

**Burnley Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS)**

**Report to the Executive**



<b>DATE</b>	<b>August 2023</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>GS&amp;A</b>
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**PURPOSE**

1. To seek approval of the Executive to adopt the Burnley Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS).

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Executive is recommended to adopt the Burnley Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The PPOSS (Strategy & Action Plan - Appendix 2) will guide the management and development of Burnley’s playing pitches over the next 5+ years.
4. The PPOSS will provide a strategic framework to ensure that the provision of outdoor sports facilities meets the needs of residents (both existing and future) and visitors across Burnley. It will also support those organisations, including the Council, involved in the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Burnley.

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

5. The previous Burnley PPOSS, which was completed in 2015, is past its recommended life span (5+ years) and is therefore in need of renewal in order to be a key evidence base. Additionally, there is a need for the PPOSS to help secure Section 106 developer contributions for investment into current and new provision as well as providing support for other external grant opportunities.
6. Subsequently, Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP), who helped develop the original PPOSS, was appointed by the Council in early 2022 to produce a new Burnley Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy.
7. The Strategy has been developed in accordance with Sport England’s Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England’s Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for “non-pitch” sports).

Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- Stage D: Develop the Strategy
- Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date

Stages A-C are covered in the Assessment Report (Appendix 1) and Stage D, the Strategy & Action Plan, is provided in Appendix 2. Stage E is ongoing throughout the lifespan of the work and annual monitoring of the document will be forthcoming by the Strategy Steering Group.

8. The Assessment Report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities within Burnley. Building upon the information contained within the Assessment Report, the Strategy & Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. It includes:

- A vision for the future protection, improvement, and development of provision.
- A series of sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- A series of strategic recommendations.
- A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritise and can address key issues.

9. The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. The study area covers the entirety of the authority. In addition, analysis areas (or sub areas) are used to allow for a more localised analysis, as well as the analysis for Burnley as a whole. Provision included within the PPOSS:

- Football
- 3G pitches
- Cricket
- Rugby league
- Rugby union
- Hockey (hockey suitable AGPs)
- Tennis
- Netball
- Bowls
- Golf
- MUGAs
- Other sports – American Football and Rounders

## Headline Findings

10. The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met.

11. For the most part, the shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites.
12. It has been identified that cricket has the highest levels of shortfalls out of the main pitch sports. Although these are the largest shortfalls there is not a requirement for additional provision with other methods identified in Part 4: Sport Specific Issues Scenarios and Recommendations of the Strategy & Action Plan (Appendix 2).
13. In relation to football, there is also a shortfall of 3G pitches that can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.
14. Quantitative Headline findings for Burnley (pitch sports) are outlined below:

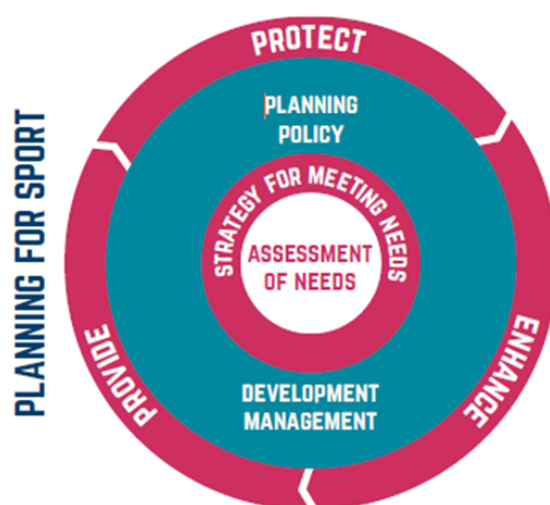
Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance in MES <sup>1</sup>	Future supply/ demand balance (2032) in MES
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
Burnley	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.5</b>
	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	Spare capacity of 0.5	<b>Shortfall of 2</b>
	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 0.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
Burnley	<b>Full size</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3G pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3G pitches</b>
<b>Cricket</b>			
Burnley	Senior (Saturday)	<b>Shortfall of 15</b>	<b>Shortfall of 15</b>
	Senior (Sunday)	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>			
Burnley	<b>Senior</b>	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
<b>Rugby league</b>			
Burnley	<b>Senior</b>	Sufficient quantity	Sufficient quantity
<b>Hockey</b>			
Burnley	<b>Full size</b>	Sufficient quantity	Sufficient quantity

15. Quantitative Headline findings for Burnley (non-pitch sports) are outlined below:

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2032)
<b>Tennis</b>	Sufficient quantity <b>but quality issues</b>	Sufficient quantity <b>but quality issues</b>
<b>Netball</b>	Sufficient quantity <b>but issues surrounding tenure</b>	Sufficient quantity <b>but issues surrounding tenure</b>
<b>Bowls</b>	Sufficient quantity	Sufficient quantity
<b>Golf</b>	Sufficient quantity	Sufficient quantity
<b>MUGAs</b>	<b>Shortfalls within the East Burnley &amp; Cliviger and Padiham &amp; Hapton analysis areas</b>	<b>Shortfalls within the East Burnley &amp; Cliviger and Padiham &amp; Hapton analysis areas</b>
<b>Other sports</b>	Sufficient quantity	Sufficient quantity

## Strategic Recommendations

16. The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of the Assessment report (Appendix 1), as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.
17. The recommendations are based on the main aims of the Strategy reflecting the three Sport England objectives (**PROTECT, ENHANCE, PROVIDE**) detailed in the image below:



### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

#### Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

## OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

### Recommendations:

- d. Improve quality
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions.

## OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

### Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current facility stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to increase the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

18 Since the assessment and report documents were completed by KKP in late 2022/early 2023, there have been improvements to the tennis courts at Scott Park and Park Road through the Lawn Tennis Association's Capital Funding programme which will have addressed the quality issues for Tennis highlighted in 15. In addition, Lowerhouse Cricket Club have secured external funding for improving ancillary facilities, including new cricket nets and football pitch/drainage improvement work is due to be carried out at Lockyer Avenue and Queens Park in 2024 which will help with youth football pitch shortfalls through improving quality and increasing capacity (both Objective 2 d and f).

19 A site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality, and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to site hierarchy, priority status, partners involved, potential costs and timescales.

20. The action plan will be the main thrust for development across Burnley in the next 3 years with Burnley Council the lead organisation in progressing the implementation of actions. The Steering Group (key organisations involved in the Strategy development) will review and monitor progress annually. It is imperative that these annual reviews take place as it ensures that data is kept up to date and robust and the Strategy is still relevant.

21. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England

and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

22. The Strategy will help guide the allocation of any financial contributions made by housing developments to invest into the improvement of existing and new sports pitch provision. The Strategy will also help the Council to secure funding from external sources such as the Football Foundation, Sport England, National Governing Bodies (NGB's) and other grant awarding bodies.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

23. The previous Burnley PPOSS is past its recommended life span. This new PPOSS will provide the Council and its partners with a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities.

## **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

24. Extensive consultation with local Sports Clubs, NGB's and other relevant partner organisations has been co-ordinated and undertaken by KKP (the consultants) throughout the development of the Strategy.

Details can be found in both the Assessment Report and the Strategy & Action Plan documents.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

25. Burnley Borough Council Playing Pitch & Outdoor Strategy - Assessment Report November 2022.

Burnley Borough Council Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy – Strategy & Action Plan November 2022.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**ALSO:**

**Simon Goff**