



Report of	Meeting	Date
Joint LDF Officer Team	Central Lancashire LDF Joint Advisory Committee	31 May 2012

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To summarise the key findings of the Central Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That members note the contents of this report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The Playing Pitch Strategy was prepared by consultants Knight, Kavanagh & Page for Central Lancashire. It details the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping. The strategy has been prepared in accordance with the methodology provided in the Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field – A guide to the production of playing pitch strategies' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities.
4. Developing this strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is intended to allow the authorities to:
 - ◀ Protect facilities against development pressures, and specifically residential proposals on land in and around urban areas.
 - ◀ Identify facility supply and demand issues in relation to predicted population growth up to 2026.
 - ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures eg mini-soccer, increased demand for artificial pitches.
 - ◀ Address issues of cross boundary facility provision.
 - ◀ Stand up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

5. To help ensure Members are aware of the key findings of the Strategy.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

6. None.

BACKGROUND

7. Members will be aware that consultants Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) were engaged to prepare a Playing Pitch Strategy and Central Lancashire Open Space Study.
8. The Playing Pitch Strategy was led by a steering group made up of Officers from a range of departments at Chorley, Preston and South Ribble councils and Sport England. It assesses outdoor sport and recreation facilities in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and its Companion Guide entitled "Assessing Needs and Opportunities" published in September 2002. It covers football, rugby (both league and union), cricket, hockey and educational facilities and includes
 - ◀ An audit of existing provision of outdoor facilities detailing quantity, quality, capacity accessibility and wider value to the community.
 - ◀ An assessment of supply/demand for outdoor sports facilities
 - ◀ A summary of consultation with a variety of stakeholders, including local authority officers, Sport England, national governing bodies of sport, league secretaries, clubs, schools and higher/further education establishments.
9. It reviews existing standards of provision and advises on new local standards for planning purposes, making recommendations on appropriate strategy, objectives and actions, and policy responses. It also establishes an approach for developer contributions.
10. The assessment element of the work incorporates an analysis of outdoor sport and recreation facilities covering:
 - ◀ Football pitches
 - ◀ Cricket pitches
 - ◀ Rugby pitches (union and league)
 - ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
11. It provides a quantitative summary of provision of each typology and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also includes information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the details of the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plans (where they exist). Local league details were provided, where possible, in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are also summarised.
12. The study identifies current levels of provision in the area, across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors, and compares this with current, and likely future levels of demand. The supply and demand analysis helps identify the need for new facilities, and also suggests if there are too many facilities, perhaps in the wrong location.
13. It identifies a hierarchy of investment priorities for facility improvements and development and includes an assessment of use and quality of sites and whether they are fit for purpose which will inform decision making for future delivery of pitches. It includes a site-specific action plan (where action is deemed necessary to maintain or improve quality and accessibility).
14. This information informs priorities for pitch, green and court sports and provides robust evidence for capital funding/grants and any need for developer contributions towards facilities.

CONSULTATION

15. A variety of consultation methods were used to collate information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. These were as follows:

Consultation - methods and response rates

Sport	Response rate	Methods of consultation
<i>Football clubs</i>	49%	Survey, face to face and telephone
<i>Cricket clubs</i>	86%	Survey, face to face and telephone
<i>Rugby union clubs</i>	100%	Survey, face to face and telephone
<i>Rugby league clubs</i>	40%	Survey, face to face and telephone
<i>Hockey clubs</i>	100%	Survey
<i>Secondary schools (including independent)</i>	85%	Face to face
<i>Primary schools</i>	81%	Survey

16. In total 154 contacts were consulted as part of this study. Views were sought on how far particular age groups were prepared to travel to pitches, club development, growth and key issues.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES FROM ASSESSMENT REPORT

17. Football

- ◀ A total of 525 teams play on pitches in Central Lancashire.
- ◀ Generally, there is an even distribution of football pitches across Central Lancashire. However, some settlement areas, particularly in the south east area of Preston and north of Chorley, only contain pitches which are not available for community use.
- ◀ 90 sites available for community use, providing a total of 199 pitches. In addition, there are 85 sites providing 125 pitches, which are not currently accessible to the community. The majority of these are located on school sites and tend to comprise mainly junior pitches.
- ◀ The large majority (82%) of football pitches were assessed as good quality, 12% were assessed as average and a further 5% were assessed as poor quality. Furthermore, over three fifths of clubs (63%) rated the quality of their designated home pitch as either good or average.
- ◀ League consultation suggests that changing facilities are, in general, substandard. In addition, there is a lack of segregated changing facilities across Central Lancashire.
- ◀ Six sites (one Chorley, two in Preston and three in South Ribble) are overplayed by 28 matches each week. The large majority of overplay is attributed to high use of Penwortham Holme Recreation Ground mini pitches which accommodated the Mid Lancs Colts League.
- ◀ Clubs report that membership levels have generally remained static at senior, junior and mini level over the three years. However, 40 clubs also cite proposals to increase the number of teams to be provided by an additional 94 junior teams.
- ◀ 22 clubs in Central Lancashire express latent demand for 6 senior, 12.5 junior and 5.5 mini pitches.
- ◀ There is a current deficiency of junior and mini grass football pitches and a surplus of senior pitches across Central Lancashire. The deficiency will be exacerbated in the future because of increasing demand for mini pitches and population increases.

- ◀ **Sport England's Facilities Planning Model identifies that only Chorley has a need for additional pitch space across both artificial grass pitch types (sandbased and 3G).**
- ◀ **The FA provision standard for 3G pitches suggests there is a need for 7.54 pitches in Central Lancashire. On this basis, an additional 4 pitches are needed by 2026 in Central Lancashire.**

18. Cricket

- ◀ There are 31 cricket pitches available for community use in Central Lancashire, accommodating 196 teams (including senior mens and women's and juniors).
- ◀ Site assessments generally score the quality of available cricket pitches as good.
- ◀ Central Lancashire's eight focus clubs support high levels of participation.
- ◀ Capacity analysis shows there are 12 sites being played over their current capacity. One site; Penwortham Sports & Social Club is played at capacity.
- ◀ There is generally a low level of latent demand expressed. However, four clubs report demand for one pitch each.
- ◀ In addition to participation increases due to population growth, it is likely that women's and girls' cricket involvement will increase if the national target to establish two junior girls' and a women's team in every local authority over the next five years is achieved.
- ◀ **New pitches would be required in all local authority areas to meet future demand at peak times.**

19. Rugby union

- ◀ Rugby union pitches are predominately located in Preston.
- ◀ A small number of pitches are located at education sites but are not used for community use as there is no reported demand.
- ◀ With the exception of Preston Grasshoppers RFC the remaining pitches in Central Lancashire have spare capacity to accommodate additional play. However, any significant increase in playing membership at remaining clubs may result in the need for additional pitch provision.
- ◀ Chorley RFC is seeking to replace its pitches and clubhouse.
- ◀ There are enough pitches to accommodate current demand in Central Lancashire. Although there appears to be a general oversupply of pitches, the amount of actual spare capacity (i.e. at peak times) does not equate to a surplus
- ◀ Latent demand for pitches has been expressed by Preston Grasshoppers RFC to accommodate two junior and five mini teams.
- ◀ **New pitches would be required in Preston to meet future demand at peak times.**

20. Rugby League

- ◀ There are seven rugby league pitches used for community use across Central Lancashire.
- ◀ Four sites (two in South Ribble and two in Chorley) accommodating four pitches are located at education sites and are not used for community use, reportedly due to a lack of demand.
- ◀ Temporal demand for senior rugby league (matches only) is Saturday (63%) with junior and mini demand exclusively on a Sunday.
- ◀ Leyland Warriors has aspirations to have greater security of tenure in order to be eligible for external funding to develop a third pitch on Moss Side Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Latent demand for pitches has been expressed in Preston by Bamber Bridge RFC for one youth team.
- ◀ It is likely that participation in rugby league will increase, particularly in Preston linked to RFL initiatives and linked to the World Cup in 2013.
- ◀ In Chorley Chisnall Lane is overplayed and two other sites are played to capacity and given that these pitches are assessed as good quality, this suggests that additional pitches may be required at these sites in the future. Spare capacity at sites close by may help to alleviate some pressure. (In Chorley, there is spare capacity of 0.5 matches each week on a Saturday at King George V Playing Field, Adlington).
- ◀ **New pitches would be required to meet future demand at peak times.**

21. Hockey

- ◀ Across Central Lancashire, there is a high demand for hockey, particularly in Preston. In total, there are eight hockey clubs playing in the area.
- ◀ There are eight full size artificial grass pitches, suitable for competitive hockey in Central Lancashire, with Preston Sports Arena (UCLAN) accommodating two adjacent to each other. In addition, Longridge High School provides a full size sandbased pitch and is located just outside the Preston local authority boundary.
- ◀ The key issue for hockey clubs in Central Lancashire is the accessibility of existing provision. Although existing pitches are operating at capacity there are three pitches (Longridge High School, Penwortham Leisure Centre and Runshaw College) that are suitable for hockey but predominately accommodating football usage.
- ◀ The large majority of artificial grass pitches in Central Lancashire over recent years have been refurbished. However, Runshaw College is the oldest pitch (built in 1974) and it is likely to be in need of replacing over the next few years.
- ◀ The Facility Planning Model estimates that Preston and South Ribble have sufficient pitches to meet demand. **The model identifies that Chorley has a need for additional pitch.**

22. Education

- ◀ There are 182 playing pitches (including all types) in Central Lancashire, of which 63 are available for community use.
- ◀ In total, 35 secondary and primary schools are regularly used for competitive community use.
- ◀ A quarter of these schools (25%) identify that community use is through competitive play.
- ◀ In the majority of instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to school changing accommodation is limited or non-existent.
- ◀ The quality and quantity of outdoor sports facilities at school sites varies across Central Lancashire but a common theme on secondary pitch provision is poor quality drainage which often dictates the level of curricular, extracurricular and community use.

KEY FINDINGS OF STUDY

23. Area-by-area analyses are detailed in Appendix 1. From 2008 - 2026 there is expected to be a population increase of 28,800 across Central Lancashire when the population is anticipated to rise from 347,500 to 376,300 (Central Lancashire Core Strategy Housing Related Changes paper Nov 2011). The table below applies current standards to future estimated population growth per area to indicate how much provision per 1,000 people is needed to strategically serve Central Lancashire until 2026.

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population (Mid Year 2008 Estimates ONS)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet latent demand (ha)	Provision to meet deficiencies	Total required to meet current demand (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population (2026)	Total new provision requirement by 2026 (ha)
Chorley	93.93	104,700	0.90	8.42	25.88	128.23	1.22	114,200	45.93
Preston	109.11	135,300	0.81	8.96	32.55	150.61	1.11	144,500	51.75
South Ribble	100.51	107,500	0.93	10.52	20.51	131.54	1.22	117,600	43.39
CENTRAL LANCASHIRE	303.55	347,500	0.87	27.90	78.93	410.38	1.18	376,300	140.84

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

24. The Strategy includes a framework for the Central Lancashire Councils and their partners to maintain and improve their playing pitch facilities. It recommends that each Council adopts 5 strategic objectives (as policy) to enable them to achieve the vision of the Strategy.
25. Under each objective the Strategy details how these can be delivered using a range of management objectives, for example a strategic objective to address quantitative deficiencies can be met by adopting minimum levels of provision which are accessible and sustainable, and prioritising new capital development projects etc. These management objectives are then realised by a series of recommended actions.

ACTION PLAN

26. The Action Plan included in the Strategy details policy options relating to individual sites in each of the council areas to enhance and develop new sporting provision
27. It details some 34 sites across Central Lancashire; 11 in Chorley, 13 in South Ribble and 10 in Preston, explaining the issues to be resolved and the recommended actions. Covering a 10 year period it highlights whether the actions associated with each site are short (1-2 years), medium (3-5 years), or long (6+ years) term priorities.

NEXT STAGES

28. As an essential component of the LDF evidence base, the Playing Pitch Strategy analyses current levels of pitch provision in Central Lancashire, across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors, and compares this with current, and likely future levels of demand. This allows the authorities to identify the need for new facilities, indicating if there are too many facilities, perhaps in the wrong location, or deficiencies etc. The analysis will be used to underpin planning policy and allocation as set out in the next iteration of the Site Allocations DPDs and the proposed Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document.
29. The Playing Pitch Strategy will also help to prioritise the actions of other Council departments and support bids for external funding.
30. The Playing Pitch Strategy sits alongside the Central Lancashire Open Space Study also produced by KKP. This is covered in a separate agenda item.

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Central Lancashire Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy	May 2012	***	Council Offices

Report Author	Ext	Email address	Doc ID
Peter McAnespie	515286	peter.mcanespie@chorley.gov.uk	JAC Report – May 12 – Playing Pitch

Appendix 1 - Area-by-area analysis

Chorley

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i> Surplus of 18, estimated to decrease slightly to 15.8 by 2026</p>	<p>The surplus of senior pitches is attributed to spare capacity across 22 sites including significant spare capacity at St Michaels High School, Parklands High School and Buckshaw Playing Fields, Chancer.</p>	<p>Pitches with spare capacity at peak time could help to address the shortfall of junior and mini football.</p> <p>For example, overplay at Dob Bridge could be accommodated on sites with spare capacity such as Croston Sports Club.</p> <p>Seek to maintain at least one pitch to accommodate overplay, three pitches for latent demand and at least four pitches as strategic reserve (i.e. 10% of the stock in the area).</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i> Deficiency of -7.5, estimated to increase to -9.0 by 2026</p>	<p>There are a large number of junior teams playing on senior sized pitches. Please note that in this instance this is fully accepted by the leagues/teams.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate junior teams and latent demand.</p> <p>Re-designation of senior pitches for which there is an oversupply to accommodate junior pitches.</p>
<p><i>Mini football</i> Deficiency of -5.5 of, estimated to increase slightly to -6.5 by 2026</p>	<p>The deficiency is as a result of the large number of junior teams (23) playing and the shortage of pitches at peak time.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate junior teams and latent demand.</p> <p>Re-designation of senior pitches for which there is an oversupply to accommodate mini pitches.</p>
<p><i>Cricket</i> Deficiency of -2.2, estimated to increase to -3.8 by 2026</p>	<p>The deficiency is attributed to overplay at five sites in the area particularly Chorley, Charnock Richard and Fulwood & Broughton cricket clubs.</p>	<p>It is vital that all sites are protected from development and that clubs/providers are supported to increase the availability of artificial wickets for seniors.</p> <p>In addition, increase community use at school sites such as Christ Church Primary, Parklands High and Our Lady & St Edwards Catholic Primary</p>
<p><i>Rugby union</i> Surplus of 0.5, estimated to decrease slightly to 0.4 by 2026</p>	<p>The slight surplus is attributed to spare capacity at Chorley Rugby Club to accommodate future growth.</p>	<p>Seek to maintain this level of provision to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby league</i> Surplus of 0.5, estimated to decrease slightly to 0.4 by 2026</p>	<p>The slight surplus is attributed to spare peak time capacity at King George V Playing Fields, Adlington (Saturday am).</p>	<p>Seek to maintain this level of provision to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>
<p><i>Junior rugby league</i> Deficiency of -6.0, estimated to increase slightly to -6.6 by 2026</p>	<p>The deficiency results from the large number of junior teams (14) playing at peak time (Sunday) at Chisnall Lane Playing Fields.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites at peak time (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate teams.</p>

South Ribble

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i> Surplus of 20.5, estimated to decrease slightly to 17.9 by 2026</p>	<p>The surplus is attributed to spare capacity across 31 sites including significant spare capacity at Penwortham Home Recreation Ground, Worden Park, Wellfield Business & Enterprise College and Lostock Hall Community High School.</p>	<p>Overplay at sites; Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club, Penwortham Holme (mini pitches only) and Hurst Grange could be accommodated on sites with spare capacity.</p> <p>Maintain at least 10% of stock as strategic reserve (two pitches) and an additional two pitches to accommodate latent demand.</p> <p>Seek to maintain at least ten pitches to accommodate overplay, two for latent demand and at least two pitches as strategic reserve (i.e. 10% of the stock in the area).</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i> Surplus of 1.0, estimated to decrease slightly to -0.6 by 2026</p>	<p>Small amounts of spare capacity are expressed across a number of sites including St Anne's and Whitefield primary schools. However, this does not equate surplus provision.</p>	<p>Spare capacity should be retained to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>
<p><i>Mini football</i> Deficiency of -9.0, estimated to increase slightly to -11.2 by 2026</p>	<p>South Ribble contains a significant number of mini football teams (83) which are accommodated across 13 mini pitches. Demand is comfortably met on existing provision.</p>	<p>Any future requirements could be satisfied through reconfiguration of the existing stock.</p>
<p><i>Cricket</i> Deficiency of -1.4, estimated to increase to -2.3 by 2026</p>	<p>The deficiency is brought about by the high number of teams playing at two sites; Fox Lane Sports Club and Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club.</p>	<p>It is vital that all sites are protected from development and that clubs are supported to increase the availability of artificial wickets for seniors or as appropriate demand for second home grounds is supported.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby</i> There is no current shortfall or deficiency of pitches identified, however, this is estimated to decrease to -0.1 by 2026</p>	<p>Spare capacity is expressed at Lancashire Constabulary Police Headquarters.</p>	<p>The surplus of pitches is negligible but should be retained to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby league</i> Surplus of 2.0, estimated to decrease slightly to 1.9 by 2026</p>	<p>Although the sites in South Ribble are played to capacity at there is spare capacity at peak time (Saturday am).</p>	<p>The surplus should be retained as strategic reserve and to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Junior rugby league</i> Deficiency of -3.0, estimated to increase slightly to -3.3 by 2026</p>	<p>At peak times (Sunday) there is a shortfall of junior pitches.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites at junior peak times (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate teams.</p>

Preston

Summary of surpluses/deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i> Surplus of 11.5, estimated to decrease slightly to 9.2 by 2026</p>	<p>The surplus relates to spare capacity at Archbishop Temple and Corpus Christi high schools as well as Moor Park.</p>	<p>Pitches with spare capacity could help to address the shortfall of junior and mini pitches.</p> <p>Seek to maintain at least three pitches to accommodate overplay, two pitches for latent demand and at least one pitch as strategic reserve (i.e. 10% of the stock in the area).</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i> Deficiency of -8.0, estimated to increase slightly to -9.5 by 2026</p>	<p>There are a large number of junior teams playing on senior sized pitches. Please note that in this instance this is fully accepted by the leagues/teams.</p>	<p>The deficiency of junior pitches can be met through greater use of senior pitches.</p>
<p><i>Mini football</i> Deficiency of -7.0, estimated to increase slightly to -7.6 by 2026</p>	<p>Preston has the fewest (two) mini pitches in Central Lancashire.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate junior teams and latent demand.</p>
<p><i>Cricket</i> Deficiency of -6.9, estimated to increase to -7.9 by 2026</p>	<p>The deficiency is brought about by overplay across a number of sites, particularly at Preston Sports Arena which accommodates a mid week cricket league.</p>	<p>It is vital that all sites are protected from development and that clubs/providers are supported to increase the availability of artificial wickets for seniors.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby</i> Deficiency of -2.5, estimated to increase to -3.0 by 2026</p>	<p>Preston Grasshoppers RFC is overplayed by 1.8 matches each week.</p>	<p>Increase community use at school sites (where there is junior or senior pitches) to accommodate junior teams.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby league</i></p>	<p>There is no current/future shortfall or deficiency of pitches identified.</p>	-
<p><i>Junior rugby league</i></p>	<p>There is no current/future shortfall or deficiency of pitches identified.</p>	-

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