

## **Playing Pitch Strategy - Appendix 1**

### **Analysis of current provision**

The headline summary of current facility stock in Manchester LA area by sport is as follows:

#### **Football**

The key findings in relation to football provision are:

##### *Grass Pitch Summary*

- There are 197 pitches across 71 sites reported to be available for community use on some level, whilst 28 pitches across 12 sites are unavailable for community use.
- In 2020/21 season, The University of Manchester (Wythenshawe Sports Ground) site was closed for community resulting in 26 football pitches and 1 rugby pitch unavailable for community use. The site was remobilised in March 2021 under a short-term lease arrangement with Wythenshawe Forum Trust.  
In addition, Manchester Health Academy site closed for a 12-month period resulting in a further temporary loss of 3G and Grass Pitches.
- There are 21 FA or FIFA certified 3G pitches, of differing dimensions, on which competitive football matches can be played.
- Most available pitches in Manchester (68%) are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches.
- The majority (60%) of pitches available for community use are rated as standard quality, with 26% rated as poor and only 37 pitches as good, equating to just 14%.
- However, there are 17 grass pitch sites in Manchester with three or more full-size pitch equivalents (or with fewer than three pitches but deemed to be of strategic importance). These contain 111 grass pitches. Of the 17 sites, three are considered to have good quality pitches, eight are of standard quality and six of poor quality. Local consultation confirms common issues with poor quality and it is recommended that this is addressed.
- 15 pitch sites have been prioritised for improvements, representing 58 pitches. 6 sites now have anchor club arrangements in place who will be responsible for management of a 10-year pitch improvement programme via enhanced maintenance to address poor quality.
- Changing facilities are a key issue at 18 football sites, with many ancillary facilities requiring modernisation. From the 17 strategic sites, Six require improvement/replacement and two have no facilities and require new changing rooms. Hough End site now has 6 team changing cabins to service competitive football on site which will be in place until a long-term plan is brought forward.
- The majority of teams in Manchester play on Council managed pitches and are therefore considered to have secured tenure.

- The Manchester PPS was updated in 2017. It indicated that, based on a total of 780 affiliated teams there was no shortfall of full size 3G FTPs. FA 2018/19 affiliation data suggests that Manchester currently has 902 teams; based on the FA training ratio model 1:38 this equates to requirement for 24 full sized 3G FTPs. There is, thus, based upon this measure, no current shortfall of 3G FTPs. LFFP consultation however identified that the availability of midweek/winter training slots for clubs in south/central areas of the City is extremely limited, indicating that additional provision in this area of the City may be required.
- Team generation rates based on population indicate the likely creation of nine adult teams, 57 youth teams and 44 mini soccer teams.
- Many teams highlight a lack of accessible and affordable floodlit training facilities as a key issue. Some utilise 3G pitches whilst others make use of a number of sites, some with small sized AGPs or indoor facilities.
- Actual spare capacity in Manchester amounts to 50.5 match equivalent sessions across all pitches types, some of which exists on pitches which are available but currently unused by clubs.
- There are 11 pitches overplayed across Manchester, totalling six match equivalent sessions.
- 2017 assessment identified that pitch types currently exhibit spare capacity with the exception of mini 5v5 pitches which are currently at capacity.
- In Wythenshawe area this picture has changed dramatically due to the closures of Wythenshawe Sports Ground (between September and March 2021) and Manchester Health Academy sites and forthcoming closure of Newall Green High School and proposed loss of playing fields at Northenden Campus presents. Wythenshawe Sports Ground has a short-term lease in place to August 2021 and therefore pitches are considered to be unprotected. If a lease extension is not agreed, there will be significant deficiencies for junior and senior match play in this area of Manchester.
- **Improving pitch quality** – improving poor quality pitches with secure tenure (either through increased maintenance or drainage improvements in order to increase pitch capacity) to standard quality will help to reduce overplay expressed.
- There are 28 poor quality pitches across 14 sites<sup>1</sup> where tenure is considered to be secure. Improving these pitches from poor to standard quality would generate an increase in potential carrying capacity of 30 match equivalent sessions per week.
- However, only one of these pitches is overplayed (Rushford Park by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week).
- In the same manner, only three pitches (one at Fog Lane Park and two at Whalley Range AFC) are standard quality, have secured tenure and are overplayed. Each of the two sites are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week which can be eliminated through increased capacity as a result of improving pitch quality from standard to good.
- Improving pitch quality at sites with secured access to increase capacity as a means to reduce or eliminate overplay would have a relatively minor impact on Citywide levels of overplay, the majority of which derives from the combined impact of school and community use at education sites.

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<sup>1</sup> Not inclusive of school sites

### *3G Pitch Summary*

- There are 30 full sized floodlit 3G pitches (11v11) in Manchester, of which 12 are Youth (100m x 60m). There are 26 pitches currently available for community use with Our Lady's High School closed to community use from 2019 and three pitches at Etihad Campus unavailable. Newall Green High School 3G Pitch is scheduled for closure from August 2021. This will change the supply position to 25 pitches available for community use.
- There are a further 68 small-sided 3G FTPs in Manchester of which seven are 60m x 40m sized.
- In total, of the 26 current pitches available for community use there are 21 which are presently certified for competitive use and listed on the FA 3G Football Turf Pitch Register<sup>2</sup>.
- There are two 3G pitches within Manchester suitable for competitive rugby union built to World Rugby specifications though neither presently features on the RFU 3G pitch register<sup>3</sup>.
- There are three RFL Community Standard 3G pitches suitable for competitive and contact rugby league play.
- There are 11 full sized pitches which are not yet FA/FIFA certified which meet minimum adult dimension criteria for performance testing. This considered, five are short pile surfaces which though compliant is less preferred for competitive football.
- In Manchester, school sites are not considered to be protected sites for community use and the Council reports the risk that school facilities could close for community use at anytime unless a binding community use agreement is in place between the school and the City Planning Authority. It is the intention of the Council that all future school developments will be subject to such agreements and related sports development plans secured by planning condition.
- In total, there are nine full sized pitches (some already FA certified) which meet FA minimum but not FA recommended dimension criteria for adult football. They are:
  - East Manchester Academy
  - Belle Vue Sports Village (track pitch)
  - Gorton Education Village (Cedar Mount High School)
  - Higher Blackley Education Village - Our Lady's RC High School
  - Manchester Communications Academy
  - Nicholls Community Football Centre
  - St Pauls Catholic High School
  - The Co-Operative Academy of Manchester
  - Deans Trust Ardwick School
  - Of the current 26 pitches available for community use, there are 15 pitches rated as good quality, 11 rated as standard and none rated as poor.
- Ten full sized 3G pitches currently exceed the recommended lifespan, all of which on Education sites installed between 2005 – 2010. Pitches include:

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<sup>2</sup> <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Manchester>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

Chorlton HS, Manchester Academy (currently being considered for FF investment and therefore could be reinstated before end of 2021/early 2022), Manchester Health Academy, Our Lady's RC High (currently closed for community use), The Manchester College, East Manchester Academy, Abraham Moss High School, Manchester Communications Academy (older and smaller pitch). Newall Green High School targeted to close in August 2021. A community relocation plan is in development to address displacement impact.

- Use of 3G pitches is significant and extends beyond football and rugby union, including rugby league, lacrosse and American football.
- There are 442 teams which play competitive club football on 3G pitches in Manchester, representing 60% of competitive demand. Most play on 3G pitches as part of central venue leagues. Small sized 3G pitches are also well used by many clubs for training, particularly the Central Manchester Powerleague Soccer Centre venue.
- The majority of responding football clubs report demand for additional training facilities, with almost half (45%) of responses specifically stating a need for increased use of 3G pitches.
- Using the FA training model for 3G pitches, on the basis there are 901 teams considered to require access to training provision in Manchester there is a recommended need for 19 full sized 3G pitches. By the end of 2021, there will be 25 available full sized 3G pitches across the City. Based on theoretical modelling, there is not a requirement for more single full size 3G pitches to service training demand alone.
- That said, in Wythenshawe area in particular, clubs are reporting unmet demand for training and match play, as a result of significant growth in teams combined with a lack of access to existing pitch provision. Some of the displacement demand is anticipated to be met from Manchester Health Academy once facilities re-open for community use. In addition, there is a high level of exported and imported demand largely a product of the junior league format in the region with pitches used determined by the leagues by age group.
- **Development of football hubs** – 3 Strategic sites have been identified to create football hub sites (Wythenshawe Park, Hough End and Heaton Park), each to include multiple full sized 3G pitches which support grass pitch provision also onsite, allowing for sustainable, programmed football delivery to address club and recreational demand with a focus on participation growth from underrepresented groups. Hough End Project is now at design stage. Demand Analysis has identified a need to provide 2 3G Pitches, reconfiguration, and qualitative improvements of 14 senior grass football pitches to address current and future demand. In addition, there is recommendations to provide new changing accommodation as part of Hough End Leisure Centre Extension. Facility proposals are now being reviewed following consultation with residents.
- MCC will be carrying out further evidence base work with Trafford, Bury and Rochdale Council and County FAs to establish how the Strategic Football Hub Model could work across the three local authority areas. Heaton Park site is currently identified in Bury PPS as a preferred site to address an undersupply of 1 3G Pitch in Prestwich area.

## Cricket

The key findings in relation to cricket provision are:

- In total, there are 14 natural turf cricket squares identified in Manchester. There are ten natural turf cricket squares in Manchester which are available for community use in some capacity and a further four at school sites which are unavailable.
- The Central Area has the most pitches overall (50%) however the supply of available pitches is fairly evenly divided between the three areas, with the North having the slight majority (40%).
- There are 25 Non Turf Pitches located across 19 sites. In total, there are 18 NTPs available for community use in some capacity, with seven unavailable NTPs at school sites.
- In 2020/21, the City rolled out a citywide NTP programme of 17 nonl turf cricket wickets across 15 sites. This included a replacement and growth programme of 11 new NTPs with good spread across all analysis areas. 15 NTP's have been installed and 2 outstanding is targeted for completion by end of Summer / Autumn 2021.
- Pitch quality ratings show ten natural turf squares (77%) to be of good quality and two (15%) to be of standard quality. There is just one poor quality square (8%) located at Higher Blackley Education Village. The ECB plan to validate pitch quality in April 2021.
- There are currently four Last Man Stands leagues in Manchester and matches are played at Parrs Wood High School, Didsbury Sports Ground.
- No affiliated cricket clubs are considered to have unsecured tenure at their home sites.
- There are 51 affiliated cricket teams playing competitive matches in Manchester made up of 31 senior cricket teams and 20 junior teams.
- Future demand projections represent a total requirement for a further 12 senior match equivalent sessions and 30 junior match equivalent sessions considered likely to play at peak times. There are however plans from clubs for increased demand for senior cricket on Sundays.
- Sport Development Plan focused on increasing opportunities for underrepresented groups with a particular focus on increasing participation amongst South Asian Communities and development of recreational programmes for participants from these communities.
- There are a number of midweek leagues playing short format cricket which are predominantly Asian based. Some of these leagues and teams are not affiliated and subsequently demand has not been recorded in the analysis unless where known.
- Of those sites with existing community use, there are nine which show potential spare capacity on senior grass squares in Manchester, totalling 221 match equivalent sessions per season. Only three are available at senior peak time (Saturday afternoon) when there are two match equivalent sessions available allowing for a further 98 matches per season between them.
- Use of the natural turf square at Alexandra Park is at capacity, the square is considered able to sustain the current level of use because it is maintained to a high standard by LCB.

## Rugby Union

The key findings in relation to rugby union provision are:

- In total there are 23 rugby union pitches in Manchester, made up of 20 senior and three junior sized pitches. There are a further 2 (senior / junior) pitches currently being installed at Painswick Park scheduled for completion by Summer 2021. On this basis there will be 16 pitches available and used by community clubs in some capacity and a further 1 which is available but unused for club rugby.
- There are 5 world rugby compliant pitches in Manchester suitable for competitive play or full contact rugby training at, Platt lane, The Armitage, Manchester Enterprise Academy, Manchester Health Academy and Manchester Enterprise Central.
- The North Area has the lowest number of grass pitches, whilst the South Area has half of the total supply (11 pitches), all of which are available for community use. The Central Area has no grass pitches which are available for community use but does have eight pitches based at educational sites.
- Exactly half of pitches available for community use are rated as poor quality (seven pitches or 50%). There are just two pitches (14% of available supply) rated as good quality located at East Manchester Academy and Old Bedians Sports Centre, with 36% rated as standard quality. It should be noted that the East Manchester Pitch will be converted to Rugby League in summer 2021.
- Since the initial assessment, tenure for North Manchester RFC is now deemed to have become unsecure as the current lease agreement expired in 2020. The RFU identifies the need to renegotiate a long-term lease agreement to secure the Club onsite as a high priority action. The new lease is near completion and anticipated to be in place from summer 2021.
- Clubs generally train on match pitches and most senior sections train twice weekly. Focused training demand on fully or floodlit pitches is a key contributor to overplay at a number of sites.
- Use of 3G pitches for training is limited with no clubs consistently using them, instead preferring to use them during the worst periods of winter weather to protect grass pitch quality.
- There are seven rugby union clubs playing in Manchester, providing a total of 52 teams. There are 19 senior teams, of which, there are three women's teams. There are 13 junior boys' team, 2 junior girls teams and 18 mini squads.
- The universities provide eight senior rugby teams, three of which are women's teams.
- TGRs forecast the likely creation of at least one additional senior men's teams and five mini age groups.
- There are seven pitches across five sites which are overplayed totalling 10.25 match equivalent sessions.
- There are a number of plans for increased rugby union provision in South Manchester. Didsbury Toc H has plans to improve its drainage and maintenance programme and expansion of lease demise area to support future growth, which would increase pitch capacity at Didsbury Sports Ground.

- **Increased floodlighting on match pitches** – qualitative improvements of a non-floodlit pitch at Broughton Park RUFC from poor (M1/D0) to good (M2/D1) would increase capacity from 1.5 to three match equivalent sessions per week. Additional floodlighting of a third pitch coupled with these qualitative improvements would increase floodlit capacity to accommodate training, which along with improvements to the current training pitch to do the same would eliminate overplay onsite.
- Overall, qualitative improvements and the floodlighting of a third pitch coupled with increased use of the small sized 3G pitch onsite (notwithstanding need for World Rugby recertification for contact practice), would be sufficient to eliminate overplay onsite based on current levels of demand.
- Broughton Park RUFC reports aspirations to increase the number of teams by one women's team, one junior boys' team, two junior girls' teams and one mini rugby squad, equating to a requirement for an additional 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week on senior pitches. This increased demand for match play and training (though some new teams may train in combination with existing age group squads) could be accommodated onsite with capacity available through aforementioned qualitative improvements, increased floodlighting and recertification of the small sized 3G pitch for mini rugby and training use.
- **Removal of training from match pitches** – In 2018, Didsbury RFC plans transferred all midweek men's training from Didsbury Sports ground to the World Rugby Compliant 3G at Platt Lane Sports Complex. This has reduced pitch usage by two match equivalent sessions per week, reducing the current level of site overplay from 2.5 to two match equivalent sessions per week.
- **Increased World Rugby compliant 3G provision** – there are proposals convert Broughton Park Rugby Club main stadium pitch to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch to address under supply in South Manchester area. This site is identified by the RFU as a priority site for growth to support club training and match play.
- As well as midweek capacity created for training, a new compliant 3G pitch would create additional capacity of two match equivalent sessions per week at senior peak time and two match equivalent sessions per week at junior peak time. This would reduce future shortfalls in the South Area from 16.25 to 12.25.

## Rugby League

The key findings in relation to rugby league provision are:

- In total, there are six pitches used for rugby league in Manchester of varying surface types and purposes. Three are 3G pitches and two are grass pitches dually used for both football and rugby league.
- There is just one dedicated rugby league pitch in Manchester at Wythenshawe Sports Ground which is available for community use. All other play takes places on either dual use or 3G pitches.
- There are two RFL Community Standard certified 3G pitches at Belle Vue Sports Village, however the 3G pitch at Platt Lane Complex has not achieved this certification.

- All clubs rent their home pitches and none have lease agreements or site ownership.
- The pitch at Wythenshawe Sports Ground is rated as standard quality and can accommodate two match equivalent sessions per week. It is currently used for one match equivalent session per week throughout the winter season by university teams.
- There are three club rugby league teams and three university teams playing competitive matches in Manchester, all of which are senior men's teams. There are a further four primary age groups at Belle Vue Bees ARLFC which do not yet play regular matches.
- Rugby League is a growing sport in Manchester and there are plans for a first competitive junior team to be introduced next season at Belle Vue Bees ARLFC. Wythenshawe Rugby Union Club also has plans to create a rugby league section in summer 2021.
- Team generation rates forecast the creation of at least one new primary team. None of the primary teams in Manchester play competitive fixtures and it is likely that this increased demand will instead be manifested in an increased requirement for training capacity.

## **Hockey**

The key findings in relation to indoor tennis court provision are:

- There are currently 11 full size sand based AGPs in Manchester, all of which have floodlighting. However, only seven offer full accessibility for hockey as four pitches are either unavailable, offer restricted access or are unsuitable for hockey use.
- There is a need for nine AGPs with floodlighting to accommodate hockey clubs match play, training and recreational hockey. The other two AGPs are not available or suitable for hockey.
- Most AGPs in Manchester are rated as standard quality (seven AGPs - 64%) with three good quality pitches (two at Armitage Centre and Manchester High School for Girls).
- Three AGPs are in excess of the recommended ten-year lifespan and should be considered for surface replacement in coming years. Consideration should be given to the sustainability of currently used pitches, particularly William Hulme Grammar School which is beyond the recommended lifespan and Parrs Wood High School which is approaching the recommended lifespan.
- All AGPs are located at education sites and aside from the three community clubs accommodated as part of user agreement at the Armitage Centre are considered to have unsecured tenure.
- Manchester is a particularly strong city for hockey and there are 69 hockey teams using AGPs across ten community and two university clubs.
- Across the twelve clubs competing in Manchester, there is a total of 1,208 adults playing hockey. With the anticipated growth rate applied, there is a likely increase of 186 adults in the future. Further to this, there is a total of 175 juniors playing hockey which when the growth rate is applied will likely increase by 29 juniors, meaning a future total membership of 1,423.
- All seven hockey accessible AGPs are accessed by hockey clubs in Manchester on Saturdays, the peak time for senior match play. Manchester

High School for Girls is sometimes used as an overspill pitch for Didsbury Northern HC at the weekend, and St Bede's College Sports Centre and Withington High School are used for school hockey, therefore 10 AGPs are used in some capacity for hockey on Saturdays. During the week, nine AGPs are used for hockey by hockey clubs for training and other forms of recreational hockey e.g. small sided hockey.

- The current supply of AGPs is sufficient to accommodate current demand both for senior and junior match play, training and recreational hockey as well as demand from Manchester HC currently exported (should it choose to return to play in the City), as long as the current level of access is maintained.
- Security of tenure and ensuring standards remain high through maintenance/appropriate resurfacing/replacement plans are of a high priority.

## **Tennis**

The key findings in relation to tennis provision are

- There is a total of 163 tennis courts identified in Manchester, of which 42 courts are not available for community use.
- There are 84 floodlit courts in Manchester spread across 14 sites. Twenty nine of these courts are currently located at club sites whilst 14 are at Council managed park sites.
- The majority of courts were rated as good quality (78 courts – 48%), whilst the remaining courts were rated as either standard (46 courts – 28%) or poor (37 courts – 24%) quality.
- The majority of courts are macadam surfaces, representing 62% of existing supply.
- Tenure of all six club sites is considered to be secure, as is tenure for two clubs using park sites. However, tenure for Northern Aces and Manchester TC hiring courts at Manchester Regional Tennis Centre is considered to be unsecured.
- Demand at Northenden TC has declined and the club now plays only social tennis with only ten members.
- Fletcher Moss Gardens court were resurfaced and floodlighting was installed in early 2017 creating the City's first Park Tennis Hub site.
- Club access to floodlit courts does not appear to be an issue and court quality at club sites is generally good.
- All Manchester Parks with Tennis courts are strong in terms of latent demand, and rank high nationally on the park top 1000 demand list – see table below.
- Actual demand has also proven to be high with over 10K people accessing the booking of a park's tennis court at Fletcher Moss Gardens, Chorlton Park, Wythenshawe Park and Alexandra Park to date (Q1 2021)
- A strategy has been developed to build a sustainable network of parks. The approach will look to adopt affordable charging models, alongside free provision utilising Access System technology and community tennis operators to oversee coaching to develop a sinking fund for parks across the city. The approach is to replicate the Fletcher Moss Gardens pilot which has proven a Access Gate Technology and has been sustainable since launching in 2017, generating over £35K from pay and play which

has been utilised by over 2400 unique pay and play participants, comfortably covering operating costs and recommended sinking fund levels

- Neighbouring LA Bury has also begun testing sustainable park models with St Mary's Park generating £6K in 2020 from pay and play and season tickets alongside free provision. This scheme has led to the council now investing into new tennis court provision across the area and the adoption of a further 5 access gates across the borough which will be tested in 2021 and beyond. Other GM authorities are also exploring further regarding the adoption of Smart Access in partnership with the LTA.
- Currently most of the high quality parks infrastructure is in South Manchester, with Central sites being added at Debdale Park and Greenbank Park in 2021. There are no 3 or more court sites in North Manchester
- Education sites knowledge of tennis infrastructure and would be useful to understand where courts are, how many and what access is onto site. These sites could potentially complement a wider community and parks offer utilising access technology for playing opportunities
- **Developing additional park hub sites** – would provide extra capacity to develop participation and coaching at the site as well as recreational play, serving as a natural extension to the hub model already established in Manchester. The LTA has aspirations to develop at least two more park hubs in Manchester.
- There are presently no park hubs in Wythenshawe or North Area. Wythenshawe Park has been identified as a priority site for development and The LTA believes that Heaton Park would be a desirable location to develop one in the North Area to act as a flagship park hub for the City given the significant size and attractiveness of the site, though tennis provision would need to be created from new. The Central Area presently has just one park hub. Debdale Park Tennis Court Refurbishment will provide a new Park Hub in the Central Area.

## Bowls

The key findings in relation to indoor tennis court provision are:

- There are 39 crown bowling greens in Manchester provided across 32 sites with seven double green sites. There are four flat greens at Heaton Park.
- In addition there are eight crown greens which are now disused, four of which are single green sites and four across double green sites at Chorlton Park and Platt fields Park.
- The majority of crown greens are located in South Area (41%) whilst the level of remaining provision is split almost equally between the North (31%) and Central (28%) areas. All flat green bowling provision is located in the north Area at Heaton Park.
- Most crown greens in Manchester are rated as good quality (25 greens – 64%), with the remaining greens assessed as standard (11 greens – 28%) or poor (3 greens – 8%) quality. All four flat greens at Heaton Park are rated as good quality.

- Most greens are owned and managed by the Council and are rented by clubs. Of the 43 total greens in Manchester, there are 28 Council or Parish Council managed greens (65%).
- There are 44 clubs using bowling greens in Manchester and membership of responding clubs ranges from 13 to 65 members.
- Six greens across five sites are considered to be overplayed, all others are considered to have capacity to accommodate further play with the exceptions of South West Manchester Cricket Club and Royal British Legion Bowling Green which are played to capacity.

## **Other Sports**

The key findings in relation to other sports provision are:

### *Athletics*

- There are currently three athletics tracks in Manchester, one of which is licenced to host competitions.
- All three tracks are synthetic surfaces. The two tracks at Boggart Hole Clough and Wythenshawe Park are rated as poor quality whilst the elite standard track at Manchester Regional Arena is rated as good. In 2019, Wythenshawe Park Track secured some patch work improvements to improve the quality for existing users. In 2020 The Manchester Regional Arena Track underwent a full refurbishment which included 2 additional lanes to be added on the home straight making it an 8 lane track with a 10 lane home straight. The MRA track now holds World athletics class A certification.
- All three tracks are available for community use and used by clubs, though the level of use at Boggart Hole Clough is comparatively lower.
- There are proposals for the creation of a new changing facility at Boggart Hole Clough. Ancillary provision at Wythenshawe Park is particularly poor and is also in need to improvement. Replacement of existing ancillary accessible changing facilities within the track is scheduled for completion in summer 2021. Additional, car park improvement works is also proposed on site to improve user experience and to service a new cycling offer proposed on site. Subject to funding approvals in Spring 2021, works is targeted for completion in March 2022.
- There are nine England Athletics registered athletics clubs based in Manchester whilst athletes at both universities are able to enter competitions based on meeting the required performance criteria.
- There is also a number of fitness, walk to run and wider running remit groups which access tracks throughout the week.
- Running groups have grown in popularity and many new groups have been established. This could increase demand for track access should groups seek to introduce track sessions.
- Sale Harriers Manchester and Manchester Harriers AC reports unmet demand of 200 junior members currently on its waiting list. These members would typically be accommodated at Crossford Bridge in Trafford.
- Clubs from Trafford, Salford and Stockport all import demand to Manchester Regional Arena to access elite standard facilities for their performance athletes.

- Of key importance is the poor quality of the Wythenshawe Park site, both track and ancillary facilities, which are used significantly by both Sale Manchester Harriers AC and Manchester Harriers AC and are in need of improvement. As above, ancillary facilities will be addressed in summer 2021.

#### *Baseball Softball*

- Demand for softball can sufficiently be accommodated at present, though the league is growing and access to either increased provision or additional capacity per week at existing sites is likely to be required to facilitate continued growth.
- Demand for baseball is also able to be catered for, though the NGB is keen to increase participation and create a new club to generate increased and more localised competition.
- BaseballSoftball UK (BSUK) identifies Manchester to be of strategic significance and is keen to explore opportunities to develop a specialised softball/baseball facility in the City.
- BSUK identifies Manchester as of strategic importance nationally and has aspirations to both develop facilities and participation within the City. Hough End Playing Fields is identified as potentially suitable site of sufficient size from which to grow both Softball and Baseball participation. Following a review of existing sports, baseball and softball facilities have been incorporated into Hough End playing pitch layout plan and reconfiguration of playing fields. Final facility plans to be confirmed, subject to further consultation with statutory consultees and the local community.
- BSUK believes that potential development of new provision in Manchester should include a combo diamond (able to be used for both softball and baseball) and a softball diamond.
- It is also of the opinion that there is demand for a secure dedicated softball practice facility in Manchester. It believes that there is sufficient demand that any such facility would be well used throughout the week and at weekend and believes the South of the City would be the best area strategically to address current and future projected demand.
- BSUK has targeted 2022/23 financial year to bring forward facility proposal to address demand in South Manchester area.

#### *Basketball (3v3)*

- No previous assessment as was not included in 2017 PPS. There is a need to work with the NGB and Council Parks Service to understand the current supply and demand for 3v3 basketball in Manchester study area and boundaries. Basketball has therefore been added to the scope for assessment in 2021.

#### *Golf*

- No previous assessment as was not included in 2017 PPS. There is a need to work with the NGB and the Councils Parks Service to understand the current supply and demand for golf in Manchester study area and boundaries. Golf has therefore been added to the scope for assessment in 2021.

### *Gaelic Football*

- Regular season demand for Gaelic sports is able to be accommodated by existing supply of pitches; however, there is a requirement for greater access to suitable accompanying ancillary facilities. However, the existing pitch supply is not to GAA design standards. Lancashire County Board highlights the key facility need for Gaelic sports to be a championship standard pitch on which representative fixtures are permitted to be played.
- GAA Lancashire County Board has identified Hough End Playing Fields as the priority site for development of County Standard Facilities. Hough End Playing Fields currently has two existing Gaelic Football Pitches located to the North of the Red Lion Brook, the second pitch is undersized by approximately 20%. The proposed reconfiguration provides both pitches at full size to Gaelic Sports Association design guidance.
- Hough End Pitch Layout Plans include the relocation of two Gaelic football pitches to be operated by Broughton Park Rugby Club alongside their existing pitch programme. GAA Lancashire Cricket Board and associated clubs have an ambition to create a strategic partnership with Broughton Park Rugby Club to provide a winter / summer programme serviced from Broughton Park Club House.

### *Lacrosse*

- Manchester Waconians is the only lacrosse club in the City, whilst both universities and Withington Girls School also play. Current demand is able to be catered for by existing provision, including access for English Lacrosse representative squads.
- The Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) selected English Lacrosse to host the 2018 FIL Men's World Championship, which intends for this to be held in Manchester in 2018. Venue options are being explored which will include a requirement for access to a number of AGPs or 3G pitches over the course of the event.

### *American Football*

- Manchester Titans American Football Club is seeking to identify facilities including the option to relocate back to Manchester from Salford. The Club requires access to both grass and 3G provision to accommodate training and match play.