

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 6 February 2020

Subject: Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

This report provides an update on Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy and Site Action Plan. Together the documents are used as evidence to inform decisions on planning applications for playing field land. The headline position is to protect, develop and enhance playing field sites citywide. The current position for all pitch sports is either demand is being met or there is a shortfall. In the future there will be an exacerbation of current shortfalls amongst most playing pitch types. The site-specific action plan to accompany the strategy identifies the sport specific priorities and key recommendations for action to address current and future demand. The action plan provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding will be sought to progress capital priorities. The Site Action Plan will shortly be published on the Council website 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 (2017 – 2021).

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

To note the Playing Pitch Strategy and Site Action Plan update position. Following any comments, the action plan will be adjusted and adopted this financial year.

Wards Affected: All

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|---|
| Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city |
| 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. |

| Manchester Strategy outcomes | Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS |
|---|--|
| 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 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 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 leisure 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 new assets that have helped drive the city's growth agenda. The Strategy identifies a need for further investment to improve and deliver new high quality assets across the city that will continue to support our growth ambitions over the next decade. |

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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.

- Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy, 2017 – 2021
- Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy - Site Action Plan, 2017 - 2021

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report is intended to update the Committee on the key findings identified in Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The site-specific action plan that accompanies the strategy will be updated annually to reflect the current playing pitch and sport priorities. The action plan will remain a live document managed by the Council and partners for the lifespan of the Strategy (2017 – 2021).
- 1.2 The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis and consultation has taken place with facility providers and users to provide:
- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sports facilities.
 - A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of provision.
 - A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport-led improvements to provision.
 - A prioritised area-by-area site action plan to address key issues.
- 1.3 The Strategy and Action Plan identifies the strategic priorities to be brought forward over a five-year period. Priorities are identified as high (12 – 18 months) medium (2-3 years), and low (3-5 years) to inform short, medium, and long-term actions to address the key issues and recommendations identified in the Strategy.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Manchester PPS was adopted by the Council executive in December 2017. The site-specific action plan accompanies the Strategy and sets out the sport specific priorities on site by site basis. Together the Strategy and Action Plan are used as evidence to inform decisions on planning applications for playing field land. The documents are also referred to by Sport England and NGB's in their role as statutory consultees.
- 2.2 The Strategy and Action Plan has been led by the Council and partners. A steering group was established in 2015 to develop the strategy and remains operational to manage, monitor and implement strategy recommendations and actions.
- 2.3 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
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby league pitches
- Rugby union pitches

- Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) - sand/water based and 3G surfaces
- Other pitch sports - Softball/Baseball, Gaelic Football, American Football, Lacrosse

Outdoor sports:

- Outdoor bowling greens
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Athletics tracks

2.4 All Playing Field and Outdoor Sports Facilities were assessed in 2016. At the same time consultation was held with National Governing Bodies of Sport, Clubs, Leagues, Facility leads, Education establishments, and users to understand their current and future facility requirements. Supply and demand information was gathered and used to assess the adequacy 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 and South) and demand modelling on a sport by sport basis.

2.5 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 has informed the sport specific priorities and area site action plan.

3.0 Context

3.1 The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy is to provide a strategic framework to inform strategic priorities over a five-year period. This approach will ensure that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Manchester. The Strategy assesses the supply and demand on facilities to service informal play, club training and competitive sport. The Strategy frames the priorities for future investment (subject to sources of funding primarily from external sources being made available) and the continued development of the playing pitch and associated facility infrastructure across Manchester.

3.2 The framework for strategic priorities is set out below:

- **Corporate and strategic:** Ensure strategic approach to playing pitch provision, set priorities for pitch sports, evidence for capital funding.
- **Planning:** Support the Manchester Local Plan and policies on green infrastructure, outdoor sports and leisure facilities.
- **Operational:** Improve asset management, efficiency of resources and identify priority sites to enhance provision.
- **Sports development:** Secure community use of sites, identify current restrictions and opportunities for participation growth.

3.3 The vision for Manchester is to provide a network of high-quality outdoor sports facilities that are conducive to increasing and sustaining participation in

sport and consequently contributing to making sport a habit for life. The vision is underpinned by the following strategic aims:

- **Protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.
- **Enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.
- **Provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so.

4.0 Governance

4.1 A Project Steering Group was established to lead the development, delivery and implementation of Manchester PPS and Action Plan. 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.

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

- Ensure implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan
- Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

4.3 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.

5.0 Study Area

5.1 The City has been split into three distinct areas for the purpose of this study (North, Central and South). The site by site action plans are also aligned to the three analysis areas.

5.2 The analysis area fits in-line with the Manchester strategy 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.

5.3 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

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

6.0 Site Action Plan Update

- 6.1 The site by site action plan followed the strategy adopted by Council executive in December 2017. The first draft action plan was distributed to members for input in early 2018 and presented at November 2018, Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee. The Committee agreed to hold further consultation with members and use the consultation feedback to inform local ward plans and citywide action plan before adoption by the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer – Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Executive member for Skills, Culture and Leisure.
- 6.2 In early 2019, the site by site action plan was updated to reflect the Ward Boundaries adopted in May 2018 and distributed to members for further engagement and input. The action plan continues to be split into the existing analysis areas (South, Central and North) which translates into 29 individual Ward Plans, with no playing field provision in Moss Side, Piccadilly or Deansgate Wards.
- 6.3 The citywide action plan includes 278 site by site plans with sport-specific priorities. In late 2019, individual ward plans were sent out to all members and to the project steering group for end of year review. Methods of communication included written and face to face consultation. 47% of Ward members opted for individual ward meetings to present findings and collectively review priorities. 56% of Ward members provided feedback and local plans have been updated to reflect the current area and sport specific priorities.
- 6.4 In January 2020, site by site action plans were updated and distributed to members, partners and stakeholders. Following any final comments and revisions, Council officers will seek adoption of the citywide action plan by end of the financial year (2019/20).
- 6.5 Together the Strategy and Action plan will be used as the evidence base to inform capital spend priorities on playing field land. The action plan provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding will be sought to progress capital priorities. Facility projects will be added to the Leisure Capital Programme once a business case and funding strategy is brought forward.
- 6.6 The Council led steering group will lead the implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan. The site by site action plan will remain a live document that is refreshed and updated on an annual basis. On going Members engagement will be sought to help monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the strategy and action plan and to ensure the local plans are kept up to date.

7.0 Supply and Demand update

7.1 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 1 - Headline findings

| Sport | Analysis Area | Current picture | Future picture (2021) ¹ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| Football (grass pitches) | Manchester ² | <p><i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 32 adult match equivalent sessions per week available at peak time. 3.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions per week available at peak time. Five youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions per week available at peak time. Four mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions per week at peak time. <i>Mini 5v5 capacity is balanced</i></p> | <p><i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 1.25 adult match equivalent sessions per week available at peak time. Shortfalls: 3.25 adult match equivalent sessions per week. 19 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions per week. 6.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions per week. Nine mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions per week. 26 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions per week.</p> |
| Football (3G pitches) ³ | Manchester | Affiliated team training demand can be met quantitatively, however clubs are identifying difficulties to access facilities during peak times, which is exacerbated in the South of the City. | <p>Affiliated team training demand can be met quantitatively. Need for increased certification to increase availability of 3G capacity for match play to accommodate future grass pitch shortfalls.</p> |

¹ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

² Citywide level applies population (team generation rate) based future demand across Manchester which is not applied to individual Analysis Areas.

³ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

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|--------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Rugby union | Manchester | Shortfall of 9.75 senior match equivalent sessions per week. | Shortfall of 20.25 senior match equivalent sessions per week. |
| Rugby league | Manchester | Demand can be met - on the basis that the majority facility preference continues to be 3G pitches. | Demand can be met with maintained or increased level of access to 3G pitch capacity to be 3G pitches. |
| Sport | Analysis Area | Current picture | Future picture (2021)⁴ |
| Cricket | Manchester | Total capacity of 87 matches per season available for club matches. | Total capacity of 75 matches per season available |
| | | Shortfall of non turf cricket wickets for informal play. | Shortfall of non turf cricket wickets for informal play. |
| Hockey (Sand/water AGPs) | Manchester | Increased access to capacity required for training. | Increased access to capacity required at peak and non-peak times – timing requirements to be reviewed based on rate of growth across varied participation formats. |
| Bowling | Manchester | Demand is met. | Demand can be met. |
| Tennis | Manchester | Need for more or increased access to outdoor floodlit courts to reduce LTA population per floodlit court ratios. | Need for more or increased access to outdoor floodlit courts to reduce LTA population per floodlit court ratios. |
| Lacrosse | Manchester | Demand is met. | Demand can be met. |
| Softball | Manchester | Demand is met – on the basis the level of access to existing provision is maintained or increased. | Increased capacity required to further facilitate growth – either through increased access to existing |

⁴ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

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|-----------|------------|--|--|
| | | | facilities on additional days or through creation of new provision. |
| Baseball | Manchester | Demand is met - qualitative improvements to ancillary provision required. | Desire to generate increased demand and create new club – increased capacity required to do so. |
| | | | |
| Athletics | Manchester | Demand is met – qualitative improvements required. | Demand can be met – on the basis that qualitative improvements are undertaken, |

- 7.2 The findings demonstrate that existing 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 addition, some sports and some areas where demand is currently being met will experience shortfalls by 2021. As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met. Some shortfalls can be reduced through increased access to existing provision, for example increased certification of 3G pitches for competitive football match play would create new capacity to reduce future grass pitch shortfalls currently unavailable due to compliancy.
- 7.3 There is a need to improve grass pitch quality (25% rated as poor) and a need to improve/enhance changing provision attached to grass pitch sites to service clubs and leagues across Manchester. Majority of sites have recommendations to maximise use of existing pitches through improve pitch quality and maintenance. There is also a need to secure long-term community use at school sites to sustain and grow affiliated sport and informal play.
- 7.4 Manchester has an oversupply of Artificial 3G Pitches, with regards to full sized single pitch 3G facilities for affiliated football team training. However, there is demand for greater use by rugby union teams, particularly for training. In South Manchester analysis area, recent demand analysis has identified a need for new 3G provision to accommodate club training and match requirements. This is likely to be addressed through Hough End Master Plan, with a business case proposing 2 new 3G Football Turf Pitches as part of a new strategic football hub on site.
- 7.5 In terms of Sand Based Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's), the current supply is sufficient to meet current demand, however there is little capacity for midweek training or future growth. This is likely to be addressed through Manchester's School Capital Programme, with recommendations for all new schools to build sand dressed AGP's to support school curriculum and community use.
- 7.6 Manchester has an insufficient supply of artificial cricket wickets. This was not assessed in 2016, however The English and Welsh Cricket Board has since developed a new strategy which has identified a need to address informal cricket play. A new non turf cricket wicket investment strategy is now in place

and a plan has been agreed to include up to 17 new non turf crickets to be installed at 14 sites. Works proposed for completion in summer 2020.

- 7.7 There is insufficient supply of available outdoor floodlit tennis courts at present and this will be exasperated by 2021. Majority of sites include recommendation to refurbish and develop 3 court tennis hubs to grow informal play and club programmes. The Lawn Tennis Association are in process of developing a new investment model for outdoor courts.
- 7.8 All other playing pitch sports currently have sufficient facility supply to meet demand.

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.

| Site ID | Site/organisation name | Analysis Area | Action | Indicative cost ⁵ |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|--|------------------------------|
| Various | | Various | Seek FA/FIFA certification of full-sized pitches to increase capacity available for match play at peak time – may include need to improve quality to pass testing. | Low |
| New school builds/extensions (various) | | Various | Determine mix of new sporting provision and secure access through Community Use Agreement for community use. | High |
| 113 | Hough End Playing Fields | South | Progress Strategic Football Hub | High |
| 141 | Manchester Regional Arena | North | Resurface both indoor and outdoor tracks as planned and seek to host new major sport events. | High |
| 8 | Alexandra Park | Central | Seek to increase capacity through installation of a second non turf cricket pitch is feasible. Consider options to also create net training provision. | Low-Medium |
| 12 | Armitage Centre | Central | Replace the Firs Pavilion with new better quality, flexible function ancillary/changing provision – seek to secure internal funding. | Medium |

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

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|-----|---------------------------|-------|---|------|
| 148 | Merseybank Playing Fields | South | Seek to develop a sustainable model for asset transfer with Fletcher Moss Rangers FC. Key need to improve changing provision though options to develop the site as a multi-sport hub should also be considered and the potential need to provide changing facilities for more than one sport. | High |
| 158 | North Manchester RUFC | North | As a matter of high priority, renegotiate the current lease agreement due to expire in 2020. The site is leased by the Council to the Co-Operative, then in turn sub-leased to North Manchester RUFC. | Low |
| 40 | Broughton Park RUFC | South | Seek to improve pitch quality of the training pitch and develop new World Rugby compliant 3G provision, as part of Hough End Master Plan. | High |
| 77 | Didsbury Sports Ground | South | Renegotiate the lease with the Council to include pitches at Fletcher Moss Gardens and Brooms Edge. Need to unblock culverts in ground to improve drainage of playing field land before the Club expand their land demise. | Low |
| MMU | | | Determine potential strategic plans for increase in student demand and provision of required sports facilities – including potential creation of new or development of existing facilities. | High |

- 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. A key action will be the development of community use agreements and sport development plans for adoption by school and planning authority to provide security of tenure for local clubs and community groups at each site.
- 8.3 All short-term facility priorities are identified in Leisure's Capital Programme or currently being brought forward as a pipeline project.

9.0 Investment Opportunities

Section 106 Funding (S106)

- 9.1 All proposed developments for alternative use of playing field land would need to refer to the PPS to help determine what impact the development will have on the current supply and demand of playing field facilities in the area. The PPS 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.
- 9.2 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. Sport England use this tool, along with the evidence base from Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Leisure Strategies to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand and capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity, or if new provision is required. 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.

National Governing Body of Sport Facility Investment

- 9.3 National investment is prioritised for groups that can demonstrate a considerable impact to grow sport participation, with a key focus of engagement targeting under-represented groups. The following table of playing pitch Governing Bodies have a facility grant investment programme in place.

| National Governing Body of Sport | Capital Investment Programme |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Lawn Tennis Association | Grants and interest free loan up to £150,000 |
| Rugby Football Union | Grants and interest free loan up to £100,000 |
| Rugby Football League | World Cup Legacy Capital Fund (2018 – 2021) – Small and Large 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 – up to £200,000. |
| The Football Association | Capital and Pitch Improvement Revenue Grants– no set threshold. |
| Gaelic Athletics Association | Game Development Fund – no set threshold. |

Sport England Community Asset Fund

- 9.4 Community Asset Transfer provides clubs and community groups with the opportunity to take ownership of facilities. The Council supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts and works directly with organisations to develop community operating models. This presents opportunities for clubs to secure long-term tenure which can unlock grant funding opportunities towards capital and revenue programmes. National Governing Bodies of Sport provide toolkits to clubs and community groups that are considering an asset transfer opportunity. Sport England have a Community Asset Fund in place for clubs and groups ranging from £50,000 to £150,000 when organisation's can demonstrate a considerable impact or are targeting under-represented groups.

Park Improvement Fund

- 9.5 Manchester Parks Strategy was launched in 2017. It recognises the City's 143 parks and open spaces and the huge contribution they make to encouraging healthier lifestyles as community focal points, or even destinations in their own right. A component part of this strategy is a £12.5m park investment strategy which will be informed by individual park plans. This work is in development and will inform investment priorities for sport activity in parks for the next 5 years. There are opportunities to match fund through external bodies including, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Sport England up to a total of £20.5M for investment into City Wide Parks and destination parks. The focus of investment is to progress viable business cases which would close the gap on income and expenditure. A park grant fund will also be made available for stakeholders / community partners of parks to bid into, with appropriate governance, assessment criteria and management protocols.

Partner Contributions

- 9.6 There are opportunities to collaborate across the three major public funders of sport and physical activity (Health, Sport England and Manchester City Council) to co-invest and co-design services to achieve the best outcomes for residents.
- 9.7 Our new leisure governance arrangements will provide further opportunities to create new cross sector partnerships and co-location opportunities working with multi agencies to develop and sustain our world class facilities infrastructure over the next 10 years. Leisure Capital programme and pipeline programme sets out the level of partnership funding over the next 3-year

period, which includes capital investment from GLL (indoor leisure operator) to expand and improve our leisure offer at Belle Vue Leisure Centre, North City and Range Sports Complex.

Sale of Assets

- 9.8 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

- 9.9 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 Case Study – Wright Robinson College

- 10.1 In September 2007, the college moved out of the old building and into the new £23m+ building on the adjoining fields. The school was built under the PFI scheme and is the most expensive school or college ever built in Europe. At a total of £53m, the school and grounds are home to some of the finest sporting and educational facilities in the world with some of the sporting facilities including; a 25-metre swimming pool, multiple sports halls, fitness suite, dance studio, weights room and numerous tennis and football pitches available for community use.
- 10.2 In 2014, Wright Robinson College secured Football Foundation investment to convert an existing grass football pitch into a new 4g football turf pitch, creating Manchester's first strategic football hub site. Wright Robinson College now operates three football turf pitches and two grass senior football pitches in East Manchester area, servicing school, local, county and regional football programmes. The model is a blueprint for the City to develop future strategic football hubs, with an existing hub operating and delivering football outcomes and a strong community programme on site.
- 10.3 In 2016, Section 106 funding was identified to create a new FA Step 6 football facility at Wright Robinson College creating a home for East Manchester FC, following displacement from Mount Road to Wright Robinson. East

Manchester FC now has long-term tenure at the site supporting local pathways into national league football.

- 10.4 The facilities have significantly grown football participation and access to high quality coaching and competition. The site hosts Manchester's largest junior football league as a central venue hub site for mini soccer and 9v9 football. The site also hosts adult open age football from grassroots to FA national league system (step 7).

Facilities:

- 2 x 3g full size synthetic turf floodlit pitches.
- 1 x 4g full size synthetic turf floodlit pitch.
- 2 x full size grass pitches.
- 14 x changing rooms, 2 official changing rooms, 1 first aid room.
- 3 x seminar rooms.

Usage:

- Over 30 adult male teams train/play matches per week.
- Mini Soccer – 60 teams playing matches per week.
- 9v9 – 40 teams playing matches per week.
- Central venue league for junior football – 100 teams playing matches per week.
- Various Coach Education courses such as level 1 & level 2 courses.

11.0 Summary

- 11.1 Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy Site by Site Action Plan will remain a live document and updated annually to reflect current area and sport specific priorities. 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 most playing pitch types excluding rugby league which can be met from existing sites. Majority of 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 sites to sustain and grow affiliated sport and informal play. The Site by Site 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 (2017 – 2021). The Citywide Action Plan has been translated into 29 individual Ward Plans to reflect local priorities and sport development plans. The Citywide Action Plan will seek to be adopted by the end of the financial year (2019/20) and then published on the Council website as a public facing document. The Council led steering group will monitor and lead implementation the Strategy and Action Plan which will remain live working documents. Site specific plans will be added to the Leisure Capital Programme once the business case and investment strategy is brought forward.