

Copeland BC

PPS

Stage C

July 2023

Copeland Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy Needs Assessment - Stage C

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1. Copeland Stage C Assessment

Geographical Analysis

- 1.1 To fully understand the patterns of supply and demand, the adequacy of provision has been analysed firstly across Copeland and then more specifically within each of Sub-Area. This ensures that issues relating to specific areas of the Borough are identified and that settlement and site-specific issues can be recorded.

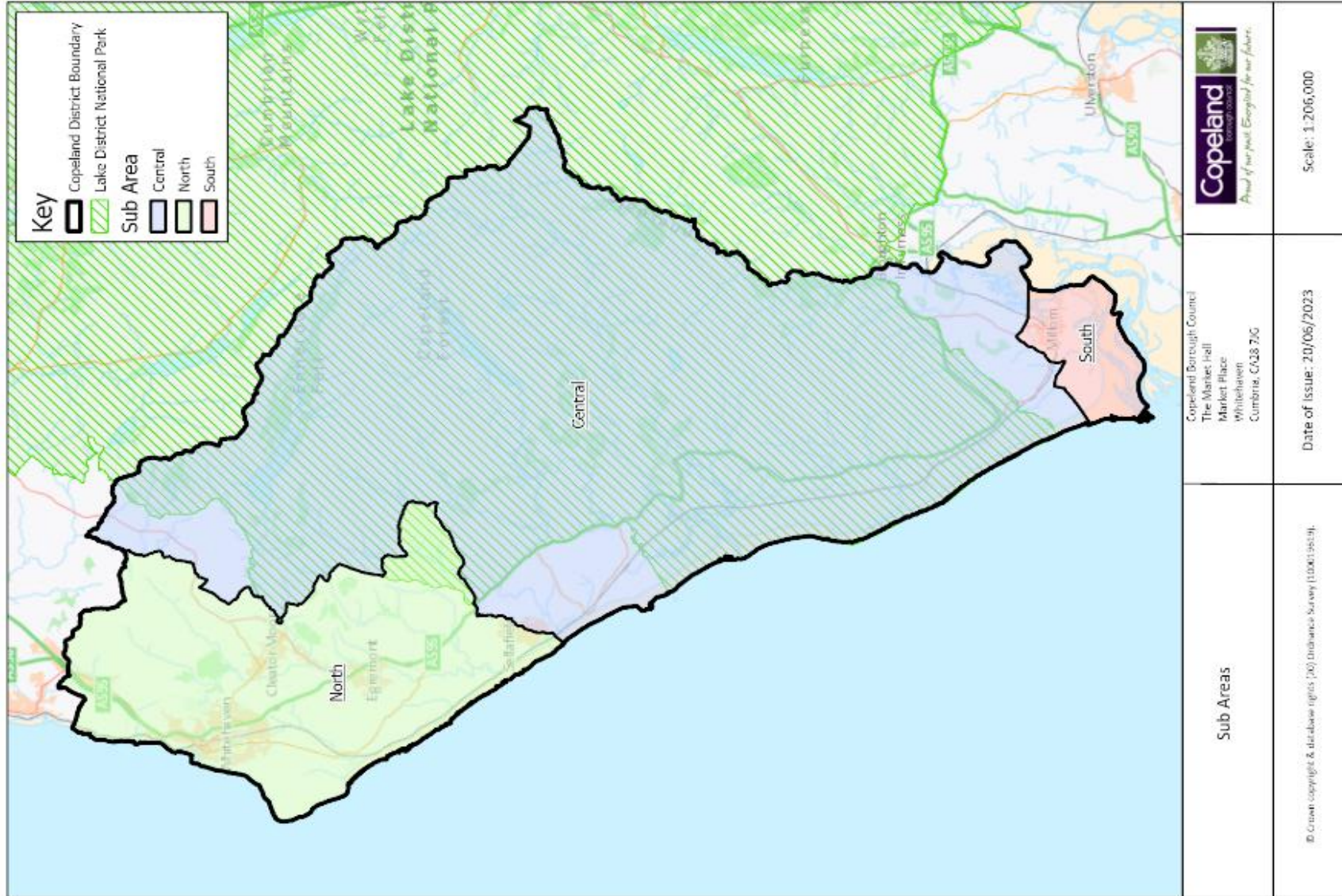
Study Area

- 1.2 The study area is the Copeland Borough Council boundary area. The study area can then be split up into three sub areas:
- North
 - Central
 - South

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Figure 1:



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- 1.3 Through consultation with Copeland Borough Council prior to commencing this PPOSS, it was agreed that the population model below would be used to inform current and future supply and demand analysis. Office for National Statistics population data is used from 2018.
- 1.4 It was also agreed that, in line with Copeland Borough Council's Local Plan, that future growth projections would be based on housing development of 146 new dwellings per year between 2021 and 2038. It is assumed that the average household size is 2.4 people.

Table 1:

Modelled scenarios	Population ONS 2018	SHMA 146 new dwellings pa for 2021 - 2038 Population ¹	TOTAL POPULATION (8.7% increase)
Copeland	68,400	5,956	74,356

- 1.5 In addition to this projected population growth, the Lake District National Park (LDNP) local plan identified 7 specific sites for housing development in the LDNP area, that overlaps the Copeland Borough Council boundary. These sites will add a total of 150 houses to the area, which using the 2.4 average household figure, would result in an additional 360 people. As the section of the LDNP area considered as part of the PPOSS is situated in the central sub area, these additional 360 people will be attributed here. They will be added the population growth section for each sport as an additional growth in population in the central sub area, where appropriate.
- 1.6 The 360 additional people will be attributed to specific age bands for each sport, based on the current demographic breakdown. Although, the age profile of this specific population may change over the local plan period, providing the overall population remains as projected, the need of the central sub area will not be significantly affected.
- 1.7 Although these figures will be used throughout the supply and demand analysis, an increased level of housing development will be explored as a scenario as part of stage D.

¹ Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 146 dwellings pa x 17 years (=2,482) x 2.4 average household size (=5,956)

2. Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) Assessment

Introduction

- 2.1. There are three surface types that fall into the category of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP); rubber crumb (3G), sand-based (filled or dressed) and water based. This section focusses on the third generation (3G) facilities in Copeland that are suitable for football, rugby union and rugby league, as well as the one sand-based pitch in Copeland, which is currently used for football and rugby training. There are no water based pitches in Copeland.

3G AGP Usage for Football

- 2.2. The FA and Football Foundation considers high quality 3G pitches as essential in promoting coach and player development across all age groups. These pitches can support intensive use and as such are valuable assets for both playing and training. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for community use and training however they are increasingly used for competition, which the FA wholly supports providing the pitch has been appropriately tested and is on the FA 3G pitch register. The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England with the opportunity to train once a week on a floodlit 3G surface together with priority access for England Football Accredited community clubs through a partnership agreement.
- 2.3. The FA permits the use of 3G pitches across all competitions other than the Premier League and Football League. This decision was taken due to the significant advances that have been made to the development of 3G Football Turf (FT) and the adoption of these surfaces by professional leagues throughout Europe and by both UEFA and FIFA for major competitions.
- 2.4. Competitive affiliated football can only take place on 3G surfaces that have been tested to FA standards, meet the required standards, and are on the FA 3G Football Turf Pitch Register. Some football training takes place on sand-based surfaces, however this is mainly due to lack of access to more appropriate facilities, and it not a comparable alternative. Therefore a 3G surface is the preferred surface for football by both the consumer and the FA.

3G AGP Usage for Rugby

- 2.5. The use of 3G AGP provision for rugby match play and training has increased significantly in the past 10 years, due to a combination of improved technology, greater investment and changing player behaviour.
- 2.6. Clubs and operators are increasingly seeing the benefit of utilising 3G provision, due to the durability of the surface and the ability of clubs to play back-to-back matches, as well as using the same surfaces for both match play and training.

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- 2.7. For facilities to be used for contact training or affiliated rugby union match play, pitches must be World Rugby Regulation 22 (WR22) compliant, which ensures pitches have an adequate shock pad and length of synthetic grass to ensure they are safe to play on. Pitches must be tested upon installation and then retested every two years to comply with WR22.
- 2.8. Pitches that are WR22 are commonly also compliant for Rugby League as the surface satisfied the requirements of the RFL Performance and Construction Standards for Synthetic Turf Competition and Training Pitches. However surfaces that are compliant with rugby league standards, do not always meet the requirements for rugby union.

Supply

- 2.9. Table 2 overleaf provides a list of all sand-based and 3G AGPs in Copeland, identified as part of the audit. For each of the AGPs across the Study Area, the supply and demand has been summarised, with identification of spare capacity in the peak period where relevant.
- 2.10. Detailed audit data for each facility, as well as whether they are included on the FA register, are included in Appendix B.
- 2.11. The study area currently has three full sized 3G AGPs, which are all available for community use and are used heavily through periods of peak demand. All of these pitches have secured community use agreements and all are located in the North sub area. The central and south sub areas have no 3G provision.
- 2.12. St Benedict's Catholic High School site is a full size, WR22 compliant pitch on an accessible education site. Cleator Moor Activity Centre is 3G facility that has recently been resurfaced from a sand-dressed facility. Whitehaven AFC is also a full sized 3G facility, catering predominantly for Whitehaven AFC club use.
- 2.13. The peak times Monday – Thursday are 5-9pm, Friday 5-7pm and at weekends and 9am-5pm. All facilities have sports lighting and can therefore be used by the community at peak times throughout the winter. Table 3 details the number of peak time hours available at each site.
- 2.14. In addition to the full-size pitches, there are **three** small-sided 3G pitches, that can be used for training and junior match play. The additional capacity that is provided by these facilities will be addressed in the following supply and demand balance section. As with full sized provision, all small-sided 3G pitches are located in the north of the study area. This lack of geographical distribution creates a significant imbalance in the accessibility of 3G pitches for teams across the study area.
- 2.15. There is one full-size sand dressed AGP located within Copeland at Millom School, in the south sub area. Due to the poor quality of the pitch and its unsuitability for football, rugby league and rugby provision, the pitch does not currently hold any formal match play of any sport. It is used for 8 hours a week during peak week-day hours for training purposes only. It is used for education purposes during term-time between 8am-5pm Monday to Friday and is closed at the weekends.

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- 2.16. Local Football Facility Plans (LFFP) are locally tailored reports prepared by the Football Foundation to enable investment into football facilities to be accurately targeted. A LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed demand and supply analysis of all pitch provision in a local area.
- 2.17. It cannot be used as a replacement for a playing pitch strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will however build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.
- 2.18. Although Table 2 below provides an outline of the current supply of AGP provision across Copeland, a planning application was approved on 6 June 2022 for a new full-size 3G AGP, full-size sand dressed AGP, tennis/netball courts and polymetric sprint straight at the Whitehaven Academy. All facilities will have appropriate floodlighting. There will be no loss of grass football or rugby provision. Different scenarios will be explored as part of Stage D of the PPS process, however this could potentially meet the need for one full size 3G in the north sub area and cater for displaced hockey demand. A further analysis of the future supply needs will be completed later in this document.
- 2.19. An audit of AGPs in Copeland is provided below.

Table 2: AGP Audit

Site Name	Sub Area	Availability	Ownership	Security of Use ²	Surface Type	FA 3G Pitch Register	WR22	Size (M)	Age of Surface	Floodlit	Pitch Rating
Cleator Moor Activity Centre	North	Available	Local Authority	Secured	3G – Long Pile	Yes	Yes	Full – 62x100m	2021	Yes	Good
Cumbria Sport Academy	North	Available	Trust	Secured	3G – Long Pile	No	No	5v5 x 4 – 30x80m	2006	Yes	Poor
Egremont RUFC	North	Available	Sports Club	Secured	3G – Long Pile	No	No	5v5 – 20x36m	2008	Yes	Standard
St Benedict's RUFC	North	Available	Local Authority	Secured	3G – Long Pile	No	No	7v7 – 42x60m	2009	Yes	Standard
St Benedict's High School	North	Available	Education	Secured	3G – Long Pile	Yes	Yes	Full – 70x105m	2019	Yes	Good
Whitehaven AFC	North	Available	Sports Club	Secured	3G – Long Pile	Yes	No	Full – 70x105m	2005	Yes	Good
Millom School	South	Available	Education	Unsecured	Sand Filled	No	No	Full – 61x100m	2006	Yes	Poor

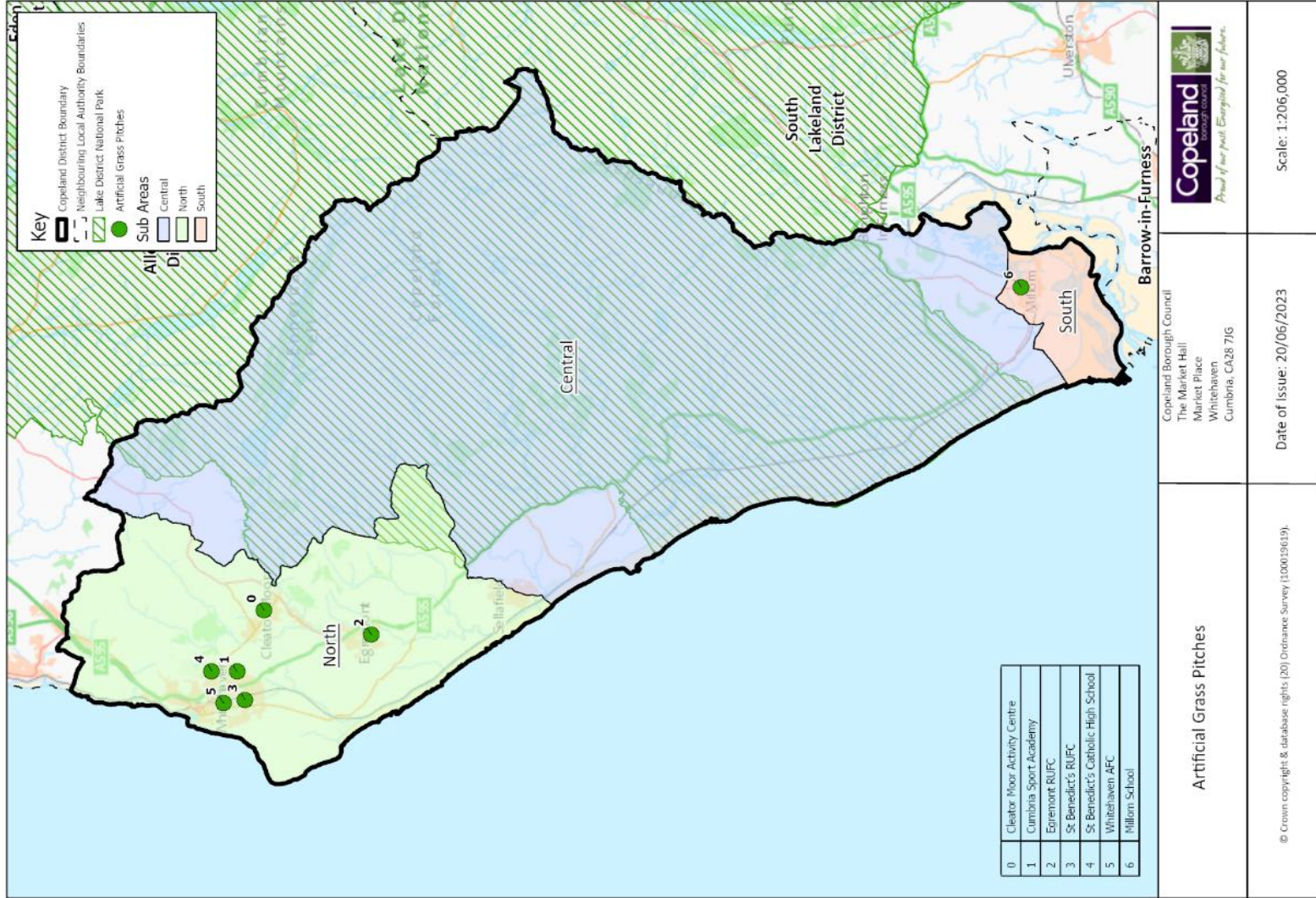
² If a site is owned by a sports club or local authority, or there is a community use agreement in place, then it can be classed as a secure site. If there is no community use agreement in place, then a site is classed as unsecure.

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2.20. Map 1 shows the location of all AGPs in Copeland.

Map 1: AGP provision in Copeland



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Current Supply and Demand

Combined Supply and Demand Analysis for Football, Hockey and Rugby

- 2.21. The analysis in the previous sections has explained the theoretical supply and demand analysis for the study area, which uses an assumed level of availability and demand to calculate the required total amount of provision.
- 2.22. To provide a more accurate picture of how AGP provision is currently being utilised, Table 3 shows the supply and demand analysis for all provision that is available to the community. This compares the amount of available capacity (in hours) during the peak period with the amount of demand that has been provided by clubs and users during consultation.
- 2.23. Table 3 indicates of the three 3G AGPs in Copeland, two have very little peak time capacity and one has around 13 hours spare.
- 2.24. All three 3G AGPs in Copeland are used to capacity midweek for training, matchplay and some informal use. Although St Benedict’s Catholic High and Whitehaven AFC have no spare capacity at weekends, there is a small amount of capacity at Cleator Moor Activity Centre on Saturdays and Sundays to satisfy some additional play.
- 2.25. Table 3 also shows that all small-sided provision across the study area has spare capacity during the peak period, and all are available to the community. When taking into consideration small sided 3G AGP provision, there is total capacity of 108 hours per week during the peak period, of which only 29 hours are being utilised.
- 2.26. It is key to note that in both analysis areas identified above (full sized and small sided AGP), only demand that has been identified by clubs and sites during the PPS consultation has been included. Table 3 below shows that there is currently 116 hours of demand from affiliated teams and clubs in Copeland. It must be noted that further demand will be generated by informal football or corporate leagues, among others, therefore it is important that this supply and demand assessment is cross-checked with the supply and demand analysis presented below.

Table 3: Supply and Demand Analysis for all available AGP Provision

Site Name	Pitch Type	Size	Hours Available in the Peak Period	Clubs using the site			Total hours Used			
				Football	Hockey	Other	Midweek	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Cleator Moor Activity Centre	3G	Full – 62x100m	34	Cleator Moor Celtic, Moor Row, Whitehaven Miners, St Bees Juniors	-	Wath Brow Hornets, Masters Rugby League	18	2	3	23

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Site Name	Pitch Type	Size	Hours Available in the Peak Period	Clubs using the site			Total hours Used			
				Football	Hockey	Other	Midweek	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Cumbria Sport Academy	3G	5v5 x 4 – 30x80m	34	Moor Row Juniors	-	Egremont RUFC	7	0	0	7
Egremont RUFC	3G	5v5 – 20x36m	34	St Bees, Gosforth, Windscale	-	Egremont RUFC	17.5	0	0	17.5
St Benedict's RUFC	3G	7v7 – 42x60m	34		-	St Benedict's RUFC	4.5	0	0	4.5
St Benedict's High School	3G	Full – 70x105m	30	Gosforth FC, Whitehaven Miners, Cleator Moor Celtic, Bransty Rangers, Windscale FC, Moresby Rangers, Private Lettings, Lowca FC, Workington Reds	-	Alan Davidson RFL, Kells ARLFC, Hensingham ARLFC, Whitehaven RLFC, Age UK	20	6	6	32
Whitehaven AFC	3G	Full – 70x105m	34	Whitehaven AFC	-	-	20	6	6	34
Millom School	Sand Dressed	Full – 61x100m	34	Junior football – Millom, Haverigg	-	Rugby	8	0	0	8
Total							95	14	15	124

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Informal Demand

- 2.27. In addition to the 'formal' demand captured during the club consultations, it is also important to factor the amount of 'informal' demand for AGP facilities produced within the Copeland. 'Informal' demand in this sense refers to demand produced by clubs, teams or users of AGP facilities that are not affiliated to an NGB (such as groups of friends having a game of 5v5 organised within their group).
- 2.28. The over 16- 70 population of Copeland is 46,196.
- 2.29. In the area covered by Cumbria Active Partnership (the smallest available area for which there is available data), 2.2% of people aged 16 or over participated in small-sided football at least twice in the last 28 days (May 2019-2020).
- 2.30. If this ratio is applied to the population of Copeland, then it can be said that 1,016 people play small-sided football every fortnight (on average). On a given single week therefore, is, on average, demand from 508 people play small-sided football.
- 2.31. Small-sided football is typically played in a 5v5 or 6v6 format meaning a minimum of 10 people are required for any one match (although 7v7 is also a common format). Accounting for substitutes and a portion of small-sided demand being played in 7v7, it can be stated as an assumption that a total of 14 people on average participate in one game of small-sided football.
- 2.32. When the above assumption is applied to the number of people estimated to participate in small-sided football matches per week, it can be said that there is demand for 36 informal small-sided matches per week (508 divided by 14).
- 2.33. It is assumed that each small-sided football match lasts for one hour (allowing time for change over).
- 2.34. Given there are considered to be 4 hours of peak-time capacity per day in the mid-week period, plus a further 8 hours on each day of the weekends, it can be said that one small-sided pitch can accommodate 36 matches per week in the peak period.
- 2.35. Given the 128 hours of 'formal' demand captured by the club consultations, it can be said there is demand for approximately **164 hours of AGP demand in Copeland when all formal and informal demand has been considered.**

Current Supply and Demand Modelling – Full Size 3G AGP Provision (Football)

- 2.36. As part of the FA National Game Strategy, the Football Association identified a strategic objective to ensure that all teams playing competitive football have access to a floodlit 3G AGP to train on at least once a week. To do this, FA calculations estimate that a full size 3G AGP (available for community use at peak times) can service every 38 teams, which will allow the required training and match play slots, as well as providing suitable supply at peak times (weekday evenings and weekends).

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- 2.37. The 1:38 model assumes that all pitches are fully available for club use at peak time when in practice a number of pitches operate commercial small sided leagues which reduce capacity available. It also projects all football teams as training on full size 3G pitches when in practice a proportion of football training demand may be retained on sand based AGPs in order to maintain financial and commercial sustainability of these pitches.
- 2.38. Using the audit data for Copeland, 190 teams have been identified as playing within Copeland. Using the FA's suggested ratio of 1:38, this estimates that **5 full sized 3G AGP's** would service the needs for 190 teams. Table 4 below highlights the concentration of teams in Copeland and the required distribution of 3Gs by sub area.

Table 4: Current Capacity Analysis for AGPs per Sub Area

Sub Area	Teams	Total number of full size AGPs required to meet demand
North	167	4.4
Central	4	0.1
South	19	0.5
Copeland	190	5

- 2.39. Supply and demand data for the project identifies three existing full sized 3G AGP facilities within the Study Area that are available for community use. There is therefore currently **a theoretical deficit of two full sized 3G AGPs** across the Study Area.
- 2.40. It should be noted that this theoretical analysis only includes full sized 3G AGP's, in line with the strategic objectives of the FA and Football Foundation. The Strategy document of this PPS will include a scenario to test the impact of incorporating all small-sided provision within the supply and demand analysis, which will provide a clear understanding of whether the extensive small-sided provision in the study area provides enough capacity to reduce the future need for investment.

Supply and Demand Modelling – Full-Sized and Small-Sided Provision (Football)

- 2.41. While it is understood that the preferable facility type is full sized 3G AGP, given the flexibility that this provides clubs and operators, it is also important to understand the impact that small sided 3G provision has on the overall supply and demand balance for football AGP's in the Study Area.
- 2.42. To calculate the capacity of small-sided provision, an assumption has been made as to how many teams each of the pitch typologies would be able to sustain, based on a starting of point of 38 teams for affiliated football team training on full size AGPs and using the current split of teams across the study area to calculate the number of teams that each pitch size can service.

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2.43. Table 5 details this analysis, showing how the number of teams has been calculated using the proportion of each age group within the total football demand.

Table 5: Capacity Analysis for AGPs per Pitch Typology

Pitch Typology	Size	Proportion of teams that can use facility	No. of teams that the facility can service	Facilities within Study Area	Capacity (no of teams serviced by 3G) *
11v11 (Including adult and youth)	100x60m or larger	100%	38	3	114
9v9	Between 80x50m and 100x60m	53%	22	0	0
7v7	Between 60x40m and 80x50m	35%	15	1	15
5v5	Between 40x30m and 60x40	17%	7	5	35
Total teams					164

2.44. Table 5 illustrates that when only full sized 3G AGP provision is included, **114** teams across the Study Area are serviced by 3G provision, which correlates to deficit of artificial provision. This clearly highlights the deficit of at least 1 full size AGP in the north sub area, where there are 167 teams in that area alone. If only the north was considered, there would be still be 53 teams, that could not access training on a full size 3G pitch, resulting in a deficit of 1.4 3G pitches.

2.45. When small sided 3G AGP provision is included within the capacity analysis, it is estimated that an additional **50** teams have access to 3G provision. Based on this, a limited number of teams are able to utilise these smaller facilities. When this is combined with the capacity provided by full size pitches, there is an estimated total capacity of **164** teams, which means that there is a remaining deficit of provision that means **26** teams cannot access 3G AGP provision.

2.46. To convert this 26 team deficit into full sized pitches, the ratio of 1:38 is used, as a guide, to understand how many full sized 3G AGP's could be required to address the deficit of affiliated football team training. When including small-sided provision, **there is a total deficit across the study area of 0.7 full sized 3G AGPs** to meet football demand, which should be rounded up to **1** to allow for a comfort factor.

2.47. Through consultation it is apparent there is some unused peak time capacity at Cleator Moor Activity Centre and it should be a priority to utilise this time more effectively. However, there are only 2 hours free midweek to satisfy training demand and available weekend time may not be suitable for the clubs trying to access the site.

2.48. Importantly it also must be noted that although football forms the vast majority of use on 3G AGPs in Copeland, there is currently 6 hours of Rugby League use on the WR22 3G at St Benedict's Catholic High School, as well as further rugby league usage of Cleator Moor Activity Centre. This suggests that the under supply of 3G pitches in the study area is actually higher when considering rugby league as well.

AGP Future Supply and Demand Balance

- 2.49. To understand the projected level of demand for 3G AGPs in Copeland across the lifetime of the project, the same ratio of 1:38 has been applied to the additional 42 football teams identified in the TGR and latent demand calculations, by 2038.
- 2.50. Using these updated parameters, it is projected that an additional 1.1 new full sized 3G AGPs will be required by the end of the local plan period in Copeland, to meet demand from future football demand alone. This is to be considered in addition to meeting the current deficit of 1 AGPs highlighted as part of the current analysis (when including small sized provision, paragraph 2.45.). Table 6 below breaks down this future demand by sub area, which will feed into the site-specific recommendations and actions.
- 2.51. It should be noted that the future supply and demand analysis considers only full sized 3G AGPs. It is also key to consider that the additional 3G AGPs that are identified are required to service the future growth in demand, caused by population growth and the conversion of latent/unmet demand. **This should be considered in addition to the current deficit of provision that has been identified previously in the chapter.**

Table 6: Future Capacity Analysis for AGPs by Sub Area

Sub Area	New teams (as identified in TGR and latent demand)	Total number of new AGPs required to meet future demand
North	38	100%
Central	0	0
South	4	10.5%
Copeland	42	1.1

- 2.52. While the above analysis provides a quantified assessment of supply and demand, it is important to consider accessibility and spatial constraints when making recommendations regarding new or increased access to AGP provision. Figure 1 overleaf shows the catchment area analysis for 3G AGPs in Copeland, which can be used to assess the accessibility of full-size 3G AGP facilities across the Study Area.

AGP Future Demand – Rugby League, Rugby Union and Hockey

- 2.53. There is no current hockey use of 3G facilities in Copeland. However there is one hockey club in Copeland that has no access to AGP pitches. Western Lakes Hockey Club was based at Cleator Moor Activity Centre, however due to the resurfacing of the site to 3G in 2021, the club now play outside of the study area. At the time of the previous PPS, the club had two junior teams.
- 2.54. Rugby Union use of AGP provision is limited to non WR22 conforming 3G pitches (Egremont RUFC and St Benedict’s RUFC). Although training can take place on these facilities, no tackling or match play can occur.

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- 2.55. The WR22 3G at St Benedict's Catholic High currently supports 6 hours of rugby league provision per week. Which is around 7% of all rugby league provision. However, through club consultations, it is clear that there is significant demand for artificial surfaces to support rugby league club training. The current users are Kells ARLFC, Hensingham ARLFC, Whitehaven RLFC, and the RFL. The three clubs have all highlighted the need for additional access, and any future increase in demand is likely to be driven by them. The development of the planned 3G pitch at Whitehaven Academy, will go some way to alleviating this unmet demand. This will be explored further as part of Stage D.
- 2.56. Rugby league sites are currently suffering a deficit of -69.75 MES per week, which is expected to worsen to -72 MES per week by 2038. Rugby union has a current under supply of -2.5 MES, rising to -8 when taking into account future growth.
- 2.57. It should therefore be considered, that any new AGP provision should be World Rugby Compliant (WR22) to support with the training and match play demands of both rugby league and rugby union clubs in Copeland. The location and exact requirements of any development will be explored as part of Stage D of the PPS process.

Meeting the Current and Future Demand for 3G AGP Facilities Across Copeland

- 2.58. To meet the shortfall for both current and future 3G AGP supply and demand, the likely solution is new 3G AGP development.
- 2.59. A³ key objective for the FA is to maximise the use of 3G pitches for competitive football match play. This will increase the quality of provision due the reduction in demand placed on grass pitches, reduce the number of cancellations and help to address future demand. Affordable pricing policy that includes match-based charges in line with grass pitches should be a consideration.
- 2.60. Although the LFFP identified a need for a total of four full sized 3G AGPs and no additional small-sided pitches to meet current demand at the time of the report, an additional 29 football teams have been identified during consultation for this PPS. The PPS also considers rugby union, rugby league and hockey demand for AGP provision.
- 2.61. From the current and future supply and demand analysis we can presume the following:
- There is a current deficit of at least 1 full size 3G pitch in Copeland for affiliated football team training in the North sub area;
 - By 2038 there will be an additional need for a further 1.1 new full size 3G AGP pitches due to population demand and team growth (football only);
 - A total of 2.1 extra full size AGPs are required. However this would only satisfy the football training demand from affiliated teams (based in the FA 1:38 ratio);

³ <https://www.thefa.com/-/media/cfa/nottinghamshirefa/files/clubs-and-leagues/3g-guidance-lo.ashx>

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- Due to the significant under supply of rugby union and rugby league pitches in particular, it should be considered that at least one of the proposed new 3G AGPs should be WRC22 compliant; and
 - There is no 3G provision in the central or south sub areas, where access for football, rugby league and rugby union teams is significantly restricted.
- 2.62. The deliverability of any AGP should be subject to a significant feasibility study to determine the financial viability of a site and its impact on the local community. When selecting the sites that are appropriate for 3G AGP development, sites should have the following characteristics:
- Be available for significant use by local community clubs;
 - Have good access and ancillary facilities to service the pitch(es);
 - Be financially sustainable;
 - Be able to be maximised for training and match play provision during peak time;
 - Be well positioned to deliver wider football or rugby development programmes, including coach education and a recreational offer, using spare off-peak capacity to deliver this; and
 - Be able to explore shared projects across multiple sports, possibly education use with a focus on the community, in order to ensure facilities are used throughout the peak and off-peak periods.

AGP summary

- 2.63. This section summarises the findings from the AGP analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendations and action plan section for Copeland.
- 2.64. Table 7 includes the response to 5 key questions which are identified in the Sport England PPS Guidance Checklists. Using these key questions to summarise the findings of each of the sport chapter creates consistency, not only within the report but with similar PPS projects in neighbouring local authorities and further afield.

Table 7: Key PPS Findings for AGPs in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There is a total of 7 AGP's, with 3 (43%) of facilities rated as good and 2 (28.5%) as standard. The AGP provision at Millom School and Cumbria Sport Academy are rated as poor quality. 4 of the pitches are full size, while St Benedict's RUFC is 7v7 and Egremont RUFC is 5v5. Cumbria Sport Academy is made up of 4, 5v5 pitches. Cleator Moor Activity Centre and St Benedict's Catholic High are WR22 compliant and support both football and rugby usage.</p> <p>The 3G pitches at the Cleator Moor Activity Centre and St Benedict's High are WR22 and suitable for rugby union, although there is no rugby union use and rugby league only makes up around 7% of total demand. This is due to the fact that both Egremont RUFC and St Benedict's RUFC have access to small 3G training facilities at their own sites.</p>

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Key Question	Analysis
	There is no 3G provision in the central or south sub areas, limiting the opportunities for access to such pitches from teams from these locations.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>The current supply and demand analysis for 3G AGP football pitch provision, including both full sized and small sided provision, shows a deficit of at least 1 full sized 3G AGP in the North sub area. This deficit takes into consideration the capacity provided by small-sided provision 3G AGP provision and incorporates demand for football only.</p> <p>However it should also be considered that there is significant over playing of rugby league grass pitches in the study area, illustrating the need for additional AGP provision in the area. Although theoretically there is a small amount of peak time capacity at Cleator Moor Activity Centre, this is not adequate enough, or at suitable times to support Rugby League training demand. There is also no WR22 compliant facilities in either the central or south sub areas.</p> <p>In total, there are 128 hours of community use during peak times on AGPs in the study area, compared to 234 available peak time hours. However, many of these spare available hours are generated on pitches small format pitches, and in sub areas that do not cater for the vast majority of clubs.</p> <p>There is also one hockey club, which currently must play outside of Copeland. Due to lack of appropriate surfaces.</p> <p>If only full-sized AGP provision was taken into consideration in the supply and demand calculation, there would be a deficit of 2 full sized 3G AGP's. The football demand for 3G provision in the south sub area, is supported by the deficit of rugby league and rugby union grass pitches in the area. Any 3G development in the south, should be considered as a WR22 compliant pitch.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>As mentioned above, 43% of AGPs in Copeland are good, 28.5% standard and 28.5% are poor quality. All AGPs other than Millom School are located in the north sub area. Millom School AGP is rated as poor quality. The overall standard of AGP provision is varied, however all three full sized 3G AGPs are rated as good quality.</p> <p>Although the Whitehaven AFC site is of good quality, The LFFP identified that the resurfacing of pitch as a priority in 2020, due to the lifespan of the facility. The pitches at Cleator Moor Activity Centre and St Benedict's Catholic High are recent developments and are in good condition.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>In addition to the current under supply of at least 1 full size 3G, there is predicted to be a demand for an additional 1.1 full size 3G AGPs by 2038 due to population growth and team generation rates. However this growth only considers football and there would also be unmet demand from rugby league and rugby union clubs. The planned development of Whitehaven Academy will include one full size 3G pitch, as well as a full size sand dressed hockey pitch. There is also a proposed resurfacing of the Millom School site to 3G carpet. If both of these developments go ahead, then all current and future demand would likely be able to be met.</p> <p>Development of a 3G AGP in the south sub area, would significantly increase the community access to AGP provision in the area, whilst reducing the over playing of grass pitches by football, rugby union and rugby league clubs. A WR22 pitch should be considered by any new development if there is to be rugby union use of it.</p>
Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>Using current demand data coupled with future TGR calculations and latent demand information, it has been identified that by 2038, there will be a need for 5.1 full size 3G AGPs in the study area, resulting in a current deficit of 2.1. This calculation uses the FA's 1:38 ratio.</p> <p>Again, this figure only takes into consideration football demand, and when noting the significant deficit of rugby league and rugby union pitches in Copeland, the future under supply of 3G AGP pitches would arguably be much higher.</p>

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Key Question	Analysis
	There is predicted to be an additional 7 rugby league teams in the north sub area and an additional 3 in the south by 2038. This total increase of 10 teams, could potentially raise the deficit of 3G AGP pitches to 2.3 by 2038. Any hockey usage by the existing Western Lakes Hockey Club, could be met by the sand dressed development at Whitehaven Academy (when built).

3. Football Assessment

Introduction

- 3.1. This section of the report focusses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. There is a separate standalone section that covers all Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) including the 3rd Generation (3G) pitches, that are becoming increasingly important to service the needs of football for both competitive play and training.
- 3.2. This section includes the headline findings from the PPS, as well as a site-by-site analysis of football sites across Copeland.

Strategic Priorities for Football

- 3.3. Football in the study area is governed by both Cumberland FA in the North and Central sub area and Lancashire FA in the South sub area. Both associations work to administer the provision of football in Copeland and support the strategic priorities highlighted below.
- 3.4. The FA Time for Change Strategy 2020-2024 is based on the exciting objective of inspiring a lifelong journey in football for all.
- 3.5. Its vision is to 'Unite the game, inspire the nation' and its mission is to change the game to maximise its impact and serve the game to deliver football for all.
- 3.6. The Time for Change Strategy focusses on six game changer objectives:
 - Win a major tournament;
 - Serve 2m+ through a transformed digital platform;
 - Ensure equal opportunities for every girl;
 - Delivery of 5000 quality pitches;
 - A game free from discrimination; and
 - Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and Barclays FA Women's Super League.
- 3.7. There are also 8 serve objectives:
 - Trusted, progressive, regulation and administration;
 - Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment;
 - Personalised & connected learning experiences;

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- Maximum investment into the game;
 - Diverse, high-performing workforce & inclusive culture;
 - World class venues and events;
 - Strong reputation and clear brand identity; and
 - Technology enabled and insight driven.
- 3.8. A key piece of context for the strategy is the changing profile of formal football participation across the country. Between the 17/18- 20/21 seasons, the number of women and girls playing has doubled, more youth teams were created, more facilities built, driving record investment back into football.
- 3.9. The strategic pillar that is of greatest relevance to this PPS is 5. Develop Sustainable Football Facilities. This key focus for this pillar is facilities and investment, with key objectives summarised below:
- 3G Football Turf Pitches;
 - Changing rooms, pavilions, and clubhouses;
 - Improved grass pitches;
 - Better indoor and outdoor spaces;
 - Ensure that all projects are aligned and deliver against FA National Football Facilities Strategy targets:
 - Quality
 - Sustainability
 - Inclusivity
 - Engagement
 - Participation
- 3.10. Another key element of the Time for Change Strategy is the focus on informal and recreational football, the overall goal being to improve the experience of the participant, leading to enhanced retention and new participation in the game.
- 3.11. Local Football Facility Plans (LFFP) are locally tailored reports prepared by the Football Foundation to enable investment into football facilities to be accurately targeted. A LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed demand and supply analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. It cannot be used as a replacement for a playing pitch strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will however build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

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Supply

- 3.12. The PPS audit identifies a total of 53 grass football pitches across 34 sites in Copeland. 52 were available for community use, across 33 sites. All other pitches are classed as unavailable.
- 3.13. Hensingham Primary School is the only unavailable site in the study area.
- 3.14. As can be seen in Table 8 below, most of the community available (Secured and unsecured community use) pitches in the study area are located in the north sub area (37 pitches), compared to only 5 in the central area and 10 in the south.
- 3.15. The FA has produced national recommended pitch sizes for each type/age group of football. Below are the recommended sizes for each pitch type, not included the run off (safety area around the pitch). The pitches are measure by Length x Width and are recorded in yards. All pitches in Copeland meet the recommended FA sizes.
- 5v5 – 40m x 30m
 - 7v7 – 60m x 40m
 - 9v9 – 80m x 50m
 - Youth 11v11 (U13/14) – 90m x 55m
 - Youth 11v11 (U15/15) – 100m x 60m
 - Youth 11v11 (U17/18) – 110m x 70m
 - Adult 11v11 – 110m x 70m

Table 8: Summary of Grass Football Pitches in Copeland by sub area.

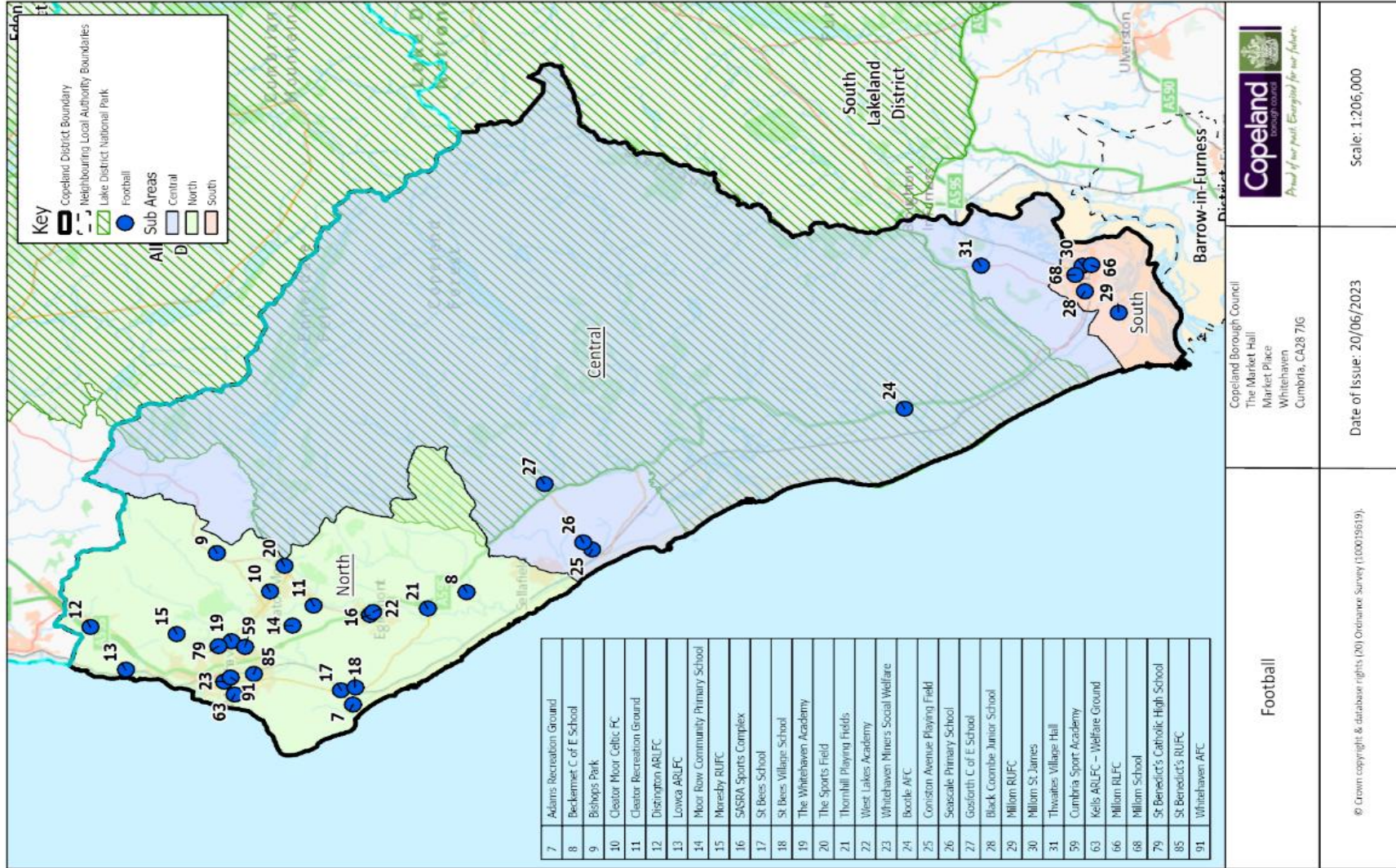
Analysis area	No. unavailable pitch sites	No. available Playing Pitch Sites	Pitches Available for Community Use					Total Available Pitches
			Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North	1	22	18	9	5	5	0	37
Central	0	5	3	0	0	2	0	5
South	0	6	4	1	0	5	0	10
Total	1	33	25	10	5	12	0	52

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3.16. The number of available pitches in Copeland equates to 25 adult 11v11, 10 youth 11v11, 5 youth 9v9, 12 mini 7v7 and 0 mini 5v5 pitches (52).

Map 2: Football Provision in Copeland



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Secured and Unsecured Community Use Pitches used in the 2021/22 Season

- 3.17. Of the 52 available grass football pitches in Copeland, 33 were used during the 2021/2022 season. The vast majority of unused pitches are located on education sites, that only cater for curriculum use. These sites will be highlighted in the supply and demand section in Tables 26, 27, 28.
- 3.18. 30 of the 33 (91%) available pitches used during the 2021/22 season across Copeland provide secure community use access (i.e., pitches owned or leased by local authorities or clubs/associations). 3 (9%) pitches are unsecured community use pitches, mainly provided at education sites where there is no secured community use agreement in place.
- 3.19. In each of the three sub areas, there are significantly more secured community access sites than unsecured ones. The only unsecured, available sites in Copeland, used in 2021/22 season are in the north sub area.
- 3.20. Table 9 breaks down grass football provision by pitch size and sub area. A full break down of pitches and sites can be found in Tables 26, 27 and 28.

Table 9: Secured and Unsecured Available Community Use Pitches by Sub-Area 2020/21 Football season

Sub-Area	Secured/ Unsecured Community Use	No. marked pitches 2021/2022 Used for community Use					Total (%)
		Full size	Youth (11 v 11)	Junior (9 v 9)	Mini (7 v 7)	Mini (5 v 5)	
North	Secured Community Use	11	3	5	4	0	70%
	Unsecured Community Use	2	1	0	0	0	9%
Central	Secured Community Use	2	0	0	0	0	6%
	Unsecured Community Use	0	0	0	0	0	0%
South	Secured Community Use	3	0	0	2	0	15%
	Unsecured Community Use	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Secured		16	3	5	6	0	90.1%
Total Unsecured		2	1	0	0	0	9.9%

Available Football Sites with Secured or Unsecured community Use – No Identified Use 2021/22

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- 3.21. Table 10 identifies those sites that are available for play and have been used in past seasons but have no identified use for the current 2021/22 season. A full list of sites can be found in Stage B data (Appendix X). There were 19 pitches available but unused in 2021/22, of which 11 are situated in the North sub area, 3 in the Central sub area, and 5 in the South. 74% of these pitches are on sites with unsecured community use. A full break down of pitches and sites can be found in Tables 26, 27 and 28.
- 3.22. All sites owned by local authorities and sports clubs have security of tenure. Education sites with community use, may have community use agreements with clubs and the Council. There are currently no issues with security of tenure in the study area.

Table 10: Identified sites that are available for use but have no identified use currently for Competitive Play 2021/22 Season

Sub-Area	Secured/ Unsecured Community Use	No. marked pitches 2020/21 Used for community Use					Total (%)
		Full size	Youth (11 v 11)	Junior (9 v 9)	Mini (7 v 7)	Mini (5 v 5)	
North	Secured Community Use	2	1	0	0	0	16%
	Unsecured Community Use	3	4	0	1	0	42%
Central	Secured Community Use	1	0	0	0	0	5%
	Unsecured Community Use	0	0	0	2	0	11%
South	Secured Community Use	0	1	0	0	0	5%
	Unsecured Community Use	1	0	0	3	0	21%
		7	6	0	6	0	100%

Education Supply

- 3.23. Football facilities are provided at educational establishments across the study area, with different levels of community use and security of that use. Where a site has been identified as being available for community use, pitches allocated to the relevant site are included within the total supply and demand analysis.
- 3.24. The following education establishments have been identified as being unavailable for community use and are therefore not included in the supply and demand analysis. Further detail is provided in the site-by-site analysis in tables 26, 27 and 28.

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Table 11: Education Facilities Unavailable for Community Use

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch(es)
Hensingham Primary School	North	1x youth 11v11

Lapsed/Disused Provision

- 3.25. Playing fields which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed’ sites.
- 3.26. As mentioned, a lapsed site was last used as a playing field more than five years ago. Where planning applications for development are submitted on such sites Sport England’s status as a consultee is non-statutory and development proposals must still be assessed in accordance with paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Sport England would challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria.

Table 12: Disused Pitches Copeland

Pitch Name	Sub-Area	Pitch Size	Ownership	Last Known Use	Reason for no use
Harras Moor	North	Adult 11v11	Local Authority	2016	No pitches marked out, unused, no club use, no ancillary facilities. The site is owned by Homes England and there are proposals to redevelop the land for housing. It is unlikely that this site will be reinstated as a football pitch.
Greenbank Sports Field	North	Unknown	Local Authority	Unknown	Not marked out, football goalposts on site, adjacent to community centre, poor natural surveillance
Homewood Hill	North	Unknown	Local Authority	Unknown	Not marked out, no football activity
Ashlea Road	North	Unknown	Local Authority	Unknown	No evidence of sports use on site
Ehenside School	North	Unknown	Education	2008	Education site, now closed permanently.
Moor Row	North	Adult 11v11	Local Authority	Unknown	Not marked out, no football activity

Future Provision and Proposed Supply changes

3.27. Current planning applications/proposals for playing pitch sites in the Copeland that have potential implications for the future supply of playing pitches are:

Table 13: Development Proposals

Playing Pitch Development Proposals	Impact on Outdoor Sports Supply
Development of floodlit 3G AGP facilities at The Whitehaven Academy	The redevelopment of The Whitehaven Academy fields will include both 3G and sand-dressed AGP provision, allowing access for an increased number of teams in the study area to 3G football provision. Creating a pitch suitable for hockey. This could create more capacity on grass pitches, reduce over-playing or create opportunities for clubs to increase their number of teams. The planning application for the development has been approved.
Resurfacing of the sand-dressed pitch at Millom School	The potential resurfacing of the AGP at Millom School to 3G would significantly improve the access to 3G provision for teams in the South sub area. There are currently no 3G pitches in this sub area. The need for 3G provision in the sub area is highlighted in the LFFP and Millom School is identified as the potential location. There is no known hockey use of this site.

Current Position for football

- 3.28. This section presents the current position for grass football pitches for the study area, split by sub-area.
- 3.29. For every site that has grass football provision, an analysis has been undertaken to assess whether each pitch on the site has enough capacity to meet the current level of demand for affiliated football. This analysis has been undertaken for two separate time periods; a) weekly and b) during the peak period. Each of these analyses are explained in more detail in the sections below.
- 3.30. Cumberland FA, Lancashire FA and the Football Foundation have introduced PitchPower - revolutionising the state of grass football pitches across England, ensuring that by 2030, grassroots football has 20,000 'good' quality pitches to enjoy. PitchPower is the Football Foundation’s web app that allows organisations to quickly and easily inspect grass pitch(es) directly from a mobile phone. The app is used to submit information about pitch(es) to the Grounds Management Association who assess the site. After the assessment is complete, a report is received which evidences the technical quality score and provides recommendations as to what is needed to improve the pitch(es). Where assessments exist, the pitch quality scores given in Table 26, 27 and 28 match the PitchPower assessments provided by Cumberland FA and Lancashire FA. Further, site specific details regarding PitchPower are given in 3.55.

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Weekly analysis

- 3.31. This compares the weekly carrying capacity (in Match Equivalent Sessions – MES) of each individual pitch type with the demand that is placed upon that pitch type over the full week. It may also be referred to as the ‘theoretical capacity’ as it assumes that demand will be spread across the week and is calculated solely from the theoretical carrying capacity of the pitch to withstand training and match play. Table 14 below illustrates how weekly carrying capacity is allocated to each pitch type, depending on its quality rating.
- 3.32. It is assumed that all education-based pitches have usage of 1 MES per week due to curricular/extra-curricular activity, the exception where the actual demand for MES has been inputted including all grass pitches with known community use.

Table 14: Carrying Capacity per Pitch Type. All Figures in MES

Quality score	Adult football	Youth football	Mini soccer
Good (80-100%)	3	4	6
Standard (50-79.9%)	2	2	4
Poor (0-49.9%)	1	1	2

Table 15: Pitch Quality in Copeland (Number of Pitches) – North Sub-Area

North Sub Area	Adult Pitches			Youth 11v11 Pitches			Youth 9v9 Pitches			Mini Pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Adams Recreation Ground			1			1			1			1
Beckermat C of E School					1							
Bishop's Park			1									
Cleator Moor Celtic FC	1											
Cleator Recreation Ground		1						1			1	

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North Sub Area	Adult Pitches			Youth 11v11 Pitches			Youth 9v9 Pitches			Mini Pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Cumbria Sport Academy	2											
Distington ARLFC					1							
Kells Welfare, High Road		1										
Lowca ARLFC		1										
Moor Row Community Primary School						1						
Moresby RUFC									1			
SASRA Sports Complex		2						1			1	
St Bees School		1										
St Bees Village School											1	
St Benedict's RUFC / Mirehouse FC	1											
St Benedict's Catholic High School		1			1							
The Sports Field						1						
The Whitehaven Academy		2										
Thornhill Playing Fields			1						1			
West Lakes Academy					2							
Whitehaven AFC	1									1		
Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare			1			1						
Total Available Pitches - North	5	9	4	0	5	4	0	3	2	1	3	1

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Table 16: Pitch Quality in Copeland (Number of Pitches) – Central Sub-Area

Central Sub Area	Adult Pitches			Youth 11v11 Pitches			Youth 9v9 Pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Bootle AFC		1										
Coniston Ave Playing Field			1									
Gosforth C of E School												1
Gosforth Playing Field		1										
Seascale Primary School											1	
Total Available Pitches - Central	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Table 17: Pitch Quality in Copeland (Number of Pitches) – South Sub-Area

South Sub Area	Adult Pitches			Youth 11v11 Pitches			Youth 9v9 Pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Black Combe Junior School											2	
Millom RLFC – Hanna Field		1										
Millom RUFC		1									2	
Millom School			1									1
Millom St James		1										

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South Sub Area	Adult Pitches			Youth 11v11 Pitches			Youth 9v9 Pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Thwaites Village Hall					1							
Total Available Pitches - South	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1

Table 18: Pitch Quality in Copeland (Number of Pitches) - Total

Copeland Total	Adult Pitches			Youth 11v11 Pitches			Youth 9v9 Pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
North	5	9	4	0	5	4	0	3	2	1	3	1
Central	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
South	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
Total Available Pitches	5	14	6	0	6	4	0	3	2	1	8	3




3.33. Across the study area, 11.5% of pitches are rated as good quality, 59.6% are rated standard and 28.8% are classified as poor quality. 100% of the pitches rated as good are located in the North sub area.

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Ancillary Facilities

- 3.34. The quality of ancillary facilities across Copeland have been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

Good	
Standard	
Poor	

- 3.35. Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Table 19 below identifies the findings for football sites that are actively utilised for football across Copeland.

Table 19: Site by site analysis of ancillary facility quality.

Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
North Sub Area		
Adams Recreation Ground	North	Standard – four team changing rooms, with self-contained toilets and communal showers. There are no separate male and female changing areas. Officials changing facilities are present, with dedicated showers and toilet provision. The site is easily accessed with adequate parking.
Beckermet C of E School	North	School Changing – Standard – No community use
Bishop's Park	North	No ancillary facilities
Cleator Moor Celtic FC	North	Good – two home and two away changing rooms, as well as officials room in a well-built facility. On the first floor there is a bar and social area. The access to the site is poor, via a road that requires resurfacing.
Cleator Recreation Ground	North	No ancillary facilities
Cumbria Sport Academy	North	Good – The site has four changing rooms, with toilets and showers, as well as officials rooms. The ancillary facilities are located underneath a 300 seat stadium, alongside small, gym and studio room.
Distington ARLFC	North	Good – good quality Sport England funded changing rooms, in a facility that is shared with a junior football club. Also on site is the Community Amateur Sports Club, with a good quality bar and social area, serving the local community. Although access is through a small housing estate, there is adequate parking on site
Kells Welfare, High Road	North	No ancillary facilities

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Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
Lowca ARLFC	North	Good – large, good quality built facility with a number of home, away and officials changing rooms. Upstairs there is a well-used bar and social area, serving both football and rugby teams. Access to the site and parking on site are both good. The pitch is partly floodlit to support evening training sessions.
Moor Row Community Primary School	North	School Changing – Standard – No community use
Moresby RUFC	North	Poor – large sports/social club in a poor condition and in need of refurbishment. There is limited parking on site and the access road is narrow and requires resurfacing.
SASRA Sports Complex	North	Good – Sports and social club, with easy access and good parking provision. Male and female changing provision, bar and social room, fitness suite, studios and squash courts also on site.
St Bees School	North	School Changing – Standard – No community use
St Bees Village School	North	School Changing – Standard – No community use
St Benedict's RUFC / Mirehouse FC	North	Standard – The site is shared between St Benedict's RUFC and Mirehouse FC, however the football club have their own club house which although requires some external refurbishment is good quality inside according to consultation. There are three changing rooms with toilets, communal showers and 2 officials rooms. Access to site is good, but there is very limited parking.
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	School Changing – Excellent – Community accessible
The Sports Field	North	No ancillary facilities
The Whitehaven Academy	North	School Changing – Standard – No community use
Thornhill Playing Fields	North	Poor – very basic, poor quality changing rooms. No access at time of visit, but clearly in need of refurbishment.
West Lakes Academy	North	School Changing – Standard – No community use
Whitehaven AFC	North	No ancillary facilities
Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare	North	Standard – average size clubhouse/social club, with 2 changing rooms and communal showers and toilets. There is also a small function room and bar.
Central Sub Area		
Bootle AFC	Central	Standard – basic changing rooms in small clubhouse. Unable to access.
Coniston Ave Playing Field	Central	No ancillary facilities
Gosforth C of E School	Central	School Changing – Standard – No community use
Gosforth Playing Field	Central	Standard – small built facility, shared with cricket. 2 changing rooms, small function room and kitchen

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Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
Seascale Primary School	Central	School Changing – Standard – No community use
South Sub Area		
Black Combe Junior School	South	School Changing – Standard – No community use
Millom RLFC – Hanna Field	South	Good – the football club have very occasional access to the rugby league club’s facilities. Their own clubhouse is currently being developed, but is yet to be complete.
Millom RUFC	South	Standard – Large clubhouse, serving both football and rugby union clubs. There is home and away changing rooms for both sports and poor quality communal showers. There are aspirations to extend the changing facilities so they can cater for all teams when at capacity.
Millom School	South	School Changing – Good – No community use
Millom St James	South	No ancillary facilities
Thwaites Village Hall	South	No changing facilities. – basic kitchen and social area.

Demand

3.36. Football is the most popular team sport across Copeland, with a total of 190 teams across 22 clubs. This consists of 37 adult men’s, 1 adult women’s, 26 youth 11v11 boys’, 3 youth 11v11 girls’, 22 junior boys’ 9v9 teams, 6 junior girls’ 9v9 teams, 56 7v7 and mini soccer teams and 39 5v5 mini soccer teams. As part of the PPS process, all clubs were given the opportunity to respond to consultation, allowing them to provide their views on facilities, developments, issues and growth plans. An overview of the consultation is included in table 20 below.

Table 20: An overview of the consultation

Club	Site Name	Sub Area	Consultation Summary
Bootle AFC	Bootle AFC	Central	Two adult male teams that play and train on the grass pitches on the Bootle AFC site. However, during winter training is challenging so the club suggest that additional artificial surfaces are required in the area.
Bransty Rangers JFC	Moresby RUFC	North	A large junior football club with 15 junior teams ranging from U7 to U16. The club train and play at the Moresby RUFC site. Over the past three seasons the club has introduced new teams at youth 11v11, 9v9 and 7v7 age groups and have plans to add 3 senior male teams, 1 adult female teams, 1 youth 9v9 girls teams and 5v5 team. The club have suggested they would like to develop new grass pitches to support this growth. Regarding winter training, availability is hard to come, and they highlight the need for additional provision.

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Club	Site Name	Sub Area	Consultation Summary
Cleator Moor Celtics	Cleator Moor Celtics	North	<p>A large, well established club in the north sub area, Cleator Moor Celtics have added 2 all-female teams and a mixed gender team in the last three years. They also have aspirations to create an additional 2 5v5 teams. The club would like to improve drainage of their pitches, renovate their clubhouse and improve the changing facilities, however no funding has been sourced for these developments.</p> <p>Although the club currently use two different 3G pitches for winter training, they have highlighted the need for additional AGP facilities to meet demand. The main issues stated with the grass pitch are regarding pitch maintenance, and although the club maintain the surface to a good standard, around 6-10 matches were cancelled last season due to poor drainage.</p>
Haverigg United FC	Millom RUFC	South	<p>Two senior male teams, who play and train at Millom RUFC. The club have stated that pitch maintenance is an issue for the site and the pitch often suffers because of this. They also highlight the need for 3G provision in the south of Copeland.</p>
Lowca Pirates	Lowca ARLFC	North	<p>The club currently run two senior male teams and both train and play at Lowca ARLFC. They have ambitious plans to develop a junior section, adding 6 youth teams over the next three seasons. The club would also like to renovate the changing and shower facilities, as well as adding further grass pitches. The main issue the club highlighted through consultation was the lack of affordable 3G provision in the area for use for winter training. The club also have problems with unofficial use of the grass pitches and goal posts, which is causing damage to the surface.</p>
Millom Junior	Millom RUFC	South	<p>A large, established junior football club with 14 teams from U6 to U16, This number has increased over the previous three seasons and the club have plans to add an additional 3 youth boys teams. The club have highlighted the need for additional artificial surfaces in the area, as they currently train indoors in the winter.</p>
Mirehouse AFC	St Benedict's RUFC	North	<p>The two club team, play on a shared site with St Benedict's RUFC, however there is a separate football and rugby pitch and ancillary facilities. The club have aspirations to introduce an additional senior men's team in the near future. The quality of the pitch according to the club has improved significantly, due a good maintenance regime implemented by the club. The ancillary facilities are generally of a good standard and the club have no development plans.</p>
Moor Row FC	Moor Row Community School	North	<p>The club play fixtures at Moor Row Community, but their training takes place at Cleator Moor Activity Centre. In the past three years, the number of adult 11v11 teams has decreased, however there has been an increase in the number of youth 9v9 teams. The club have outlined plans for install new drainage on site, however no funding has been secured for this. The need for improved drainage, is because according to the club, the grass pitches are often unplayable, so the club have to pay for AGP provision.</p> <p>The club have highlighted that 6-10 games were cancelled last season due to the poor drainage. Although the club are responsible for the maintenance of the pitch, there is a lack of available funds.</p>

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Club	Site Name	Sub Area	Consultation Summary
Moresby Rangers	Moresby RUFC	North	A one senior team club, that train and play at Moresby RUFC in Whitehaven. The club are a new senior team, who highlighted no unmet demand or plans for growth. Sourcing appropriate all weather facilities for winter training is a challenge due to lack of availability in the area. The club highlighted several issues with the current pitch including litter, dog fouling, and poor drainage, and named pitch quality as a cause for match cancellations.
St Bees JFC	Adams Recreation Ground	North	15 youth teams, from U6 to U15, that play fixtures at Adams Rec Ground, but train at various facilities across the north of Copeland during the winter, as well as their grass pitches. The club have plans to increase the number of youth 11v11 teams by 3, 9v9 teams by 2 and youth girls teams by 1. The club have aspirations to add new and improved drainage on site as well as improve their clubhouse and ancillary facilities, however no funding has been secured for this. The club stated that many training sessions on the grass pitches have to be cancelled during the winter due to poor weather and drainage of the grass surfaces. Therefore they believe there is an additional need for accessible AGP provision. As well as poor drainage, the club highlighted litter, pitch slope and length of grass as issues with the facility. The site is maintained by a community organisation, but the club would like to manage this aspect in the future.
Whitehaven AFC	Whitehaven AFC	North	The largest football club in the study area, with a thriving junior section. The site currently consists of an adult 11v11 grass pitch and a full size 3G pitch, however the club have aspirations for the further development of the site, with additional AGPs.
Whitehaven Miners Social FC	Whitehaven Miners Social	North	The club has 16 teams ranging from U5s to seniors. Although the club is well established, there has been a loss of two youth teams in recent seasons due to a lack of volunteers available to support. They do have plans to add an further 2 senior male and 1 senior female teams over the next three seasons. The club have ambitious aspirations to develop new pitches, improve the drainage on the current site and improve ancillary facilities, in particular changing rooms and showers. The improvement of drainage is a key issue for the club, as flooding causes the cancellation of many games and teams are often unable to train. Therefore the club have highlighted the need for additional access for all age groups to 3G provision.
Windscale AFC	SASRA Sports Complex	North	The club both train and play at the SASRA sports complex in Egremont. The number of teams across the age groups has increased over the previous three seasons and the club has plans to add further women's and mini soccer teams. The club have aspirations to develop a small sided 3G facility to cater for training demand, and to minimise the need to hire additional winter training facilities. The club are responsible for the maintenance of the site, which they do to a good standard.

3.37. Included in the numbers above are 8 Pan-Disability ⁴teams run by Whitehaven AFC and Windscale FC. Age groups and pitch usage for these teams are highlighted in table 21 below. All Pan-Disability football provision take place in the North sub area.

⁴ Pan-Disability relates to all forms of human disability. Teams under this title could cater for specific disabilities (e.g. visual impairment) or be inclusive of a range of disabilities.

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Table 21: Pan-Disability Football Provision

Club	Sub-Area	Age Group	Team Category	Site Location
Whitehaven AFC	North	U8	5v5	Whitehaven AFC
Whitehaven AFC	North	U12	7v7	Whitehaven AFC
Whitehaven AFC	North	U16	9v9	Whitehaven AFC
Whitehaven AFC	North	Open Age	7v7	Whitehaven AFC
Whitehaven AFC	North	Open Age	7v7	Whitehaven AFC
Whitehaven AFC	North	Open Age	7v7	Whitehaven AFC
Windscale FC	North	Open Age	7v7	SASRA Sports Complex
Windscale FC	North	Open Age	7v7	SASRA Sports Complex

- 3.38. Table 22 outlines the current football provision for women and girls in Copeland, focussing on female only teams (team numbers below are included in the overall data in 2.22). All female only teams are located in the North sub-area and are provided by Whitehaven AFC and Moor Row FC.

Table 22: Female Only Football Provision

Club	Sub-Area	Age Group	Team Category	No. Teams	Site Location
Whitehaven AFC	North	Adult	11v11	1	Whitehaven AFC
Whitehaven AFC	North	U12	9v9	6	Whitehaven AFC
Moor Row FC	North	U16	Youth 11v11	1	Moor Row Community Primary School
Moor Row FC	North	U14	Youth 11v11	2	Moor Row Community Primary School

Demand Driven by Unmet Demand

- 3.39. While a large amount of future demand will be driven by population growth, there is also unmet demand for football identified within the study area. Unmet demand is defined as demand that currently exists but does not currently equate to actual participation due to a range of reasons. For instance, unmet demand could be in the form of a team that has currently got access to a pitch for its members but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- 3.40. No clubs in the study area identified any unmet demand during the consultation process.

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Demand Driven by Latent Demand

- 3.41. Unlike unmet demand, latent demand for football has been identified across the study area. Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club which may feel that it could set up and run an additional team if it had access to improved provision.
- 3.42. The table below identifies all clubs, that identified latent demand (not currently active), which they are aiming to convert into affiliated football demand within the next 3 - 5 years. This provides an estimation of the number of new teams that will be required in Copeland, in addition to the teams generated by population growth.
- 3.43. It should be noted that the latent demand commentary (LD commentary) contains a summary of the comments provided by clubs during consultation, which the consultancy team has used to quantify the estimated number of teams.
- 3.44. Table 23 shows that there is the potential latent demand on 9.75 MES per week across the study area. The majority of latent demand is generated by football clubs in the north sub area, with the largest coming from St Bees FC.

Table 23: Latent demand highlighted through consultation

Club	Sub-Area	Latent Demand commentary	Total latent demand (MES)
Bransty Rangers	North	Three adult male teams and one adult female team	2
Bransty Rangers JFC	North	One youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 team	0.5
St Bees FC	North	Three youth 11v11, two youth 9v9 and one female 7v7 teams	2.25
Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare	North	Two adult male and one adult female teams	1.5
Cleator Moor Celtics	North	Two mini 5v5 teams	0.5
Lowca Pirates	North	Two youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 teams	2
Millom Junior	South	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 teams	1
Total			9.75 MES

Displaced Demand

- 3.45. While a PPS is typically delivered for a single local authority area and considers all supply and demand from that given Study Area, it is understood that residents are typically not restricted by local authority boundaries when undertaking sport and physical activity. For instance, clubs and participants may travel outside of the local authority to access facilities that are of higher quality or more affordable, or where they are no longer able to access to facilities within the local authority.
- 3.46. Although no clubs identified any displaced demand during consultation, it is apparent that the central 5v5 league at Lakes College in Allerdale, will cater for some individuals from the north sub area.

Future Demand

Demand Driven by Population Growth

- 3.47. To calculate the future demand for football in the Study Area, Team Generation Rates have been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand to create a football team in each of the age categories
- 3.48. This Team Generation Rate can then be applied to the population projections for the Study Area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the number of teams in each of the key age groups. It is to be noted that population is just one factor in estimating future teams. Other factors such as NGB initiatives and amount of available provision has a large level of influence.
- 3.49. All figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
- 3.50. The north sub area is projected to see by far the largest increase in team numbers, where it is predicted there will be a requirement of 15 new teams to meet demand created by population growth by 2038.
- 3.51. Table 24 below demonstrates that there is an anticipated total increase of 16 teams across all sub areas in Copeland due to population growth. A full breakdown can be seen below:

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Table 24: Future demand driven by population growth

Age Groups	Current no. of teams	Current population	Future population (8.7% increase by 2038)	Current TGR*	Population change and housing growth	Projected team no. change
North Sub-Area						
Adult Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	28	8857	9628	316	771	2
Adult Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	1	8857	9628	8857	771	0
Youth Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	23	1171	1273	50	102	2
Youth Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	3	1171	1273	391	102	0
Youth Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	18	604	657	34	53	2
Youth Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	6	604	657	101	53	1
Mini Soccer Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	54	1223	1329	23	106	5
Mini Soccer Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	34	1223	1329	36	106	3
Total projected new teams by 2038						15
Central Sub-Area						
Adult Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	3	1036	1126	345	222	0
Adult Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	0	1036	1126	0	222	0
Youth Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	0	145	158	0	31	0
Youth Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	0	145	158	0	31	0
Youth Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	0	75	82	0	17	0
Youth Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	0	75	82	0	17	0
Mini Soccer Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	0	150	163	0	32	0
Mini Soccer Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	1	150	163	150	32	0
Total projected new teams by 2038						0
South Sub-Area						
Adult Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	6	925	1005	154	80	1

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Age Groups	Current no. of teams	Current population	Future population (8.7% increase by 2038)	Current TGR*	Population change and housing growth	Projected team no. change
Adult Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	0	925	1005	0	80	0
Youth Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	3	136	148	45	12	0
Youth Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	0	136	148	0	12	0
Youth Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	4	71	77	17	6	0
Youth Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	0	71	77	0	6	0
Mini Soccer Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	2	127	138	64	11	0
Mini Soccer Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	4	127	138	32	11	0
Total projected new teams by 2038						1

- 3.52. The table (Table 24) above illustrates the projected growth across each football age group in each sub area. The age group with the largest projected growth is mini 7v7 football, which is expected generate five extra teams to meet demand from population growth in the North Sub Area. The next largest projected change will come from mini 5v5 and adult male 11v11 football, both growing by 3 teams each. This is mainly influenced by the high existing demand in those age categories. Nearly all the growth, except for one adult men 11v11 team, is expected in the North Sub Area.
- 3.53. Utilising the current demand for football in each of the Sub-Areas and how the population of each of the sub-areas is projected to grow by 2038, we can provide an estimation of how the growth of demand is likely to be allocated across the three Sub-Areas. This data, shown in MES, assumes that teams will require access to 1MES every two weeks, as they will play alternatively home and away. This information is shown in Table 25 below.

Table 25: Future demand driven by population growth by sub area in MES.

Local Authority Area	Adult 11v11		Youth 11v11		Youth 9v9		Mini		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Mixed 7v7	Mixed 5v5	
North	1	0	1	0	1	0.5	2.5	1.5	7.5
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5
Copeland	1.5	0	1	0	1	0.5	2.5	1.5	8

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Football Supply and Demand information

3.54. Table 26, 27 and 28 below provides an overview of all pitch capacity and demand across all available sites across Copeland, categorised by sub-area and pitch type. All unavailable sites have been dismissed from this list as there is no community use on these sites.

Table 26: North Sub Area

Site name	Sub-Area	Availability	Ownership	Management	Security of use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity MES	Pitch demand MES	Balance Weekly	Peak period	Site Summary
Adams Recreation Ground	North	Available	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Secured	1x Adult 11v11	1	0.5	0.5	No spare capacity	Used by St Bees FC for fixtures and training. Although St Bees senior team play fixtures at St Bees School, they use Adams Rec Ground for their training. Pitch Improvement Programme has been implemented on the site as it is a key site in Copeland, supporting a large club.
Adams Recreation Ground	North	Available	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Secured	1x Youth 11v11	1	2.5	-1.5	No spare capacity	
Adams Recreation Ground	North	Available	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Secured	1x Youth 9v9	1	3	-2	No spare capacity	
Adams Recreation Ground	North	Available	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Secured	1x Mini 7v7	2	5	-3	No spare capacity	
Beckermet C of E School	North	Available	Education	Education	Unsecured	1 Youth 11v11	2	1	1	1	Although this site is available for community use, there is currently no community demand recorded as part of the PPS

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Site name	Sub-Area	Availability	Ownership	Management	Security of use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity MES	Pitch demand MES	Balance Weekly	Peak period	Site Summary
Bishops Park	North	Available	Education	Sports Club	Unsecured	1 Adult 11v11	1	3	-2	No spare capacity	The site is used by Moor Row FC as a secondary venue and FC Cosmos. The pitch is rated as poor and has very poor access and no ancillary facilities.
Cleator Moor Celtic FC	North	Available	Diocese	Sports Club	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	3	1.5	1.5	No spare capacity	Both the pitch and ancillary facilities are rated as good, and the site is home to Cleator Moor Celtic FC. The club has recently completed an extensive drainage project with help from the Football Foundation.
Cleator Recreation Ground	North	Available	Local Authority	Local Authority	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	2	6	-4	No spare capacity	Standard quality pitches, home to Cleator Moor Celtic Juniors. The site is heavily used, and although the club has moved some training to Cleator Activity Centre 3G, a large amount of training still takes place on site. The site has a PIP in place.
Cleator Recreation Ground	North	Available	Local Authority	Local Authority	Secured	1 Youth 9v9	2	4	-2	No spare capacity	
Cleator Recreation Ground	North	Available	Local Authority	Local Authority	Secured	1 Mini 7v7	4	8.25	-4.25	No spare capacity	
Cumbria Sports Academy	North	Available	Trust	Trust	Secured	2 Adult 11v11	6	0	6	2	There is no current community demand for grass pitches. The site consists of two adult 11v11 pitches of good quality, athletics track and stand with good ancillary facilities and access. There is also a small sided 3G pitch on site, which requires resurfacing.

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Site name	Sub-Area	Availability	Ownership	Management	Security of use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity MES	Pitch demand MES	Balance Weekly	Peak period	Site Summary
Distington ARLFC	North	Available	Local Authority	Sports Club	Secured	1 Youth 11v11	2	3	-1	No spare capacity	The site is shared by Grassroad Sharks FC and Distington ARLFC. At the time of visit the football pitch was poorly marked out.
Kells Welfare, High Road	North	Available	Local Authority	Local Authority	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	2	7	-5	No spare capacity	One standard adult 11v11, home to several of Bransty Rangers teams. There are no ancillary facilities on site. The overplay of the site is a result of a large amount of small sided play on the senior pitch.
Lowca ARLFC	North	Available	Local Authority	Sports Club	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	2	1.5	0.5	No spare capacity	The standard adult pitch is adjacent to Lowca ARLFC rugby league pitch and clubhouse. The pitch is floodlit and often used for rugby league training, as well as home to Lowca Pirates, Bransty Rangers first team and The Royal Oak.
Moor Row Community Primary School	North	Available	Local Authority	Education	Unsecured	1 Youth 11v11	1	5.5	-4.5	No spare capacity	The site is used by Moor Row Juniors who during consultation stated that the pitch was often unplayable and that there is a significant need for drainage works.
Moresby RUFC	North	Available	Sports Club	Sports Club	Secured	1 Youth 9v9	1	13	-12	No spare capacity	One poor quality pitch on the site of Moresby RUFC. There is access to basic ancillary facilities in the rugby clubhouse. The site has a PIP in place. According to consultation the grass pitch also hosts around 10 hours a week of training for Bransty Rangers FC

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Site name	Sub-Area	Availability	Ownership	Management	Security of use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity MES	Pitch demand MES	Balance Weekly	Peak period	Site Summary
SASRA Sports Complex	North	Available	CSSC	CSSC	Secured	2 Adult 11v11	4	2	2	2	The site is home to Windscale FC who are made up of a teams from a range of age groups from mini soccer to seniors. The ancillary facilities are of good quality and the pitches are rated standard due to drainage issues. The site has a PIP in place.
SASRA Sports Complex	North	Available	CSSC	CSSC	Secured	1 Youth 9v9	2	0.5	1.5	1	
SASRA Sports Complex	North	Available	CSSC	CSSC	Secured	1 Mini 7v7	4	4.5	-0.5	No spare capacity	
St Bees School	North	Available	Education	Education	Unsecure	1 Adult 11v11	2	1	1	1	Independent school site, with one standard quality pitch used by St Bees FC for fixtures only.
St Bees Village School	North	Available	Education	Education	Unsecure	1 Mini 7v7	4	1	3	1	Although there is no demand for community football on site, the pitch is utilised for curricular and extra-curricular purposes
St Benedict's RUFC / Mirehouse FC	North	Available	Local Authority	Sports Club	Secure	1 Adult 11v11	3	1.5	1.5	No spare capacity	The site consists of one high quality adult 11v11 grass pitch. The site is shared with St Benedict's RUFC who have one rugby pitch and a small sided 3G. Mirehouse FC have their own separate club house which is of good quality.

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Site name	Sub-Area	Availability	Ownership	Management	Security of use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity MES	Pitch demand MES	Balance Weekly	Peak period	Site Summary
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	Available	Education	Education	Unsecure	1 Adult 11v11	2	1	1	1	The school site has recently been redeveloped with new grass pitches, WR22 3G and tennis courts. The grass pitches were only finished during the 2021/22 season so there is no current demand for community use. However the school are eager to support community clubs.
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	Available	Education	Education	Unsecure	1 Youth 11v11	2	1	1	1	
The Sports Field	North	Available	Sports Club	Sports Club	Secure	1 Youth 11v11	1	0	1	1	There is currently no community demand for the pitch. The site consists of one, poor quality youth 11v11 pitch which is partly on a significant slope. There are no ancillary facilities.
The Whitehaven Academy	North	Available	Education	Education	Unsecured	2 Adult 11v11	4	2	2	2	A school site with no current community football use. There are significant redevelopment plans for the site, with a proposed 3G and sand dressed AGP pitches.
Thornhill Playing Fields	North	Available	Local Authority	Sports Club	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	1	1	0	No spare capacity	The site is home to Thornhill FC, who are comprised of one senior men's team and one veterans team. Both pitches are rated as poor quality, but there is currently no demand for the youth 9v9 pitch
Thornhill Playing Fields	North	Available	Local Authority	Sports Club	Secured	1 Youth 9v9	1	0	1	1	

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Site name	Sub-Area	Availability	Ownership	Management	Security of use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity MES	Pitch demand MES	Balance Weekly	Peak period	Site Summary
West Lakes Academy	North	Available	Education	Education	Unsecured	2 Youth 11v11	4	2	2	2	There is currently no community football demand for the pitches, although they are available. At the time of visit all grass pitches were being resurfaced.
Whitehaven AFC	North	Available	Sports Club	Sports Club	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	3	7.5	-4.5	No spare capacity	Whitehaven AFC are the biggest club in Copeland with a very large junior section. The site consists of 1 adult 11v11, 1 youth 7v7 and a high quality full size 3G that is used for both match play and training sessions.
Whitehaven AFC	North	Available	Sports Club	Sports Club	Secured	1 Mini 7v7	6	6.25	-0.25	No spare capacity	The site consists of 1 adult 11v11 and 1 youth 11v11 used by Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare FC. The youth 11v11 is supporting mini soccer pay. Most club training also takes place on the grass pitches During consultation it was highlighted that there is very poor drainage on site and many matches are cancelled each season. The site has a PIP in place.
Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare	North	Available	Charity	Sports Club	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	1	6.5	-5.5	No spare capacity	
Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare	North	Available	Charity	Sports Club	Secured	1 Youth 11v11	1	5.25	-4.25	No spare capacity	

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Table 27: Central Sub Area

Site name	Sub-Area	Availability	Ownership	Management	Security of use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity MES	Pitch demand MES	Balance Weekly	Peak period	Site Summary
Bootle AFC	Central	Available	Community Organisation	Sports Club	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	2	4.5	-2.5	No spare capacity	One standard quality adult 11v11 pitch, home to Bootle AFC and one U14 team from Millom Juniors. There is a standard clubhouse on site, and it is adjacent to a bowling green and BMX pump track. The club highlighted issues with the undulation of the pitch as well as rabbit holes.
Coniston Avenue Playing Field	Central	Available	Local Authority	Local Authority	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	1	0	1	1	Although the site is available for use, there is no current community demand for the site. The grass pitch is rated as poor and there are no ancillary facilities.
Gosforth C of E School	Central	Available	Education	Education	Unsecured	1 Mini 7v7	2	1	1	1	There is currently no community demand for the poor quality 7v7 grass pitch.
Gosforth Playing Field	Central	Available	Local Authority	Local Authority	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	2	3	-1	No spare capacity	One standard quality adult 11v11, home to Gosforth FC. The club currently consist of one senior male team who split their training between this site and St Benedict's High School 3G.
Seascale Primary School	Central	Available	Education	Education	Unsecured	1 Mini 7v7	4	1	3	1	Consultation highlighted that there is currently no community football demand for the site. The pitch was rated at standard quality during the site assessment and there is access to school changing facilities.

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Table 28: South Sub Area

Site name	Sub-Area	Availability	Ownership	Management	Security of use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity MES	Pitch demand MES	Balance Weekly	Peak period	Site Summary
Black Coombe Junior School	South	Available	Education	Education	Unsecured	2 Mini 7v7	8	2	6	2	The is currently no community demand for football use on the site.
Millom RLFC – Hanna Field	South	Available	Sports Club	Sports Club	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	3	2	1	No spare capacity	One good quality adult 11v11 is on the site home to Millom FC. There are good quality ancillary facilities available, through shared use of RLFC club facilities, however this is not regularly available. The club's own ancillary facilities are only partly refurbished and therefore not compliant.
Millom RUFC	South	Available	Sports Club	Sports Club	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	2	3	-1	No spare capacity	The site is currently home to Haverigg United and 10 teams from Millom Juniors. Both the pitch and ancillary facilities are rated as standard quality
Millom RUFC	South	Available	Sports Club	Sports Club	Secured	2 Mini 7v7	8	3	3	No spare capacity	
Millom School	South	Available	Education	Education	Unsecured	1 Adult 11v11	1	1	0	No spare capacity	There is currently no community football use on site. There are plans to redevelop the current sand dressed AGP to a 3G pitch, which would provide access to many teams in the south sub area. The need for this is highlighted in the LFFP, however the plans are still in an early stage of development.
Millom School	South	Available	Education	Education	Unsecured	1 Mini 7v7	2	1	1	1	

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Site name	Sub-Area	Availability	Ownership	Management	Security of use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity MES	Pitch demand MES	Balance Weekly	Peak period	Site Summary
Millom St James	South	Available	Local Authority	Sports Club	Secured	1 Adult 11v11	2	1	1	No spare capacity	The site comprises of 1 adult 11v11 standard quality pitch and is home to two teams from Millom Juniors Access to ancillary facilities is provided by Millom RLFC.
Thwaites Village Hall	South	Available	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Secured	1 Youth 11v11	2	0	2	1	There is currently no community demand for football at this site.

Clubs/Sites with Activated PitchPower

3.55. The following clubs/sites are being supported by Cumberland FA, Lancashire FA and Football Foundation through the PitchPower process defined above. Through this initiative, these clubs and sites will have detailed recommendations about how to improve the quality of grass pitches.

- Adams Recreation Ground – Site rated as poor quality;
- Cleator Recreation Ground – All pitches rated as standard/basic;
- Moresby RUFC – Youth 9v9 pitch is of standard/basic quality;
- SASRA Sports Complex – All pitches rated as standard/basic;
- Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare – Adult 11v11 and Youth 11v11 both rated as poor quality;
- Millom FC - Pitch rated as standard/basic;
- Bootle AFC - Pitch rated as standard/basic; and
- Millom St James FC - Pitch rated as standard/basic.

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Adult 11v11 Analysis total Peak Capacity

- 3.56. Table 29 provides the current and future position for 11v11 adult grass pitch provision across the full study area, split by sub-area for peak times.
- 3.57. This table indicates spare MES capacity across the three Sub-Areas currently and by 2038. The data demonstrates that there is a significant deficit of adult 11v11 pitches across the study area. This deficit is heavily weighted towards the north sub area, where there is a future position of -17.25 MES by 2038, followed by the central sub area with -2.5 MES and the south with 1.5 MES. This gives a total deficit of -21.5 MES on adult 11v11 pitches by 2038.
- 3.58. This deficit is mainly caused the current over playing of pitches due to the high number of teams within the north sub area.
- 3.59. Millom RLFC – Hanna Field is recorded as having no spare capacity, despite being underplayed. This is due to the fact that play is often restricted due to the lack of ancillary facilities, particularly changing on site. Currently the club, Millom FC have occasional access to the rugby changing facilities, however their own facilities are still under construction and therefore uncompliant.

Table 29: Adult 11v11 Supply and Demand Analysis - Peak. All Figures in MES

Analysis Area	Actual Spare capacity MES	Total overplay	Current position	Unmet/Latent demand	Future demand	Future position
North	8	-21	-13	3.5	1	-17.5
Central	1	-3.5	-2.5	0	0	-2.5
South	0	-1	-1	0	0.5	-1.5
Copeland	9	-25.5	-16.5	3.5	1.5	-21.5

Youth 11 v 11 Analysis - Peak

- 3.60. Table 30 provides the current and future position for 11v11 youth grass pitch provision across the full study area, split by sub-area, at peak times.

Table 30: Youth 11v11 Supply and Demand Analysis - Peak. All Figures in MES

Analysis Area	Actual Spare capacity MES	Total overplay	Current position	Unmet/Latent demand	Future demand	Future position
North	5	-11.25	-6.25	2.5	1	-9.75
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Analysis Area	Actual Spare capacity MES	Total overplay	Current position	Unmet/Latent demand	Future demand	Future position
South	1	0	1	0.5	0	0.5
Copeland	6	-11.25	-5.25	3	1	-9.25

- 3.61. Table 30 illustrates that there is also a large deficit when looking at youth 11v11 provision. However the future total deficit of -9.25 MES is mainly due to the current over playing of pitches in the north sub area, where the current position is -6.25 MES. When taking into account latent and future demand, the deficit in the north grows to -9.75 MES. The sites that contribute most to this major deficit are Moor Row Community Primary School and Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare.
- 3.62. In the south sub area there is currently a small surplus of youth 11v11 pitches of 1 MES per week, shrinking to 0.5 MES of spare capacity by 2038. The central sub area is currently at capacity, which is not projected to change by 2038.

Youth 9 v 9 Analysis Peak

- 3.63. Table 31 provides the current and future position for 9 v 9 youth grass pitch provision across the full study area, split by sub-area.

Table 31: Youth 9v9 Supply and Demand Analysis. All Figures in MES

Analysis Area	Actual Spare capacity MES	Total overplay	Current position	Unmet/Latent demand	Future demand	Future position
North	2	-16	-14	1.25	1.5	-16.75
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0
South	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copeland	2	-16	-14	1.25	1.5	-16.75

- 3.64. Table 31 illustrates that for the current position of youth 9v9 pitch provision, there is currently a large deficit in Copeland equating to -14 MES. This is solely due to the current over playing of pitches in the north sub area, however, this data is influenced heavily by Moresby RUFC site, where training requirements have resulted in a current deficit of -12 MES.
- 3.65. When taking into account latent and future demand for youth 9v9 provision, there is a further deficit of -2.75 MES, resulting in -16.75 MES in the north sub area.
- 3.66. There is currently no youth 9v9 provision in the central or south sub areas.

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Mini 7 v 7 pitch supply Peak

3.67. Table 32 provides the current and future position for 7v7 mini grass pitch provision across the full study area, split by sub-area.

Table 32: Mini 7v7 Supply and Demand Analysis. All Figures in MES

Analysis Area	Actual Spare capacity MES	Total overplay	Current position	Unmet/Latent demand	Future demand	Future position
North	1	-8	-7	0.75	1.25	-9
Central	2	0	2	0	0	2
South	3	0	3	0	0	3
Copeland	6	-8	-2	0.75	1.25	-4

3.68. The analysis presented in Table 32 illustrates that 7v7 pitches in Copeland are currently in a deficit of -2 MES. However, like the other pitch categories, the north is not representative of the study area as a whole. The north sub area generates a current deficit of -7 MES, rising to -9 MES when future growth is taken into account.

3.69. However the other sub areas currently have spare capacity of 7v7 provision, totalling 5 MES across the central and south areas.

3.70. By 2038 there is predicted to be a deficit of -4 MES per week for 7v7 pitches in the study area.

Mini 5 v 5 pitch supply Peak

3.71. There is no 5v5 grass pitch football provision in Copeland. The development of extra 5v5 provision or the restructuring of current pitch lay outs on specific sites in the north sub area, may help to reduce the deficit on 7v7 pitches in the same area.

3.72. There are currently 39 5v5 teams across Copeland, whose demand is being met by larger pitches. This equates to 9.75 MES per week.

3.73. Through club consultations a latent demand of three extra teams has been identified, as well as a growth of three further teams through population growth. This growth is all projected to occur in the north sub area. When converted into MES, this equates to 1.5 MES per week.

3.74. This suggests that there is currently a demand for 9.75 mini 5v5 MES per week, which will rise to 11.25 MES per week by 2038.

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Football Summary

3.75. This section summarises the findings from the football analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for the Copeland.

Table 33: Summary of Supply and Demand Copeland Peak time of Play

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total Future Demand
	Actual Spare Capacity (total)	Overplay (Peak time)	Current Total	Future Demand - Latent Demand	Future Demand – Population Growth	
Adult 11v11	9	-25.5	-16.5	3.5	1.5	-21.5
Youth 11v11	6	-11.25	-5.25	3	1	-9.25
Youth 9v9	2	-16	-14	1.25	1.5	-16.75
Mini 7v7	6	-8	-2	0.75	1.25	-4
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	23	-60.75	-37.75	8.5	5.25	-51.5

Football Summary

3.76. Most current overplay across the various pitch types across the Borough is generated from high levels of demand in the north sub area. Although this does worsen when accounting for the additional future demand, due to the small projected population growth, this is not significant.

- The audit identifies 53 grass football pitches within Copeland across 34 sites.
- There are 52 grass football pitches across 33 sites that are available for community use. Of these 52 pitches, 33 were used during the 2021/22 season. The vast majority of unused pitches are situated on education sites that do not currently cater for any community use.
- 91% pitches used during the 2021/22 season across Copeland provide secured community use access (i.e., pitches owned or leased by local authorities or clubs/associations). 9% pitches are unsecured community use pitches, most of which are provided at education sites.

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- There is an approved planning application in place for one full size 3G AGP and one full size sand dressed AGP at Whitehaven Academy. There is also a currently informal proposals for the resurfacing of the Millom School AGP into a 3G AGP. There is currently no planning application submitted for this project.
- Several stakeholders aspire to improve their pitch quality and have FA/FF approved PitchPower reports, although these may not yet have been implemented. As stated in para 3.55 these are:
 - Adams Recreation Ground
 - Cleator Recreation Ground
 - Moresby RUFC
 - SASRA Sports Complex
 - Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare
 - Millom FC
 - Bootle AFC
 - Millom St James FC

3.77. Through the PitchPower process all sites above should improve, providing better quality pitches allowing for more frequent usage.

- Across the study area, 6 sites (18%) are not serviced by any sort of clubhouse or changing rooms. In addition, a further 2 (6%) sites are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.
- 190 teams from within 22 clubs are identified as playing within Copeland. This consists of 37 adult men's, 1 adult women's, 26 youth 11v11 boys', 3 youth 11v11 girls', 22 junior boys' 9v9 teams, 6 junior girls' 9v9 teams, 56 7v7 and mini soccer teams and 39 5v5 mini soccer teams. There is demand across all age groups of football across Copeland.
- Actual current spare capacity across Copeland totals 24 match equivalent sessions per week.
- Overplay across the Borough during peak times is 60.75 MES across all age groups.
- There is future projected need of 13.75 MES based on future population and club aspirations.
- All sizes of pitch in the study are being over played.
- There are significant deficits on all playing pitch sizes in the north sub area, due to current demand. This will continue to worsen by 2038.

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- There is the need to improve the quality of current grass football pitches to improve the current and future demand for pitches, using PitchPower where possible
- The development of the proposed 3G pitches would help to minimise overplaying of grass pitches, as they enable intensive use of a pitch. Therefore a large number of teams would no longer have to rely on grass pitches to support both training demand and match play demand. The proposed 3G at Whitehaven Academy could have a significant impact on the undersupply of MES, across all age groups, specific scenarios will be discussed in detail in the Stage D of the PPOSS process.
- There are aspirations to resurface the current sand-dressed facility at Millom School, to create a 3G. As there are no 3G facilities in the South, and due to the geography of Copeland, travel and access to appropriate artificial, floodlit facilities is difficult and unrealistic for football teams in the area. To travel from Millom School to the nearest full size 3G pitch at Cleator Moor Activity centre would take approximately 50 – 60 minutes by car. The need for 3G provision in the South sub area is identified in the LFFP and Millom School is named as the preferred location.
- However, conversion of a sand dressed AGP into a 3G AGP requires planning permission and serious consideration, not only due to the technical and engineering aspect to the redevelopment, but also to the implications of the loss of the existing AGP and the impact that it may have on sporting opportunities in the local area, in particular for hockey. It is therefore important that although a need for additional 3G provision in the south sub area may have been identified, the correct and proper planning considerations must be applied to any proposals.

Football Summary

3.78. This section summarises the findings from the football analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Copeland. Table 34 includes the response to 5 key questions which are identified in the Sport England PPS Guidance Checklists. Using these key questions to summarise the findings of each of the sport chapter creates consistency, not only within the report but with similar PPS projects in neighbouring local authorities and further afield.

Table 34: Key PPS findings for football in the Copeland study area

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There are a total of 52 available pitches across 33 sites in Copeland and the quality of football provision is varied, with 69% of the total pitches scoring as Standard or higher as part of the assessment and 31% being rated as poor. The vast majority (91%) of available pitches have secured community use on them.</p> <p>The level of demand is also high, with several large multi-team clubs present within the area, who continuing to grow, with many other teams with aspirations to also develop. There are 22 football clubs in Copeland, comprising a total of 190 teams. The largest proportion of these teams come from mini 7v7 (29%), mini 5v5 (21%) and adult 11v11 (19%). Both the supply and demand for football facilities is dominated by the north sub-area, which is home to the three largest clubs, as well as a number of the strategic football sites.</p>

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Key Question	Analysis
<p>Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet current demand?</p>	<p>The current supply and demand analysis for accessible pitch provision shows a current significant deficit of pitches across all forms of the game (-37.75 MES). This deficit is projected to increase to -51.5 MES by 2038 when future population and latent demand are taken into consideration.</p> <p>The analysis shows that the vast majority of this deficit is generated in the north sub area, mainly due to the higher density of population and increased demand.</p> <p>The second largest team category in the study area is mini 5v5 football. However there are no 5v5 pitches in Copeland, suggesting that some 5v5 demand is met by larger pitches. Although much of the 5v5 participation takes place at the central venue of Lakes College 3G in Allerdale, reconfiguration of some sites, particularly in the north may have may be beneficial.</p>
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p>	<p>During consultation, several clubs identified serious issues with drainage and quality of their pitches. Although 69% of pitches scored standard or higher during assessment, 31% were therefore rated as poor. Improving the quality of grass pitch provision across the study area should be a priority, lowering the amount of over-playing of sites. The highest quality pitches are located at Mirehouse FC, Whitehaven AFC and Cleator Moor Celtic. Cumbria Sport Academy is rated as good, however is not currently used by any community club.</p> <p>Although Cumberland and Lancashire FA would encourage all community use pitches to engage with PitchPower, priority should be focussed on those described as poor due to maintenance issues. Through this initiative, a plan for improvement of maintenance is created with advice and recommendations for specific pitches. If high quality, targeted pitch care and maintenance is taking place then pitch quality will improve therefore providing more opportunities to play.</p>
<p>What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?</p>	<p>There is an 8.7% projected growth in population by 2038 as well as the latent demand identified by clubs. Although this is not significant, it will further increase the major deficit of MES across Copeland.</p> <p>Due to the already higher population in the north of the study area, this will exaggerate the already disproportionate deficit levels in the area.</p> <p>The supply of provision could also change if either of the potential 3G developments go ahead. The LFFP already highlights the gap in 3G provision in the south of Copeland, and identifies Millom School as a potential site where its current sand dressed AGP could be converted to 3G. As there is also an under supply of Rugby Union and Rugby League pitches, (para 5.50, para 4.30) this could create a multi-sport opportunity if a WR22/RFL compliant 3G pitch were developed, subject to strategic need being demonstrated and receiving the appropriate consents.</p>
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?</p>	<p>The future supply and demand analysis for accessible pitch provision shows that the deficit is projected to grow across all other age groups, most prominently for adult 11v11.</p> <p>Adult 11v11 will have a deficit of -21.5 MES, followed by youth 9v9 (-16.75 MES), youth 11v11 (-9.25 MES) and youth 7v7 (-4) across the study area.</p>

4. Rugby League Analysis

Introduction and Strategic Context

- 4.1. The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the national governing body responsible for grassroots and elite rugby league in England, with the season operating from March to October.

RFL Strategic Report 2022 to 2030

- 4.2. The key theme of the RFL's Strategic Report 2022 to 2030 is "the grassroots underpin everything, including Rugby League's unique ability to deliver positive social impact in our communities". This statement is broken down into three different areas of focus:

- Ensure growth of core community projects
- Sustain – Focus on making the community game more sustainable by greater engagement with the wider community, building stronger communities, and supporting new sources of funding and income.
- Grow – Create a growth strategy that will involve a targeted approach identifying established RL playing areas where the level of activity can be increased or where geographically it is most appropriate to focus on in terms of new activity
- Develop – Deliver enhancing communications, education and delivery programmes for players, coaches, match officials and volunteers. The RFL will help support increasing playing capacity, security or tenure and facilities, underpinned by a new RFL Facilities Strategy.
- Flexible – Develop flexible, social ways to play the game – including non-contact – and provide customer choice, important retention and transition offers, and support equality.
- Govern – Exhibit stronger governance and influence competition offers at the grassroots of the game.
- Deliver positive social impact
- Continue to be a leader in the provision of mental fitness/wellbeing services, health and inclusion, and education.
- Launch enhanced programmes for education and training, 'Our League Life', which will offer education, training and social mobility, supported by hubs linked to leading foundations and community clubs delivering these programmes across communities.
- Deliver positive social impact including through Rugby League Cares.
- Enhance offer in education
- Widen playing offers and educational resources to offer all variations of the sport, including in schools, colleges and universities.
- Provide a resource to engage and develop young people who may not want to play but may wish to learn to be the next generation of young coaches and match officials and administrators.
- Ensure a broad and flexible pathway that can contribute to the growth and development of RL across the country.

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4.3. The key aims of the Strategic Report 2020 to 2030 that related to this playing pitch strategy are highlighted below:

- Numbers of coaches delivered annually on our courses to be at least 700 per year
- Deliver match officials courses to 450 people per year and ensure efficient succession 'coaching' and planning for full time MO's
- 150,000 annual Rugby League participants
- 1,500 learners a year through the Our League life national hub and 50 Our League life local hubs
- A further £15 million community facilities investment
- 10,000 additional volunteer hours per week delivered by new volunteers

Community Rugby League – Strategy and Vision 2022 to 2030

4.4. The 2020 RFL community strategy has the following core community goals related to the PPS:

- Deliver culture change to behaviours
- Grow the number of participants and increase retention every year across all forms of the game
- Ensure all players have access to appropriate playing opportunities through improved player engagement and development
- Continue the accelerated growth in the number of woman and girls playing rugby league
- Deliver a more sustainable community game, less reliant on public funding and generating additional funds to invest in growth
- Provide strong governance and first-class administration
- Targeted support for areas and participants that need it the most

4.5. The measurables related to these community goals are:

- Increase the number of players within community club settings to 60,000, contributing to total number of active participants of 150,000 by 2030
- Increase the number of woman and girls' participants in core community club setting to 9,000 by 2025
- 75% of community clubs to be accredited with Club Development Plans by 2025
- Increase the percentage of participants from high IMD areas to 50% by 2030

Rugby League World Cup 2021

4.6. The Rugby League World Cup 2021 (being played in 2022) is being hosted at a number of venues across England. The Copeland Community Stadium has been allocated eight of the matches in the women's tournament, six of the round matches plus two semi-finals (four days of double-headers including women's semi-finals). In addition, Elland Road Stadium and Headingley Stadium in nearby City, Leeds will also host several games in both the men's and women's tournaments.

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4.7. The initial programme has set out 3 pillars which provide targets of the tournament's legacy plan:

- Empowered By: Focusing on engaging with volunteers which are a crucial part of the sport's grassroots
- Created By: Using government funding to invest in grassroots facilities
- Inspired By: Opening the sport up to sectors of society that have not traditionally participated in the sport.

Supply (Grass)

Quantity Overview

4.8. The number of pitches used for rugby league in Copeland has been detailed in Table 35. It is important to understand where there may be potential for further supply should the capacity analysis inform us that there is overplay within the Study Area. The vast majority of rugby league pitches identified in Copeland are senior full-sized, with the only junior pitch being at Millom School in the south of the study area. Demand from junior and mini rugby is met on senior pitches.

Table 35: Breakdown of Sites and Pitches

Site Name	Sub Area	Community Use on Site	Security of Use	Ownership	Number of Pitches	Pitch Size	Floodlighting
Fairfield (Arlecdon ARLFC)	North	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	Senior	No
Frizington Jubilee Field	North	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	1	Senior	No
Distington ARLFC	North	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	Senior	Yes
Gillfoot Park	North	Available	Secured	Sports Club	1	Senior	Yes
Hensingham ARLFC	North	Available	Secured	RFL	1	Senior	No
Kells ARLFC – Haig Pit	North	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	Senior	Yes
Kells ARLFC – Welfare Ground	North	Available	Secured	Sports Club	1	Senior	No
Lowca ARLFC	North	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	Senior	No
Whitehaven RLFC	North	Available	Secured	Sports Club	1	Senior	Yes
Whitehaven Academy	North	Available	Unsecured	Education	1	Senior	No
The Sports Field	North	Available	Unsecured	Community Organisation	1	Senior	Yes
Wath Brow Hornets RLFC	North	Available	Secured	Sports Club	1	Senior	Yes

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Site Name	Sub Area	Community Use on Site	Security of Use	Ownership	Number of Pitches	Pitch Size	Floodlighting
Millom RLFC	South	Available	Secured	Sports Club	2	Senior x 2	Pitch 2
Millom School	South	Available	Unsecured	Education	2	1x Senior, 1x Junior	Yes

- 4.9. The summary of the ownership and management of the rugby league sites can be found in Table 36. 40% of pitches in the Copeland are owned by sports clubs, while the local authority also own a 26.6%.

Table 36: Ownership and Management Summary of Rugby League Pitches in Copeland

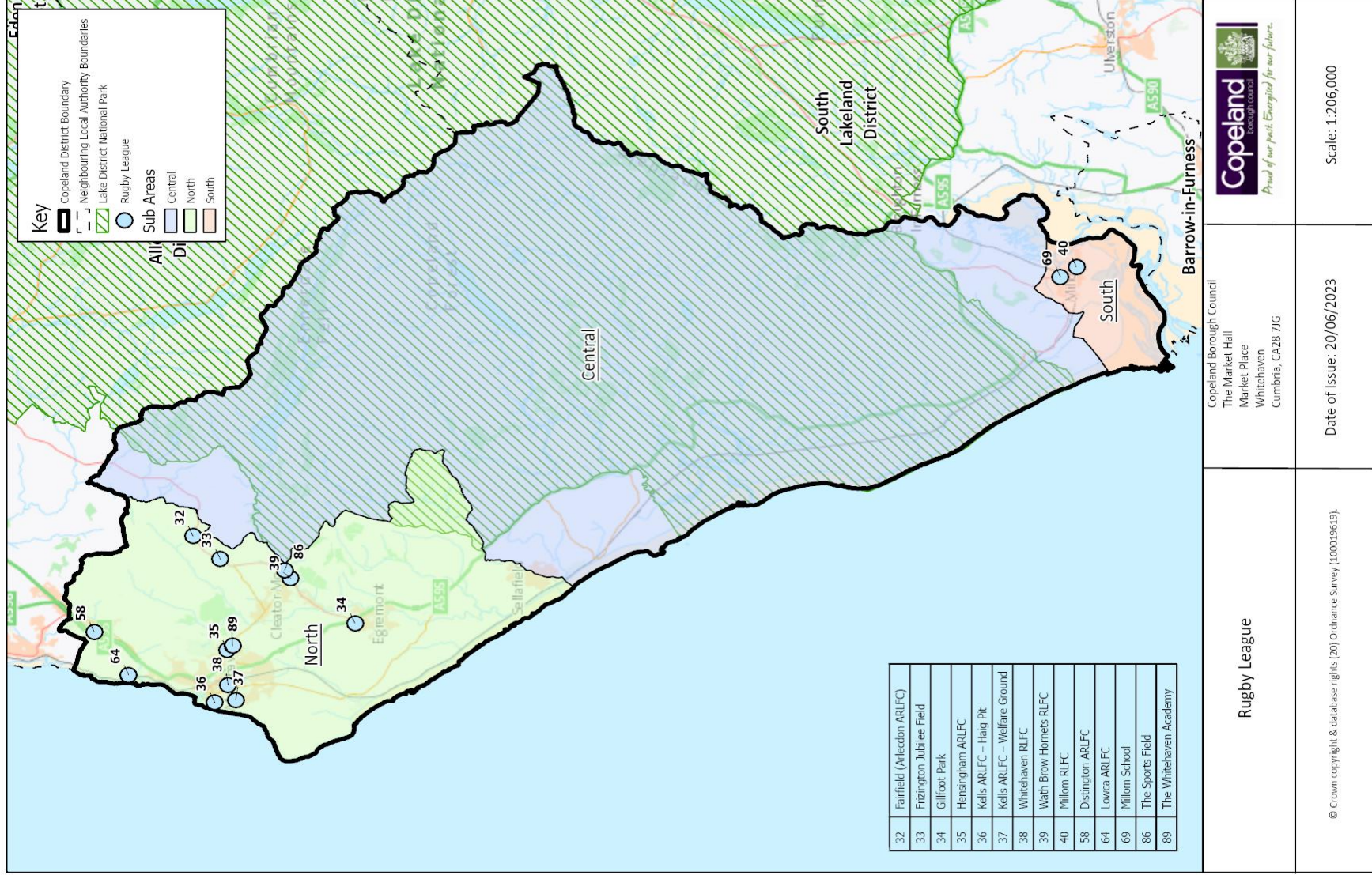
Type	Ownership	Management
Club	6	12
Local Authority	4	0
Community Organisation	1	0
RFL	1	0
Education	3	2

- 4.10. Map 4 shows the geographic location of rugby league pitches across the Study Area and presents the dispersion pitches across Copeland.

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Map 3: Rugby League Pitch Audit in Copeland



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Quality Assessment

- 4.11. Strategic Leisure have visited all sites and have undertaken non-technical site assessments using RFL guidelines, to provide an overall quality score. This score is combined with guidance on the number of Match Equivalent Sessions (MES) a pitch can support to give an overall carrying capacity. How pitch quality affects the carrying capacity is outlined in Tables 37 and 38.

Table 37: RFL guidance on how quality affects playing capacity

Agreed Pitch Quality Rating	Match Equivalents per Week
Good	3
Standard	2
Poor	1

- 4.12. If a club is playing Tier 3 Conference League matches or higher, not only is the pitch quality assessed to a stricter standard, but it affects the pitch's carrying capacity as demonstrated in Table 38.

Table 38: RFL guidance on how quality affects playing capacity at Tier 3 or higher

Agreed Pitch Quality Rating	Match Equivalents per Week
Good	2
Standard	1
Poor	0

- 4.13. Whitehaven RLFC currently play at tier 2 in the Championship and the MES capacity at their ground will be reflected appropriately.
- 4.14. Table 39 shows the overview of non-technical assessments of the pitches that are used by the community for rugby league in Copeland. This allows us to understand the capacity of each pitch from a community use perspective, using the capacity calculations in Table 37

Table 39: Community Sites and Individual Pitch Capacity

Site	Community Use	Security of Community Use	Ownership	Agreed Pitch Rating	Capacity (MES)
Fairfield (Arlecdon ARLFC)	Available	Secured	Local Authority	Standard	2

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Site	Community Use	Security of Community Use	Ownership	Agreed Pitch Rating	Capacity (MES)
Frizington Jubilee Field	Unused	Unsecured	Local Authority	Poor	1
Distington ARLFC	Available	Secured	Local Authority	Good	3
Gillfoot Park	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Good	3
Hensingham ARLFC	Available	Secured	RFL	Poor	1
Kells ARLFC – Haig Pit	Available	Secured	Local Authority	Standard	2
Kells ARLFC – Welfare Ground	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Poor	1
Lowca ARLFC	Available	Secured	Local Authority	Good	3
Whitehaven RLFC	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Good	2*
Whitehaven Academy	Unused	Unsecure	Education	Standard	2
Wath Brow Hornets RLFC	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Good	3
The Sports Field	Unused	Unsecure	Community Organisation	Standard	2
Millom RLFC (1)	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Good	3
Millom RLFC (2)	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Good	3
Millom School Senior	Unused	Unsecure	Education	Standard	2
Millom School Junior	Unused	Unsecure	Education	Standard	2

- 4.15. The majority of available and secured community pitch provision in Copeland is rated at good or standard. Those pitches of a standard quality may only need minor improvements to maintenance or drainage to allow for increased match play capacity.
- 4.16. Millom School, Frizington Jubilee Field, Whitehaven Academy and The Sports Field are all currently unused by the community. Millom School, Whitehaven Academy and The Sports Field are rated as standard quality, therefore having a capacity of 2 MES per week. The poor sites in Copeland are Hensingham, Kells ARLFC – Welfare and Frizington Jubilee Field, have a capacity of 1 MES per week. At the time the site assessment was undertaken, the pitch at Frizington looked overgrown and unused.

Site Summaries

- 4.17. Table 40 includes summaries of the consultations from key sites in Copeland, focusing on their issues and future development priorities.

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Table 40: Key Site Summaries

Site Name	Consultation Summary
Fairfield (Arlecdon ARLFC)	One senior rugby league pitch of standard quality. The club have aspirations to improve the quality of the pitch, however no plans or funding are in place. The pitch is used for 3 junior teams and 1 senior men's team, as well as 2 training sessions per week. The local primary school also have use of the field. There is no maintenance programme in place and no drainage improvements have been made.
Frizington Jubilee Field	Very poor quality site, Difficult to access, grass length very long at time of visit.
Distington ARLFC	One floodlit senior rugby league pitch of good quality however the club struggle to cut the grass often enough due to funding issues. There is no maintenance schedule in place. There is also a football pitch on site, which is used by Grass Road Sharks 3 times per week. There are no future development plans for the site. 5 training sessions per week take place on the pitch, however in winter the adult team trains at Lakes College.
Gillfoot Park	High quality floodlit senior pitch with good ancillary facilities and small covered standing spectator area. There are plans and funding in place for the development of a 3G training pitch on site. The club have also highlighted the need for a new clubhouse with increased changing provision. There are 11 sessions of training per week on the current pitch. There is a good maintenance schedule in place and there is pipe and silt drainage in place.
Hensingham ARLFC	One adult pitch of poor quality. Ancillary facilities are adequate but basic, however there is funding and plans in place to improve these and ensure they are accessible for all. There are also plans, to develop a waste ground area for training use. Although this is a priority, funding has not been secured. There are 2 sessions a week of training that take place on the pitch. There is no current maintenance programme, and the pitch is often waterlogged causing the cancellation of fixtures.
Kells ARLFC – Haig Pit	Kells ARLFC use both sites. The club have highlighted the need for the either the development of a new pitch or improvements in drainage, as well as the new clubhouse facilities, although there is no funding or plans in place. 8 sessions per week of training occur on the Welfare Ground pitch, and the club believe that an artificial surface is needed to meet the demand of the club, as they struggle to access any of the other 3G facilities in Copeland. There are severe drainage issues after heavy rain, which caused 11 matches to be cancelled last season. The club's ancillary facilities (changing and bar) are located offsite.
Kells ARLFC – Welfare Ground	
Lowca ARLFC	One senior good quality senior rugby league pitch, with football pitch also on site. Changing facilities and clubhouse are of a good standard. There is no regular maintenance carried out on the pitch. 10 hours of training take place on the pitch per week.
Whitehaven RLFC	Very high quality stadium pitch, with excellent infrastructure.
Whitehaven Academy	Education site, with one standard quality senior pitch. No community club use, but the pitch caters for curricular and extracurricular demand. Planning proposals to redevelop site will not result in loss of the grass pitch.
The Sports Field	Poor access, no ancillary facilities on site. Good quality pitch, which is poorly floodlit. Adjacent to poor 11v11 football pitch.
Wath Brow Hornets RLFC	One good floodlit senior pitch with excellent ancillary facilities including gym. Although no funding has currently been secured, the club have been in discussions with the RFL regarding an artificial pitch due to the inability for the current facility to cope with participation demand. 10 sessions of training take place on the pitch each week, meaning that although there is a good maintenance schedule in place, it still suffers from overuse and the quality has decreased since last season.

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Site Name	Consultation Summary
Millom RLFC	Two senior rugby league pitches, both of which are good quality, with football pitch also on site. Pitch 2 at the rear is floodlit allowing for some winter training. Both pitches have been upgraded in the last four years with drainage systems installed on pitch 2. There is some unmet demand, which the club believe could be met with installation of 3G training facility. 16 sessions of training take place each week split between the two pitches.
Millom School	One senior and one junior rugby league pitch on education site. The senior pitch also caters for rugby union demand, and the junior pitch caters for occasional 9v9 football demand.

Demand

Current Demand

- 4.18. The profile and team breakdown of rugby league clubs in Copeland is summarised in Table 41. The 56 teams in the north sub area are made up of 12 adult, 14 junior and 30 mini teams. The 10 teams in the south sub area consist of 3 adult teams, 4 junior teams and 3 mini teams. There is currently no rugby league provision in the central area.

Table 41: Team Profile of Clubs in Copeland

Club	Sub Area	Home Ground	Training Venue	Adult	Junior	Mini	Total
Arlecdon ARLFC	North	Arlecdon ARLFC	Arlecdon ARLFC	1	0	3	4
Distington ARLFC	North	Distington ARLFC	Distington ARLFC, Lakes College (in winter, out of area)	1	0	5	6
Egremont Rangers	North	Gilfoot Park	Gilfoot Park	2	3	6	11
Hensingham ARLFC	North	Hensingham ARLFC	Hensingham ARLFC	2	2	4	8
Kells ARLFC	North	Welfare Ground/Haig Pit	Welfare Ground/Haig Pit	2	4	4	10
Lowca ARLFC	North	Lowca ARLFC	Lowca ARLFC	1	2	3	6
Wath Brow Hornets RFLC	North	Wath Brow Hornets RFLC	Wath Brow Hornets RFLC	2	3	5	10
Whitehaven RLFC	North	Whitehaven RLFC	Whitehaven RLFC	1	0	0	1
Millom RLFC	South	Millom RLFC	Millom RLFC	3	4	3	10
Total Copeland				15	18	33	66

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Future Demand

- 4.19. In order to calculate the future demand for rugby league in Copeland, a Team Generation Rate (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and current population. This measure allows us to calculate the size of population required (for various age groups) to generate enough demand for a rugby league team.
- 4.20. This TGR can then be applied to population projections for the Study Area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups.
- 4.21. Table 42 shows the TGR calculations for rugby league in Copeland. Based on future population projections a total of 6 additional rugby teams will be generated by 2038 due to the increase in population alone across Copeland.
- 4.22. Additionally, although currently there is no female rugby league provision in Copeland, the RFL are committed to the growth of women and girls participation across the country. As a result 4 new female teams have been added to the 'Potential New Teams' column (in bold). Of the four additional female teams, two have been allocated to the adult women category and two to the junior girls age group.
- 4.23. In total this would result in a 2038 total of 76 rugby league teams, made up of 16 adult male, 2 adult female, 20 junior boys, 2 junior girls and 36 mini teams.

Table 42: Future Demand Projections for Rugby League Teams in Copeland

Age group	Current Population 2018	Current Teams	TGR	Future Population (8.7% increase)	Population Change	Potential New Teams	Total Teams in 2038
Rugby League Adult Men (19-45yrs)	9832	15	655	10687	855	1 (1.3)	16
Rugby League Adult Women (19-45yrs)	9832	0	0	10687	855	2	2
Rugby League Junior Boys (12-18yrs)	2428	18	135	2639	211	2 (1.6)	20
Rugby League Junior Girls (12-18yrs)	2428	0	0	2639	211	2	2

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Age group	Current Population 2018	Current Teams	TGR	Future Population (8.7% increase)	Population Change	Potential New Teams	Total Teams in 2038
Rugby League Minis (7-11yrs)	3750	33	114	4076	326	3 (2.9)	36
Total						10 (9.8)	76

- 4.24. Table 42 illustrates that the projected demand for rugby league teams across the Study Area is likely to increase across all age groups, with the largest growth of over one team present for Minis (2.9 teams).
- 4.25. It is also important to understand how these TGRs can differ when differentiating between the various sub areas. Table 43 provides a view of the predicted number of teams per demographic category in each sub area by 2038.
- 4.26. Based on the predictions in Table 42, it is likely that there will be demand for additional 1.5 MES from adult teams and 1.75 MES from junior and mini teams. This gives a total additional demand for 3.25 MES across Copeland by 2038.

Table 43: Predicted Number of Teams per Sub Area in 2038 Using TGRs

Sub Area	Additional Adult Men (19-45 yrs)	Additional Adult Female (19-45 yrs)	Additional Youth & Junior Boys (12-18 yrs)	Additional Youth & Junior Girls (12-18 yrs)	Additional Minis (7-11 yrs)	Total New Teams	Total Teams 2038
North	1	1	1.2	1	2.6	6.8	63
South	0.3	1	0.4	1	0.3	3	13

Rugby League World Cup 2021

- 4.27. Whilst it is not possible to predict how this will influence future interest, participation and longevity of these, it is important to recognise the effect that the tournament will have.
- 4.28. It can be expected that there will be an upsurge in playing numbers around the tournament in 2022 and clubs with sufficient facilities, volunteers and resources will be best placed to capitalise on this interest.

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Supply and Demand Balance

- 4.29. This section of the report brings together the supply of rugby league pitches across the study area and combines it with community use demand data. A supply and demand analysis is then undertaken for all sites that provide community use rugby league provision, which is subsequently brought together to provide a view of the current and future position for the sport across the study area.

Supply and Demand Balance – Rugby League Club Sites

- 4.30. Table 44 brings together the key data from this chapter, for all sites that are available for community use.. The key issues are identified for each site, as well as the supply and demand data, as explained in the sections below.

Table 44: Supply and Demand Balance of Sites in Copeland

Site Name	Carrying Capacity (MES)	Current Demand (MES)		
		Training	Match	Supply and Demand Balance
Fairfield (Arlecdon ARLFC)	2	2	1.25	-1.25
Frizington Jubilee Field	1	0	0	1
Distington ARLFC	3	5	1.75	-3.75
Gillfoot Park	3	11	4	-12
Hensingham ARLFC	1	9	3	-11
Kells ARLFC – Haig Pit	2	0	2	0
Kells ARLFC – Welfare Ground	1	7	2	-8
Lowca ARLFC	3	10	2.25	-9.25
Whitehaven RLFC	2*	0	0.5	1.5
Whitehaven Academy	2	0	0	2
Wath Brow Hornets RLFC	3	9	3.75	-9.75
The Sports Field	2	0	0	2
Millom RLFC	6	20	4.25	-18.25
Millom School	2	0	0	2

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Site Name	Carrying Capacity (MES)	Current Demand (MES)		
		Training	Match	Supply and Demand Balance
			TOTAL COPELAND	-64.75 MES

4.31. The balance in Table 44 reveals that all community used sites in Copeland overplayed and the picture becomes worse when factoring in future demand. This is likely to cause issues for the clubs currently as it affects the quality of experience for players and will inhibit the growth of clubs in the future.

Peak Time Demand

4.32. To assess the availability of rugby league facilities at peak times, it has been assumed that the period of highest demand for rugby matches is on a Saturday afternoon for adults and Sunday morning for youth and junior rugby. Please note that all demand is measured in match equivalent sessions.

4.33. Table 44 indicates there are sites with community demand that have spare capacity during the peak period for adult or junior rugby, however there is a significant amount of spare capacity for other sites available to the community but not currently used for club rugby.

Site by Site Analysis

4.34. Table 45 provides a breakdown of the supply and demand at each site as well as an overview of key summary issues.

4.35. All education sites, although not currently supporting community rugby league activity, are meeting demand from curricular and extra-curricular activity during education hours Monday – Friday.

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Table 45: Site by Site Analysis for Rugby League Sites in Copeland

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Agreed Pitch Rating	Floodlit	Site Capacity	Demand				Current Balance	Current Adult Peak Time	Current Jnr/Mini Peak Time	Site Summary and Issues
						Snr	Jnr	Mini	Training				
Fairfield (Arlecdon ARLFC)	North	Senior Rugby League	Standard	No	2	0.5	0	0.75	2	-1.25	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	1 senior rugby league pitch, with uneven ground, poorly marked and long grass. There is a standard quality clubhouse, which is also used for the community.
Frizington Jubilee Field	North	Senior Rugby League	Poor	No	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	No spare capacity	The site is in extremely poor condition and looks unused at the time of visit. Access to the site is difficult and there are no ancillary facilities.
Distington ARLFC	North	Senior Rugby League	Good	Yes	3	0.5	0	1.25	5	-3.75	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	1 senior rugby league pitch, adjacent to a small sided football pitch. The site, including the good ancillary facilities is shared with Grassroad Road Sharks FC.
Gillfoot Park	North	Senior Rugby League	Good	Yes	3	1	1.5	1.5	11	-12	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	A very high-quality pitch with excellent ancillary facilities and small spectator standing covered area. The club have aspirations to develop a 2 nd pitch.
Hensingham ARLFC	North	Senior Rugby League	Poor	No	1	1	1	1	9	-11	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	The site is adjacent to Whitehaven Academy and has good access but limited parking. The pitch and ancillary facilities are of a standard quality. The clubs are keen to develop a waste area nearby into training facilities.

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Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Agreed Pitch Rating	Floodlit	Site Capacity	Demand				Current Balance	Current Adult Peak Time	Current Jnr/Mini Peak Time	Site Summary and Issues
						Snr	Jnr	Mini	Training				
Kells ARLFC – Haig Pit	North	Senior Rugby League	Standard	Yes	2	0.5	1	0.5	0	0	No spare capacity	No spare capacity	Although the pitch is of standard quality, there is a noticeable slope and no ancillary facilities. The clubhouse used by the club is in an off-site location.
Kells ARLFC – Welfare Ground	North	Senior Rugby League	Poor	No	1	0.5	1	0.5	7	-8	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	The pitch is rated as poor quality and has a perimeter barrier. This is the 2 nd of the clubs two sites. There are no ancillary facilities on site.
Lowca ARLFC	North	Senior Rugby League	Good	No	3	0.5	1	0.75	10	-9.25	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	High quality rugby league and football site, with good ancillary facilities. Although the pitch is not floodlit, there is a small floodlit area that is used for training purposes.
Whitehaven RLFC	North	Senior Rugby League	Good	Yes	2	0.5	0	0	0	1.5	1	No spare capacity	Professional rugby league club facility, with covered seating and standing stadia and turnstile entry.
Whitehaven Academy	North	Senior Rugby League	Standard	No	2	0	0	0	2	0	No spare capacity	No spare capacity	Standard quality rugby league pitch on a school site. There has been a recent planning application approved to develop AGP provision on site.
The Sports Field	North	Senior Rugby League	Standard	No	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1 standard quality pitch, however there is poor access and no ancillary facilities.

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Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type	Agreed Pitch Rating	Floodlit	Site Capacity	Demand				Current Balance	Current Adult Peak Time	Current Jnr/Mini Peak Time	Site Summary and Issues
						Snr	Jnr	Mini	Training				
Wath Brow Hornets RLFC	North	Senior Rugby League	Good	Yes	3	1	1.5	1.25	9	-9.75	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	An excellent site with 1 good quality senior pitch which is floodlit. The ancillary facilities are excellent, with changing rooms, bar and gym. Extensive junior and mini demand is met on the senior pitch.
Millom RLFC	South	Senior Rugby League	Good	No	3	0.75	1	0	10	-8.75	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	An excellent site with one senior and one junior/training pitch which is floodlit. Ancillary facilities are also of a high standard.
		Senior Rugby League	Good	Yes	3	0.75	1	0.75	10	-9.5	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	Site is overplayed so there is no spare peak time capacity	
Millom School	South	Senior Rugby League	Standard	No	2	0	0	0	2	0	No spare capacity	No spare capacity	An education site with 1 senior and 1 junior pitch, both of standard quality.
		Junior Rugby League	Standard	No	2	0	0	0	2	0	No spare capacity	No spare capacity	

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Rugby League Summary

- 4.36. This section summarises the findings from the rugby league analysis, which will form basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Copeland.
- 4.37. Table 46 includes the response to key questions, which are asked for all PPS studies across the UK, in order to provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for sports provision.

Table 46: Key PPS Findings for Rugby League in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There are currently a total of 14 sites, comprising of 16 pitches. The highest concentration of pitches is in the north sub area which holds 75% of all rugby league pitches in the study area. There is only one junior rugby league pitch identified in Copeland, which means that junior and mini demand is having to be met by senior pitches.</p> <p>There are nine clubs in Copeland, with a total of 66 teams. 85% of this demand is in the north sub area.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>71.4% of pitches have secured community use, and 100% are available to the community. However, there are significant deficit levels and over playing across Copeland. 31.25 of rugby league pitches in Copeland, although available, currently support no community rugby league use.</p> <p>Based on the supply and demand balance analysis, it is apparent there is a deficit of -64.75 MES per week across the study area. The largest of the single site deficit is at Millom RLFC, who are over playing the site by 18.25 MES per week. This is largely due to the training demands placed on the pitches.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>The quality of rugby league provision in Copeland is generally of adequate quality. There are three pitches identified as poor (18.8%), 43.8% of pitches are rated as good and 37.5% rated as standard quality.</p> <p>Although no serious issues with maintenance were raised during consultation, it was noted that many pitches do not have regular maintenance schedules in place.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>It is predicted that there will a total of 10 new rugby league teams by 2038, bring the total to 76. There is likely to be 1 new senior male team, 2 junior new teams and 3 new mini teams. Due to the growth of women and girls activity, it is also predicted that there will be an additional 4 female teams by 2038. This will bring an extra 3.25 MES per week to the study area, therefore increasing the deficit to -68 MES per week.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>Despite all pitches being available and 71.4% having secured community use, there will still be a significant under supply of pitches across the sub area. Due to the majority of rugby league being concentrated in the north sub area, this is where the bulk of under supply will be focussed.</p>

5. Rugby Union Analysis

Introduction and Strategic Context

- 5.1. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body responsible for grassroots and elite rugby in England, with the season operating from September to May.

RFU Strategic Plan (2021 Onwards)

- 5.2. In April 2021, the RFU published the England Rugby Strategy – A Successful and Thriving Game Across England, with the main purpose being to “enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby and develop the sport for future generations”.
- 5.3. Of the eight priorities following goals are of particular relevance to this strategy:
- Enabling positive, enjoyable player experiences –
 - Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game
 - Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14-18 year olds
 - Redefine playing opportunities, structures and competitions for current and future player, recognising the strategic importance of the adult male game
 - Supporting clubs to sustain and grow themselves –
 - Provide support to club volunteers so they can attract new, diverse volunteers and help clubs be fit for the future and self-sustaining
 - Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets
 - Help clubs manage their risks and liabilities
 - Driving rugby union to reflect the diversity of society –
 - Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create an inclusive environment for all
 - Building a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game –
 - Build a two-way relationship with our players to identify when and where they play rugby, and how they feel about the game
 - Generate greater insights into our volunteers, customers and stakeholders to better serve their needs

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- Connect with and grow the rugby community –
 - Unite and engage the rugby community through proactive and effective communication
 - Promote the core values across the game

5.4. The objectives and targets of the RFU will be referenced throughout this strategy and utilised to prioritise facility development projects as part of the recommendations and action plan section.

England Rugby Women and Girls Action Plan (2021-2027)

5.5. Alongside the general strategic plan referenced above, England Rugby has also developed the 'Every Rose' action plan. The strategy highlights the historical progress that has been achieved and makes four key commitments to the women and girls' game, to be accomplished by 2027.

5.6. The aims of the 'Every Rose' action plan that are relevant to this PPS are:

- Increasing number of female players to 100,000 by 2027 –
 - **Retain** – understand where the highest number of players, clubs and teams sit; provide clear and appropriate formats for women and girls to play and align appropriate playing opportunities; utilise existing and new data and insight to continually assess the rapid growth of the game, to ensure the needs of women and girls are continually being met.
 - **Recruit** – ensure that the growth of the grassroots game is supported by having the right facilities and volunteers in the right places; transition players from introductory programmes in the community into clubs by creating playing opportunities that players wish to take part in.
- Enablers –
 - **Coach and match official development** – increase the visibility of female coaches and match officials from ethnically diverse communities in the grassroots and elite game; support female coaches and match officials with potential to impact the growth and success of future teams through targeted mentoring.
 - **Volunteer and leadership development** – provide support to club and CB volunteers to help them attract new and diverse volunteers; communicate effectively with current female leaders and ex-players and invite them onto training and leadership pathways.
 - **Competitions and playing opportunities** – deliver a competition framework and girls game age bands designed to retain more women and girls for longer in line with player feedback

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Supply

Quantity Overview

- 5.7. There are 9 sites in Copeland that have rugby union provision, 8 of which are available for community rugby usage. Only St Bees School is unavailable to the community. The ownership of the 9 rugby union sites across the Study Area is shown in Table 47.

Table 47: Ownership of Rugby Pitches in Copeland

Sub-category	Ownership	Management
Charity, Trust	0	0
Education	3	3
Local Authority	1	0
MOD	0	0
Private	1	1
Sport Club	4	5

- 5.8. Table 48 provides a breakdown of the rugby sites in Copeland, the majority of which are available for community use.

Table 48: Rugby Union Site Information

Site Name	Sub area	Community use on site	Security of Use	Ownership	Senior Pitches	Pitch Quality	Pitch Quality	Floodlighting	Ancillary Facilities
Egremont RUFC	North	Available / Used	Secured	Sports Club	1	Good	D3 / M2	Yes	Good clubhouse and changing facilities
Millom RUFC	South	Available / Used	Secured	Sports Club	2	Standard	D1 / M0	Yes (1)	Standard quality clubhouse and changing facilities
Moresby RUFC	North	Available / Used	Secured	Sports Club	1	Poor	D0 / M0	No	Poor quality clubhouse, in need of refurbishment inside and out
St Bees School	North	Unavailable	Unsecured	Private Education	2	Good	D0 / M2	Yes	School changing facilities

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Site Name	Sub area	Community use on site	Security of Use	Ownership	Senior Pitches	Pitch Quality	Pitch Quality	Floodlighting	Ancillary Facilities
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	Available / Unused	Unsecured	Education	2	Standard	D0 / M1	No	School changing facilities
St Benedict's RUFC	North	Available / Used	Secured	Local Authority	1	Good	D3 / M2	No	Good clubhouse and changing facilities
The Whitehaven Academy	North	Available / Unused	Unsecured	Education	1	Standard	D1 / M1	No	School changing facilities
West Lakes Academy	North	Available / Unused	Unsecured	Education	1	Standard	D1 / M1	No	School changing facilities
Whitehaven Rugby Club	North	Available / Used	Secured	Sports Club	2	Standard	D2 / M1	No	Standard small clubhouse, with changing facilities

Quality Assessment

- 5.9. Each site was visited and assessed by SLL using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFU. The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality analyses two key elements; the maintenance programme and level of drainage.
- 5.10. Each pitch is scored and classified in one of three categories. These represent actions required to improve site quality. A breakdown for each of the two scoring elements and three respective categories is provided in the following two tables.

Table 49: Rugby Pitch Maintenance Quality Assessment Specifications ⁵

Category	Overall Quality Rating
MO	Action requires significant improvements to the maintenance programme
M1	Action requires minor improvements to the maintenance programme
M2	Action requires no improvements to the maintenance programme

⁵ Source: RFU PPS Guidance

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Table 50: Rugby Pitch Drainage Quality Assessment Specifications ⁶

Category	Overall Quality Rating
DO	Action on pipe draining system is needed on pitch
D1	Action on silt drainage system is needed on pitch
D2	No action is needed on pitch drainage
D3	No action is needed on pipe drainage or slit drainage.

- 5.11. These scores are then combined to provide a match equivalent capacity, as calculated in Table 51 below. Depending on the score of a site, a pitch is assigned a certain carrying capacity which can then be used to calculate the overall capacity of a site. Figures in table 51 relate to Match Equivalent Sessions (MES).

Table 51: Match Equivalent Calculation for Rugby Pitches ⁷

Drainage	Maintenance (Figures in MES)		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (DO)	0.5	1.5	2
Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

- 5.12. Table 52 summarises the quality assessment results for those sites currently used by the community.

⁶ Source: RFU PPS Guidance

⁷ Source: Appendices 4a to 4c – Rugby Football Union

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Table 52: Quality Summary by Pitch Type

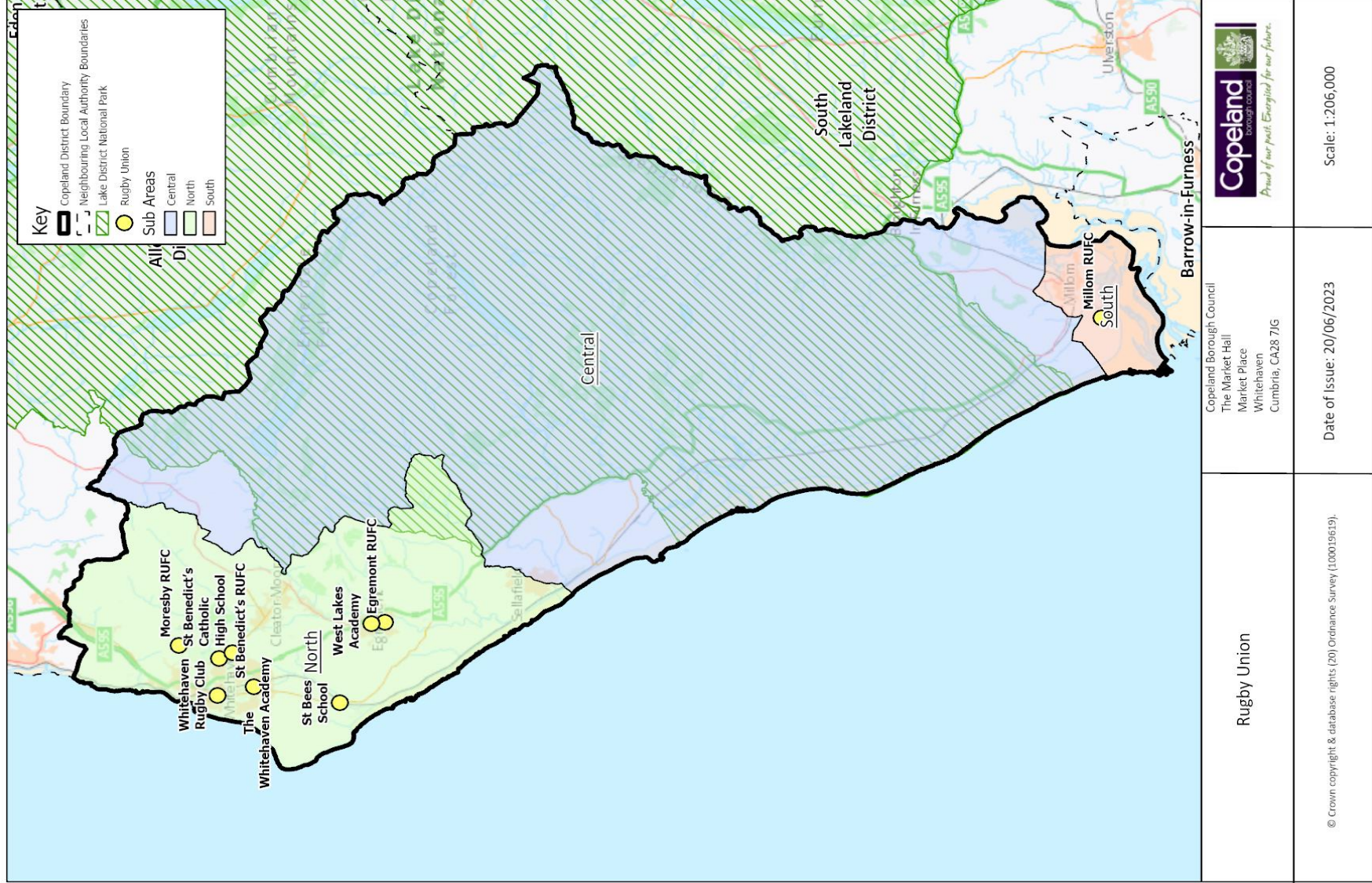
Drainage	Maintenance (Figures relate to number of pitches in Copeland)		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	-	1	2
Natural Adequate (D1)	2	2	-
Pipe Drained (D2)	-	1	-
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	-	-	2

- 5.13. In terms of maintenance, most pitches across Copeland fall between the standard (M1) rating and the good (M2) rating, meaning that minor improvements are needed for the maintenance programme to increase the carrying capacity of the existing pitch stock. The only inadequate and poor pitch is the Moresby RUFC site.
- 5.14. Millom RUFC (D1/M0) has had no drainage improvements carried out; however, it can be classed as D3/M0 due to the quality of soil composition which contributes to good drainage. This will be reflected in the supply and demand analysis below.
- 5.15. The quality of rugby union pitch provision across Copeland, although varied, is generally adequate. The highest scoring pitches identified as part of the assessment were those at St Benedict's RUFC and Egremont RUFC. The provision at St Bees School is also high quality, however there is currently no community access to the site, due to school regulations.
- 5.16. Moresby RUFC is a poor-quality site with a rating of D0/M0, resulting in a capacity of 0.5 MES. Although Moresby RUFC only have one senior male team with a demand of 0.5 MES, according to the previous PPS, the site will occasionally play host for other teams in the area who have no spare capacity at their site.
- 5.17. Map 4 shows the geographic location of the rugby pitches across the Study Area.
- 5.18. St Benedict's Catholic High School has recently developed a full size, World Rugby Compliant (WR22) artificial grass pitch (AGP). Although this meets the standard to host competitive rugby union fixtures, there is currently no rugby union use of the facility, due to lack of availability and both Egremont RUFC and St Benedict's RUFC have small sided 3G training facilities on site. There is however significant football and rugby league community use.

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Map 4: Rugby Union Pitch Audit in Copeland



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Current Demand

- 5.19. Through the demand consultations with clubs, five clubs have been identified as playing in Copeland. Utilising survey responses and desktop research, Table 53 provides the team profiles of all community clubs playing in Copeland.

Table 53: Rugby Club Profiles for Responding Clubs ⁸

Club	Adult teams (male)	Adult teams (women)	Junior Boys' teams	Junior Girls' teams	Mini / Midi teams (U6 – U12)	Total
Egremont RFC	1	-	4	-	5	10
Millom RUFC	2	-	5	-	2	9
Moresby RUFC	1	-	-	-	-	1
St Benedicts RUFC	2	-	6	-	4	12
Whitehaven RUFC	2	-	1	-	5	8
Total	8	0	16	0	16	40

- 5.20. All of the rugby union clubs in Copeland were given the opportunity to be consulted as part of the PPS process. Three of the community rugby union clubs playing in the local authority responded to the club survey and were consulted with as part of the demand gathering process, with the detailed consultations providing the following findings.

Table 54: Summary of Demand Consultations from Rugby Clubs in Copeland

Club	Consultation Summary
Egremont RUFC	<p>The club has one senior men's team and a nine youth and mini/midi sides, all based at Egremont RUFC, whilst training takes place on the AGP at Cumbria Sports Academy. They have aspirations to form a second adult male team, that will share their natural grass pitch⁹. There are no plans to develop facilities, due to recently completing the installation of a piped drainage system, as well as a major redevelopment of a new changing pavilion and 5v5 3G AGP MUGA.</p> <p>The club believe that they have maximised the potential of their site with the new developments but are still unable to cater for the demand of their existing participants. They believe that access to a WR 3G would help to meet their needs.</p>

⁸ Source: PPS Club Consultations

⁹ This pitch does not have the capacity to hold both adult teams.

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Club	Consultation Summary
Millom RUFC	Millom RUFC run 9 teams in total, consisting of two senior male, five youth and two mini/midi teams. All teams play and train at Wilson Park (Millom RUFC). Over the past three seasons they have seen an increase in teams in the senior and youth categories, whilst mini rugby has declined. There are aspirations to increase team numbers in all age categories. Whilst there is currently no unmet demand, Millom RUFC have plans to develop extra changing rooms, as an extension, to facilitate senior and youth fixtures at the same time, therefore alleviating safeguarding issues. There has been no funding secured for this development.
St Benedict's RUFC	Although team numbers have decreased in the past three seasons due to the covid pandemic and players leaving for other sports, the club is the largest in terms of number of teams in Copeland, running two adult male and ten youth and mini/midi teams. St Benedict's RUFC play and train at the same site. They have plans to develop their current clubhouse, by removing one set of changing rooms and replacing it with an extra function room. Whilst there is no unmet demand there are aspirations to run an additional two male youth teams.

Future Demand

Future Demand driven by Population growth

- 5.21. In order to calculate the future demand for rugby in Copeland, a Team Generation Rate (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a rugby team.
- 5.22. This Team Generation Rate can now be applied to the population projections for the Study Area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups. This has been done for the north and south sub areas only, as these are the only sub areas with community rugby union.
- 5.23. Table 55 shows the current and future population projections for Copeland. There is a predicted 8.7% increase in population between 2018 and 2038.

Table 55: Future population projections for Copeland (2018 – 2038)

Modelled scenarios	Population ONS 2018	SHMA 146 new dwellings pa for 2021 - 2038 Population ¹⁰	TOTAL POPULATION (8.7% increase)
Copeland	68,400	5,956	74,356

¹⁰ Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 146 dwellings pa x 17 years (=2,482) x 2.4 average household size (=5,956)

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- 5.24. Table 56 shows the TGR calculations for Copeland. Based on future population projections using data from Table 55 above and split pro rata across north and south sub areas a total of 3 new teams will be created by 2038. Although there may be a small increase in demand in the south, any growth due to population increase will be in the north sub-area.

Table 56: Future Demand Projections for Rugby Teams in Copeland Based on TGR Data

North Sub Area							
Age Group	No. of teams	Current population in age group	Future population (8.7% increase)	Current TGR	Population Change	Potential Change in Team no.	Total teams by 2038
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	6	8062	8763	1461	701	0.4 (0)	6.4 (6)
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	0	8062	8763	0	701	0*	0*
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	11	1664	1809	151	145	1 (rounded up from 0.9)	12 (rounded up from 11.9)
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0	1664	1809	0	145	0*	0*
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	14	3646	3963	260	317	1 (rounded down from 1.2)	15 (rounded down from 15.2)
South Sub Area							
Age Group	No. of teams	Current population in age group	Future population (8.7% increase)	Current TGR	Population Change	Potential Change in Team no.	Total teams by 2038
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	2	835	908	416	73	0 (0.1)	2
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	0	835	908	0	73	0*	0
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	5	192	209	38	17	0 (0.4)	5
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0	192	209	0	17	0*	0
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	2	403	438	202	35	0 (0.2)	2
Total – Copeland						3	43

**RFU have a key strategic objective to increase the number of women and girls' teams. This could lead to the development of women and girls' teams across all sub-areas therefore were this to happen the growth in the number of teams could be in excess of these figures.*

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- 5.25. Table 56 illustrates that the projected demand for rugby teams across the north sub area is likely to increase by a total of three teams: one senior male, one youth male and one mini/midi team. There is very minimal team growth in all age categories in the south sub area.
- 5.26. While the TGR calculation does not project a growth in female senior or youth age groups, it should be noted that one of the RFU's key strategic objectives is to increase female participation, with potential investment leading to a growth in demand. An analysis of latent demand will be undertaken in the following section to assess whether future female provision should be planned for.
- 5.27. It is important to note that this calculation assumes that clubs, the council and the RFU do not improve their marketing or participation schemes over the period and are therefore no more successful than they are now in attracting new players to participate in rugby in in the study area. It is expected that there will be improved channels of digital communication and improved maintenance technology, as well as higher quality ancillary provision. The output of this will be a higher quality and improved ability to generate demand and convert it into participation.

Growth of Female Rugby

- 5.28. Currently, any participation in female rugby union is displaced to Workington RFC in Allerdale due to lack of teams in Copeland. The future growth in female rugby union is calculated using a ratio of future population growth to existing team numbers. As there are no current female teams in Copeland, the projected growth is set to be 0 for senior and youth rugby in the across the study area. However, given the strategic priority of England Rugby (RFU) to increase women and girls' rugby across the country, a projected increase of 1 senior women's team has been added to the future growth projections. In addition to this, 3 junior girls' teams have also been added to the future growth projections. This projected growth in female rugby union has been allocated to the north sub area to reflect the current distribution in participation.
- 5.29. Both projected increases align with the overall target to increase team numbers by 350 across England over the next four years. This growth will be considered in the future supply and demand analysis for rugby in the study area.

Future Demand driven by Latent demand

- 5.30. While a large amount of future demand will be driven by population growth, it is also likely that clubs and operators are successful in converting latent demand into actual demand, therefore increasing the number of people playing rugby union. The table below identifies latent demand (not currently active), which clubs are aiming to convert into rugby union demand within the next 3-5 years. This provides an estimation of the number of new teams that will be required in Copeland, in addition to the teams generated by population growth.
- 5.31. Table 57 illustrates that three additional teams have been projected as part of the latent demand calculations, which have been allocated to the North Sector sub area.

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- 5.32. This latent demand will be combined with the projected increase in demand generated from population growth and incorporated into the future supply and demand analysis for rugby union provision.

Table 57: Latent Demand for Rugby Union in Copeland

Club	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Boys	Youth Girls	Mini/Midi	Total
Egremont RUFC	1	0	0	0	0	1
Millom RUFC	1	0	1	0	1	3
Moresby RUFC	1	0	0	0	0	1
St Benedict's RFC	0	0	2	0	0	2
Whitehaven RFC	0	0	2	0	0	2
Total¹¹	3	1	5	3	1	13

Supply and Demand Balance

- 5.33. This section of the report brings together the supply of rugby union pitches across the study area and combines it with community use demand data. A supply and demand analysis is then undertaken for all sites that provide community use rugby provision, which is subsequently brought together to provide a view of the current and future position for rugby union across the study area.
- 5.34. Table 58 overleaf brings together the key data from this chapter, for all rugby union sites in Copeland. The key issues are identified for each site, as well as the supply and demand data, as explained in the sections below.

Peak Time Capacity

- 5.35. To assess the availability of rugby union facilities at peak times, it has been assumed that the period of highest demand for rugby matches is on a Saturday afternoon for adult men; Sunday morning for mini and junior rugby union; and Sunday afternoon for adult women. **Please note that all demand is measured in match equivalent sessions.** Table 58 below shows the peak time capacity for available sites in Copeland, therefore St Bees School has been removed from this table.

¹¹ Totals for Adult Female and Youth Girls latent demand has not been assigned to specific clubs, but rather will be allocated to the North sub area.

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Table 58: Peak Time Capacity at Rugby Club Sites - Current

Site Name	Sub Area	Peak Time Supply		Peak Time Demand			Capacity	
		Senior Pitch	Mini/Midi Pitch	Senior	Colts/Youth	Mini	Saturday Senior Pitch (1 session)	Sunday Senior Pitch (2 sessions)
Egremont RUFC	North	3.5	0	0.5	2	1.25	0.5	-1.25
Moresby RUFC	North	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	0	0
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Benedict's RUFC	North	3.5	0	1	3	1	0	-2
The Whitehaven Academy	North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Lakes Academy	North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitehaven Rugby Club (1)	North	2.5	0	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	1.5
Whitehaven Rugby Club (2)	North	2.5	0	0.5	0	1.25	0.5	0.75
Millom RUFC (1)	South	2	0	0.5	1.25	0.25	0.5	0.5
Millom RUFC (2)	South	2	0	0.5	1.25	0.25	0.5	0.5

- 5.36. To calculate whether there is any total spare capacity at rugby union sites in Copeland, Table 58 shows the supply and demand figures across all sites that have rugby union provision. This table demonstrates the sites that are currently being overplayed, as well as those that have spare capacity for grass pitch provision.
- 5.37. As referenced above (1.12.), although the Millom RUFC site is rated as D1/M0, for the purposes of this study it is considered as D3/M0 due to the quality of natural drainage.
- 5.38. Senior and youth teams are assumed to play on senior pitches and mini/midi teams play on mini pitches where possible. Match Equivalent Sessions are calculated as 0.5 per week for senior and youth teams, whilst mini/midi demand has been calculated at 0.25. This is due to the lack of mini pitches in the study area meaning that mini teams will use half a full-sized senior pitch every other week.
- 5.39. It is presumed that schools in Copeland have no peak time capacity, due to the lack of community use. It should be noted that all figures are in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES) and the demand data includes both match play and training demand.

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- 5.40. Table 59 details how training and match demand is spread across pitches in Copeland. Training demand is assumed to occur midweek and can only be placed on floodlit grass pitches.
- 5.41. If training pitches become overplayed due to training demand, these are then removed from match pitch supply. For clarity the table has also been divided into secure and unsecured sites. The latter is included to give an understanding of potential additional capacity if community use agreements can be negotiated.

Table 59: Supply and Demand Capacity Balance by Site (All Figures in MES)

Site	Sub Area	Availability	Security	Number of Floodlit Pitches	Mid-Week Day/Training			Weekend Match Day Senior/ Junior			Weekend Match Day Mini		Total Senior/Junior Match Pitch Balance	Unmet Mini Demand Placed on Senior Match Pitches (50% of Senior ME)	Total Senior Match Pitch Balance
					Supply	Demand	Balance	Supply	Demand	Balance	Supply	Demand			
Egremont RUFC	North	Available	Secured	1	0	0	0	3 (3.5)	2.5	0.5	0	1.25	0.5	-1.25	-0.75
Moresby RUFC	North	Available	Secured	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Millom RUFC	South	Available	Secured	1	0	2	-2	4	3.5	0.5	0	0.5	-1.5	-0.5	-2
St Benedict's RFC	North	Available	Secured	0	0	0	0	3 (3.5)	4	-1	0	1	-1	-1	-2
Whitehaven Rugby Club	North	Available	Secured	0	0	0	0	5	1.5	3.5	0	1.25	3.5	-1.25	2.25
Overview of Secure Available Sites				2	0	2	-2	15.5	12	3.5	0	4	1.5	-4	-2.5
Whitehaven Academy	North	Available	Unsecured	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Lakes Academy	North	Available	Unsecured	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	Available	Unsecured	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overview of Unsecure Available Sites				0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Bees School	North	Not Available	Unsecured	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overview of Not Available Sites				0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Numbers in brackets relate to actual capacity based on pitch quality. However, there are only three possible match times at weekends.

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- 5.42. Table 59 demonstrates that there is an under supply of available, secured sites across Copeland. At sites such as Millom RUFC, this is partly because of the lack of floodlit facilities, which is causing sites to be over played due to training demands.
- 5.43. There is no current rugby union community use at any education establishments. The capacity of the school sites is utilised through curricular and extra-curricular demand, therefore there is 0 MES spare. As already mentioned, there is a WR22 3G pitch at St Benedict's Catholic High School which has no rugby union use.
- 5.44. Due to there being no mini pitches in Copeland, all mini/midi demand is being met on senior pitches and causing these to become further overplayed.
- 5.45. It is presumed that Whitehaven RUFC do no train at their home site due to the lack of floodlit provision.

Current and Future Position

- 5.46. Utilising the data from the previous section, Table 60 shows the current and future position for adult and junior rugby provision across the study area.
- 5.47. The points below provide further explanation on the terms used within the tables:
- Current balance: The supply and demand position for rugby pitches, when taking into consideration the extent of spare capacity and then deducting the amount of overplay
 - Projected balance: The projected supply and demand analysis for 2038, using the current position and taking into consideration the additional demand from unmet, latent, displaced and future (population growth) demand
 - Unmet/latent demand: Potential demand that has been identified as not being converted yet. For more information see the latent and unmet demand sections of this needs assessment
 - Displaced demand: Demand that cannot be satisfied within the local authority, due to a lack of suitable facilities
 - Future demand: The projected growth of demand, calculated using Team Generation Rates and the population projections for each sub-area
- 5.48. Table 60 shows the current and future position for all grass rugby provision in the study area.

Table 60: Current and Future Position for All Community Available Rugby Grass Provision

Sub Area	Current Balance		Projected Balance	
	Training	Match	Training	Match
North	0	-0.5	-5	-5.75
South	-2	0	-2	-1.25

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Sub Area	Current Balance		Projected Balance	
	Training	Match	Training	Match
Copeland Study Area	-2	-0.5	-7	-7

- 5.49. Table 60 demonstrates that there are current deficits of -0.5 MES for match play and -2 for training sessions in Copeland. This can be further broken down into sub areas. In the north there is a current deficit of -0.5 MES for match play, whilst the balance for training is neutral. In the south sub area, there is a current deficit of training provision of -2 MES, whilst match play is at a neutral position. However, when taking into consideration current latent demand, growth in female participation, as well as the TGR informed by future population projections, by 2038 it is predicted there will be a total training deficit of -7 MES and a match deficit of -7 MES across Copeland. Much of this deficit will be placed in the North where there will be a -5 MES deficit for training and a -5.75 MES deficit for match play by 2038. The south is projected to see a deficit of -1.25 MES for match play. The reason for this disparity between sub areas is the significantly higher demand for rugby union in the north. The current deficit for training is greater in the south, due to lack of floodlit training facilities. There is no rugby union provision in the central sub area.

Site by Site Analysis

- 5.50. Table 61 details the current and peak time balance, as well as a site summary using notes from Strategic Leisure's site visits. Where these notes indicate lack of capacity due to demand outside of community use (e.g., school or university teams on education sites) the balance and peak period capacity have been revised. This should provide an accurate overview of actual balance of supply and demand across the Study Area.

Table 61: Site by Site Analysis for Rugby Union Sites - Current

Site Name	Sub Area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity	Community/scho of Pitch Demand	Balance	Peak Period Capacity	Site summary
Egremont RUFC	North	Available	Secured	1x Senior Rugby Union	3.5	3.75	Pitches are overplayed by 0.25 MES	There can be no spare capacity as the site is overplayed	One senior rugby union pitch which is partly floodlit. Small 5v5 AGP MUGA also on site behind the clubhouse. Excellent quality pitch with good drainage and maintenance. The club feels as though they have reached the potential of the current site through recent developments. Egremont RUFC cannot meet the demand for training at their current site and therefore train at Cumbria Sports Academy.

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Site Name	Sub Area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity	Community/scho of Pitch Demand	Balance	Peak Period Capacity	Site summary
Millom RUFC	South	Available	Secured	2 x Senior Rugby Union	4	6	Pitches are overplayed by 2 MES	There can be no spare capacity as the site is overplayed	Two senior rugby union pitches, one of which is floodlit. Although there has been no drainage development work done, the natural soil drains very well. Standard clubhouse facilities.
Moresby RUFC	North	Available	Secured	1x Senior Rugby Union	0.5	0.5	0 MES spare capacity	0 MES spare capacity	Community site with basic ancillary facilities. Changing facilities need updating. The pitch is of poor quality and drains badly in a number of places.
St Benedict's RFC	North	Available	Secured	2x Senior Rugby Union	3.5	5	Pitches are overplayed by 1.5 MES	There can be no spare capacity as the site is overplayed	High quality site, with good ancillary facilities. 7v7 floodlit 3G on site, which is used for training and hired out for community use. Standard quality clubhouse. Excellent pitch with high quality drainage system. The site is also used by Mirehouse AFC, which use the football pitch on site and a separate clubhouse.
Whitehaven Rugby Club	North	Available	Secured	2x Senior Rugby Union	5	2.75	Pitches have spare capacity of 2.25 MES	3.25 MES spare capacity	Two senior rugby union pitches of standard quality. These are used as a cricket outfield during the cricket season. Standard quality clubhouse with bar. Access and parking are limited.
St Bees School	North	Unavailable	-	2x Senior Rugby Union	4	4	Unavailable	Unavailable	Private school site with two high quality rugby union pitches. No access at time of visit. No community use of the site.
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	Available	Unsecured	2x Senior	3	3	0 MES spare capacity	No spare capacity	School site with 2 standard quality senior rugby union pitches. No current club use of grass pitches, but it was highlighted that this is a possibility. Large

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Site Name	Sub Area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity	Community/scho of Pitch Demand	Balance	Peak Period Capacity	Site summary
				Rugby Union				Saturday or Sunday	new development of school, including WR22 3G. 3G has no rugby union use, but does have significant rugby league and football.
The Whitehaven Academy	North	Available	Unsecured	1x Senior Rugby Union	2	2	0 MES spare capacity	No spare capacity Saturday or Sunday	School site with average senior rugby union pitch. A planning application has been approved for the redevelopment of the sports facilities, including WR22 3G AGP, sand dressed hockey AGP, tennis and netball courts and a straight sprint track.
West Lakes Academy	North	Available	Unsecured	1x Senior Rugby Union	2	2	0 MES spare capacity	No spare capacity Saturday or Sunday	One senior rugby union pitch on school playing fields. At the time of our visit, the pitches were being re-surfaced. There is no current community or club use of the rugby union pitch.

Rugby Union Summary

- 5.51. This section summarises the findings from the rugby analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section Copeland.
- 5.52. Table 62 includes the response to 5 key questions which are identified in the Sport England PPS Guidance Checklists. Using these key questions to summarise the findings of each of the sport chapter creates consistency, not only within the report but with similar PPS projects in neighbouring local authorities and further afield.

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Table 62: Key PPS Findings for Rugby Union in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There are currently 9 rugby union sites in Copeland, with a total of 13 pitches. 85% of these pitches are in the north sub area, with 15% being situated in the south. There are no rugby union facilities in the central sub area. Of these pitches, 31% are rated good, 54% are of standard quality and 15% are poor.</p> <p>In terms of demand, 40 teams were identified during the consultation process, again with the highest concentration being in the north sub area (77.5%). 20% of the teams are adult male, 40% youth and 40% minis.</p> <p>Although all current female rugby demand is displaced outside of the area, it is predicted that this will return in the very near future. Although this is a significant positive, ancillary facilities at some sites may need updating to ensure the safeguarding and privacy of all participants is protected.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>Based on the supply and demand analysis, there is currently an under supply of -2 MES for training and 0.5 MES for match play across the study area. The undersupply of training provision is in the south sub area, whilst the -0.5 MES for fixtures comes from the north. The sites with the most amount of overplaying occurring are Millom RUFC (-2 MES) and St Benedict's RUFC (-2 MES). The only site with spare total capacity is Whitehaven Rugby Club, which has an oversupply of 2.25 MES.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>Across Copeland 31% of pitches are rated as good, 54% are of standard quality and 15% are poor. Based on consultation with clubs and the RFU, we were also able to establish maintenance and drainage scores. Although generally the quality of rugby union provision can be considered adequate, improvements to the maintenance and drainage of some sites would improve the carrying capacity and therefore reduce the over-playing of the pitches.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>Based on population growth, latent demand and expected increase in female participation, it is estimated that will be a total of 15 new teams in Copeland by 2038, the end of the Local Plan period. The majority of this growth is predicted to come from latent demand. It should be noted that latent demand is gauged through consultations with clubs, and this perceived growth often does not meet expectations. Although most of this growth is based in the north sub area, the largest growth from a single club is expected to come from Millom RUFC.</p> <p>9 of the potential new teams (60%) are expected to come from youth age groups, 2 (13.3%) from minis and 4 (26.7%) from senior age groups.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>Due to the expected increased future demand for rugby union provision, the under supply of pitches is expected to increase to -7 MES for training sessions and -7 MES for match play. There is no expected change in the supply of rugby union pitches in Copeland, therefore it is likely that current supply will not meet the demand in 2038.</p>

6. Cricket Analysis

Introduction and Strategic Context

6.1 To understand the overall objectives and priorities of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), an analysis of key recent strategies and documentation has been undertaken and summarised below.

Inspiring Generations (2019 - 2024)

6.2 The ECB published its new strategic plan in 2019, with the ambition being to inspire a generation to say that 'cricket is a game for me'.

6.3 The ECB wants to encourage more young people to form a lifelong relationship with cricket from an early age, to be passionate about the game throughout their lives, and to pass this passion on for generations to come.

6.4 The ECB will deliver in cricket's purpose and ambition through six priorities:

- **Grow and nurture the core:** Ensure that there is a thriving county network at the heart of the domestic game
- **Inspire through elite teams:** Create and celebrate the heroes at the pinnacle of the elite game
- **Make cricket accessible:** Give more people the opportunity to engage with cricket more often
- **Engage children and young people:** Inspire a new generation of players and fans to develop a love for cricket
- **Transform women's and girls' cricket:** Drive cricket's progress to becoming a truly gender-neutral sport
- **Support our communities:** Use the purpose to connect communities and improve lives more broadly across society.

6.5 It is key that this PPS recognises the opportunity made available by Inspiring Generations and provides a framework that allows stakeholders to work together and deliver against the priorities identified above. It's also vital that any facility development for cricket takes the objectives of the strategy into consideration, namely the growth of entry level cricket, women and girls' cricket, T20 and engagement of previously hard-to-reach demographics groups.

Development Priorities

All Stars Cricket (2017)

- 6.6 Launched in 2017, All Stars Cricket is an ECB initiative that provides children aged five to eight with an introduction to cricket, focusing on parental engagement in supporting the newly trained All Stars Cricket Activators, as well as having a special focus on establishing women's softball and cricket events.
- 6.7 It is key that this PPS recognises the opportunity made available by Inspiring Generations and All Stars Cricket and provides a framework that allows stakeholders to work together and deliver against the key objectives of 'more play', 'great teams' and 'inspired fans'.

Women's and Girls'

- 6.8 In consultation with the ECB, it has been identified that the development of female cricket is likely to have an impact on supply and demand in the area. Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority. Within the County of Copeland, the aspiration is to increase the number of women and girls' teams, increase the number of softball leagues and increase the number of hard ball teams.
- 6.9 Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections are enjoyment and participation; without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

Consultation overview

- 6.10 In addition to the structure and guidance provided by the ECB, local cricket in Copeland is governed by Cumbria Cricket Board. Both organisations have been consulted as part of the PPS process, with key priorities and facility development needs for Copeland highlighted below.
- 6.11 Cricket is a popular sport across the Study Area, with several affiliated teams playing as part of structured clubs. Team and clubs typically play as part of league structures, which include clubs from several different local authorities. Most teams in the study area are multi team clubs with thriving junior sections. As part of the PPS process clubs were asked to engage in consultation. 6 clubs, totalling 94% of teams responded.

Supply

- 6.12 Table 63 below presents a summary of the total number of cricket pitches and wickets in each of the three sub-areas, as well as the study area as a whole. Copeland has a total of 11 cricket pitches, 84 grass wickets and 1 artificial turf wicket. Table 63 overleaf also shows the supply of cricket wickets across the Study Area, on a site-by-site basis.

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- 6.13 There is one disused site at Gosforth Playing Field. During the site visits, in the cricket season, there was no evidence of any cricket having been played on the site that season.
- 6.14 Table 63 illustrates the spread of cricket pitches across the Study Area, with a higher supply in the more densely populated North and South sub areas. However, the number of wickets is weighted heavily towards the north with 69% of all wickets being situated there.

Table 63: Supply of Cricket Pitches in Copeland

Sub Area	Number of pitches	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
North	5	48	0
Central	2	12	0
South	4	24	1
Total –Copeland	11	84	1

Tenure and Management

- 6.15 Table 64 illustrates that while the ownership of cricket pitches is varied across the Study Area, the highest proportion of pitches is owned by the cricket clubs (54.5%), with educational establishments holding (36.3%). There is only 1 (9.1%) pitch owned by the local authority, which could have an impact on the long-term security of cricket across Copeland. This will be analysed further as part of the site-by-site assessment and commentary.
- 6.16 In addition, Table 64 illustrates that the management of cricket facilities is dominated by Education sites and Club management. This identifies a high level of autonomy and low reliance on the council for cricket facility maintenance and management. A high level of cricket in education establishments also reduces the likelihood of significant community use from these facilities.

Table 64: Cricket Site Ownership and Management in Copeland

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Education	4	4
Club	6	6
Local Authority	1	1
Total	11	11

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6.17 Table 65 below provides a breakdown of the cricket sites in Copeland, the majority of which have secured community use. Further detail is provided in Appendix E.

Quality Assessment

6.18 The majority of sites were visited and assessed by Strategic Leisure in summer 2021 using a non-technical assessment framework provided by the ECB. Where this was not possible with some school sites, desktop audits and consultations have been used to complete the assessment. The assessment considers the quality of playing surface, the quality of changing rooms and the score of the maintenance regime when compared to ECB recommendations. In addition to the site visits, the club consultation was used to validate the quality ratings. Each site is rated as GOOD ($\geq 80\%$), STANDARD (between 50% and 80%) or POOR ($< 50\%$).

6.19 Table 65 provides a picture of the mean percentage score for pitches in each sub area, based on the quality assessment results. A full site-by-site breakdown can be seen in Table 66. The overall standard of pitches across Copeland is 83% (Good), with all factors within this falling within or above the standard score.

Table 65: Summary of Cricket Pitch Scoring in Copeland by Sub Area

Sub Area	Pitches
North	78.4% - Standard
Central	65.5% - Standard
South	79.5% - Standard
Average Score	76.3% - Standard

6.20 Table 65 illustrates that quality of provision is of a similar standard across all three sub areas. As is highlighted in the Table 66 however, the average scores in the north and south areas are influenced by low anomalies.

6.21 St Bees School is an independent school in the north sub area. At the time of visit there was no square or wickets marked out, however the outfield was clearly well maintained, with two good quality artificial nets, small pavilion, score board and maintenance equipment. The site has previously supported cricket demand, however the pitch has since been removed. Although the ECB's non-technical assessment document still scored the site as 83% Good, the site can support no cricket demand. In the supply and demand analysis later in this document, the site has been placed in a neutral position because of this, with no supply or demand.

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Table 66: Cricket Site Breakdown in Copeland

Playing Pitch Sites	Active Places Power Site ID	Postcode	Club	Sub-area	Community use on site	Secured community use	Ownership	Management	Pitch Size	Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets	Quality of provision
Seascale Sports Hall	1038197	CA20 1PU	Seascale CC	Central	Available	Secured	Local Authority	Local Authority	Senior	1	8	0	71% - Standard
Eskdale Cricket Club		CA19 1TD	Eskdale CC	Central	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Sports Club	Senior	1	4	0	60% - Standard
Gillfoot Park	1207922	CA22 2PR	Egremont CC	North	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Sports Club	Senior	1	18	0	94% - Good
JD Campbell Memorial Ground	1207897	CA23 3DD	Cleator CC	North	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Sports Club	Senior	1	10	0	80% - Standard
St Bees School	1200718	CA27 0DS	-	North	Unavailable	Unsecured	Education	Education	Senior	-	-	-	83% - Good ¹²
Whitehaven Cricket Ground	1207875	CA28 7QR	Whitehaven CC	North	Available	Secured	Sports Club	Sports Club	Senior	1	16	0	80% - Standard
St Benedict's Catholic High School	1005219	CA28 8UG	-	North	Available	Unsecured	Education	Education	Senior	1	4	0	55% - Standard
Millom Cricket Club	1039256	LA18 5DW	Millom CC	South	Available	Secure	Sports Club	Sports Club	Senior	1	8	1	90% - Good
Haverigg Cricket Club	1040422	LA18 4EW	Haverigg CC	South	Available	Secure	Sports Club	Sports Club	Senior	1	14	0	81% - Good
Millom School - 1	1005206	LA18 5AB	-	South	Available	Unsecured	Education	Education	Senior	1	1	0	88% - Good
Millom School - 2	1005206	LA18 5AB	-	South	Available	Unsecured	Education	Education	Senior	1	1	0	59% - Standard

¹² There has previously been a pitch at St Bees School, which was of good quality. However, although all ancillary facilities are still present, there were no wickets at the time of site visit.

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Table 67: Ancillary Facility information for Cricket Sites in Copeland

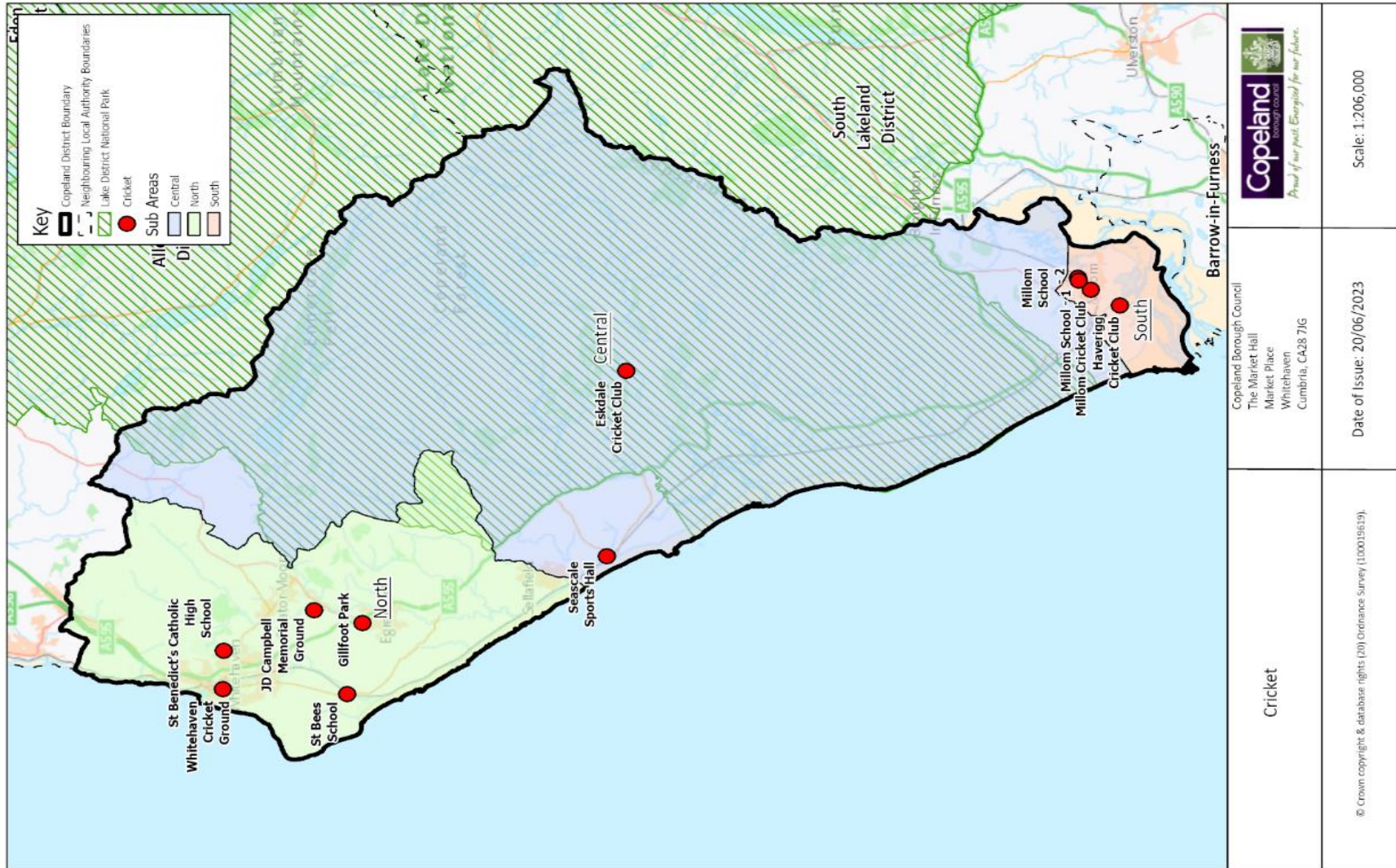
Playing Pitch Sites	Active Places Power Site ID	Postcode	Club	Sub-area	Ancillary Facility Quality	Ancillary facilities information
Seascale Sports Hall	1038197	CA20 1PU	Seascale CC	Central	Standard	Basic clubhouse/pavilion shared with bowls club. Wicket covers, however no other maintenance equipment evident.
Eskdale Cricket Club		CA19 1TD	Eskdale CC	Central	-	No ancillary facilities
Gillfoot Park	1207922	CA22 2PR	Egremont CC	North	Good	High quality site, including clubhouse/pavilion with good facilities. Shared with rugby league. Two large storage containers with maintenance equipment. Excellent practice facilities with two high quality artificial nets.
JD Campbell Memorial Ground	1207897	CA23 3DD	Cleator CC	North	Good	Large pavilion with excellent amenities. Good practice facilities, including artificial nets.
St Bees School	1200718	CA27 0DS	-	North	Good	Two artificial nets with surface in good condition, but poor netting. Scoreboard present and good pavillion and rolling equipment. No wickets present but outfield is very well maintained.
Whitehaven Cricket Ground	1207875	CA28 7QR	Whitehaven CC	North	Standard	Basic clubhouse/pavilion shared with rugby league club. Two good quality artificial nets and basic maintenance equipment on site.
St Benedict's Catholic High School	1005219	CA28 8UG	-	North	Standard	School changing facilities
Millom Cricket Club	1039256	LA18 5DW	Millom CC	South	Good	Good quality pavilion with changing rooms, kitchen and bar. Artificial nets on site. Clear informal use of artificial nets. Very poor access to the site.
Haverigg Cricket Club	1040422	LA18 4EW	Haverigg CC	South	Good	Good quality pavilion which is well used by the community for its bar. Changing rooms and small kitchen also included. Wicket covers, scoreboard and screen also on site
Millom School - 1	1005206	LA18 5AB	-	South	Standard	School changing facilities
Millom School - 2	1005206	LA18 5AB	-	South	Standard	School changing facilities

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6.22 Map 6 demonstrates the distribution of rugby union sites in the study area.

Map 6: Cricket Pitch Audit in Copeland



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Current Demand

Club and Team Profile

- 6.23 To understand how cricket is played across Copeland and the trends for demand across the game, this section assesses consultation responses from all clubs in the Study Area that responded to requests to take part in the study. 6 out of 7 clubs were consulted with, however one outstanding club only participate in friendly fixtures. This team, Eskdale CC, have 1 adult senior team.
- 6.24 Through the demand consultations with clubs, 8 clubs have been identified as playing in Copeland. However, one of the clubs, Calder Bridge does not have a home ground and only participates in friendly fixtures. Because of this, at the ECBs request they are not included in this strategy. This leaves 7 clubs, with 32 teams in Copeland. There are currently 19 senior male teams, and 13 junior teams.
- 6.25 It is assumed that senior male teams will play on a Saturday, whilst all junior fixtures will take place on Sundays. This will be considered further in the site by site analysis later in the section. It is also assumed that clubs do not train on their grass wickets. Clubs will utilise the outfield and fixed grass/artificial nets for their training demand.

Table 68: Cricket Club Profiles

Club	Sub-Area (Home Ground Location)	No. of teams			Total
		Senior Men	Senior Women	Junior	
Seascale CC	Central	4	0	1	5
Egremont CC	North	4	0	3	7
Cleator CC	North	2	0	2	4
Whitehaven CC	North	4	0	3	7
Haverigg CC	South	2	0	2	4
Millom CC	South	2	0	2	4
Eskdale	Central	1	0	0	1
Total		19	0	13	32

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6.26 To illustrate how the demand for cricket is spread geographically, Table 69 indicates how the teams are split by sub-area.

Table 69: Cricket Demand by Sub Area

Sub-area (Home Ground Location)	No. of Teams			Total
	Senior Men	Senior Women	Juniors	
North	10	0	8	18
Central	5	0	1	6
South	4	0	4	8

6.27 Table 69 shows that the majority of cricket is played in the North sub area (54.5%). Eskdale and Calder Bridge are not included in Table 68 due to not having access to a home ground.

6.28 To further understand the demand for cricket in the in Copeland, detailed consultations have been undertaken with all but two clubs within Copeland. Accounts of these consultations including with key strategic priorities are referenced in the site-by-site assessment later in this section.

Future Demand

Demand Driven by Population Growth

6.29 In order to understand the future demand for cricket in the Study Area, a Team Generation Rate (definition provided in glossary) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a cricket team. The population figures and growth predictions are based on ONS data that has been agreed with Copeland Borough Council and mirrors that of the Local Plan.

6.30 This TGR can now be applied to the population projections for the Study Area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups.

6.31 Table 70 overleaf illustrates that the greatest projected growth in cricket demand is projected to be in the adult men's and junior boys groups. As no formal demand was recorded for female cricket across the Study Area, the TGR calculation is unable to project the likely growth in demand for these age groups.

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- 6.32 Following consultation with the ECB, and in line with the NGB's national strategy, this does not represent a realistic future picture of female cricket. The ECB and County Cricket Boards are making a conscious effort to increase female participation across the country, especially following England's 2017 Women's Cricket World Cup win.
- 6.33 As a result, 4 new female teams have been added to the 'Change in Team Numbers' column' (identified in **bold**). These teams have been allocated to the north and south sub-areas, given that Cumbria Cricket identified this growth would be driven by Egremont CC, Whitehaven CC, Millom CC and Haverigg CC. The north sub area has been assigned two additional senior female teams, whilst the south has been assigned one senior and one junior female teams. This has been agreed as part of consultation with Cumbria Cricket and the ECB.

Table 70: Impact of Population Projections on the Need for Cricket Provision in Copeland (TGRs by Sub Area)

North Sub Area						
Age group	No. of teams in age group within the area	Current population in age group within the area	Future population. in age group within the area (8.7% increase)	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group	Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (numbers rounded up or down)
Cricket Open Age Men's (18-55yrs)	10	12,241	13,306	1224.1	1065	1 (0.9)
Cricket Open Age Women's (18-55yrs)	0	12,241	13,306	0	1065	2
Cricket Junior Boys(7-18yrs)	8	3,222	3502	402.8	280	1 (0.7)
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	0	3,222	3502	0	280	0
Total	18	30,926	33,617	1718	2691	4

Central Sub Area						
Age group	No. of teams in age group within the area	Current population in age group within the area	Future population. in age group within the area (8.7% increase)	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group	Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (numbers rounded up or down)
Cricket Open Age Men's (18-55yrs)	4	1,566	1702	391.5	279	1
Cricket Open Age Women's (18-55yrs)	0	1,566	1702	0	279	0
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	1	401	436	401	71	0
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	0	401	436	0	71	0
Total	5	3,934	4,276	786.8	700	1

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South Sub Area						
Age group	No. of teams in age group within the area	Current population in age group within the area	Future population. in age group within the area (8.7% increase)	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group	Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (numbers rounded up or down)
Cricket Open Age Men's (18-55yrs)	4	1,260	1370	315	110	0 (0.3)
Cricket Open Age Women's (18-55yrs)	0	1,260	1370	0	110	1
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	4	363	395	90.8	32	0 (0.4)
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	0	363	395	0	32	1
Total	8	3246	3528	405.8	282	2

Demand driven by latent demand

- 6.34 While a large amount of future demand will be driven by population growth, it is also likely that clubs and operators are successful in converting latent demand into actual demand, therefore increasing the number of people playing cricket. The table below identifies all clubs, grouped by sub-area, that identified latent demand (not currently active), which they are aiming to convert into affiliated cricket demand within the next 3 - 5 years. This provides an estimation of the number of new teams that will be required in Copeland in addition to the teams generated by population growth.

Table 71: Latent Demand for Cricket by Sub Area

Club	Sub Area	Senior Cricket		Junior Cricket	
		Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Seascale CC	Central	0	0	2	0
Whitehaven CC	North	0	0	2	0
Haverigg CC	South	0	1	1	0
Millom CC	South	0	0	4	0

- 6.35 It is important to note that the growth from latent demand should be treated with an element of caution, as the source of information is club consultations. In some instances, clubs may not have considered the governance and infrastructure requirements, associated with ongoing club growth. As a result, there may be instances where actual growth does not meet the projections identified during consultation.

Combined project growth in teams

6.36 Table 72 show the projected growth in cricket teams in Copeland via two separate ‘sources’. Table 72 below summarises this projection.

Table 72: Total projected future cricket team growth by Sub Area

Analysis Area	Adult Teams		Junior Teams		Total
	Population Growth	Latent Demand	Population Growth	Latent Demand	
North	3	0	1	2	6
Central	1	0	0	2	3
South	1	1	1	5	8
Total - Copeland	5	1	2	9	17

6.37 Table 72 shows that there is projected to be a combined growth of 17 teams in Copeland by 2038. The south sub area is predicted to see the largest growth, although that is based on latent demand predictions and does not reflect population growth.

Supply and Demand Balance

6.38 This section presents the supply and demand balance findings for cricket provision (both for current and future analyses) for the study, split by sub-area.

The pitch balance figures i.e., the relationship between supply and demand, have been calculated using the capacity and pitch quality ratings

6.39 Table 73 provides a supply and demand analysis for all cricket sites across the study area. To provide a greater understanding of how this spare capacity or deficit is dispersed around the across Copeland.

6.40 For all supply and demand analysis, the carrying capacity of grass and artificial wickets have been adjusted based on the quality rating of the facilities. Following consultation with the ECB, the following carrying capacity assumptions have been agreed:

- A good quality grass wicket can accommodate 5 matches per season (MPS) for adults (and 7 MPS for juniors)
- Standard quality grass wicket can accommodate 4 MPS

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- A poor quality grass wicket has not been assigned any carrying capacity (0 MPS) as it is assumed that the wicket is not safe for formal or informal cricket use
- Good and standard quality non-turf wickets can accommodate 60 MPS for adults (and 80 MPS for juniors), however a poor quality non-turf wicket is not assigned any carrying capacity (0 MPS).

Spare capacity and overplay

- 6.41 Overplay occurs when a cricket square is played on a greater amount than is recommended by the pitch's carrying capacity. If a square has 8 individual good quality wickets, then this provides an overall carrying capacity of 40 matches per season for that square. If, however, demand consultation indicates that there are 50 matches being played on that square over the course of a season, then that square (pitch) can be said to be overplayed.
- 6.42 There are a number of reasons for a pitch being overplayed, such as lack of alternative provision, poor site management, or a discrepancy in pitch rates, making some more affordable than others.
- 6.43 Spare capacity is the opposite of overplay and occurs when demand at a site is less than the theoretical carrying capacity over a season.
- 6.44 It is important that any overplay of pitches is considered as part of the overall supply and demand analysis for grass wickets, therefore Table 73 identifies overplay or spare capacity at all sites.
- 6.45 As there were no junior wickets identified in the study area, the total demand including adult and junior play has been taken into consideration rather than differentiating between the two age categories.

Table 73: Current Position for Grass Cricket Provision in Copeland

Playing Pitch Sites	Sub Area	Secured Community Use	Squares	Quality of Provision*	Grass Wickets (Grass)	Grass Supply (MPS)	Total Demand (Grass)	Total Balance
Seascale Sports Hall	Central	Secured	1	Standard	8	32	30	2
Eskdale Cricket Club	Central	Secured	1	Standard	4	16	10	6
Gillfoot Park	North	Secured	1	Good	18	90	40	50
JD Campbell Memorial Ground	North	Secured	1	Standard	10	40	28	12
St Bees School	North	Unsecure	1	Good	0	0	0	0
Whitehaven Cricket Ground	North	Secured	1	Standard	16	64	65	-1

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Playing Pitch Sites	Sub Area	Secured Community Use	Squares	Quality of Provision*	Grass Wickets (Grass)	Grass Supply (MPS)	Total Demand (Grass)	Total Balance
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	Unsecured	1	Standard	4	16	6	10
Millom Cricket Club	South	Secured	1	Good	8	40	36	4
Haverigg Cricket Club	South	Secured	1	Good	14	70	40	30
Millom School - 1	South	Unsecured	1	1x Good	1	7 ¹³	3	4
Millom School - 2	South	Unsecured	1	Standard	1	4	3	1

**Where a site has multiple squares, the different quality scores of the individual squares are identified*

Table 74: Potential Spare Capacity for Cricket in Bromsgrove

Playing Pitch Sites	Sub Area	Total Weekly Balance	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket Saturday	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket Sunday	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket midweek
Seascale Sports Hall	Central	2	No	No	Yes
Eskdale Cricket Club	Central	6	Yes	No	Yes
Gillfoot Park	North	50	No	No	No
JD Campbell Memorial Ground	North	12	No	Yes	No
St Bees School	North	0	No	No	No
Whitehaven Cricket Ground	North	-1	No	No	No
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	10	Yes	Yes	No
Millom Cricket Club	South	4	No	Yes	Yes
Haverigg Cricket Club	South	30	No	Yes	Yes
Millom School - 1	South	4	Yes	Yes	No
Millom School - 2	South	1	Yes	Yes	No

¹³ The good quality pitch at Millom School has been assigned a capacity of 7 MPS as it is mainly catering for junior, curriculum cricket.

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- 6.46 Table 73 shows the supply and demand balance of all cricket sites across the Study Area. An over play of 1 MPS occurs at Whitehaven Cricket Ground.
- 6.47 This level of overplay typically leads to clubs either using facilities more intensively than is sustainable or using unsecured nearby facilities for short term usage on an ad hoc basis, to ensure that facilities can be run efficiently and effectively. It is therefore important that future facility planning allows clubs to utilise an adequate quantity of provision to ensure that existing facilities are not subject to overplay.
- 6.48 Although there is currently no community demand for the three education sites, there is curricular and extra curricular demand through school use. It is presumed that cricket is played by schools in the summer term (12 weeks). If each school plays one home fixture per fortnight, they would play 6 fixtures per season on their site. Therefore each of the education sites has been assigned 6MPS of demand. Each of the pitches at Millom School have been assigned 3 MPS each due to the demand being split between the two. However, as there are current no wickets at St Bees School, there can be no supply and there is no demand, therefore placing it in a neutral position.
- 6.49 Millom CC is occasionally used by Millom School for fixtures throughout the summer term. For this reason there has been an additional 6 MPS of demand placed on the site.
- 6.50 Table 74 highlights where there is potential spare capacity for cricket activity in Copeland. Although some sites have spare capacity as they cater for less MPS than the wicket quality allows, due to the number of matches taking place, spare capacity at peak times is actually significantly reduced. Based on club consultation and match play timings, there is only the potential for 4 additional match session on Saturdays and 6 match session on Sundays for senior cricket in the study area. However, there are also 4 sites that have the potential to offer additional mid-week junior sessions in Copeland.

Site by Site Analysis

- 6.51 To ensure that the PPS meets the requirements of the Copeland Local Plan and can be seen as a robust evidence base, the site-by-site assessment below includes all cricket site that have been included within the study, as well as the key issues that have been identified through consultation and site assessments. Additionally, this table serves to summarise the key parts of the PPS assessment that have been identified so far within this sport specific section, such as community use status, site security and site ownership.

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Table 75: Site by Site Summary for Cricket Provision in Copeland

Site	Sub Area	Squares	Community Use	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Capacity Analysis (Grass Wickets)	Site Summary
Seascale Sports Hall	Central	1	Available	Secured	Sports Club	+2	<p>A local authority owned pitch adjacent to bowling green, small sports hall and BMX pump track. The quality of the pitch is rated as standard, and the outfield was very long in places, but maintenance was underway at the time of visit. There is a moveable net, and ancillary facilities are shared with the bowls club.</p> <p>The site is home to Seascale CC, who raised no issues during consultation. The club have aspirations to grow the junior section by 2 teams.</p>
Eskdale CC	Central	1	Available	Secured	Sports Club	+6	
Gillfoot Park	North	1	Available	Secured	Sports Club	+50	<p>Outstanding facility, on the same site as high-quality Rugby League pitch. There are 18 high quality wickets on site, excellent nets and good ancillary facilities.</p> <p>The site is used by Egremont CC who do not anticipate growing the number of teams as the current volunteers running the club are over-stretched.</p>
JD Campbell Memorial Ground	North	1	Available	Secured	Sports Club	+12	<p>Large cricket site, with 10 grass wickets, 2 artificial nets, and pavilion. The site is difficult to access with limited parking.</p> <p>Cleator CC highlighted the need to re-develop the changing facilities as well as focus on attracting new members due to declines participation rates in recent years.</p>
St Bees School	North	1	Unavailable	Unsecured	Education	0	<p>Independent school site with excellent facilities including pavilion and maintenance equipment. At the time of visit there was no square marked out, however the outfield and cricket area are clearly well maintained.</p>
Whitehaven Cricket Ground	North	1	Available	Secured	Sports Club	-1	<p>Large site which is shared with two rugby union pitches. The pitches overlap with the outfield at the beginning and end of the seasons. The cricket pitch is rated as standard.</p> <p>The club have aspirations to increase the number of junior teams, but have recently lost two level 3 coaches, so require replacements before this can happen.</p>

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Site	Sub Area	Squares	Community Use	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Capacity Analysis (Grass Wickets)	Site Summary
St Benedict's Catholic High School	North	1	Available	Unsecured	Education	+10	<p>The school site and playing fields have recently been redeveloped and the grass pitches have only just been completed and handed back to the school for use. Also, on site is full size 3G, tennis and netball courts and rugby and football grass pitches.</p> <p>There is currently no club use, but there is demand from PE lessons and school fixtures being met.</p>
Millom Cricket Club	South	1	Available	Secured	Sports Club	+4	<p>High quality cricket facility, with 8 good wickets, and 1 artificial net. At the time of visit there was informal use of the net occurring. Separate score box also on site.</p> <p>Millom CC have aspirations to add 4 junior teams and have highlighted the need to improve the drainage of the site.</p> <p>The school also cater for a number of fixtures for Millom School, during the mid-week in the summer term.</p>
Haverigg Cricket Club	South	1	Available	Secured	Sports Club	+30	<p>Good cricket ground and community facility. There are four well maintained wickets and good ancillary facilities, with a well-used bar.</p> <p>The club would like to increase the number of teams by 1 junior teams and one female team, however they highlighted the need to attract more volunteers to the club.</p>
Millom School 1	South	1	Available	Unsecured	Education	+4	<p>There are two cricket pitches of differing quality on a large school playing fields. Each pitch consists of only 1 wicket and there are no ancillary facilities.</p> <p>Although there is no club use of the site, the wicket caters for demand through curriculum and school fixture use.</p>
Millom School 2	South	1	Available	Unsecured	Education	+1	<p>There are two cricket pitches of differing quality on a large school playing fields. Each pitch consists of only 1 wicket and there are no ancillary facilities.</p> <p>Although there is no club use of the site, the wicket caters for demand through curriculum and school fixture use.</p>

Current and Future Position for Grass Pitches

Understanding the Process and Key Terminology

- 6.52 The previous section and table provide an analysis, both over a weekly period and during the period of peak demand, of the balance between supply and demand for each adult and junior cricket squares across all sites, as well as identifying the key issues and users for each site.
- 6.53 To provide a clear idea of the current position for cricket provision across each of the sub-areas, table 76 shows the balance between supply and demand for each sub-area, split by adult and junior wickets. The information gathered in the earlier stages of the project is used to present the current supply and demand position for each pitch typology. The current position is then used to look at the likely future position by incorporating latent/unmet, displaced and future demand.
- 6.54 The points below provide further explanation on the terms used within the tables:
- **Site capacity:** The amount of capacity from all pitches quantified in Matches Per Season (MPS)
 - **Current demand:** The total amount of demand for cricket sites in the area, expressed in matches per season (MPS)
 - **Current position:** The supply and demand position for grass wickets, when taking into consideration the extent of spare capacity and then deducting the amount of overplay
 - **Future demand:** Additional demand that is projected to be realised over the lifetime of the Local Plan, consisting unmet/latent demand, displaced demand and future population growth. Each adult team is presumed to play 10 home games per season, whilst juniors will play 8.
 - **Unmet/latent demand:** Potential demand that has been identified as not being converted yet. For more information see the latent and unmet demand sections of this needs assessment
 - **Displaced demand:** Demand that cannot be satisfied within the local authority, due to a lack of suitable facilities
 - **Future demand:** The projected growth of demand, calculated using Team Generation Rates and the population projections for each sub-area
 - **Future position:** The projected supply and demand analysis for 2038, using the current position and taking into consideration the additional demand from unmet, latent, displaced and future (population growth) demand. ECB guidance suggests that adult teams will play 10 home matches per season and junior teams 8 home matches per season. These figures have therefore been utilised to calculate the future demand for pitch provision.

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- 6.55 It should be noted that the current and future positions presented takes into consideration all available supply whether secured or unsecured for community use.
- 6.56 The following analysis provides a total supply and demand calculation which includes both adult and junior participation. This has not been separated due to the fact there are no junior wickets identified in Copeland.
- 6.57 Like above, it must be taken into consideration that much of the future demand is made up of latent demand, that is only apparent through consultations with cricket clubs. This is not always accurate and, in many cases, clubs do not meet their growth targets in the timescales they predict.

Total Wicket Analysis

Table 76: Current and Future Position for Adult Grass Wickets

Analysis Area	Site capacity	Current demand	Current position	Total Future demand	Future position
North	210	139	71	193	17
Central	48	40	8	66	-18
South	121	82	39	150	-29
Total - Copeland	379	261	118	409	-30

- 6.58 Table 76 illustrates that there is currently 118 MPS of spare carrying capacity for wickets across Copeland, the majority of which is located in the north sub area.
- 6.59 However when future demand, including population growth, latent demand and the growth of the female game is taken into account, it is predicted that there will be a shortfall of 30 MPS by 2038. This is most significant in the south sub area, where there is likely to be a future position of -29 MPS, whilst the south sub area will have a future position of -8. Even when future demand is considered, the north sub area will have 17 MPS of spare capacity.
- 6.60 The current analysis shows there is large amounts of spare capacity at Gillfoot Park, in the north. This is having a significant influence on the spare capacity in the sub area, and during consultation Egremont CC suggested that they had no current plans to increase the number of teams using the site. However, Whitehaven CC, the only club in the north who play at site, which is over-played, have plans to increase the number of junior teams by 2, potentially increasing their deficit to -17 MPS. This would result in significant differences in the supply/demand balance and therefore playing experience at sites in one sub area.

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6.61 The future position illustrates that although there is likely to be a shortfall of provision in the central and south sub areas, mainly due to latent demand predictions, there will be some spare capacity in the north sub area. However, one of the largest club sites, Whitehaven CC is currently in a deficit of -1 MPS. During consultation they highlighted latent demand of 2 junior teams. If this latent demand materialises, it will generate an additional demand of 16 MPS per season, creating a shortfall of -17 MPS by 2038 at the Whitehaven CC site.

Cricket summary

- 6.62 This section summarises the findings from the cricket analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Copeland
- 6.63 Table 77 includes the response to 5 key questions which are identified in the Sport England PPS Guidance Checklists. Using these key questions to summarise the findings of each of the sport chapter creates consistency, not only within the report but with similar PPS projects in neighbouring local authorities and further afield.

Table 77: Key PPS Findings for Cricket in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There is a total of 11 pitches across 10 sites in Copeland, comprising of 84 grass wickets and 1 artificial wicket. There is a higher concentration of provision in the north sub area, with 48 grass wickets. This is compared to 12 in the central area and 24 in the south. The highest proportion of pitches is owned through the clubs themselves (6), ahead of educational ownership (4). Only 1 pitch is owned by the local authority.</p> <p>There are 6 competitive clubs in the study area, comprising a total of 33 teams, mainly from in the north sub area. The largest clubs in the study area are Egremont CC and Whitehaven CC, both with 7 teams each. An additional team, Eskdale CC in the central sub area, although active, only play friendly fixtures.</p>
Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>The analysis shows that, overall, there is enough accessible community use provision to meet current demand when the study area is measured as a whole with a current spare capacity of 118 MPS. However, it must be highlighted that there is a large disparity in the supply and demand balance between the sub areas, with the north having the largest over supply of MPS (+71) and the central area only having 8 MPS of spare capacity. The south sub area currently has 39 MPS of spare capacity.</p> <p>However there is also disparity between sites within sub area. In the north, Gillfoot Park has 50 MPS of spare capacity, however Whitehaven CC suffers a shortfall of -1 MPS. This suggests that further growth of cricket should be focussed on those sites which currently have a lower amount of demand on them. This will be further explored at stage D of the PPS.</p> <p>However this takes into consideration the education sites which are currently unsecured for community use. Without these sites, the spare capacity of grass wickets would reduce to 103 MPS across Copeland.</p> <p>Although there is spare capacity for additional cricket at some sites, peak time availability is more limited than the weekly balance suggests as table 73 highlights. There are 4 additional match sessions on Saturdays and 6 match session on Sundays for senior cricket in the study area. There are also 4 sites that have the potential to offer additional mid-week junior sessions in Copeland.</p>

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Key Question	Analysis
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p>	<p>Overall, the provision is either of good or standard quality, with an overall average score of 76.3%. Quality of provision is consistent across Copeland, with average assessment scores of 78.4% for the north, 65.5% for the central area and 79.5% for the south sub area.</p> <p>No pitches were identified as being poor quality.</p> <p>50% of sites have good quality ancillary facilities that in most cases are well used by the community. 40% of sites have standard quality facilities, however 2 of these sites offer only school changing facilities that were inaccessible during sites visits. Eskdale CC is the only site with no ancillary facilities.</p>
<p>What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?</p>	<p>The future demand for cricket is projected to increase significantly across the Study Area, with a total growth of 148 MPS by 2038. The largest growth of cricket is projected to come in the south sub area (68 MPS), which is driven mainly by latent demand predictions for junior cricket.</p> <p>With the projected increase in demand from both population growth and conversion of latent demand, as well as the expected growth that will be realised following the success of All Stars Cricket and Softball Cricket initiatives, the increase in demand is likely to have a significant impact on the level of demand for cricket across Copeland.</p> <p>Women's cricket is a priority area for the ECB and although there are no women's teams currently playing in the Study Area, the number is expected to increase over the lifetime of the local plan period (2038). In turn, this will increase the future requirement for playing, practice and associated changing facilities for women and girls.</p>
<p>Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet future demand?</p>	<p>The future analysis shows that there is predicted to be a shortfall of -30 MPS across the study area by 2038. However, this shortfall is generated by the central and south sub areas, where there is expected to be deficits of -18 and -29 MPS respectively. The north sub area will see a reduction in its spare capacity from 71 MPS to 17 MPS.</p> <p>There is likely to be a significant disparity between individual sites within sub areas also. For example, due to latent demand predictions, Whitehaven CC is expected to have a deficit of -17 MPS by 2038, whereas Gilfoot Park which is home to Egremont CC will retain much of its 50 MPS of spare capacity.</p>

7. Tennis Analysis

Introduction and Strategic Context

- 7.1 The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis. The Cumbria LTA is responsible locally for the sport in terms of county teams and county-based initiatives in Copeland. The following section provides greater detail of the existing strategies and national facility plans that are currently being delivered by the LTA.
- 7.2 Following this, the supply and demand section of this report evaluates the adequacy of facilities for tennis and considers:
- The supply of courts and demand for these;
 - The quality of courts in Copeland; and
 - Recommendations moving forward.

Tennis Opened Up 2019-2023

- 7.3 The LTA has recently produced a new strategy which outlines the strategic priorities for the future of the sport.
- 7.4 The overriding mission statement of the strategy is “to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.”
- 7.5 To help with delivering on this mission statement, four pillars have been identified to provide focus for improvement. These are:
- Relevant: Tennis is seen as traditional, old-fashioned and reserved. To succeed it needs to be seen as modern, fresh and exciting;
 - Accessible: Tennis needs to be seen as an easy sport for people to engage with. The process must be frictionless and available when people want it;
 - Welcoming: Tennis is perceived as inward looking, elitist, and socially and technically intimidating. This image must be broken down; everyone is welcome in the tennis family whatever their age, ability or social background; and
 - Enjoyable: Tennis is viewed as a tough sport requiring commitment, dedication and a lot of hard work but it doesn't have to be this way. The social side, the different formats and the exhilaration of playing are richly rewarding and hugely positive.
- To translate the strategic vision into a reality the LTA has produced a programme of action that is based on 7 core strategies. These are:
- Visibility: Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players;
 - Innovation: Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal;
 - Investment: Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunity to play;
 - Accessibility: Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone;

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- Engagement: Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game;
- Performance: Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders; and
- Leadership: Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

- 7.6 The Sport England Active Lives Survey confirms the seasonal participation peaks in the summer. This is particularly pronounced amongst non-club and occasional players.
- 7.7 It is key to note that the correlation between the lack of 'community' tennis in the non-summer months is likely to be heavily influenced by the lack of floodlighting, which is often a characteristic of local authority owned courts.
- 7.8 Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase conversion of latent demand.
- 7.9 Technology development is evolving and it is now possible for an access gate to be connected to the internet via 3G / Wi-Fi. The key pad can be used to open the gate with a code, automatically generated by the LTA online booking system 'clubspark'. Courts can be booked via mobile phone tablets and laptop / desktop. The booking system manages payments for the courts alongside a number of other customer relationship features.
- 7.10 It is hoped that increasing the awareness, the ease of bookings and the security of facilities from petty crime and vandalism will increase the conversion of latent demand to actual demand across the country. The LTA are therefore keen to work with local authorities, especially those in areas of high population, to deliver fit-for-purpose projects at sites with community access.

Supply

- 7.11 The following table 76 provides a breakdown of tennis courts in the area (please note that this table refers to courts and not sites). The quality rating of a site is calculated using the following LTA criteria:

Poor:

Playing surface poor, slippery playing surface, poor drainage, cracks on the playing surface and surrounding area, court markings hardly visible, no nets or nets damaged, surrounding fencing poor/dangerous.

Standard:

Court colour is fading or showing signs of wear. The surface remains largely intact. The court life, prior to needing resurfacing, would be extended for up to 5 years by cleaning and repainting of the existing surface.

Good:

Good playing surface, courts recently been upgraded, resurfaced, nets and fencing in working order

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7.12 Table 78 shows there are 19 outdoor courts across 7 sites in Copeland. Out of these courts, 9 (47%) are of good quality, with 6 (31%) being of standard quality and 4 (21%) being poor. There is no floodlit provision in Copeland. All tennis sites in Copeland are considered to be available to the community, however only 2 of the 7 sites provide secured community use.

7.13 The following table 78 provides a breakdown of tennis courts in the Study Area.

Table 78: Outdoor Tennis Provision by Site

Site Name	Community Use	Used by the community	Free Access	Security of Community Use	Ownership	Management	Number of Courts	Surface	Over-marking	Floodlit	Site Quality
Seascale Tennis Club	Available	Yes	No	Secured	Sports Club	Sports Club	3	Macadam	No	No	Good
St Bees School	Available	Yes	No	Unsecured	Education	Education	3	Macadam	No	No	Standard
St Benedict's Catholic High School	Available	Yes	No	Unsecured	Education	Education	4	AGP	Yes Netball -	No	Good
The Whitehaven Academy	Available	Yes	No	Secured	Education	Education	3	Tarmac	Yes Netball -	No	Poor
Millom Park	Available	Yes	Yes	Secured	Local Authority	Local Authority	2	Macadam	No	No	Good
Haverigg	Available	No	Yes	Secured	Local Authority	Local Authority	1	Tarmac	No	No	Poor
Millom School	Unavailable	No	No	Unsecured	Education	Education	3	Tarmac	Yes Netball -	No	Standard
Silecroft	Available	Yes	Yes	Secured	Local Authority	Local Authority	1	Tarmac	No	No	Poor
Thwaites Village Hall	Available	Yes	Yes	Secured	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	1	Macadam	No	No	Good

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7.14 Provisional findings from the supply-side analysis indicate:

- 18 out of 21 courts are available to public, and 61% of these provide secured community use.
- 4 out of 9 sites are rated as good quality, making up 44% of the supply of courts.
- There are no floodlit courts in Copeland.

7.15 Table 79 summarises the key tennis sites in Copeland.

Table 79: Key Site Summaries

Site Name	Consultation Summary
Seascale Tennis Club	The main and only dedicated tennis club facility in Copeland, comprising of three good quality macadam courts. The infrastructure, netting, fencing and ancillary facilities are all of a high standard, however there are no floodlights. There is easy access to the site, good car parking and no signs of improper use.
St Bees School	The site consists of 3 macadam tennis courts situated on an independent school grounds. At the time of visit there were no nets present. The surface is of standard quality and the fencing needs some repairs or replacing. The site is listed as an official LTA Cumbria venue, which means that it receives support from the LTA in relation to insurance and venue management amongst other services.
St Benedict's Catholic High School	There are four, recently developed AGP courts on site, all of which are good quality, with good infrastructure. The courts are adjacent to a full size, floodlit AGP, but are not floodlit themselves. There site is available to the community, but there is no formal community use agreement in place and no club use. The community use agreement on site, relates only to the 3G AGP. However the courts are bookable for public use.
The Whitehaven Academy	The three tarmac courts, overlaid with netball courts on site are all rated as poor, with unsatisfactory fencing and netting. The site is home to Whitehaven Community Tennis Club, who have access to the courts outside of school hours from April to September. There are plans in place to redevelop the Whitehaven Academy sports facilities, with new 3G and sand-dressed AGP pitches, as well as new all-weather tennis and netball courts (planning permission Ref 4/22/2118/0F1 was granted on dd/06/2022). The existing tennis provision would not be lost.
Millom Park	Two good quality macadam courts on a park site, located next to a MUGA, outdoor bowling rink and children's play area. There is a small hut, which is meant for basic ancillary facilities (toilets and small kitchen), however this is mostly unused. The site is listed as an official LTA Cumbria venue, which means that it receives support from the LTA in relation to insurance and venue management amongst other services.
Haverigg	Poor quality tarmac court, with no fencing. An old adjacent court has been converted into a MUGA. The court needs resurfacing to be suitable to sustain tennis play. The court is highlighted by the LTA as a priority for improvement.
Millom School	Millom School has three tarmac, standard quality tennis courts, overlaid on two netball courts. The site is a typical school tennis and netball facility and is likely also used as a multi-use area during break and lunchtimes for the school. The line markings are slightly worn.

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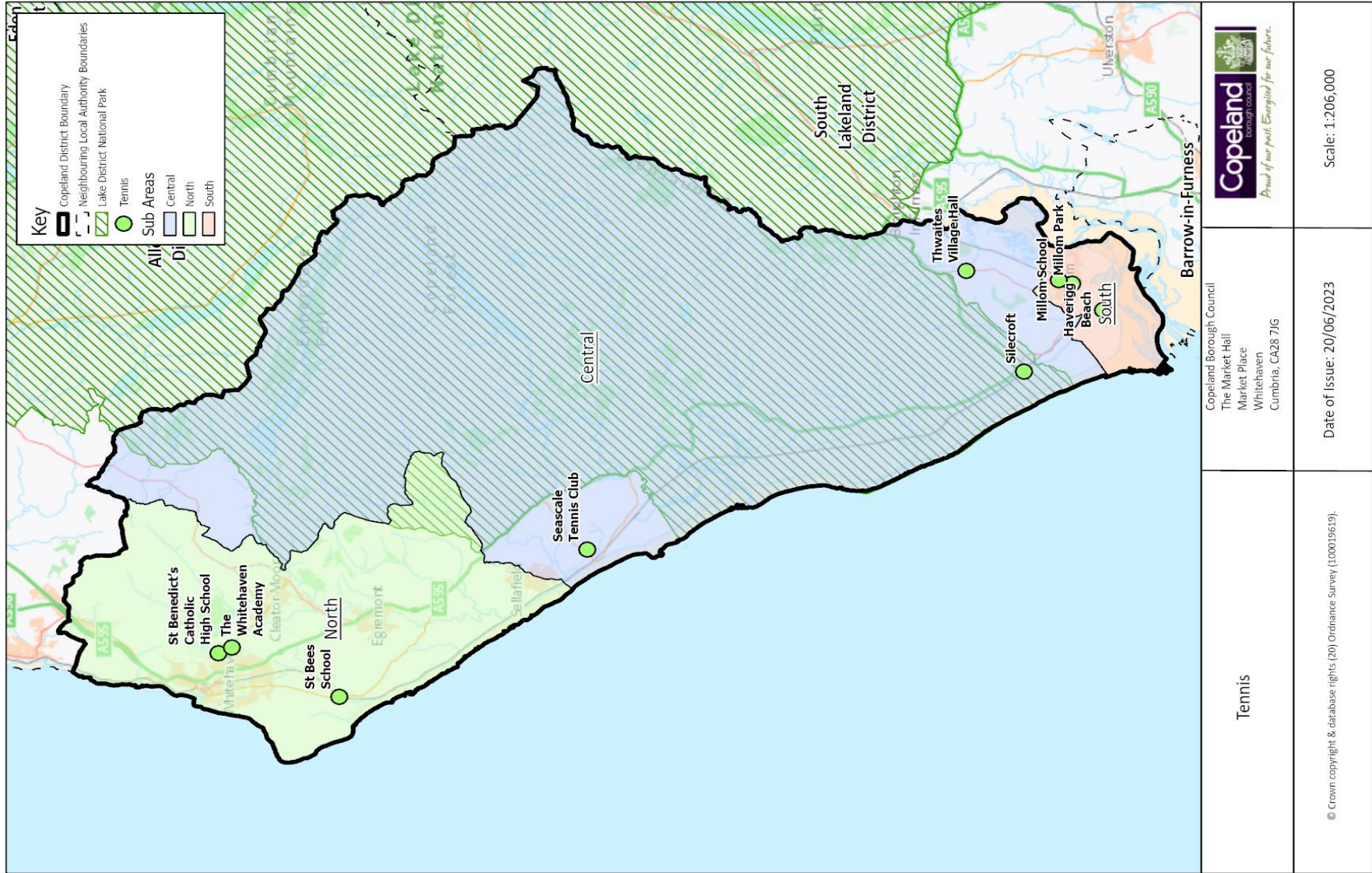
Site Name	Consultation Summary
Silecroft	One poor quality tarmac tennis court, with poor fencing and currently no netting. The site is not easily accessed and would require some resurfacing work to ensure its suitability for competitive tennis. Although there are no other line markings, there are signs of other use of the site, such as casual football.
Thwaites Village Hall	One, good quality macadam court, that are owned and operated by the Thwaites Village Hall. The court is open to the community and are not locked and does require pre-booking.

7.16 Map 7 shows the geographic location of outdoor tennis courts across the Study Area and presents the dispersion courts across Copeland.

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Map 7: Outdoor Tennis Court Audit in Copeland



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7.17 This section of the analysis examines the demand for tennis in Copeland.

Active Lives Survey

7.18 As per the LTA's insight as captured at the start of this chapter, demand for tennis is comprised of members and more 'casual' or 'recreational' players. These 'casual' or 'recreational' players are usually defined by a lack of membership to a tennis club and typically access facilities through public park courts and other publicly available facilities.

7.19 Sport England's Active Lives Survey represents the most robust data-set regarding participation in sport in England amongst those aged 16 or older. The latest iteration of this data is taken from surveys carried out in May 2019/20. Data was not available for Copeland specific information, so the data is taken for the whole of the Cumbria Active Partnership. The data shows the following:

- 1.3% of residents in the Cumbria Active Partnership (CAP) reported playing tennis twice within the last 28 days (survey carried out in May);
- The 1.3% 'twice-monthly' participation rate for CAP was comparable to the national equivalent participation rate of 1.6% in 19/20. However the national participation rate has since dropped to 1.4% in 20/21. Data for this time period for CAP is not yet available;
- 3.6% of residents in the CAP area reported playing tennis at least once in year 20/21, which can be compared to a national average of 5.8%;

7.20 According to the population figures used throughout this report, there are 56,624 residents in Copeland aged 16 or over. Although the 1.3% participation rate used in the Active Lives Survey considers Cumbria as a whole, we can assume this is also relevant for Copeland. This means that when translated in to demand, the Active Lives Figures show that 736 people play tennis at least twice every 28 days and 2,038 play at least once per year. These figures can be taken forward to analysis the utilisation the court capacity in Copeland.

Membership Data

7.21 Consultations undertaken with clubs in Copeland have been used to capture membership and other information. The membership figures for each club are displayed in Table 80.

Table 80: Tennis Club Membership in Copeland

Club Name	Site	Current Membership
Seascale Tennis Club	Seascale Tennis Club	35
Whitehaven Community Tennis Club	The Whitehaven Academy	75
	Total	110

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- 7.22 Table 80 shows that there are 2 clubs in Copeland with a combined membership of 110 people. As a percentage of residents in Copeland aged 16+, 0.19% are member of a tennis club. As a percentage of the 736 people who play at least twice every 28 days, tennis club members make up 14.9% of this demand.
- 7.23 According to the club membership figures, 68% of all tennis club members in the Study Area are members of Whitehaven Community Tennis Club and 32% are members of Seascale Tennis Club.

Future Demand

- 7.24 Future population figures provided by the Copeland Borough Council will be used to model future demand for tennis. There will be a predicted 8.7% increase in the population across Copeland by 2038. See Table 81 for details.

Table 81: Future Population Projections

Current 16+ Population	Future 16+ Population 2038
56,624	61,550

- 7.25 This means that, should participation and club memberships grow in-line with the population increase there will be around 8.7% more players in the future. This is broken down in further detail in Table 82.

Table 82: Future Demand Estimates

Participant Category	Current	Future Projection
Club Members	110	120
Non-club players (at least once annually)	1,928	2096
Total Participants	2,038	2,216

- 7.26 Table 82 shows the population driven growth in demand for tennis in Copeland. However, this demand should be factored into the overall growth trends driven by the LTA's activity and participation programmes.

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Supply and Demand Balance

7.27 This section of the report will draw together the supply and demand data presented above to show the current and projected capacity balances for tennis in Copeland.

Club Balance

7.28 Table 83 summarises the current utilisation of each community club in Copeland. If a court is floodlit it has a membership capacity of 60, compared with a membership capacity of 40 if non-floodlit.

7.29 It must be noted that these membership capacity figures do not provide the most accurate indication of usage and are used mainly to inform financial viability. An increasing number of venues are using online booking systems, which in time, will provide a better indication of usage per venue.

Table 83: Current and Projected Utilisation of Tennis Club Courts in Copeland

Club	Capacity (membership)	Members	% Utilisation	Projected Members (2038)	Projected % Utilisation
Seascale Tennis Club	120	35	29%	38	32%
Whitehaven Community Tennis Club	120	75	63%	82	68%
Total	240	110	46%	120	50%

7.30 Table 83 shows that, when considered together, tennis clubs in Copeland are currently operating at 46% of their estimated operational capacity.

7.31 However, it must be noted that Whitehaven Tennis Club, do not have use of their own site, as they currently use The Whitehaven Academy site. As this is an educational site, the club do not have access in day time hours (8am-5pm) during term time. Therefore, we need to assume that the clubs utilisation rate of their available hours is actually higher.

7.32 The 40 members per non-floodlit court also does not take into account community access for private coaching or Pay & Play. This may increase the actual number of users per court. Members and team players will also have a much higher frequency of use and be more likely to use the courts year-round. All of this leads to the conclusion that the clubs utilisation rate of the courts at Whitehaven Academy is actually higher than 63%.

7.33 The club have indicated to the LTA that they would like to offer Pay & Play options in addition to their current membership model.

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- 7.34 According to the LTA, tennis venues in Cumbria are suffering from a coaching workforce shortage, in particular in the Whitehaven area. A resolution to this would have a positive impact on the membership and participation levels over time.
- 7.35 At present all clubs are able to meet the level of membership demand.
- 7.36 The collective theoretical spare capacity across Copeland's club sites is 130 members.
- 7.37 If growth in membership were to grow in line with population, then clubs in Copeland are projected to be operating at 50% of their capacity.
- 7.38 The LTA highlight that although the tennis provision at Whitehaven Academy is rated at poor, it does cater for a large proportion of the tennis demand in Copeland. Therefore, it is imperative that these courts are protected, regardless of the potential new development on the site. Although the LTA would support the development of new courts at Whitehaven Academy, there are concerns regarding the potential sharing of the surfaces with other sports (e.g. netball). Currently, the tennis club have sole use of the courts outside of school hours, and any shared arrangement with other sports would potentially reduce their access. Due to this, the protection of the existing courts at Whitehaven Academy is a key priority for the LTA..

Public Courts

- 7.39 This section summarises the current supply and demand balance of public (non-club) courts in Copeland. Only courts accessible on a free-to-access or pay-and-play basis can be considered as 'public courts'.
- 7.40 The LTA advises that the capacity of public courts to be 7 hours per day for non-floodlit courts and 12 hours per day for floodlit courts. This equates to 2,555 hours per year on non-floodlit courts and 4,380 hours per year on floodlit courts.
- 7.41 Those sites deemed to be publicly accessible in this fashion are: Millom Park, Haverigg, Silecroft and Thwaites Village Hall. Based on the LTA figures above, these three sites provide 10,220 hours of use per year.
- 7.42 St Benedict's Catholic High School and St Bees School are educational sites and therefore not accessible during school hours. The courts on both sites are not floodlit, therefore due to lack of daylight during winter, we can presume that these can only be accessed for 214 days of the year (during British Summer Time BST). For 172 of these days, the courts can only be accessed after school hours (5pm-9pm). During the summer holidays (42 days) they will have 7 hours a day of accessible use. Therefore in total, the seven courts at St Bees School and St Benedict's Catholic High are available for 6,874 hours per year.
- 7.43 In total, all publicly accessible courts in Copeland are available for 17,094 hours per year.

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- 7.44 As highlighted in 1.23. 736 people participate in tennis activity at least twice every 28 days. Of this number we can presume that 14.9% are members of a club, leaving 626 non-members that have a demand to access tennis courts twice per month.
- 7.45 Assuming an average of 3 people per court per 'booking / use' (to account for an even split between singles, doubles and some sessions where 3 people share a court) this equates to 417 sessions per month or 5,004 per year played on public courts. If each match lasts for 1 hour on average this means that public courts are operating at 29.2% of their total operational capacity.
- 7.46 According to data provided by the LTA's online booking system (Clubspark) with court access technology, the average level of utilisation in venues (UK wide) is 53%. By this barometer Copeland is operating significantly below average level in terms of its utilisation of public courts.
- 7.47 If demand for courts increases in line with population, there will be an estimated 453 sessions per month or 5,436 per year on public courts by 2038. This would equate to 31.8% of existing public court capacity. This means that public tennis courts in Copeland would still be operating well below current average utilisation according to the LTA's 2019 benchmarking.
- 7.48 A key LTA priority in Copeland is to increase the visibility of public courts. By utilising Club Spark and make courts available to be booked online, the LTA hope to increase tennis participation on these sites and gain a greater understanding of community use in the area. The LTA are also aiming to drive community participation, by developing coaching programmes and increasing the tennis workforce in Copeland.

Key Club Consultations

- 7.49 Table 84 outlines the key emerging issues and development priorities from clubs within Copeland that responded to Strategic Leisure's.

Table 84: Club Consultation Summaries

Club Name	Consultation Summary
Whitehaven Community Tennis Club	Whitehaven Community Tennis Club have use of the three courts at The Whitehaven Academy, outside of school hours. The club run six senior teams, all who play in local leagues. Although there is currently no floodlit provision, this is a long-term aspiration, as is the ability to offer pay and play opportunities for non-members. Relocating to Whitehaven Academy has provided security and therefore helped to increase membership over the past year. The club aspire to grow further as well as increasing their access to the courts.

Tennis Summary

- 7.50 This section summarises the findings from the tennis analysis, which will form basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Copeland.

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7.51 Table 85 includes the response to key questions, which are asked for all PPS studies across the UK, in order to provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for sports provision.

Table 85: Key PPS Findings for Tennis in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	Courts are distributed well throughout the study area, with 6 sites in the more densely populated areas of the north and south and three in the more rural central area. Of the 21 courts available for community use, 16 are of good or standard quality. Club sites are operating at 46% capacity and public courts at 16.5% capacity. There are no floodlit courts in the study area.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	There is enough accessible community use provision to meet current demand. There is a total monthly demand from members and non-members of 491 sessions. This means that courts in Copeland are operating at around 11.1% capacity.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>5 courts are rated as poor quality, which equates to 23.8% of the total supply. Of these 5 courts, 2 (40%) are located in the south sub area, and 3 (60%) are located in the north. 47.6% of courts are rated as good and the generally the maintenance of courts in Copeland is adequate. The court at Haverigg has been highlighted by the LTA as a priority for funding to improve the quality of the surface, however the LTA's Parks investment funding may be difficult to access due to it being a single court site.</p> <p>Another key LTA priority in the area is to maintain access to and protect the courts for Whitehaven Community Tennis Club at Whitehaven Academy. Although the courts are rated as 'poor' quality, they cater for a substantial amount of demand from the tennis club. The club would benefit from an improvement of the courts as will be provided by the new development at Whitehaven Academy. However the LTA still believe it is important to protect the existing courts, as it is unclear of the amount of use that will be secured for the club on the new courts.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>If participation continues to grow in line with population the playing population will increase by 8.7%. This means that club sites are estimated to be operating at 50% of capacity and public courts at 17.9% of capacity in the future. However, WCTC operates in a different way as it operates out of an education site, therefore does not have access to courts during curriculum time.</p> <p>However it must be noted as Whitehaven Community Tennis Club operate out of Whitehaven Academy, their access is limited to outside of school hours. Due to this the actual utilisation of accessible time at club sites may be significantly higher.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	Even when considering population growth to 2038, there is expected to be enough secured community use provision to meet future demand. However depending on where the growth from development in the Local Plan is to be located this may need to be considered in any PPS annual reviews or future new Playing Pitch Strategies.

8. Netball Analysis

Introduction and Strategic Context

- 8.1 This section provides greater detail of the existing strategies that are currently being delivered by Netball England. Following this, the supply and demand section of this report evaluates the adequacy of facilities for netball and considers:
- The supply of courts and demand for these;
 - The quality of courts in Copeland;
 - Recommendations moving forward.
- 8.2 Netball in England is administered by Netball England, the national governing body for the sport. The current strategy forms the fundamental principles for its strategic planning for the future of sport and business.

Vision, Mission and Values

The 10-1-1 policy refers to 3 key targets for the sport:

- Aspire to establish netball as a top 10 participation sport in England;
- Aspire to establish netball as the first-choice team sport for women and girls; and
- Aspire to achieve and maintain Number 1 World ranking status.

Strategic Goals

- 8.3 In achieving these 3 central aspirations, England Netball has established 4 strategic goals:
- Grow Participation in netball by an average of 10,000 participants per year;
 - Deliver a 1st class member and participant experience;
 - Establish the national team as number 1 in the world by winning the World Netball Championships; and
 - Lead an effective and progressive infrastructure enabling all involved in the netball experience to collaborate as one team aligned behind one dream.

Guiding Principles

8.4 Finally, Netball England has identified 9 guiding principles to help shape decision making within the organisation:

1. We are a customer-focused sport business. We will always place the participant at the heart of everything we do and provide the best quality service we can but we will balance that with the need to grow and manage a sustainable business;
2. We will value and respect the contribution and needs of our volunteer workforce who are integral to our success;
3. We will centrally coordinate and locally deliver our portfolio of programmes and products targeting resources at the point of need (one size does not fit all), by ensuring pathways are integrated and securing a return to on our investment (financially or socially) creating capacity to reinvest in the business and deliver long-term sustainability;
4. We will be innovative and progressive in our thinking, always connecting short-term actions to medium-term strategies and long-term goals, while striving to improve the quality and standard of what we do and how we do it;
5. We will work as 'one team aligned to one dream' for the benefit of netball in England and as such we will succeed or fail together;
6. We will work in partnership and collaboration where there is a mutual benefit in terms of operational effectiveness and efficiency, value for money and added value for participants in netball;
7. We will develop, enable and encourage programmes and activities that have a positive and beneficial impact on the lives of netball participants;
8. We will establish integrated planning and process pathways that enable rather than constrain service excellence, making England Netball easy to do business with and add value to the participant; and
9. We will recognise and celebrate individual and collective contributions and success.

Delivery Methods

8.5 In order to deliver the strategic goals of netball, Netball England has established multiple participation programmes. These programmes are detailed below:

- **Traditional 7-a-side:** 7 aside is the longstanding format of the game that most girls are introduced to at school. The game is played to a professional level as part of the Netball Super league to regional amateur leagues around the country;

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- **Back to Netball:** A key participation programme for netball, Back to Netball sessions are run nationally with the intention of reintroducing women back into the sport. Netball England report that over 60,000 women have taken part in these sessions since 2010;
- **Netball Now:** A turn up and play session of netball with an emphasis on low organisation for the player, with no assigned teams or organised leagues. Netball Now is targeted at 16-21 year olds and is seen as a partner to the Back to Netball programme;
- **High 5:** The entry game for netball targeted at children aged 9-11. The game can be mixed or single sex and is designed to get children playing the game in an active and enjoyable way;
- **I Heart Leagues:** Designed to provide a social and gentle introduction into match play. The leagues are designed for players who have participated in the Back to Netball programme or Social Players looking for a weekly, light but competitive game;
- **Netball in the City:** An annual competition that targets corporate teams based around central venues in large cities;
- **Nets:** A fast, tactical variant of 7 aside netball, Nets is a high impact version of netball played exclusively indoors in high tensions cages;
- **Walking Netball:** A slower version of the 7 aside game played only at walking pace. The programme is targeted at older demographics with a key focus on sociability and enjoyment; and
- **I Bee Netball:** Netball specifically designed for 5-11 year olds.

Supply

8.6 The following section will detail the supply of outdoor netball facilities in Copeland.

8.7 Table 86 shows the outdoor provision of netball courts in Copeland. It should be noted that there are 2 sites available for community use, equating to 5 courts or 62.5% of total supply.

Table 86: Outdoor Netball Facilities in Copeland

Site	Ownership	Management Type	Courts	Surface	Floodlit	Available to community	Security of use	Overall Rating
Beckermat CofE Primary School	Education	Education	1	Tarmac	No	Unavailable	Unsecure	Standard

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Site	Ownership	Management Type	Courts	Surface	Floodlit	Available to community	Security of use	Overall Rating
Gosforth CofE Primary School	Education	Education	1	Tarmac	No	Unavailable	Unsecure	Standard
Thornhill Primary School	Education	Education	1	Tarmac	No	Unavailable	Unsecure	Standard
St Benedict's Catholic High School	Education	Education	3	AGP (Tennis Courts) (2019)	No	Available	Unsecure	Good
Millom School	Education	Education	2	Tarmac	No	Available	Unsecure	Standard

- 8.8 Table 86 shows that there are 8 outdoor netball courts across 5 sites in the Study Area, none of which are floodlit. All of the courts are situated on educational sites.
- 8.9 Of the 8 outdoor courts, 3 are of good quality, but all 3 are on the same site (37.5%). The remaining 62.5% are in standard condition, with no poor courts present in Copeland.
- 8.10 Detailed summaries from the site assessments can be found in Table 87.

Table 87: Outdoor Netball Facilities in Copeland

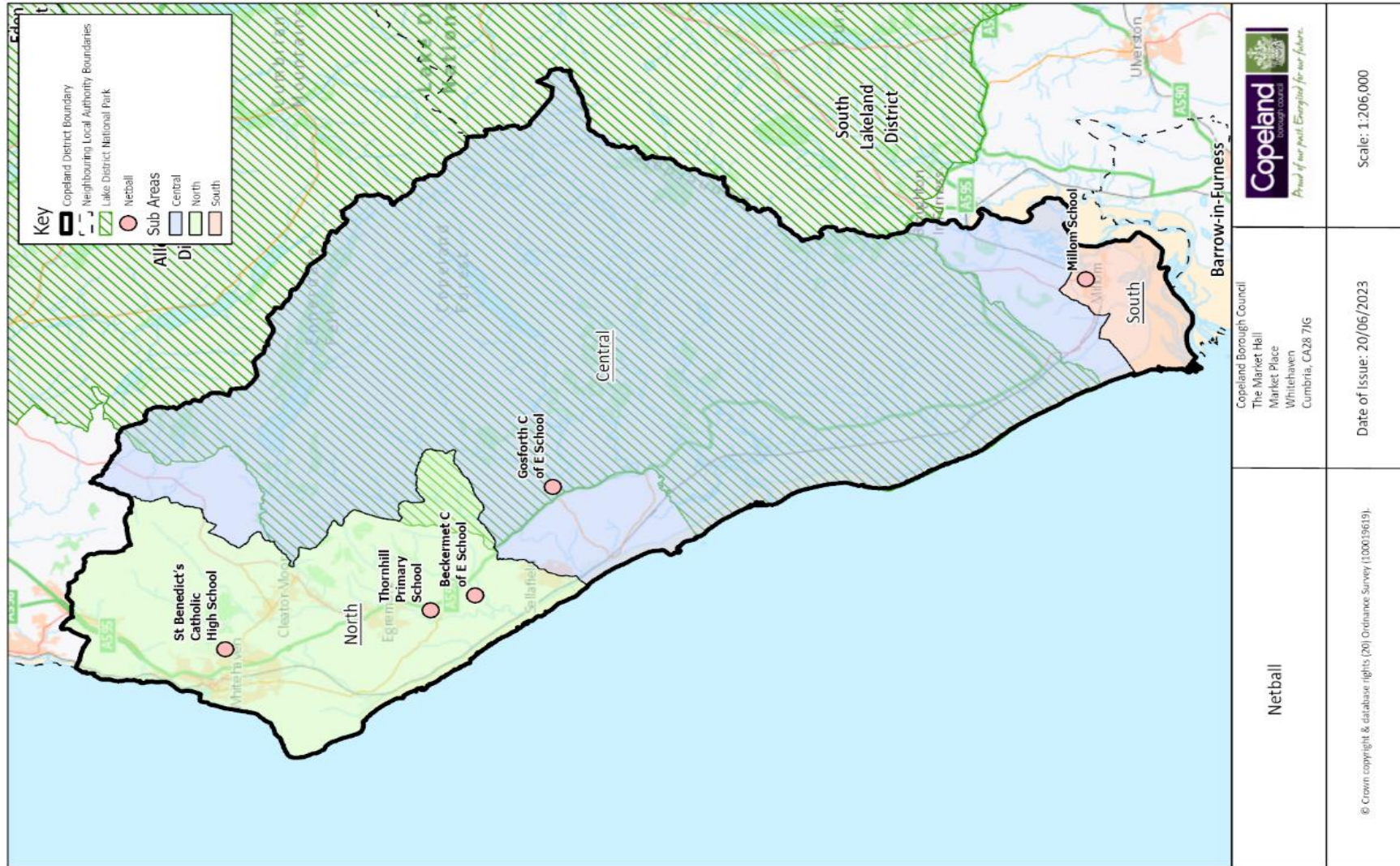
Site	Summary
Beckermet CofE Primary School	This is a primary school site, with netball markings but mainly used as a playground for the school. The markings are slightly faded. The court is adjacent to a small sided football pitch, also owned by the primary school.
Gosforth CofE Primary School	This is a primary school site, with netball markings overlaid with small sided football. The site is mainly used as a playground for the school. The markings are slightly faded.
Thornhill Primary School	This is a primary school site, with netball markings overlaid with small sided football. The line markings appear to be recently done, but the court is primarily used for lunch and breaktime provision for the school.
St Benedict's Catholic High School	There are 3 high quality AGP courts, overlaid onto tennis. Although there are no floodlights, the courts are immediately adjacent to a full size floodlit 3G, which according to consultation provides some lighting. The site can be booked by clubs and for casual use on the school's website. The site is easily accessible with good parking. The school and its facilities have recently been redeveloped to a high standard.
Millom School	Millom School has two tarmac, standard quality courts, overlaid on three tennis courts. The site is a typical school tennis and netball facility and is likely also used as a multi-use area during break and lunchtimes for the school. The line markings are slightly worn. Although the courts are available for community use, there is no current agreement in place

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8.11 Map 8 shows the geographic location of outdoor netball courts across the Study Area and presents the dispersion courts across Copeland.

Map 8: Outdoor Netball Court Audit in Copeland



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Demand

- 8.12 This playing pitch strategy looks only at outdoor sports provision. All indoor provision is assessed as part of a built facilities strategy. Currently, there is no use of the outdoor netball facilities in Copeland.
- 8.13 The main netball league within the study area is Copeland Netball League. All teams in the area affiliate to the league and fixtures take place at three venues; St Benedict's Catholic High School (indoor) and St Bees School (indoor) in Copeland, and at Lakes College (indoor), Workington which is outside of the study area in neighbouring Allerdale.
- 8.14 As there are no outdoor, floodlit courts in the study area, it must be assumed that all netball fixtures and training sessions take place indoors during the season of September – May. Therefore, it is not possible to conduct a supply and demand analysis of outdoor court provision for netball.
- 8.15 Consultation with St Benedict's Catholic High School highlighted that there was very occasional use of the outdoor netball courts, but the majority of play takes place in the indoor sports hall. There are no outdoor netball courts at St Bees School, and there is no netball use of any other outdoor courts in Copeland.
- 8.16 Copeland Netball League consists of 12 adult teams with a total number of players of approximately 147 seniors. There is 1 junior club, which consists of around 106 players under the age of 18, who make up five teams.
- 8.17 Table 88 details the facilities that are used for competitive netball on outdoor courts in Copeland and the demand. As mentioned in 1.16, there is no demand for outdoor netball in the study area. The netball season is from October to April, therefore all netball activity requires floodlighting if outdoors. As there are no floodlit courts in Copeland, all demand from training and match play is met by indoor courts in the study area.

Table 88: Demand for Netball in Copeland

Site Name	Capacity for Netball Courts	Purpose	Weekly Demand
St Benedict's Catholic High School	3	Match Play / Training	Copeland Netball League: Occasional

Consultation

- 8.18 All clubs were invited to form part of the netball consultation. Nearly all clubs and Copeland Netball League suggested that although the indoor facilities are generally of a good standard, their main issues for the development of individual teams and for netball in Copeland is the lack of appropriate indoor or outdoor facilities.

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- 8.19 Indoor halls in Copeland are in high demand, and availability of them is minimal, and outdoor provision is unsuitable due to lack floodlighting. If any outdoor netball facilities installed floodlighting, then it would increase the availability of provision and allow the development of netball in Copeland.
- 8.20 Consultation with teams, Copeland Netball League and England Netball, also confirmed that all netball activity in Copeland takes place indoors.

Future Demand

- 8.21 In order to calculate future demand for outdoor netball it is important to differentiate between participation that takes place on indoor courts versus outdoor courts. However, due to the lack of outdoor netball activity, it is not possible to do this. However, according to 2020 ONS population statistics, there are 59,530 people over the age of 12 in Copeland. Active Lives Survey suggests that 1.7% of people in the Cumbria Active Partnership area took part in netball activity at least once in the past 12 months. When applied to Copeland, this relates to 1,012 people over the age of 12, participating in netball every year.
- 8.22 If it is assumed that netball participation increases in line with population growth (8.7% by 2038 and 360 additional people in the central sub area), then by 2038, there will be 1,106 people playing netball at least once per year.
- 8.23 The demand for netball is likely to increase after the Commonwealth Games 2022. After the 2019 Netball World Cup in Liverpool, there was an increase of over 160,000 people participating in netball nationally.
- 8.24 This figure is assuming that current trends in participation remain constant and does not accommodate for any programmes or initiatives to increase participation from the NGB. Future participation and community netball should also be taken into consideration.

Netball Summary

- 8.25 This section summarises the findings from the netball analysis, which will form basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Copeland.
- 8.26 Table 89 includes the response to key questions, which are asked for all PPS studies across the UK, in order to provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for sports provision.

Table 89: Key PPS Findings for Netball in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	All outdoor netball provision is situated on education premises, of which there are 5 sites with a total of 8 courts. Although there is a successful netball league within Copeland, all netball activity occurs indoors as there are no floodlit courts in the study area.

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Key Question	Analysis
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	Although there are 8 outdoor courts, all of good or standard quality, 3 of the courts, all on primary school sites are unavailable to the community. None of the courts are suitable for formal netball provision due to the lack of floodlights.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	The available courts at St Benedict's Catholic High are rated as good, while the courts at Millom School are of standard quality, neither of the sites have floodlit courts. St Benedict's Catholic High is an excellent site, with 3 newly laid artificial courts.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	Whilst almost all current provision takes place indoors, there could be significant capacity on the available outdoor courts to meet any future demand, if floodlighting was installed.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	62.5% of outdoor courts are available for community use. However as there is no regular formal netball activity taking place on them, there is no security currently. England Netball encourage all outdoor and indoor netball activity, however due to poor weather conditions during the winter, outdoor courts are often not appropriate or preferred for use. Due to this, and the lack of floodlighting on courts in Copeland, England Netball accept that all netball activity currently is met by indoor facilities.

9. Bowls Analysis

Introduction and Strategic Context

- 9.1. Bowls England is responsible for the governance, administration and promotion of Flat Green Lawn Bowls in England. It was formed in 2008 following the unification of the English Bowling Association and the English Women's Bowling Association.
- 9.2. The following section provides greater detail of the existing strategies that are currently being delivered by Bowls England.
- 9.3. Following this, the supply and demand section of this report evaluates the adequacy of facilities for bowls and considers:
- The supply of facilities and demand for these;
 - The adequacy of facilities in Copeland; and
 - Recommendations moving forwards.

Strategic Plan – Fit For The Future 2021 - 2026

- 9.4. In August 2021 Bowls England launched their new Strategic Plan for the five-year period to 2026, with the aim for reaching 1 million bowls experiences per year. The key priorities to meet this target are:
- Building the brand of bowls – Increasing focus on international and top domestic bowls, and utilising opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
 - Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all – by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
 - Creating positive playing experiences for everyone – whoever steps on the green, both casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a performance pathway;
 - Putting volunteers first – as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
 - Leading the sport with purpose – by developing our governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and working collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

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Supply

- 9.5. The local authority owns 1 bowls site in Copeland, which it is also responsible for the management of. The remaining bowls provision (5 sites) is owned and managed by bowling clubs themselves, emphasising a lack of dependency upon local authority owned and managed sites. A breakdown of ownership and management can be found in Table 90.

Table 90: Ownership and Management of Bowls Sites in Copeland

Type	Ownership	Management
Local Authority	2	1
Sports Club	4	5

- 9.6. Table 90 shows that there are currently 7 bowling greens in Copeland spread across 6 sites and comprising 36 rinks. The table also highlights how most sits consists of 6 rinks, except for Frizington Bowls Club and Seascale Sports Hall, where there are 5 and 7 rinks respectively.
- 9.7. Of the total number of greens, 86% are of good quality and the rest are considered to be standard quality by the non-technical assessment criteria. It should be noted that for higher level competitive bowls, only good quality greens are considered appropriate under this assessment criteria.
- 9.8. Full details of the sites can be found in Table 91.

Table 91: Bowls Sites in Copeland (clubs marked with a * are not affiliated clubs)

Site	Club Using Site	Ownership	Management	Availability	Security of Use	Greens	Rinks	Surface	Green Condition	Clubhouse Condition
Seascale Sports Hall	Seascale Bowling Club	Local Authority	Local Authority	Available – Membership and Pay and Play	Secured	1	7	Grass	Good	Good
Cleator Moor Bowls Club	Cleator Moor Bowling Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	Available – Membership and Pay and Play	Secured	1	6	Grass	Good	Good
Egremont Bowling Club	Egremont Bowling Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	Available – Membership and Pay and Play	Secured	1	6	Grass	Good	Standard

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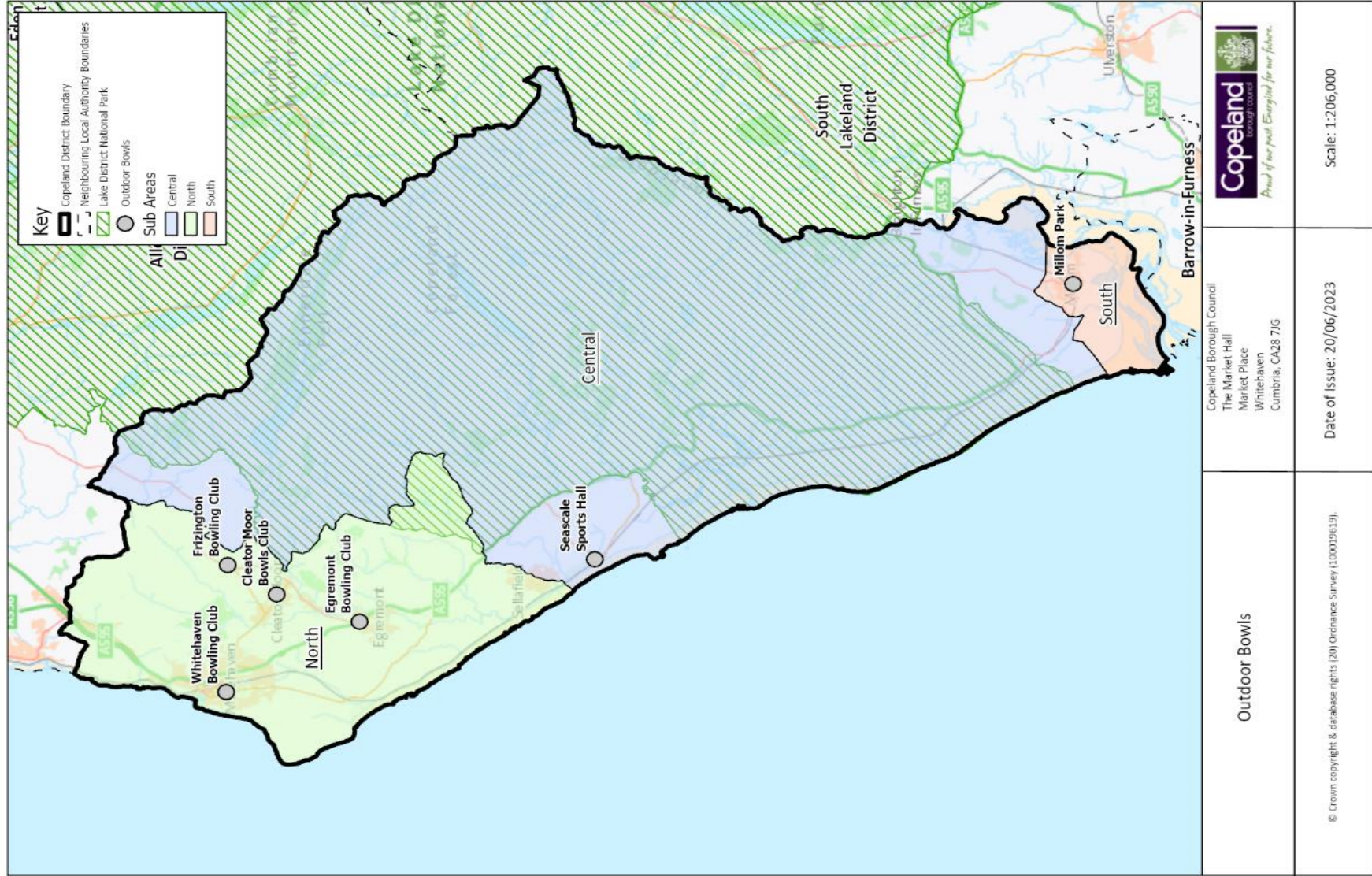
Site	Club Using Site	Ownership	Management	Availability	Security of Use	Greens	Rinks	Surface	Green Condition	Clubhouse Condition
Frizington Bowls Club	Frizington Bowls Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	Available – Membership and Pay and Play	Secured	1	5	Grass	Standard	Poor
Whitehaven Bowling Club	Whitehaven Recreation Bowling Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	Available – Private Membership Only	Secured	2	6/6	Grass	Good	Good
Millom Park	Millom Crown Green Bowling Club	Local Authority	Sports Club	Available – Pay and Play	Secured	1	6	Grass	Good	Poor

9.9. Map 9 shows the geographic location of outdoor bowling greens across the Study Area and presents the dispersion courts across Copeland.

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Map 9: Outdoor Bowling Greens Audit in Copeland



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Club and Site Consultation

- 9.10. Clubs were contacted by Strategic Leisure with the aim of informing the demand section of the study. Summaries of the information gathered during the Stage B process is provided in Table 92.

Table 92: Selected Site and Club Consultation Summaries

Site Name	Club	Consultation
Seascale Sports Hall	Seascale Bowling Club	A small club on a local authority owned site, the green and ancillary facilities are both of a good standard. There are currently 19 members who field 1 team in the local league. Membership was in decline prior to Covid, however emergency funding allowed the club to implement a recruitment programme that has proved successful and membership numbers have increased. The clubhouse on site is shared with the village cricket team and occasionally used by other community groups. The site can be easily accessed from the town and has adequate car parking.
Cleator Moor Bowls Club	Cleator Moor Bowling Club	An excellent bowls facility, yet difficult to access. The club currently have 26 members and field 2 teams. Although there is capacity for new members, numbers are anticipated to remain the same over the next 5 years. The ancillary facilities are good, but basic. The original bower from 1881 is still in use, but a new one was built in 1990 by members, including toilets, kitchen, seating and changing room. The main focus of the club is to retain and recruit members. The site is challenging to access, with little to no parking and it is located away from main transport links.
Egremont Bowling Club	Egremont Bowling Club	One good quality green, with standard ancillary facilities including kitchen, bar and changing rooms. The club currently have 20 members and 1 team that play in the local league. Although the site can be easily accessed by public transport and on foot, there is limited car parking on site.
Frizington Bowls Club	Frizington Bowls Club	The club occupies a small site, adjacent to the church in Frizington. The green is standard quality, and the ancillary facilities are small and basic, with a kitchen and small communal area. There is also a parish hall on site. There are 12 members who make up 1 team. The main issues the club is facing are from lack of internal and external funding for day to day running costs. The club can be accessed easily via foot from the town, however there is no car parking available.
Whitehaven Bowling Club	Whitehaven Recreation Bowling Club	A very busy and active club situated next to other key sporting facilities in the town. The site consists of excellent clubhouse facilities and two good quality greens. There is easy access and parking to the site. The club itself has 48 members and field 3 teams in the local league. There is capacity for new members due to a significant reduction in numbers due to the pandemic. Very good access via transport links, key services and car.
Millom Park	Millom Crown Green Bowling Club	Crown green bowls club, with one good quality 6 rink court in Millom Park. There are ancillary facilities on site, however they are currently inaccessible and unused. The site occupies a town centre located, next to main road with parking nearby.

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Demand for Outdoor Bowls Facilities

9.11. This section summarises the level of demand for bowls in Copeland. Table 93 shows the demand for bowls in terms of the number of clubs assigned to each site.

Table 93: Club Demand on Each Site

Club Name	Affiliated to Bowls England	Home Site	Catchment	Members	Team/League/Competition Use
Seascale Bowling Club	Yes	Seascale Sports Hall	Holmrook, Irton, Drigg, Seascale, Gosforth, Eskdale, Calderbridge, Beckermeth, Thornhill	19	Tuesday Evening
Cleator Moor Bowling Club	Yes	Cleator Moor Bowls Club	Cleator Moor, Frizington, Whitehaven, Bigrigg.	26	Tuesday Evening/Friday Evening
Egremont Bowling Club	Yes	Egremont Bowling Club		20	Tuesday Evening/Friday Evening
Frizington Bowls Club	Yes	Frizington Bowls Club	Frizington	12	Tuesday Evening
Whitehaven Recreation Bowling Club	Yes	Whitehaven Bowling Club	Whitehaven	48	Tuesday Evening/Friday Evening
Millom Crown Green Bowling Club	No	Millom Park	-	-	

9.12. Table 93 shows that there are 125 members of bowling clubs in the study area with the most used site being Whitehaven Bowling Club with 48 members, followed by Cleator Moor with 26.

9.13. Through consultation it has been identified that all greens are available for community pay and play use, other than Whitehaven Recreational Bowling Club. Training and competitive match play generally takes place on Tuesday and Friday evenings as part of a league format in Copeland.

9.14. The Sport England Active Lives Survey results from May 2020-21 show that 0.3% of the population aged 16 or over in North West England (the smallest area relating to the Copeland for which there is data available) plays ‘flat green’ bowls at least once per year.

9.15. ONS’ subnational population projections estimate the population of residents in Copeland aged 16 or over to be 56,624, as of 2020. If the participation figure for North West England (0.3%) is applied to this population figure, then it can be said that 170 people play bowls at least once per year in Copeland.

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Future Demand

- 9.16. Using 170 as the number of people playing bowls at least once per year in Copeland and future projections of the Study Area's population (61,550 over 16's by 2038), we can calculate potential future demand for the sport. The future population is due to grow by 8.7% which, assuming current levels of participation remain constant, equates to an additional demand of 14 people. When also considering the 360 additional people in the central sub area, there is likely to be an additional demand of 1, leaving a total additional demand of 15. The current and future population estimates used in this document are based on ONS data, agreed prior to completion with Copeland Borough Council.
- 9.17. Due to the fact that during consultation, all clubs highlighted that there was capacity for new members, we can assume that the demand for an additional 14 participants can be met by existing bowls provision.
- 9.18. This latter point needs to be caveated as the population calculation used data from those who played bowls at least once per year, so they are not necessarily members of affiliated bowls clubs.
- 9.19. During consultation, there was no unmet, latent or displaced demand highlighted by any club or facility.
- 9.20. Bowls England, run an annual participation drive called Bowls Big Weekend. The initiative encourages clubs across the country to provide opportunities for newcomers to the sport to participate in and experience bowls for the first time. 735 clubs took part in the 2022 event, and clubs saw an average of 16.5 new attendees each. This initiative could help to increase the levels of participation in Copeland, if clubs engage in this, or similar events in the future.

Bowls Summary

- 9.21. This section summarises the findings from the bowls analysis, which will form basis of the recommendation and action plan section for Copeland.
- 9.22. Table 94 includes the response to key questions, which are asked for all PPS studies across the UK, in order to provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for sports provision.

Table 94: Key PPOSS Findings for Bowls in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	There are currently 6 sites across Copeland with 7 greens and a total of 36 rinks. There are 6 clubs in the Study Area with a total estimated membership of 125 players. 5 of the 7 greens in Copeland are located in the North sub area, with Seascale being located in the central area and Millom Park in the south. Due to population and club membership statistics, we understand that the majority of the demand is also generated in the north sub area, due to areas of higher population density such as Whitehaven, Cleator Moor and Egremont.

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Key Question	Analysis
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	All 6 sites in the study are secured for community use, and most are operating under their capacity. Club's membership figures were negatively affected by the Covid pandemic and some have difficulty attracting new members due to financial and volunteering pressures , however due to initiatives such as Bowls Big Weekend, membership may begin to rise.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	Of the 6 available sites, 5 were rated as good quality and the other rated as standard. Maintenance of the greens is thought to be of good to adequate level despite most of the clubs relying on volunteers. Seascale, Cleator Moor and Whitehaven clubs all have good quality ancillary facilities, whilst Egremont is rated as standard. Frizington and Millom Park's ancillary facilities are both rated as poor due to lack of infrastructure and quality.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	Future population projections indicate a potential of 15 additional players by 2038. There are no proposed changes to the current provision.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	The potential increase in demand of 15 participants by 2038 is able to be met by the current green and club supply.