | Q.4 | *DOT | Notes |
|---|-----------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|------|--|
| calls to the contact centre where officers are able to resolve the customer's query | | | | | | | without stickers and not emptying bins with open lids. This has impacted our ability to resolve queries at point of contact because we needed to investigate Garden Waste sign ups and wait for photographic evidence of raised bin lids before going back to the customer, customers were not always happy with the response and either wanted to speak to our Neighbourhood Environmental team or raise a complaint about the policy. Due to the holiday period we have also seen an increase in telephone messages taken for back office services to call customers back. |
| Customer payment channelling - self service An overview of our customers' chosen route to pay for Council services. Note outstation services (e.g. Guildhall, Museums etc.) are excluded. | 91.77% | 93.83% | | | | Î | Higher is better The transfer of housing stock to GCH has impacted on the payments received within the authority especially around cash receipts. Web, Touchtone and Direct Debit payment methods remain constant this quarter. There have been no specific projects this quarter to try and shift customers to alternative/cheaper payment methods. We plan to do a big promotion for annual Direct Debits to all Garden Waste customers during August to try and shift customers away from paying by cash or credit/debit card. |
| GCC Employee sickness rate The average number of sickness days taken per FTE (incl long term sickness) (Cumulative) | 0.69 days | 0.53 days | | | | Û | Lower is better Short term illnesses are being actively managed and absence rates are expected to be demonstrated through a strong focus on case resolution. |
| Complaints received (Cumulative) An overview of the number of complaints received by GCC | 260 | 434 | | | | Î | Lower is better Several complaints have been related to the non collection of bins where lids were raised, non collection of Garden Waste where a sticker had not been displayed. We also |

| Measure | Target Q.1 2015 | Q.1 | Q.2 | Q.3 | Q.4 | *DOT | Notes |
|--|--------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|--------|--|
| (including our Partners) | | | | | | | had several complaints regarding non delivery of bins or boxes and non removal of unwanted bins and procedures are being put in place to rectify these issues. |
| Complaints resolved The %age of those which were resolved within 10 working days | 90% | 94% | | | | Î | Higher is better Overall the resolution of complaints within 10 days is working well with only a few exceptions. |
| A thriving centre and reger | eration of th | e City | | | | | |
| Number of empty retail units in the City Centre The number of empty retail Cunits within the primary retail The arrea | 38 | 31 | | | | Ţ | In comparison to the same period in 2014, nine more units have been occupied. 12 of the 31 empty units were unavailable for rent as they were either being refurbished in readiness for the next tenant, or the lease contract for the units is in the hands of administrators for companies no longer trading. To date over 90 businesses have been supported with grants with a number going through the grants paperwork process. Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme - 62 vouchers have been issued countywide, 23 of which have gone to Gloucester businesses. |
| The number of Licensed Food Retailers in City Centre The number of restaurants and food retailers within the primary retail area | 114 | 109 | | | | \iff | Higher is better The numbers have remained broadly the same though some of the individual proprietors have changed. The ED team is ensuring information is being emailed to prospective investors. As part of this work the team is actively promoting various grants on offer, in |

| Measure | Target Q.1 2015 | Q.1 | Q.2 | Q.3 | Q.4 | *DOT | Notes |
|---|-----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|---|
| | | | | | | | particular the Evening Vitality Grants which are aimed at supporting new restaurants, wine bars or similar in the city centre. A number of businesses are progressing through the scheme at present. |
| Listening to our residents | | | | | | | |
| Follower's to GCC's Twitter account. The number people following Gloucester City Council on Twitter (Cumulative) | 3950 | 5120 | | | | Î | Higher is better The use of Twitter is now embedded in the day to day processes for the Customer Services team who are proactively tweeting & re-tweeting on a daily basis. We are promoting our services and responding to customer enquiries. The increase use of Twitter has seen our followers grow from 4,837 March to 5,120 June. We will be amending our target to 7,000 followers by end of March 2016. |



Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Date: 14 September 2015

Cabinet 16 September 2015

Subject: Financial Monitoring Quarter 1

Report Of: Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Andrew Cummings, Management Accountant

Email: Andrew.cummings@gloucester.gov.uk Tel: 396231

Appendices: 1. Progress against savings targets

Capital monitoring
 Income Targets

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 For Cabinet to note the financial monitoring report details including budget variances, year-end forecasts, and progress made against agreed savings targets for the 1st quarter ended 30th June 2015.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to, subject to any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet, to **note** the contents of the report.

2.2 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE**:

- (1) That it be noted that the savings achieved in year to date total £851k and a further £584k of savings are in progress.
- (2) That it be noted that the forecast year end position is currently for a reduction to the Council's General Fund balance of £554k.
- (3) To note the actual and expected levels of income for the Council shown at Appendix 3.
- (4) That the details of specific budgetary issues identified by Officers and the actions being taken to address these issues be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

3.1 The figures contained within this report forecast the year end position. This is based on the actual expenditure to the end of quarter 1 and forecast forwards

- based on budget monitoring meetings between service managers and financial services staff.
- 3.2 A summary table below shows the projected position for each service area.

4.0 Whole Council Summary

4.1 The forecast position for the end of the year is a reduction of the Council's General Fund by £554k. This is indicative of a high proportion of the in year savings targets having already been achieved. Progress is being made in delivering further savings which are likely to have an additional beneficial impact on the year-end outturn position. Overall, it should be considered that Q1 is very early in the financial year to make spending predictions and close management of the position throughout the year should also lead to a gradual improvement of the estimated outturn.

| Council Total | 2015/16 Budget £000 | Year End Forecast £000 | Variance £000 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Corporate Director - Martin | 3,388 | 3,441 | 53 |
| Corporate Director - Ross | 6,206 | 6,688 | 482 |
| Regen and Economic Development | (307) | (358) | (51) |
| Finance and Business Improvement | 3,082 | 3,127 | 45 |
| Funding and Corporate Adjustments | (12,339) | (12,344) | (5) |
| Total | 30 | 554 | 524 |

- 4.2 This position reflects the current level of at risk savings targets, as well as new financial pressures identified during 2015/16, and any areas which are expected to be under their budget for the year.
- 4.3 This forecast represents a significant financial challenge to the Council and is indicative of the scale of the financial pressures and the ambitious savings targets set as part of the Money Plan. Officers continue to look for areas where costs can be restricted or additional income generated. This process is not limited to services with established savings targets but all services are under this obligation to identify savings. Where new savings proposals are identified they will, where necessary, be reported back to members for further discussion and appropriate decisions to be made.
- 4.4 The forecasts made at Quarter 1 include an assumption that the in-progress savings shown at Appendix 1 will be achieved. If these savings are not achieved this will obviously have a detrimental impact on the final budget position.

5.0 Corporate Director - Martin Shields

| Corporate Director 1 | 2015/16 Budget £000 | Year End Forecast £000 | Variance £000 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Planning and Development | 374 | 333 | (41) |
| Legal and Democratic Services | 1,174 | 1,177 | 3 |
| Communications | 125 | 116 | (9) |
| Housing Services | 763 | 756 | (7) |
| HR | 345 | 294 | (51) |
| Guildhall and Museums | 429 | 589 | 160 |
| Internal Audit | 178 | 176 | (2) |
| Total | 3,388 | 3,441 | 53 |

- 5.1 The position for the directorate as a whole is forecast to be overspent by 53k. This is a result of the budgetary pressure created by the savings targets at the Guildhall and Museums which is partly offset by savings elsewhere in the directorate. This includes Planning and Development services which are currently expected to be under budget by £41k even after consideration of their savings targets. This is a result of the savings generated by the outsourcing of the Building Control Service to Stroud and positive forecasts on the level of planning income expected.
- 5.2 The Guildhall has a savings target of £150k and strong progress has been made to achieving that. Targeting of specific revenue streams and cost limitations mean that the service is expected to be over its budget for the year by £60k. This would be effectively achieving £90k in year against the savings target. The process of delivering further savings is now looking at the staffing structure. It is hoped that staffing changes will both deliver savings in terms of staff costs and in opportunities to generate further commercial income. However, an additional pressure is the bar and cafe where income is significantly down against budget targets and a shortfall of £42k for the year is expected against the budgeted surplus of £60k. Action is being taken to try and increase profitability at the bar but this is still expected to be a budget pressure at year end. Progress in narrowing the gap will be reported to members as the year progresses
- 5.3 The Museums also have a savings target of £150,000 and, like the Guildhall, has made a number of steps to ensure that is achieved. The closure of the Folk Museum Cafe in 2014/15 achieved £18k of that target. A number of proposals are in place to achieve savings in the current year including focusing on particular income streams, a change in the pricing structure for museums and standardisation of working arrangements. These reforms are targeting savings delivery in year of £74k. This will lead to the service as a whole being £58k over budget. The service continues to explore additional options to deliver this saving in year.
- 5.4 The HR Service is forecasting a significant saving of £51k for the year. This relates partly to the service now having two vacancies and partly a result of the service moving into a shared service with the County Council. The shared service is forecast to deliver a minimum of £30k savings on an annual basis and some of this will be apportionable to 15/16.

5.5 The transferring of Legal Services into a partnership with One Legal will bring savings to the Council on an ongoing annual basis. These are in excess of £50k per annum. At this point in the financial year it is estimated that the costs of the restructure, along with the additional cost of One Legal providing the Monitoring Officer Role, will offset the in-year saving and create a neutral budget position.

6.0 Corporate Director – Ross Cook

| Corporate Director 2 | 2015/16 Budget | Year End Forecast | Variance |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Neighbourhood Services | 4,532 | 4,893 | 361 |
| Environmental Planning and the | | | |
| Countryside Unit | 429 | 428 | (1) |
| Voluntary Sector | 381 | 397 | 16 |
| Shopmobililty | 4 | 35 | 31 |
| Cem and Crem | (853) | (878) | (25) |
| Markets | (207) | (179) | 28 |
| Contact Centre | 756 | 723 | (33) |
| TIC | 143 | 162 | 19 |
| Public Protection | 1,021 | 1,107 | 86 |
| Total | 6,206 | 6,688 | 482 |

- 6.1 A number of savings have been achieved in this directorate, including above budget income forecasts at the Cem and Crem, but the directorate as whole is forecast to overspend. The significant savings target within the directorate is the Amey contract and a large proportion of the budget pressure is created by that contract.
- 6.2 The savings target on the Amey contract is £70k rolled forward from 2014/15 and an additional £300k from 15/16. A number of meetings have been held recently with both members and Officers working with representatives of Amey to identify efficiencies to be gained within the service, both in the immediate short term and the longer term future. Savings have already been identified in excess of £180k and significant further work is planned to identify additional savings. The savings identified to date are efficiencies and should be achieved without any impact on the level of service provided. Any failure to deliver in year impact of achieved savings will be an end of year budget pressure on the Council.
- 6.3 In addition to the savings target there is a significant additional pressure relating to the level of income that the Council receives from the sale of recyclable material. The Council's contract with Amey assumes that Amey will generate a set sum in each financial year from the sale of collected materials. Where this figure is not achieved then the financial risk lies with the Council. There has been significant disruption in the UK recyclate market including a major recycler of paper going into administration. Current estimates suggest that the Council will be faced with a shortfall of approximately £200k in this financial year. Amey are closely monitoring the income achieved from sales of material and discussions are ongoing as to the level of the Council's liability.

- 6.4 The markets service has two significant financial pressures in 2015/16. The first is the savings target of £50k agreed as part of the 2013/14 budget setting process. No long-term change has taken place to achieve the saving but there has been some short term budget improvement in the Eastgate market service which means it is expected to only be over budget by £30,000.
- 6.5 The shopmobility service has a savings target rolled forward from the previous year of £50k. Options for the future of the service continue to be explored and until a conclusion is reached the full achievement of the savings target will not be possible. Excluding the savings the service is performing slightly better than budgeted. This brings the expected variance in year to £31k over budget including the savings target. It is hoped that continued strong performance in year can continue to offset the delay in achieving a more permanent solution.
- 6.6 The Contact Centre is showing an expected positive variance for the end of the year of £33k. In part this is because the Council has started to receive income relating to the introduction of charging for street naming and numbering. As this is the first year that the charge has been introduced the year end position is difficult to quantify but it will certainly deliver an unbudgeted saving to the Council.

7.0 Regeneration and Economic Development

| Head of Regeneration and Economic Development | 2015/16 Budget | Year End Forecast | Variance |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Asset Management | (262) | (241) | 21 |
| Economic Development | 367 | 327 | (40) |
| Parking | (854) | (891) | (37) |
| Marketing Gloucester | 442 | 447 | 5 |
| Total | (307) | (358) | (51) |

- 7.1 The overall position for this area is to be underspent against budget by £51k.
- 7.2 Car parking income is currently above the level it was at the end of Quarter 1 in 2014/15. Financial Services have undertaken a significant level of work to improve the financial analysis and forecasting of income from car parking and this has resulted in an increased ability to forecast the levels of parking income in year.
- 7.3 The Economic Development service is currently predicting an underspend of £40k. This is as a result of this service having a number of vacancies which are expected to be filled later in the year. Once these posts are filled the future costs of this area are expected to be in line with budgeted levels.

8.0 Head of Financial Services

| Head of Finance | 2015/16 Budget | Year End Forecast | Variance |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Financial Services | 738 | 731 | (7) |
| Revenues and Benefits | 81 | 85 | 4 |
| Business Improvement | 860 | 902 | 42 |
| IT | 1,403 | 1,409 | 6 |
| Total | 3,082 | 3,127 | 45 |

- 8.1 IT budgets are currently predicted to be on target for the year. This is an improvement on previous years. The Business Improvement Team have undertaken a substantial amount of work to fully identify the expected costs of the Council's IT services and reduce the cost of both hardware and software. This is has been area of significant budget pressure for the Council in previous years so this position will be continually monitored and reported throughout the year.
- 8.2 The Revenues and Benefits section handles housing benefit payments across the City which is partly funded by Central Government subsidy. At the end of Quarter 1 the net position for this area is expected to be in line with budget. However, as the total spend is expected to be in excess of £40m small percentage changes can lead to significant budget fluctuations.
- 8.3 The Service area of Business Improvement fulfils the client role of a number of Council partnerships. These included the relationships with Aspire and Civica. Savings of £300k across these partnerships have already been achieved in year. A small budget pressure remains in relation to achieving the correct level of income through these partnerships but it is hoped that this will be resolved by year end without impacting on the final Council outturn.

9.0 Progress against savings targets

- 9.1 Full details of the Council's progress against its savings targets is shown at Appendix 1.
- 9.2 A number of the savings targets for the Council have been achieved early n the year which means that a full year impact of the saving is received in 15/16. If savings are delivered later in the year this clearly has a limitation on the level of saving that will be attributable in this financial year.
- 9.3 Where at risk savings create a budgetary pressure on the Council they are covered elsewhere within this report.

10.0 Capital Programme

10.1 The Capital Programme agreed at Council in February included £5.17m of capital projects. The capital programme has now increased as some budgets have rolled forward when unspent at the end of the 2014/15 year taking the budget to £7.9m.

- 10.2 One new capital project has been added to the Capital Budget during the first quarter. This is a £21k project for works to be carried out in conjunction with Abbeydale Rovers. This project is entirely funded by an external grant.
- 10.3 The Officer led Capital Project Steering Group has approved two new capital projects. The first is installation of LED lighting in car parks and the second is a replacement of the Flex system used for shop and ticket sales at the TIC, Museums, Guildhall and Crematorium. Both of these projects are at an early stage so the budget figures are not included within the capital programme. They will both generate savings which will meet the initial capital investment costs.
- 10.4 At the end of Quarter 1 there has been little capital expenditure so far, £260k in total. It is expected that expenditure will increase as projects get underway during the year. At this stage no overspends are expected. Areas with major overspends or projected slippage will be reported in the next financial monitoring report.

11.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

11.1 This report notes the financial performance of the Council against budgets. Where Council services are undertaken using an ABCD approach, and this impacts on either service expenditure or income, this is reflected in the figures projected.

12.0 Alternative Options Considered

12.1 When considering how to reduce budgetary pressure or make savings Officers explore a wide range of options.

13.0 Reasons for Recommendations

13.1 It is a good practice for Members to be regularly informed of the current financial position of the Council. This report is intended to make members any of any significant issues in relation to financial standing and any actions that Officers are taking in response to identified variances.

14.0 Future Work and Conclusions

14.1 Work will continue to reach savings targets or limit in year budget pressures. A further financial monitoring report will be produced for Members at the end of the second quarter.

15.0 Financial Implications

15.1 All financial implications are contained within the report which is of a wholly financial nature.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

16.0 Legal Implications

16.1 There are no legal implications from this report

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

17.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

17.1 There are no specific risks or opportunities as a result of this report

18.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

18.1 A PIA screening assessment has been undertaken and the impact is neutral. A full PIA is not required.

19.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

19.1 None

Sustainability

19.2 None

Staffing & Trade Union

19.3 None

Press Release drafted/approved

19.4 Not applicable.

Background Documents: None

Budget Savings Monitoring - 2014/15 and 2015/16

Savings Not Delivered in 2014/15

| Service | Officer | Details: aim of the project | 2014/15 £000 | Achieved £000 | In Progress £000 | At Risk £000 | Not Achieved | Comments | Status |
|------------------------|---------|--|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|-----------|
| Neighbourhood Services | RC/LG | Amey contract review,ongoing project from 2013/14 with requirement to identify further savings | (70) | | (70) | | 0 | As part of the 2015/16 budget process Amey are producing proposals for further contract savings. | = |
| Neighbourhood Services | RC/LG | Environmental Team Review | (100) | | (100) | | 0 | A review of the operations of the Environmental Planning Team is to be carried out to identify potential savings. | <u>••</u> |
| Public Protection | GR | Shopmobility | (50) | | (20) | | (30) | Improved performance is delivering a proportion of the required savings, options on further delivery of the service are continuing to be explored | 8 |
| Public Protection | GR | Market Service | (50) | | (20) | | (30) | Improved performance at Eastgate market is expect to deliver an element of the required savings, further work is being undetaken to enable the balance to be achieved | (3) |
| Cultural Services | MS | Museums Operational Review | (50) | (18) | (32) | | 0 | Cultural Services review completed and recommendations to deliver savings are being implemented. | <u></u> |
| Cultural Services | MS | Guildhall Operational review | (50) | 0 | (50) | | 0 | Cultural Services review completed and recommendations to deliver savings are being implemented. | <u></u> |
| Regeneration | AH | Asset Management Service Review | (100) | (100) | | | 0 | Structure Implemented in Febuary 2015, full savings now realised in 2015/16 | |
| Total | | | (470) | (118) | (292) | 0 | (60) | | |

Savings Target 2015/16

| Service | Officer | Details: aim of the project | 2015/16 £000 | Achieved £000 | In Progress £000 | At Risk £000 | Not Achieved | Comments | |
|------------------------|---------|--|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|----------|
| Neighbourhood Services | RC/LG | Cemeteries and Crematorium | (50) | (50) | | | 1 () | Monitoring of income against budget will continue during 2015/16 | |
| Neighbourhood Services | RC/LG | Amey contract review,ongoing project from 2013/14 with requirement to identify further savings | (300) | | (125) | (175) | 0 | | 8 |
| Business Improvement | SN | Aspire, ongoing project from 2013/14 with requirement to identify further savings | (200) | (200) | | | | Work ongoing to review the service and deliver savings in 2015/16 | © |
| Business Improvement | SN | Energy Savings | (100) | (100) | | | 0 | Capital works completed in 14/15 ongoing monitoring in 15/16 to ensure expected savings delivered | © |

| Service | Officer | Details: aim of the project | 2014/15 £000 | Achieved £000 | In Progress £000 | At Risk £000 | Not Achieved | Comments | Status |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|
| Public Protection | GR | Voluntary sector SLA's | (50) | (50) | | | 0 | Through agreed change in level of SLA funding | © |
| Cultural Services | MS | Museums Operational Review | (100) | | (42) | (58) | 0 | Cultural Services review completed and recommendations to deliver savings are being implemented. | (2) |
| Cultural Services | MS | Guildhall Operational review | (100) | | (88) | (12) | 0 | Cultural Services review completed and recommendations to deliver savings are being implemented. | © |
| Development Services | AW | Planning Services Review | (100) | (63) | (37) | | 0 | Review in process, amounts delivered through Building Control shared Service and residual Housing restructure | a |
| Financial Services | ΙΤ | Financial Services Review | (70) | (70) | | | 0 | Savings delivered through deletion of vacant role, savings delivered through banking procurement with balance to be delivered through shared financial systems and processes | © |
| Business Improvement | SN/JT | CIVICA, review further savings on contract | (100) | (100) | | | 0 | Savings delivered through agreed contract extension | © |
| Lega | SM | Legal Services review | (50) | (50) | | | 0 | Saving delivered through agreement with One Legal | © |
| Communications | SM | Shared Working Arrangements | (50) | (50) | | | 0 | Structure Implemented in Febuary 2015, full savings now realised in 2015/16 | |
| Total | | | (1,270) | (733) | (292) | (245) | 0 | | |
| 2014/15 Savings Brought For | vard | | (470) | (118) | (292) | 0 | (60) | | |
| 2015/16 Savings | | | (1,270) | (733) | (292) | (245) | 0 | | |
| Total | | | (1,740) | (851) | (584) | (245) | (60) | | |

| Scheme | Budget | Actual |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| | 2015/16 | Spend to date |
| City Centre Investment Fund | 1,496,840 | 41,060 |
| Enhanced Lighting Scheme | 2,160 | 2,078 |
| Kings Quarter | 1,170,000 | 0 |
| Townscape Heritage Initiative | 1,168,815 | 7,280 |
| Regen Assets Works | 7,645 | 780 |
| HCA Grant Money | 79,270 | 0 |
| ICT Projects | 256,375 | 0 |
| Main Buildings Improvement Fund | 400,000 | 47,448 |
| Repairs Eastgate Rooftop Carpark | 718,890 | 1,160 |
| Smaller Asset Management Works | 308,360 | 28,772 |
| Flood Works | 274,795 | 3,504 |
| Crematorium Heat Exchanger | 10,000 | 1,938 |
| Guildhall Sound Desks | 50,000 | 343 |
| Refurbish Play Areas | 64,505 | 19,750 |
| Other Grant Funded Projects incl S106 | 658,910 | 17,658 |
| Alney Island Works | 126,360 | 3,079 |
| City Centre CCTV | 356,235 | 0 |
| GL1 Works | 58,960 | 0 |
| All Mains Buildings Voltage | | |
| Optimisation | 45,175 | 0 |
| Housing Projects | 720,910 | 85,611 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME | 7,974,205 | 260,460 |

| Financing Source | 2015 / 16 £000 |
|------------------|-------------------|
| External Grants | 3,186,714 |
| Section 106 | 519,853 |
| Capital Receipts | 3,657,365 |
| Borrowing | 610,273 |
| | |
| Sub total | 7,974,205 |



| Service Area | Income to end of Month 3 £000 | Budgeted Income 2014/15 £000 | Forecast Income £000 | Forecast Variance £000 |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Development Services Museums Guildhall | (140) (35) (164) | (530) (125) (334) | (562) (165) (454) | (32) (40) (120) |
| Guildhall Bar and Cafe | (32) | (174) | (138) | 36 |
| Corporate Director - Martin Shields | (371) | (1,163) | (1,319) | (156) |
| Shopmobility Private Sector Housing Cem and Crem The Arbor Food Safety and Licensing Markets Waste Management Countryside and Environment Tourist Information Centre Corporate Director - Ross Cook | (3) (35) (427) (42) (78) (98) 115 (25) (87) | (25) (74) (1,611) (133) (322) (487) (1,210) (35) (422) (4,319) | (20) (88) (1,673) (166) (306) (409) (1,288) (46) (350) (4,346) | 5 (14) (62) (33) 16 78 (78) (11) 72 (27) |
| Parking Asset Management | (484) (424) | (2,082) (1,569) | (2,136) (1,584) | (54) (15) |
| Regeneration and Economic Development | (908) | (3,651) | (3,720) | (69) |
| Overall Council Position | (1,959) | (9,133) | (9,385) | (252) |





Meeting: Cabinet Date: 16 September 2015

Subject: Armed Forces Community Covenant Update

Report Of: Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Martin Shields, Corporate Director

Email: martin.shields@gloucester.gov.uk Tel: 396745

Appendices: None

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on the work done by Gloucester City Council to support current and ex-service personnel as part of the Gloucestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant and to seek ongoing endorsement of such activity.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:
 - Activities to support current and ex-service personnel as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to the Covenant be endorsed;
 - (2) An annual update of achievements against the covenant be received and that this is timetabled into the Cabinet Forward Plan.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

3.1 Gloucester City Council, along with the five other District Councils, the County Council and Gloucestershire NHS and Gloucestershire Police Authority, signed up to the Gloucestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant on 27th February 2012.

3.2 Principles of the Armed Forces Community Covenant

- 3.2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.
- 3.2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Gloucestershire and to recognise and

- remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Gloucestershire.
- 3.2.3 For Gloucester City Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community.
- 3.2.4 For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

3.3 Gloucester City Council's Specific Measures

- The City Council support staff who are members of the Territorial Army (TA) or other military support service through flexible employment arrangements.
- Building control provide a free advice service and do not charge for any applications made for extensions or alterations to a domestic property for armed forces personnel returning with any disability.
- The City Council will continue to work with the armed forces on a number of
 events including the sale of poppies for Remembrance Sunday and the
 promotion of Armed Forces Day through staff news letters and inclusion in the
 Council's events calendar. In addition, the Council will continue to make a
 financial contribution to support Armed Forces Day in June of each year
 (currently £2,000).
- The City Council continues to work in partnership with the Armed Forces to increase links to the local service units by welcoming service personnel and their families to the area by supporting various activities including sporting and charity events, and developing the potential for Ministry of Defence (MOD) discounts.
- The Council will continue to support the British Legion's Poppy day through an
 arrangement with GL1 for free use of accommodation for their Remembrance
 Sunday event. Linked to this, in partnership with Amey (the Council's Street
 Care contractor) we will ensure that planting around the war memorial is in good
 order throughout the year and especially for Remembrance Sunday.
- The war memorial at the cenotaph and the war graves at Gloucester cemetery will continue to be maintained to a high standard to recognize the sacrifices made by service personnel.
- The City Council will continue to support Army Recruitment Events by allowing access to suitable sites.
- 3.3.1 As well as continuing to deliver the specific measure listed above the City Council delivers a range of support services, as can be seen in section 3.4 below:-

3.4 Current Activity

3.4.1 Housing Advice / Homelessness

- 3.4.2 Members of the armed forces have a local connection to the district of their choice. This includes those currently serving; those who have served within the immediate preceding 5 years; bereaved spouse or civil partner who has recently or will cease to be entitled to Ministry of Defence accommodation following the death of their service spouse (and the death was wholly or partly attributable to their service); existing or former members of the reserve forces who are suffering from a serious injury, illness or disability which is wholly or partly attributable to their service.
- 3.4.3 Special rules are required for those in the armed forces to comply with The Localism Act recognising the services they have offered the country. On discharge members of the armed forces, with a Homeless priority need (dependent children or vulnerable as a result of disability) will be awarded Gold band for 6 months from the discharge date. Applicants who are homeless but with a non priority need are given Silver band from their discharge date. Should they become homeless again within 5 years of the discharge date and have a priority need and are unintentionally homeless, applicants will be awarded Gold band again for 6 months from Notice being received. Non-priority need or Intentional homeless applicants will be awarded Silver band, backdated for 6 months from the date of the Notice being received.
- 3.4.4 Over the past 12 months, nine applicants have been rehoused in Gloucester through the Gloucestershire Homeseeker Choice Based Lettings scheme where they had been a member of the armed forces.
- 3.4.5 Managers within the Housing Advice and Homelessness Services receive regular updates from the Countywide Homelessness Coordinator regarding vacancies in Alabare schemes. The reports they send cover the South West and Wales so officers are able to look at a wider variety of options to prevent homelessness within the armed forces community. We also work with the British Legion who can look at possible financial assistance for clients who may require support with furnishing properties, finances to secure accommodation and give general support to clients who need support. In addition, ward Councillors have supported the scheme since its inception and continue to provide advice and support.

3.4.6 Benefit Claimants

- 3.4.7 Where applicants are in receipt of housing benefit (HB) and/or council tax support (CTS), in common with most local authorities, the City Council has adopted a policy to disregard as income some extra elements of war disablement pensions.
 - The intention of the policy is that Housing Benefit (HB)/Council Tax Support (CTS) claimants who get certain war pensions should get more HB/CTS than they otherwise would. This currently applies to 28 cases.
 - In 2014/15 the Council awarded an extra £39,338 in HB as a result of this policy, and the Council received subsidy from DWP covering 75% of this expenditure therefore the cost to the City Council of this policy in 2014/15 was around £9,835.

3.4.8 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

- 3.4.9 There is further help with housing costs through the use of DHP.
 - The City Council has a local procedure on awarding DHP, and under this
 procedure the client team would disregard as income some extra elements of
 war disablement pensions (the same as in housing benefit). There is no
 requirement to record this, however, Officers believe the number of DHP
 customers who have benefited from this will be low.

3.4.10 Under-occupation reductions in Housing Benefit

3.4.11 Legislation does have a provision to assist armed forces personnel in that a bedroom used by members of the armed or reserve forces will not be counted as a 'spare' room.

3.4.12 Gloucester Museum and Folk Museum

3.4.13 The City Council offers discounts to Defence Privilege card holders and staff attend the Freshers Fair each year at Imjin Barracks to let the residents know about all the things on offer. In addition, Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery and Gloucester Folk Museum welcome all military personnel and veterans. The museums hold a wide variety of exhibitions, events and activities at both museums throughout the year, as well as being places to come to find out about Gloucester's history, to enjoy our collection of world renowned works of art, to reminisce and sometimes simply to reflect.

3.4.14 Guildhall

3.4.15 The Guildhall offer discount to military personnel to the Cinema and are also signed up to a scheme where the venue is listed for military personnel to find.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 Many of the measures referred to in section 3 developed from discussions with Armed Forces personnel regarding the needs that they identified and required support from the City Council and other agencies to provide. There is ongoing dialogue through the Council's Community Engagement Team with military personnel to ensure a good relationship continues.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 There are no alternative options for consideration as the report is primarily an update of an ongoing commitment.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 It is important that Cabinet, and Members generally, understand the commitments made within the Armed Forces Community Covenant in 2012 and that these are reviewed to ensure that they remain relevant and consistent with legislation and the needs of serving and ex-serving service personnel.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet receive an annual update of achievements against the covenant and that this is timetabled into the Cabinet Forward Plan.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 10.1 There is a risk that Members and Officers overlook the commitments within the covenant during the course of the year. An annual review of the covenant will ensure that Members and officers keep the commitments of the covenant in the forefront of their minds.
- 10.2 There are opportunities to strengthen the relationship further with servicing and exserving personnel through the application of ABCD which has been applied to issues of isolation and community engagement.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

11.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 There are no community safety issues associated with this report.

Sustainability

12.2 Monitoring outcomes against the covenant will ensure that the covenant is sustainable and continues to develop and grow.

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 There are no staffing or trade union implications.

Press Release drafted/approved

12.4 Discussions will take place with Gloucestershire County Council who coordinate press releases in relation to activity around the covenant.

Background Documents: Armed Forces Community Covenant



Meeting: Cabinet Date: 16 September 2015

Subject: Regulation Of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) - Six

Monthly Report

Report Of: Cabinet Member For Performance And Resources

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Ross Cook, Corporate Director

Email: ross.cook@gloucester.gov.uk Tel: 396276

Appendices: None

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To report to Cabinet on the Council's use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the contents of the report be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) came into force in 2000. Both the legislation and Home Office Codes of Practice strictly prescribe the situations in which and the conditions under which councils can use their RIPA powers. All authorities are required to have a RIPA policy and procedure that they adhere to in using their RIPA powers.
- 3.2 The Council reviewed and updated its RIPA policy and procedure on 25 September 2014. The procedure requires the use of RIPA powers to be reported to Cabinet on a six monthly basis.
- 3.3 Since the last report to Cabinet, the Council has not used its RIPA powers and there are no further actions to report at this stage.
- 3.4 In July 2015, the Office of Surveillance Commissioners carried out their annual inspection and we are still awaiting their final report. However, at the time of their visit they advised that they had not identified any issues.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

4.1 There are no alternative options relevant to this matter.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

5.1 No action is required and the recommendation is therefore for Council to note the Council's use of its RIPA powers.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

6.1 The annual review of the Council's RIPA policy will be due in the latter half of 2015 and a report with any recommendations being made will be brought to Council in due course. This will include any recommendations that arise from the Office of Surveillance Commissioners inspection.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The legal implications are set out in the main body of the report.

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

9.1 Reporting on the Council's use of its RIPA policy and procedure helps to ensure that the Council's use of its powers remain appropriate.

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

- 10.1 The RIPA legislation requires the Council to give substantial consideration to the people impact of using its RIPA powers each and every time a RIPA application is authorised.
- 10.2 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

11.1 The use of RIPA powers by the Council can contribute to ensuring community safety.

Sustainability

11.2 There are no sustainability implications arising out of this report.

Staffing & Trade Union

11.3 There are no staffing implications arising out of this report.

Press Release drafted/approved

11.4 Not applicable for this report.

Background Documents:

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 Gloucester City Council Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Procedural Guide





Meeting: Cabinet Date: 16 September 2015

Subject: Murray Hall, Tuffley Lane Gloucester and Land at Colwell

Avenue Hucclecote Gloucester

Report Of: Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy

Wards Affected: Grange and Hucclecote

Key Decision: No Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Mark Dix, Surveyor and Valuer Tel:01452 396106

Email: mark.dix@gloucester.gov.uk

Appendices: 1. Plans showing the subject premises edged in red.

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to recommend approval of the intended disposal of the freehold interests in the subject properties to the relevant Scout Associations at market value.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the freehold interests in Murray Hall, Tuffley Lane, and land situated in Colwell Avenue Hucclecote, as marked out in Appendix 1, be sold at market value to the relevant Scout Associations.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Scout Association Trust hold a lease for a term of 60 years from 20 Feb 1970 in respect of land at Tuffley Lane. The lease contains restrictions on the use of the land to those normal activities of a scout group. The rent passing at present is £180 pa, a rent review is outstanding as at 20 February 2015, reviews are ten yearly and are based on the retail prices index.
- 3.2 The land at Hucclecote is held on lease for a term of 66 years from 20 November 1972, the current rent is £950 pa set with effect from 1 April 2009, rent reviews are five yearly. Negotiation in respect of the last rent review generated much negative publicity.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 This is positive from an ABCD point of view in that it is far better for communities to be empowered to run their own assets. They can use existing strengths, skills and experience to run it and based on their own needs. The proposal will remove the restrictions associated with holding leasehold property.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 The Council could retain the freehold interests in the subject properties, although it is the view of Asset Management that the interests of the respective scout groups will be best served if they secure the freehold interests.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 The proposals provide a good opportunity for the scout groups to work up appropriate schemes to further improve the properties without the restrictions of holding leasehold property and with the prospects for additional external funding further improved.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

7.1 Following approval, Officers will carry out the following: Secure internal or external valuations as considered appropriate by the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development, enter into negotiations with the respective Scout Associations and if so agreed to complete legal documentation with the parties as appropriate.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The loss of income to the Council is a small sum of approx £1k per annum. In accordance with good financial practice this will be added as a budget pressure in the next budget setting process.
- 8.2 Any capital receipt becoming due as a result of the transaction will be added to the Capital Receipts that the Council has available for future investment in assets.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 The Council has power under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 to sell its freehold interest in land for the best consideration reasonably obtainable.

The Council may take steps to ensure that the use of the land is limited in the future to use by the Scouts or similar bodies (for example by the imposition of a covenant enforceable under section 33 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982), but the inclusion of such provisions may reduce the price received.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

10.1 There are no adverse risks associated with the proposed course of action; the proposal will allow the scout groups to further improve the properties.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

11.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 No impacts

Sustainability

12.2 No adverse impacts

Staffing & Trade Union

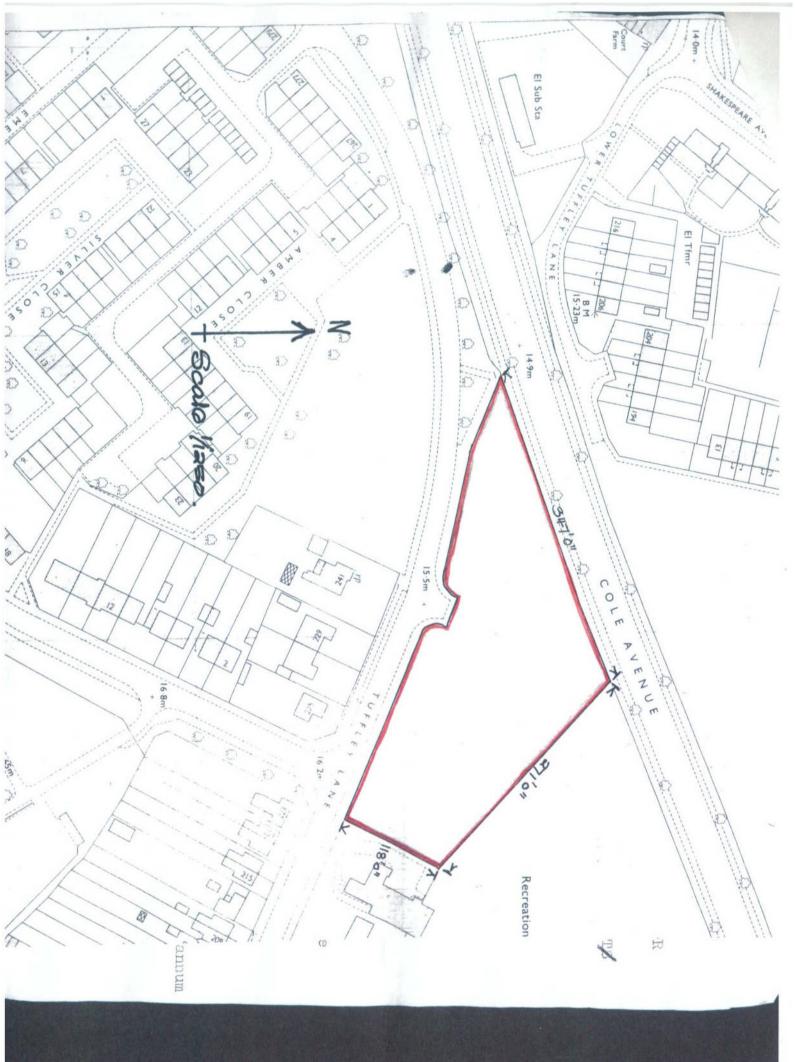
12.3 No impact

Press Release drafted/approved

12.4 This is considered premature at this stage.

Background Documents: None













Meeting: Cabinet Date: 16 September 2015

Subject: 23, 25, 27 and 29 Commercial Road, Gloucester

Report Of: Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy

Wards Affected: Westgate

Key Decision: Yes Budget/Policy Framework: No

Contact Officer: Mark Dix, Surveyor and Valuer Tel: 01452 396106

Mark.dix@gloucester.gov.uk

Appendices: 1. Property Particulars and plan showing extent of the freehold

land to be acquired

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to recommend approval of: (a) the intended acquisition of the freehold interests in the subject properties (b), if required the acquisition of additional access rights; and (c) the subsequent sale of the same, and of the Council's leasehold interests in the properties, at market value. Cabinet approval is sought to the intended sales, in order to comply with the requirements of the Constitution.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) The freehold interest in 23/25 and 27/ 29 Commercial Road (including land to the rear) from the Canal and River Trust (CRT), edged red on the plan attached be acquired.
- (2) If so required to enable the proposal to proceed, that additional access rights over adjoining properties at a price the Asset Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Economy, considers to be appropriate be acquired;
- (3) The freehold and leasehold interests in the above-mentioned properties be disposed of, together with any access rights, to the bidder offering the most advantageous proposal in the opinion of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy, and in any event at not less than market value; and
- (4) Any ancillary documents the Council Solicitor (following consultation with the Asset Manager) considers necessary or desirable to enable the transaction to proceed including (if so required by the purchaser) an Agreement restricting the Council's pre-contract negotiations to the purchaser for a period not exceeding 4 months be entered into.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 These properties formed part of the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) portfolio that transferred to the City in 2011 following the closure of the Regional Development Agencies (RDA).
- 3.2 Numbers 27 and 29 have been vacant for a number of years and are in a poor condition requiring refurbishment. Nos 23 and 25 are partly let, with a firm of solicitors occupying the ground and upper floors. The lower floor is currently vacant. (formerly the yacht club)
- 3.3 The City hold long (200 year) leases from CRT in respect of both 23/25 and 27/29 Commercial Road.
- 3.4 In principle terms were agreed with the Canal and River Trust for the City to acquire the freehold interest. Terms were agreed and authority obtained, signed off by the then Asset Manager and the interim Director of Regeneration in January 2013. The matter stalled following negotiations with CRT and some issues arising as to certain restrictions required by CRT. Matters have moved forward more recently.
- 3.5 Asset Management instructed external agents to formally market Nos 27/29 Commercial Road. Bruton Knowles, Chartered Surveyors offered the property, together with land to the rear, freehold with vacant possession with a guide price of £400k. Property particulars are attached to this report, best offers were sought with the best proposal received from the preferred bidder and subject to Listed Building Consent, planning consent for restaurant use and with the City undertaking to complete the outstanding public realm works at its own cost. Although with an expressed requirement seeking to improve the access stairs to the east and west of the building at the joint cost to the preferred bidder and the Council.
- 3.6 The preferred bidder's proposals look to secure a new access to the property from the steps adjacent to the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. These steps are within the ownership of the Secretary of State for Defence. The Council have commenced discussions with the Museum with a view to securing their support for such proposals.
- 3.7 The preferred bidder's proposals represent a step change in the potential to attract good quality A3 / restaurant offers to this part of the Gloucester Docks that will assist in readdressing the pull of Gloucester Quays and possible detriment to the centre. The preferred bidder has recognised that it is important to seek to improve links between the Quays / Docks and the Cathedral and other attractions within the city centre.
- 3.8 27 and 29 Commercial Road have been widely marketed and attracted strong interest, although several offers sought to focus on residential uses. Two / three proposals sought to look at a mixed use proposal. The agents quoted a guide price of £400k. The Council's solicitors have advised that cabinet approval is required in order to comply with the Council's Constitution.
- 3.9 The preferred bidder expressed a wish for the Council to enter into a pre-contract Agreement whereby the Council's ability to negotiate with or accept bids from third

parties is prohibited. The intention behind the request is believed to be to protect the preferred bidder from wasted costs, particularly as the Council is not yet under contract to acquire some of the interests to be transferred to the preferred purchaser. Although it is unusual for the Council to enter into such an Agreement, and proper regard has to be given to the Council's duty to obtain best consideration, Cabinet may consider that the circumstances surrounding the proposal are such that such an Agreement, for a short period, would be acceptable.

3.10 Steps will be taken when dealing with the proposed transaction to ensure that any obligations imposed on the Council by the SWRDA Agreement are met.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 Not applicable to this transaction.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 27 and 29 Commercial Road have been vacant for a number of years, the proposals will substantially improve the properties and the attractiveness of this general location for business.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 The proposals represent a good opportunity to bring the building into beneficial use, to consolidate this part of the docks, improve links with the City Centre, provide a capital sum that will pay for completion of public realm adjacent to the properties and provide a possible step change in the restaurant offer in the City.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 7.1 Following approval Officers will carry out the following work:
 - Complete the legal documentation with CRT to secure the purchaser of the freehold interests;
 - Complete a conditional contract with the preferred bidder for the disposal of the freehold and leasehold interests;
 - Enter into further negotiations with the Secretary of State for Defence and the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum with regards the adjacent steps;
 - Work up final details with regards improvements to the adjacent public realm, and facilitate discussions with other Officers relating to the improvements to the buildings.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The proposal will require the Council to use capital funds to purchase the freehold interest in the properties. These funds will be replenished by the sale of the assets creating a net receipt.

- 8.2 The properties were transferred to the Council from SWRDA and as a result the capital receipts must be utilised for regeneration purposes. The required public realm works would be a valid use of the funds. The decision on how to utilise the capital receipts would be the subject of a future cabinet report.
- 8.3 The properties generate a net surplus of funds each year from their current rental position. The surplus in 2014/15 was £16k. As SWRDA assets this income would not be lost to the General Fund but would reduce the amount that the Council is able to put into the regeneration reserve at the end of each financial year by that amount.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Council has an obligation under s123 of the Local Government Act 1972 to dispose of land at the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained. This obligation applies unless there are specific circumstances in which a sale at an under value can be considered. The method of disposal for 27/29 Commercial Road, and the external valuation received in respect of the proposed transaction indicates that the Council's statutory duty under this section has been met
- 9.2 The Council has power under s120 of the Local Government Act 1972 to acquire interests in land. Whilst there is no express obligation reflecting that in s123 regarding "best consideration", the Council has a general overriding duty to act prudently, reasonably and responsibly. The Council's Valuers have confirmed that the price required by CRT for the acquisition of the freehold interests is appropriate for the interest being acquired.
- 9.3 Any obligation entered into by the Council which restricts its ability to negotiate with third parties to obtain a better price needs to be entered into with caution, to ensure that the Council's statutory obligation under s123 of the 1972 Act is not compromised. Any such obligation should be time limited (to a relatively short period) in order to minimise the risk of any breach of the Council's duty. In this instance the Council are proposing 4 months. The Councils approach is acceptable.
- 9.4 The Agreement with the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) imposes various obligations on the Council in respect of properties forming part of the former SWRDA portfolio which were transferred to the Council in 2011. In general, the proposal appears to be consistent with the obligations imposed on the Council by the Agreement.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

10.1 The contract with the preferred bidder will be conditional on planning consent for the proposed restaurant use, and also Listed Building Consent for the required works. Asset Management are consulting with in house Officers to gauge their aspirations for the building, and to advise as to likely proposals, including intended uses.

10.2 If the preferred purchaser insists upon a pre-contract agreement being entered into whereby the Council's ability to negotiate with other interested bodies is excluded, there is a risk that the Council may lose an opportunity to sell at an increased price, although this risk is considered low.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

11.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 No real impacts. If sold and building works commence with regards the public realm works, contracts will be let and managed in accordance with the required safety requirements.

Sustainability

12.2 No adverse implications, the proposals bring a vacant property back into beneficial use.

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 There are no implications.

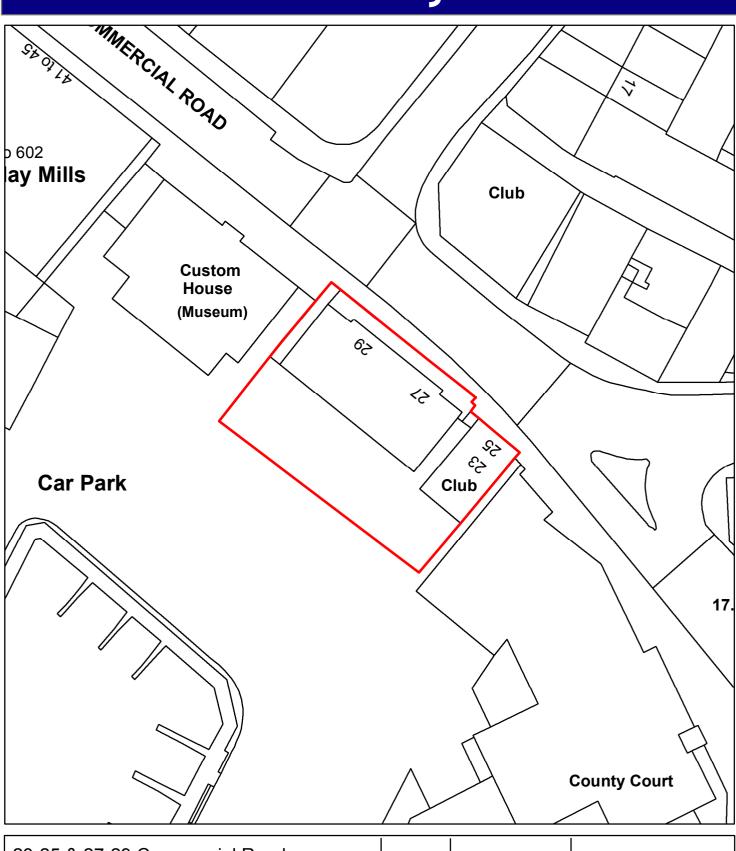
Press Release drafted/approved

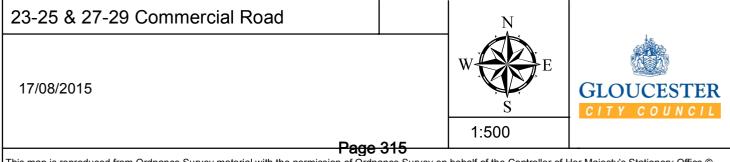
12.4 It is premature to consider this aspect.

Background Documents: None



Gloucester City Council





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01452 880000

brutonknowles.co.uk

FOR SALE



DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

27 - 29, Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL1 2HE

A unique location within Gloucester Quays overlooking Victoria Basin



8,450 Sq Ft (785 Sq M)

2790

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

27 - 29, Commercial Road, Gloucester, GL1 2HE

A unique location within Gloucester Quays overlooking Victoria Basin

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective for The City Council is to identify a developer or occupier that will provide a comprehensive refurbishment of this historic building offering a sympathetic scheme that is in keeping with the waterside location adjacent to Gloucester Docks. As part of the transaction the City Council will complete the adjacent public realm works.

LOCATION

The property is located in the heart of the Historic Gloucester Docks and backs onto the quayside of Victoria Basin. The property is nearby to the flourishing Gloucester Quays Outlet Centre and the surrounding area has undergone a £400 million re-generation scheme. The Docks is 6.5 miles from junction 11 of the M5. Rail links include a mainline service from the station at Gloucester.

PLANNING

The property is Grade II Listed. A planning brief has been drawn up for the Docks Basin and the City Council have a preference to see the building converted to mixed uses with active uses to the Docks side. Currently the property benefits from B1 'Office Use'.

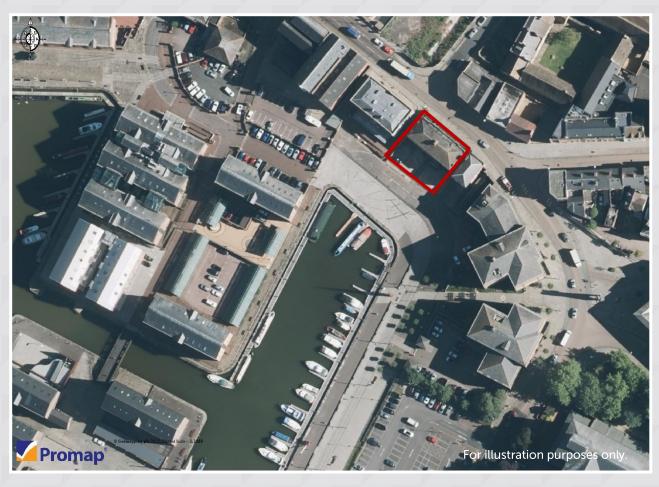
DESCRIPTION

27 to 29 Commercial Road comprises a pair of semidetached properties originally built as merchants offices in the mid 1800s. The frontage to Commercial Road is dressed in Ashlar Stone with the remainder being of brick construction and the property having a hipped slate roof. A front entrance of both buildings is located on Commercial Road with the rear access at a much lower level requiring the provision of two storeys below pavement level.

Internally the property requires extensive refurbishment and or conversion works after lying vacant for some time. The property has potential for a range of uses subject to planning and listed building consents.

TITLE / TERMS

The building excluding the car parking at the rear is held on a long lease by the City Council. The freehold is owned by the Canals and Rivers Trust; they have agreed to sell the freehold including the car parking area to the rear. The long leasehold and freehold can be combined to provide vacant possession.





01452 880000

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A unique location within Gloucester Quays overlooking Victoria Basin

SERVICE CHARGE

An annual service charge will be payable to contribute to the upkeep of the Docks / Quays area and for the provision of access to the rear of the property. Further information is available from the agents.

METHOD OF SALE

The property is for sale by way of informal tender and best bids are sought for the Freehold. Bids to be submitted by Tuesday 30th June in the prescribed tender form. The form is available upon request.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

Due to the building being Grade II Listed an energy performance certificate is not required.

VAT

VAT is not applicable on the purchase price.

LEGAL COSTS

Each party to bear their own legal costs incurred in this transaction.

SERVICES

The property benefits from all mains services.

BUSINESS RATES

The property is described as 'offices and premises' and has a rateable value of £19,750. Rates payable for 2015/2016 are 49.3 pence in the pound.

SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION (GIA)

| | m ² | ft ² |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Lower Basement | 176 | 1,895 |
| Lower Ground Floor | 203 | 2,185 |
| Ground Floor | 203 | 2,185 |
| First Floor | 203 | 2,185 |
| TOTAL | 785 | 8,450 |



DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

27 - 29, Commercial Road, Gloucester, GL1 2HE

A unique location within Gloucester Quays overlooking Victoria Basin

VIEWING

The property can be viewed on the following viewing days:

Wednesday 6^{th} May -10.30-12.30 Wednesday 20^{th} May -2.30 -4.30 Wednesday 3^{rd} June -10.30-12.30 Wednesday 17^{th} June -2.30-4.30

Agents Note: For clarification the agents are representing Gloucester City Council in this transaction.









Subject to Contact & availability. These particulars are intended as a general guide only and do not constitute any part of an offer or contract.

All descriptions, dimensions, references to condition and necessary permissions for use and occupation, and other details are given without responsibility and any intending purchasers or lessees should satisfy themselves are the acceptance of all statements and representations before entering into any agreement. No employee or partner of Bruton Knowles has authority to the property.

Agenda Item 17

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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