

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Executive Committee – 16 November 2022

Subject: Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Report of: Strategic Director – Neighbourhoods

Summary

In December 2017, the council adopted Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy (2017-2021) which set out the framework for investment into playing pitch and outdoor facility improvements. The updated Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy 2022-2031 (PPOSS) builds upon the preceding strategy and whilst no substantial changes have been identified, there are some important updates to analysis that guides the strategic framework for improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2031.

There is an existing network of indoor and outdoor sport facilities and strong community infrastructure that provides a platform for growth. The updated strategy sets out the headline recommendations for improvements to meet current and future community needs across Manchester.

This report provides an update on the key strategy findings, sport specific and strategic recommendations which apply across the outdoor sporting infrastructure, and short-term action plan to be taken forward with partners over the next 18-month period. The evidence base created provides a robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision that will be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. PPOSS will be the key document utilised by the Manchester Planning Authority when considering planning applications in consultation with Sport England as a statutory consultee, who in turn will consult with National Governing Bodies of Sport as appropriate.

The Strategy and associated Action Plan recommends the priority projects to be realised over the Local Plan period to ensure there is a sufficient supply to meet current and projected demand. Investment will be sought for outlined projects via potential partners and sources of external funding to progress capital priorities. Any development or disposal will also be subject to the development of a clear business case, impact assessment and where appropriate a funding application.

The PPOSS will be published as a public facing document and will remain a live document managed by the Council and partners to update and monitor throughout the lifespan of the Strategy (2022 – 2031).

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to approve the Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy for adoption by Manchester Planning Authority.

Wards Affected: All

<p>Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city</p>
<p>Delivery of priority projects identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy and Site Action Plan will contribute to achieving the zero-carbon target for the City. All projects will be subject to individual business case and agreed funding strategy</p>

<p>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments</p>
<p>As part of the refresh of the Strategy, MCRActive has added the following to ensure we instill EDI within our work practices: Future investment and associated capital projects will be considered in line with the equality act 2010. The key drivers for improvement and / or development of playing pitch and outdoor sport infrastructure with our partners includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims and objectives for improving health and well-being, tackling inequalities, and increasing participation from underrepresented groups • Prioritisation of capital and revenue investment - targeting resources into places / communities with the greatest need. • Accessible outdoor sport facilities to support and encourage use of by disabled people.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Sport and Leisure sector is a key economic driver within the city not only as an employer, but also in attracting inward capital investment to create sustainable world class sporting facilities and neighbourhood services that support to deliver a diverse sport and cultural offer for our residents.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	The Strategy identifies the need to investment in education and training and also contributes meaningfully to employment within the Manchester economy, creating new operating models to manage and deliver our playing field assets.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport strategy identifies the need to invest into our clubs and local services at the core of neighbourhoods and creates significant opportunities for all communities within the

	city to engage and participate at all levels of the sporting pathway. All of which contribute towards Our Manchester Strategy
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy identifies the need to improve our playing field sites, notably investment in ancillary facilities to operate community sport services, contributing to creating a destination of choice. The Strategy provides an evidence base to inform Sport and Leisure Capital Programme which sets out the plans for the refurbished and replacement of outdoor sport facilities over the next five years.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	The Sport and Leisure sector has over the last twenty years invested significantly in Sport and Leisure assets that have helped drive the city's growth agenda. The Strategy identifies a need for further investment to enhance and provide outdoor sport facilities citywide. This will be done in a sustainable manner that will continue to support our growth ambitions over the next decade.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy – Where appropriate Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken.
- Risk Management – Where appropriate a risk management approach will be undertaken.
- Legal Considerations – There are no legal considerations arising from this strategy.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no revenue consequences arising from the development of this strategy. Any future investment decisions for playing pitches will be subject to an agreed business case and funding.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital consequences arising from the development of this strategy.

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy, please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Report to Scrutiny - Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy (2017-2021), 13th December 2017
- Report to Scrutiny - Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy, 6th February 2020
- Report to Scrutiny Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy Update, 20th July 2021
- 2022 Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Needs Assessment Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report is intended to update the Committee on the key findings identified in Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS), specifically regarding sport specific playing pitches and courts. The site-specific action plan that accompanies the strategy will remain a live document managed by the Council and partners for the lifespan of the Strategy (2022 – 2031).
- 1.2 Manchester PPOSS provides a robust evidence base of current and future need for outdoor sports facilities using national Sport England Guidance and is used by the authority and stakeholders as a strategic document to support the determination of relevant planning applications through the associated consultation process.
- 1.3 The PPOSS provides a clear strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between the strategy period 2022 - 2031. As such formal adoption of the strategy is required by the Council. Its robustness is built on the extensive consultation carried out with clubs, leagues and providers including education establishments and community organisations and users to provide:
- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches.
 - A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
 - 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 on a site-by-site basis.
- 1.4 The Manchester PPOSS frames the priorities for future investment and the continued development of the playing pitch and associated infrastructure. Whilst the analysis within the PPOSS will assist in determining the priorities for investment, it does not guarantee deliverability of projects. All projects will be subject to sources of funding (primarily from external sources) being made available to be developed in consultation with National Governing Bodies of Sport and supported as appropriate by the Council. In many instances, the Council will not be the agency which delivers these actions or recommendations; the PPOSS is not just for the Council to act upon, it applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 This strategy follows on from the 2017 – 2021 Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) adopted by the Council at the 13 December 2017 Executive meeting. The 2017 PSS set the framework for investment into playing pitch and outdoor facility improvements at the Regional Athletics Arena (completed July 2020), Range Sports Stadium (completed March 2020), Active Lifestyle Centre (November 2019) Debdale and Greenbank Park (October 2021), as well as

citywide pitch improvement works at major multi pitch sites including Broadhurst Park, Merseybank Playing Fields, and Hollyhedge Park (ongoing enhanced maintenance works), and delivery of a Manchester non turf cricket wicket programme at 15 sites citywide (completed June 2022). Detailed updates on progress of Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy are available as background documents to this report.

- 2.2 The 2022 – 2031 PPOSS provides the strategic rationale for future investment into a range of playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities across the city. The PPOSS will also be used to compliment the emerging Built Facility Strategy and other corporate strategies i.e. Our Manchester Strategy, Residential Growth Strategy and Capital Schools Programme.
- 2.3 Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities were assessed in 2021. Supply and demand information was gathered and used to assess the quality, capacity, and accessibility of playing pitch provision in Manchester. It focused on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area-by-area basis – North, Central, South, and Wythenshawe) and demand modelling on a sport-by-sport basis. Its robustness is built on the extensive consultation carried out with playing pitch NGB's, clubs, community groups, leagues and facility providers including education establishments and community organisations.
- 2.4 The Strategy provides a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities. The data gathered together with stakeholder input and community consultation has informed the sport specific priorities and area site action plan.

3.0 Context

- 3.1 The key planning document for Manchester is the Local Plan (the key element of which is the Core Strategy 2012-2027) which is currently under review. This, together with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), provides the strategic planning context for Manchester. The vision set out within the Core Strategy refers to Manchester as a successful city with a growing economy, an increasing and healthy population, and a place where people choose to live. This vision has been further developed through the council's "Our Manchester Strategy", which provides a long-term vision and strategy for Manchester and provides a framework for actions by our partners working across Manchester's public sector organisations, businesses, the voluntary sector, and our communities.
- 3.2 Within Manchester's Local Plan, the key planning policies which are of particular relevance to the PPOSS are Core Strategy Policies EN9, EN10, EN11 and EN12. Policy EN9 provides the overarching approach to green infrastructure in all its types and functions. Policy EN10 looks at how the city's open spaces should be safeguarded. Policy EN11 refers to how opportunities for new open space provision will be considered, whilst EN12 sets out priorities for improving quality across the city. These policies are applied in the context of a growing city which seeks to balance all the needs of Manchester's

residents - whether they be for housing, shops and services, places to work or places to relax and enjoy sport.

3.3 The mission statement of the Manchester Local Plan review is:

'Development in Manchester is at record levels: investment here is creating jobs and new homes are being built. At the same time, we want any future growth to support our ambition to be a zero-carbon city by 2038 or before'.¹

3.4 The PPOSS will be an evidence base document for the Manchester Local Plan review, as will the Indoor and Built Sports Facility Strategy concurrently being produced and forthcoming Open Space Strategy. It will ensure that existing facilities are the most appropriate in terms of quantity, quality and location and consider how best to meet the additional needs generated by the planned housing and economic growth.

Places for Everyone

3.5 Places for Everyone is the long-term joint development plan document of nine of the Greater Manchester Combined Local Authorities (excluding Stockport) for housing, jobs, and sustainable growth. The Plan has been approved by each of the nine districts, published and submitted to secretary of state.

3.6 The plan will determine the kind of development that takes place in the nine boroughs (including Manchester Local Authority area), maximising the use of brownfield land and urban spaces while protecting Green Belt land from the risk of unplanned development. It will also ensure all new developments are sustainably integrated into Greater Manchester's transport network or supported by new infrastructure.

3.7 Places for Everyone will form part of the development plan for each of the Greater Manchester districts and its key purpose is to:

- Identify how Greater Manchester should develop up until 2031.
- Identifies the amount of new development that will come forward across the nine districts, in terms of housing, offices, and industry and warehousing, and the main areas in which this will be focused.
- Supports the delivery of key infrastructure, such as new roads, transport, education and health facilities.
- Protects the important environmental assets across the city region.
- Allocates sites for employment and housing outside of the existing urban area; and
- Defines a new green belt boundary for Greater Manchester

3.8 Policy Number JP-H 1: Scale, Distribution and Phasing of New Housing Development, states that the nine local authorities will deliver a minimum of 164,880 net additional dwellings over the period 2021-2037. Whilst there is no strategic housing allocation within Manchester as part of Places for Everyone,

¹https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200074/planning/6572/local_plan/2

it is to provide the most housing units of the nine local authorities over the course of the plan, an expected 60,029 to be delivered in Manchester.

- 3.9 The Plan directly links with the PPOSS with the proposed policy, JP-P7, sports and recreation. The PPOSS should be used to inform strategic priorities for sport playing fields and recreational facilities over the life course of the strategy.

Population growth

- 3.10 The current resident population in Manchester is 588,560². By 2031 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand) the population is projected to increase to 673,545⁶ representing an increase of 84,985 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 14.4%) based on Manchester City Council population projections.
- 3.11 As Council data is available by individual age brackets (to reflect sport specific team growth) this is considered the most accurate data set to apply to calculate likely future demand on a sport by sport and area basis.

Housing growth

- 3.12 The Manchester Housing Strategy (2021) is presently in development and aims to bring together the previous Housing Strategy (2015-21) and the Residential Growth Strategy (2015-25) into a single document.
- 3.13 In March 2016, Manchester published a refreshed Residential Growth Strategy, setting out the City's aim to deliver a minimum 25,000 new homes by 2025. The Residential Growth Strategy proposes a set of priorities for action to support the City's sustained growth and ensure there are affordably priced houses and apartments for sale and rent.

The Strategy comprises six key objectives:

- Increase house building on existing and new sites
- Improve the quality and sustainability of the City's housing
- Increase opportunities for home ownership
- Expand the family housing offer
- Professionalise the private rented sector across the City
- Provide appropriate housing options for retirement living

- 3.14 To deliver a minimum of 25,000 units over the next ten years, the Strategy sets a target of 2,500 units per annum over the ten-year delivery period (2016-2025).
- 3.15 The PPOSS includes a range of Housing Growth Scenario's based on the Core Strategy and housing requirements that estimates the amount of

² Source: MCC in-house population model, 2021-31, for wards by Single Year of Age and Sex

additional demand for pitch sports generated by new housing development from 2021 - 2037.

- 3.16 Accumulatively across Manchester the scenarios identify that, through overall housing growth estimated at 60,029 dwellings up to 2037, new population demand will be generated to some extent for all pitch sports.
- 3.17 Although some of this demand can be accommodated on the current stock of provision it is probable that new provision will need to be established due to the substantial levels of growth, particularly in the North (35,801 dwellings) and Central analysis (22,159 dwellings) areas.
- 3.18 As a result, strategy recommendations need to take into consideration any specific planning policy requirements within the City. This includes, but is not limited to, the gathering and/or spending of S106 monies within a designated catchment area from a development.

Manchester Capital Schools Programme (2021 – 2026)

- 3.19 Since 2008, there has been a rapid growth of the child population in the City and the consequent need for additional primary school places, secondary and special school places.
- 3.20 A plan for creating further and extra capacity has been developed to keep pace with the continued increase in demand. Manchester Schools Sport Facility Strategy was produced in September 2018 to set out key principles to inform the design and management of new community sports facilities.
- 3.21 There is a need to apply the strategy principles when assessing the future pipeline of capital schools to inform the recommendation of new outdoor sport facilities for Manchester Capital School Programme by site. Recommendations will need to be considered in the context of Department for Education school design principles, cost expectations, school requirements, and availability of capital funding.
- 3.22 Sport England will be consulted on all new school build proposals, as part of the planning process. MCRactive will also be engaged to influence facility developments and programmes in-line with Manchester School Sport Strategy.
- 3.23 Given the strategic context of playing fields provision, population growth, housing growth, and education Growth, the Council is working in a strategic way with Sport England to ensure that this strategic context is considered and that the optimum balance of meeting the needs of communities is achieved. The PPOSS, relationship with Sport England and the planning process provides the mechanism to this approach going forward.

Manchester's Sport & Physical Activity Strategy 2019-2028

- 3.24 MCRactive is a not-for-profit organisation established and overseen by Manchester City Council, responsible for driving sport and physical activity across Manchester, inspiring and encouraging everyone to lead a more active and healthier lifestyle. Its role is to provide leadership and a common narrative, working with the whole sport and physical activity sector to activate all publicly accessible sport and leisure places that exist across the city.
- 3.25 The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy adopted in 2018 and recently refreshed in September 2022 sets out the long-term vision for the future of sport and leisure which was informed by residents following extensive public consultation. The strategy's vision is 'to establish Manchester in the top-flight of world class sporting cities, with active lives for all, helping to transform their health and well-being'. It's eight themes are:
- Encourage residents to move more
 - Positive experiences for Children and Young People
 - Active adults increasing and sustaining activity levels
 - World-class sport that inspires positive change
 - Active Place and Neighbourhoods
 - Communicating with and connecting communities
 - Realising the potential of the workforce
 - Contributing to a zero-carbon future
- 3.27 The Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy sets out a vision to get all residents moving more across the life course helping to transform their health and wellbeing. The Strategy aligns to Our Manchester principles as follows:
- Better Lives (about the people) – leisure centres at the heart of neighbourhoods.
 - Listening (listen, learn, respond) - consulting with residents, user groups and local members.
 - Recognising Community strengths of Individuals and Communities - listening to feedback from consultations, understanding the work of clubs, community groups and working together to achieve the desired outcome.
 - Working together - building relationships, keeping residents, user groups and local members informed throughout the process.
- 3.28 The PPOSS and associated Action Plan will support the progression of the Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, investing in playing pitches and outdoor sport provision throughout Manchester enabling more residents to move more with a range of affordable place-based approaches.

4.0 Scope

- 4.1 The following sports are included in the Strategy and were assessed using Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy and Outdoor Sports Guidance. The strategy covers both playing pitches and three priority outdoor sports:

Pitch sports:

- Football pitches
- Rugby union pitches
- Rugby league
- Cricket pitches
- Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches
- Hockey pitches (artificial grass pitches - including use for football)
- Other pitch sports - Gaelic sports, Lacrosse, American football, Baseball and Softball.

Outdoor sports:

- Outdoor bowling greens
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Athletics facilities
- Golf facilities
- 3x3 basketball courts

- 4.2 Pitch sports have been assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy.
- 4.3 Outdoor sports have been assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). Non-pitch outdoor sports require a different methodology to assess demand and supply to that used for pitch sports.
- 4.4 The city has been split into four distinct areas, termed analysis areas, for the purpose of this study. The site-by-site action plans are also aligned to the four analysis areas:
- North area – population 155,189³
 - Central area – population 188,634
 - South area – population 137,396
 - Wythenshawe area - population 74,522
- 4.5 The Analysis Areas fit in-line with the Council's community strategy Our Manchester and ward-based plans to support the Council's ambition to provide Manchester residents with access to high quality sport facilities at a neighbourhood level.
- 4.6 Whilst the analysis areas should be used for the basis of reporting, the strategy also addresses the sport specific geography of Manchester. Many sports and leagues cross these boundaries and pitch facilities in one area may

³ ONS Mid-2020 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales

also be suitable for clubs in another area. This cross-boundary movement has therefore been taken into consideration when producing the strategy.

5.0 Governance

5.1 A Project Steering Group was established to lead the development and implementation of Manchester PPOSS. It is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England, Greater Sport, pitch sport National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), namely the Football Association (FA), Manchester County Football Association (MFA), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Lancashire County Cricket Board (LCCB), the Rugby Football League (RFL), the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and England Hockey (EH), English Lacrosse, and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), Softball Baseball UK (SBUK) plus the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University.

5.2 The steering group will remain operational for the lifespan of the strategy. The focus of work is as follows:

- Be a champion for playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPOSS.
- Ensure implementation of the PPOSS recommendations and action plan.
- Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPOSS.
- Ensure that the PPOSS is kept up to date and refreshed.

5.3 The sports organisations and education establishments have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. Many of the objectives and actions will be delivered and implemented by sports organisations and education establishments in addition to the Council.

6.0 Vision and Strategic Aims

Vision

6.1 The proposed vision has been developed following engagement with stakeholders and describes what we are seeking to achieve through the PPOSS.

“To be a city recognised for its high quality of life, with a network of quality, accessible and sustainable green spaces and world-class sports, leisure and playing pitch facilities, which offer inclusive services to all and capable of supporting sport, health and wellbeing of all residents across their life course; enabling the inactive to become active and more residents to fulfil their potential by participating in sport and physical activity, thus improving their long-term health and well-being.”

Strategy Aims and Recommendations

5.2 The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and

partners to enable delivery of the overall PPOSS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

Table 1 – AIMS and Recommendations

AIMS	Recommendations
To protect the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.	<p>A. Ensure through the provision of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy that the outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.</p> <p>B. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solution and partnership agreements.</p> <p>C. Maximise the use of community sites where there is a need to do so.</p> <p>D. Protect all current supply of provision for each sport, in order to cater for the current and future demand, no matter if it's considered to be sufficient.</p>
To enhance outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.	<p>E. Improve quality.</p> <p>F. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.</p> <p>G. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.</p> <p>H. Secure developer contributions.</p>
Aim 3 - To provide new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so	<p>I. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate current and future demand.</p> <p>J. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.</p> <p>K. Consider opportunities to meet the need of community demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities through new and proposed education facilities.</p>
Aim 4 - To provide a collaborative and holistic approach across all sporting provision given substantial levels of cross authority (imported and exported) demand.	<p>L. work with neighbouring local authorities to identify co investment opportunities in order to deliver strategic projects to address cross authority demand issues/shortfalls.</p>

6.0 Supply and Demand Update

6.1 The table below sets out the current and future demand sport by sport to inform where there is either current and / or future shortfalls in facility supply.

Table 2 – Headline Findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2031)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	North	Adult	At capacity	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	N/A ⁴	N/A
	Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 3
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	N/A	N/A
	South	Adult	Spare capacity of 9.5	Spare capacity of 7.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 3.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 5
		Mini 5v5	N/A	N/A
	Wythenshawe	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2.5
		Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	N/A	N/A
Football (3G pitches)	Manchester	Full size, with sports lighting.	Significant capacity issues within the South and Wythenshawe	Significant capacity issues within the South and Wythenshawe

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

⁴ Mini 5v5 matches are not presently played on grass football pitches, therefore there is no relevant position because all play is held on 3G pitches.

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2031)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
			areas which have limited amounts of spare capacity for additional demand.	areas which have limited amounts of spare capacity for additional demand.
Cricket	North	Senior grass cricket wickets	Shortfall of 14 match equivalent sessions a season.	Shortfall of 14 match equivalent sessions a season.
	Central	Senior grass cricket wickets	At capacity	At capacity
	South	Senior grass cricket wickets	Shortfall of 14 match equivalent sessions a season.	Shortfall of 26 match equivalent sessions a season.
	Wythenshawe	Senior grass cricket wickets	At capacity	At capacity
Rugby union	North	Senior	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	Central	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	South	Senior	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 9
	Wythenshawe	Senior	Shortfall of 1.25	Shortfall of 2.75
Rugby league	Manchester	Provision	Spare capacity	Potential shortfall of grass pitches based on growth ambitions.
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Manchester	Full size, with sports lighting.	Shortfall of relevant pitches of suitable	Shortfall of relevant pitches of suitable accessibility and quality.

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2031)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
			accessibility and quality.	
Tennis	Manchester	Courts	Shortfall	Shortfall
Bowls	Manchester	Greens	Spare capacity	Spare capacity
Athletics	Manchester	Tracks	Sufficient quantity, but quality issues	Sufficient quantity, but quality issues
Golf	Manchester	Courses	Spare capacity	Spare capacity
Other sports	Manchester	Provision	Sufficient for American football, Lacrosse and Softball & Baseball. Insufficient for Gaelic Sports and MUGAs / Outdoor (3x3) Basketball.	Sufficient for American football, Lacrosse and Softball & Baseball. Insufficient for Gaelic Sports and MUGAs / Outdoor (3x3) Basketball.

- 6.2 The existing position for each sport is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the creation of shortfalls for some pitch types and in some areas where demand is currently being met, as well as the exacerbation of existing shortfalls.
- 6.3 Where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered to be a solution to addressing current or future demand shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.
- 6.4 For football there are current grass pitch capacity shortfalls for adult pitches (Wythenshawe Analysis Area), youth 11v11 pitches (Central and South analysis areas), youth 9v9 pitches (South and Wythenshawe analysis areas) and mini 7v7 pitches in the Wythenshawe Analysis Area. Additional capacity shortfalls will be created for adult pitches (North and Central analysis areas) youth 11v11 football pitches (North and Wythenshawe analysis areas), youth

9v9 pitches (North and Central analysis areas) and mini 7v7 pitches in the Central Analysis Area when accounting for future demand.

- 6.5 These grass pitch shortfalls for football can generally be alleviated with pitch enhancements as part of sports development initiatives.
- 6.6 There are 3G pitch shortfalls identified within the South and Wythenshawe areas for full size 3G pitches. There are advanced plans to address shortfalls underway.
- 6.7 Rugby league has no current shortfalls, however, has minor future shortfalls which can be alleviated by converting existing grass pitches where there is a need to do so.
- 6.8 For rugby union, overplay can generally be alleviated via maintenance of drainage enhancements, however, other options such as greater utilisation of World Rugby compliant 3G provision, removal of rugby league demand and creation of additional sports lighting/more even dispersal of demand should be explored.
- 6.9 There is a shortfall of hockey suitable pitches of a suitable quality and security of tenure. To overcome the AGP pitch shortfalls, options should be explored, to refurbish a number of pitches in addition to securing long term hockey usage on them, particularly at Brantingham Road, Parrs Wood High School and William Hulme Grammar School.
- 6.10 For cricket, although most shortfalls can be reduced through improving quality, there is still a need to consider increasing capacity at certain sites, either through greater utilisation of Non-Turf Pitches or the creation of hybrid wickets.
- 6.11 For non-pitch sports such as Tennis, Multi Use Games Areas, and Gaelic sports there are projected shortfalls, whereas, bowls, golf, American football, Lacrosse, and Softball & Baseball has sufficient provision. There is sufficient provision of athletics tracks, however, there is a need to improve their quality.
- 6.12 For most sports the future demand for provision identified in Manchester can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:
 - Improving pitch quality in order to Improve the quality of such provision (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.
 - Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
 - Reinstate disused / unused sites where there is a need to do so in order to help alleviate future shortfalls.
 - Replace Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) at end of life.

- Where possible, strategically and sustainability transfer football demand from hockey suitable AGPs, particularly within the South Analysis Area, to 3G pitches to release capacity for the growth of hockey.
 - Securing long term community use at school sites.

6.13 In addition to above there is insufficient access to quality changing provision citywide to meet current and future sport specific needs (short-term priorities are detailed in the Action Plan). Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements (e.g., Hough End Playing Fields), whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance.

6.14 Given the need to protect all existing playing fields until demand can be met, Manchester’s population growth, housing growth, and education Growth, the Council is already working closely with Sport England to ensure that this strategic context is considered and that the optimum balance of meeting the needs of communities is achieved. The Playing Pitch Strategy, relationship with Sport England and the planning process provides the mechanism to this approach going forward.

6.15 Adopting the PPOSS will enable the Council to cement the framework for investment with stakeholders and enable the continued development of our playing field infrastructure.

7 Key Recommendations

7.1. Based on the assessment of supply and demand, a number of sports specific recommendations have been made that can be found in appendix 1. Furthermore, a series of strategic recommendations have been developed via a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis have been made and can be found in appendix 2. These recommendations reflect the overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across the outdoor sporting infrastructure and may not be specific to just one sport.

8.0 Short-Term Action Plan

8.1 The table below sets out the recommended short-term actions to be delivered over the next 12 – 18 months.

Table 3 – Short-Term Action Plan

Site/organisation name	Analysis Area	Recommended Action	Indicative costs
Various	Various	Seek FA/FIFA certification of full-sized pitches to	Low

		increase capacity available for match play at peak time – may include need to improve quality to pass testing.	
New School Build Extensions	All	Determine mix of new sporting provision and secure access through Community Use Agreement for community use.	High
Various	Various	Explore opportunities to improve pitch quality via enhanced maintenance.	Low
Multi	Various	Explore opportunities to improve quality and provision of high-quality ancillary facilities in particular on multi pitch sites. At the same time explore opportunities to develop new management arrangements with anchor clubs / community groups to sustain quality and increase capacity of use.	Medium-High
Various	Various	Explore opportunities to improve quality of tennis courts and provision of new gate systems to track and monitor access and use of.	Low
Various	Various	Explore opportunities to enhance and provide new Multi Use Games Areas via FA Playzone Programme in areas of most need to tackle inequalities in participation.	Low-Medium

Manchester Regional Arena	North	Sustain track quality with appropriate maintenance. Explore the potential of improving ancillary provision. Prioritise upgrading sports lighting to meet lux level requirements to host championship events	Low-Medium
The Manchester College Openshaw Campus	North	Re-provide One Full Size 3G pitch as a like for like replacement for The Manchester College - Nicholls Community Football Centre. Secure, Monitor and Implement a Community Use Agreement.	High Low
Cheetham Hill Cricket Club	North	Provide new non turf cricket wicket to address junior demand.	Low
Manchester Communications Academy	North	Explore the opportunity to resurface poor quality 3G Pitch.	High
Scotland Hall Road Park	North	Upgrade Multi Use Games Area to include installation of Lighting as part of a National Playzone Pilot.	Medium
Wright Robinson College	Central	Improve and sustain 3G pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Low
Brantingham Road	South	Secure community access to the Sand Dress AGP for community hockey clubs.	Low
Lloyd Hotel	South	Sustain green quality with appropriate	Low

		<p>maintenance.</p> <p>Explore the potential of improving ancillary provision.</p> <p>Ensure renewal of the lease agreement to ensure continued use of the green for Lloyd Hotel BC.</p>	
Ladybarn Park	South	Upgrade Multi Use Games Area to include installation of Lighting as part of a National Playzone Pilot.	Medium
Hough End Playing Fields	South	Development of Football Hub Facilities including two new 3G pitches (cork infill), Leisure Centre Extension, new car parking and grass pitch improvements via enhanced maintenance.	High
Hough End Playing Fields	South	Explore the opportunity to relocate Gaelic Sport pitches and develop two compliant Gaelic sport pitches with championship facility requirements adjacent to Broughton Park FC.	Medium-High
Brooms Edge	South	Consider establishing alternative management arrangement onsite with Didsbury Sports Associate to alleviate identified overplay at Didsbury Sports Club. This would include the relocation of a manhole cover.	Low-Medium
Newall Green High School	Wythenshawe	Engage new school to ensure both grass pitches and full size 3G pitch are enhanced in quality, via relevant methods (pitch	

		improvements and refurbishment), to meet school and community need. Secure Community Use Agreement to protect future use in accordance with local sport priorities.	
Wythenshawe Park	Wythenshawe	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance. Explore the opportunity to replace current changing block with a new development purpose-built facility to service all sports. Reinstate disused pitches. Explore the feasibility for the site to be developed to alleviate 3G issues in co-ordination with Trafford council.	Low-Medium-High
Disposal / Housing Developments	Various	Any disposals or housing development where section 106 funds are realised may result in a mitigation strategy to address any impact on the PPS. This may result in specific proposals coming forward over the 18 months.	Low-Medium-High

5 Low - less than £50k; Medium - £50k-£250k; High £250k and above.

8.2 The short-term action plan includes the need to inform new school facility plans to ensure the right facilities are in the right place to deliver school and community priorities, as well as development of anchor club and new management arrangements at key Council / Community / Education playing

pitch sites. A key action will be the development of community use agreements for adoption by planning authority and continued development of long-term partnership agreements / new lease arrangements to provide security of tenure and platform for growth of local clubs and community groups at each site. All management arrangements will be underpinned by local sport development plans and a viable facility business plan.

- 8.3 All short-term facility priorities are identified in Leisure’s Capital Programme or currently being brought forward with external partners.
- 8.4 Manchester PPOSS Site by Site Action Plan will remain a live document until the end of 2031.

9.0 Investment Opportunities

- 9.1 Manchester City Council with the Sport and Leisure sector is seeking to bring forward a long-term capital investment strategy that delivers growth and secures a sustainable future for our outdoor sport facilities.
- 9.2 Manchester outdoor sport facility investment strategy will be developed in a manner that addresses the current and future sport specific and area needs, which in turn have informed the evidence base and strategic considerations for priority projects. Facility proposals will be brought forward in consultation with the community and will be subject to a strong business case, viable business plan and funding being secured – primarily from external partners and sources.
- 9.3 National investment is prioritised for projects that can demonstrate a considerable impact to grow sport participation and tackling inequalities in physical activity and access to facilities in areas of most need. The following table of National Governing Bodies have a facility grant investment programme in place.

National Governing Body Funding

National Funding Bodies	Capital Investment Programme
Sport England	Various Capital and Revenue Grants available under and over £10,000, no set threshold for Local Authority Strategic Facility Fund.
Lawn Tennis Association	Capital Grants – no set threshold Interest free loan up to £250,000. Specific Local Authority Funding Programmes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Tennis Court Refurbishment Programme • Access Gate Systems

Rugby Football Union	Grants and interest free loan up to £100,000
Rugby Football League	Capital Grants available under and over £15,000, no set threshold.
Softball Baseball UK	Baseball Tomorrow Fund – no set threshold.
The England and Welsh Cricket Board	Club interest free loan scheme Local Authority Non -Turf Cricket Wicket Investment Programme under and over £12,000, no set threshold.
Football Foundation	Capital and Pitch Improvement Revenue Grants – no set threshold. Specific Local Authority Funding Programmes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass Pitch Improvement Programme • Football Hubs Programme • PlayZones Programme (Enhancement and Development of Multi Use Games Areas and Recreational Football Facilities)
Gaelic Athletics Association	Game Development Fund – no set threshold.

9.4 It should be noted that additional projects will be added to the pipeline from time to time, often in response to the council identifying external funding to support partner ambitions and following contributions being made following a property/ housing development which will be assessed in consultation with Sport England and relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport. These funding opportunities are set out below.

Section 106 Funding (S106)

9.5 All proposed developments for alternative use of playing field land would need to refer to the PPOSS to help determine what impact the development will have on the current supply and demand of playing field facilities in the area. The PPOSS outlines the need to protect, enhance or provide playing field facilities to address current and future demand. If alternative plans are to be brought forward a mitigation plan will need to be agreed and signed off by Sport England and relevant NGB's as statutory consultees for replacement of loss of recreational green space and / or playing field land. In this case, a sum will be agreed to re-provide and /or improve sport facilities in the locality area.

9.6 The PPS also highlights the need to 'ensure adequate provision for increased demand generated by housing developments is secured through appropriately calculated developer contributions'. Sport England have developed a planning portal to inform developer contributions. The planning portal will provide increase demand generated from the proposed development and if there is a

requirement to contribute to sport facilities to address new demand. If there is a case for improvements or new provision, a S106 agreement and sum towards the required provision will be agreed before planning approval is granted.

Sale of Assets

- 9.7 The sale of club owned assets either part or in full can enable clubs to capitalise the land receipt to build more modern efficient facilities to deliver club development plans and develop a sustainable operating model. Clubs' facilities are often not fit for purpose and are not designed to maximise income opportunities. In this case, clubs may consider land for housing to create an investment strategy to improve facilities from the existing location and / or provide a capital receipt to build facilities at a new location. Whalley Range Cricket Club is an example of this, whereby they sold part of their land to modernise the club house and improve playing field land.

Private Investment

- 9.8 There are opportunities to work with private organisations to invest into sport and leisure assets across Manchester. This involves working with potential investors to identify sport and leisure space and to assist them in understanding the implications of an investment in the sector. Private investment will be explored where there are opportunities to deliver a balanced offer of commercial and community programmes to deliver the priorities identified in the indoor and outdoor facility strategy.

10.0 Conclusion

- 10.1 The current position for all pitch sports is either demand is being met or there is a shortfall. The future position shows exacerbation of current shortfalls in some playing pitch types. Majority of the sites have recommendations to maximise use through improve pitch quality and maintenance. There is also a need to secure long-term community use at school / Council / Community sites to sustain and grow affiliated sport and informal play. The Action Plan identifies there is a need to either protect, provide, or enhance existing facilities to address projected deficiencies over the lifespan of the strategy (2022 – 2031).
- 10.2 The Council led steering group will monitor and lead implementation of the PPOSS which will remain live working documents to be updated annually to reflect current area and sport specific priorities. Site specific plans will be added to the Leisure Capital Programme once the business case and investment strategy is brought forward.

11.0 Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to approve the Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy for adoption by Manchester Planning Authority.