

A Five Year Playing Pitch Strategy for County Durham

Final Report December 2011



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- Stanley
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- Weardale
- Three Towns Partnership
- Spennymoor
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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been developed alongside a PPG17-compliant Sport and Physical Activity Facilities Strategy which considers the provision of a wide range of sports facility types and evaluates the demand for these facilities in County Durham.

It is intended that the strategy will have an initial life span of five years, starting from the date of adoption, it is expected the period will be from 2012 - 2017 inclusive. The strategy also considers longer term objectives, particularly in relation to the long term plan for housing (potentially up to 2026). It is also recommended that the strategy is subject to annual review by the County Council, with a more formalised review at the end of the strategy period.

It is also intended that the findings of the strategy, particularly the 14 area action partnership profiles, will be incorporated into neighbourhood plans, which are a requirement under the Localism Act¹ and in the new draft national planning policy framework². This has the potential to be a major factor in how the playing pitch strategy is delivered, and will clearly have an impact on roles and responsibilities for delivery. At the time of writing of this strategy, it is unclear how neighbourhood plans will function, particularly in relation to decision making for outdoor sport and recreation. It is recommended that this is further explored in the first annual review of this strategy.

The PPS has been developed following the methodology outlined by Sport England in "Towards a Level Playing Field - A Manual for the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies".

The key objectives of this Playing Pitch Strategy are to:

- analyse the current level of pitch provision, including the geographical spread and quality of pitches
- identify the demand for pitches in County Durham
- evaluate levels of over / under supply through the application of the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM - explained in detail in section five)
- identify how facilities for pitch sports can be improved to meet the needs of residents
- provide strategic options including:
 - provision to be protected
 - provision to be enhanced
 - relocation of pitches
 - proposals and opportunities for new provision
 - sites considered to be surplus.

¹ <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/126/11126.284-290.html#j878s>

² www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/

- provide information to inform the decision making process and evaluate future development proposals including the production of specific local standards relating to playing pitch provision.

Ultimately, the aspirations of the strategy are to sustain and raise participation levels in physical activity across the County. It is therefore intended that the findings of this strategy will help to ensure that the quantity and quality of playing pitches, and accessibility to pitches, meets the needs of the local population, now and in the future, thus maximising the opportunity for participation.

This PPS is primarily concerned with voluntary participation by adults and young people in competitive association football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey. It presents the key findings arising from extensive survey work and consultation, highlighting areas of both concern and opportunity and sets a vision and strategy for the future delivery of sports pitches across the County.

It is important to emphasise that this document examines the provision of playing pitches (i.e. the playing surface, safety margins and the wider area for repositioning the pitch within the playing field) and not playing fields or open spaces (which include grass or other areas which are not used for sport). This is a key distinction as some of the areas surrounding pitches are not used for sport but are important in terms of open space. The councils adopted open space and sports assessment (OSNA) assesses playing fields and open space for the County. The adopted assessment details the local plan provision standard and provides analysis on the existing provision for the County. The document can be viewed on-line³ and should be used in conjunction with the evidence base set out in this report.

2.1 Structure of the report

The strategy is structured as follows:

Section 2 - The Current Picture

- a review of key documents, policies and initiatives on a national, regional and local level
- an examination of key contextual and demographic information
- evaluation of current participation trends and playing pitch provision at a national and local level

Section 3 - Methodology for Assessing Supply and Demand

- a summary of the process that has been followed

Section 4 - Supply and Demand Analysis

- a quantitative and qualitative appraisal of current playing pitches across County Durham, and an evaluation of demand for pitches in the County.

³ <http://www.durham.gov.uk/pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=7524>

Section 5 - Key Findings

- the results of the application of the PPM with detailed analysis across the geographical areas (see below) and the calculation of Team Generation Rates across various sports

Section 6 - Strategy for the Delivery of Playing Pitches across County Durham

- The vision, aims and objectives for pitch provision across County Durham.

Section 7 - Action Plan for Future Delivery.

2.3 Area profiles

The adequacy of provision is analysed both on a County wide level and for the 14 Area Action Partnerships. The use of these areas is consistent with the OSNA analysis areas, which represent the general pattern of use for each locality. It was considered important from a consistency point of view that the playing pitch strategy adopted the same approach as the OSNA.

Analysis at both county level and the 14 AAP's enables a more detailed understanding of the adequacy of pitches to meet demand across the County, and is more sensitive to understanding the specific issues which arise in different parts of the County.

The geographical areas used are illustrated in Figure 1.1 overleaf. Table 1.1 identifies the areas that fall into each locality area and the population of the area. Population statistics are based on 2009/10 sub-national population projections from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) - the most reliable population data source available.

The 14 AAP's are:

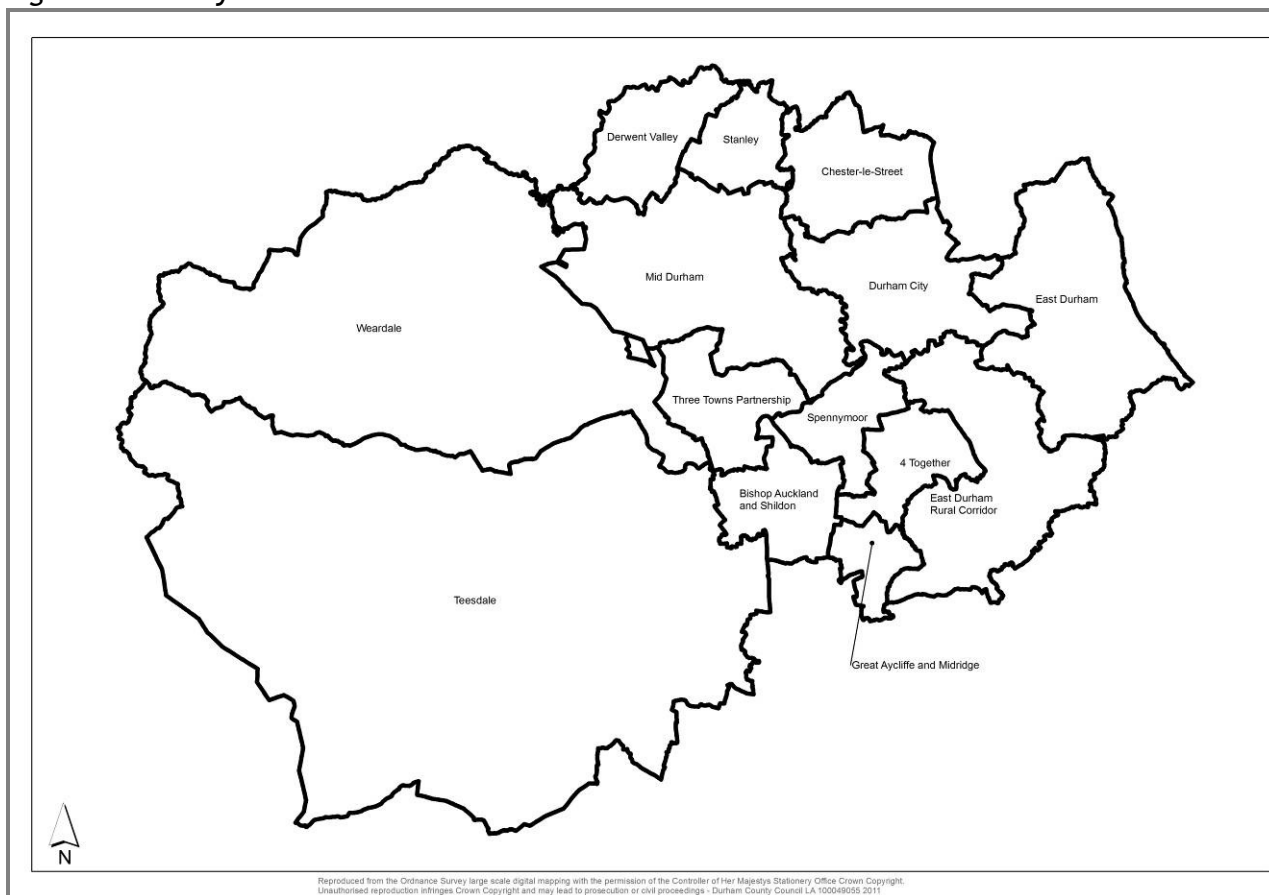
- Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership
- Stanley Area Action Partnership
- Chester-le-Street Area Action Partnership
- Mid Durham Area Action Partnership
- Durham Area Action Partnership
- East Durham Area Action Partnership
- Weardale Area Action Partnership
- Three Towns Partnership
- Spennymoor Area Action Partnership
- Four Together Partnership
- Teesdale Area Action Partnership
- Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership
- Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership
- East Durham Rural Area Action Partnership

This playing pitch document is accompanied by 14 Action Area Profiles (AAP's), each AAP contain bespoke supply and demand analysis which reflect the use and participation of sport within the area. Each AAP has an action plan with strategic recommendations for addressing identified issues.

Table 1.1 Area Action Partnerships

Locality	Population	Wards Included
Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership	43,203	Ebchester and Medomsley, Burnopfield, Dipton, Benfieldside, Blackhill, Leadgate, Consett East, Consett North, Consett South, Delves Lane (10)
Stanley Area Action Partnership	31,426	Annfield Plain, Craghead and South Stanley, Tanfield, South Moor, Stanley Hall, Catchgate, Havannah (7)
Chester-le-Street Area Action Partnership	53,158	Bournmoor, Chester Central, Chester East, Chester North, Chester South, Chester West, Edmondsley and Waldrige, Grange Villa and West Pelton, Kimblesworth and Plawsworth, Lumley, North Lodge, Ouston, Pelton, Pelton Fell, Sacriston, Urpeth (15)
Mid Durham Area Action Partnership	33,249	Burnhope, Castleside, Cornsay, Esh, Lanchester, Brancepeth, Langley Moor and Meadowfield, Brandon, Deerness, New Brancepeth and Ushaw Moor (10)
Durham Area Action Partnership	63,157	Bearpark and Witton Gilbert, Belmont, Carrville and Gilesgate Moor, Crossgate and Framwellgate, Elvet, Framwellgate Moor, Neville's Cross, Newton Hall North, Newton Hall South, Pelaw and Gilesgate, Pitlington and West Rainton, St Nicholas, Shadforth and Sherburn, Shincliffe (13)
East Durham Area Action Partnership	95,573	Acre Rigg, Blackhalls, Dawdon, Dene House, Deneside, Easington Colliery, Easington Village and South Hetton, Eden Hill, Haswell and Shotton, Horden North, Horden South, Howletch, Hutton Henry, Murton East, Murton West, Passfield, Seaham Harbour, Seaham North, Thornley and Wheatley Hill, Wingate (20)
Weardale Area Action Partnership	7,848	St John's Chapel, Stanhope, Wolsingham and Witton -le-Wear (3)
Three Towns Partnership	24,364	Crook North, Crook South, Howden, Hunwick, Tow Law and Stanley, Wheatbottom and Helmington Row, Willington Central, Willington West End (8)
Spennymoor Area Action Partnership	19,444	Middlestone, Tudhoe, Low Spennymoor and Tudhoe Grange, Spennymoor (4)
Four Together Partnership	17,844	Bishop Middleham and Cornforth, Broom, Chilton, Ferryhill (4)
Teesdale Area Action Partnership	24,574	Barnard Castle East, Barnard Castle North, Barnard Castle West, Barningham and Ovington, Cockfield, Cotherstone with Lartington, Eggleston, Etherley, Evenwood, Ramshaw and Lands, Gainford and Winston, Greta, Hamsterley and South Bedburn, Ingleton, Lynesack, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Romalldkirk, Staindrop, Startforth, Streatlam and Whorlton (20)
Bishop Auckland and Sildon Area Action Partnership	41,416	Bishop Auckland Town, Cockton Hill, Coundon, Escomb, Henknowle, Dene Valley, Woodhouse Close, West Auckland, Byerley, Sunnydale, Thickey (11)
Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership	26,319	Woodham, Greenfield Middridge, Neville and Simpasture, Shafto St Marys, West (5)
East Durham Rural Area Action Partnership	24,869	Cassop-cum-Quarrington, Coxhoe, Fishburn and Old Trimdon, New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange, Sedgfield (5)
Total	506,444	135

Figure 1.1 Analysis Area



All mapped data collected as part of this study has been inputted into a complex GIS database, which is supported by excel spread sheets. The database and spreadsheets have been provided to the County, enabling further analysis of supply and demand at geographical levels including;

- Countywide assessments
- AAP assessments
- Ward based assessments
- Bespoke analysis areas

The data allows analysis and testing to be carried out for future developments, enabling an informed decision making process.

SECTION 2

THE CURRENT PICTURE

2.0 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

This section of the report assesses the current context for playing pitch and outdoor sport within County Durham. It comprises the following:

- It first of all looks at important demographic, social and economic characteristics and trends- all of which can influence participation levels in sport.
- It then examines general and potential participation levels in relation to specific sports and sections of the population, and achieves this through use of analytical packages and datasets available from Sport England. This has helped set the context for much of the local investigation conducted in the fourteen Area Action Partnerships.
- A review of previous studies of relevance is conducted- there have been several such initiatives looking at the provision of sports facilities and recreation opportunities within the County and its former constituent local authorities.
- A summary of national and local policy is then provided which, again, is important for understanding and informing the direction of this particular study.

At various points key issues and implications are identified in highlighted text.

2.2 The local population

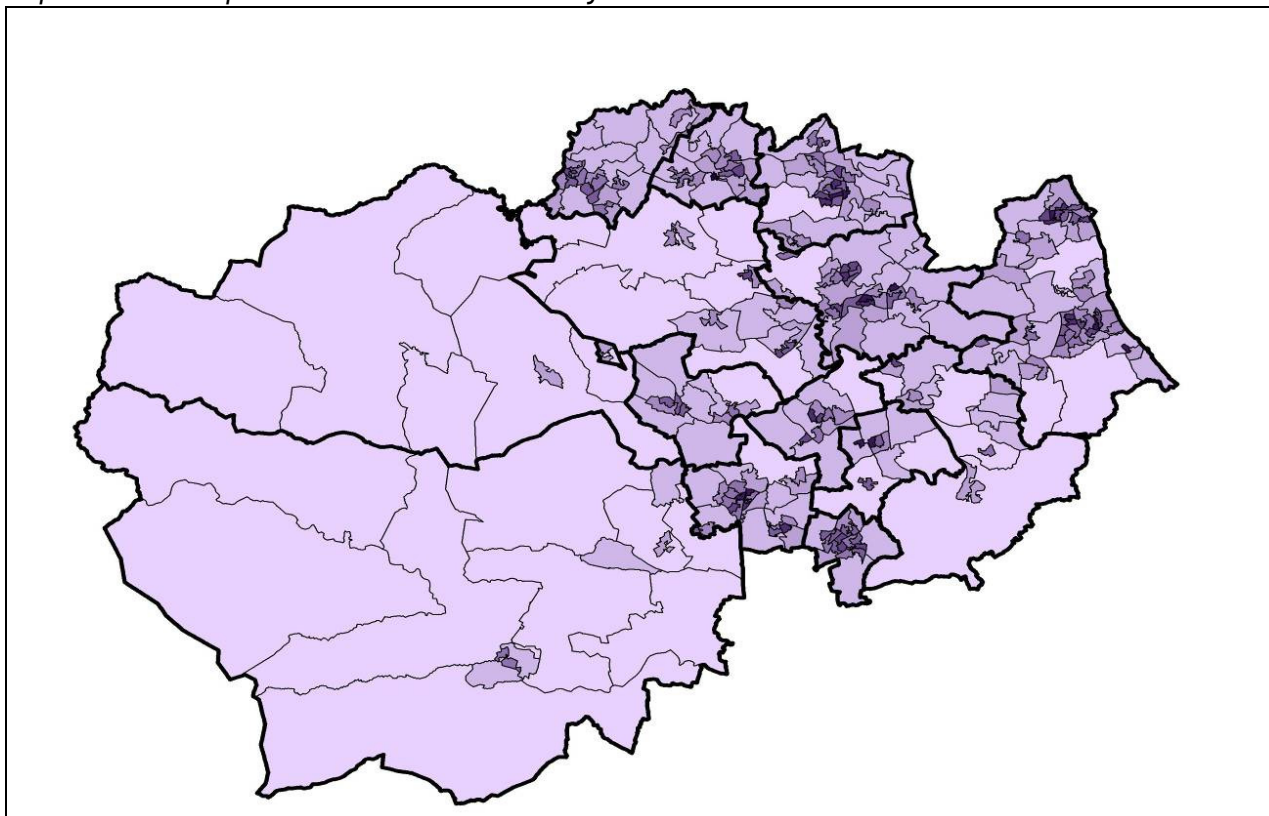
2.2.1 Population distribution

County Durham is an area of stark contrast in the way that the overwhelming majority of the population is distributed in the eastern half of the County, with the western half being very much open moor and as close to wilderness as can be experienced in England. Here, there are very few settlements of any significance, and human habitation is largely restricted to small villages, hamlets and isolated farms.

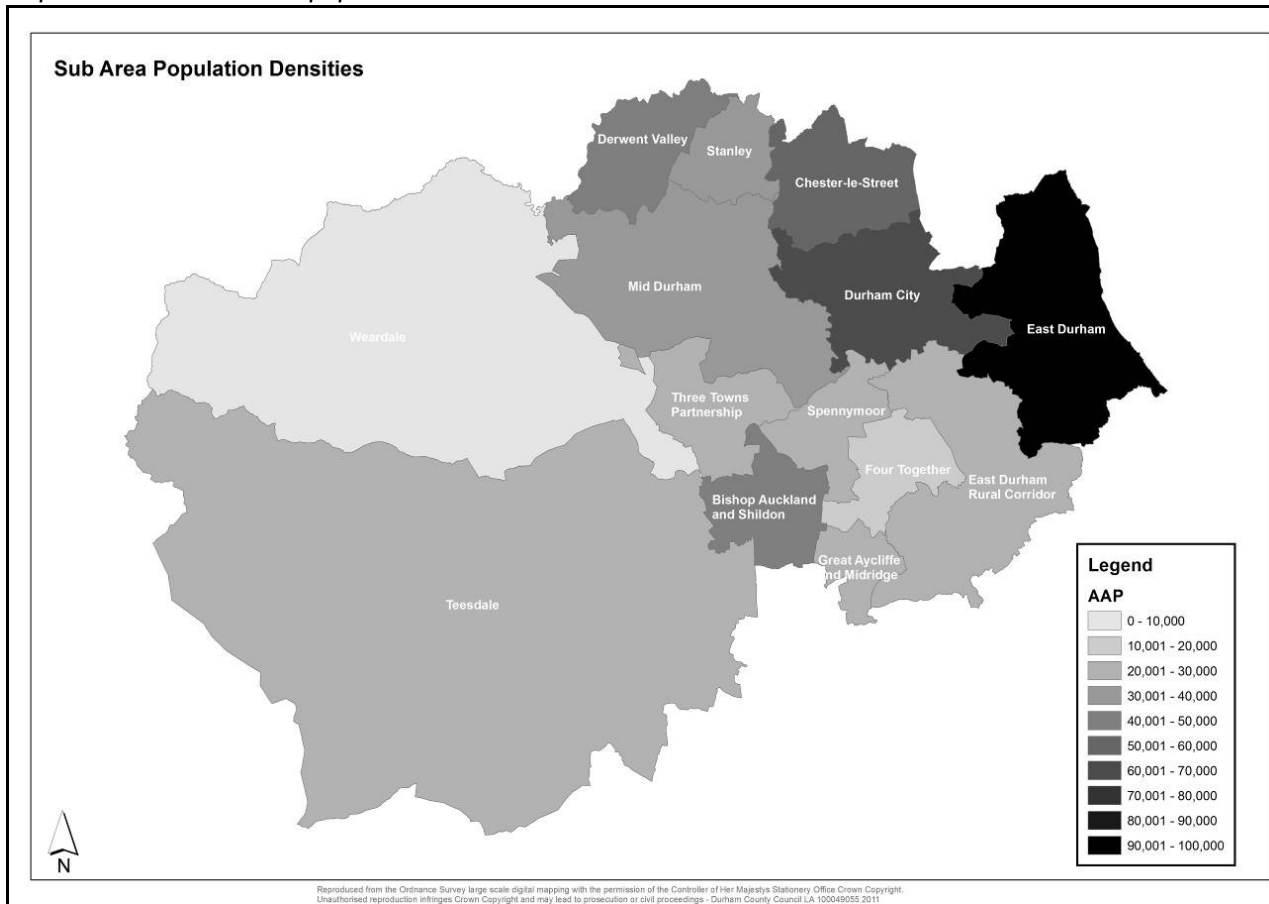
Map 2.2.1 shows this clearly, expressing as it does the amount of space per person by Census Super Output Areas (SOA). The darker the colour, the less space there is per person (measured in hectares). Map 2.2.2 shows the densities of people by sub area, and map 2.2.3 shows densities by ward.

This distribution raises issues concerning ease of access to outdoor sports opportunities in the sparsely populated parts of the County.

Map 2.2.1 Population distribution in County Durham

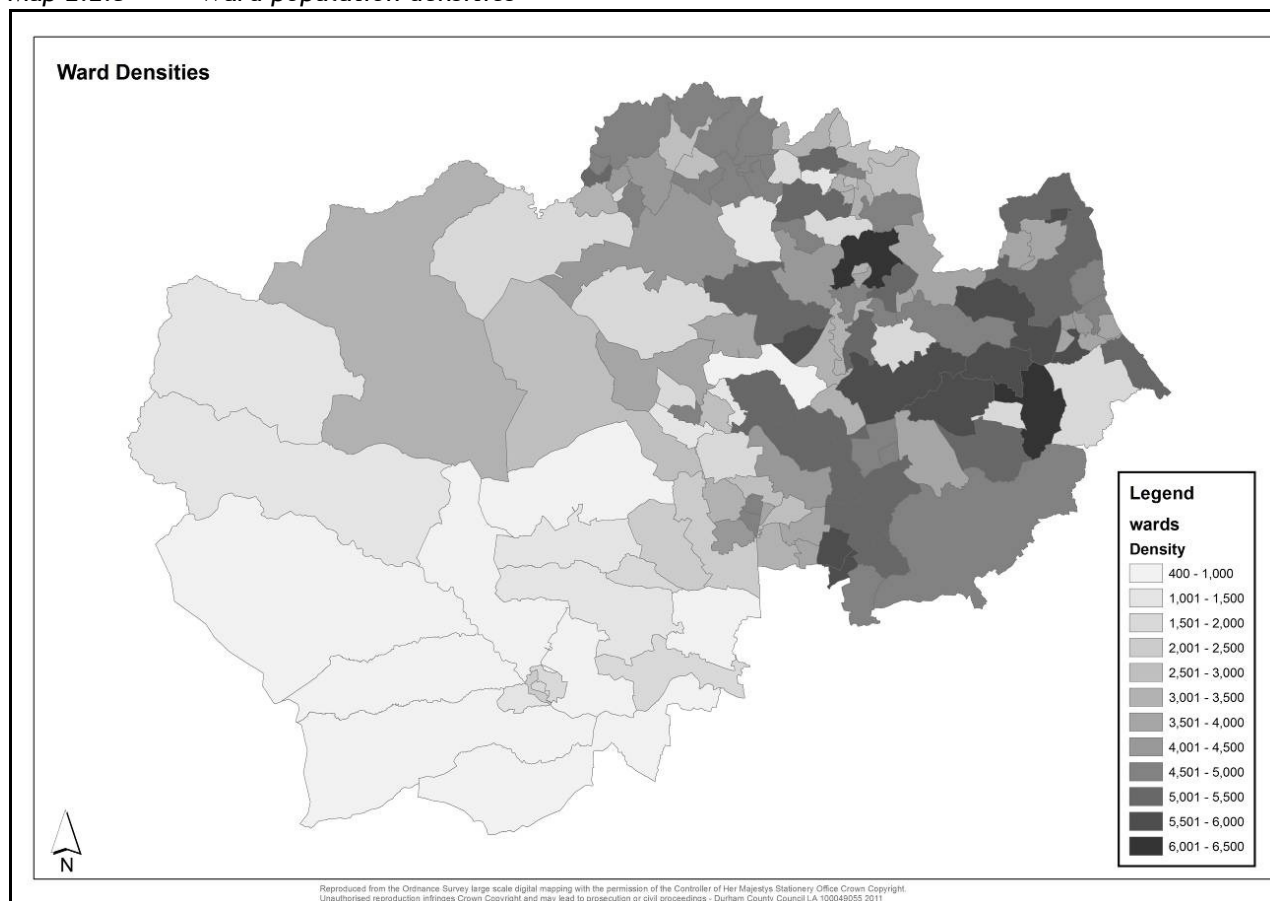


Map 2.2.2 Sub area population densities



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey large scale digital mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorized reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings - Durham County Council LA 10046955 2011

Map 2.2.3 Ward population densities



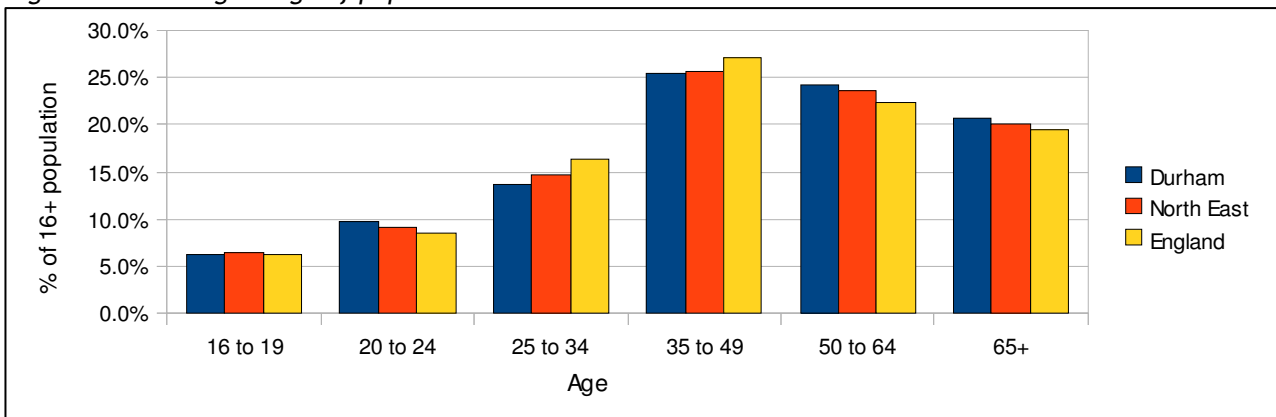
2.3 Basic demographic patterns and trends

2.3.1 Age

Factors such as age, gender, ethnicity can all impact upon levels and patterns of participation in sport of all kinds, and so it is very important to understand characteristics of the local population in this regard. In terms of the current *adult* age, figure 2.3.1 outlines the following:

- The age ranges 16-19, 20-24, and 25-34 years are comparatively very active age groups in outdoor sports terms. In this regard, Durham has about the national average in the 16-19s; significantly higher than the national average in 20-24s; but, significantly less in the 25s to 34s.
- Settling down, work, family life and general ageing mean that the 35-49s is a much less active group in terms of outdoor sport generally- albeit with one or two sports specific exceptions. The County has a smaller percentage in this age group compared with the nation average.
- From the 50s onwards participation in outdoor sport continues to decline proportionate to age. Durham however, currently has smaller percentages in the two age groups covering 50-65+ than the national average.

Figure 2.3.1 Age range of population



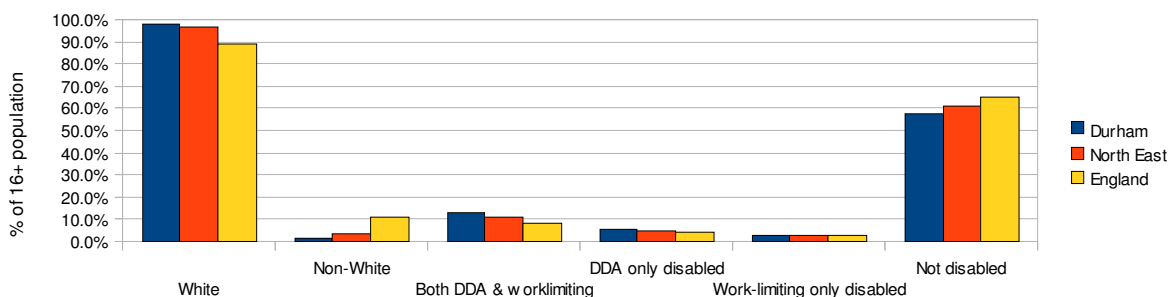
Source: Annual Population Survey Year: 2010

2.3.2 Ethnicity and disability

Ethnic background and associated cultural traditions can also impact participation levels and patterns. Major towns and cities where there is high ethnic diversity is where there is most evidence of 'imported' sports beyond the indigenous activities. Levels of disability will also profoundly influence ability to participate in sport. In these regards, figure 2.3.2 indicates that:

- The county is significantly less ethnically diverse than the national pattern, suggesting that demands will be much more focussed on those sports activities considered native to this country- football, rugby, cricket, hockey, tennis, bowls etc.
- The county has a significantly higher percentage of its adult population deemed to be disabled, this perhaps has something to do in part with the ill-health of older people resulting from hard work in the old traditional industries. It could also be partly explained by more recent problems associated with bad eating habits and sedentary lifestyles. In any event disability will impact upon participation levels.

Figure 2.3.2 Ethnicity and disability in County Durham



Source: Annual Population Survey Year: 2010

2.3.3 Population trends

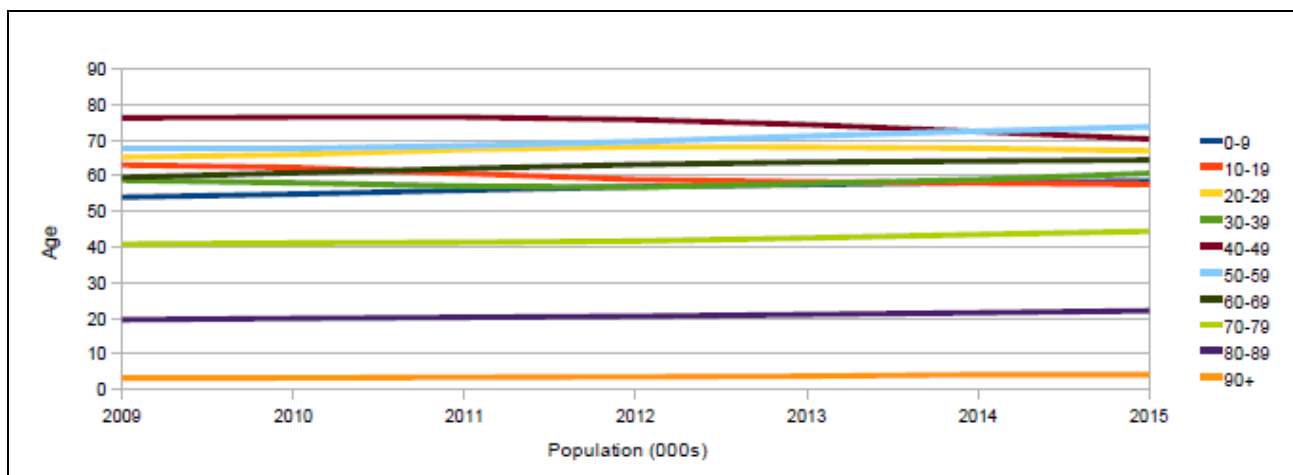
The population is never static. Excluding the fact that people can both move out of and into any given area, the population itself will age and regenerate over the years. Table 2.3.3 and the accompanying graph show how the local population will naturally change over the years, independent of any other factors, such as migration, planned housing

development etc. If longer term forecast data were available they would emphasise the trend.

Table 2.3.3 Changes in population in County Durham

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Chg 09 - 15	% Chg
Male	248.7	250.4	252.3	253.8	255.5	257	258.5	9.8	3.9%
Female	258.5	259.5	260.5	261.5	262.5	263.5	264.6	6.1	2.4%
0-4	28.2	28.6	29	29.2	29.1	29	29	0.8	2.8%
5-9	25.8	26.2	26.9	27.7	28.4	29.1	29.5	3.7	14.3%
10-14	28.8	28.4	27.5	26.6	26.3	26.5	26.8	-2	-6.9%
15-19	34.2	33.9	33.1	32.3	32	31.4	30.8	-3.4	-9.9%
20-24	35.1	35	35.5	35.7	35.3	34.8	34.3	-0.8	-2.3%
25-29	30.1	30.9	31.8	32.4	32.7	32.9	32.7	2.6	8.6%
30-34	26	26.7	27.6	28.8	30.7	31.6	32.7	6.7	25.8%
35-39	32.7	31.3	29.5	28	27.1	27.3	28	-4.7	-14.4%
40-44	38.4	37.7	37.2	36.2	35.1	33.6	32.3	-6.1	-15.9%
45-49	37.8	38.7	39.2	39.5	39.2	38.8	38	0.2	0.5%
50-54	34.8	35	35.6	36.2	37.1	38	38.9	4.1	11.8%
55-59	32.8	32.6	32.8	33.4	34	34.5	34.8	2	6.1%
60-64	33.9	34.3	34.4	33.1	32.2	31.9	31.8	-2.1	-6.2%
65-69	25.6	26.5	27.6	30	31.6	32.2	32.6	7	27.3%
70-74	22.9	23	23	23	23.1	23.5	24.4	1.5	6.6%
75-79	17.9	18.1	18.3	18.7	19.4	19.8	20	2.1	11.7%
80-84	12.4	12.6	12.8	12.9	13.4	13.7	14	1.6	12.9%
85-89	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.9	8.1	0.9	12.5%
90+	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	4.2	4.2	1	31.3%

Source: Office of National Statistics, Sub National Population Projections: 2009-2015 Measure: Projected number of population and forecaster percentage change in time period.



Source: Office of National Statistics, Sub National Population Projections: 2009-2015 Measure: Projected number of population and forecasted percentage change in time period.

Even in the short term there are some trends that will influence participation:

- a growth in the 'very young' population- providing an opportunity for new and enthusiastic youngsters to be introduced to adapted versions of sports;
- major reductions in some of the most active age groups- teenagers and young adults big increases in the later 20s to mid 30s age groups- however, this is when many people become pre-occupied with work, families and other commitments, leading to a decline in participation; and,
- a general ageing of the population as people move into middle age, and many more

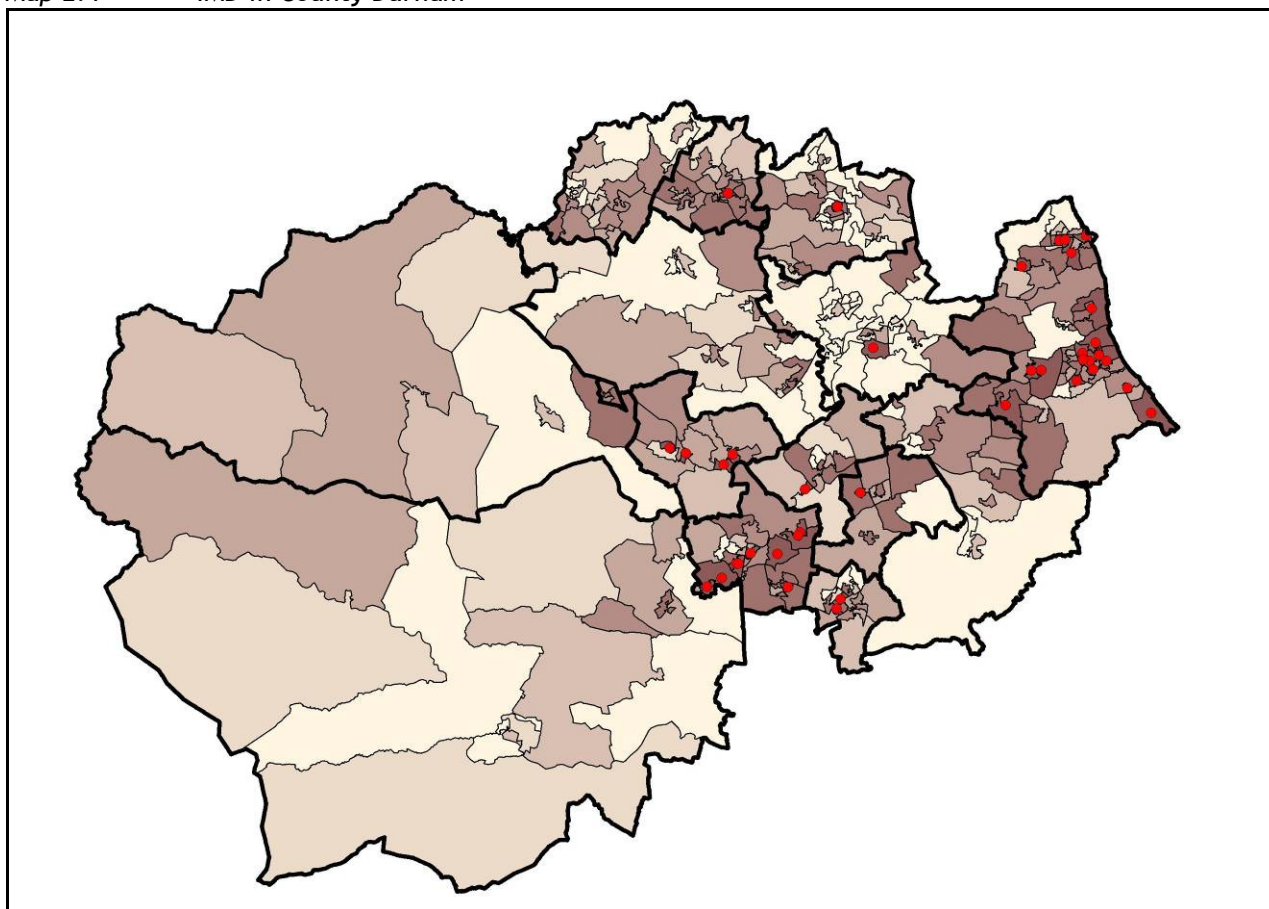
elderly people live longer. The ageing population will have a major impact in suppressing participations unless appropriate activities and interventions are in place.

2.4 Levels of ill-health and deprivation

One of the primary motivations for this study is to secure an appropriate scale and range of sports facilities to enable local people to participate. 'Playing Sport' has intrinsic value in respect of developing physical coordination, self confidence and esteem, teamwork, social networks, community pride and more. However, it also can help to safeguard against the onset poor health.

County Durham is amongst the most deprived unitary authorities nationally, particularly in relation to health and employment. This is very well illustrated by map 2.4, which shows the Rank of Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Scores. The IMD is the official government measure of deprivation and is based on a suite of indicators reflecting access to services, economic, social, health considerations amongst others. The scores are at the level of census 'Super Output Area' (SOA). The darker the tone the more deprived an area. The red dots highlight those areas ranking in the worst 10% of SOAs in England located in the County. The majority of these hotspots are located in the Easington and Peterlee areas, and to a lesser extent in the Bishop Auckland/Shildon area.

Map 2.4 *IMD in County Durham*



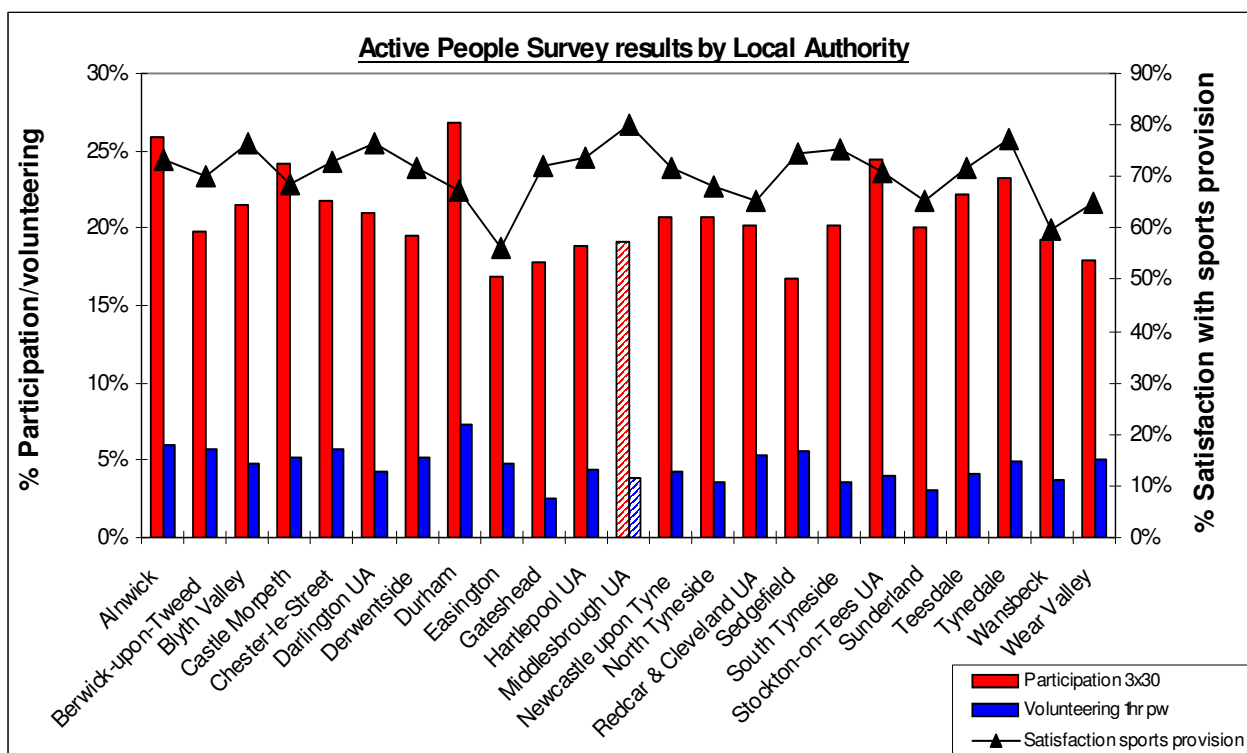
Rates of obesity are rising in both children and adults and are higher in County Durham than the national average, with areas such as the former districts of Easington,

Sedgefield and Wear Valley being significantly higher. Death from circulatory diseases, heart diseases, stroke and cancers occur across the county at a younger age than the national average.

County Durham has some of the lowest sport and physical activity participation levels in the country, which is reflected in the wide range of health inequalities within the population. The direct costs of physical inactivity to NHS County Durham are estimated at £8.3m per annum compared to an average PCT cost across the country of £5m per annum (based on 2006/07 data). Increasing participation levels in physical activity by 10% could save 6,000 lives and £500 million per year.

As will become clear shortly in the next part of this section, those areas of the County which tend to be afflicted with the highest levels of deprivation, are generally those areas where people who might otherwise want to play sport, cannot so do for reasons they cannot easily control. Figure 2.4.1 demonstrates the disparities in participation within the County, only Durham City has above average levels of participation.

Figure 2.4.1 Active people results by local authority



2.5 Existing participation

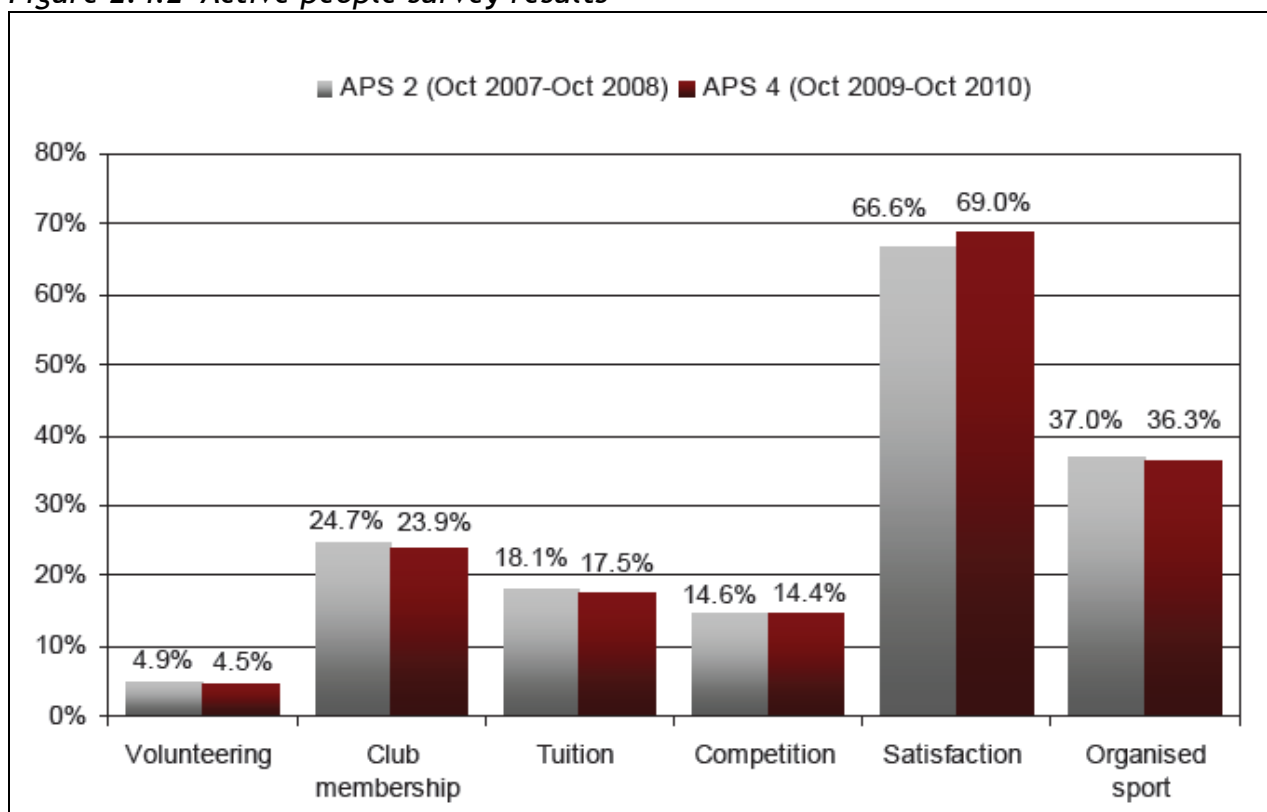
2.5.1 Active people survey

The most detailed and locally applicable data available on physical activity participation levels is derived from the national Active People Surveys and Market Segmentation analyses. In terms of Active People, four annual surveys have been completed, and the fifth is now under way. Collectively the surveys are yielding important information on the scale and nature of adult participation in organised sport and other structured physical activity.

At the national level during 2009/10, 6.938 million adults (aged 16 and over) participated in sport three times a week for 30 minutes at moderate intensity (16.5% of the adult population in England). This is 123,000 more adult participants than the 2007/08 baseline. Compared with Active People Survey 2, sports participation among non-white adults has increased by 64,100, from 722,800 (16.1%) to 786,900 (17.3%). Since 2007/08, participation in athletics (including running and jogging) has grown by 263,400 to 1.876 million adults (4.5%) in 2009/10. Cycling has grown from 1.767 million adults (4.3%) in 2007/8 to 1.866 million adults (4.4%) in 2009/10, an increase of 99,200 participants.

Figure 2.4.2 provides a summary of the active people survey results, highlighting national changes from APS 2 and 4.

Figure 2.4.2 Active people survey results



2.5.2 Active people results for County Durham

Table 2.5.1 shows the results of Active People Surveys 1-3 for County Durham. The definition of the 3x30 participation indicator, ‘KPI1’ is: The percentage of the adult population participating in at least 30 minutes of sport and active recreation (including recreational walking and cycling) of at least moderate intensity on at least 3 days a week. The definition for NI8 is: the percentage of the adult population in a local area who participate in sport and active recreation, at moderate intensity, for at least 30 minutes on at least 12 days out of the last 4 weeks (equivalent to 30 minutes on 3 or more days a week). The top row in the table is basically KPI1 but excluding walking and cycling, which is a better approximation to structured sports participation.

The table suggests that in overall terms adult participation in sport in Durham is lower than the national average. The supporting KPIs (which cover club membership, tuition, volunteering in sport amongst other things) support this general picture.

Table 2.5.1 Active people surveys

	APS1 (2005-6)	APS2 (2007-8)	APS3 (2008-9)	APS4 (2009-10)	Statistically significant change from APS2
3 x 30 sport - At least 3 sessions x 30 minutes, moderate intensity sport per week (all adults)	15.0%	15.9%	16.2%	16.2%	No change
KPI 1 - At least 3 days x 30 minutes, moderate intensity participation (sport and recreational walking and cycling) per week (all adults)	20.1%	20.8%	21.70%	22.2%	No change
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour of volunteering to support sport per week (all adults)	5.6%	5.3%	4.5%	4.9%	No change
KPI 3 - Member of a sports club (all adults)	21.6%	22.2%	20.8%	21.8%	No change
KPI 4 - Received sports tuition or coaching (all adults)	15.4%	14.4%	14.0%	15.1%	No change
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport (all adults)	14.0%	12.8%	13.0%	12.5%	No change
KPI 6 - Satisfaction with local sports provision (all adults)	67.9%	66.2%	67.8%	68.3%	No change
N18 - At least 3 days x 30 minutes, moderate intensity participation (sport and recreational walking and cycling and for those aged 65 and over light intensity participation in yoga, pilates, bowls, archery, croquet)	20.4%	21.0%	22.1%	22.6%	Increase

Table 2.5. shows that the Council is comparable when compared to the Office of National Statistic's 'Nearest Neighbour' benchmarking authorities in terms of the KPI1 indicator over the course of the first four Active People surveys.

Table 2.5.2 Comparison with other LAs

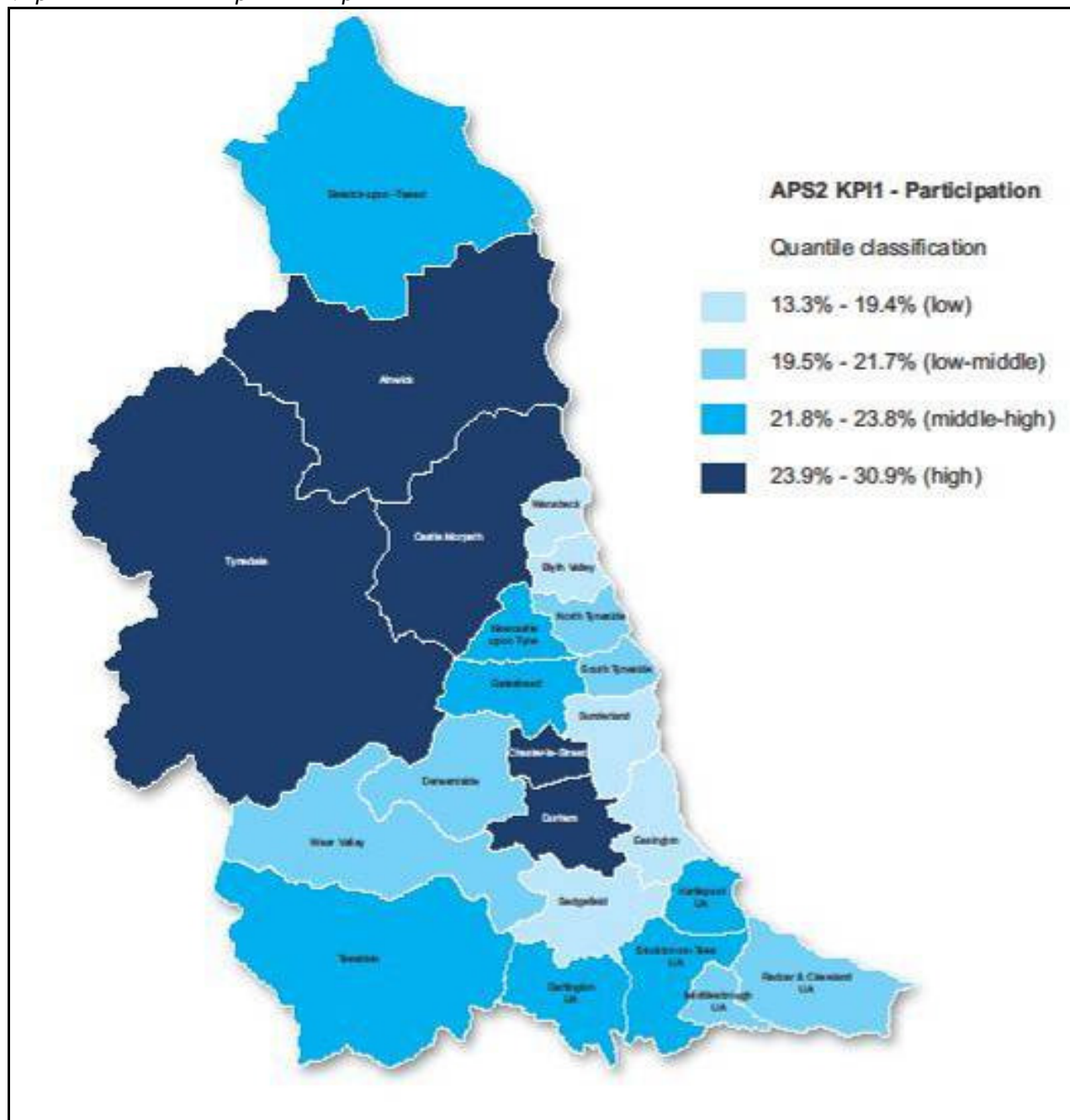
KPI 1 - Participation - LA									
Local Authority	APS1 (Oct 2005-Oct 2006)		APS2 (Oct 2007-Oct 2008)		APS3 (Oct 2008-Oct 2009)		APS4 (Oct 2009-Oct 2010)		Statistically significant change from APS 2
	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base	
Barnsley	19.0%	997	19.7%	507	20.8%	493	23.3%	502	No Change
Doncaster	17.0%	1,011	16.4%	500	20.9%	498	20.5%	494	No Change
Durham	20.1%	7,035	20.8%	4,021	21.7%	3,485	22.2%	3,503	No Change
Rotherham	18.7%	1,051	19.0%	496	19.2%	503	20.7%	503	No Change
Wakefield	18.0%	1,026	25.8%	498	21.5%	497	21.7%	502	No Change

Source: Sport England's Active People Survey

However, this overall picture hides spatial disparities within the County. The following map is extracted from the Council's Sport and Leisure Service Strategy (reviewed elsewhere). Map 2.5.1 shows the fluctuating levels across the former local authorities making up the new single tier Durham County.

The map is based on APS 2 and not later surveys, but it still shows the disparities across the County. It shows that the former district of Easington has some of the lowest participation rates in the North East, whilst Durham City has some of the highest. This physical activity profile mirrors the deprivation profile within the County (i.e. those areas with lowest physical activity also tend to be those which score worst on the government's deprivation index).

Map 2.5.1 Participation in sport



2.6 Market Segmentation - understanding why people do and don't play sport

2.6.1 Market segmentation principles

So why do some people play sport and others don't? There are some immediately obvious factors, such as other competing interests, and age. But there are many others relating to cost, access to opportunities, lack of time, awareness, work and family commitments and more. The existence and effect of such factors varies depending on the demographic, social and economic circumstances of any given person. Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help in understanding the nations' attitudes to sport and motivations for participating (or not). This market segmentation forms the basis of an analytical package - Market Segmentation. The market segmentation data and analytical package also builds on the results of Sport England's Active People Survey, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's Taking Part survey and the Mosaic tool from Experian.

Market Segmentation can therefore help to understand the characteristics of local populations and the underlying reasons for why (non) participation in sport generally, but also in individual sports, varies between groups and geographical areas. With this knowledge, it is then possible to better plan and design opportunities and facilities to make them more accessible and attractive to any given group within the local population, so helping improve participation levels in line with national and local policy objectives.

The 19 Market Segments have been 'characterised' and given names. The names are of largely Anglo-Saxon origin and may not be particularly well-suited to use in some areas. However, the Market Segmentation package offers alternative names for use where circumstances require a change. The Segment Characters are summarised in table 2.6.1, which is drawn from far more detailed profiles available on the Sport England Market Segmentation website⁴:

Table 2.6.1 Market segmentation characters

Ben
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive Male Urbanites • Male, recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude • 5% of all adults; 10% of adult men
Jamie
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Team Lads • Young 'blokes' enjoying football, pints and pool • 5% of all adults; 11% of adult men
Chloe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness class friends • Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim • 5% of all adults; 9% of adult women
Leanne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive Singles

⁴ http://www.sportengland.org/research/market_segmentation.aspx

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young busy mums and their supportive college mates • 4% of all adults; 8% of adult women
Helena
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career-Focussed Females • Single professional women, enjoying life in the fast lane • 5% of all adults; 9% of adult women
Tim
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settling Down Males • Sporty male professionals, buying a house and settling down with partner • 9% of all adults; 18% of adult men
Alison
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay at Home Mums • Mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle • 4% of all adults; 9% of adult women
Jackie
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle England Mums • Mums juggling work, family and finance • 5% of all adults; 10% of adult women
Kev
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pub League Team Mates • Blokes who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport • 6% of all adults; 12% of adult men
Paula
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretched Single Mums • Single mums with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure
Philip
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comfortable Mid-Life Males • Mid-life professional, sporty males with older children and more time for themselves • 9% of all adults; 18% of adult men
Elaine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty Nest Career Ladies • Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home • 6% of all adults; 12% of adult women
Roger & Joy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Retirement Couples • Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers • 7% of all adults; 6% of adult women, 8% of adult men
Brenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Working Women • Middle aged ladies, working to make ends meet • 5% of all adults; 10% of adult women
Terry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local 'Old Boys' • Generally inactive older men, low income and little provision for retirement • 4% of all adults; 8% of adult men
Norma
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Later Life Ladies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older ladies, recently retired, with a basic income to enjoy their lifestyles • 2% of all adults; 4% of adult women
Ralph & Phyllis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comfortable Retired Couples • Retired couples, enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles • 4% of all adults; 5% of adult men, 4% of adult women
Frank
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twilight Year Gents • Retired men with some pension provision and limited sporting opportunities • 4% of all adults; 8% of adult men
Elsie & Arnold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement Home Singles • Retired singles or widowers, predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation • 8% of all adults; 2% of adult men; 14% of adult women

2.6.2 Market segmentation profile for County Durham

How does market segmentation help in planning for sport? For example - Market Segmentation identifies that 'Leanne' is the least active segment amongst 18-25 year age group. She is generally single, living in private/council rented accommodation and is very likely to have children. It is also generally known what motivates her, what brands she aspires to, how things that stop her taking part in sport can be overcome and how to get her involved in sports she likes - such as the gym and keep-fit. From this it can be worked out which sporting interventions are likely to be more successful for Leanne.

When Market Segmentation is applied to County Durham as a whole it reveals the following overall profile.

Table 2.6.2 Market segmentation in County Durham

Segment	% of County population	% of Region's population	% of National population (England)
Total	100.2	99.9	99.9
Elsie & Arnold	10.6	10.6	8
Kev	8.9	8.6	5.9
Brenda	8.8	7.7	4.9
Philip	8.2	7.7	8.6
Jackie	7.5	6.6	4.9
Terry	6.2	6	3.7
Jamie	5.6	6	5.4
Frank	5.2	5	4
Tim	4.9	5.1	8.8
Roger & Joy	4.9	5.5	6.8
Paula	4.8	5.7	3.7
Elaine	4.7	4.5	6.1
Leanne	4.4	4.4	4.3
Alison	3.3	3.4	4.4
Norma	3	3.4	2.1

Ben	2.9	2.9	4.9
Helena	2.2	2.3	4.5
Chloe	2.1	2.2	4.7
Ralph & Phyllis	2	2.3	4.2

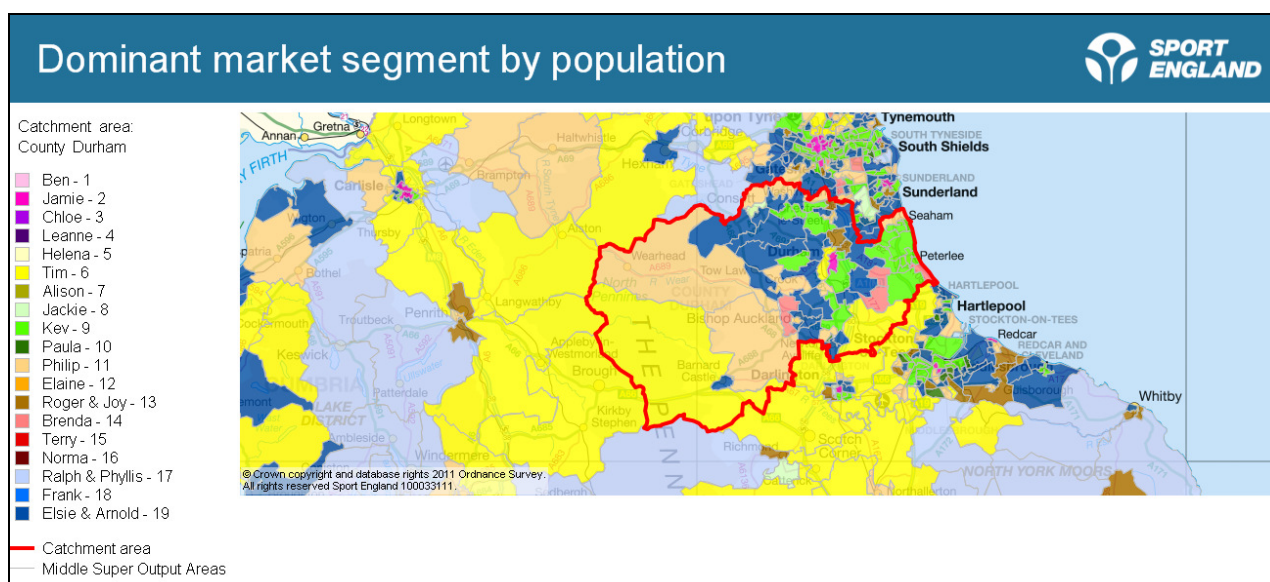
From this it can be seen that the following Segments are the most significant.

Table 2.6.3 Key segments in County Durham

Segment	Characteristic	Representation
Elsie & Arnold	Very old and interest in and ability to be involved in anything other than gentle activity will be restricted.	Representation is higher than the national %
Kev	Likes watching and playing sport at a basic level with his mates	Representation is higher than the national %
Brenda	Older lady having to work to make ends meet	Representation is higher than the national %
Philip	Middle-aged man who likes sport and has the time to participate now kids are older	Representation is slightly lower than the national %
Jackie	Middle-aged, busy, multi-tasking mum	Representation is higher than the national %
Terry	Elderly inactive man, with little spare income	Representation is higher than the national %

The Kev's and Philip's are probably already 'sporty' in some ways - of the sports covered by this project they are likely to play pitch sports more than the overall adult male population. However, other sizeable segments will be far less active. The age of 'Elsie & Arnold' will preclude many activities within the remit of this project, with the exception of bowls. The types of activity that would most appeal to Brenda are more likely to be largely indoors - such as keep fit and swimming, and the same comments apply to 'Jackie'.

However, just looking at the County-wide picture hides wide variation at the local level. In Durham City in particular, there is a much greater representation of Segments likely to be very active in sport such as 'Ben' and 'Jamie', both of which will be very active in pitch sports in particular. The following map summarises this point very well.



The Market Segmentation package does not allow for easy analysis of the representation of the 19 segments at the Area Action Partnership level. However, the underlying information has been made available which allows for it to be better related to these 14 areas.

AAP	Representation and comments
Bishop Auckland & Shildon	Strong representation of 'Kevs', but also of 'Paula's'- financially and time stretched single mums who will tend to opt for activities outside this project's remit where they have an opportunity. There is also heavy representation of 'Brenda's', 'Elsie's and Arnolds', and old-boy 'Terry's'. None of the last four categories would tend to opt for the sports covered by this study if given the opportunity.
Chester-le-Street	Strong representation of 'Kevs', but also of 'Tim's'- comfortably-off, settling down males in their mid-30s, who like sport, but now tend to opt for activities like cycling and keep fit, although football is still prominent. There are also 'Alison's'- busy mums in their later 30s who when they have time will opt for swimming and keep-fit other than the sports covered by this study (with the possible exception of netball). The area has also heavy representation of hard-working 'Brenda's', early- retiring 'Rogers and Joys (with time and money), and the very elderly 'Elsie's and Arnolds'. The sports which these last three segments would choose if given an opportunity would not generally include those covered by this study (with the possible exception of bowls)
Derwent Valley	Once again, 'social' pitch sport playing 'Kevs' have a high profile. Middle-aged 'Brenda's', 'Philips' and 'Jackie's' are also well represented, as are elderly 'Elsie's and Arnolds'. None of the last four categories would tend to choose any of the sports covered by this project (with the possible exception of bowls for 'Elsie and Arnolds', and football and tennis for 'Philip', and bowls for 'Elsie and Arnold'
Three Towns Partnership	Strong representation again of 'Kevs'. 'Brenda's', 'Terry's" and Elsie's and Arnolds' are also well represented. None of the last three categories would tend to choose any of the sports covered by this project (with the possible exception of bowls for 'Elsie and Arnolds').
Durham City	Packed with pitch sport loving 'Bens', 'Jamies', 'Kevs', and also 'Tims'. However, there is also a strong representation of young, financially

AAP	Representation and comments
	stretched single-mum 'Leannes' who probably would not opt for the types of sport covered by this study if given an opportunity. The same applies to empty-nester career lady 'Elaine' and early-retiring 'Roger and Joy' both of which are well-represented in the area.
East Durham Area	Again, 'Kevs' proliferate- but so too do 'Leannes'. There is also heavy representation of 'Brenda's', 'Elsie's and Arnolds', and old-boy 'Terry's'. None of the last four categories would tend to opt for the sports covered by this study if given the opportunity.
East Durham Rural Corridor	Sports loving 'Kevs' and 'Tims' are well represented, as is 'Brenda' who would not tend to choose any of the sports covered by this study if given an opportunity.
Four Together	'Kev's' strong on the ground, but also 'Brenda's' and 'Elsie's and Arnolds' neither of whom would generally choose sports covered by this project..
Mid Durham	'Kevs', 'Tims', and 'Bens' in good supply along with 'Elsie's and Arnolds' to which same comment as above applies.
Great Aycliffe Midridge	'Kevs and Tims' once again in good supply, as well as generally sporty 'Philips'. So too, are busy mum 'Alison's', single-young mum 'Paula's', hard-working 'Brenda's', and the ever-present 'Elsie's and Arnolds'- as said these latter groups don't tend want to play the sports covered in this project.
Spennymoor	Other than sporty 'Kevs' and 'Tims' there is strong representation of 'Brenda's' and 'Elsie's and Arnolds' to whom previous comments apply.
Stanley	Kev's, but also young single-mum 'Leannes', 'Brenda's', and the elderly 'Terries' and 'Elsie's and Arnolds'. The last four groups probably preferring not to play the sports covered by this study, with the possible exception of bowls for the elderly segments
Teesdale	The segment representation reflects the mature/ageing character of the populations- lots of middle-aged and early retirers- 'Tims', 'Rogers and Joys', 'Ralphs and Phylises'. These groups would generally not choose to play those sports covered by this project.
Weardale	Same comments as for Teesdale, but to a lesser extent. There is a higher representation of 'Kevs' compared to the neighbouring Teesdale.

2.6.3 Market segmentation for specific sports

An especially valuable function of the most recent Market Segmentation package is that it also makes use of other important information to enhance the quality of analysis. In particular it makes use of the Active People survey results by applying them to the 19 different segments. For this study, this feature is helpful in assessing whether there is any frustrated demand in terms of potential participation in specific sports.

The Active People Surveys ask questions concerning people's desire to play more sport; and, if so, what type. In this way an assessment can be made of the value in promoting additional participation within the range of sports covered by this study. A summary of what this is given below:

Sport	Comments
Cricket	The responses from Kevs suggest that there is a significant demand for opportunities from this segment to play more cricket.

Football	Again, Kevs have suggested a desire to play more football (although the margin between existing and aspirational levels of participation is not large).
Hockey	Jackie and Leanne (both challenged in terms of time and money available) suggest a strong desire to play more hockey. It must be noted however that this finding is in contrast to the detailed profiles published by Sport England for these two market segments within which hockey is not cited as one of the sports these two segments are likely to want to play.
Rugby League	No real strong desire expressed for additional opportunities at the County-wide level
Rugby Union	Kev's would like to play more Rugby Union
Bowls	The elderly Terry's and Kevs may like to play more bowls (the latter to a lesser extent compared with the former .
Tennis	Significant desire to play more tennis from sport Bens and Jamies, but also from the time and income-challenged Leannes, Jackies, and Brenda's.

The application of Active People and Market Segmentation analyses shows that County Durham has lower participation levels to the national average (lowest levels in the Sedgfield area and the Easington area) and only the Durham City area has significantly higher participation levels than the national average.

It appears that some groups whose opportunity to play sport is restricted by income and other commitments would like to take part in certain sports if given a chance. Notably, some sections of the female population may appreciate such opportunities, although it is not clear which sports they would opt for (as mentioned earlier). In any event, these segments can be heavily represented in the more deprived parts of the County.

Even some groups who already participate frequently in sport would seem to welcome opportunities to play more.

Based on the Active People and Market Segmentation analysis. The sports covered by this study where there might be scope to encourage significant additional participation might include:

- Rugby Union and Cricket (for the County Durham's Kev's)
- Tennis (for Ben's and Jamies, but also for the under-represented Leannes, Brenda's, and Jackies)
- Bowls (for the elderly Terry's, and that man Kev, again)
- Hockey (for Jackies and Leannes, but subject to resolution in the above mentioned apparent contradiction in evidence)

The methodologies underpinning Market Segmentation are very much tried and tested, and endemic within all manner of market research programmes - there is no reason to believe that the above conclusions will be wildly off-mark. However, it is important to relate them to aspirations and participation information generated by the local level studies undertaken in the 14 Area Action Partnerships.

2.7 Data on children's and young people's participation in sport

Outside school and, in contrast to adult participation, there is very little national data on participation by children and young people in sports to enable comparisons with the

adult profile. Outside school, most participation will be casual and often more akin to 'play'. More structured activity will take place at clubs often involving tuition and taking part in modified versions of sports. For this reason, the only way to obtain a good understanding of local participation by youngsters in extra-curricular sport is through having a direct dialogue with clubs, leagues, and governing bodies - which has been the approach adopted.

2.8 Other relevant studies

Other studies covering outdoor sport in the county have been conducted, including those undertaken for the former constituent local authorities. They are summarised below because collectively they have helped to shape the overall planning of outdoor sports opportunities in the area, and the issues they have raised are very pertinent in raising participation levels within outdoor sport in general.

2.8.1 County Durham Sport - Sub Regional Facilities Strategy

The 'County Durham Sport - Sub Regional Facilities Strategy,' completed in draft form in December 2008, provides an overview of activity and need across the county area in relation to indoor and outdoor facilities. The study was prepared to inform the new authority to help in taking a fresh, more comprehensive look at facility, provision, management and development. It is an extension of the work carried out, for Sport England, to establish a Regional Facilities Strategy. A number of people and organisations were consulted in preparing the study including all the former local authorities and representatives from the National Governing bodies for sport. Key issues from existing reports and discussions around outdoor sport facility provision and development are-

- The uneven distribution of outdoor facilities creates gaps in provision particularly in relation to Synthetic Turf Pitches.
- Accessibility issues, particularly, for existing school sites.
- The quality of existing outdoor pitch and changing facility provision and uneven standards of maintenance on publicly owned sites.
- The fact that much outdoor provision is managed through town and parish councils meaning that the quality of provision and maintenance is variable.
- Transport difficulties for getting access to facilities.

This document therefore identifies that (poor) quality facilities can hamper participation, as too can lack of access through physical remoteness (in the case of a limited facilities, and poor transport); or, facilities being unavailable for general community use (as in the case of much state school provision).

2.8.2 Previous playing pitch studies

Prior to this project three of the former local authorities of which the new single tier Durham is comprised had undertaken playing pitch studies - Durham City, Easington, and Sedgfield.

City of Durham

This study was conducted on behalf of the City of Durham and the County Council's by the consultants McAlpine, Thorpe and Warriar Ltd. It is dated 2005 but was actually

commissioned and started in 2001 begun. It generally follows the principles of the Sport England methodology. The key needs and issues highlighted were:

<p>Football</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better training facilities/pitches • often low quality changing facilities • dog fouling • vandalism • lack of a central venue for mini soccer • a generally adequate level of provision in terms of adult pitch supply 	<p>Cricket</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better practice facilities • better quality pitches • improved changing and other ancillary facilities • dog fouling and vandalism on some sites • need to promote junior participation
<p>Hockey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of pitch provision (at the time) • likely increased demand in future years 	<p>Rugby</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the lack of public rugby pitches restricting development of the game, particularly the lack of floodlighting which does not allow coaching to take place after school hours during the winter months • little rugby is played in Secondary Schools. The poor playing surface and lack of changing facilities on school sites would give a negative initial experience for young people and would not encourage them to stay in the game.

District of Easington

This study was conducted on behalf of the District of Easington by the consultants Leisure and the Environment. It is dated 2004. It generally follows the principles of the Sport England methodology. The key needs and issues highlighted were:

<p>Football</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • often low quality pitch surfaces (especially on council sites) and changing facilities • dog fouling • vandalism • a generally adequate level of provision in terms of adult pitch supply • few floodlit pitches for training • over demand for the main sites • some schools willing to explore more dual use of pitches • concern over long term maintenance funding • widespread interest in football which can provide a community focus 	<p>Cricket</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs are thriving • Established tradition of Cricket in the district - strong competition • Lack of finance - capital and revenue • Increase in number of teams particularly juniors generates more pressure for clubs • Need for more help from local authorities (district, town, and parish) • Perception from some clubs of poor value for money in relation to hire/lease of pitches (don't mind paying providing facilities/services are satisfactory) • Some Welfare Grounds thought to have suffered in relation to pit closures and transfer of responsibility to councils. • Need for training facilities (including indoor facilities) • The feeling that the declining quality and quantity of such facilities is
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	hampering the growth of the sport
<p>Hockey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to secure opportunities for hockey to establish in the area through providing access to an appropriate playing surface. 	<p>Rugby</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugby League appears to be prospering in the District; especially amongst younger players. This may result in pressures for a dedicated pitch to meet the needs of this growing club, and a need for better ancillary facilities. The two rugby union clubs in Seaham and Horden (in particular) also have aspirations to establish additional teams for younger players, and also for females. This may have implications for the number of pitches required in both these settlements. There are issues for rugby union clubs in respect of changing accommodation and floodlighting.

Sedgefield Borough Council

This study was conducted by the Council. It is dated 2002. It generally follows the principles of the Sport England methodology. The key needs and issues highlighted were:

<p>Football</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> refusing teams entry into their leagues due to pitch availability and quality (mainly junior teams) latent junior demand could be a significant Borough wide characteristic evidence of teams being turned away at some community schools because of over demand, and likewise for some local council pitches lack of access to schools pitches in general some dissatisfaction pitch and facility quality high 'running costs' may be suppressing demand
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2.8.3 County Durham Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2010 - aka “PPG17 Study”)

In 2010 an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment was conducted for the new single-tier authority by consultants JPC Ltd in association with Leisure and the Environment meeting the requirements of the government's Planning Policy Guidance note 17 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' (PPG17). One of the main requirements of the study was to develop a locally informed set of standards to inform the planning, provision and protection of spaces and facilities. The basic minimum standard suggested for Outdoor Sport is summarised below. The standard basically covers the provision of sports pitches, courts and greens available for bone fide community use. It is not intended to cover provision like synthetic pitches, golf courses and athletics tracks.

Quantity	Access	Quality
1.0 ha/1000 people	480 metres (10 minutes	Aim to achieve a 'good'

	straight line walk time)	standard of quality across the typology
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A full explanation of the standard and how it should be applied is contained in the PPG17 report of study. However, summary table shows the supply of outdoor sports space in relation to the standard in the 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) at the time of the study. The main report was accompanied by 14 discrete profiles covering the AAPs.

Area Action Partnership	Outdoor Sport Space relative to the proposed quantitative standard
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	15.75
Chester le Street	-0.89
Derwent Valley	-6.61
Three Towns Partnership	1.31
Durham City	3.13
East Durham Area	40.46
East Durham rural corridor	4.89
Four Together	-3.07
Mid Durham	16.74
Great Aycliffe Midridge	-0.15
Spennymoor	0.64
Stanley	-11.30
Teesdale	1.14
Weardale	-3.75

The study therefore demonstrated that per capita quantities of outdoor sports space vary considerably across the 14 AAPs, and this can contribute to an inequitable distribution of opportunities to play outdoor sport across the County.

As part of the consultation exercise informing the study surveys of key town councils and Area Action Partnerships was conducted. The main issues and suggestions arising relevant to this particular study are as follows:

- From the survey of Town Councils 90% considered that there was a need for additional or improved open space/sport provision within their area.
- The greatest problems in relation to quantity and quality of existing provision appear to occur in Bishop Auckland, Ferryhill and Sedgefield (from the 11 out of 14 Town Councils who responded)
- The main issues, in relation to the survey, are an apparent lack of football pitches, the quality of changing facilities and the lack of areas for teenagers.
- The survey also revealed that the most significant issues in relation to open space areas are - The provision of high quality and well maintained facilities, the ease of access for all members of the community, being clean and free from graffiti and the safety and security of users.
- There is still considered to be the potential for improved community use of schools for recreational purposes with the areas of Barnard Castle, Peterlee, Shildon, Seaham and Sedgefield being highlighted in this respect.

- Local issues relate mainly to the quality of local provision and standards of maintenance and the range and distribution of youth facilities, including MUGAs.
- In relation to the Area Action Partnerships 9 of the 14 have youth activity related issues in the top three of their initial list of 10 priorities for action.
- The development of a consistent and transparent approach to the allocation of section 106 and funds and any subsequent developer contribution processes.

These findings re-enforce those of earlier playing pitch studies covering parts of the County - variable quality; lack of provision; inaccessible school facilities. Such factors inhibit opportunities to play and enjoy outdoor sport.

In terms of synthetic turf pitches, PPG17 study drew heavily from the findings and analysis contained in the draft Durham County Sub Regional Facilities Strategy (summarised earlier in this section). However, it also undertook additional consultation with local authority officers and governing bodies. Sport England also produced updated information from a new run of the Active Places Power Plus (Facility Planning) Model using fresh population data and, amongst other things:

- providing new information on additional demands arising out of the planned Growth Point developments; and,
- weighting the attractiveness of facilities according to quality.

The performance of existing STPs in the County in terms of being able to satisfy demand was set out in the table below which categorised according to the former local authority areas.

Area	% demand satisfied
England	64.4
NE	61.2
Durham (Co.)	59.3
Chester le Street	54.3
Derwentside	56.0
Durham	67.9
Easington	54.4
Sedgefield	57.3
Teesdale	78.1
Wear Valley	56.3

With the exception of Durham City (where the University's Graham Sports Centre concentrates provision) and Teesdale (where low levels of population produce high satisfied demand) the County compares poorly with levels of satisfied at regional and national level. With the exception of Teesdale's STP, the remaining stock is working at a very high level of utilised capacity. The national figure stands at 92.6%, while the average figure for the county is 98.4%. All of Durham City's pitches are considered to be operating at 100%. Given that pitches are operating at capacity and the low levels of satisfied demand, there is unmet demand across County Durham.

This Data from Sport England further reinforces the general view that there is a lack of synthetic pitches in the County.

2.9 Policies and Strategies (National and local)

Studies, such as those considered above help to inform policies and strategies governing investment in and management of outdoor sports opportunities. The overall policy framework includes both national and regional/local statements the content and relevance of which is summarised in the final part of this section.

2.10 National Context

2.10.1 Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

Through the DCMS the government has stated its priorities for supporting. These priorities are focused around creating a sporting legacy from the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including:

- encouraging competitive sport in schools through the 'School Games'
- delivering the mass participation 'Places, People Play' strategy, which was launched in November 2010
- reforming arm's length bodies in the sport sector and improving governance arrangements within sporting bodies.

'Places People Play' is a £135m initiative designed to provide a lasting legacy of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games within local communities. It is being delivered by Sport England in partnership with the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association and with the support of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games. The Government states that it will transform the places where people play sport, making the benefits of London 2012 visible in cities, towns and villages across the country through:

- **Iconic facilities** - investing in regionally significant multi-sport facilities that will represent best practice for the sector.
- **Inspired Facilities** - modernising and extending clubs and opening up local facilities for community sport.
- **Protecting Playing Fields** - protecting and improving hundreds of playing fields across the country, preserving high-quality spaces for local people to play and enjoy sport.

These statements suggest that the government recognises the value of high quality sports facilities being available to local communities.

2.10.2 Department for Health

The government also has recognised the value of sport and physical activity in preventing ill-health, and thereby improving quality of life, as well as potentially reducing costs associated with the treatment of maladies associated with sedentary lifestyles and poor diet. The 'Be active, Be Healthy' strategy establishes a new framework for the delivery of physical activity alongside sport for the period leading up to the London 2012 Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and beyond. Programmes outlined in the plan will contribute to Government's ambition of getting 2 million more people active by 2012 and have been designed to leave a lasting legacy from the Games.

'Be Active, Be Healthy' also sets out new ideas for local authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to help determine and respond to the needs of their local populations, providing and encouraging more physical activity which will benefit individuals and communities, as well as delivering overall cost savings. The delivery of this strategy is obviously dependent on how the functions currently undertaken by the existing PCTs will be managed under changes to the National Health Service. Its success will also be influenced by the extent to which local authorities can help deliver the strategies objective in a challenging financial climate. Nevertheless, these government messages are still very consistent with the view that participation in sport helps to improve health and overall quality of life for both individuals and communities.

2.10.3 Sport England

England's national sports agency has a strategy focused on three outcomes - 'growing' and 'sustaining' the numbers of people taking part in sport and improving talent development to help more people 'excel'. It has set five targets to help deliver these outcomes:

Grow: One million people taking part in more sport; and, more children and young people taking part in five hours of PE and sport a week.

Sustain: More people satisfied with their sporting experience; and, 25% fewer 16-18 year olds dropping out of at least nine sports including badminton, basketball, football, hockey, gymnastics, netball, rugby league, rugby union, and tennis.

Excel: Improved talent development in at least 25 sports

To succeed, Sport England recognises it must work closely with a wide range of organisations, including:

- Our sporting landscape partners - Youth Sport Trust and UK Sport
- National governing bodies of sport
- National partners
- Local authorities
- County sports partnerships
- Higher and further education
- The third sector
- The commercial sector
- London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and the Olympic Delivery Authority

However, the sporting administrative landscape is changing and financial cutbacks have brought into the question the future roles of some of the above agencies. Many sporting assets such as playing pitches and clubhouses are currently owned by local authorities and other public sector bodies. With local authority budgets coming under pressure there is an increased appetite to explore asset transfer. This presents sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take ownership of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building. There may therefore be scope to deliver participation opportunities in creative and non-traditional ways, although it will also raise concerns over the future

of much of the local stock of outdoor sports facilities, which are crucial to the delivery of Sport England's objectives.

2.11 Regional and local

2.11.1 County Durham Sustainable Community Strategy (2010-2030)

The County Durham Partnership is made up of key public, private and voluntary sector organisations, that work together to improve the quality of life for the people within County Durham. Partners have developed the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) to identify the changes that the Partnership believes should be made to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

The SCS sets out our vision to create an: 'Altogether Better Durham'. Drawing on the needs, expectations and aspirations of local communities, groups and partner organisations, the SCS then sets out five key themes:

- Altogether Wealthier
- Altogether Greener
- Altogether Healthier
- Altogether Safer
- Altogether better for Children and Young People

It is from themes that most of the other relevant Council Policy documents and strategies take their lead.

2.11.2 County Durham Sport and Leisure Service Strategy 2011-2014

This Strategy aims to provide an essential background to future discussion and decisions by the authority in relation to a number of service areas which includes Outdoor Sport and Leisure. The Strategy is very important in that it sets the framework for future council investment and decision-making affecting sports opportunities in a very challenging financial climate. The Strategy clearly states how it can help to achieve the Council's lead aims contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

- *Altogether Healthier*: It recognises that the health of the county's overall population falls behind that of
- England as a whole, with all the implications this has for life outcomes. It acknowledges the link between poor health and physical inactivity, and the need therefore to improve participation rates in many parts of the County. The target is to increase participation in sport and physical activity by 2% over the strategy period.
- *Altogether Wealthier*: The strategy states that Sport and Physical Activity are part of a strong cultural offer reflected in an emerging Cultural Strategy and associated working group to drive Durham forward.
- 'Altogether Better for Children and Young People': It asserts the importance sport and physical activity in improving the quality of life of and prospect for this age group.
- *Altogether Greener*: The strategy accepts the need to demonstrate responsible management of the Council's green space stock (which will include many outdoor sports facilities) and enhancements in the biodiversity of all these areas.
- *Altogether Safer*: The strategy states the importance of the Council's sport and

leisure service in improving community cohesion and the provision of diversionary activities. By aiming to be of high quality, fully inclusive and reaching all communities, the service is supporting improved safety for residents. The strategy reflects a partnership approach engaging with other service areas and Area Action Partnerships.

- *Altogether Better Council*: As the Council continues to transform into an effective Unitary organisation, the Strategy asserts that best practices must be rolled out county-wide in order to drive forward high standards that are affordable and achievable.

In order to achieve the above aims the following objectives adopted:

- Altogether Better: Participation Levels.
- Altogether Better: Prosperity from Sport and Leisure Related Economic Activity.
- Altogether Better: Equality of Participation.
- Altogether Better: Sustainable Participation.
- Altogether Better: Community Participation.

In achieving the above objectives, the service will contribute to all six of the corporate objectives.

The Strategy then goes on to detail priorities and actions and the following statement is very noteworthy

“In some areas investment is not currently proportional to impact. The strategy period will therefore see a changing emphasis on the resources available due to both the shifting nature of the service’s aims and a change in priorities. The reduction and redistribution of resources will have a variable impact on the Sport and Leisure Services’ core activities.....this means:

- An anticipated reduction in overall resources.
- A significant real term reduction in indoor facility resources.
- Increasing resources allocated to outdoor sport and leisure.”

With regard to the third of these bullet point statements the Strategy makes the following relevant commitments:

- Work with Town and Parish Councils and Area Action Partnerships to make sure that service delivery and decision making is delegated to the most appropriate level.
- Carry out an audit of all of our outdoor facilities and set minimum standards that all residents can expect to enjoy.
- Develop a playing pitch strategy in line with the national guidance ‘Towards a Level Playing Field’.
- Work with Sports clubs, National Governing Bodies, County Sports Partnership and other agencies in enabling our clubs to become more independent and self sufficient.
- Develop a sport and leisure events programme that not only inspires our residents but also attracts visitors to both our towns and rural areas.

The strategy embraces a fundamental re-orientation in investment priorities and it explicitly acknowledges the importance of outdoor sport and leisure in achieving

strategic aims. This will have consequences for the way in which outdoor sport opportunities are provided, including:

- working with local providers and partners;
- an emphasis on good quality; and,
- delegation of decisions to the appropriate level.

2.11.3 A Physical Activity Strategy for County Durham (2010)

The production of 'A Physical Activity Strategy for County Durham' represents an important step in addressing the need for concerted and coordinated action on physical activity. The strategy was developed by a 'Health and Wellbeing Partnership' in February 2010. The purpose of the strategy is to increase coordination between organisations, their strategies and plans, to facilitate changes in behaviour and increased levels of physical activity and thus contribute to improved health and well-being in people living in County Durham.

County Durham Sport has the lead responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of the strategy. The strategy has been devised around the 4 key principles set out in the national physical activity strategy "Be Active - Be Healthy", which are:

- Informing choice and promoting activity
- Creating an active environment
- Supporting those at most risk
- Strengthening delivery

Aligned to these four key principles are a series of Action Points. This playing pitch and outdoor sports study can help implement the Action Points in the following especially relevant ways

Informing Choice and promoting Activity

- Action 2 - Improve the facility infrastructure
- Action 3 - Continue to provide a wide range of activities and ensure there are clear pathways for progression
- Action 4 - Develop a central database of information
- Action 5 - Support target groups

Creating Activity Environments

- Action 1 - Create healthy physical environments
- Action 3 - Influence urban planning/design
- Action 4 - Improve the opportunity for, and promote, active transport and travel

Supporting those most at risk

- Action 1 - Provide a coordinated approach to intervention projects
- Action 2 - Invest in resources for delivery

2.11.4 Emerging Planning Policy

The Council is progressing work to prepare the County Durham Plan Core Strategy. This is the most important part of the emerging County Durham Plan. Its strategic policies will guide development and change in the County until 2030 and will identify the quantity and location of new development across the towns and villages of County Durham. This is clearly a time of dramatic change in planning and the direction in which this council function planning is moving continues to evolve. The Localism Act, and more recently the 2011 Budget, has introduced a number of new concepts, which may well require amendment to emerging local policy.

At this stage though, the key elements of the Preferred Spatial Strategy of relevance to this project are:

- A strong focus on realising the potential of Durham City as a driver for economic development in County Durham. New employment opportunities are accompanied by complementary new housing and retail development. The provision of the new infrastructure required to support this growth is directly linked to the delivery of the new development.
- Enabling the other eleven main towns in the County to contribute to future prosperity and to meet the needs of their communities by supporting levels of growth commensurate with their sustainability, physical constraints, land supply and attractiveness to the market.
- Recognising the aspirations of other settlements, outside of the main towns, to play a part in meeting social and economic needs, and contributing to regeneration, by delivering smaller but significant levels of development.
- Enabling smaller communities to become more sustainable and resilient, by re-balancing the housing stock and encouraging social and economic vitality. This will be achieved through the identification of grouping of communities and a positive approach to development that delivers community benefits.
- Recognising that in rural areas, development that demonstrably meets the needs of the local communities, for instance affordable housing and economic diversification, including appropriate small scale tourist development, will be permitted in rural settlements whilst protecting the countryside from wider development pressures and widespread new building.

The 'Core Strategy Policy Directions Consultation Paper' (May 2011) also identifies preferred new housing allocations on a settlement by settlement basis (Main Towns and Secondary Settlements) in five areas- Central, North, South, East, and West Durham.

The distribution of new housing and growth will bring with it increased demands for new and improved outdoors sports facilities, and the findings and conclusions of this project will help to ensure that these needs are recognised by emerging planning policy and supporting guidance.

2.12 Relationship to National Governing Bodies (NGB's)

As part of the consultation carried out for the playing pitch strategy and outdoor recreation facilities strategy, discussions were held with each of the NGB representatives. A summary of these discussions is provided in section 4 of this report and in Appendix 1, which details consultation findings.

These discussions feed into the overall consultation findings and have been considered alongside the supply and demand analysis for each sport in determining the priorities for each sport.

2.13 Relationship to neighbouring authorities

County Durham covers a large geographical area, as such people who play sport are more likely to play within the county boundary compared with an administrative area that covers a small geographical area. Nevertheless, people do not adhere to administrative boundaries, and both our research and national research confirms that people will use facilities outside of their local area. Where you play sport is influenced by local facilities and access to these facilities, as well as the level of sport you play, for example, higher ranked teams will draw players from a wider catchment area than say a local pub team.

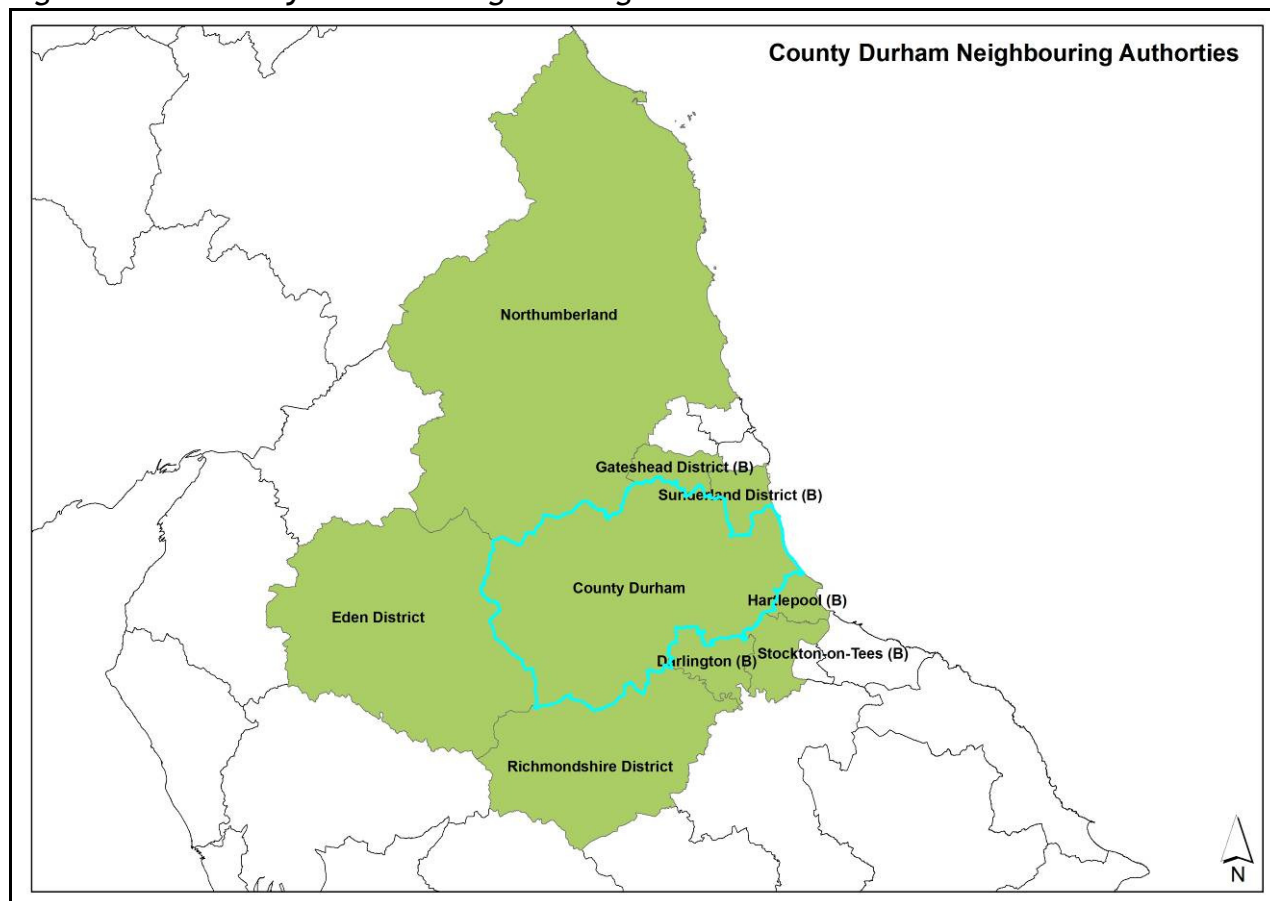
Our consultation identified that people living in County Durham do travel outside of the County to play sport, and conversely, people living outside of the County use facilities within County Durham. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge the location of neighbouring authorities, and consider how they may influence County Durham.

As County Durham is so large, it is not a significant priority to look in detail at each neighbouring local authority (bearing in mind County Durham is made up of seven former authorities), therefore, this section provides a brief overview of each neighbouring authorities playing pitch strategy.

Figure 2.1.3 shows how County Durham relates to its immediate neighbouring authorities, which include:

- Gateshead
- Sunderland
- Northumberland
- Eden District
- Richmondshire District
- Darlington
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Hartlepool

Figure 2.13 County Durham: neighbouring authorities



The following highlights the current status of each of the playing pitch strategies for the neighbouring authorities (the information is taken from Sport England, March 2011).

Gateshead

The Gateshead PPS was completed in 2001, and as such is now considered to be out of date by Sport England. It is recommended that County Durham inform Gateshead Council about their PPS, so that cross boundary issues can be considered.

Sunderland

It is noted that the PPS is in progress, it may be timely for the County Durham to make contact with Sunderland to inform them of progress.

Northumberland

It is that noted the PPS is in progress, it may be timely for the County Durham to make contact with Northumberland to inform them of progress.

Eden District

There is no PPS in place for this area. As it borders the largely rural area of County Durham, it is felt that no further consideration is required.

Richmondshire District

There is no PPS in place for this area. As it borders the largely rural area of County Durham, it is felt that no further consideration is required.

Darlington

Darlington has a current playing pitch strategy and outdoor recreation strategy which have been adopted by the Council and Sport England. The brief for the County Durham strategies has closely followed the format of the Darlington approach, this has been discussed during Steering Group meetings during the development of the Durham study. As such, the County Durham approach has considered the Darlington study closely, however, it must be noted that the Darlington approach does not consider neighbouring authorities.

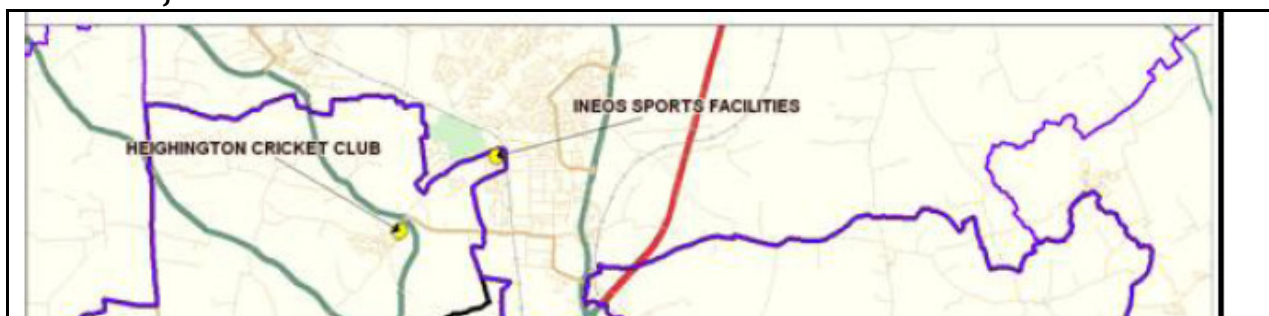
The Darlington study shows there are facilities in the north of the Borough which could be used by residents of County Durham, although this is limited to football and cricket, as summarised below:

Provision of football:



Site no.	Site name
1	Bishopton Redmarshall CE Primary School
12	Heighington Playing Fields
17	Ineos Sports Facilities
30	Heighington CofE Primary School

Provision of cricket:



Stockton-on-Tees

It is noted that the PPS is in progress, it may be timely for the County Durham to make contact with Stockton to inform them of progress.

Hartlepool

The Hartlepool PPS was completed in 2004, and as such is now considered to be out of date by Sport England. It is recommended that County Durham inform Hartlepool Council about their PPS, so that cross boundary issues can be considered.

Summary

There is a lack of information existing from neighbouring authorities, with only the strategy in Darlington being current. It is felt that the few facilities within the vicinity of County Durham will have minimal impact on the overall findings of supply and demand for County Durham.

There is clearly an opportunity for County Durham to liaise with neighbouring authorities, so that they can consider the County Durham strategy as and when they develop their own. The format of the AAP profiles and playing pitch tool kits can be easily adapted to consider additional supply and demand.

SECTION 3

THE METHODOLOGY

SECTION 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM)

'Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy' was launched in Spring 2003 and updated the previous methodology from 1991.

This revised methodology was produced by PMP following widespread consultation, in conjunction with a steering group comprising representatives from the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), Local Government Association, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), Loughborough University and Sport England.

The aim of the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) is to determine the number of pitches required for each activity based on demand in an actual or predicted set of circumstances.

The essential difference between the methodology and previous approaches based on standards is that, instead of using land area per head of population as the basic unit, it measures demand (at peak times) in terms of teams requiring pitches and then compares this with the pitches available, thus providing a tangible measure of the adequacy of existing supply.

The particular advantage of this methodology is that it is related precisely to the local situation and the task of collating and analysing the information highlights problems and issues from which policy options and solutions can be explored.

The revised methodology incorporates:

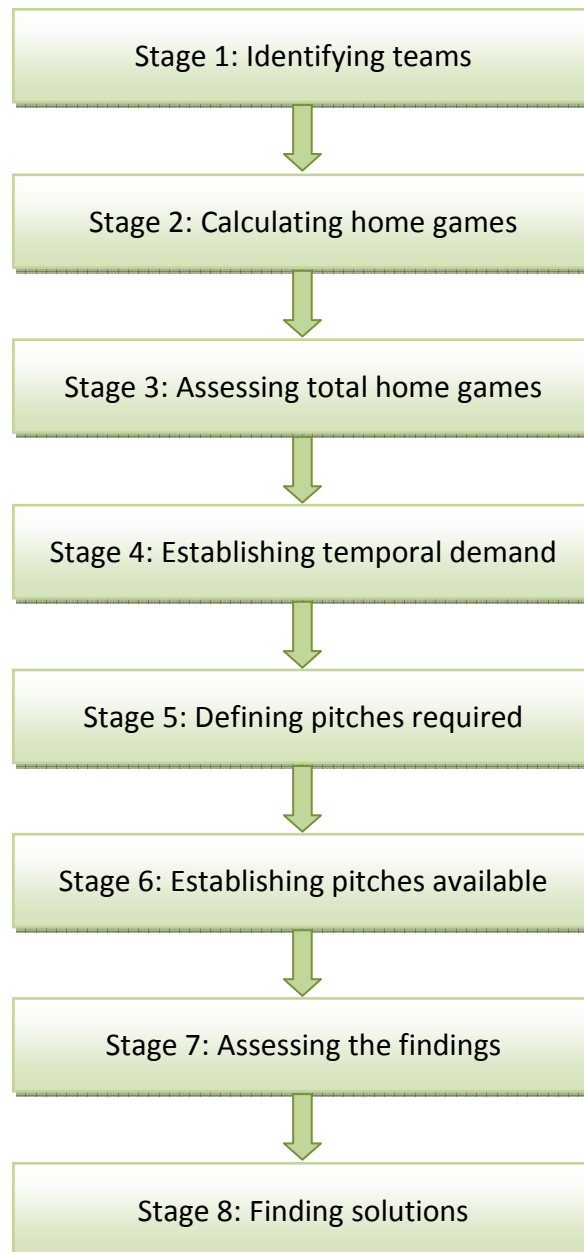
- a more holistic view of pitch provision as one element of open space
- the concept of 'team equivalents' and 'match equivalents' to reflect the requirements of the small-sided games
- the refinement of team generation rates
- the revised definition of a pitch
- the refined quantitative audits of pitches by the use of multiplication factors for:
 - availability/accessibility
 - quality (to include the importance of ancillary provision at pitch sites as well as pitches themselves)
 - carrying capacity.

The PPM comprises eight stages, shown in Figure 3.1. Stages one to six involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages seven and eight develop issues and solutions.

The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand (identified through Team Generation Rates), and the problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account. The expected increase in population is taken into account through the modelling of a future year - in this case, 2021 (10 year forecast).

Figure 3.1 shows the eight stages of the PPM and how each stage has been delivered upon.

Figure 3.1 The key stages of the Playing Pitch Methodology



PPM calculations take into account only those pitches that are secured for community use, in line with Sport England guidance. Although other pitches that exist but do not have secured community use have been identified.

The Football Association (FA) has recently begun collecting participation data through the county administration systems, enabling accurate benchmarking against like authorities and more accurate assessments of latent demand. The information available has been used to add value to the findings of the strategy, enabling more detailed investigation of the reasons behind key issues. This is shown in Section 5.

3.2 The approach

3.2.1 Demand

The success of the methodology outlined above depends largely on obtaining as accurate a tally as possible of the number of teams and pitches within County Durham. To achieve this, a full audit of pitches, users and providers within the authority boundary and those on the periphery was conducted.

In order to ascertain demand and understand key issues for in the local area questionnaires (which can be found in Appendix 2) were sent to:

- all known football, cricket, rugby and hockey clubs based within the authority boundaries (identified in governing body and county association handbooks, league handbooks, pitch booking records, websites, local press, the previous PPS and local knowledge)
- all known colleges and schools within the County
- Parish Councils.

Whilst a high response rate is desired, a 100% questionnaire response rate is not needed from clubs. This is because missing club information along with other views on the adequacy of supply can be attained through a variety of sources including:

- telephone calls to league secretaries, clubs and schools all providing qualitative information as well adding to the quantitative detail. The league secretaries were particularly helpful in providing the missing club information
- current league handbooks
- extensive internet research, through national databases including the Football Association, Rugby Football Union, England and Wales Cricket Board and England Hockey
- consultation with local clubs, other sporting organisations and individuals via a workshop event
- key issues emerging from individual stakeholder consultations.

The purpose of the club surveys was to cross check information and gather qualitative information from clubs. The total response rate for the number of returned surveys was approximately 36%, which is an average response to a postal survey. The clubs that responded to the questionnaire account for over 60% of the teams playing formal fixtures in the County.

In addition, interviews were held with representatives from hockey, cricket, rugby and football clubs who did not respond to the questionnaire. This was through several means such as:

- the NGB
- sports development officers
- sports specific forums
- league secretaries
- several workshop events held for clubs and other sporting organisations and representatives throughout May 2011

This additional information has been fed into the audit and qualitative analysis to ensure that sufficient data is collected to undertake PPM calculations and also to provide clubs with a further opportunity to comment. These consultation methods combined have allowed us to be able to make robust assessment of needs.

To ensure accurate auditing of football teams in the County, FA Local Area data for the 2010/11 season was studied to ascertain the total team numbers. This was further supplemented by studying fixture lists to find home pitch locations. Together with the returned club questionnaires and follow up consultation outlined above, the figures therefore provide an accurate indication of teams who play in the County.

In addition to the distribution of postal surveys, consultation has been undertaken with officers, league secretaries and relevant National Governing Bodies of sport. Appendix 1 details the consultation process, with overall response rates and contact names.

3.2.2 Team equivalents

The Towards a Level Playing Field methodology suggests that the concept of a 'team equivalent' or 'unit of play' is used to indicate discrete groups of demand for a pitch, in particular to reflect the requirements of small-sided games. However, Towards a Level Playing Field states that team equivalents and match equivalents do not need to be used if mini-soccer is played on its own dedicated pitches.

The PPM spreadsheet for the county is based on the fact that dedicated mini soccer pitches are available and have been included where appropriate. However, we are aware that mini soccer is played across senior pitches. For the purpose of ensuring the results from the PPM analysis clearly identify where appropriate provision is deficient (i.e. where mini teams do not have marked out mini pitches), the actual supply and demand has been accounted for. It is vital age ranges play on appropriate sized pitches, using team equivalents within the PPM masks the actual scenario, which in County Durham's case is a severe shortfall in mini provision.

In order to ensure the long term requirements of mini provision are considered, the analysis looks at the true picture and highlights the gaps in provision. Addressing the short fall of mini pitches can be as simple of rationalising existing pitch layouts. In order to fully consider the requirement of mini pitches the supply and demand has not been altered, as team equivalents mask the issue and can be a mis-leading guide if not fully understood when viewing the analysis in the PPM model.

School pitches available to community teams will not only be used for pitch sports, but also for school PE and 'breaktime' activity. Such activity will produce wear and tear and influence the capacity of pitches to accommodate competitive games. The demand for school pitches from school teams however will **not** impact upon the demand for pitches on the peak day.

In order to assess the actual supply and demand analysis without compromising the tool kit with assumptions, two sets of supply and demand data have been generated. The analysis enables the actual peak time supply and demand to be evaluated, and the impact of team equivalents via off peak demand to also be considered.

The AAP profiles develop on the findings of the PPM analysis and factor in carrying capacity and team equivalents to produce a further set of analysis which takes into account local circumstances.

The analysis within the AAP profiles considers the fact that such activity will produce wear and tear of pitches and thus, the carrying capacity of some school pitches is reduced accordingly.

3.2.3 Supply

A full audit of the supply of pitches is an essential component of a Playing Pitch Strategy.

Detailed data on the current pitches in County Durham was compiled by:

- drawing on the findings of the audit of open spaces and outdoor sports facilities
- undertaking site visits to all identified pitches using the site assessment matrix provided in the Towards a Level Playing Field toolkit
- analysing pitch bookings
- existing GIS data
- aerial Photography
- internet searches and local consultation.

3.2.4 Availability and accessibility

The ownership and accessibility of pitches will influence their actual availability for community use. There are numerous forms of use in operation across County Durham. Many teams use school sites for formal fixtures yet there is not formal agreement in place. Private facilities allow community use when their facilities are unused, and some schools have formal dual use agreements.

To facilitate robust strategic recommendations, all forms must be accounted for within the supply, or the recommendations will be based on analysis that excludes pitches which are being used week in week out by the community. Levels of use have been identified in the strategy and recommendations are firmly based on securing formal agreements where possible.

The term 'secured community use' has been adopted to define this. This embraces:

- all local authority facilities

- school facilities where they are subject to formal community use agreements
- other institutional facilities that are available to the public as a result of formal community use agreements
- any facilities that are owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals and which, as a matter of policy and practice, are available to large sections of the public through membership of a club or through an admission fee.

All pitches have been identified as part of the audit process, however the following categorisation in Table 3.1 has been used to identify the differences in community access;

Table 3.1: Pitch Categorisation

Category	Definition	Supplementary Information
A	Secured community pitches	<p>Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management</p> <p>Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements</p> <p>Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public</p>
B	Used by community, but not secured	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school/college pitches without formal user agreements
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public

Sports England's guidance '*Towards a Level Playing Field*' identifies pitches in secured community use are pitches that are available for use by community teams and whose future use is secured for the coming seasons by one or more of the following:

- a formal community use agreement
- a leasing/management arrangement between the school and LEA requiring the pitch(es) to be available to community teams
- a policy of community use minuted by the school or LEA, including tariff of charges, etc
- minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams
- written commitment from the school to the current community team(s) using the pitch(es) and where it is the intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times (i.e. evenings, weekends and/or school holidays) for the next two or more years.

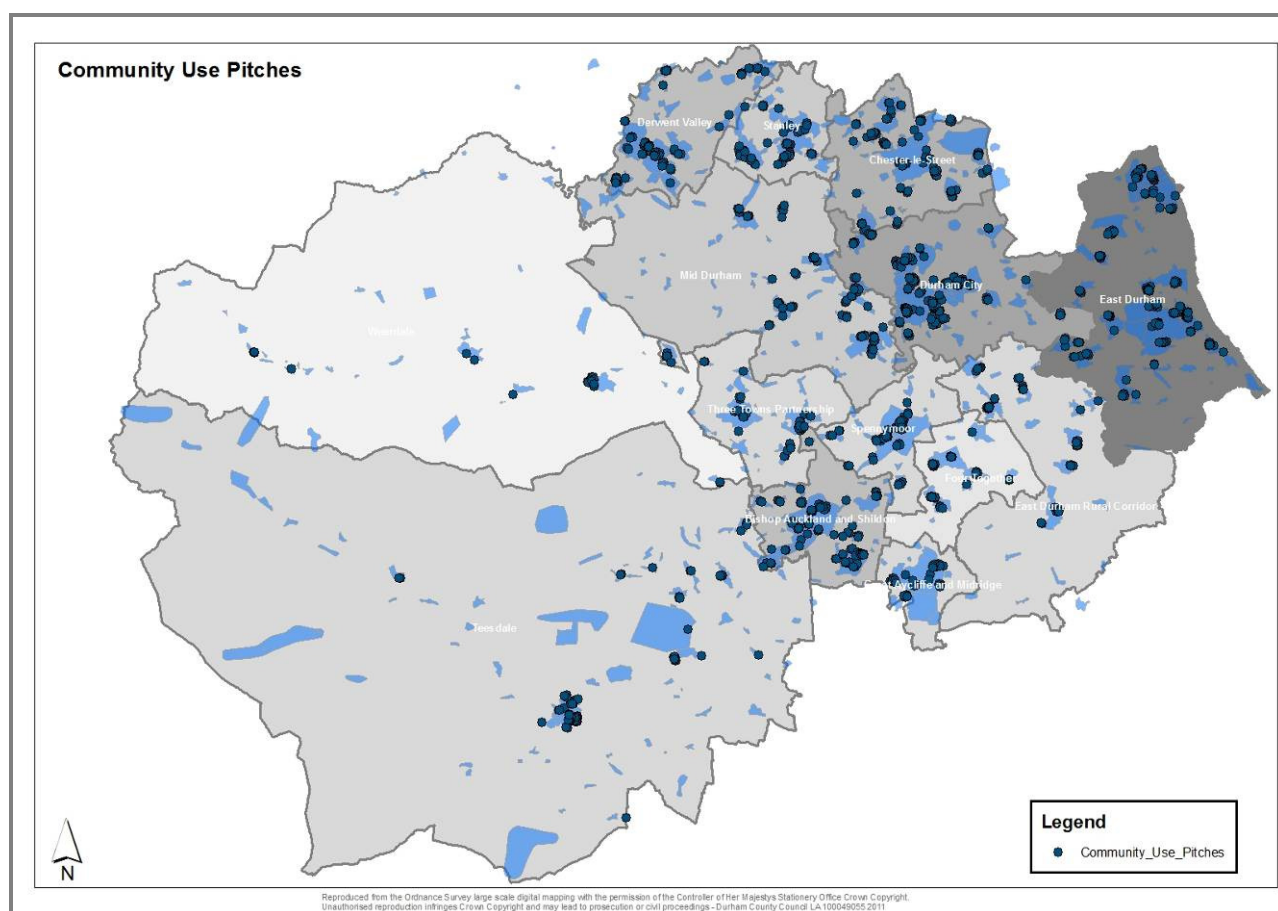
The majority of education sites across County Durham that allow formal use of their pitches qualify as ‘secured use’ through;

‘minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams’

Where pitches have been included in the supply chain and their status of ‘secured community use’ is formalised through the above provision, the pitches have been identified on the GIS system. Where the sites form a part of the strategic recommendations in the AAP profiles, securing the long term future of the sites in a more formal arrangement has been highlighted.

An assessment of the data obtained from the above research and consultation is detailed in Section 4.

Map 3.2 Community Use Sites

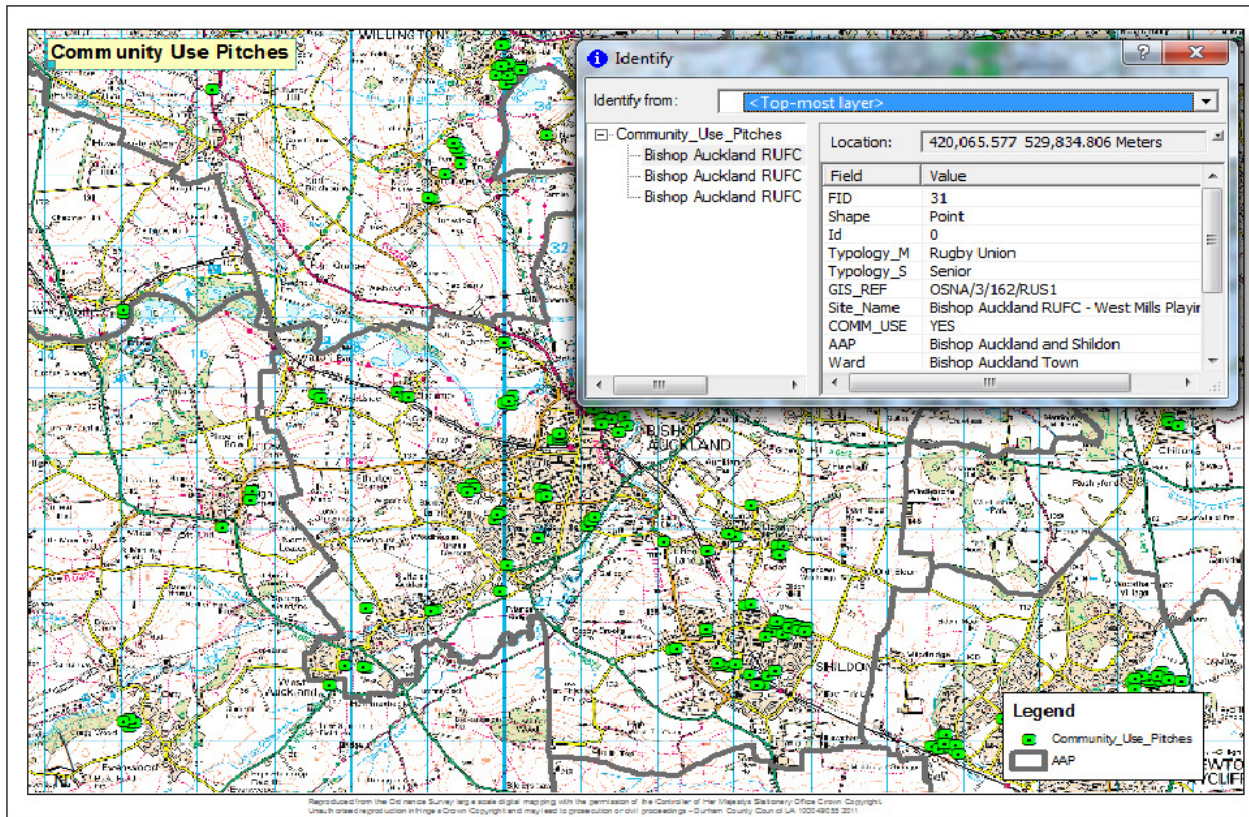


Map 3.3 is a snapshot of the GIS database in use, each site has been mapped and can be individually interrogated. The GIS data base includes the following data for each site:

- Typology
- Pitch Size
- GIS Reference
- Site Name
- Community Use Status
- AAP
- Ward

- Management
- Unique Reference

Map 3.3 GIS Database



SECTION 4

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

SECTION 4: SUPPLY AND DEMAND

4.1 Supply of Pitches

4.1.1 Introduction

This section outlines the current situation across County Durham in terms of pitch provision and demand for football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches. This section therefore takes into consideration:

- overall pitch stock
- community pitches and non-community pitches
- location of pitches
- quality of pitches via site visit assessments
- clubs and teams in County Durham
- consultation feedback with regards to current and future needs.

4.1.2 Pitch stock

The research methods outlined in Section 3 have identified 801 individual playing pitches in County Durham. This figure includes all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured community use. The full audit of pitches can be seen in accessed on the County Durham Intranet. The provision of playing pitches in County Durham is made through a number of providers. These include:

- Durham County Council
- Parish Councils
- Education
- Private Sector

The provision comprises of:

- **Football**

411 Senior Pitches

221 Junior Pitches

38 Mini Pitches

- **Rugby**

18 Senior Pitches (Union)

3 Senior Pitches (League)

- **Cricket**

96 pitches⁵

⁵ For the purpose of the report, wickets have been mapped as 1 pitch. The number of wickets can change between seasons and only 1 game can be played at any 'pitch' regardless of the number of wickets present.

- **Hockey**

14 STP's (5 suitable for Hockey).

Table 4.1.1 Pitch Provision

Provider	Football			Cricket	Rugby Union			Rugby League			ATP	Total
	Adult	Junior	Mini		Adult	Junior	Mini	Adult	Junior	Mini		
Durham County Council / Parish	174	17	15	21	5	0	0	2	0	0	2	236
Education	175	197	21	40	7	0	0	1	0	0	10	451
Private/ Corporate	62	7	2	35	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	114
Total:	411	221	38	96	18	0	0	3	0	0	14	801

Not all of the 801 pitches identified in table 4.1.1 are available for community use. Those which are owned and used by professional sports clubs are not currently accessible to the local community. Similarly, a number of those that are associated with local schools may not be available to the local community, for formal or informal use. Table 4.1.2 details all pitch provision that has a form of community use. To establish accessibility, each pitch at sites that have registered sports club using the facilities was recorded. 597 pitches are within sites across the County which have a form of public access and formal league fixtures are being played over weekends and weekday evenings, this represents 74% of pitch provision.

The following table identifies the number of playing pitch facilities for each sport according to each provider.

Table 4.1.2 Supply of Pitches by Sport and Provide

Provider	Football	Cricket	Rugby League	Rugby Union	Hockey	Total
Durham County Council / Parish	192	21	2	5	2	222
Education	219	30	1	7	10	267
Private/ Corporate	68	32		6	2	108
Total:	479	83	3	18	14	597

Of the 597 that are available to the public under some form of accessibility agreement, 449 are full sized adult pitches (78%). 74 % of the pitch provision across County Durham has some form of public accessibility. There are 318,592 residents between the active age range of 6 - 55, which equate to one pitch to every 710 residents within the active age range. The figure is 395 if you consider all pitch provision. Both figures compare favourably against other local authorities across the country.

Using the data in Active Places Power, a comparison of the total number of grass pitches per 1000 people in County Durham has been calculated, with the number of pitches per 1000 in a number of comparable areas also shown.

Table 4.1.3 Ratio of adult pitches per 1,000 adults (aged 6 - 55)

Area	Grass Pitches Per 1000
England	1:1,099
North East	1:1,982
County Durham	1:710
Stockton on Tees	1:998
Darlington	1:1,012
Chesterfield	1:1,214
North Tyneside	1:1,268
Dover	1:1,65

Table 4.1.3 shows that County Durham compares favourably to its ONS nearest neighbours in terms of the total number of grass pitches for every 1000 people. This comparison does not however, consider quality. It should be noted that the area County Durham has the highest pitch provision per 1000 active population, with higher provision both nationally and compared to the North East.

In addition to the grass pitches that have been identified, there are 5 full size synthetic turf pitches (STPs) within County Durham, and 4 sand dressed ATP's. Only 5 of the 9 synthetic turf pitches are suitable for Hockey. While sand-based synthetic facilities are considered suitable for training purposes, outside of hockey they are not suitable for formal fixtures due to national football league regulations. However 3G Tiger Challenger surfaces with shockpads are suitable for league fixtures and could play a vital role in the future provision of training and formal fixtures for sport.

4.1.3 Community pitches

In line with '*Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy*' (Sport England and CCPR 2003), the definition of 'community pitches' is those pitches with 'secured community use' - also referred to as category A(iii) pitches.

The majority of schools across County Durham which lease their pitches to the public do so without a formal dual use agreement in place. However, for legal purposes school governors have to sign up to any use outside schools hours so all of the pitches recorded in table 4.1.2 would qualify as secured community sites. The Sport England definition of 'community use' is helpful in assisting future priorities, but in practice it has no bearing on the user.

As identified in section 3, priority to secure the pitches has been accounted for in the recommendations in the AAP profiles.

Of the 595 pitches identified, according to the Sport England Definition the majority are category A(iii) pitches i.e. are secured for use by the local community.

In addition to those pitches that are secured for community use, for the purpose of strategic guidance the pitches which sit in category A but do not have a secured community use in place (qualify through additional factors) have been highlighted as potential category B pitches in the AAP profiles.

4.1.4 Location of pitches

The location of the existing pitches in County Durham has been considered, using the locality areas outlined in Section 1 (14 AAP's).

Table 4.1.4 illustrates the area of playing pitches (in hectares) available for community use in each area and the proportion of the total pitches available. The figures account for the whole population as apposed to just the active age range as many of the sites will be used informally for general recreation.

Table 4.1.4 Playing Pitch Provision

Locality	Total Number Of Pitches	Total Playing Pitch Area with Secured Use (Ha)	Ha per 1000 population	Required provision to meet existing demand (at 2 games a week per pitch)	Supply Analysis
Derwent Valley	39.0	31.6	1.2	22.2	9.4
Stanley	46.0	31.3	1.6	11.7	19.6
Chester-le-Street	57.0	44.0	1.3	20.4	23.6
Mid Durham	36.0	31.4	1.5	16.6	14.8
Durham	113.0	81.6	1.9	22.0	59.6
East Durham	84.0	70.4	1.1	39.8	30.6
Weardale	14.0	1.9	2.4	1.9	0.0
Three Towns Partnership	28.0	23.2	1.5	8.8	14.4
Spennymoor	20.0	16.9	1.4	5.4	11.5
Four Together Partnership	24.0	16.5	1.5	3.3	13.2
Teesdale	34.0	29.4	2.0	14.1	15.3
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	54.0	34.9	1.3	14.6	20.3
Great Aycliffe and Middridge	19.0	15.1	0.9	5.9	9.2
East Durham Rural Area Action	27.0	70.4	1.3	11.4	59.0
Total	595.0	498.6	20.9	198.0	300.5

NB. The number of pitches has been translated into total pitch area using Sport England approved pitch area sizes.

The statistics within table 4.1.4 only include the accessible supply identified in table 4.1.2. In total there are around 498 hectares of accessible playing pitches across

County Durham. The provision per 1000 population ranges from 0.9 to 2.4 hectares per 1000 population, with highest provision per 1000 population in Weardale (2.4) and Teesdale (2.0). The lowest provision per 1000 is Great Aycliffe and Middridge (0.9) and East Durham (1.1).

Table 4.1.5 indicates all but 1 of the AAP's meet the adopted standards of 1.0 ha/1000 people (adopted in the County Durham OSNA, 2008). However the statistics include sites which do not have formal public access for informal recreation. Furthermore, the adopted standard also allows for provision of all outdoor sports space, not just pitches. The standard within the OSNA allows for the development of a 'pitch standard' which would be developed through a playing pitch strategy. Therefore, table 4.1.5 can be used as a guide to assess the overall provision for sport, but would also need to be taken in context with the proposed standard for pitches.

Table 4.1.5 Outdoor Sports Space Local Plan Provision

AAP	Accessible Provision Per 1000 (Hectares)	OSNA Requirement (1 ha)
Derwent Valley	1.2	0.2
Stanley	1.6	0.6
Chester-le-Street	1.3	0.3
Mid Durham	1.5	0.5
Durham	1.9	0.9
East Durham	1.1	0.1
Weardale	2.4	1.4
Three Towns Partnership	1.5	0.5
Spennymoor	1.4	0.4
Four Together Partnership	1.5	0.5
Teesdale	2	1
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	1.3	0.3
Great Aycliffe and Middridge	0.9	-0.1
East Durham Rural Area Action	1.3	0.3

Based on the pitch sizes set out in table 4.1.6, the average pitch size would be 7149 square metres. Table 4.1.6 identifies the pitch sizes.

Table 4.1.6 Pitch Sizes

Type	Size	Sqm
Senior Football Pitch	109 x 72.5	7902.5
Junior Football Pitch	88.5 x 55	3982.5
Mini Football Pitch	51.75 x 33.5	1731.038
Senior Rugby Pitch	154 x 80	12320
Junior Rugby Pitch	80 x 45	3600

Cricket Pitch	111 x 122	13542
Hockey	101 x 69	6969

Taking the analysis in tables 4.1.4 - 4.1.6, it is possible to factor the potential for each AAP to accommodate future growth in teams, using the identified spare capacity. The growth assumes pitches could be used twice a week, which would accommodate 4 teams each.

Table 4.1.7 Potential to Accommodate Growth

Locality	Potential Spare Capacity	Number Of Pitches	Number Of Teams
Derwent Valley	94,306	13	53
Stanley	196,182	27	110
Chester-le-Street	235,724	33	132
Mid Durham	148,442	21	83
Durham	595,816	83	333
East Durham	306,340	43	171
Weardale	87,708	12	49
Three Towns Partnership	144,462	20	81
Spennymoor	115,248	16	64
Four Together Partnership	131,738	18	74
Teesdale	152,646	21	85
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	202,902	28	114
Great Aycliffe and Middridge	91,542	13	51
East Durham Rural Area Action	589,812	83	330
Total	3,092,869	433	1731

Table 4.1.7 indicates that all AAP's have the potential to accommodate future team growth within the current accessible provision. East Durham and Durham have the highest potential to accommodate future teams.

The statistical analysis is based on the supply which has been mapped in the GIS system. Details of the supply can be viewed in the AAP profiles. Statistical analysis does not take account of leasing or management arrangements. It is clear from the tables 4.1.6 and 4.1.7 that the existing supply can accommodate current and future requirements. However the current arrangement for accessing, leasing and managing sites does not provide a simple system of management and accessibility.

The AAP profiles provide detailed maps and lists of pitches for each sport, broken down into ownership. In addition to the maps, the council has a GIS database listing each pitch:

- GIS ID
- Name Of Site
- Main Typology
- Sub Typology
- AAP
- Ward
- Management
- Unique Reference
- Ownership

The database can be interrogated to identify any mix of the above fields, at any location, for example, if a user wanted to find all pitches that are within 600 meters of Belle Vue Playing Fields, Derwent Valley, and are privately owned, the search would identify the sites at a click of a button.

4.1.5 Ownership

Table 4.1.8 below illustrates the ownership of all pitches. It can be seen that the LEA are the largest overall providers across the County followed by the local authority and private / voluntary sector.

Table 4.1.8 Ownership of all accessible playing pitches within Durham

Provider	Football	Cricket	Rugby League	Rugby Union	Hockey	Total
Durham County Council / Parish	192	21	2	5	2	222
Education ⁶	219 (116)	30 (15)	1 (0)	7 (4)	10 (0)	267
Private/ Corporate	68	32		6	2	108
Total:	479	83	3	18	14	597

The following key findings on the supply of facilities have been identified from the assessment of the baseline information and responses to the surveys.

- Education sites are the main supplier of accessible playing pitches across the County.
- The local authority accounts for a significant proportion of the provision of pitches for formal use in the County.
- There is a clear disproportionate amount of senior pitch provision to junior provision.

⁶ Figures in brackets are sites in secured community used (category A(iii))

- The majority of education sites do not mark out appropriately sized pitches, with most schools having senior provision yet the age range would require junior pitches aged from 11 - 16.
- There are currently only 12 schools that have formal dual use agreements in place enabling the local community sports teams to use their facilities, however 110 schools currently allow use for their facilities for formal league fixtures.

4.2 Quality of pitch and ancillary facilities

Pitch quality is a key issue. Perceived quality of pitches (and ancillary facilities) is almost as important as actual quality as the perceptions of users or potential users can easily be affected, changing usage patterns accordingly.

The quality of pitches in County Durham has been evaluated through site assessments undertaken by JPC consultants, in conjunction with consultation with users and other stakeholders.

4.2.1 Site assessments

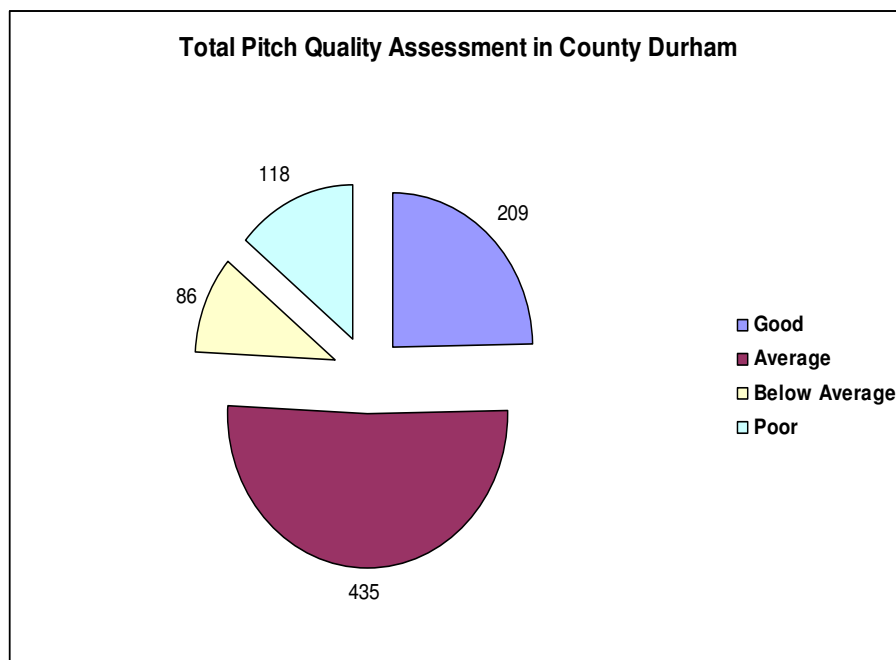
The site assessments are designed to evaluate the degree to which specific sports pitches are fit for purpose. The Sport England toolkit (Appendix 5) was used to assess the overall site and the quality of the pitches and ancillary facilities where available.

The survey was carried out by two experienced surveyors, which ensured quality and consistency. All public pitches were visited, and where feasible private and educational pitches visited and assessed. It was not possible to visit a small number of these sites, so further information was sought from the council estate manager for education sites, consultation with clubs, colleges, university etc.

As assessments were made during the winter months (February 2011), many cricket pitches were not in use and could therefore not be assessed. Figure 4.2.1 summarises the overall quality of the pitches included within the quality audit.

Figure 4.2.1 Summary of pitch quality in County Durham

- 90% + excellent
- 65-90% good
- 55-64% average
- 30-54% below average
- less than 30% poor



It is important to note that the assessments represent a snap shot in time and therefore any natural influences such as the weather may affect the quality of the pitches. County Durham had experienced some severe weather conditions in the run up to the site assessments. Heavy snow and frost over the winter and early spring months had significant impact on the sites and it was clear at time of assessments many pitches were affected by the exceptional weather conditions and this has been accounted for in the assessments.

The Pitch Quality Assessment (PQA) was carried out on all accessible pitches throughout the county. The data was stored on the geographical information system (GIS) along with each site's facilities and the teams that use them. The Sport England PQA is a tool to provide a standard approach to assessing the quality of pitches within an area. The assessment forms ensure a consistent scoring approach to the quality assessments of pitches. Results have contributed to the identification of priorities for pitch improvement, management and maintenance within the study area. The PQA is a non-technical visual quality assessment, undertaken by a surveyor 'walking' the site.

The quality of pitches impacts on availability, as poorly drained pitches, or those suffering from overuse as a result of a shortage in supply, will be more likely to be taken out of use due to unsuitability for play.

In general, the greater number of pitches that are used to accommodate demand the higher the quality of pitch, as pitches are used less intensively. However, stretching the management and maintenance regime across too many pitches also results in poor quality provision, as sufficient pitch works cannot be carried out to maintain a good standard. The AAP profiles use the information gathered from the quality assessment and seek to set out a list of venues which could accommodate formal fixtures and training, whilst enabling the overall quality sustained to a good standard.

The quality of changing is a factor that directly impacts on both the willingness of people to participate in sport, and the enjoyment that they get from it. The poor quality of some of the changing facilities in County Durham is a consequence of a lack of investment in management and maintenance. In some cases the authority has passed responsibility for changing pavilions over to the clubs using the ground. This has sometimes been very successful and clubs have been able to raise funds to develop and improve their facilities. In other cases, in spite of individual acts of dedication, these clubs have not have the financial capacity to manage and maintain these facilities to the required standard and deterioration has occurred.

The quality of pitches varies across the county, but privately maintained pitches are of a better standard in general than pitches in public parks which are subject to more informal use, especially around the goal areas. Most pitches have similar problems, such as issues with goal mouth and centre circle wear and tear but the problems are more exacerbated in pitches run by the local authority. Informal use of local authority pitches is the major contributing factor to the ongoing quality issues, as access is not restricted on the vast majority of local authority sites. Quality issues for private pitches in general arise from overuse, mainly through training. Club consultation identified a lack of training facilities across all pitch sports as a major issue, and most clubs pointed to related quality issues within overuse due to training.

The quality of local authority maintained facilities can be directly influenced by the playing pitch strategy, the pitch scores for each site assessed are detailed in Appendix 6.

4.2.2 Pitch Quality

The percentage scores for pitches are broken down as follows:

- over 90% - excellent pitch
- 65% to 90% - good pitch
- 55% to 64% - average pitch
- 30% to 54% - below average pitch
- less than 30% - poor pitch.

The ratings for the individual pitches at each site can be found in GIS Database in Appendix 6 and accessed via the council's web site. The quality scores have been taken into consideration within the AAP profiles.

The general quality of pitch provision is detailed within the AAP profiles, however education and private pitch provision were generally of a higher standard. Site security and controlled use are major factors in the difference in quality from local authority provision and private and education sites. Feedback from the clean and green teams identified informal use as a major issue for many sites. In many instances when matches are called off by the local authority, fixtures are still being played. Many sites cannot recover from over use, which is compounded by fixtures operating on pitches which should not be played on.

The issue of controlling use is very difficult on many sites as there is no mechanism for monitoring the pitches. The majority of sites are isolated and have no on site presence, which allows teams to use pitches freely. Without a structure for controlling

the pitch provision for formal fixtures on sites which can be secured and use restricted, the overuse of pitches will be difficult to control.

Identifying suitable sites which can be managed and maintained to the standards required by users must be prioritised, with the long term aim of private, education and local authority provision collectively meeting the needs of the users. The three sectors currently work in isolation to each other, resulting in teams struggling to access decent quality provision. All three providers have high maintenance budgets, yet quality of pitches varies and teams struggle to access sufficient provision, yet the quantity of provision exceeds demand.

The AAP profiles seek to identify the ideal number of sites to ensure demand can be met, with the potential to offer long term quality provision.

Table 4.2 Summary of ratings awarded to pitches across County Durham

Quality of local authority playing pitches across County Durham	Quality of pitch Proportion of pitches in this category. %
Excellent	0 %
Good	51 %
Average	24 %
Below Average	10 %
Poor	15 %

4.3 Demand

There are 419 clubs (Appendix 4), operating 1095 teams across 346 accessible sites in County Durham. Football accounts for 59% of the teams operating across the county, with cricket accounting for 26%, rugby 7.7% and Hockey 2.3%.

- 338 football clubs
- 62 cricket clubs
- 15 rugby clubs
- 5 hockey clubs

Table 4.3 below illustrates the clubs for football, cricket, hockey rugby league and rugby union currently playing in Durham. The demand analysis has been derived from numerous sources of data, including active places, local league hand books, a detailed club survey and the FA's football participation reports.

The FA's Football Participation Reports (FPR's), which replaced the Local Data Reports (LAD's) were produced in March 2011. Whilst the information is very useful, the recent club survey carried out as part of our assessment identified more youth, junior and mini teams. The FPR data identified 83 additional senior teams and a higher ratio of clubs, however on close inspection of the data, it was identified that university and college teams were included in the list of teams. Following confirmation from the universities, these teams participate in mid week inter college/ university leagues. The pitch demand is being met through university facilities and therefore do not factor in the playing pitch methodology.

The discrepancy in the number of clubs is due to differing calculation methods, the FPR data in most cases identifies a club through gender, day of play and standard. In many cases teams that are affiliated to a parent club have been double counted. An example would be Easington Colliery A.F.C, Easington Colliery C.I.U's over 40's and Easington Youth, which have been recorded in FPR data as 3 clubs. Within the playing pitch strategy club data base they would represent 1 club with 3 teams.

Taking into consideration the university teams, the actual number of teams recorded from the club survey and associated research has identified more football teams than the FPR data. As the research carried out for strategy is more recent and shows a higher level of demand, it was deemed appropriate to use the club and team analysis generated through the strategy.

Table 4.3 Team Breakdown

	Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey
Mens	226	130	23	3	8
Womens	9	6	0	1	9
Vets	17	0	1	1	0
Junior	301	133	18	20	4
Mini	167	0	19	0	0
Total	720	269	61	24	21

Site specific improvements are covered in Section 6 and the AAP profiles, and scores for each pitch are provided in Appendix 6.

4.4 Required Pitches

From the team numbers identified in table 4.3, it is possible to gauge the required pitches to meet demand. Table 4.4 identifies the potential number of pitches required to meet demand. Although this is a theoretical exercise, it does demonstrate that 273 pitches would be required to meet the current demand with pitches only being used for 2 games each week.

Table 4.4 Required pitches by sport

Sport	Teams	Games per Week	Pitches Required At 2 Games a Week
Senior Football	252	126	63
Junior Football	301	150.5	75.25
Mini Soccer	167	83.5	41.75
Senior Rugby Union	23	11.5	5.75
Junior Rugby	24	12	4.5
Mini Rugby	19	9.5	4.75
Senior Rugby League	5	2.5	1.25
Junior Rugby League	20	10	5
Mini Rugby League	0	0	0
Senior Cricket	130	65	32.5

Junior Cricket	133	66.5	33.25
Senior Hockey	17	8.5	4.25
Junior Hockey	4	2	1
TOTAL			273

Table 4.1.9 identifies that there are potentially 597 available for community use across the County. This is potentially double the available provision required to meet demand (using pitches twice a week). The considerations of securing adequate provision in each AAP to facilitate current and future requirements have been explored, with recommendations to facilitate high quality venues and accommodate future growth.

4.5 Additional supply considerations

Through the detailed club and team audit it is possible to identify where teams play their formal fixtures and the demand analysis identifies how many fixtures occur. When combined with the supply analysis it is possible to identify the average level of pitch use at each site. The AAP profiles each identify the average number of formal fixtures each site accommodates, identifying sites which are clearly being overused. The results of the exercise have been factored into the recommendations of the AAP profiles.

Within each of the AAP profiles there is a separate supply and demand table which accounts for off peak team equivalent use, over used pitches and pitches of a poor quality. Sites with pitches that have been identified as being used more than twice a week, or have been identified as poor quality as part of the pitch assessments, and where significant off peak use has been identified have their carrying capacity reduced. Section 5.2 and Appendices 7 and 8 provide further detail on the use of team equivalents and carrying capacity.

Clear overuse of some facilities is apparent from the on site assessment and club consultation. It would suggest the current management and leasing system of pitches does not function appropriately.

Table 4.5 Example of Site Carrying Capacity (AAP profiles)

AAP	Name	Home Games Per Week					Average Number Of Games Per Pitch
		Total Football Games Played	Total Rugby Union Games Played	Total Rugby League Games Played	Total Cricket Games Played	Total Hockey Games Played	
Bishop Auckland & Shildon	Binchester Recreation Ground	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bishop Auckland & Shildon	Bishop Auckland College	10.5	0	0	0	0	3.5
Bishop Auckland & Shildon	Bishop Barrington Sports Centre	0	0	0	0	0	0

Bishop Auckland & Shildon	Cockton Hill Recreation Ground	1.5	0	0	0	0	0.75
Bishop Auckland & Shildon	Copeland Road Primary School	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4.5 identifies Bishop of Auckland College is over using pitches.

4.6 County Durham Future Growth Areas

The future supply and demand for pitches will also be significantly impacted by the future need for housing. This section outlines the impact of future housing needs on the playing pitch strategy.

4.6.1 The need for housing

In determining the level of housing provision, Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3), states that 'Local Planning Authorities should take into account the Government's latest published household projections and the needs of the regional economy, having regard to economic growth forecasts and the availability of suitable land for housing using Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments'.

The basis for County Durham setting out the previous Housing Requirement of 29,000 in 2010 Issues and Options Report was the net dwelling requirement in RSS with an additional allowance for the now superseded South and East Durham Growth Point. PPS3 advises that the Housing Requirement should be distributed across the constituent Housing Market Areas (HMAs). The starting point for determining the revised Housing Requirement is the 2008 based ONS population and household projections published in December 2010. These predict that by 2030, County Durham's population will have increased by 56,700 and the number of households by 38,200. For the purposes of the Housing Requirement it is to be assumed that each of these additional households will require some form of residential accommodation and each household is therefore also assumed to be equivalent to a dwelling unit.

The overall Housing Requirement for County Durham to 2030 is therefore a minimum of 38,200 units. The Council is conscious that there are several important sources of new housing other than the development of allocated housing sites that should be taken into account when determining the Housing Land Requirement i.e. how many additional new dwellings on allocated housing sites are required to meet this overall Housing Requirement. These sources include development of unallocated small sites (below 0.4ha or 12 houses), reuse of vacant dwellings and residential accommodation which does not fall within the definition of a dwelling. The estimated housing requirement is identified in table 4.6.1.

Table 4.6.1 Housing Requirements

Housing Land Requirement Calculation	
(A) TOTAL HOUSING REQUIREMENT (households = units)	38,200 units
Other Housing Sources;	Estimated Yield
(B) Small and unallocated sites	7,200 units
(C) Reuse of vacant dwellings	2,000 units
(D) TOTAL SUPPLY FROM OTHER SOURCES (B + C)	9,200 units
ACTUAL MINIMUM NET HOUSING LAND REQUIREMENT (A - D) (for allocation on sites 0.4ha and above)	29,000 Units

4.6.2 Housing Distribution

Using the key elements of the Spatial Strategy the Housing Land Requirement has been translated into a housing distribution shown in Table 4.6.2 below. In order to provide more certainty regarding the future development of communities across County, the housing distribution has been extended beyond the main towns to include the Secondary Settlements, as identified in the County Durham Settlement Study. An allocation has also been given to the settlements outside of these towns and villages. Table 4.6.2 identifies the predicted future housing provision.

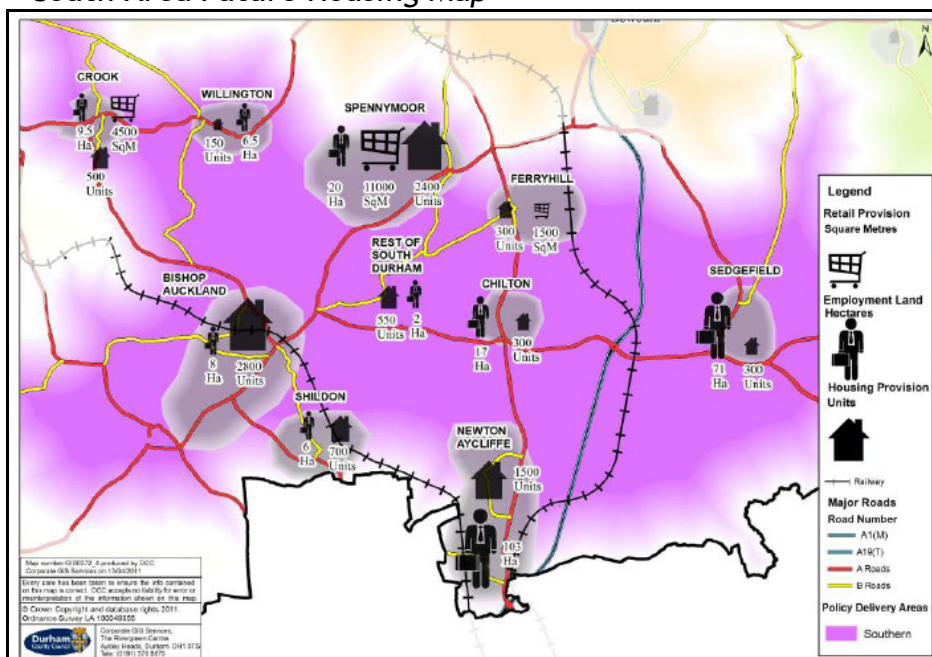
Table 4.6.2 Future housing requirements

Area	Number Of Units
Total Housing Requirement	38,200
Small & Unallocated Sites	7,200
Reuse of Vacant dwellings	2,000
Total Supply From Other Sources	9,200
Actual Minimum Net Housing Land Requirement	29,000
<i>New provision required & section 106 contributions</i>	
Durham City	4,750
Brandon/ Langley Moor/Meadow	550
Bowburn	400
Coxhoe	450
Langley Park	100
Sacrison	500
Ushaw Moor	250
Sherburn	0
Rest Of Central Durham	400
Consett	3,200
Stanley	1,250
Anfield Plain	400
Chester Le Street	850
Pelton/Newfield	500

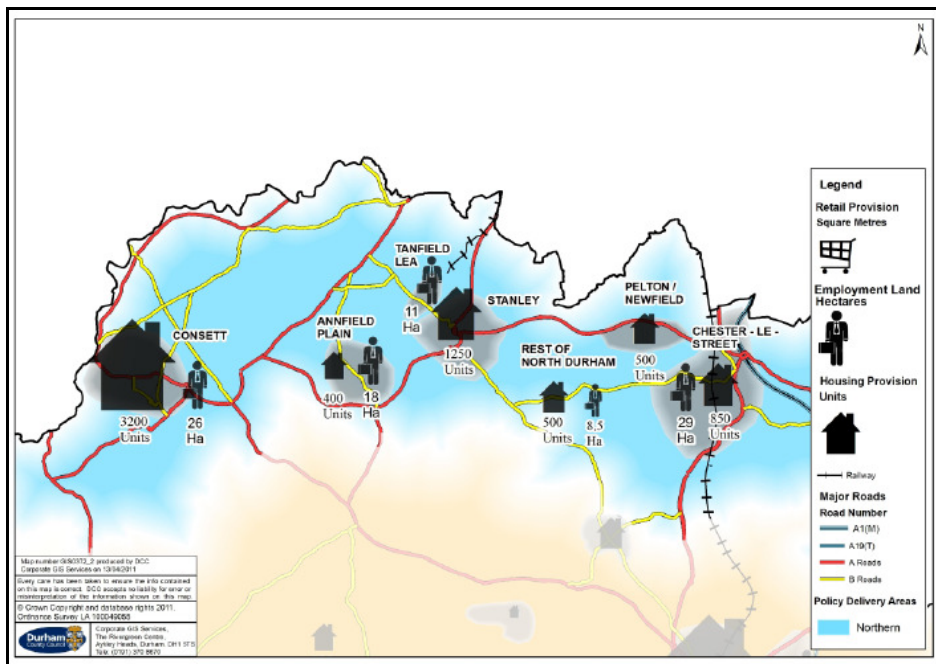
Great Lumley	
Remainder Of Durham	500
Newton Aycliffe	1,500
Sildon	700
Spennymoor	2,400
Ferryhill	300
Chilton	300
Sedgefield	300
Bishop Auckland	2,800
Crook	500
Wilmington	150
Peterlee	1,100
Remainder Of South Durham	550
Horden	200
Shotton / Shotton Colliery	350
Easington	500
Seaham	700
Morton	600
Blackhall	300
Wingate	200
Remainder Of East Durham	600
Barnard Castle	400
Middleton Teesdale	90
Stanhope	60
Wolsingham	100
Remainder Of West Durham	200
	29,000

The principle areas of development are outlined in the following maps:

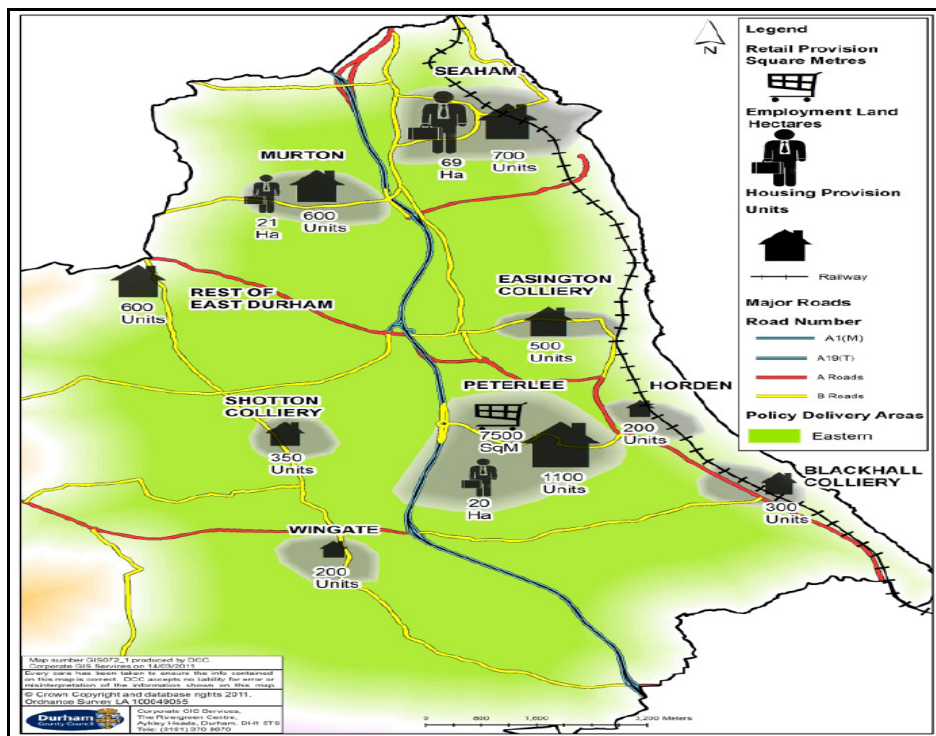
Map 4.6.1 South Area Future Housing Map



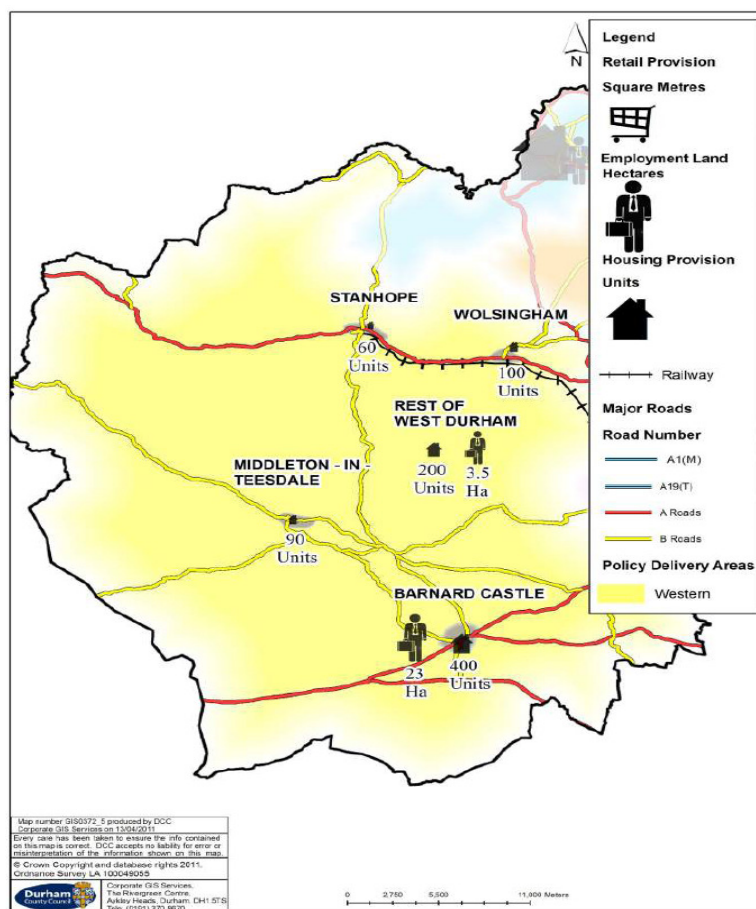
Map 4.6.2 Northern Area Future Housing Map



Map 4.6.3 Northern Area Future Housing Map



Map 4.6.4 Eastern Area Future Housing Map



4.6.3 Impact of future housing on outdoor sports provision

As set out in local plan policy C1, developments must provide new on site open space provision or contribute to off site provision. The recently adopted OSNA requirement for all outdoor sport space is 1 hectare per 1000 population. The application of the 1 hectare will be informed by the analysis in the playing pitch strategy. Where new provision is required from developments, appropriate pitches and facilities should be delivered on site. If overall provision of sports facilities in terms of quantity is sufficient, off site contributions should be sought to improve the existing fabric to accommodate the additional use generated by the development.

The application of the 1 hectare of provision should be responsive to local requirements and demand led. The requirements for each area across County Durham change significantly, with Rugby and Hockey having defined catchments set around established clubs, with football and cricket more widespread throughout the County. The provision standard has not been broken down into sub categories, the demand analysis provides the platform to inform local need. Application of the standard should reflect local requirements rather than a rigid numerical application.

4.6.4 Additional pitch requirements based on predicted demand

Using the projected housing requirements developed for the County it is possible to calculate the required local plan provision. The table 4.6.3 sets out the required outdoor sports space based on the local plan requirement of 1 hectare per 1000

population. The national average of 2.4 people per dwelling has been used to calculate the population figures.

Table 4.6.3 Population Forecast Increase

Area	Number Of Units	Population
Total Housing Requirement	38,200	94,354
Small & Unallocated Sites	7,200	17,784
Reuse of Vacant dwellings	2,000	4,940
Total Supply From Other Sources	9,200	22,724
Actual Minimum Net Housing Land Requirement	29,000	71,630
<i>New provision required & section 106 contributions</i>		
Durham City	4,750	11,733
Brandon/ Langley Moor/Meadow	550	1,359
Bowburn	400	988
Coxhoe	450	1,112
Langley Park	100	247
Sacrison	500	1,235
Ushaw Moor	250	618
Sherburn	0	0
Rest Of Central Durham	400	988
Consett	3,200	7,904
Stanley	1,250	3,088
Anfield Plain	400	988
Chester Le Street	850	2,100
Pelton/Newfield	500	1,235
Great Lumley	0	0
Remainder Of Durham	500	1,235
Newton Aycliffe	1,500	3,705
Sildon	700	1,729
Spennymoor	2,400	5,928
Ferryhill	300	741
Chilton	300	741
Sedgefield	300	741
Bishop Auckland	2,800	6,916
Crook	500	1,235
Wilmington	150	371
Peterlee	1,100	2,717
Remainder Of South Durham	550	1,359
Horden	200	494
Shotton / Shotton Colliery	350	865
Easington	500	1,235
Seaham	700	1,729
Morton	600	1,482
Blackhall	300	741
Wingate	200	494
Remainder Of East Durham	600	1,482
Barnard Castle	400	988

Middleton Teesdale	90	222
Stanhope	60	148
Wolsingham	100	247
Remainder Of West Durham	200	494
	29,000	71,630

Using the population figures set in table 4.6.3, through application of the overall TGR for Durham it is possible to project the amount of teams and pitches that will be required to meet the demand. Table 4.6.4 below identifies the pitch provision that would be required should the pitch provision be used once or twice a week.

The calculation takes into consideration the active population for the County and calculates the number of theoretical teams the population would generate based on the average TGR for the county. Consideration of home and away fixtures has been taken into account. The pitch requirement reflects the carrying capacity of 1 and 2 games a week. 2 games a week is Sport England's standard recommendation for a good pitch (e.g. a pitch that scores between 64-90% in a pitch quality assessment).

Table 4.6.4 Future Pitch Calculations

	Active Population	Durham Average TGR	No Of Teams Generate	Games A Week Generated	Pitches Required (Used Twice A Week)	Pitches Required (Used Once A Week)
Total Housing Requirement	66,048	392	168.5	84.2	42.1	84.2
Small & Unallocated Sites	12,449	392	31.8	15.9	7.9	15.9
Reuse of Vacant dwellings	3,458	392	8.8	4.4	2.2	4.4
Total Supply From Other Sources	15,907	392	40.6	20.3	10.1	20.3
Actual Minimum Net Housing Land Requirement	50,141	392	127.9	64.0	32.0	64.0
New provision required & section 106 contributions.						
Durham City	8,213	392	21.0	10.5	5.2	10.5
Brandon/ Langley Moor/Meadow	951	392	2.4	1.2	0.6	1.2
Bowburn	692	392	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.9
Coxhoe	778	392	2.0	1.0	0.5	1.0
Langley Park	173	392	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2
Sacriston	865	392	2.2	1.1	0.6	1.1
Ushaw Moor	432	392	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.6
Sherburn	0	392	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Rest Of Central Durham	692	392	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.9
Consett	5,533	392	14.1	7.1	3.5	7.1
Stanley	2,161	392	5.5	2.8	1.4	2.8
Anfield Plain	692	392	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.9
Chester Le Street	1,470	392	3.7	1.9	0.9	1.9
Pelton/Newfield	865	392	2.2	1.1	0.6	1.1
Great Lumley	0	392	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Remainder Of Durham	865	392	2.2	1.1	0.6	1.1
Newton Aycliffe	2,594	392	6.6	3.3	1.7	3.3
Shildon	1,210	392	3.1	1.5	0.8	1.5
Spennymoor	4,150	392	10.6	5.3	2.6	5.3
Ferryhill	519	392	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.7
Chilton	519	392	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.7
Sedgefield	519	392	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.7
Bishop Auckland	4,841	392	12.4	6.2	3.1	6.2
Crook	865	392	2.2	1.1	0.6	1.1
Wilmington	259	392	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3
Peterlee	1,902	392	4.9	2.4	1.2	2.4
Remainder Of South Durham	951	392	2.4	1.2	0.6	1.2
Horden	346	392	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.4
Shotton / Shotton Colliery	605	392	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.8
Easington	865	392	2.2	1.1	0.6	1.1
Seaham	1,210	392	3.1	1.5	0.8	1.5
Morton	1,037	392	2.6	1.3	0.7	1.3
Blackhall	519	392	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.7
Wingate	346	392	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.4
Remainder Of East Durham	1,037	392	2.6	1.3	0.7	1.3
Barnard Castle	692	392	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.9
Middleton Teesdale	156	392	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2
Stanhope	104	392	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Wolsingham	173	392	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2
Remainder Of West Durham	346	392	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.4
	50,141	15,680	128	64	32	64

The highest growth points are predicted in Durham City, Consett and Spennymoor. The analysis within the PPM models shows that the future growth could be accommodated within the existing supply, should the recommendations in the AAP profiles be implemented.

The demand analysis identified in table 4.6.5 should guide the future investment into sports provision across the County. The development proposals within each of the AAP's should take into account the analysis and ensure future provision facilitates future growth.

4.6.5 Financial Contributions

All new housing will be required to either provide on site provision or off site contributions, using the local plan requirement of 1 hectare per 1000 population it is possible to calculate potential section 106 revenue from predicted housing numbers.

The following example shows how section 106 receipts based on the housing forecasts set out in table 4.6.2, could be used to generate contributions for new football pitches. The calculations have been generated by using Sport England's facilities costs (2nd Quarter, 2011)⁷ for providing football pitches (a pitch of 7,697m², costs £75,000 = £9.72/m²). It is important to remember that this is only a guide, and would not include the comprehensive provision of facilities such as changing, car parking etc.

For the purpose of the example, the standard for playing pitches of 0.57ha/1000 has been applied for the provision of football pitches.

Table 4.6.5 Potential Section 106 Contributions

	Number of Units	Population increase (at 2.47/dwelling)	Pitches required (ha)	Pitches required (m ²)	Contribution (Based on 0.57 ha/1000)
Total Housing Requirement	38,200	94,354	53.78	537,817.80	£5,216,832.66
Small & Unallocated Sites	7,200	17,784	10.14	101,368.80	£983,277.36
Reuse of Vacant dwellings	2,000	4,940	2.82	28,158.00	£273,132.60
Total Supply From Other Sources	9,200	22,724	12.95	129,526.80	£1,256,409.96
Actual Minimum Net Housing Land Requirement	29,000	71,630	40.83	408,291.00	£3,960,422.70
Durham City	4,750	11,733	6.69	66,875.25	£648,689.93
Brandon/ Langley Moor/Meadow	550	1,359	0.77	7,743.45	£75,111.47
Bowburn	400	988	0.56	5,631.60	£54,626.52
Coxhoe	450	1,112	0.63	6,335.55	£61,454.84
Langley Park	100	247	0.14	1,407.90	£13,656.63
Sacriston	500	1,235	0.70	7,039.50	£68,283.15
Ushaw Moor	250	618	0.35	3,519.75	£34,141.58

⁷

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/planning_kitbag/facilities_costs.aspx

Sherburn	0	0	0.00	0.00	£0.00
Rest Of Central Durham	400	988	0.56	5,631.60	£54,626.52
Consett	3,200	7,904	4.51	45,052.80	£437,012.16
Stanley	1,250	3,088	1.76	17,598.75	£170,707.88
Anfield Plain	400	988	0.56	5,631.60	£54,626.52
Chester Le Street	850	2,100	1.20	11,967.15	£116,081.36
Pelton/Newfield	500	1,235	0.70	7,039.50	£68,283.15
Great Lumley	0	0	0.00	0.00	£0.00
Remainder Of Durham	500	1,235	0.70	7,039.50	£68,283.15
Newton Aycliffe	1,500	3,705	2.11	21,118.50	£204,849.45
Shildon	700	1,729	0.99	9,855.30	£95,596.41
Spennymoor	2,400	5,928	3.38	33,789.60	£327,759.12
Ferryhill	300	741	0.42	4,223.70	£40,969.89
Chilton	300	741	0.42	4,223.70	£40,969.89
Sedgefield	300	741	0.42	4,223.70	£40,969.89
Bishop Auckland	2,800	6,916	3.94	39,421.20	£382,385.64
Crook	500	1,235	0.70	7,039.50	£68,283.15
Wilmington	150	371	0.21	2,111.85	£20,484.95
Peterlee	1,100	2,717	1.55	15,486.90	£150,222.93
Remainder Of South Durham	550	1,359	0.77	7,743.45	£75,111.47
Horden	200	494	0.28	2,815.80	£27,313.26
Shotton / Shotton Colliery	350	865	0.49	4,927.65	£47,798.21
Easington	500	1,235	0.70	7,039.50	£68,283.15
Seaham	700	1,729	0.99	9,855.30	£95,596.41
Morton	600	1,482	0.84	8,447.40	£81,939.78
Blackhall	300	741	0.42	4,223.70	£40,969.89
Wingate	200	494	0.28	2,815.80	£27,313.26
Remainder Of East Durham	600	1,482	0.84	8,447.40	£81,939.78
Barnard Castle	400	988	0.56	5,631.60	£54,626.52
Middleton Teesdale	90	222	0.13	1,267.11	£12,290.97
Stanhope	60	148	0.08	844.74	£8,193.98

Wolsingham	100	247	0.14	1,407.90	£13,656.63
Remainder Of West Durham	200	494	0.28	2,815.80	£27,313.26

Table 4.6.5 identifies that significant section 106 contributions will be generated from the proposed future housing across the County. Careful consideration and planning should be given to securing and investing the contributions. Developing on the AAP profile themes to provide a clear strategy to securing, improving and delivering new sports facilities should remain a continuous priority for the county.

4.7 Consultation Feedback & Considerations

The key issues in terms of participation, facilities used, issues experienced by clubs and development opportunities are summarised in the strategic consultation review in Appendix 1.

The consultation process involved primary and secondary research, with a detailed questionnaire (Appendix 2), a series of working groups and consultation with governing bodies, NGB's and Key Stakeholders.

The overall response rate was very high, with over 120 responses to the club questionnaire which covered 63% of all clubs. Combined with the NGB and working group sessions the feedback covers over 75% of all teams across the county.

In addition to the overview of consultation feedback contained within the document there are 14 bespoke consultation profiles covering each AAP, and a detailed strategic consultation document.

4.8 Football Consultation

The following section details the issues raised through consultation with the football association, league secretaries and the individual club responses. The responses recorded cover the whole of the County, however the AAP profile responses and consultation figures are bespoke to the area.

4.8.1 The Football Association

With over 338 clubs active in the area including a number of National League teams, football is the most significant formal sports activity in the area. The Regional FA identified a number of key issues, as follows:

The Football Facilities Strategy has been completed and it includes a list of 56 projects, However, funding isn't readily available to make much of an impact on the projects. Last year they were able to install a 3G pitch and do some drainage works but this year there is only £80,000 available for up to three projects. The FA are concerned budget cuts could also have an impact re the continuing maintenance of existing sites across the county, and the potential loss of pitches at Aykley heads is a critical issue as it is considered to be a key site within the city.

The FA have outlined that they advocate the use of synthetic turf pitches for training and future potential fixtures. The Riverside are currently still bidding for 3G pitch to replace the existing sand filled pitch, there are also 3G's are at

- Parkside - Willington
- Sedgefield - College Site
- Newton Aycliffe - Greenfield School
- Peterlee - East Durham College
- Peterlee - Helford Road
- Derwentside - Stanley School
- Durham County College - Full size pitch
- Maiden Castle (University) Full size football and Rugby

The FA have outlined that there are additional proposed 3G pitches, which should be factored into the outcome of the playing pitch strategy.

- Derwentside - Riverside
- Consett - Academy site 2
- Bishop Auckland College
- Newton Aycliffe - Woodland Tech College.

Although 3G pitches on school sites are being used, there are concerns about what will happen with reduced budgets and a reducing school sports focus.

The FA recognise that there are some National League Teams in the area with single pitch sites, but these sites should be deemed as non accessible to the public. There are also four Youth Leagues in the area (including mini soccer) and three Senior Leagues, Russell Foster, Chase Homes, Coleman Youth League

Some youth teams apparently have difficulty finding appropriate pitches at the times they want. A lot of youth teams also turn up ready changed so changing facilities is not an issue major although it would obviously be preferable to always have suitable facilities available.

Changing is more of an issue for adult teams and the problem could be exacerbated if any school facilities are lost and the Aykley Head changing rooms are demolished, as intended.

Youth teams mainly use school sites, the Durham County club uses seven different sites to cater for the demands of its teams.

Pitch provision in the area tends to be fragmented with fewer large clubs having good facilities.

The quality of pitches, particularly those managed by the public sector (mainly town councils) is very variable with no consistent standards across the area. One league has lost 300 games this season due to the non availability of pitches due to condition/weather. However there isn't as much pressure from County Durham as elsewhere in the North East in relation to problems of pitch quality. Newton Aycliffe seems to be consistent for pitch quality. The FA doesn't have a specified maintenance programme but are looking at providing one for those who manage the pitches.

A youth review is currently being carried out which is looking at 5v5 for mini soccer and 9v9 for the rest. If the proposed changes are adopted it will have an impact on pitch demand. Any changes are due to be made in 2013, but the PPS should recognise the demand for the growing fixture requirements.

The FA recognises that participation has fallen in all areas of the game, with a more severe reduction in adult male and female teams. There also is a significant continuing loss of players in the over 20's group, however five a side activity is increasing.

The FA believe pub closures and redundancies have had a significant impact on participation, and that the age of people running clubs and leagues is increasing and are not being replaced by younger people.

4.8.2 League secretary info

The main points raised by the league secretaries who responded to the questionnaire were:

- The lack and expense of training facilities.
- The poor quality or complete lack of adequate changing facilities.
- Growing numbers still being attracted to the sport with some youth leagues/teams particularly buoyant so demand for pitches is likely to increase.
- The threat to publicly owned pitches through disposal or reducing maintenance.

4.8.3 Club Survey General Football

Questionnaire Surveys were sent to 315 football clubs (junior and adult) and 101 were returned (32%), which cover 49.7% of the teams playing in County Durham. Some general findings are noted below:

Pitch Capacity

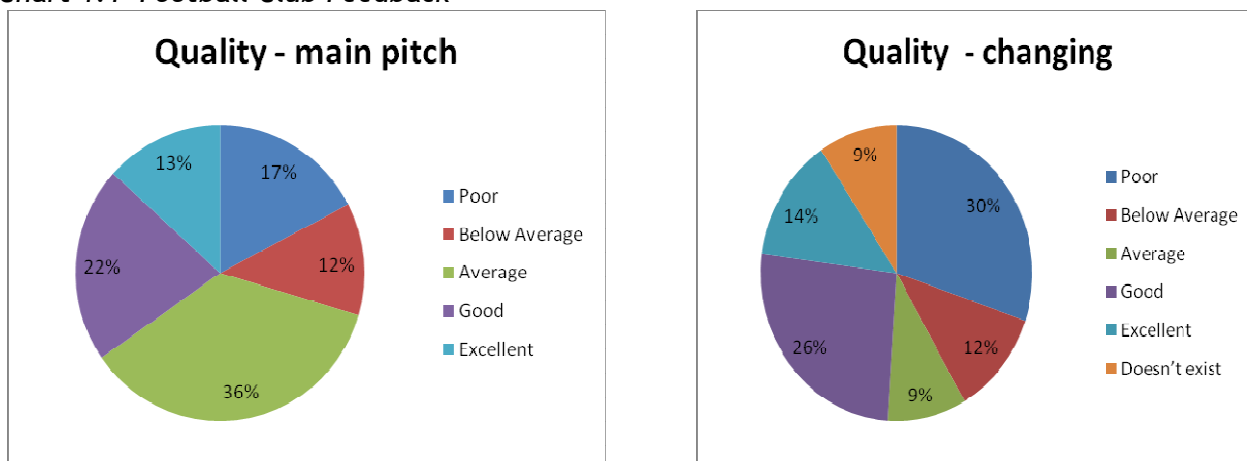
- 76% reported that current pitch provision was sufficient to meet their club's league fixture requirements but considerably fewer (61%) agreed that current pitch provision was sufficient to meet their training requirements.
- Nearly half (49%) thought that additional pitches could be accommodated on their main site with some investment
- Just over half (51%) reported that junior fixtures were played on senior pitches
- 58% of clubs said that additional junior provision was needed on site but 60% said they would be prepared to consider using junior provision elsewhere (away from their main site)

Pitch Quality

- 44% of clubs reported that at least 20% of their games were cancelled last season due to the pitch condition
- 51% confirmed that their pitches are used for training during the week and just over 60% said that they would consider using training facilities at a different location

The following charts show the clubs' general opinions on the quality of pitches and associated changing and showering facilities:

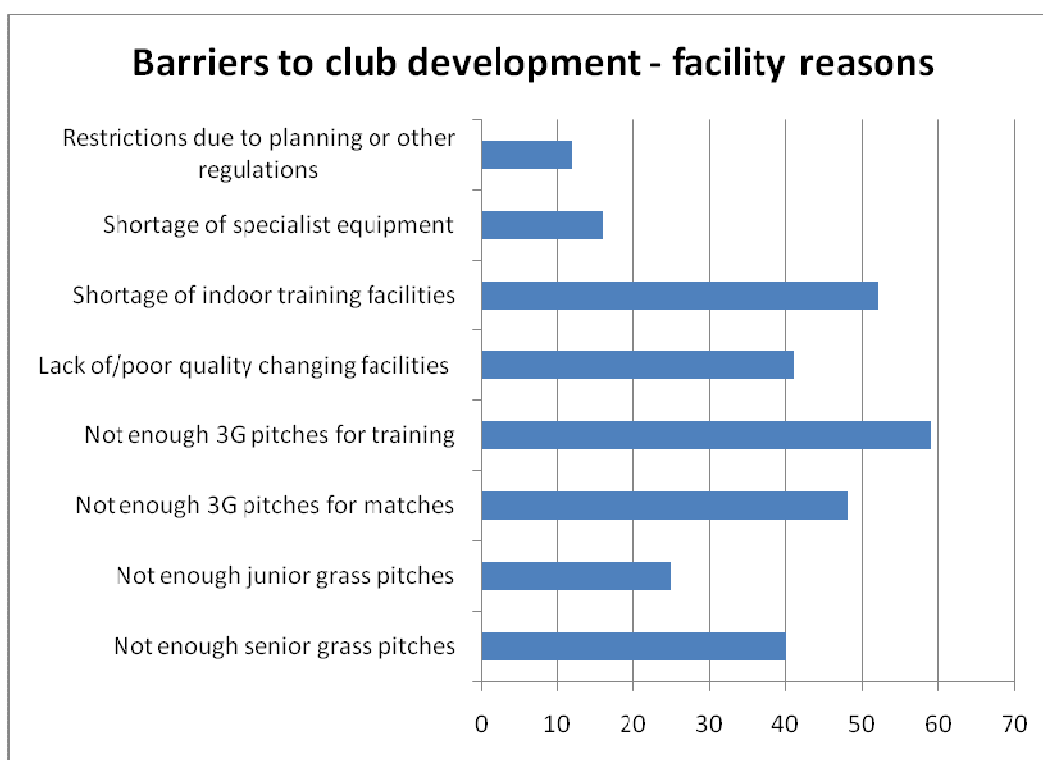
Chart 1.1 Football Club Feedback



4.8.4 Barriers to club development

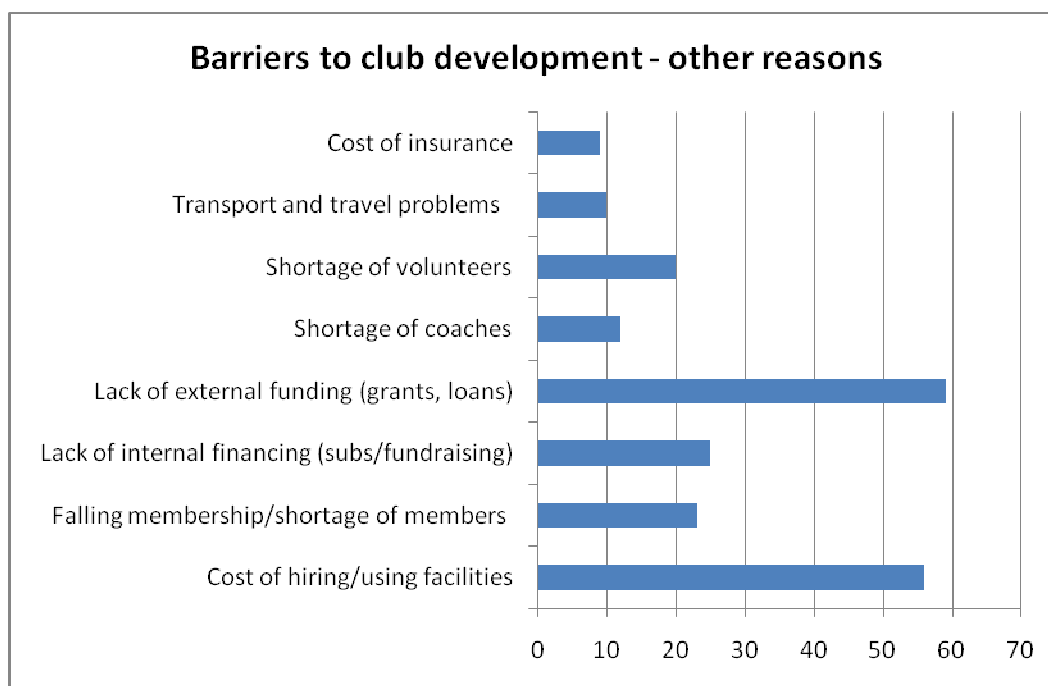
We asked clubs to indicate the main barriers that were preventing their club from developing. The following two charts highlight the range of reasons reported:

Chart 1.2 Barriers to club development



The most common facility based factors reported by football clubs as a barrier to development are a lack of 3G pitches for both training and match play as well as a general shortage of any kind of indoor training facilities.

Chart 1.3 Additional Barriers to club development



The two most (non-facility based) common factors reported as restricting development are both financial, a lack of external funding to support clubs and the cost of hiring and using facilities.

4.8.5 General Consultation Feedback Concluding Remarks (football)

Football is the most significant mass participation formal sport in the County with a strong league structure and large following. There are, however, a number of fundamental issues that need to be addressed to maintain and increase participation in the sport. These include:

- The variable quality of pitches across the county with no clear, comprehensive maintenance regime.
- As a result the reduced availability of pitches because of unplayable surfaces.
- The overuse of some pitches due to limited availability.
- The lack of facilities for training purposes.
- A failure to capitalise on the use of all weather surfaces for training.
- The threat to publicly owned pitches through budget reductions, school mergers and closures and general closures e.g. Aykley Heads.
- The lack of or poor quality of changing facilities.
- The apparent need for additional junior pitches.
- The lack of sufficient senior pitches.
- The lack of funding and the increasing cost of participation.
- A failure to capitalise on the pool of younger players with participation dropping considerably in the over 18's.

4.9 Cricket

The following section details the issues raised through consultation with the Cricket National Governing Body representative, league secretaries and the individual club responses. The responses recorded cover the whole of the County, however the AAP profile responses and consultation figures are bespoke to the area.

4.9.1 NGB Information

The national governing body recognises around 130 senior and 130 junior teams in the area. The facility at Derwentside is nationally recognised and is the most significant in the county.

The main issues highlighted by the governing body were that Cricket is very much a club based sport and sufficient outdoor facilities are considered to be available to meet current demand. Most clubs have control over the facilities they use but in the Easington area teams tend to use Local Authority facilities and, in that area, there isn't a strong enough club structure to take on a more proactive role.

Whilst a majority of grounds are well maintained there is an issue in relation to the quality of built facilities mainly club houses. The ECB can offer interest free loans to support the provision of new facilities, but there are now very limited funds available for providing grant support with around £300,000 for the whole of the North.

The provision of indoor training facilities is recognised as the most pressing issue, particularly in relation to the difficulty of accessing some provision on school sites (New school in Durham City with a four lane centre that can't be accessed, at present, during the evenings or at weekends).

The indoor facilities that are available are not spread evenly through the county and access is, therefore, a problem as demand is still high. Indoor provision in the Derwentside area is particularly poor.

The biggest threat for the future is the continuity of available outdoor and indoor facilities, particularly those provided by the public sector.

Comments made previously in the Sub Regional Facilities Strategy and used in the PPG17 Study, as set out below are still valid although there are now five four lane centres in the area.

4.9.2 League secretary information

The main issues raised in response to the survey are the difficulty of attracting and retaining younger players.

The increasing significance of funding issues particularly for smaller clubs and the related issue of amateur payments.

The quality of some of the pitches and greater concerns about the quality of changing/club house facilities particularly those in public ownership.

An over concentration on the profile of the ‘Riverside’ at the expense of support to the grass roots particularly village cricket.

Decreasing playing numbers and the increasing age of officials and volunteers.

4.9.3 Club Survey General Feedback

Questionnaire Surveys were sent to 61 cricket clubs and 22 were returned (36%), the responses covered over 50% of teams. Some general findings are noted below:

Pitch Capacity:

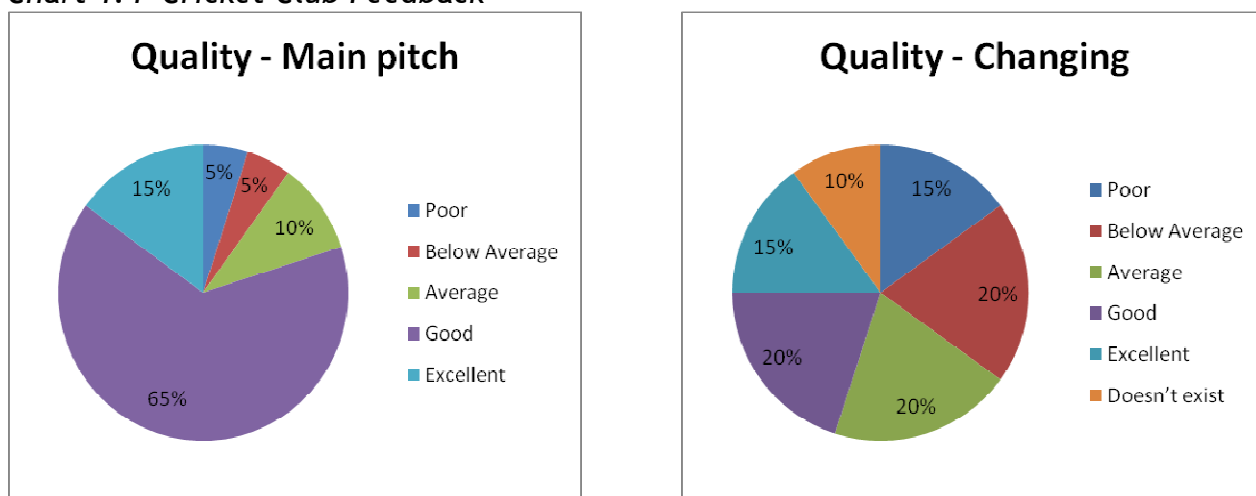
- Twenty of the twenty one cricket clubs (95%) reported that current pitch provision was sufficient to meet their adult teams’ league fixture requirements (only Trimdon Colliery CC replied to the contrary).
- Five clubs (24%) however highlighted that current provision was not sufficient to meet their training needs.
- Three clubs (14%) said that additional cricket pitches could be accommodated on their main ground with some investment.
- All the clubs reported that current arrangements and use of pitches were adequate to meet junior league requirements though five clubs (24%) added that additional junior provision would be advantageous.

Pitch Quality:

- Five clubs (24%) reported that at least 15% of their games were cancelled last season due to the pitch condition
- Fifteen clubs (75%) confirmed that their pitches are used for training during the week and twelve clubs (60%) said that they would consider using training facilities at a different location

The following charts show the clubs’ general opinions on the quality of pitches and associated pavilion, changing and showering facilities:

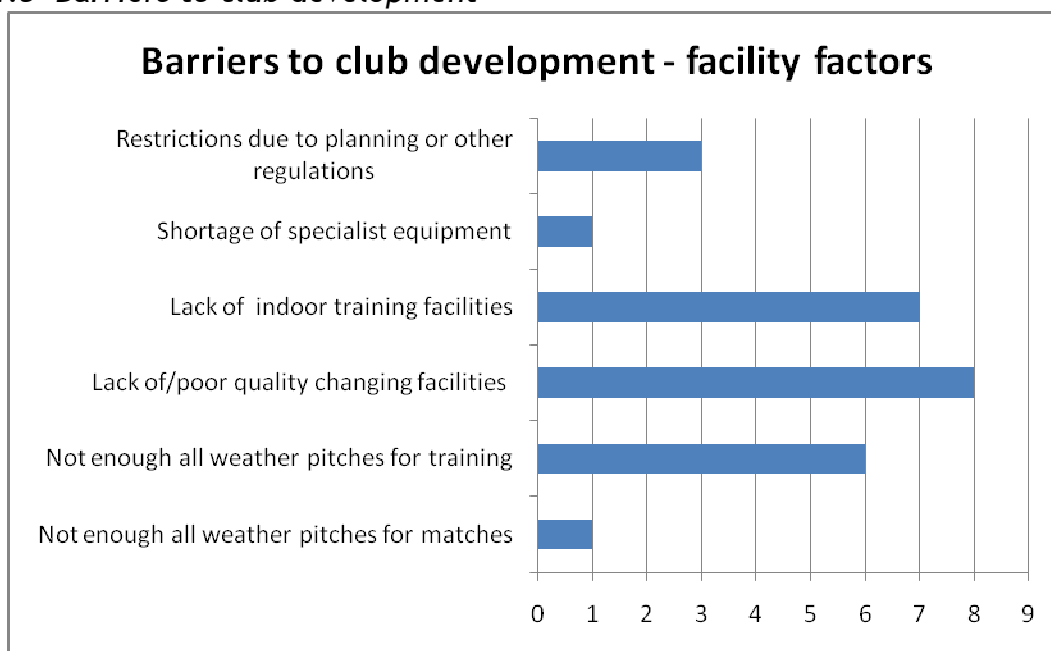
Chart 1.4 Cricket Club Feedback



Barriers to club development:

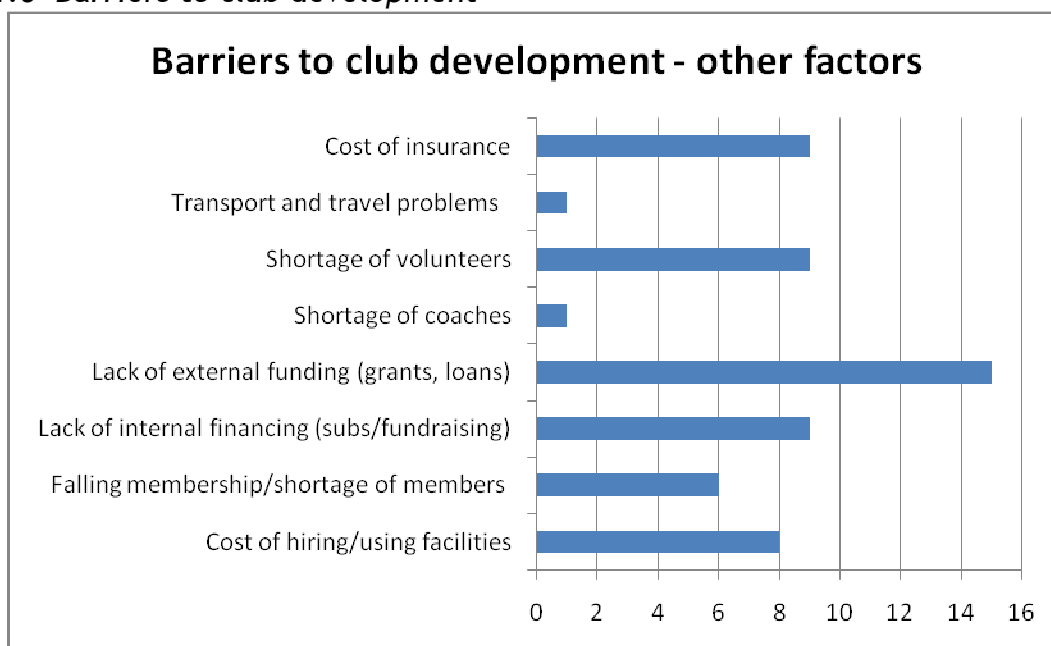
Clubs were asked to indicate the main barriers that were preventing their club from developing. The following two charts highlight the range of reasons reported:

Chart 1.5 Barriers to club development



For cricket clubs the most common factors restricting club development appear to be the lack or poor quality of changing/pavilion facilities, followed by a shortage of indoor training facilities. A third important factor is a perceived lack of all weather pitches for training.

Chart 1.6 Barriers to club development



The most common other factor restricting club development was thought to be a lack of external funding to support developments. Other common factors were a shortage of volunteers, cost of insurance and a shortfall in internal fund-raising.

4.9.4 Concluding Remarks (Cricket)

Within County Durham cricket is a high profile sport attracting a large number of players at senior and junior level. However there is a danger of stagnation and ultimately decline due to the difficulty of attracting and retaining younger players and officials.

Major issues are:

- The quality of changing/clubhouse facilities.
- The lack of or ability to access indoor training facilities and the general shortage of training facilities.
- Concerns over the continuity of playing opportunities created by uncertainties over the future availability and quality of publicly owned facilities.
- The difficulty of attracting and retaining younger players and officials.
- The lack of funding support and the increasing cost of maintaining viable clubs.

4.10 Rugby Union

The following section details the issues raised through consultation with the Rugby National Governing Body representative, league secretaries and the individual club responses. The responses recorded cover the whole of the County, however the AAP profile responses and consultation figures are bespoke to the area.

4.10.1 Rugby NGB Feedback

The national governing body for Rugby Union operates community based programmes aimed at increasing participation and supports the 9 clubs based in the area:

- Chester-le-Street RFC
- Consett RFC
- Durham City RFC
- Horden RFC
- Seaham RFC
- Sedgefield RFC
- Newton Aycliffe RFC
- Bishop Auckland RFC
- Barnard Castle RFC

It is recognised that Rugby Union is very much a club based, social sport with activity centred on the facilities. All of the clubs have a clearly identified base but Seaham has recently lost its facilities and there is concern that if an adequate replacement site cannot be found in the immediate locality the long term future of the club is uncertain. The future of the pitch used by Consett is also under consideration as part of the schools rebuilding programme. Current trends in participation are seeing a large increase in youth players and numbers stabilising at senior level. This is a trend not reflected across the UK, and should be recognised and supported.

The shortage of good quality well maintained pitches for match and practice use is considered to be the most significant problem for the sport. A number of clubs would like to undertake drainage works to their pitches but cannot secure sufficient funds.

4.10.2 Club Survey General Feedback

Questionnaires were sent to each of the 9 clubs playing the sport and complete returns were received from only three, however this covers % of clubs. Some general findings from the survey are given below.

Pitch Capacity

- Two of the three clubs reported that their pitch provision was sufficient to meet their match requirements and similarly 2 out of 3 indicated that their current provision didn't adequately satisfy their training needs.
- Only one club thought that additional pitch space could be provided at their site.
- In all three instances junior matches are played on senior pitches and all 3 would like to have additional provision for junior matches. Given the pitch provision of the additional clubs in the county, this is likely to be case for all junior rugby.
- Of the three respondents, two would be prepared to use facilities away from their home base.

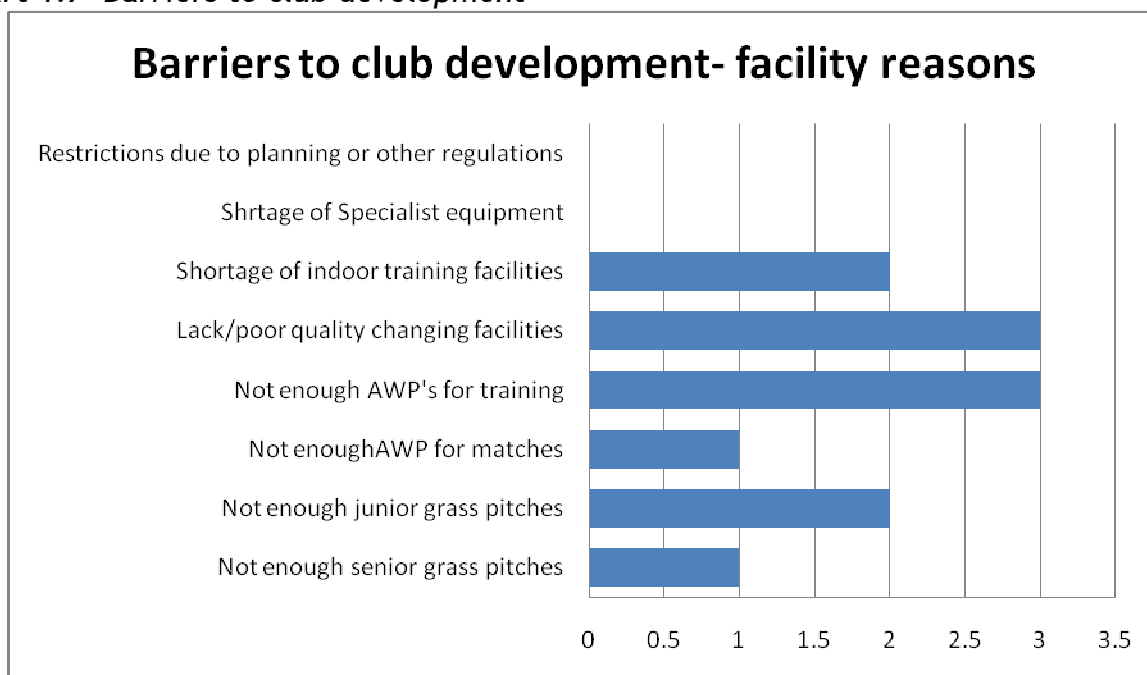
Pitch Quality

- Two of the clubs had to cancel around 10% of their fixtures due to the condition of the pitch and the third club had to cancel around 20% of its games.
- All of the clubs use their pitches for training during the week for on average seven hours and all would be prepared to use training facilities away from the club base at sports halls, 3G pitches or school sites.
- Two of the clubs consider their pitch to be of average quality and one rates it as good.
- With regard to other facilities though two consider changing facilities to be below average and in one instance they don't exist. For car parking two consider provision to be poor and in one instance it doesn't exist.

Barriers to club development

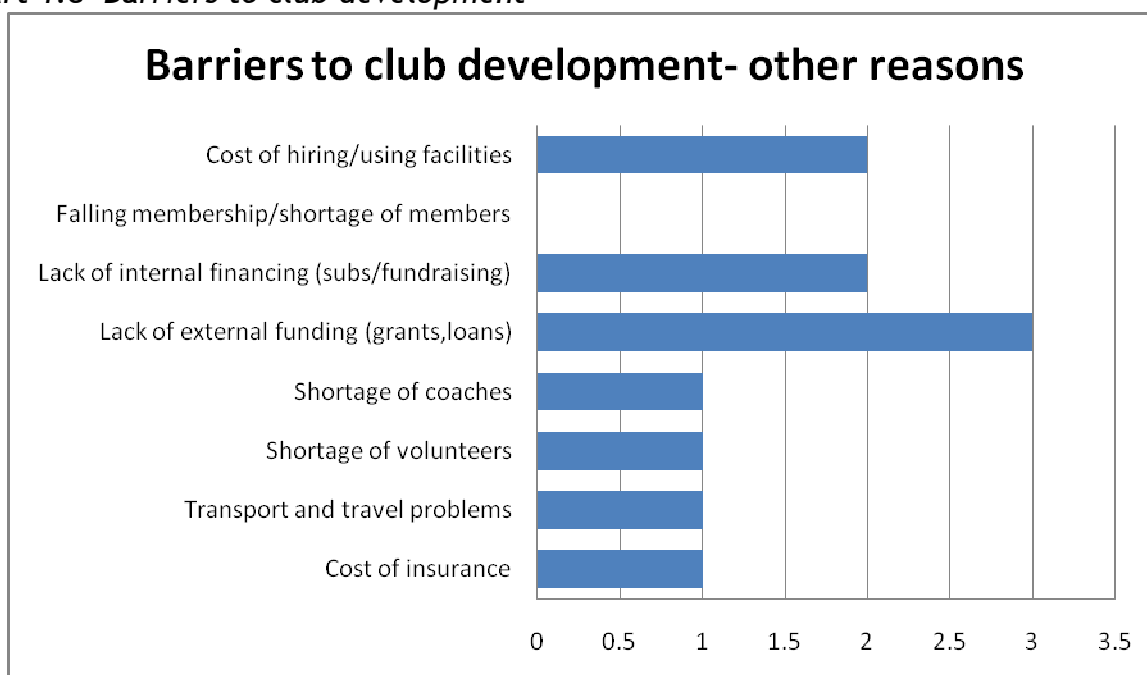
Clubs were asked to indicate the main barriers that were preventing their club from developing. The following two charts highlight the range of reasons reported:

Chart 1.7 Barriers to club development



The lack of or quality of changing facilities together with the lack of all weather surfaces and indoor facilities for training are apparently the main facility based barriers to club development.

Chart 1.8 Barriers to club development



Financial issues, including the lack of external funding appear to be the main non facility based barriers to development.

4.10.3 Concluding Remarks (Rugby Union)

The key issues identified for the sport are:

- The shortage of good quality well maintained pitches for match and practice use.
- An increase in the number of youth players.
- The shortage of general training facilities.
- The increasing cost of participation and the availability of support funding.
- The long term security and maintenance of pitches in public ownership.
- The availability of a replacement site for the Seaham club within the immediate area.

4.11 Rugby League

4.11.1 NGB Information

The Governing body has indicated that Rugby League is a growing sport across the region. They have two full time Community Rugby League staff for the Durham area with a further five staff dedicated to supporting and developing the sport in the North East.

There is currently both a junior and adult league based across the North East. In Durham specifically there are the following teams;

- Peterlee Pumas; u10's, 12's, 14's, 16's and adults including females
- Durham Tigers; u10's, 12's, 14's & 16's
- Durham Demons; adults and new u12's for 2011 season

At present the clubs are based from the following facilities;

- Peterlee Pumas - Helford Road
- Durham Tigers - Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon
- Durham Demons - Framwellgate Moor School

The League have also used New College Durham, St. John's and East Durham College to hold events such as Champion Schools and regional talent centres

The governing bodies did not raise particular issues concerning the availability of pitches for matches or for training but there is considered to be a general lack of indoor and all weather facilities that could be used for winter/pre season training. The facilities currently being used by the individual clubs are considered to be of a high standard.

Each club has a wide range of teams covering all age groups and both sexes. They have exit routes for players into clubs and also a strong regional talent programme for players of the highest ability

4.11.2 Club Survey Feedback General

Questionnaires were sent to each of three clubs and complete returns were received from two. Some general findings from the survey are given below.

Pitch Capacity

- Both clubs who responded say that there is insufficient capacity at their sites to meet current match and training demands.
- Both clubs thought that additional pitch space could be provided at their site.
- In both instances junior matches are played on senior pitches and both would like to have additional provision for junior matches.
- Of the two, one would be prepared to use facilities away from their home base and one would consider it.

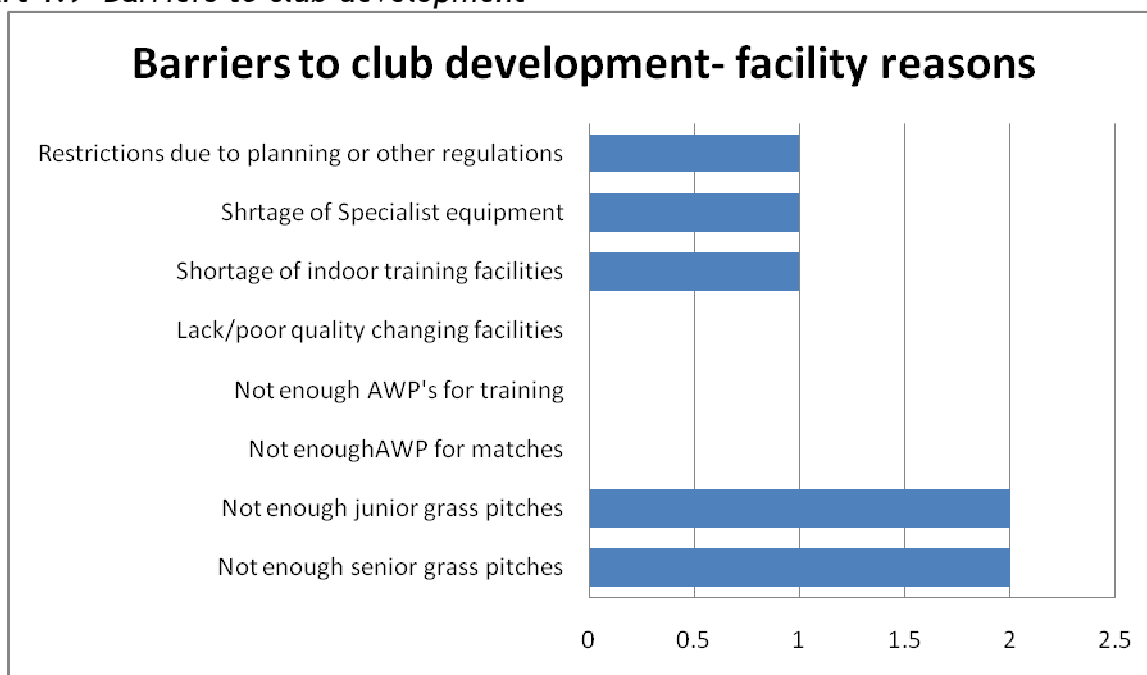
Pitch Quality

- One of the clubs had to cancel around 10% of their fixtures due to the condition of the pitch and the other club had to cancel around 15% of its fixtures.
- Both of the clubs use their pitches for training during the week for on average three hours and both would be prepared to use training facilities away from the club although one reports that they consider nowhere to be suitable.
- With regard to other facilities though two consider changing facilities to be below average and in one instance they don't exist. For car parking both consider provision to be poor and in one instance it doesn't exist.
- One club considers pitch quality to be below average and one considers it to be average.
- With regard to the quality of changing facilities one considers their facilities to be good and one excellent. One considers car parking to be excellent with the other stating that it is below average.

Barriers to club development

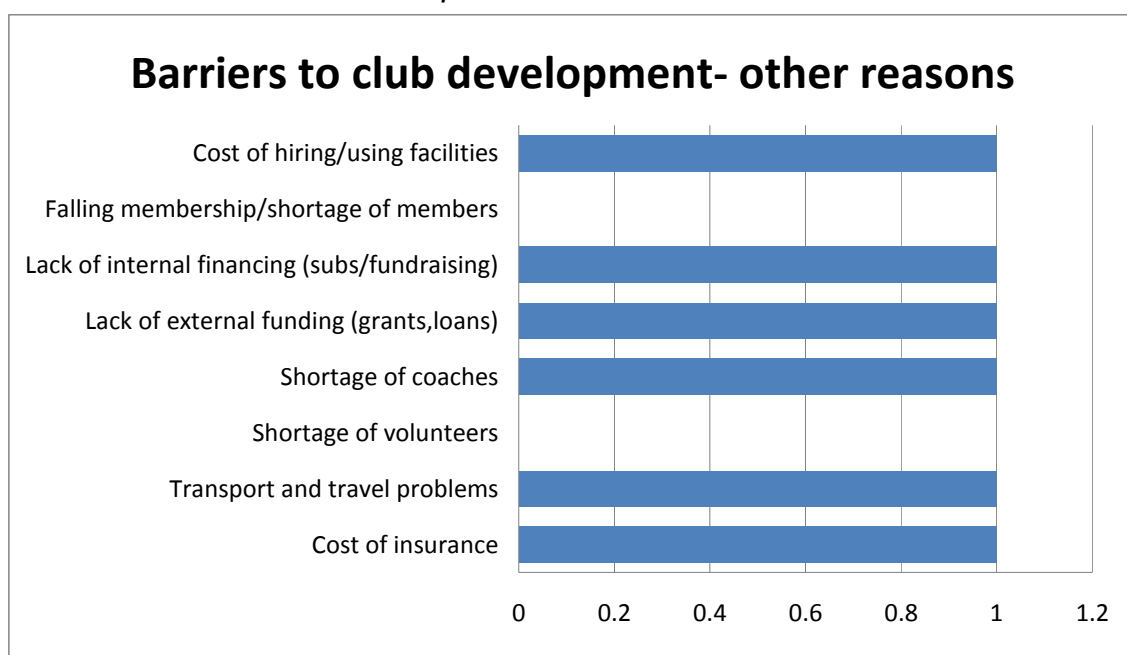
We asked clubs to indicate the main barriers that were preventing their club from developing. The following two charts highlight the range of reasons reported:

Chart 1.9 Barriers to club development



The lack of suitable pitches is apparently the main barrier to club development

Chart 1.10 Barriers to club development



Financial issues are identified, in this instance, as the main ones that are restricting development.

4.11.3 Concluding Remarks (Rugby league)

Although more of a minority sport it has a very enthusiastic following and the main issues identified are that:

- The sport is growing

- There is an apparent lack of pitch capacity to satisfy match and training needs.
- There is a need to maintain a high quality of facility provision

4.12 Hockey

4.12.1 NGB overview

There are seven hockey clubs in County Durham, though only five are registered with England Hockey. The five registered clubs are: *Sunderland Ladies Hockey Club* (accredited with England Hockey and having one senior team) *Durham City Hockey Club* (working towards accreditation, with four men's and three women's teams), *Durham University* (eight teams - four men's, and four women's), *Hild Bede College* (one men's team), and *Bishop Auckland Women* (one team).

Hockey Clubs in County Durham are represented in both men's and women's County, Regional and National leagues. Women play in a County based league (two divisions), moving on to the North East Regional league, then the full regional league (North). Two clubs in County Durham, Sunderland Ladies (based at Meadowfield Leisure Centre) and Durham University (based at Maiden Castle) are represented in the England Hockey League North Conference Division (the highest level of any North East Clubs). Durham University men also play in the England Hockey League North Conference.

Junior teams struggle for regular competition as most clubs do not have enough juniors to field teams at all age groups and volunteers to organise and run the leagues is not forthcoming from the clubs. Various clubs enter English Hockey Board National Competitions from junior, senior through to national veterans' competitions.

Trends

The number of teams within clubs is reducing slightly. Some clubs junior sections are growing whilst others are struggling. There is no specific trend, each club is different.

Key Facilities

Sand filled or sand dressed Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs) are crucial to the sustainability of Hockey. The influx of 3 and 4G pitches is detrimental to the development of Hockey especially if they replace an existing sand filled/dressed ATP. The only full size ATPs suitable for competitive hockey in County Durham are:

- Riverside , Chester le Street
- Two pitches at Maiden Castle, Durham, (used by Durham University HC, Hild Bede College, Durham City HC, and college teams - a total of approximately 28 club and college teams)
- Meadowfield Leisure Centre, Durham
- Barnard Castle School (Independent school)
- Durham School (no floodlights)

Of these venues only the first three (four pitches in total) are available for general public use.

Quantity and Capacity Issues

The England Hockey view is that, overall, as far as accommodating formal league play there is not a major problem. They note that while there is heavy demand on the University pitches, facilities at Meadowfield Sports Centre provide an overflow pitch if required. Sunderland Ladies have no issues with pitch usage at Meadowfield though they do have concerns with the associated changing facilities.

Overall there are probably sufficient exit routes for the Central Durham area. However, Sunderland Ladies are considering their future in the locality as there are too many clubs in Durham City itself to service the demand.

There are no clubs in Easington, Wear Valley, Sedgefield, Teesdale (there is Barnard Castle Ladies Club but they are not affiliated to England Hockey so EH do not encourage young people to join), Derwentside or Chester le Street.

Bishop Auckland Hockey Club play matches at the Riverside but do not train or have a junior section.

Opportunities for improvement/development of facilities

- A new sand filled/dressed ATP in the County in an area keen to develop hockey, based at a school site and with a club to link into.
- The ATP at Meadowfield is in good condition but the outdoor changing facilities are very poor; e.g. the showers don't work and plaster is falling off the walls. Improvements should be made.
- Provide floodlights for the Hockey standard ATP at Durham School
- Sunderland Ladies are discussing their future in Durham City as there are too many clubs in the immediately locality and not enough young people playing. If a new facility could be developed, on a school site keen to develop hockey, the club may be interested in relocating. Their junior section has suffered badly and they are very keen to redevelop in a new location if this would mean they could grow their club.

SECTION 5

PLAYING PITCH FINDINGS

5.0 PLYING PITCH FINDINGS

5.1 The findings

This section explores the findings arising from the application of the playing pitch methodology.

As detailed in Section 3, the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) comprises eight stages. Stages 1 to 6 involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages 7 and 8 develop issues and solutions. The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand (identified through Team Generation Rates), and the problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account. The increase in population is considered by modelling a future year scenario - in this case, 2022.

Potential changes to the pitch stock over that time are also taken into consideration is implicit to the methodology that each sport is dealt with individually with a specific set of calculations for each because, despite some superficial similarities, they exhibit very different patterns of play.

We have further subdivided the analysis of some sports to deal with specific sub sectors of activity within them, e.g. junior play or adult play, in order that important aspects are not submerged in aggregated data. Football has been subdivided in this manner, whereas no differentiation has been made between junior and senior cricket as they play on pitches of similar dimensions.

As the playing pitch strategy is a peak day model, we have determined on which day teams/leagues wish to play their fixtures, as well as the peak time (AM or PM). The methodology also considers the ability of pitches to sustain play on the peak day and at the peak time.

The AAP profiles contain further detailed PPM analysis of each sub area, with kick off times bespoke to that area.

5.2 Carrying capacity

The methodology set out in 'Towards A Level Playing Field' encourages local authorities to take into account carrying capacity (i.e. the number of games that pitches are adequately able to sustain per week) when calculating the playing pitch methodology.

There is no formula for calculating the carrying capacity of pitches, as it is dependent on a wide range of factors such as weather conditions, age/weight of users, quality of players. However, through local knowledge, user surveys, site visits, interviews and an analysis of usage patterns from the previous season, it is possible to calculate the average carrying capacity of each pitch.

The AAP profiles identify that many pitches have a very high level of use, whilst others are underused. The recommendations within the AAP profiles take into account the actual level of use of each pitch. It is important to recognise the actual level of use to ensure the strategic recommendations deal with the real issues facing users.

Although assumptions have been made based on the quality of some pitches within supply and demand analysis, the findings have not been taken in isolation as reducing the carrying capacity of pitches that are currently operating numerous games masks the issues of over use.

In addition to considering the degree to which pitches meet existing demand, it is important to take into account the long-term life of pitches. The importance of rest and recovery of pitches should not be underestimated in order to maintain pitch quality and to prevent the longer-term deterioration as a result of constant use. The AAP profiles seek to advise how to secure a sufficient pitch stock to ensure games are played on high quality pitches, allow rest and recovery and ensure future growth can be accommodated.

The weighting system used to account for the carrying capacity of pitches within the AAP profiles, and the resulting audits, is outlined in Table 5.1. The standard PPM assumes that pitches are able to take two games per week. However, if a pitch is of particularly good quality, it may be able to accommodate more than two matches per week, hence a higher weighting.

Although there are numerous sites which could, and do accommodate, more than two games a week, the supply identified in section 4 identifies a significant accessible supply of pitches. Therefore it is considered in recommendations within the AAP that there is sufficient provision to ensure no pitch has to be used for more than two games a week.

The quality audit identified that some pitches should not accommodate any games due to their condition, however the reality is they do and will continue to do unless their actual carrying capacity is recognised. The AAP profiles consider both the existing quality and carrying capacity within the recommendations. There are two sets of analysis within the AAP profiles and the district wide assessment, the initial set of analysis reflects the actual use and availability of pitches. The additional analysis takes into account team equivalents, pitch quality and sites which have been over used via a reduced carrying capacity identified in table 5.1. Appendices 7 and 8 detail the team equivalents which were generated to identify sites where carrying capacity is an issue.

Within the supply and demand analysis which incorporates team equivalents, all school sites carrying capacity were reduced to 0.5. Any site which was identified as poor quality or accommodated more than two games a week were also reduced by 0.5. The resultant effect of the supply was a reduction of over 150 pitches. The two sets of data enable the analysis of both the existing situation, and the potential effects of additional use outside peak demand.

For this reason the carrying capacity of each site has not been altered in the county wide assessment detailed in section 6, as it is important to analyse the true picture of the provision. However carrying capacity has been considered in the AAP profiles.

Table 5.1 Carrying capacity for each type of pitch

Carrying Capacity	Multiplication Factor
Three matches (or more) per week	1.5
Two matches	1.0
One match per week	0.5

Decisions regarding the carrying capacity of pitches were based on the scores achieved during site assessments as well as consultation with grounds maintenance teams for County Durham.

Synthetic hockey pitches and cricket pitches are not affected by the conditions discussed above as wear and tear on these pitches does not occur to the same degree. Cricket pitches are rotated on squares for formal fixtures and training is carried out with nets. These pitches have therefore been considered able to take numerous games a week, although this is dependent on flexible programming of matches to ensure this is feasible.

5.3 Peak Time PPM Supply and Demand Analysis

The PPM calculations take into account only those pitches with secured community use, in line with Sport England guidance and supply identified in section 3.

The following tables show the calculations undertaken to determine the surplus/deficit of pitches for each sport in County Durham. As per PPM guidance, it is assumed that all football and rugby teams play a home match every fortnight. However, for cricket teams it is assumed that many teams play home matches more than every fortnight (i.e. mid-week matches, ground hire to work teams etc), hence the figure of 0.7.

The figures highlighted in **Red** or **Green** represent under or over supply at peak-day demand.

5.3.1 PPM Peak Time County Wide Analysis for Football

Key findings from the application of the Sport England methodology for football are as follows:

Table 5.2 Supply and demand for football (peak times)

Ward	Football		
	Adult	Junior	Mini
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	34.7	-6.5	-10.0
Chester-le-Street	24.4	-21.0	-38.0
Durham City	47.4	7.2	-7.0
Derwent Valley	13.4	-8.4	-18.0
East Durham Area	35.4	-1.4	-17.0
East Durham Rural Area	8.2	-2.0	-8.0
Four Together Partnership	8.3	3.5	-1.0
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	10.0	-6.9	-11.0
Mid Durham	17.3	-5.5	-10.0
Spennymoor	11.9	-5.5	-8.0
Stanley	14.1	-0.5	-4.0
Teesdale	10.5	5.0	-4.0
3 Towns Partnership	17.5	-2.5	-5.0
Weardale	7.3	2.5	-2.0

The following county-wide key findings for football are drawn from the application of the Sport England methodology, which analyses supply and demand. Further analysis related to consultation is considered in AAP profile the strategy. All figures for undersupply have been rounded up to the nearest full pitch.

- Peak demand for senior football is on a Sunday morning.
- Peak demand for junior football is on a Sunday morning.
- Overall there is a significant supply of football pitches at peak time across the county when considering senior and junior football combined.
- The greatest undersupply of pitches is related to mini football, with an undersupply of -38 pitches in Chester-le-Street.
- Statistically there is a sufficient supply of pitches for seniors at peak time, with no under supply in any of the AAP's.
- The private sector is the main supplier of accessible football pitches.
- Consultation shows junior teams currently play formal fixtures across senior pitches where no appropriate junior pitches are available.
- If no action is taken to mark out and re-introduce mini pitches, and to provide additional appropriate provision, predicted overall increases in football participation and population growth over the next 10 years will result in a further shortage of pitch stock.

Using Sport England's guidance on team and pitch equivalents (4 mini football games per adult pitch), the table above identifies that all shortfalls in mini provision should be met by remarking pitches. The table shows how the current under provision is being met by the over supply in senior pitches.

Table 5.3 Supply and demand for football (peak times) including team equivalents

Ward	Football		
	Adult	Junior	Mini
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	27.2	-6.5	-10.0
Chester-le-Street	16.9	-25.4	-38.0
Durham City	26.9	-4.8	-11.0
Derwent Valley	4.5	-8.9	-18.0
East Durham Area	23.4	-7.4	-17.0
East Durham Rural Area	5.2	-4.0	-8.0
Four Together Partnership	6.8	2.0	-1.0
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	6.5	-8.4	-11.0
Mid Durham	14.8	-7.0	-10.0
Spennymoor	6.9	-6.5	-8.0
Stanley	8.1	-3.0	-4.0
Teesdale	7.5	3.0	-4.0
3 Towns Partnership	13.5	-3.5	-5.0
Weardale	3.8	1.0	-2.0

By adding in team equivalents there is a clear reduction in the availability of senior and junior pitches in every AAP. Durham City is most affected by the inclusion of team equivalents, as the number of pitches for junior provision falls to a minus figure in this area.

5.3.2 PPM Peak Time County Wide Analysis for Cricket

Key findings from the application of the Sport England methodology for cricket are as follows:

Table 5.4 Peak time supply and demand for Cricket

Ward	Cricket
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	3.8
Chester-le-Street	1.6
Durham City	12.5
Derwent Valley	0.6
East Durham Area	1.6
East Durham Rural Area	3.4
Four Together Partnership	2.7
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	1.4
Mid Durham	3.3
Spennymoor	1.4
Stanley	3.1
Teesdale	4.0
3 Towns Partnership	1.5
Weardale	1.4

- Peak demand for senior cricket is on a Saturday afternoon, while the majority of junior cricket is played on Saturday mornings.

- There is an overall oversupply of pitches at peak time across all 14 AAP's
- The private sector is the main supplier of cricket pitches.
- Although pitch supply can accommodate demand, consultation identified there is a significant lack of indoor training facilities, outdoor nets and synthetic pitches.
- There is a lack of cohesiveness in the league structure, resulting in player drop-off in the transition from juniors to seniors, this occurs throughout the county and reflects the national picture. Sport development should focus on addressing the player drop off this ultimately creates a decline in adult cricket players.

Table 5.5 Peak time supply and demand for Cricket including team equivalents

Ward	Cricket
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	3.8
Chester-le-Street	1.6
Durham City	12.5
Derwent Valley	0.6
East Durham Area	1.6
East Durham Rural Area	3.4
Four Together Partnership	2.7
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	1.4
Mid Durham	3.3
Spennymoor	1.4
Stanley	3.1
Teesdale	4.0
3 Towns Partnership	1.5
Weardale	1.4

There is no change to cricket pitch supply for County Durham through the inclusion of team equivalents.

5.3.3 PPM Peak Time County Wide Analysis for Rugby Union

Key findings from the application of the Sport England methodology for rugby union is as follows:

Table 5.6 Supply and demand for Rugby Union

AAP	Rugby Union	
	Adult	Junior
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	3.9	-2.6
Chester-le-Street	2.1	0.0
Durham City	-3.1	-4.5
Derwent Valley	0.7	-1.9
East Durham Area	5.4	0.0
East Durham Rural Area	-0.5	-0.1
Four Together Partnership	0.0	0.0
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	0.6	0.0
Mid Durham	1.0	-0.4
Spennymoor	0.0	0.0
Stanley	1.0	0.0
Teesdale	0.1	-3.0
3 Towns Partnership	0.0	0.0
Weardale	0.0	0.0

- There is an overall sufficient county wide rugby union pitch provision to accommodate current demand, however deficits are identified in Durham City, Derwent Valley, East Durham Rural Area, Bishop Auckland & Shildon, Mid-Durham and Teesdale.
- There is a clear under supply of junior rugby across the county.
- The private sector is the main supplier of rugby union pitches in the county.
- An additional factor which is not identified in the toolkit but which should be included is; clubs have identified that the poor quality of their ancillary facilities will have an impact on their ability to develop ladies and girls teams in future years.
- Lack of training facilities is a significant problem, as the current need for teams to train on full pitches contributes to the decline in the quality of the facilities.
- Although rugby union participation within schools is relatively high in the area, it is apparent that there is little in the way of club links promoting the sport. This is now the focus of development work.
- Juniors are having to play on senior pitches (which are already overused and of poor quality)
- Clubs are bucking the national trend of declining participation and experiencing a growth in numbers, but facilities cannot cope.

Table 5.7 Supply and demand for Rugby Union including team equivalents

AAP	Rugby Union	
	Adult	Junior
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	2.6	-2.6
Chester-le-Street	0.6	0.0
Durham City	-3.6	-4.5
Derwent Valley	0.2	-1.9
East Durham Area	4.9	0.0
East Durham Rural Area	-0.5	-0.1
Four Together Partnership	0.0	0.0
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	0.6	0.0
Mid Durham	0.5	-0.4
Spennymoor	0.0	0.0
Stanley	0.5	0.0
Teesdale	0.1	-3.0
3 Towns Partnership	0.0	0.0
Weardale	0.0	0.0

By adding in team equivalent rates to the calculation for supply and demand relating to rugby union, there is no affect on the supply of pitches for junior provision. However, senior provision is affected in the wards of Bishop Auckland & Shildon, Chester-le-Street, Durham City, Derwent Valley, East Durham Area, Mid Durham and Stanley. In each of these AAP's the overall senior supply has dropped marginally. This in turn exacerbates issues where there is already an under supply in areas such as Durham City.

5.3.4 PPM Peak time county wide analysis for Rugby League

Key findings from the application of the Sport England methodology for rugby league are as follows (all pitches have been rounded up to the nearest whole pitch):

Table 5.8 Supply and demand for Rugby League

Ward	Senior	Junior
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	0.0	-2.8
Chester le Street	0.0	0.0
Durham City	-0.5	1.0
Derwent Valley	0.0	0.0
East Durham Area	-1.8	-4.9
East Durham Rural Area	0.0	0.0
Four Together Partnership	0.0	0.0
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	0.0	0.0
Mid Durham	0.0	0.0
Spennymoor	0.0	0.0
Stanley	0.0	0.0
Teesdale	0.0	0.0
3 Towns Partnership	0.0	0.0
Weardale	0.0	0.0

- There is an overall insufficient county wide Rugby League pitch provision to accommodate current demand, deficits are identified in Bishop Auckland & Shildon, Durham City and East Durham Area.
- The private sector is the main supplier of Rugby League pitches in the county.
- Additional factors which are not identified in the tool kit but that should be factored in the analysis are that; clubs have identified that the poor quality of their ancillary facilities will have an impact on their ability to develop Junior, Women's and Girls teams in future years.
- Lack of training facilities is a significant problem, as the current need for teams to train on full pitches contributes to the decline in the quality of the facilities.

Table 5.9 Supply and demand for Rugby League including team equivalents

Ward	Senior	Junior
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	0.0	-2.8
Chester le Street	0.0	0.0
Durham City	-0.5	0.0
Derwent Valley	0.0	0.0
East Durham Area	-1.8	-4.9
East Durham Rural Area	0.0	0.0
Four Together Partnership	0.0	0.0
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	0.0	0.0
Mid Durham	0.0	0.0
Spennymoor	0.0	0.0
Stanley	0.0	0.0
Teesdale	0.0	0.0
3 Towns Partnership	0.0	0.0
Weardale	0.0	0.0

There is relatively little effect on the supply for rugby league pitches when including team equivalents apart from a small drop for junior provision in Durham City.

5.3.5 PPM Peak Time County Wide Analysis for Hockey

Key findings from the application of the Sport England methodology for hockey are as follows:

Table 5.10 Supply and demand for Hockey

Ward	Hockey
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	4.0
Chester le Street	1.9
Durham City	2.6
Derwent Valley	3.0
East Durham Area	2.0
East Durham Rural Area	4.0
Four Together Partnership	0.0
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	1.0
Mid Durham	1.9
Spennymoor	2.0
Stanley	3.0

Teesdale	2.9
3 Towns Partnership	0.0
Weardale	0.0

- Sufficient supply of pitches within the county to accommodate current demand for hockey fixtures, although accessing the pitches is a problem which forces many teams to play outside the county boundary.
- Peak demand for Senior Men's and Women's Hockey is on Saturday mornings.
- Peak demand for Junior Hockey is mid-week.
- Team generation rate for the population within the borough is low.
- A need for additional training facilities within the borough.
- Team equivalents do not affect the supply for hockey in County Durham.

5.4 Predicting The Future

5.4.1 Introduction

Team Generation Rates (TGR's) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGR's enables fair comparison to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken. The 10-44 age group yields the vast majority of pitch sport players.

By applying Team Generation Ratios (TGR) to the population projections for 2021, the theoretical number of teams that would be generated over the next decade can be forecast. This can then be applied to the PPM model to forecast the future shortfall of pitches; assuming that no new pitches are built in the interim and that 'County average' TGR's are applied to those wards with current low TGR's (to simulate a possible increase in participation rates)

5.4.2 Future PPM Predictions

Tables 5.11 and 5.12 record the future pitch provision forecasts based on TGR's. The analysis is taken from the PPM model and provides a guide to future issues.

Table 5.11 Future Predictions (Senior)

Ward	Senior Football	Senior Cricket	Senior Rugby Union	Senior Hockey	Senior Rugby League
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	44.3	1.7	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2
Chester le Street	32.1	1.8	-0.2	0.8	-0.2
Durham City	55.8	9.4	-0.3	3.8	-0.3
Derwent Valley	20.3	2.5	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2
East Durham Area	49.4	3.2	-0.4	0.7	-0.4

East Durham Rural Area	11.6	3.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Four Together Partnership	11.7	1.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	11.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Mid Durham	20.4	5.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Spennymoor	19.7	3.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Stanley	13.5	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Teesdale	13.6	7.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
3 Towns Partnership	20.6	2.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Weardale	7.9	1.4	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0

Table 5.12 Future Predications (junior)

Ward	Junior Football	Mini Football	Junior Rugby Union	Junior Hockey	Junior Rugby League
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	-8.3	-14.1	-1.0	-0.1	0.0
Chester le Street	0.3	-16.2	-1.3	0.8	0.0
Durham City	10.9	-14.8	-1.7	3.8	2.0
Derwent Valley	-3.8	-12.9	-1.1	-0.1	0.0
East Durham Area	-6.8	-33.5	-2.4	0.7	0.0
East Durham Rural Area	0.9	-8.6	-0.6	-0.1	0.0
Four Together Partnership	2.5	-3.0	-0.4	-0.1	0.0
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	-3.4	-8.2	-0.7	-0.1	0.0
Mid Durham	-3.9	-10.7	-0.8	-0.1	0.0
Spennymoor	7.1	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1	0.0
Stanley	-5.4	-10.9	-0.8	-0.1	0.0
Teesdale	2.4	-3.8	-0.6	-0.1	0.0
3 Towns Partnership	-1.9	-8.3	-0.6	-0.1	0.0
Weardale	2.6	-2.4	-0.2	-0.0	0.0

Both tables identify potential shortfalls in future provision based on the TGR's. The results have been considered within the AAP profile recommendations, with particular attention being paid to the shortfalls identified in junior and mini provision.

5.5 County Durham Team Generation Rates

5.5.1 AAP team generation rates

The team generation ratio is calculated by dividing the estimated number of teams playing each sport by the active age range population across County Durham. The overall team generation rate across each AAP is:

Table 5.13 AAP Team Generation Rates

AAP	Football	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Cricket	Hockey	Overall Pop required to create a team
Bishop Auckland and Shildon	436	3241	2405	1577	N/A	377
Chester le Street	248	1181	N/A	10387	22990	270
Durham City	509	2308	11017	3195	2132	385
Derwent Valley	418	2899	N/A	644	N/A	298
East Durham Area	512	4848	2385	897	N/A	354
East Durham Rural Area	286	10816	N/A	1613	N/A	318
Four Together Partnership	460	N/A	N/A	10120	N/A	614
Great Aycliffe & Midridge	474	10323	N/A	2565	N/A	527
Mid Durham	474	13714	N/A	617	4938	316
Spennymoor	429	N/A	N/A	1599	N/A	453
Stanley	387	N/A	N/A	1541	N/A	409
Teesdale	611	2120	N/A	455	9495	289
3 Towns Partnership	467	N/A	N/A	930	N/A	401
Weardale	423	N/A	N/A	2060	N/A	493

5.5.2 What do the TGR's numbers mean?

The following examples help to clarify what TGR's mean:

1:100 - High TGR - Relatively low latent (unmet) demand.

1:1000- Low TGR - Relatively high latent (unmet) demand.

The overall team generation rates for each AAP are relatively high, which would suggest there is low latent demand. Chester Le Street and Teesdale have the highest overall Tars across all sports, with Four together partnership and Weardale showing the lowest TGR's

It is clear from table 5.13 many AAP's do generate teams across all 5 pitch sports. Sports development programs should focus on introducing sports to areas which don't currently operate teams.

Geographically rugby union, league and hockey are centred in certain areas which mean the player base must travel. Focus should be given to identifying opportunities to develop teams in areas which do not cater for a particular sport.

Table 5.14 County Durham / National TGR comparison for Pitch Sports

Sports Sub Group	Age Group	CD TGR	National TGR
Football			
Junior (All)	10 to 15	75	1:71
Mens	16 to 45	437	1:314
Cricket			
Junior - Boys	11 to 17	162	1:1481
Junior - Girls	11 to 17	N/A	1:15,962
Mens Cricket	18 to 55	980	1:1,333
Womens Cricket	18 to 55	21447	1:72,518
Hockey			
Junior Hockey	11 to 15	7339	1:4,239
Mens Senior Hockey	16 to 45	12346	1:7,595
Womens Senior Hockey	16 to 45	11022	1:10,292
Rugby Union			
Junior Rugby - Boys/ Girls	13 to 17	425	1:1,864
Junior Rugby - Girls	16 to 17	N.A	1:19,529
Senior Rugby - Men	18 to 45	3843	1:10,315
Senior Rugby - Women	18 to 45	N/A	1:43,770
Rugby League			
Junior Rugby - Boys/ Girls	13 to 17	1;1008	N/A
Junior Rugby - Girls	16 to 17	N/A	N/A
Senior Rugby - Men	18 to 45	1:68072	N/A
Senior Rugby - Women	18 to 45	N/A	N/A

Overall County Durham compares favourably in terms of national comparisons with TGR's. Cricket and rugby union and rugby league are the most favourable comparisons and exceed national statistics. The football TGR's are slightly below the national average but still represent a healthy generation rate. Hockey is significantly lower than the national average, which would suggest sports developments programmes need to target the sport and increase participation.

5.5.3 Limitations of Team Generation Rates

Since Sport England Playing Pitch Methodology fails to recognise the movement of the existing player base, team generation rate information is not a reliable form of analysis when it comes to assessing supply and demand. It is not the case that players living in an area will play at the closest club or pitch available. Differing ability levels, league structures and social factors dictate where a player will play, not location. Analysis on team generation rates should be used as a guide for sports development initiatives,

rather than a decision making tool, therefore although the information on TGR's has been included, it should only be used as a guide for sports development.

Many locations within a given area will have high concentrations of grass pitches that host full league structures, although the population and age structure of the surrounding AAP's would not reflect the need for pitches. This does not mean the pitches are not required, although analysis based on TGR's would suggest otherwise.

These figures are only a guide and do not specify the sport or refer to local conditions. For example, the national popularity of football will mean that it will almost always have the highest TGR. Equally, hockey usually has the lowest. Therefore, it is more useful to compare County Durham's TGR's with other areas.

5.5.4 Future Supply and Demand Analysis

The Sport England Tool Kit for each AAP details the results of future team generation rates. The results should be treated with caution as they are based on assumption rather than fact. Ward based forecasts using TGR's assume the teams that are located within a given area are generated by the population contained within the ward, clearly this is not the reality and the approach could not be supported at a planning appeal as the assumptions could be easily disproved. Although the future forecast for each AAP are identified within the tool kits and are a helpful guide for sports development, JPC planning consultants have developed an assessment which provides a more robust approach to planning for future provision.

It is possible to determine the additional demand generated by a new development, using the actual TGR for the county. The tool kit is still based on the premise of TGR's, however they are county based rather than ward. The tool kit also determines the age ranges likely to be catered for in each area. If a new settlement of 1000 homes is put forward with predominantly 3 and 4 bed houses, the forecast will anticipate a young population as children will be likely based on the units, as apposed to a 1 bed flat scheme which would suggest single occupancy. The assumptions on population and age ranges are supported by national statistics developed by the house builder association.

5.5.5 Football conversion rate modelling

Over recent years The Football Association (FA), together with the County FAs and Local Football Partnerships, has been developing a robust system to accurately measure levels of affiliated football participation across the country. This system, known as CAS (County Administration System) produced the first set of data for the season 2005/06. The system tracks how many people are taking part in affiliated football throughout the country and can be analysed down to a local authority level.

The data collected by the FA enables accurate benchmarking across the country and has been used to provide an indication of participation across County Durham compared to other similar areas, and also as a means of determining latent demand. They provide a more up to date comparison than TGR's.

The FA data measures participation in terms of conversion rates. Conversion rates are defined as the percentage of the relevant population actively playing affiliated football (they are therefore different to TGRs).

Conversion rates are calculated by dividing the number of teams by an assumed number of players per team (eg 15 players per 11-a-side team). This gives a figure for the total number of players and is then divided by the relevant population to provide the percentage of affiliated players within that relevant population.

The conversion rates for County Durham are illustrated in tables 5.15 and 5.16.

Table 5.15 Football Conversion Rate for County Durham

Population					Teams			
Total	Senior	Youth (16 & 17)	Junior	mini	Senior	Youth (16 & 17)	Junior	mini
506,444	206,122	6183	37,983	4254	213	44	301	167
Active Player Population					Conversion %			
Total	Senior	Youth (16 & 17)	Junior (6 -9)	Mini (6 - 9)	Senior (17 - 55)	Youth (16 & 17)	Junior	mini
354,510	3195.0	660.0	4515	1837	1.6%	10.7 %	11.9%	43.2%

As can be seen in table 10.1, the football conversion rate is:

- Senior 1.6%
- Youth 10.7%
- Junior 11.9%
- Mini 43.2%

The conversion rate indicates that as the player base ages, there is a significant drop off in formal team participation. Although this is a common trend across the country, sports development programmes should target raising the senior conversion rate across all sports, particularly in football as it is the highest participant sport in the County.

While the above conversion rates provide an indication of current participation of football, it is possible to use the methodology to look a conversion rates across each AAP. Table 10.2 identified the conversion rate for all sports across each AAP area.

Table 5.16 Conversion rate across all sports for each AAP

Locality	Active Number Of Teams	Population	Approximate Active Age	Participants Playing	Overall Conversion Rates %
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Derwent Valley	97	43203	30242.1	1455	4.8
Stanley	117	31426	21998.2	1755	8.0
Chester-le-Street	45	53158	37210.6	675	1.8
Mid Durham	84	33249	23274.3	1260	5.4
Durham	102	63157	44209.9	1530	3.5
East Durham	107	95573	66901.1	1605	2.4
Weardale	58	7848	5493.6	870	15.8
Three Towns Partnership	47	24364	17054.8	705	4.1
Spennymoor Area	50	19444	13610.8	750	5.5
Four Together	60	17,844	12490.8	900	7.2
Teesdale	80	24574	17201.8	1200	7.0
Bishop Auckland and Sildon	86	41416	28991.2	1290	4.4
Great Aycliffe and Middridge	61	26319	18423.3	915	5.0
East Durham Rural	37	24869	17408.3	555	3.2
Total	1031	506444	354510.8	15465	4.4

Table 5.16 identifies the conversion rates across each sport for the AAP's. As expected the highest populated areas tend to have the lowest conversion rates, however the conversion rate for Chester-le-Street is particularly low given the teams it generates. East Durham and East Durham Rural AAP's also indicate low conversion rates, with Weardale, Stanley and four together partnership indicating good overall conversion rates.

The conversion rates should be used to support and prioritise investment in sports development programmes.

SECTION 6

FUTURE DELIVERY

SECTION 6: FUTURE DELIVERY

6.1 Formulating the strategy - key issues

The key issues have been developed from the preceding analysis of statistical data, which, together with the additional consultation considerations, has revealed the following key issues: -

- County Durham has the potential to **secure an adequate supply of pitches** to meet current and future demand. If school sites are secured for community access through Community - Use Agreements, the county will comfortably meet current and future demand. The pitches used to analyse the supply and demand throughout the strategy are all within sites which allow some form of public access for formal fixtures. Numerous pitches in schools exist unused outside the pitch supply utilised within the analysis, quantity is not an issue, however accessing the provision in a planned and co-ordinated way is fundamental to the future of playing pitch provision across the county.
- **Quality of pitches** is a main concern of both suppliers and users. It follows from the above, that after securing community access, those pitches which best fit the requirements of both the users and providers, should receive more concentration of resources to improve quality. Securing the current accessible provision identified in section 3 of the report (and the AAP profiles), under a single leasing system allow enable pitches to be rested and rotated to ensure the quality of each pitch is consistent.
- Provision of **sustainable sports facilities**. Section 4 identifies numerous facilities within parks which cannot provide the quality of pitches expected by users. Open access facilities are vulnerable to vandalism and misuse. Resources could be more efficiently targeted and spent, rather than attempting to maintain pitches which would not be required should the supply be adequately managed and accessed.
- Provision of **appropriate changing facilities**. In order to provide for a range of users, changing facilities need to be fit for purpose. The need for segregation and flexibility to accommodate young children, girls and women, and disabled users cannot be achieved in outdated changing facilities which were designed for a former age.
- **Insufficient junior pitches**. This generally relates to the need to provide more small pitches, the dimensions of which must be appropriate for the age of users. Most of this can be achieved by reducing the number of senior pitches and reconfiguring them as juniors. Marking out pitches within education sites in accordance to the age ranges the schools would address the issue of junior provision.
- **Insufficient Hockey pitches** available for training and growth of league structure. The lack of a junior league structure is preventing growth in the sport, competition for use of all weather synthetic pitches with other pitch sports also prevents the opportunity to train.
- **Grass pitches are being used for training and formal games**. Insufficient training facilities results in most teams using their pitches for training, training pitches

required for formal fixtures significantly impacts on the quality of the pitch provision.

- Provision of **floodlit ATP's for training**. In order to take the pressure off of grass pitches and to allow them time to recover after use, it is essential to provide an alternative for training purposes.
- **Rugby league and Rugby Union are growing sports**. Although the provision is centred on a small number of established clubs, pitch and ancillary facilities are inadequate.
- Ensure strategy **maximises funding potential**. The adopted strategy needs to be logically and objectively formulated, reflecting the aims of all stakeholders and demonstrating their support for it. If this is achieved it will encourage external investment, increase the likely success rate of funding applications and direct compensatory payments through planning conditions (Section 106 agreements).
- Ensure that sports facilities are **accessible**. Although point 2 above refers to a concentration of facilities, careful detailed planning needs to ensure that a good geographical spread is achieved.
- **Appropriate use of green space**. Although the general theme of the strategy is one of fewer sites and higher quality, this does not necessarily result in loss of green space. Any site which is identified as surplus to sporting need must be assessed within the wider context of the Open Space Needs Assessment Strategy.
- Consistency in **administration** of pitches. The fragmented nature of supply leads to inconsistency in administration and pricing.
- Establish a **quality standard** for pitches. A good pitch can sustain three games per week, and a fully drained, well maintained pitch may be able to take five. Selection of the best pitches, together with appropriate ground works will produce a stock of efficient pitches.

Addressing the key issues set out above, and developing on the themes throughout the report, the following policy themes have been developed. The policy themes seek to add clarity to the future decision making process, and assist in planning system.

The strategic framework for the development of playing pitches and ancillary facilities falls into five main categories;

- The planning context
- The development of new facilities
- The improvement of quality and capacity of current facilities
- Marketing and development
- Administration and access

6.2 Planning Context

P1 Existing playing fields are safeguarded, with consideration only given to disposal when a secured pitch stock can be demonstrated, or alternative high quality provision can be generated by the loss of pitches.

As well as affording protection to existing pitches, consideration should be given to the ways of funding potential new developments and provision improvements. Potential schemes should be considered where they offer the opportunity to facilitate sports provision improvements and accommodate existing and future demands.

The AAP profiles should be developed and utilised throughout the planning system, informing and guiding the decision making process. It should be clear in the pre application stage when developers will be required to provide facilities on site, where developer contributions or works in kind will be secured for new infrastructure and/or for the improvement to existing infrastructure and where maintenance contributions will be required to meet the additional demands placed upon it by new development.

- Land disposal could be applicable where surplus land can be identified at Hub or multi pitch sites, funding can be generated within a single project, as the income can be reinvested on site;
- where disposal of other sports pitch land can be identified as surplus in relation to the strategy;
- where other land disposals, particularly open space, are identified.

However, in all cases, land can only be disposed of after a series of tests have been satisfied in relation to alternative use. The Open Space & Needs Assessment will determine if land has any alternative value to the community in terms of use or appreciation. Beyond this, assessment will be the subject of Local Development Framework consideration. In the case of playing fields, Sport England, as statutory consultee, will be minded to object to disposal, unless convinced by the strategy that a site is no longer needed, and that compensatory measures are adequate.

The OSNA is the overarching strategy for green spaces in the County, embracing the respective recommendations and proposals which result from the strategies for playing pitches and outdoor playgrounds, plus those for trees, woodlands and wildlife. The strategy will influence green space usage across all council departments. The document sets out clear policy for all functions encompassed within green space, setting out a clear planning framework, management structure and future investment framework.

This project also informs the business strategy for the parks service, based on a clear and robust framework of service standards, which should direct new investment from within the council, from external funding sources including Section 106 agreements, and where appropriate, to facilitate the disposal of assets which are not required to meet existing and future need, in line with the Corporate Land Policy.

Any playing pitches that are identified as surplus to requirements within the Playing Pitch Strategy must be evaluated through the Open Space & Sports Assessment.

P2 Contributions towards off site or on-site provision of playing pitches will be sought under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 from all housing developments in proposals of 1 or more units. Provision will also be sought for subsequent maintenance costs for a period of fifteen years. The following types of dwelling will not be subject to obligations in respect of playing pitch provision; replacement dwellings, extensions and very sheltered housing.

The Playing Pitch Strategy has progressed in parallel with the County's Open Space Needs Assessment. The adopted OSNA was developed as a parks management tool and forms an integral part of the Local Development Framework evidence base. It contains information relating to the assessments of green space undertaken by the County as required by PPG17, and details justifications behind the setting of the Open Space Standard for County Durham. The OSNA enables strategic decisions to be made regarding the quality, accessibility and quantity of publicly available green space, taking account of the existing levels, and the amount required to cater for the current and projected population of the County.

The analysis within the Playing Pitch Strategy, and the OSNA must be used to enable a consistent approach to be taken in assessing whether it is appropriate to allow development on existing publicly available green space in any given location across the County.

The playing pitch strategy does not cover the use of planning obligations to secure the provision of on-site green space, or financial contributions to improvements to existing off-site green space. The analysis does provide the framework for informing the decision making process within the planning system when considering development proposals on green space.

The OSNA has highlighted the need for the availability of high quality green space, be it children's play areas, formal parks and gardens, sports space or natural green space, is of great importance in enhancing the quality of life of the county's residents. Well located and maintained green space is a valuable asset to the County, and in order to preserve this asset, the authority has a number of planning policies to protect valuable green space.

However, green space does occasionally become the subject of development proposals. This might happen where, for example, green space is in private ownership, or is publicly owned but poorly located for its purpose and may be better suited to alternative uses. The OSNA, and the playing pitch strategy will help to minimise the risk of losing valuable publicly available green space, by setting out a consistent and transparent process to be followed in assessing applications for development on such green space in the County.

P3 Achieve a minimum standard of 0.72 hectares per 1000 population of accessible playing pitch space within each AAP.

The quantity standard has been set on the basis of the assessment results and estimations of future demand. The proposed standards reflect the assessment results and findings of local consultation. Standards have been set to reflect pitch requirements to meet peak demand. An overall standard is proposed for all types of natural turf pitches, with a specific guide to each AAP's individual requirements to assist in the application of the standards within the planning process.

For the purpose of setting standards, the assessment has been undertaken for each pitch sport and appropriate sub-categories where different types or specification of pitch are required. This specifically concerns football where mini teams and junior (youth) teams require appropriately sized pitches. Presently it is known that some junior teams make use of senior pitches. However for the purposes of setting standards junior teams are assessed on the basis that they demand a junior pitch. These have been presented as 'total' pitch units required" with the AAP analysis, and should be used to guide the application of the minimum local standard. It is important to note that there are a number of key strategies to meet required standards of provision including:

- Direct provision by the county council;
- Enabling and facilitating access to other existing provision e.g. Education and private provision;
- Changing use of other existing recreational open space;
- Bringing into play unmarked and disused facilities;
- Developing new provision.

The minimum local provision standard reflects the actual number of pitches required to meet estimated future demand. It is also prudent to ensure that there is an adequate surplus to enable pitches to be taken out of use periodically for major renovation works. Sport England advocate that spare supply equating to 10% of the total required number of pitches would be prudent. This effectively allows every pitch to be taken out of use for a season once every ten years. This allows time for any essential renovation and re-instatement of drainage works. A number of recommendations are made later in the report, and specifically in the AAP profiles, in consideration to meeting local standards of provision.

Quality of provision & Informing local standards

Quality standards have been set on the basis of the quality assessment results and the categorisation of scored pitches using the electronic toolkit accompanying "*Toward a Level Playing Field*". The quality standard is based on all pitches being rated within the "Good" classification. In simple terms, the standard for playing pitch provision is "all pitches available for the community to use will be of a good standard". Ratings for pitches fall into the following categories:

Pitch Score	Pitch Rating	Site Score	Quality Rating
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90% +	An Excellent Pitch	90% +	Excellent Facilities
65% - 90%	A Good Pitch	60% - 80%	Good Facilities
55% - 64%	An Average Pitch	40% - 59%	Average Facilities
30% - 54%	A Below Average Pitch	30% - 39%	Poor Facilities
<30%	A Poor Pitch	< 30%	Very Poor Facilities

In accordance with guidance detailed in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17), provision standards should be set and applied to identify deficiencies on provision. This has been done through the completion of quality assessments on pitches.

The quality assessment can be viewed for each assessed site using the GIS database. The quality report detailed in Appendix 6 provides an overview of pitch quality for the county. The minimum local quality standard set for the county is 'a good pitch' which represents a pitch which has been rated between 65% - 90% on the quality assessment. A pitch scoring 65 - 90% on the quality assessment is capable of accommodating a minimum of two formal

Calculating the Local Standards

Analysis identifies that 212 hectares (523 acres) of formal sport space is the minimum requirement of land to ensure sufficient pitches can be accommodated to meet demand. Given the population of County Durham of 324 thousand, the minimum requirement per 1000 population would be 0.65 hectares per 1000 population. The 0.65 hectares of sport space would be required to be of a 'good' standard in accordance with the site assessment.

The average minimum local standard to accommodate the current population, factoring an additional 10% increase in teams, is 0.65 hectares per 1000. A further 10% should be factored in to accommodate a strategic supply, enabling rotation of pitches and remarking should demand change. Therefore a further 0.065 hectares per 1000 should be incorporated in the minimum local standard.

Therefore, the minimum local standard for County Durham is 0.72 hectares per 1000 population.

Access Standards: Playing Pitches

Access standards are arguably more difficult to set for playing pitch provision than other types of open space provision. For example, provision standards for formal parks ordinarily take the form of a number of hectares of provision per 1,000 of the general population, with quality often linked to national standards (e.g. Greenflag). The access

element of a provision standard is normally comprised of a distance threshold based on all residents residing within a set distance of a facility. The OSNA standards include accessibility thresholds for the main types of provision. Setting standards relating to access to playing pitches is difficult for a number of key reasons which include social trends, player ability and user preference. The AAP areas have been used throughout the report as the defined settlement in which provision has been assessed. For the purpose of achieving the minimum local provision standards the AAP areas are the set distance boundaries. Although many teams and clubs will travel further than the defined AAP boundaries, sufficient pitches and ancillary facilities should be available within the AAP in which people live.

Accessibility Standards

In line with sport England guidance within ‘towards a level playing field’ pitches within category A(i), A(ii) and A(iii) will be considered within the minimum standard;

Table 10.2: Pitch Categorisation

CATEGORY	Definition	Supplementary information
A(i)	Secured community pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management
A(ii)		Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public#
A(iii)		Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements*
B	Used by community, but not secured	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school/college pitches without formal user agreements
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public

**Sports England’s guidance Towards a level playing field identifies pitches in secured community use are pitches that are available for use by community teams and whose future use is secured for the coming seasons by one or more of the following:*

- *a formal community use agreement*
- *a leasing/management arrangement between the school and LEA requiring the pitch(es) to be available to community teams*
- *a policy of community use minuted by the school or LEA, including tariff of charges, etc*
- *minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams*
- *written commitment from the school to the current community team(s) using the pitch(es) and where it is the intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times (ie evenings, weekends and/or school holidays) for the next two or more years.*

Outside the counties provision, the majority of pitches are category A(ii) and A(iii). The majority of schools across the county operate as category A(iii) sites, where formal use is in operation and sanctioned by the governors of the school.

The AAP profiles contain a guide to securing sufficient demand to meet the requirements of current and future needs. Many sites within the identified provision will be category A(iii). Where possible category A(iii) sites, where access is secured by governor approval, should be formalised to enable greater access and control of pitch stock outside curriculum hours.

The AAP profiles provide a detailed list and map of all sites that operate formal fixtures. Each AAP has numerous category C pitches where community use is not in operation. It is recommended where demand exceeds supply, access to category C sites should be explored in the first instance.

Applying Standards

A proactive approach to applying the minimum provision standard is recommended, with local need driving the decision making process. The local standard has been expressed in hectares per 1000 population, aggregated across the county. To assist in the analysis and application of the standard each AAP has their individual requirement, based on fulfilling their formal fixtures on appropriate sized pitches, set out in pitch numbers.

Actual pitch numbers should be used in conjunction with the minimum standard to ensure actual requirements are being met and simple numeric application of standards is avoided.

The overall shortfalls in provision identified by the playing pitch methodology relate to junior and mini pitches. In most cases greater control over the pitch stock, enabling remarking, to accommodate mini and junior pitches would rectify the problem. However, the consultation feedback clearly identified that many clubs operate junior and mini pitches across their senior pitches. There may be a theoretical shortfall in supply, however operationally the shortfall may not exist. Ensuring sufficient pitches are available to meet demand is essential, but local need and circumstances should direct provision.

Safeguarding provision through the local standard

The importance of protecting pitches is clear, Sport England policy outlined in *A Sporting Future for Playing Fields in England* outlines five conditions that may allow for development on a playing field. If one of these five conditions is met then disposal of a site may be permitted if the overall change to the pitch provision has positive repercussions for pitch provision in the County. The five conditions are:

- a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport
- the proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a

- playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use
- the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site
- the playing field or playing fields, which would be lost as a result of the proposed development, would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development
- the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

The minimum local standard should be used in assessing any applications to dispose of pitches. In assessing applications, the three trigger points of quantity, quality and accessibility should be satisfied before disposal of facilities is considered.

New Developments

The OSNA standard of 1 hectare of outdoor sports and recreation space per 1000 population will be required to be provided for all new developments within the county. The 1 hectare per 1000 population accounts for formal and informal recreation, and therefore is higher than the minimum local playing pitch standard of 0.72 hectares per 1000 population as this is calculated for formal use only. In applying the 1 hectare of outdoor sports and recreation space, 0.72 hectares of formal playing pitch provision will be required.

For example, a development providing new housing for 1000 people would be expected to provide 1 hectare of outdoor sports and recreation space, of the 1 hectare a minimum 0.72 hectares should be in the form of formal playing pitch provision. The most appropriate type of provision (i.e. the sport where there is the highest need) should then be determined using the results of the playing pitch methodology. In some cases where there are no deficiencies it may be appropriate to fund the enhancement of existing pitches. A developer should only be asked to fund the additional shortfalls their development will create. They cannot be asked to make up existing deficiencies.

6.3 The development of new facilities

D1 Influence the design, layout of pitches and specification of school facilities to ensure their suitability for school and community use, securing formal community use agreements where appropriate.

The function of a Community Use Agreement is to ensure a balanced use of a facility by local user groups. It supports Sport England's aspiration of promoting the community use of education sports facilities, whilst working to satisfy their aims of promoting

participation in sport, and encouraging the provision of sports facilities. In support of this, Sport England has produced a model template for a Community Use Agreement.

In primarily being a tool for promoting the effective operation of a dual-use site, the agreement may be entered into by a council or a school to ensure that a facility's activities are in accordance with agreed requirements and plans. Co-ordination of provision will be based on a programme of usage, type and frequency.

An agreement will provide user groups with allocated times when they will have exclusive use of a facility, whilst allowing for balanced access and protecting the rights of each unique user group. User groups can vary according to the type of facility, but as a consensus refers to community groups, residents, schools, sports clubs and priority groups (i.e. young people, veterans, women and people on low income, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities).

In order to protect the quality of a facility and its effective operation, the agreement will establish management responsibilities. The accountability of the various user groups at different times will be identified, along with maintenance issues, in a way that will ensure the shared commitment from all parties to the facility's upkeep.

There are various elements that come together to form a Community Use Agreement. A model agreement for a school site would be likely to consist of heads of terms that would include:

- community targets
- use of the facility (including allocated hours of use),
- management,
- pricing,
- sub-letting,
- review,
- duration of agreement,
- termination, and
- dispute resolution procedure.

A large proportion of schools allow formal use of their pitches, although they qualify as secure community sites the long term operational status needs to be formalised. It is fundamental to the future of playing pitch provision that schools are brought into formal dual use agreements, operating with the council to allow access to facilities in a planned and managed system.

D2 Develop new multi pitch/ multi sport 'hub' sites which can provide facilities for a range of training, development and performance sport. Where appropriate Hub sites should embrace artificial turf pitches technology (ATP) for training and formal fixtures, floodlit multi use games courts, grass pitches and adequate changing facilities.

Sport England has promoted the concept of Hub Sites as a key element of their strategy in conjunction with a 1% per year increase in activity target.

For the purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy, Hub Sites are considered primarily as facilities which provide multi-sport and multi-activity opportunities. However, Sport England's concept of hub sites goes way beyond this. They see the facilities as a method for improving the coaching and voluntary workforce. Therefore, the model for a Hub Site is effectively a campus style facility at which a number of sports take place, and within which there will be benefits from the common elements of organised sport and physical activity. These common elements would include:

- coaching and coach education,
- admin and facilities,
- changing and social provision,
- training and conditioning,
- child protection, and
- club development.

It is important to recognise that the centre of the hub may be a school, university, leisure centre or similar focus, the overall concept embraces neighbouring or 'satellite' sites that are able to add value, as additional, complementary opportunities through their being associated with the core facility. Although the hub approach calls for a shift in attitude, away from a more sports specific culture, it should not necessarily be seen as a threat to single sport clubs. Many of the council sites identified in section 4 currently fulfil the function of a hub site, formalising and prioritising investment around these hubs would provide a basis across the county for high quality sporting venues.

The cohesion between each part will be vital, in ensuring that individuals can readily access the activity that attracts them. As their skills develop, individuals will also be better placed to be able to find pathways to the level of participation or performance to which they aspire.

These multi-sport, multi-activity sites will provide opportunities to establish common management structures. They also represent an optimum basis for planning, and the allocation of resources, whilst providing for effective co-ordination of membership, fees, and promotion. In addition to encouraging links between different sports, Hub Sites are also able to place sport alongside other community services such as GP practices, libraries, ICT suites, and learning and training opportunities.

The benefits include:

- satisfying the need for improved quality of pitches that allow greater use (increased carrying capacity), improvement of the quality of pitches in a way that meets ever increasing standards required by the governing bodies,
- locating floodlit Artificial Turf Pitches (STP's) that provide training facilities, resulting in reduced pressure on grass pitches, prioritisation of the identified needs of a given Planning Area, sustainable provision, as Hubs will enable economies of scale to be realised. These include:

- 1) changing facilities that service a number of sports;
- 2) a direct contribution from STP income;
- 3) grass pitches that can be more frequently let, due to their improved condition;

- 4) improved security, through controlled access and increased presence (where a school, university or leisure centre site is used);
- 5) alignment of strategies with Sport England increases the likelihood of success in any funding applications;
- 6) significant satisfaction of demand freeing up opportunities for rationalisation of playing pitches in parks. Resources are inadequate to maintain the current level of provision in parks, and a better use of limited resources will arise from investment and management in more university or leisure centre site is used);
- 7) improved security, through controlled access and increased presence (where a school, university or leisure centre site is used);
- 8) alignment of strategies with Sport England increases the likelihood of success in any funding applications;
- 9) alignment of strategies with Sport England increases the likelihood of success in any funding applications, significant satisfaction of demand freeing up opportunities for rationalisation of playing pitches in parks. Resources are inadequate to maintain the current level of provision in parks, and a better use of limited resources will arise from investment and management in more sustainable sites, junior pitches becoming incorporated within hub site configuration.

The recommendations within the AAP profiles identify potential hub sites, the recommendations should be developed and facilitated where possible through planned and coordinated investment.

D3 Prioritise investment to existing multi-pitch sites which can offer secure environments for facilities.

Multi use sites offer the opportunity for teams to establish a wider player base, secure investment and ensure facilities are in constant use. Combining sports facilities to cater for demand, particularly for training can be beneficial and insure investment in facilities targets the highest amount of users.

In most cases training facilities will require floodlighting. The use of floodlighting is a contentious environmental issue, although it brings many advantages to the provision of sport: increasing the use of facilities in terms of type of usage options and programming flexibility, with the additional benefit of creating extra income. Floodlighting technology has also advanced considerably in the last five years, seeking to provide higher qualities of lighting for sport and reducing light spillage onto adjacent properties and into the night skies. As highlighted in *Planning Bulletin 14* (Sport England), *'floodlights that are properly planned and installed are unlikely to result in any adverse impact on the surrounding areas'*.

The main requirement for floodlighting at the majority of clubs is for training purposes only. More often than not, clubs find themselves training under inadequate spotlights attached to the side of the clubhouse. This is potentially dangerous for coaching activities and drills, and can contribute to avoidable injuries and collisions. Also, if the illuminated training area is too small, and in regular use, the training surface tends to become poor, reducing the effect of quality coaching. It is therefore important that the training area is of adequate size to cope with usage levels in order for it to be available throughout the season. Following on from this, it is important that adequate

lighting is supplied to the whole area to prevent wear in specific areas and to offer sufficient space for training opportunities in a safe manner.

Significantly, floodlighting for match playing areas tends to encourage overuse and consequently has a detrimental effect on the quality and life span of the playing surface.

The main requirement (whichever system is used) is that the lighting supply provides adequate luminance, brightness and contrast and offers uniformed light distribution with minimal glare, in order to undertake the training or matches in a safe environment. Sport England provides guidelines for playing sport under floodlights and has separated them into three classes.

Light Spill and Pollution

An important consideration for virtually all floodlighting and one that needs to be considered in the design and requirements is the impact that any floodlighting is going to have on the local environment. Whilst it is almost impossible when floodlighting any sports facility to prevent light spillage and pollution into surrounding areas, these are important considerations in relation to the planning, installation and commissioning of lighting. In general the following guidelines tend to apply:

- Residential areas will usually impose the most stringent requirements; The amount of spill can be controlled by careful design of the floodlights;
- Generally, the greater the height and numbers of columns the easier to control the spill, however this can affect capital costs and daytime appearance;
- Operating hours may need to be varied to suit local circumstances;
- Although there is no specific legislation regarding spill it is a sensitive issue with local planning and environmental authorities;
- Whilst there are no specific guidelines on levels of spill, a general rule of thumb is that it should not exceed normal residential street lighting levels.

Planning Permission

In the majority of cases, the provision of floodlighting will require planning permission from the local planning authority. There are some exceptions to this when certain types of temporary floodlights are to be erected. The majority of applications for floodlighting are not refused planning permission as most are considered not to have an adverse effect on the surrounding area. However, in addition to the environmental effects of light spill and pollution, it is important for the sustainability of sites that floodlights are appropriately located. Lighting may be considered inappropriate because of close proximity to housing or for reasons to do with traffic generation, noise, or visual intrusion.

Funding

There are a number of funding sources that enable strategy delivery, and to a large extent, priorities will be dictated by funding opportunities.

D4 Develop new junior pitches across the County, establishing a minimum of one multi-pitch junior soccer site in each AAP.

The PPM analysis has identified that appropriate junior provision is an issue. Juniors account for 61% all teams, however only 32% of pitches in the county are laid out for juniors. Many clubs currently operate their junior fixtures across senior pitches, however appropriately marked out mini and junior pitches should be accommodated.

To ensure the appropriate skill sets are developed, it is essential minis and juniors play on appropriately sized pitches. Ensuring schools are laying out pitches appropriate to the age ranges they cater is a potential route to securing an adequate pitch supply.

The AAP profiles develop the principles of pitch marking, identifying clubs which require additional facilities. Opportunities to increase mini and junior pitches should be taken where possible, identifying scope for additional pitches through rationalisation of existing layouts should be sought wherever possible.

6.4 Quality and Capacity

Q1 Improve the quality of pitches, setting a quality standard. Prioritise improvements that increase pitch capacity in areas and sports that are currently most deficient.

Provision of quality facilities is essential to encourage people to participate. The quality of pitches impacts not only on the quality of play, but also on the potential capacity of a pitch and hence numerical surpluses and deficiencies.

Improvements to pitch quality will be essential to maintain and increase participation rates in the County. The recommendations within the AAP profiles identify sufficient pitch provision to enable rotation of pitches, allowing for rest and recuperation and to ensure where possible no pitch has to be used more than twice a week. Securing the sites under one formal system which allows rotation and rest period for pitches will be essential to achieving a high quality pitch provision.

Q2 Increase the use of synthetic pitches for training and where difficulty in pitch quality unduly limits carrying capacity.

Advances in technology have resulted in a significant rise in the quality of synthetic sports pitches. As a result of this, Sport England's *Planning Bulletin 14 - Intensive Use Sports Facilities Revisited*, advocates the use of synthetic pitches in encouraging participation in sport. The bulletin highlights that half of the qualifying Euro 2008 and World Cup 2010 games were played on synthetic turf, and asserts a firm belief that club level matches will follow. Similarly, an official statement from UEFA in November 2004 confirmed that UEFA competition matches may be played on artificial turf from the 2005/ 06 season. This increasing acceptability is likely to lead to further research and development, and continuing improvement of the product.

Given the increasing pressure on existing facilities and maintenance budgets, synthetic pitches must be seen as key contributors to the realisation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. With their ability to sustain a high degree of usage, STP's can be utilised for both training and competitive play, easing the pressure on grass pitches. Traditional grass pitches are unable to match this level of use, with the highest quality pitch only capable of sustaining, on average, three games per week.

The County has very few existing STP's compared to neighbouring Local Authorities. The use of grass pitches for training continues to put pressure on the stock. Until an adequate supply of STP's can be achieved, the ones that already exist will be working to capacity, with the resultant effect being considerable frustration in demand. Generally, users will be eager to make use of allocated high quality facilities, and in future, this may help to reduce the effect of informal play in parks and on open spaces.

The financial case for STP's is attractive and it is generally accepted that if an STP is used for at least 50% of the available time, it will pay for its running costs, whilst providing for replacement. However, STP's are large structures and, together with associated floodlighting, it is recognised that they need to be sited sensitively. Sport England acknowledges that *"to meet sustainable development objectives, where there is irreconcilable conflict, the conservation of the natural environment must take precedence"*.

In summary, STP's provide a considerable opportunity for improvement in terms of sporting and physical activity gains and can relieve the pressure upon natural grass playing areas. Provided that this is weighed against the potential environmental threat, and then tested by the planning process, STP's should be provided where appropriate.

Q3 Identify a long term framework of ancillary facilities for retention, improvement and disposal.

The playing pitch strategy provides the framework to identify current and future requirements. In order to ensure resources are maximised and spent efficiently, a clear strategic plan for each area must be formalised. The AAP profiles identify an action plan for addressing the issues identified through the PPM analysis. The recommendations within the AAP profiles should be developed into a long term masterplan for each area, which is used by all stakeholders to inform the decision making process for the each area.

6.5 Marketing and Development

M1 Seek to attract commercial investment to deliver high quality training and performance sports facilities.

- *5 & 7 a side leagues*
- *Softball*
- *Touch rugby*

M2 Support development of facilities that provide for growing mid week sports demand, such as 5 a side soccer and floodlit cricket.

M3 Ensure that 'hub' or integrated facility developments are reflective of the needs identified within consultation (feedback from clubs) and contribute to the achievement of locally determined sports development targets and priorities.

Opportunities should be explored to delivering key facilities in conjunction with the private sector. The emergence of 5 & 7 a side football leagues, touch & tag rugby

provide the financial conditions for the private sector to invest into facilities. The facilities can be made available for community use.

There is market interest in 5-a-side football complex developments and, elsewhere in the UK; these have been installed on school sites. It is customary for the host school and Local Authority to be offered free access during school hours.

Indications from developers are that large financial contributions can be realised, and that there is market demand for three or four such complexes in Durham. Preferred locations would be those which are closely linked to the hub site developments, where sporting benefit can be maximised through the multi-sport cluster of high quality facilities. Any site proposal would be subject to normal Town and Country Planning examination, but early consideration of issues such as environmental sensitivity, noise and neighbourhood nuisance would be beneficial.

The opportunity to realise high quality, managed and maintained outdoor sports facilities is attractive and should be considered, but sporting and physical activity benefit needs to be balanced with the commercial practices and motives of the provider.

The aim of this strategy is to provide good quality facilities which are accessible to all citizens the concept of hub sites is more extensively explained, but a key element of these multi-sport, multi-activity sites is the associated changing facilities. Modern design, for today's needs, will provide changing facilities which are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes and which fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act. Flexible design will provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort. So, for example, it would be possible for adult male football to be accommodated at the same time as girl's / women's football, because the changing facility could be compartmentalised. This is currently a barrier to participation, such that only one group type can be accommodated at any one time with the present facilities.

It should also be noted that this strategy dovetails with sports development projects around the County. Not all of these are managed by the council, but draw together a number of agencies which target, amongst other things, disadvantage, risk of exclusion, health and regeneration, through the wider role of sport and physical activity. Clearly, all aspects of equalities are central to this work and the facilities proposed by the playing pitch strategy will support and enhance these initiatives.

This strategy recognises the need for a good geographical spread of facilities, and implicit in this is the recognition that a number of minority groups feel unsafe, threatened or uncomfortable in some areas of the County.

Consultation on this strategy highlighted a number of additional issues which are associated with sport and physical activity. Solutions have varying degrees of difficulty, but where practical, the following should be addressed:

- certain faith groups cannot change or shower in front of other people;
- employment hours for many workers in minority ethnic groups are not compatible with regular playing times;
- Sunday is the more common day off among minority ethnic groups;

- certain faith groups cannot play sport when other people can watch them;
- women from minority ethnic groups are more likely to have childcare needs and would need supporting features to allow them to play: nappy changing facilities, separate cubicles, high standards of cleanliness;
- women would need to feel confident that men are excluded;
- improve awareness by use of appropriate languages on notices.
- Ensuring facilities provide access to all and promote sports developments across all sections of society will be key to facilitating growth and participation in sport across the county.

M4 Enable and support self management of facilities by voluntary sports clubs and other organisations where applicable.

The consultation process identified a number of opportunities where clubs could, and want to self manage. Where possible the opportunities should be developed in conjunction with the recommendations set out in the AAP profiles. Enabling clubs to self manage can be very successful, but serious consideration must be given to the appropriateness of enabling clubs run their own facilities.

6.6 Administration

A1 Improve access to facilities through;

- **Providing a central booking system (including both Council and school facilities). Internet booking and feedback should be a long-term goal.**
- **Reviewing and rationalising pricing policy including the presumption of a hierarchy of pricing reflecting a hierarchy of facilities.**

There are currently many ways of hiring sports pitches in County Durham, and it is recognised that accessibility would be more fully served if booking were to become co-ordinated and simplified. Coupled with this is the opportunity to introduce a consistent pricing structure for all County Council pitches, irrespective of which department or school site manages them. This would require a significant initiative by the County Council to offer to administer all bookings on behalf of all schools and education premises. This would lead to a wider availability of education pitches, something that the county urgently needs to address the current shortages in junior football provision. However, it would also require investment in administration as such a system, whilst simple to use for teams, would require a considerable investment in time to set up. Section 3 clearly demonstrates the provision is adequate to cater for demand, however the lack of a structured administration of pitches currently results in teams overusing pitches.

6.7 Development & Updates

This Playing Pitch Strategy provides a framework in which decisions can be made and, as stated previously, is based upon statistical analysis of the current position. This analysis needs to be updated to maintain its validity, since every outdoor sports facility development alters the supply position. Examples of this would be: more pitches becoming accessible on school sites, disposals, additional STP'S etc. In addition to this, the effect of shifts in sporting trends and developments needs to be recognised.

Hockey, for example, is now almost all played on artificial pitches and the potential for sports such as netball and tennis to move towards indoor play could be envisaged. In this latter case, the provision of indoor sports facilities would influence outdoor policy.

The general need therefore, is for this strategy to remain an active document for all those who need its guidance. Thus, it needs to recognise all forms of change: supply, demand, trends and new developments. The GIS database is the ideal tool to ensure all changes to supply are recorded and kept up to date.

Policy Reference	Strategy Reference	Lead	Monitoring Success	Timescale
P1	Existing playing fields are safeguarded, with consideration only given to disposal when a secured pitch stock can be demonstrated, or alternative high quality provision can be generated by the loss of pitches.	Planning	LDF safeguarded policy	Immediate
P2	Contributions towards off site or on-site provision of playing pitches will be sought under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 from all housing developments in proposals of 1 or more units. Provision will also be sought for subsequent maintenance costs for a period of fifteen years. The following types of dwelling will not be subject to obligations in respect of playing pitch provision; replacement dwellings, extensions and very sheltered housing.	Planning	LDF safeguarded policy	Immediate
D1	Influence the design, layout of pitches and specification of school facilities to ensure their suitability for school and community use, securing formal community use agreements where appropriate.	Education / planning / sport & leisure	PFI projects: Stanley, consent	Short
D2	Develop new multi pitch/ multi sport 'hub' sites which can provide facilities for a range of training, development and performance sport. Where appropriate Hub sites should embrace artificial turf pitches technology (ATP) for training and formal fixtures, floodlit multi use games courts, grass pitches and adequate changing facilities.	Planning / education Sport England NGB's	Develop AAP profile themes, identifying key sites for future investment. Influence planning consents as a delivery mechanism; e.g Burnopfield	Short
D3	Prioritise investment to existing multi-pitch sites which can offer secure environments for facilities.	Sport & leisure FA & NGB's	Implement the individual AAP themes, where possible moving teams and resources from the poorest quality sites	Medium

D4	Develop new junior pitches across the County, establishing a minimum of one multi-pitch junior soccer site in each AAP.	Sport & leisure FA / NGB's	Develop AAP profile themes, identifying key the sites. Influence planning consents as a delivery mechanism. Work with schools to ensure appropriate sized pitches are laid out to reflect their pupil ages	Medium / long
Q1	Improve the quality of pitches, setting a quality standard. Prioritise improvements that increase pitch capacity in areas and sports that are currently most deficient.	Sport & leisure	Implement the quality assessment as part of the clean and green teams site inspections.	Long
Q2	Increase the use of synthetic pitches for training and where difficulty in pitch quality unduly limits carrying capacity.	Sport & leisure	Influence PFI projects, support the current applications and ensure dual use agreements allow community use	Short / medium
Q3	Identify a long term framework of ancillary facilities for retention, improvement and disposal	Sport & leisure	Develop principles set out in AAP profiles	Short / medium
M1	Seek to attract commercial investment to deliver high quality training and performance sports facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a side leagues • Softball • Touch rugby 	Sport & leisure FA & NGB's	Encourage commercial sector to engage and tender within PFI opportunities	Medium / long
M2	Support development of facilities that provide for growing mid week sports demand, such as 5 a side soccer and floodlit cricket.	Planning / Sport & Leisure NGB's	Contact commercial sector and develop opportunities which tie in with hub site concepts	Long

M3	Ensure that 'hub' or integrated facility developments are reflective of the needs identified within consultation (feedback from clubs) and contribute to the achievement of locally determined sports development targets and priorities.	Planning	Influence design of PFI schools	Short
M4	Enable and support self management of facilities by voluntary sports clubs and other organisations where applicable.	Sport & leisure	Develop on themes within the app profiles, where consultation has identified clubs seeking to self administer	Short
A1	Administration	Sport & leisure	Create working group with education sites without formal dual use agreements. Develop a communication process to enable schools, the local authority and teams to liaise	Immediate