

Vale of White Horse Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Conclusions

CRICKET

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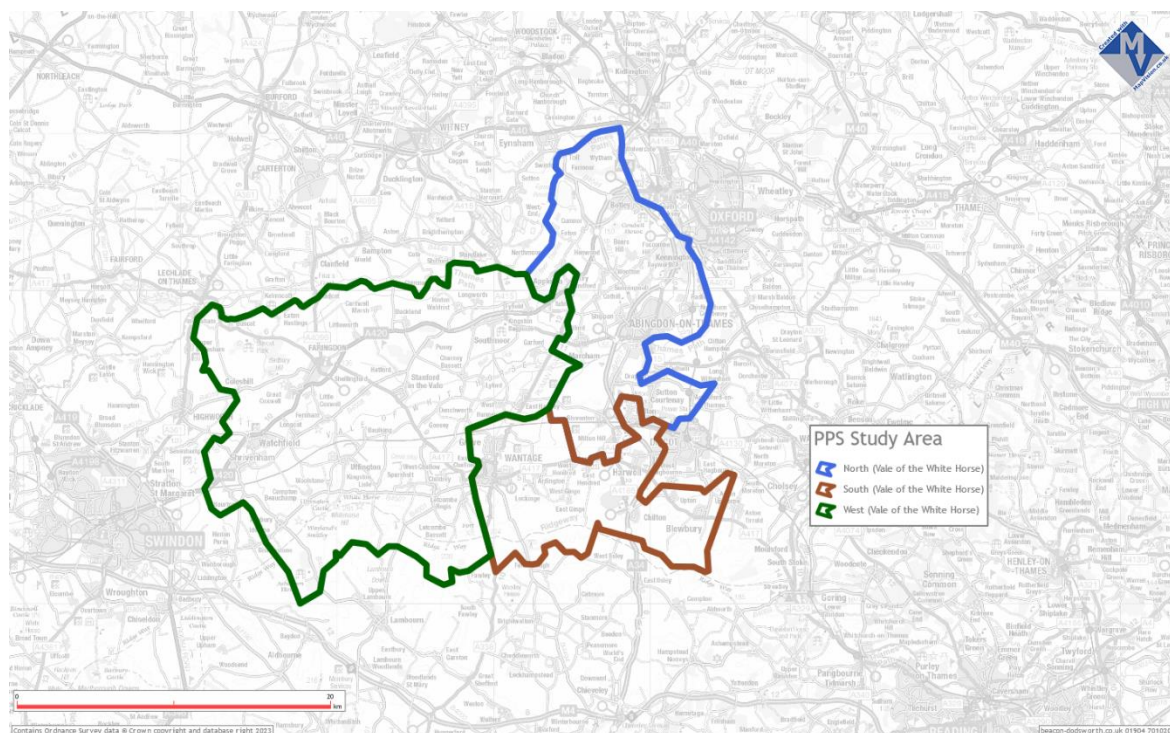
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CRICKET ASSESSMENT CONCLUSIONS

Introduction

1. This assessment uses data set out at length in the Assessment Tables, most of which are not repeated here. This is to make this report easily digestible and easy to understand. By necessity, this report summarises data as necessary and relates to as little detail as possible while still conveying the key points and issues required to arrive at conclusions and recommendations. Much of the place-specific data is set out in this report by sub-area. For clarity, the map below shows the areas covered by the sub-areas.

Figure 1: Vale of White Horse Playing Pitch Strategy Sub-areas



Assessment Summary

2. Cricket has a tradition of playing on grass pitches which require high levels of maintenance are subject to significant wear and tear. This means it takes a lot of resources to maintain a grass cricket square to a good level, especially when there are high levels of usage. Artificial pitches are used in cricket, often to supplement grass pitches and alleviate some of the wear and tear. The artificial pitches are usually used for junior matches and training, they are very rarely used for adult matches. On this basis this assessment has been undertaken looking at the carrying capacity if the grass pitches and the artificial pitches are considered supplementary to the grass pitches to help increase some of the capacity on the site.
3. There are 21 cricket grounds that use grass pitches with community usage in the Vale of White Horse and no standalone artificial pitches in community usage. All artificial pitches are located on sites with existing grass pitches.

4. There are 14 cricket grounds with secure community use grass pitches (i.e. wickets / strips) in Vale of White Horse Local Authority at

- Anson Recreation Ground
- Appleton with Easton Sports Field
- Blewbury Recreation Ground
- Boundary Park
- Challow & Childrey CC
- Craven Playing Fields
- Cumnor CC
- East Hanney Playing Fields
- East Hendred Sports Ground
- Folly Sports Park
- Shrivenham Recreation Ground
- Sunningwell CC
- Wootton & Boars Hill CC
- Ardington & Lockinge Sports Ground

Of these, Cumnor CC, East Hanney Playing Fields, Sunningwell CC, and Wootton & Boars Hill CC also have artificial pitches.

5. There are also 7 unsecure community use grounds at

- Buscot Park
- Harwell Labs Recreational Association
- Kingston Bagpuize Sports Ground
- Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground
- Playfield Road
- Wantage & Grove CC
- Steventon Village Green.

Of these, Harwell Labs Recreational Association, Playfields Road, and Steventon Village Green also have artificial pitches. It should be noted that at the time of writing there was no recorded cricket usage at Sutton Courteney Recreation ground however it has come to light that the site is still periodically used by Sutton Courteney CC.

6. There are 30 grounds with no community use, all at schools / Academies.

7. The Assessment Tables Report shows the location of pitches

8. There are no significant spatial gaps where there are no pitches across any sub-area.

9. In Vale of White Horse, the largest clubs and number of affiliated teams are:

- Cumnor CC – 10 teams
- Steventon CC – 11 teams
- Didcot CC – 13 teams
- East & West Hendred CC – 11 teams
- Challow & Childrey CC – 11 teams
- Kingston Bagpuize CC – 7 teams

10. Breaking down team numbers for all clubs across the area by age and sex, there are 35 boys' teams, 8 girls' teams, 2 women's teams and 56 men's teams. Women & Girls cricket and junior activity have been identified as areas of potential significant growth in the lifespan of this strategy. Women & Girls has been identified by the ECB as the largest growth of the game as it tries to become a gender-neutral game at all levels. The success of entry level programmes such as All Stars and Dynamos has also driven more young people into the sport which is resulting in an increase in junior teams. This growth in junior play will help to ensure succession into all adult teams in the medium and long term.
11. Across the area, some other types of demand (unmet or latent) have been identified by Cumnor CC, Steventon CC, Sunningwell CC, Didcot CC, East & West Hendred CC, Challow & Childrey CC, Farringdon CC and Uffington CC. This amounts to 15 adult teams and 21 junior teams using around 250 match equivalents which could in turn translate to 50 grass pitches and/or 5 artificial pitches of additional capacity being required. This additional demand is aspirational from clubs and all of it may not materialise in reality. It is also hard to differentiate whether this demand will come from the growth of the sport or from changes in population in the area.
12. Most clubs see most of their players travelling a reasonably short distance to play at the home ground. Demand imported outside of the local authority area has been identified for Wolvercote CC. This club play matches and training at Playfield Road in Kennington. Although this is originally imported demand the club are now drawing more members from the local area, so the level of imported demand is decreasing over time. No exported demand outside of the local authority area has not been identified in this study.
13. Most grass pitches are either of a standard or good quality, as is the case with artificial pitches. When set alongside pitches' carrying capacity and the amount of play, they accommodate during a season, grass pitches at Cumnor Cricket Club, Steventon Sports & Social Club, Wootton & Boars Hill CC, Boundary Park, East Hendred Sports Ground and Kingston Sports Ground are considered to be overplayed. Generally speaking, those seeing high amounts of use also have appropriate maintenance levels to ensure that the quality of the pitches do not suffer from that overuse. However, that does not mean that this is an ideal position for clubs to be in and grounds seeing significant levels of overplay which may not be manageable within a maintenance regime in the long-term include Steventon Sports & Social Club, Kingston Bagpuize Sports Ground, Wootton & Boars Hill CC and East Hendred Sports Ground.
14. There is headroom capacity to accommodate additional demand at Craven Playing Fields, Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground, Shrivenham Recreation Ground, Harwell Labs Recreational Association and Blewbury Recreation Ground across the area.
15. With the growth of Women and Girls cricket the need to improve and develop ancillary provision has been identified as a key priority by the ECB. This includes creating a more welcoming environment such as improved toilets, changing rooms, social areas and general ambience.

16. Ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and pavilions are generally in a good or standard condition however the following sites have identified their ancillary facilities as not fit for purpose, especially in support of the growth of Women & Girls Cricket: Steventon Village Green, Sunningwell CC, Cumnor CC, East Hendred Sports Ground, Challow & Childrey CC, and Craven Playing Fields.
17. From data and information provided, changing facilities seem to be capable of accommodating people who do not identify as male or female gender or are transitioning, by adapting existing provision as necessary. It is a recognised challenge, financially, to be able to retrofit gender neutral or unisex provision into older facilities (although this does not mean that it should not be addressed), but there will be opportunities in particular, moving forward, for new facilities to be able to accommodate fully provision needed across all gender types.
18. It should also be noted that the Oxfordshire Cricket Board has recently completed their facility strategy and have identified key priorities to address. These have been reflected in this assessment for club cricket, but they have also identified a need for performance cricket which is hosted within a community setting. It is Oxfordshire Cricket Board's intention to seek a county ground and indoor centre (that could be multi-sport) to cater for all levels of cricket, from grassroots all the way to National Counties Cricket Association (NCCA) and to host showcase fixtures with first class counties.
19. Comparing supply against demand across sub areas for grass pitches, supply and demand are in balance in the South sub area and meaning that there is neither overplay nor capacity on the grass pitches. There is headroom capacity in the West sub area and overplay in the North sub-area. While there is headroom capacity at some grounds, the pitches still see use and so are not surplus to requirements. The Assessment Tables Report shows further details of the carrying capacity of each site.
20. It is clear from these figures that the existing supply (capacity) of cricket pitches available to club teams should be protected. There is demand at all grounds and overplay on several of them. Improving capacity at club pitches is limited but might be possible on some pitches (but not all) by making improvements to maintenance regimes and / or providing artificial pitches, and securing additional pitch capacity, if possible, on existing pitches elsewhere or new additional pitches.
21. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (endorsed by the England and Wales Cricket Board) has been used to project potential demand forward to 2041 based on population projections and estimates of change in participation rates agreed with the ECB and County Cricket Board. Results have suggested an additional capacity required of 428 match equivalents to cater for cricket, equivalent to 86 grass pitches or 8 artificial pitches. A 'usual' cricket square has 8 grass pitches or a single artificial pitch so this figure match equivalents can translate into 8 or 9 new grounds.

22. This figure is for the whole of Vale of White Horse and the figure can be broken down to estimate where this additional demand may arise based on clubs' ambition to grow, size of the clubs and the sub-areas likely to see the most population growth.

23. For each sub-area, the additional demand to 2041 breaks down as follows:

- North sub-area = 2.56 pitches (21 grass pitches)
- South sub-area = 3.73 grounds (30 grass pitches)
- West sub-area = 2.84 grounds (23 grass pitches)

In reality, pitch / ground numbers to be provided are rounded to the nearest whole pitch/ ground.

24. It should be noted that there are some already agreed pipeline cricket pitches.

At the time of writing these pipeline new grounds included the following:

- Valley Park, near Didcot – South sub area - will provide additional playing field land and a new cricket ground at Alma Park. This is currently scheduled to be part of one of the final phases of the development, currently phased to be completed in 2031.
- Lioncourt, East of Kingston Bagpuize – West sub area – will provide a new cricket ground and supporting pavilion around 200sqm. An agreement has not been signed but discussions are at an advanced stage.

Strategic Housing Allocation Sites

25. In addition to using the playing pitch calculator to project potential future additional demand for each sub-area, the calculator has also been used to project potential demand which arises just from the strategic housing allocations where the PPS can still have an influence on provision (some allocations already have agreements in place for provision of pitches which the assessment and strategy include as “pipeline” commitments to additional supply).

26. When considering how best to plan for and accommodate demand arising from major developments, it is dangerous to assume that in every instance provision for grass pitches identified from the pitch calculator for all sports should be provided within the development itself. [It is important to note that the outputs from the Sport England calculator, which has been used to estimate demand arising from the new population on development sites, must be treated as an estimate and should be used as a starting point for negotiations for on and off-site provision and contributions. The input data is, effectively, a “snapshot” in time and input data can change from season to season. Calculations have been made based on local authority and sub-area administrative boundaries \(and not spatial catchments which might cross administrative boundaries\) and so discussions with neighbouring local authorities in locations where a reasonable catchment for a site extends into those authorities' areas might be beneficial to inform discussions about the overall quantum of provision and whether that capacity is provided on-site, off-site, or through developer contributions.](#)

27. Experience suggests that “provide and they will come” does not work for most pitch sports. Careful thought must be given the appropriateness, viability and practicalities of use, running and maintaining a pitch if in a location away from a club’s home ground. Economies of scale and critical mass of members and volunteers required are also important factors, with provision of single pitch sites rarely representing good value or a practical solution when split sites draw members away from an existing home ground (therefore, introducing additional travel for some existing members / players) and where ancillary facilities also need to be provided at significant cost. Careful consideration must be given to not create single pitch sites where no existing club is prepared to play or run and maintain the site as a satellite location. It should not be automatically assumed that a new club will simply emerge from demand and it is important to note that demand arising from the new population will occur incrementally as the development is delivered and occupied and that without sports infrastructure and “people capacity” in place at an early stage, demand will simply gravitate towards an existing club. This can often be the result of new residents moving to new developments who already live within the same housing market area – it cannot be automatically assumed that all new residents are new to the area and these people will already have associations with existing sports clubs (and will be likely to retain them if travel time does not introduce an impediment such that it will stop them playing at their “home” club).
28. Operation of a satellite site for an existing club must be carefully thought through if this is considered to be a workable potential solution. For critical mass within age groups, it would be likely that a club would favour moving several age groups, for example, to a new satellite pitch. The implication can be that more existing players then have to travel further to the new satellite location than the alternative of players arising from demand at a new development travelling to an existing club home ground. Support of NGBs is critical to realise effective and efficient creation of new clubs and / or the introduction of satellite sites for existing clubs.
29. Pooling or securing contributions from multiple sites can often be a more workable and appropriate solution where funds can be used to strengthen and improve capacity at existing club sites or can be channelled into strategic sports hub sites within a major development site to replace existing club sites where improvements and expansion of capacity could prove challenging in the longer-term.
30. **Dalton Barracks (c.2,750 dwellings, approx. 6,600 population) – North Sub-area**
The calculator suggests that of the demand projected for the sub-area as a whole, the Dalton Barracks allocation will generate demand for around 7 grass cricket pitches. Demand arising from this site will probably be best dealt with a new ground to be constructed as part of the development. However, this should be in consultation with a local club so that an anchor tenant can be found from the outset and ensure the site is fully utilised as intended.
31. **North West Grove (c.624 dwellings, approx. 1,498 population) – South Sub-area**

The calculator suggests that of the demand projected for the sub-area as a whole, the North West Grove allocation will generate demand for around 3 grass cricket pitches. Demand arising from this site will probably be best dealt with by ensuring that contributions are captured to invest nearby existing sites to create additional pitches and help improve the quality of existing pitches. Located close to Grove and Wantage, most demand arising from residents in the development seems likely to gravitate towards the local clubs around the towns. Given that likely provision will be made through off-site contributions, these pitches would require a combined capital contribution of £107,832 and a capital cost of £123,353 to contribute towards changing room provision. The calculator suggests an annual lifecycle (per annum) cost for the pitches of £21,782. These figures are based on use of the playing pitch calculator in October 2023 and figures should be reconsidered on a quarterly basis (or at appropriate times when financial data is updated by Sport England in the calculator) to ensure that they remain up-to-date.

32. North West Valley Park (c.800 dwellings, approx. 1,920 population) – South Sub-area

The calculator suggests that of the demand projected for the sub-area as a whole, the North West Valley Park allocation will generate demand for around 3 grass cricket pitches. Demand arising from this site will probably be best dealt with by ensuring that contributions are captured to invest nearby existing sites to create additional pitches and help improve the quality of existing pitches. Located close to Didcot, most demand arising from residents in the development seems likely to gravitate towards Boundary Park or the new cricket ground which will form part of the Valley Park development. Given that likely provision will be made through off-site contributions, these pitches would require a combined capital contribution of £136,182 and a capital cost of £155,784 to contribute towards changing room provision. The calculator suggests an annual lifecycle (per annum) cost for the pitches of £27,509. These figures are based on use of the playing pitch calculator in October 2023 and figures should be reconsidered on a quarterly basis (or at appropriate times when financial data is updated by Sport England in the calculator) to ensure that they remain up-to-date.

Summarising Provision

To summarise provision now and in the future, three scenarios are set out below.

Standard Scenario – main preferred use of grass pitches on club sites supplemented by artificial pitches

32. The summary picture for supply and demand in sub-areas, now and in the future is as follows.

Cricket Supply / Demand Snapshot (unsecure and secure community use combined)						
Sub-area	Teams	Surface	Supply	Demand	Supply / demand balance	Projected additional future demand
			(match equivalents)			
North	Women	Grass	280	369	-89	120
	Men Juniors	Artificial	180			
South	Women	Grass	285	244	41	176
	Men Juniors	Artificial	120			
West	Women	Grass	395	304	91	132
	Men Juniors	Artificial	60			
Vale of White Horse	Women	Grass	960	917	43	428
	Men Juniors	Artificial	360			
Projected additional demand¹ across Vale of White Horse to 2041			Match equivalents (training & matches)		428	
			Pitches (grass)		86	
			Pitches (artificial)		8	

¹ it is important to note that figures for future demand should not be read or relied upon in isolation outside of the context provided by the strategy recommendations

33. Figures should be treated with caution and as a “top end” figure and the demand for and provision of additional pitches will need to be monitored to understand realistic demand on the ground to ensure supply accurately reflects demand prior to any new pitches being provided (particularly on new grounds). The combination of provision between grass and artificial pitches will also need to be provided to fit with real demand.
34. Additional capacity seems unlikely to be required *in full* on additional new grounds for various reasons:
- i) There may not be sufficient demand in one location to justify an additional ground (which would typically host between 8 and 12 pitches in a square).
 - ii) Maintenance could be improved at grounds where the pitch is of “standard” or “poor” quality to accommodate additional demand if the demand from teams warrants it.
 - iii) Depending on proximity to the demand arising, “mothballed” grounds could be brought back into use.
 - iv) Some or all of the additional capacity required could be accommodated on existing grounds where there is the opportunity to set a new pitch at an existing square, but only where time slots are available to accommodate new teams playing matches on Saturdays and Sundays depending on the age group and format of the game played (and subject to the ability of the club or other body responsible for maintenance to maintain the additional pitch).
 - v) There could be opportunities to better match teams and the standard of cricket being played with grounds more appropriate for those teams. For example, the need to increase capacity at some grounds could also be considered in light of the changing nature of cricket, where some grounds are now too small to accommodate comfortably adult men’s team matches. Adult teams to whom this position applies may need to move home matches to alternative grounds with smaller sites being a focus more for the junior game in the future. This could present opportunities to increase capacity at grounds where they previously did not have sufficient demand to warrant such change.
35. Levels of actual and short-term demand will need to be closely monitored to understand how real demand increases during the lifetime of the strategy, particularly after the initial strategy period. As projections of demand and need are based on assumptions around increasing growth and participation, which may or may not come to fruition, additional provision after the first few years of the strategy period in particular should be responsive to demonstrable levels of demand. This is particularly the case within cricket for the growth in junior teams given the ECB’s initiatives and programmes to increase play for juniors, targets for which are relatively ambitious. It is also important to accurately monitor change in demand “on the ground” given that projections of demand are exactly that and will therefore potentially be less accurate the further forward they go, but also because initiatives, programmes and formats of the game (and when they are played) are likely to change over time.

Scenario A - No education sites in supply

36. No clubs use education sites at the current time.

Scenario B - Supply lost in areas of high deprivation

37. There are no cricket club home grounds located in areas of high deprivation.

Decarbonisation, Sustainable Travel and Climate Change

38. When considering the decarbonisation, sustainable travel and climate change agendas, there are several ways that the sport can help to minimise impact and contribute positively towards mitigating and adapting to the changing climate.

39. For example, clubs in control of their ground and providers / owners of grounds and facilities, measures such as solar pv and heat pumps can help to secure a local supply of energy and contribute towards lowering energy costs, as can retrofitting insulation to buildings.

40. Considering cycling catchments, there are no areas that are outside of a reasonable cycling distance to a cricket grounds. The assessment of grounds used by clubs suggested that only 4 club sites have secure cycle parking and all sites could offer this infrastructure to help encourage modal shift from cars.

41. However, this type of infrastructure provision can only be part of the answer. Sports facility, pitch and ground providers, nor NGBs or the local authority alone cannot be expected to provide all solutions to deliver this type of change “on the ground”. Cultural shift is also required across sport with many players using cars to get to matches and training, and a continuing challenge is likely to be that there are not and cannot be facilities, grounds and pitches provided in all locations to enable a 20 minute cycle or walk to them – it is simply unlikely to be viable to provide that number for each sport. Cultural shift will be difficult to embed in many sports, also because many players will simply not have the time in their day to factor in a longer journey time to play and many will not be prepared to cycle or walk significant distances to play matches or train after playing their sport for anywhere between one and several hours (and particularly if the weather is poor and they play outside). This is not to say that this is a challenge not worth addressing, but the Playing Pitch Strategy cannot provide full answers and proposals to resolve such issues, particularly as they go beyond the remit of the strategy and will require cross-discipline, cross-department and cross-sector working within and with organisations and other stakeholders outside of sport and planning.

42. There are concerns about the use of artificial pitch surfaces for sport. This is a greater concern perhaps for football and hockey than for cricket, while rugby will use artificial pitches for training and matches where demand suggests a need and play cannot be accommodated at club ground grass pitches. Concerns focus around use of a synthetic pitch which is predominantly plastic, and for 3G pitches used by football and rugby, the use of rubber crumb to manage the movement of the ball and consequential loss of rubber particles off-site and into the environment and watercourses.

43. For cricket, it should be considered a minor issue, with only a narrow strip of non-turf surface required to accommodate a pitch / wicket, typically one strip per main square at a ground, and non-turf surfaces being used for in-situ cricket nets. The strategy for cricket will need to recognise demand for these surfaces against cost and consideration of these environmental issues.

Key Issues Snapshot

44. The assessment data and discussion with members of the steering group suggest the following key issues are most prominent:
- Projections for growth suggest that the junior game and Women & Girls cricket could see most growth. Increasing links with schools (including security of community use) and using their pitches and facilities could become important in accommodating growth, if it materialises “on the ground”. Such links will also help to establish and maintain a pathway through the age groups for cricket.
 - Clubs with junior sections are growing significantly and outgrowing their home ground. These clubs are looking for second grounds to continue to service their membership and growth.
 - Most ancillary facilities are not fit for purpose for Women & Girls and this market is likely to grow very fast over the period of the strategy.
 - Artificial pitches are important to help protect the grass pitches by providing additional capacity to host junior matches and provide training facilities for both juniors and seniors.
 - Securing community use at club home grounds where there is currently unsecure community use is critical to give clubs certainty.
 - Most clubs use volunteers to prepare their pitches and are over reliant upon this resource. It is generally an ageing workforce and the demands of the role have increased due to the growth of junior cricket and many sites being in use 6 or 7 times a week.

Strategy Recommendations

45. The above assessment conclusions suggest that the approach to the PPS strategy in Vale of White Horse should be as follows:

PROTECT

District-wide

- i) Protect the existing supply of pitches (and their capacity) identified in the assessment (for existing known, projected and potential additional currently unidentified future demand) unless replacement equivalent capacity can be provided elsewhere to an equal or better standard (i.e. “net improvements”) reflecting the demand and type of use required “on the ground” by clubs (also see PROVIDE recommendations).
- ii) Protection from loss also extends to where a club folds, as additional capacity on a lost ground and previously used for cricket may be required by other clubs and this should be explored in relation to potential demand

where this scenario happens. Such sites also need protection for future supply as the anticipated growth in junior age groups moves through into the adult game towards during the strategy period.

- iii) Protect pitches by seeking to establish security of tenure for grounds / pitches currently considered as unsecure and explore community use on those not currently available (also see **Enhance** below). The implications of any changes to security of use will need to be understood and factored into planning for delivery during the strategy period.
- iv) Regular monitoring of the balance between supply and demand should take place to ensure that appropriate use of any available capacity is being made and confirm that any spare “headroom” capacity to accommodate growth is not considered as “surplus” to cricket use.
- v) Proposals for development which have an implication for the use of an existing pitch (such as change of land use) should take into account the recommendations of this strategy and policies of relevance in adopted Development Plans relevant to the site / pitch (i.e. Adopted Local Plans, other Development Plan Documents and Made Neighbourhood Plans).
- vi) Where pitches are lost to formal pitch use, where appropriate, the Local Planning Authority should seek to ensure that there is significant policy protection through the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plans or legal means to prevent their loss as open or green space.

Sub-Area Specific

North

- vii) Protection of pitch supply is particularly important for club pitches as there is overlap across this sub-area.
- viii) Protect the currently “mothballed” pitch sites (at Old Wallingford Way Recreation Ground and Appleford Recreation Ground) from development, holding in reserve to ensure that headroom capacity could be available to respond to potential demand if no other suitable site with existing use and headroom capacity is available.

South

- ix) Protection of pitch supply is particularly important for all club pitches as the sub area is broadly at capacity.

West

- x) Protection of pitch supply is particularly important for all club pitches. Although there is some spare capacity at a couple of sites, all sites are in use by local clubs who provide cricket opportunities to their local communities.

ENHANCE

District-wide

- i) Gain the secure use of clubs' pitches which do not currently have secure community use, to provide certainty of future supply and enable clubs and users to access necessary funding to invest in improvements.
- ii) Consider increasing the current use of existing pitches where spare capacity notionally exists, where physically, practically and logistically possible.
- iii) Support projected growth in the women's and junior games by ensuring that the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities meets their needs (i.e. that they are fit for purpose) where junior and women's teams play and train.
- iv) Support the training needs of clubs by providing in-situ practice nets where necessary to improve the capacity for training which can help retain the quality of pitches on the main square.
- v) Support proposals for improved energy efficiency and localised renewable and low carbon energy generation at facilities and grounds through measures such as LED directional lighting, solar pv, heat pumps and building insulation.
- vi) Support the continual improvement of facilities, and the workforce that prepare them, to a good quality to help attract and retain players with a focus on accessibility, safety and provision to cater for people with disabilities, girls and women.
- vii) Work with partners and key stakeholders to improve sustainable travel options to grounds, pitches and facilities.
- viii) Support provision of secure cycle stands and ev vehicle charge points at club and other providers' grounds and facilities to enhance provision for low carbon forms of travel.
- ix) NGBs and the local authority should work with clubs, operators and providers, on sites where facilities and / or pitch areas are shared between sports, to ensure that management, maintenance and access is shared evenly and appropriately between sports, for example, through establishment of multi-sport site Trusts or other management bodies.

Sub-Area Specific

North

- x) Gain the secure use of pitches which currently have unsecure community use at Playfield Road (Kennington); and Steventon Village Green to provide certainty of future supply.
- xi) Consider increasing the current use of existing pitches where spare capacity notionally exists, where physically, practically and logistically possible at Anson Field and Appleton with Eaton Sports Field.
- xii) Seek to address overplay at Cumnor CC, Wootton & Boars Hill CC and Steventon Village Green if overplay is causing reduction in pitch quality, through improved maintenance, replacement of surfaces (at artificial pitches), provision of in situ practice nets for training and / or provision of additional grass or artificial pitches.

- xi) Support the improvement of club ancillary facilities to provide fit for purpose facilities, to service current membership and the growth in the Women & Girls game at Sunningwell CC, Cumnor CC, Playfield Road (Kennington) and Steventon Village Green. This list will need to be monitored as more and more clubs establish new women & girls' sections.

South

- xii) Gain the secure use of pitches which currently have unsecure community use at Harwell Labs Recreational Association for certainty of future supply where desirable by the club and provider.
- xiii) Consider increasing the current use of existing pitches where spare capacity notionally exists, where physically, practically and logistically possible at Blewbury Road, Wantage and Grove CC and Harwell Labs Recreational Association.
- xiv) Seek to address overplay at Boundary Park and East Hendred Sports Ground if overplay is causing reduction in pitch quality, through improved maintenance, replacement of surfaces (at artificial pitches), provision of in situ practice nets for training and / or provision of additional grass or artificial pitches.
- xv) Support the improvement of club ancillary facilities to provide fit for purpose facilities, to service current membership and the growth in the Women & Girls game at East Hendred Sports Ground and Ardington & Lockinge Sports Ground. This list will need to be monitored as more and more clubs establish new women & girls' sections.

West

- xvi) Gain the secure use of pitches which currently have unsecure community use at Buscot Park, Kingston Bagpuize Sports Ground and Letcombe Recreation Ground to provide certainty of future supply.
- xvii) Consider increasing the current use of existing pitches where spare capacity notionally exists, where physically, practically and logistically possible at Shrivenham Recreation Ground, Craven Playing Fields Buscot Park and Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground.
- xviii) Seek to address overplay at Kingston Bagpuize Sports Ground if overplay is causing reduction in pitch quality, through improved maintenance, replacement of surfaces (at artificial pitches), provision of in situ practice nets for training and / or provision of additional grass or artificial pitches.
- xix) Support the improvement of club ancillary facilities to provide fit for purpose facilities, to service current membership and the growth in the Women & Girls game at Challow & Childrey CC and Craven Playing Fields. This list will need to be monitored as more and more clubs establish new women & girls' sections.

PROVIDE

District-wide

- i) Assuming that unsecure sites can be secured for community use and other measures to improve existing capacity have been taken, consider providing 86 additional grass pitches capacity, or 8 additional artificial pitches, or a combination of both grass and artificial is more realistic. This could be provided (on existing grounds rather than a new ground where feasible and where the provision of additional capacity equates to real availability on the days demand requires, the majority of which is likely to occur in sub-area North and South, followed by sub-area West. Where the additional demand is for capacity at existing club home grounds and there is no additional capacity on days when new teams require pitch use, an additional new ground may be required should the team generating the demand not be willing to play at sites where there may be available capacity when it is required.
- ii) Where the loss of an existing pitch or practice nets is unavoidable, provide replacement pitch capacity with secure community use to good quality standard in a location appropriate to demand to mitigate loss.
- iii) Ensure that the provision of any new pitches and facilities meet the most up-to-date quality design standards and dimensions supported by the NGB and Sport England.
- iv) Ensure that any new facilities and other associated pitch infrastructure are provided to meet the most up-to-date Building Regulations, including, but not restricted to, those relating to accessibility.
- v) Ensure that any new pitches and facilities have a sustainable long-term business and financial management plan in place to ensure long-term viability.
- vi) Ensure that all new pitches and facilities have a secure community use agreement in place for the long-term (preferably in perpetuity) and that the appropriate body is identified to monitor and enforce such agreements.
- vii) Seek to provide additional capacity, where needed, at (or, if this is not possible, within close proximity to) existing club home grounds as a preference over sites far from home grounds, where physical, ownership and planning constraints do not prevent such change. This will help to ensure the long-term financial stability of clubs given the social tradition and culture of the sport.
- viii) For development detailed in the adopted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 Infrastructure list, CIL monies could be secured towards the upgrade and management of existing strategic outdoor sports and recreation provision and creation of new provision and associated facilities (this includes playing pitches as identified in the PPS). However, it is recommended that local authority officers consider the benefits of bringing forward new and improved facilities related to development through s106 planning obligations as the most appropriate mechanism to understand and apply requirements generated for sports pitches and ancillary facilities by a given population.
- ix) The total amount of additional supply should come from a variety of sources, i.e. the projected demand is unlikely to need to be delivered solely through additional, new, grass pitches. Increased capacity to this amount will come from a combination of:

- Improved maintenance on sites that are rated as poor which will increase the number of match equivalents that the pitch can sustain.
 - Provide replacement of surfaces (at artificial pitches) which will increase the number of match equivalents that the pitch can sustain.
 - Provide in situ practice nets for training to move the usage for training from the match pitches to the practice nets.
 - Provide additional grass or artificial pitches on existing sites to increase capacity, where feasible to do so.
 - Bringing “mothballed” pitches back into use where and when necessary provided they are in close proximity to the identified demand (i.e. providing additional capacity on sites where grass pitches are not currently in use but where there have been pitches before);
 - Provision of new additional grass pitches at new grounds provided they are in close proximity to the identified demand.
- x) The use of hybrid pitches in cricket is a new innovative technology but is currently not fully endorsed by the ECB. Research is ongoing in the recreational game and it will be sometime before the ECB will have detailed outcomes. This may change over the lifetime of the strategy and provide another option to increase capacity of existing sites.
- xi) In cases where mitigation is required as the result of a loss of a pitch to development, and that mitigation is in the form of off-site contributions, to ensure certainty that the contributions can be used to deliver the intended provision in part or in full (and in turn help to address any “knock-on” mitigation required on the site to which the contribution applies), the Local Planning Authority should consider introducing a Grampian condition² on permission to ensure that mitigation is delivered as intended (and therefore certainty of delivery is guaranteed).
- xii) A “plan, deliver, monitor, manage” approach should be taken to the provision of additional capacity. The combination of provision between grass and artificial pitches will also need to be provided to fit with real demand (for example, to match increased participation in the junior and women’s game should it materialise as projected / targeted by the ECB / the County Cricket Board)³.
- xiii) The management of existing supply and the balance between supply and demand should be closely monitored and provision managed to ensure that supply (i.e. grounds) is best suited to the type and format of the game played and when matches take place. The provision of additional pitches and / or facilities should also be closely co-ordinated between the NGB, clubs, league administrators, Sport England, the local authority, and the

² See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/use-of-planning-conditions#Application-of-the-six-tests> for further details on use of Grampian Conditions. Section - “When can conditions be used relating to land not in control of the applicant?” Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 21a-009-20140306. The NPPG states that Grampian Conditions are conditions which are “prohibiting development authorised by the planning permission or other aspects linked to the planning permission (eg occupation of premises) until a specified action has been taken (such as the provision of supporting infrastructure)”.

³ While projections have made assumptions about use, should for example, adult team demand come forward more for midweek than weekend matches, the balance between grass pitch and artificial pitch provision may need to change to reflect the preferred surface for midweek matches.

land owner (where the latter is not one of the aforementioned bodies) to ensure that additional supply responds to required demand.

Sub-Area Specific

North

- xx) Within this sub-area, the following measures should be taken to address the current and projected demand:
- Enable the supply of additional pitch capacity to accommodate existing overplay and future demand to a total equivalent capacity of 24 additional grass pitch capacity, or 2 additional artificial pitches, or a combination of both grass and artificial is more realistic, across this sub-area.
 - Providing for additional supply should come, broadly sequentially, following the process set out in the district-wide recommendation above in PROVIDE, bullet point ix).
 - Dalton Barracks development will generate demand around 7 grass cricket pitches. Demand arising from this site will probably be best dealt with a new ground to be constructed as part of the development. However, this should be in consultation with a local club so that an anchor tenant can be found from the outset and ensure the site is fully utilised as intended.
 - Land North of Dunmore Road / North of Abingdon development near Abingdon a new cricket ground has been agreed as part of the development. This is to accommodate future additional demand from the development and the final number of cricket pitches on the ground needs to be agreed.
 - Support aspirations and plans to introduce 1 x non turf cricket pitch and associated changing facilities / pavilion at Walnut Meadows to cater for local demand.
 - If additional pitches are required, capacity increases should be concentrated at the following sites as these clubs are continuing to grow and require additional facilities to service this growth. It should be noted these sites are already at or close to capacity so securing access to existing grounds with spare capacity or providing new grounds should be considered as a priority. Each site needs to undertake an assessment to identify exactly how much and where additional capacity can be provided.
 - Cumnor CC
 - Playfield Road
 - Steventon Village Green
 - Wootton & Boars Hill CC

South

- xiv) Within this sub-area, the following measures should be taken to address the current and projected demand:
- Enable the supply of additional pitch capacity to accommodate existing overplay and future demand to a total equivalent capacity of

36 additional grass pitch capacity, or 3 additional artificial pitches, or a combination of both grass and artificial is more realistic, across this sub-area.

- Providing for additional supply should come, broadly sequentially, following the process set out in the district-wide recommendation above in PROVIDE, bullet point ix).
- Valley Park development near Didcot will provide additional playing field land but no agreement has been yet as to the exact make up of this provision and if it will include a new cricket ground.
- If additional pitches are required, capacity increases should be concentrated at the following sites as these clubs are continuing to grow and require additional facilities to service this growth. It should be noted these sites are already at or close to capacity so securing access to existing grounds with spare capacity or providing new grounds should be considered as a priority. Each site needs to undertake an assessment to identify exactly how much and where additional capacity can be provided.
 - Boundary Park
 - East Hendred Sports Ground

West

xv) Within this sub-area, the following measures should be taken to address the current and projected demand:

- Enable the supply of additional pitch capacity to accommodate existing overplay and future demand to a total equivalent capacity of 27 additional grass pitch capacity, or 3 additional artificial pitches, or a combination of both grass and artificial is more realistic, across this sub-area.
- Providing for additional supply should come, broadly sequentially, following the process set out in the district-wide recommendation above in PROVIDE, bullet point ix).
- Lioncourt, East of Kingston Bagpuize – West sub area – will provide a new cricket ground and supporting pavilion around 200sqm. An agreement has not been signed but discussions are at an advanced stage.
- If additional pitches are required, capacity increases should be concentrated at the following sites as these clubs are continuing to grow and require additional facilities to service this growth. It should be noted these sites are already at or close to capacity so securing access to existing grounds with spare capacity or providing new grounds should be considered as a priority. Each site needs to undertake an assessment to identify exactly how much and where additional capacity can be provided.
 - Challow & Childrey CC
 - Folly Sports Park
 - East Hanney Playing Field

A Note About Delivery

46. It is the responsibility of all signatories to the PPS and to users and providers, to act upon and deliver actions identified in the strategy. Responsibility for provision is not solely the responsibility of any one party.