Copeland Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Needs Assessment

November 2020

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SPORT

4global Consulting Terms of Reference

Estimates and forecasts contained within this report are based on the data and information obtained at that time and the accuracy of resultant findings and recommendations is dependent on the quality of that data.

The author(s) will not be held liable for any data provided by third party organisations as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) delivery process. The data and recommendations have been conscientiously reviewed through the PPS governance process, with all data and information subject to a thorough check and challenge process via the Project Steering Group. Notwithstanding this, it has not been possible for the author to independently review every element of data provided by third parties.

Position Statement from Copeland Borough Council – 20th May 2021

The assessments that this document are based upon were carried out prior to and during the Covid 19 pandemic. It is acknowledged that the demand for sports pitches at present may be different to that when the document was being produced.

It is also acknowledged that the Needs Assessment is now out of date in part due to changes that have taken place at the Cleator Moor Activity Centre which has impacted upon pitch provision in the borough.

Copeland Borough Council hopes to commission a Review and Update of this Needs Assessment and subsequent Strategy and Action Plan shortly to ensure it has a robust and up-to-date understanding of provision and demand for sports pitches in the Copeland. The Review and Update will also consider summer sports pitches.

In the meantime whilst this document cannot be given full weight in decision making, it does contain the most up-to-date evidence that was available at the time of its completion in November 2020.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents 4
1 Introduction and methodology 8
1.1 Project scope and objectives 8
1.2 Methodology 9
1.3 Report structure 11
1.4 Statement on COVID-19 11
2 Strategic Context 13
2.1 The Study Area 13
2.2 Copeland Borough 15
2.3 Planning Policy Introduction 15
2.4 National Planning Policy 15
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 15
Protection, Enhancement and Provision of facilities 16
2.5 Local Planning Policy – Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 16
2.6 Local Planning Policy – Copeland emerging Local Plan 2017-2035 17
2.7 Sports and Physical Activity Strategy Context 18
A New Strategy for Sport – Department for Culture, Media and Sport 18
Sport England Strategy 2016 – 'Towards and Active Nation' 18
Copeland Borough Physical Activity and Sport Profile 19
2.8 Population and Demographics Analysis 19
Population Projections 19
2.9 Physical Activity and Participation 25
The Value of Participation 25
Current Participation Rates 25
3 Football grass pitch analysis 29
3.1 Introduction 29
3.2 Strategic Priorities for the Football Association 29
3.3 Consultation Overview 30
Key Club Consultation 30
3.4 Supply 31
PITCH OWNERSHIP 33
Security of use 33
Education supply 34
3.5 Demand 34
Education demand 35
Imported demand 35
Displaced demand 36

3.6 Supply and Demand Balance 37
OVERPLAY 37
3.7 Peak time analysis 39
3.8 Site by Site Analysis 41
3.9 Future Demand 52
DEMAND DRIVEN BY POPULATION GROWTH 52
DEMAND DRIVEN BY UNMET DEMAND 55
DEMAND DRIVEN BY LATENT DEMAND 55
3.10 Current and future supply and demand balance summary 56
3.11 Football summary 59
4 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) analysis 61
4.2 Utilising 3G AGP provision for training and matchplay 61
3G AGP USAGE FOR FOOTBALL 61
3G AGP USAGE FOR RUGBY 61
4.3 Supply analysis 61
4.4 Current supply and demand analysis 66
CURRENT SUPPLY AND DEMAND MODELLING – FULL SIZE 3G AGP PROVISION (FOOTBALL) 66
COMBINED SUPPLY AND DEMAND ANALYSIS 66
4.5 Future supply and demand analysis 68
AGP FUTURE SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE 68
MEETING THE CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMAND FOR 3G AGP FACILITIES ACROSS COPELAND 71
4.6 AGP summary 72
5 Hockey analysis 74
5.1 Introduction and strategic context 74
ENGLAND HOCKEY FACILITIES STRATEGY (2017) 74
5.2 Supply 76
QUALITY ..... **ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**
5.3 Demand 76
CURRENT DEMAND 76
KEY CLUB CONSULTATION 77
IMPORTED AND EXPORTED DEMAND 77
5.4 Supply and demand balance 77
PEAK TIME CAPACITY ANALYSIS 77
SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE – SPATIAL ANALYSIS 78
5.5 Site by site analysis - protection, enhancement and provision 80
5.6 Future demand 81
FUTURE DEMAND DRIVEN BY POPULATION GROWTH 81
DEMAND DRIVEN BY LATENT DEMAND 82
5.7 Capacity Analysis 83
5.8 Hockey Summary 84
6 Rugby Union Analysis 86

6.1 Introduction and Strategic Context 86

RFU Strategic Plan (2017-2021) 86
RFU Facilities Strategy (2014-2018) 86

6.2 Supply 87

Quantity Overview 87
Quality Assessment 92

6.3 Demand 93

Current Demand 93
Unmet and Latent Demand 93
Displaced Demand 94

6.4 Future Demand 94

Future Demand Driven by Population Growth 94
Growth of Female Rugby 96

6.5 Supply and Demand Balance 96

Overplay and Spare Capacity 96

6.6 Site by Site Summary 98

6.7 Future Balance 101

6.8 Rugby Union Summary 103

7 Glossary of Terms 115

Acronyms 115
Phrases 115

Section 1: Introduction and methodology

1 Introduction and methodology

1.1 Project scope and objectives

1.1.1 Copeland Borough Council, hereby referred to as CBC, has commissioned 4global Consulting to prepare a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), to provide the council with a clear evidence base and guide future provision and management of new sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities in the Copeland area in the context of national policy and local sports development criteria.

1.1.2 A PPS is a strategic assessment that provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) and ancillary facilities in the local authority. The strategy and the evidence base upon which it is based is delivered using national guidance and facility insight from specific Governing Bodies of Sport and the council. The assessment will focus on facilities used by the following sports:

- Football
- Hockey
- Rugby Union

1.1.3 Within these sports, the strategy will seek as far as is practical to include consideration of all forms of play, whether;

- Club and league based (formal) play and training
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g. turn up and play ‘products’ such as Rush Hockey, Mash-up Football, Last Man Stands Cricket, and Touch Rugby)
- Informal and un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students, school friends (out of school)

1.1.4 The PPS will provide a holistic analysis of sports facilities across the Study Area, leading to a comprehensive set of recommendations for the future development of facilities, in line with the needs of local residents.

1.1.5 The consultant team has worked with the council and PPS steering group to provide a strategy that is fit-for-purpose and addresses the specific issues and risks for the area. It is key that this PPS reflects the local context and enables the council to maximise the amount of high quality sporting provision for its residents, while understanding the need to meet planning and housing requirements. The Strategy will therefore aim to deliver against the following drivers:

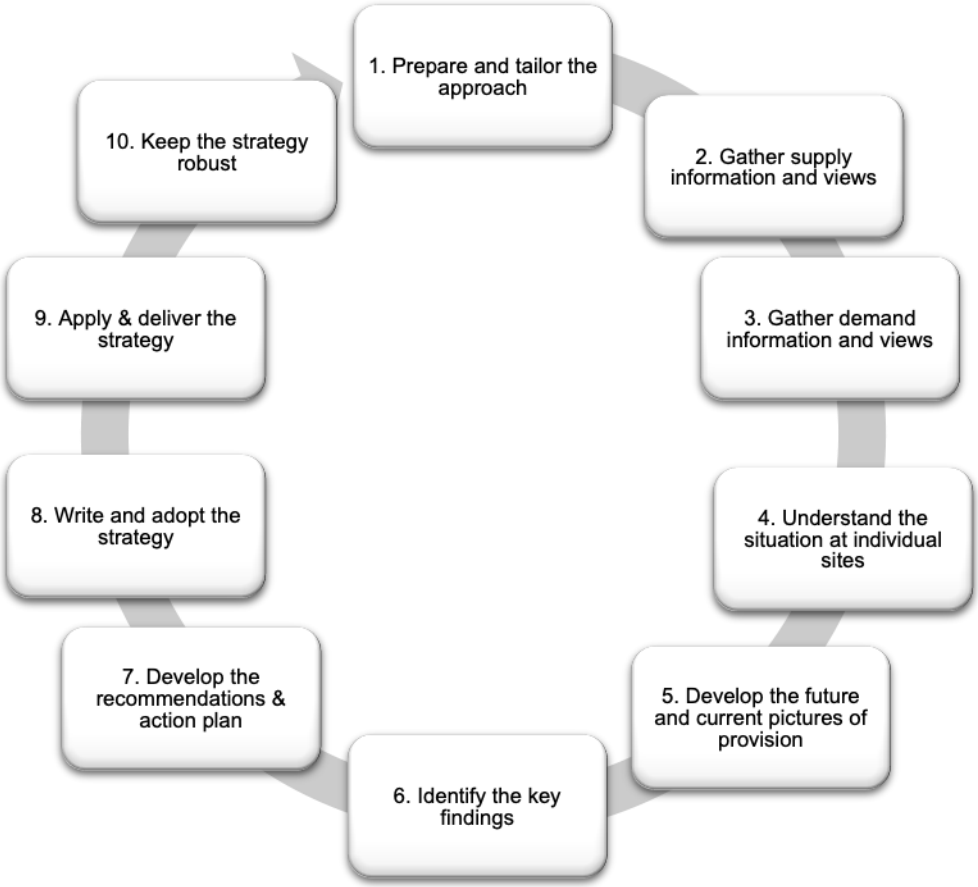
- To ensure that the borough has an up-to-date framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports facilities across the public, private and independent sectors.
- Support the implementation of the Council’s submitted local plan policies relating to the protection, enhancement and provision of community sport and physical activity facilities and provide an evidence based framework to support negotiations with developers who may provide funding or other assistance to improve local provision
- The identification of deficiencies and opportunities for improvement will set the context for decisions about the priority and delivery of local sports/physical activity facilities in the borough.

- Provide a robust evidence base to support funding bids to National Sports bodies like Sport England and National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of sport.
- Ensure that a planned approach to sport and physical activity facilities takes place in Copeland now and up to 2035, ensuring that the borough community has access to high quality facilities, helping communities to increase their levels of physical activity, improve their health and remain cohesive.

1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 The assessment methodology adopted for the PPS follows the published guidance from Sport England. The guidance used is the 2013 version, Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy[1]. Figure 1 summarises the approach proposed in this guidance and is broken down into 10 steps.

Figure 1.1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach (Sport England, 2013)



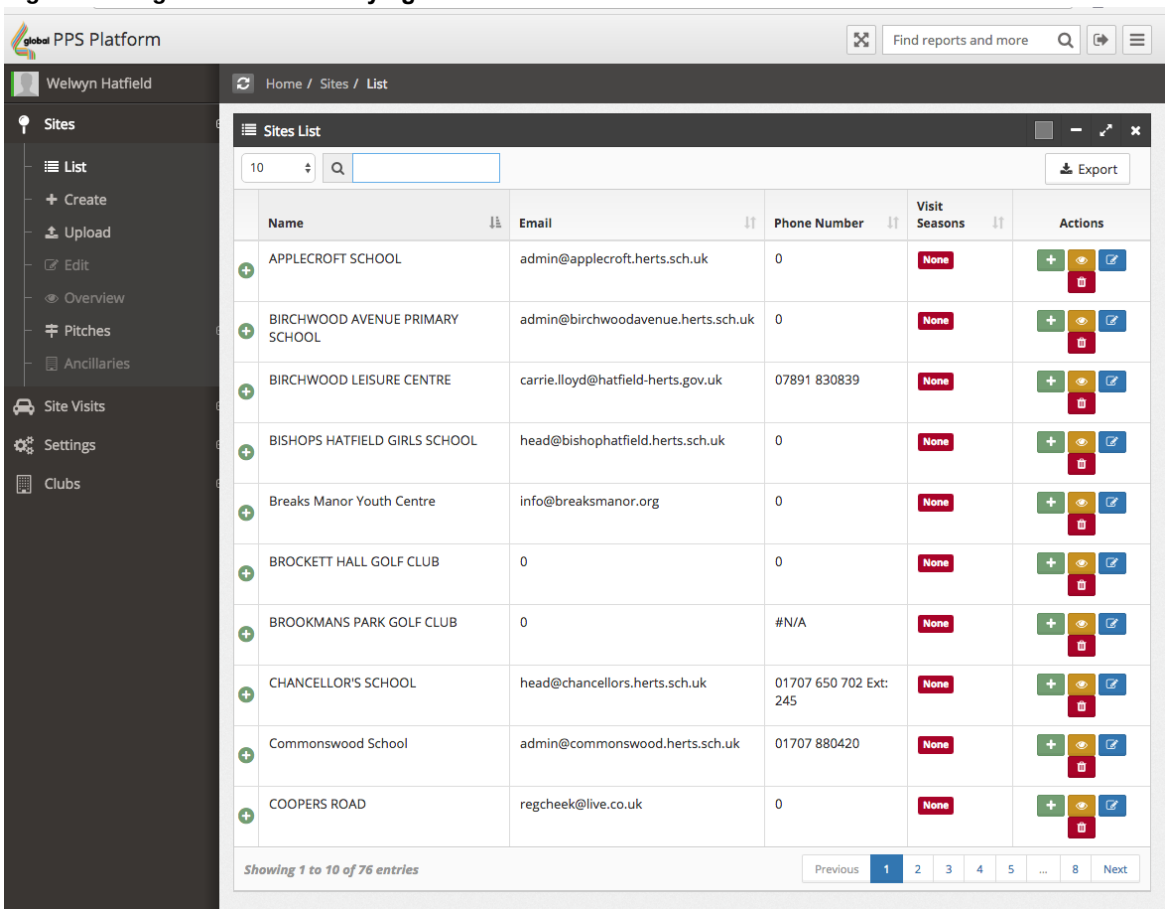
1 https://www.sportengland.org/media/3522/pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf

1.2.2 The findings in this report are based on data collected from several credible sources, including but not limited to;

- Local authority and public policy strategic documentation;
- Sport England tools, including Active Places Power, the Active Lives Survey and the Playing Pitch Calculator;
- Stakeholder consultation, including CBC Officers and Members, Sport England, relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport, key user clubs; and
- Site visits, undertaken at all sites across the Study Area.

1.2.3 To facilitate information gathering and help ensure PPS reports are based on a robust evidence base, 4global has developed an online data entry and assessment platform (see example below), which contains all site and club information. This will enable the council and PPS Steering Group to keep supply and demand information and the strategy up to date throughout the delivery of the strategy.

Figure 1.2 - 4global's Online Playing Pitch Platform



1.2.4 A Project Steering Group comprising representation from the council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) has guided the study from its commencement. At critical milestones, the Steering Group members have reviewed and verified the data and information collected to allow the work to proceed efficiently through each stage.

1.2.5 The PPS Steering Group will continue to help guide preparation of the PPS through to its adoption and subsequent delivery and implementation.

1.3 Report structure

1.3.1 The structure of the PPS report is as follows

- Section 1 – Introduction and Methodology
- Section 2 – Strategic Context
- Section 3 – Sport-Specific Supply and Demand Assessment

1.3.2 Supporting information is included in the appendices and referenced throughout.

1.3.3 In addition to this needs assessment, a strategy document has also been produced, which provides future recommendations and a site by site action plan for key sites across the local authority.

1.4 Statement on COVID-19

1.4.1 During the development of this document the UK Government implemented measures designed to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These measures have resulted in various members of the steering group being unavailable to provide final comments and sign-off of the PPS document.

1.4.2 Due to the outbreak of the virus, site assessments for summer sports (Cricket and Rugby League) that were scheduled for summer 2020 were not possible, therefore these sports will not be included in this version of the report. All supply and demand data underpinning this report has been signed-off as accurate by the Copeland PPS Steering Group.

1.4.3 The data utilised for the analysis in this PPS was gathered previous to the outbreak of COVID-19 this report's findings do not take into consideration its potential impact in the supply and demand for sport in the area. Sport England's PPS guidance contains provision for PPS documents to be reviewed and updated on an on-going basis, and due to the impact of COVID-19 being unknown with regards to current and future participation levels across all sports, it is recommended that the PPS steering group reconvenes at the earliest opportunity to agree any further updates to this document.

Section 2: Strategic Context

2 Strategic Context

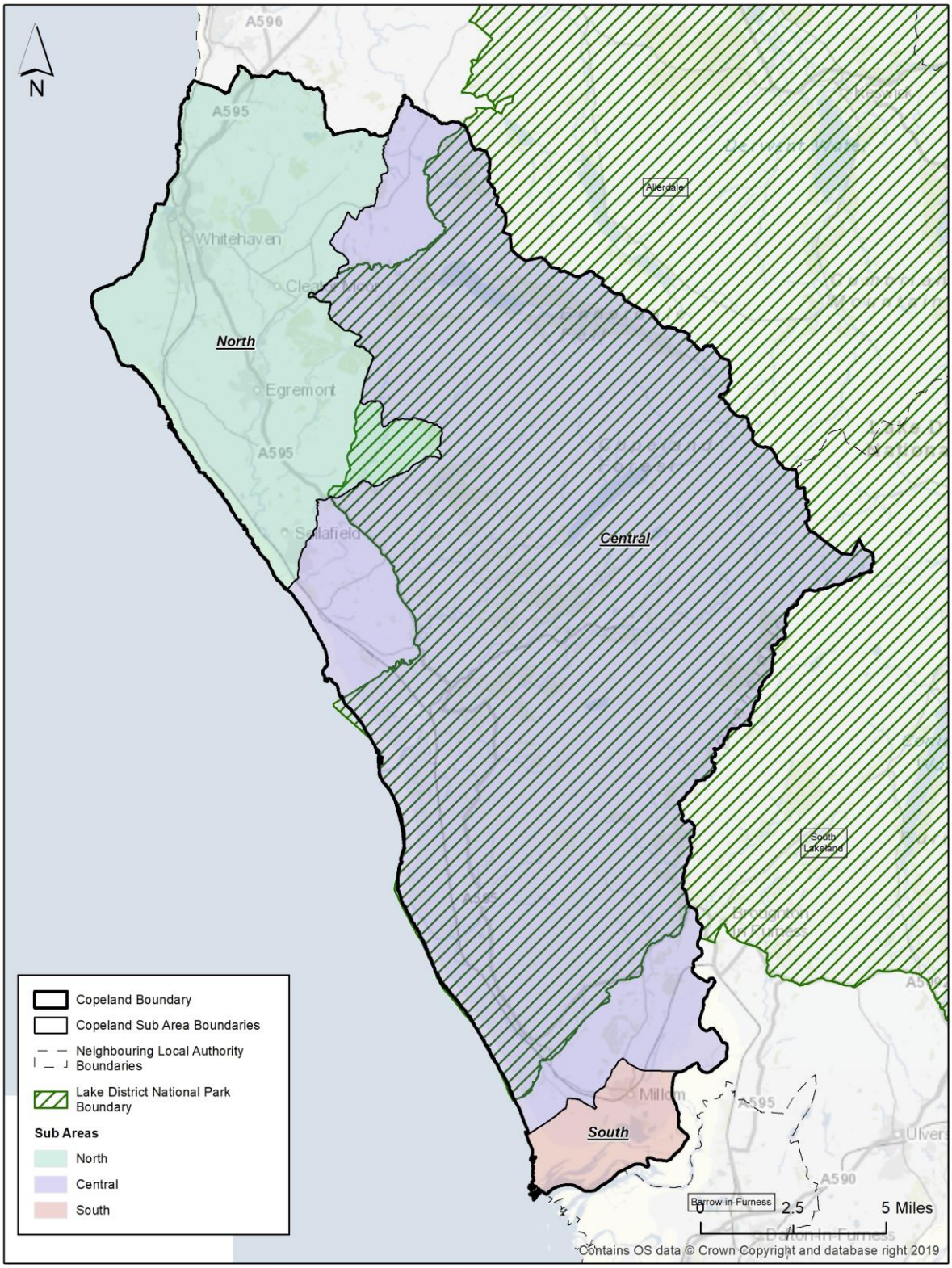
2.1 The Study Area

2.1.1 Map 2.1 overleaf shows the Copeland Borough and the three sub-areas included within the PPS.

2.1.2 The three sub areas are as follows;

- North sub-area
- Central sub-area
- South sub-area

Figure 2.1: Copeland Borough Sub Areas



Sub areas in Copeland

2.2 Copeland Borough

2.2.1 Copeland sits on the west coast of Cumbria. It covers an area of 732 km2, spanning 56 miles of coastline and is predominantly rural in nature, with two thirds of land mass within the Lake District National Park. Less than 10% of Copeland's residents live within the Lake District National Park.

2.2.2 The area has around 47km of coastline, and this contrasts dramatically with the high fells of the Lake District further inland. The Lake District National Park has a separate planning authority, the LDNPA is the statutory planning body for the national park area.

2.2.3 The main town settlements are located predominantly to the north and west of the Borough. They included the principal town of Whitehaven and the towns of Egremont and Cleator Moor. The exception to this is Millom, which lies at the southernmost point, on the Duddon estuary. The rest of the Borough is largely rural.

2.2.4 Copeland hast economic and social problems similar to those associated with much larger urban areas. Some communities are amongst the most disadvantaged in the country, with pockets of deprivation in health, employment, income, access to housing and other services.

2.2.5 Copeland is a relatively remote part of the North West, and the mountains and lakes of the Lake District form a natural barrier to communication, migration and investment. Key routes into the Borough are indirect; the A595 connects with the A66 and M6 North to Carlisle and Penrith, and the circuitous Cumbrian coastal route connects to the M6 to the south. The Cumbrian coastal railway connects services on the West Coast mainline.

2.3 Planning Policy Introduction

2.3.1 There are a number of key national and local strategies and policies which inform and influence the development of these strategies. These national policies inform the approach to current and future provision of sports facilities, linked to health improvement, increased participation, and the appropriate levels of provision of facilities to meet local needs. From a planning perspective, the national agenda makes the link between national planning policy, a Local Plan and population growth at local level, and the need to plan for increased demands for infrastructure and provision, linked to Protect, Enhance and Provide; these are the key elements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This will be explained further in the following sections.

2.4 National Planning Policy

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

2.4.1 The NPPF sets out the requirement of local authorities to establish and provide adequate and proper leisure facilities to meet local needs. Paragraphs 96 and 97 outline the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities:

2.4.2 **PAR 96:** "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate."

2.4.3 **PAR 97:** "Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss."

PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES

2.4.4 The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as follows[2]:

- **Protect** sports from loss as a result of re-development
- **Enhance** existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management
- **Provide** new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.

2.5 Local Planning Policy – Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028

2.5.1 Copeland Borough Council adopted their Local Plan in December 2013, and this comprises the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, as well as a number of policies saved from the 2001-2016 Local Plan.

2.5.2 The Plan set out 20 strategic objectives that will take place in order to achieve the vision of Copeland Borough by 2028. These objectives have been set out below:

- Support future renewable and low carbon energy generating capacity in Copeland in line with Britain's Energy Coast: A Masterplan for West Cumbria.
- Promote the diversification of the Borough's rural and urban economic base to enable a prosperous mixed economy, including creative and knowledge based industries, specialist engineering and the energy sector building on Copeland's nuclear skills base, and tourism exploiting heritage, the potential of the unspoiled coast and the quiet of the western lakes.
- Provide a wide range of modern, high-quality employment sites and premises and promote the creation of a high-end knowledge based employment cluster at Westlakes Science and Technology Park.
- Promote the vitality and viability of towns and local centres, taking advantage of the built heritage that exists in Copeland's towns and villages (notably Whitehaven and Egremont) to enhance the shopping experience for residents and visitors.
- Support the Nuclear Skills Academy, higher education at Westlakes, and the Borough's other educational establishments to improve educational attainment and skills to meet business needs.
- Focus major development in Whitehaven, and encourage complementary and additional development in Cleator Moor, Millom and Egremont and in local centres where opportunities exist, in line with strategic infrastructure provision.

[2] Further information is provided via Sport England's Planning Aims and Objectives guidance: https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-for-sport-guidance/

- Enable a 'balanced housing market' ensuring that all housing is of good quality, affordable, responds to differing needs from deprived industrial communities to the more prosperous rural areas, and is provided in places where people want to live.
- Ensure that settlements are sustainable and meet the range of needs of their communities by, as far as possible, protecting the facilities that are already present (including green infrastructure) and supporting appropriate new provision, especially in Millom which is the main settlement serving the more remote locality of South Copeland.
- Ensure that all new development meets high standards in terms of sustainable design and construction, energy efficiency, provision for biodiversity, safety, security and accessibility, relates well to existing development, enhances the public realm and develops quality places reflecting their distinctive west and south west Cumbrian character.
- Support the increased sustainability of communities, including measures to diversify and otherwise improve the viability of farming, in rural environments varying from former mining settlements in the north and south, to the villages of mid Copeland.
- Reduce the need to travel by supporting improved telephone and rural broadband access.
- Improve access to employment, services, education/training facilities and the leisure opportunities of the coast and Lakeland fringe, by foot, cycle and public transport.
- Develop and maintain safe, efficient, high quality, modern and integrated transport networks with good internal links and connections to key routes, including the West Coast Main Line via both Carlisle and Barrow, and the M6 via both the A66 and A590.
- Adapt to the impacts of climate change by minimising development in flood risk areas and by improving the extent of tree cover and connectivity of wildlife corridors.
- Promote recycling and waste minimisation.
- Conserve and enhance all landscapes in the Borough, with added protection given to the designated St Bees Head Heritage Coast site.
- Protect and enhance the many places and buildings of historical, cultural and archaeological importance and their settings.
- Improve green infrastructure and protect and enhance the rich biodiversity and geodiversity both within and outside of the Borough's many nationally and internationally designated sites, ensuring that habitats are extended, connected by effective wildlife corridors and that lost habitats are restored.
- Safeguard and where possible enhance the natural (including mineral and soil) resources in the Borough and, in addition, address the impacts of mining, iron working, nuclear energy and other former land uses.
- Facilitate the best use of land i.e. prioritise previously developed land for development (where this does not threaten valued biodiversity features) and secure an appropriate density of development on any given site.

2.6 Local Planning Policy – Copeland emerging Local Plan 2017-2035

2.6.1 At the time of writing this report, the Council is currently in the process of producing a new Local Plan, which will replace the Core Strategy and saved policies. The plan will consider how much

development should be supported over the plan period 2017-2035, where such development should go and what it should look like and which areas should be protected from development.

2.6.2 The first draft of the Local Plan, the Issues and Options Draft, has been produced and can be viewed via the following link: https://www.copeland.gov.uk/attachments/copeland-local-plan-2017-2035-consultation-draft.

2.6.3 At the current time Local Plan progress remains a Council priority, however in light of the current situation with Covid-19 and the current restrictions in place, it is likely that consultation of the Preferred Options stage of the Local Plan will be later than identified in the Local Development Scheme.

2.7 Sports and Physical Activity Strategy Context

2.7.1 The Council have previously and continue to work with Sport England, as a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields and built sports facilities. To avoid potential objections and delays at a later date if such sites are allocated for development which may affect the delivery of the allocations, discussions are taking place prior to site allocations being confirmed in the pre-submission version of the Local Plan.

A NEW STRATEGY FOR SPORT – DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

2.7.2 The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, following a consultation paper in 2015, launched the new strategy 'Sporting Future: A new Strategy for an Active Nation' in 2016. The development of the new strategy reflects a need to re-invigorate the nation's appetite for participation in sport following what appears to be a significant reduction in participation (highest profile being swimming), following the upsurge after the 2012 London Olympics.

2.7.3 The sport strategy is targeting five outcomes which each sports organisation, public or private sector, will be measured against:

- Physical wellbeing
- Mental wellbeing
- Individual development
- Social and community development
- Economic development.

2.7.4 Government funding will go toward organisations which can best demonstrate that they will deliver some or all the five outcomes.

2.7.5 The Delivery of the outcomes will be through three broad outputs;

- More people from every background regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport and physical activity, volunteering and experiencing live sport.
- A more productive, sustainable and responsible sports sector
- Maximising international and domestic sporting success and the impact of major sporting events

SPORT ENGLAND STRATEGY 2016 – 'TOWARDS AND ACTIVE NATION'

2.7.6 The Vision for this Strategy is: 'We want everyone in England regardless of age, background or level of ability to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. Some will be young, fit and talented, but most will not. We need a sport sector that welcomes everyone – meets their needs, treats them as individuals and values them as customers'.

2.7.7 This strategy sets out Sport England will deliver this task. The key changes Sport England will make are:

- Focusing more money and resources on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest
- Investing more in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life
- Helping those who are active now to carry on, but at lower cost to the public purse over time. Sport England will work with those parts of the sector that serve the core market to help them identify ways in which they can become more sustainable and self-sufficient
- Putting customers at the heart of what we do, responding to how they organise their lives and helping the sector to be more welcoming and inclusive, especially of those groups currently under-represented in sport
- Helping sport to keep pace with the digital expectations of customers
- Working nationally where it makes sense to do so (for example on infrastructure and workforce) but encouraging stronger local collaboration to deliver a more joined-up experience of sport and activity for customers
- Working with a wider range of partners, including the private sector, using our expertise as well as our investment to help others align their resources
- Working with the sector to encourage innovation and share best practice particularly through applying the principles and practical learning of behaviour change

COPELAND BOROUGH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT PROFILE

2.7.8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation in the Copeland Borough has increased from 59% in 2015/16 to 60.7% in 2018/19. This indicator is the percentage of the adult population participating in sport and active recreation, at moderate intensity, for at least 150 Minutes a week (Active Lives Survey, Sport England). The Council, along with Sport England, aim to continue to improve these statistics through:

- Maximising opportunities for sport and physical activity to work with commissioners of health, social care, young people's service and community safety.
- Developing a strategic approach for sports facilities and opportunities based on need and evidence.
- Capitalise on opportunities to work with NGB's.

2.8 Population and Demographics Analysis

2.8.1 The current and future population profile within Copeland and the locations of population growth are important to understand in planning for the future provision of sport and physical activity.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

2.8.2 Table 2.2 below provides a summary of the key population and demographic trends for Copeland Borough. It should be noted that this data is consistent with that used across the Playing Pitch Strategy, as well as the wider strategic planning work currently being undertaken by the Council. This data will be used to project future need across the sports in this strategy.

Table 2.2: Population and demographics analysis for CBC

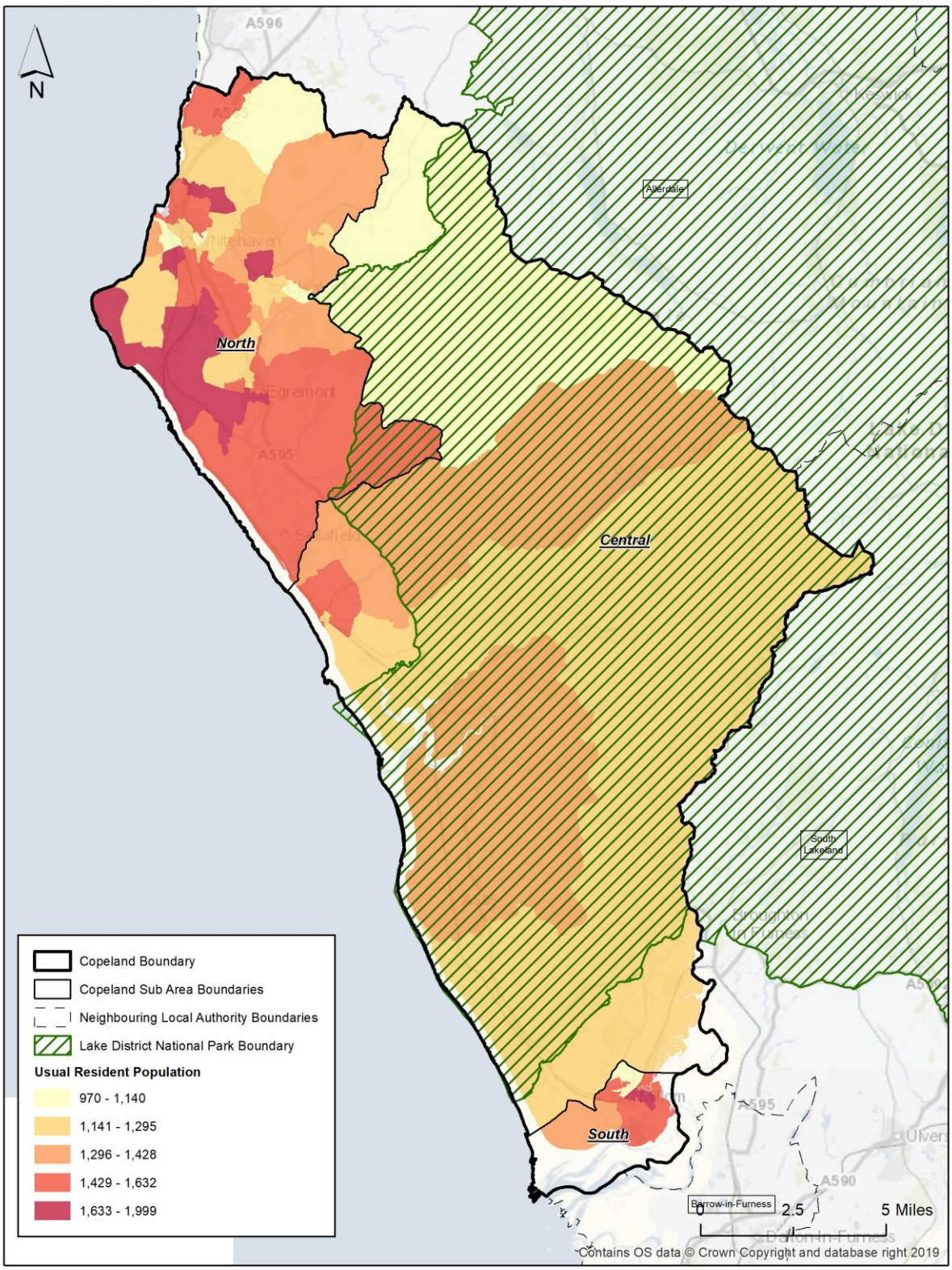
Copeland Demographic Summary	Data

Copeland Demographic Summary	Data
Current population (2018)	68,400
Future population (2035)	74,388
Age profile	The number of residents aged 0-59 is reducing, while the 60+ population is projected to grow. Older people will make up an increasing proportion of the population, as the number of people aged 60 or above significantly increases throughout the next 15 years.

2.8.3 To provide greater insight into the current and projected population trends across the Borough, figures 2.2 and 2.2 below show the overall 2018 population per lower super output area (LSOA) and the 2020 population density.

2.8.4 The density of population is an important consideration for this strategy as it will guide any recommendations for future provision which should be located where need is greatest and where the benefits to the population can be maximised.

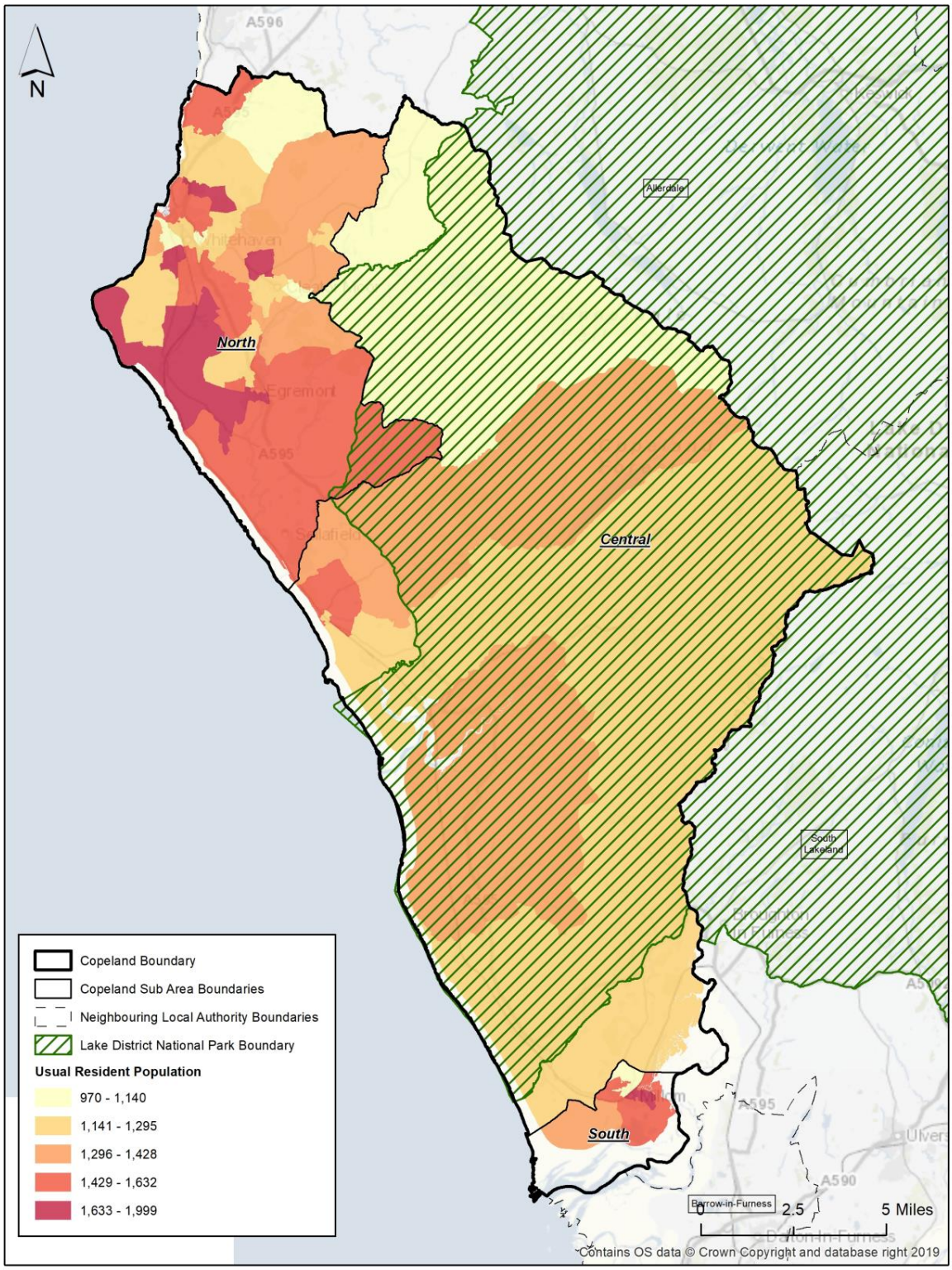
Figure 2.2– Population by LSOA (2020)



Usual resident population by lower super output area in Copeland (2020)

2.8.5 Figure 2.2 illustrates the total number of residents by LSOA. Figure 2.3 below shows population density by LSOA.

Figure 2.3 – Population Density by Lower Super Output Area (2020)



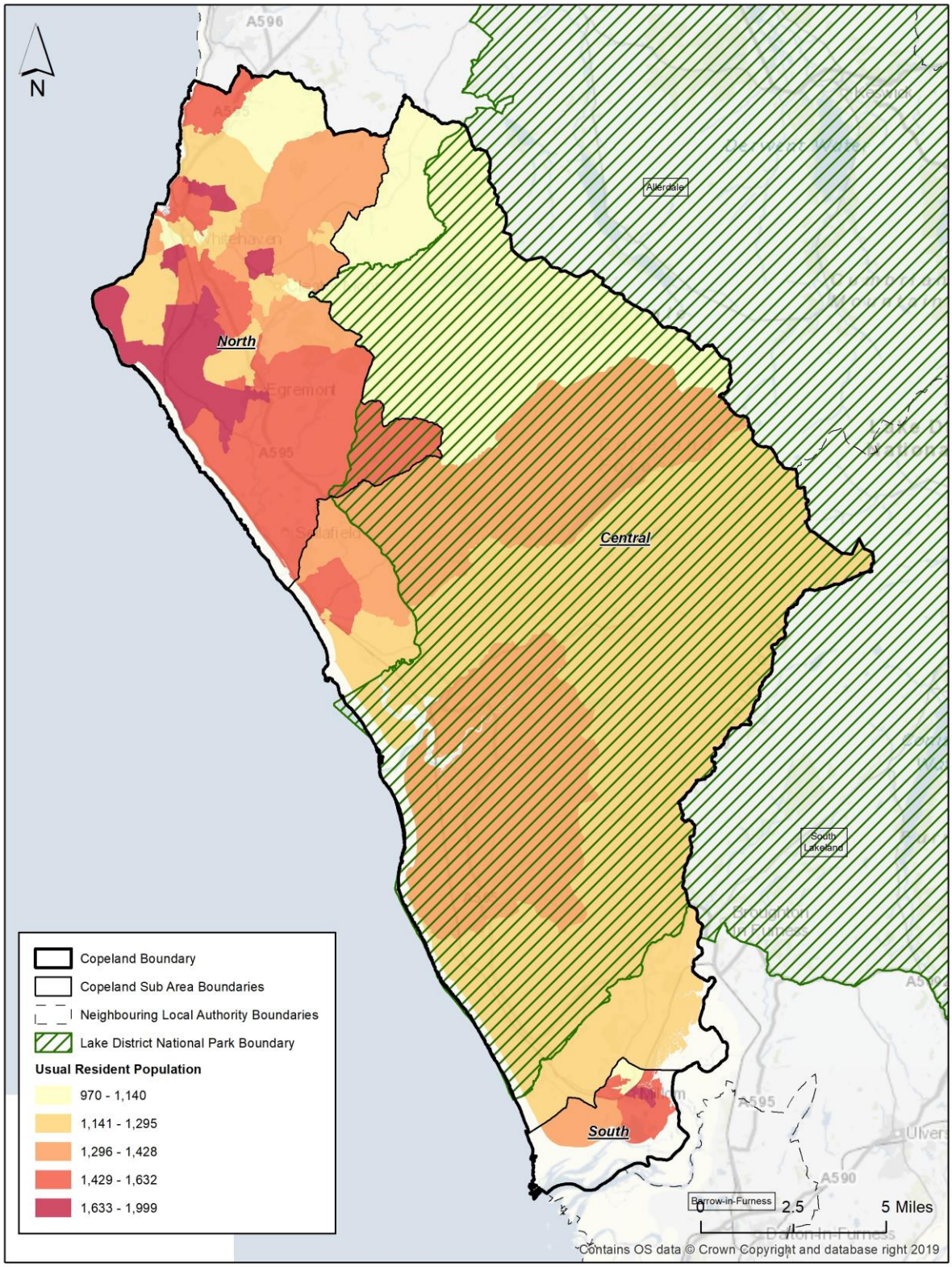
Usual resident population by lower super output area in Copeland (2020)

2.8.6 As expected, Figure 2.2 indicates that main settlement in the North and South sub-areas have the highest population density, with pockets of relatively high density in smaller settlements. Figure 2.3 illustrates the low density of population that exists across the majority of the Borough, which coincides with high levels of rurality and large areas of open space and woodland.

DEPRIVATION ANALYSIS

2.8.7 It is key that any future sporting developments meet the specific needs of their residents and it therefore important to consider deprivation trends for the local authority. Geographical areas with high level of deprivation will typically have lower levels of health, ‘standard of living’ and car ownership, which all contribute to a lower overall level of participation.

Figure 2.4: Deprivation Analysis – 2020



Usual resident population by lower super output area in Copeland (2020)

2.8.8 Figure 2.4 shows the levels of deprivation across the study area, with the most deprived areas being located on the northern side of the local authority and fractions of the South sub-area.

2.9 Physical Activity and Participation

THE VALUE OF PARTICIPATION

2.9.1 The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to individual and community quality of life should not be underestimated. This is true for both younger and older people; participation in sport and physical activity delivers:

- Opportunities for physical activity, and therefore more 'active living'
- Health benefits – cardio vascular, stronger bones, mobility
- Health improvement
- Mental health benefits
- Social benefits – socialisation, communication, inter-action, regular contact, stimulation

2.9.2 In addition, participation in sport and physical activity can facilitate the learning of new skills, development of individual and team ability / performance, and provide a 'disciplined' environment in which participants can 'grow' and develop.

2.9.3 The benefits of regular and active participation in sport and physical activity will be important to promote in relation to future sport, leisure and physical activity in Copeland. There is an existing audience in the borough, which already recognizes the advantages of participation, and a latent community who are ready to take part. The sport, physical activity and leisure offer in the borough can support the delivery of the desired outcomes across a number of borough priorities and objectives.

CURRENT PARTICIPATION RATES

2.9.4 The World Health Organization define physical activity as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure – including activities undertaken while working, playing, carrying out household chores, travelling, and engaging in recreational pursuits.

2.9.5 In terms of the Public Health England definition for physical activity (150 minutes or equivalent of at least moderate intensity activity per week) 60.7% of adults in Copeland are doing enough physical activity to benefit their health (i.e. exercising three or more times per week), below the regional average of 63.1% and the national average of 63.1%.

2.9.6 The percentage of those physically inactive (less than 30 minutes a week) in Copeland is 24.2%, which is 0.6% below the national level of 24.8%.

Table 2.3: Physically active and inactive adults (Sport England, 2018/19 Active Lives Survey)

Rate	Copeland Borough	Cumbria CC	England
% Active	60.7 %	63.1 %	63.2 %
% Inactive	24.2 %	25.0 %	24.8 %

2.9.7 Table 2.4 below presents the level of participation by residents in Copeland, Cumbria and nationally in England. The Sport England Active Lives Survey used below provides data on the percentage of people aged 16+ that have participated in sport at least twice in the last 28 days.

Table 2.4: Participation Rates (Sport England, Active Lives Survey)

Year	Copeland Borough	Cumbria CC	England

Year	Copeland Borough	Cumbria CC	England
2016/17	74.7%	78.3 %	77.2 %
2017/18	75.7 %	79.2 %	77.4 %
May 2018/19	**77.3 %**	**78.4 %**	**77.9 %**

2.9.8 Table 2.4 shows us that Copeland Borough has experienced an increase in the percentage of residents participating in sport from 2016/17 to 2018/19 from 74.7% to 77.3%; however, this current level remains below the average participation of residents in Cumbria and nationally in England.

CORE PPS SPORTS ANALYSIS

Section 3: Football grass pitch analysis

3 Football grass pitch analysis

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches.

3.1.2 This section includes the headline findings from the PPS, as well as a site by site analysis of football sites across Copeland Borough. For further detail on the supply and demand of football in the Study Area, Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis provides a detailed analysis of supply and demand of football in the borough, including all the required analysis as defined in the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013).

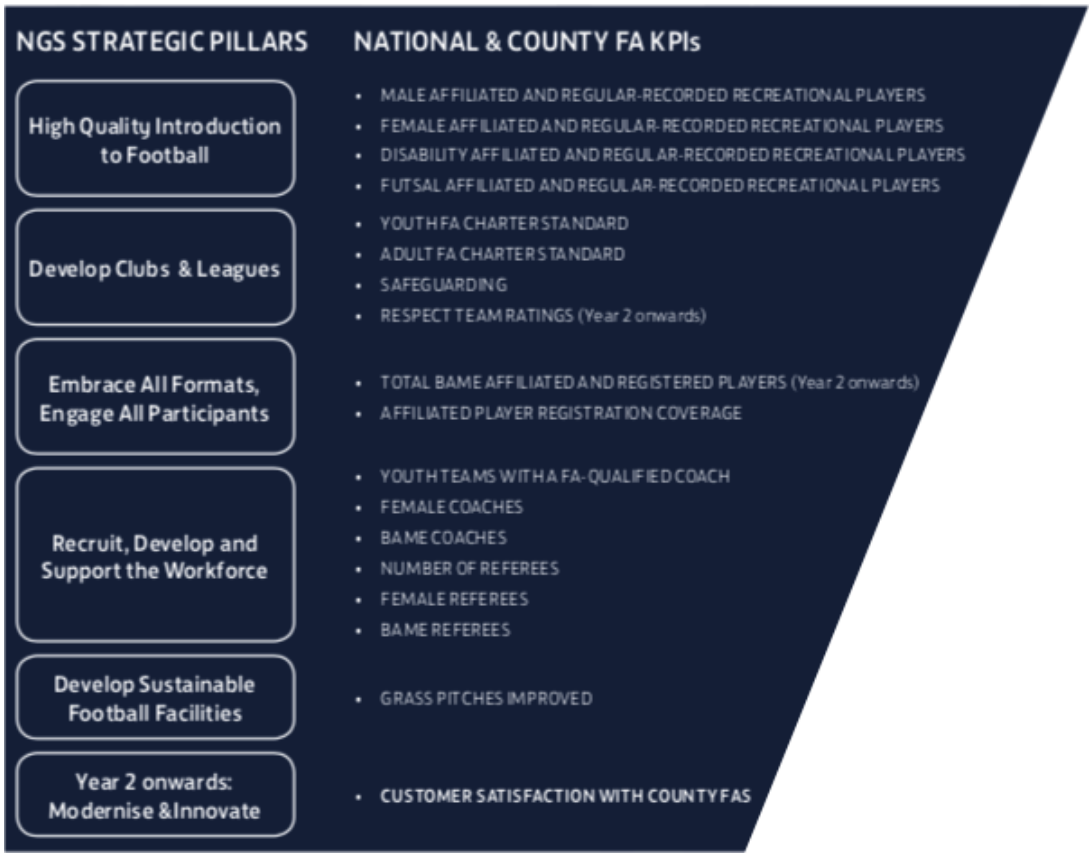
3.2 Strategic Priorities for the Football Association

3.2.1 The National Game Strategy for the FA (2018-2021) is based on the exciting objective of inspiring a lifelong journey in football for all.

3.2.2 2018/19 will see the FA start to implement the first year of the National Game Strategy, building on a growth of just under 1,000 new teams during the 2017/18 season.

3.2.3 The National Game Strategy focuses on five initial strategic pillars, with the sixth to be added in Year 2. These pillars are aligned to 18 Key Performance Indicators (KPI's), as shown in the figure 3.1 overleaf.

Figure 3.1: FA NGS Strategic Pillars and KPI's



3.2.4 A key piece of context for the strategy is the changing profile of formal football participation across the country. Between the 16/17 and 17/18 seasons, the overall number of teams has grown by 986 across all age groups. The greatest growth was in mini soccer (1,512) and youth male (415). However, this growth is offset to an extent by a reduction in adult male teams of 1,268 teams, signalling the changing nature of football participation across England.

3.2.5 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:

- Provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects in line with the National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities:
  - 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 Game Strategy targets:
  - Quality
  - Sustainability
  - Inclusivity
  - Engagement
  - Participation

3.2.6 An investment plan, which will prioritise investment in the local authority, has recently been developed and presented in the form of a Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP).

3.2.7 The LFFP was published in July 2020 and its purpose is to identify the priority projects for potential investment in Copeland. The full document and findings can be accessed via the following link: https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/copeland/copeland-local-football-facility-plan/

3.2.8 Another key element of the NGS 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.

3.3 Consultation Overview

KEY CLUB CONSULTATION

3.3.1 As part of the study, consultation was undertaken with 58% of football clubs in Copeland (representing 68 of the total teams), with all major multi-team clubs responding to the PPS survey and team data for unresponsive clubs (42%) obtained from the FA's Whole Game System.

3.3.2 Detailed accounts of club consultations are included within Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis, however the below points provide a summary of the key issues identified through consultation with clubs and leagues currently operating within Copeland:

- Large junior clubs are thriving, with major recent growth and further growth projected in the future. This is putting an increasing strain on the supply of pitches;
- Most major clubs identified a need for additional 3G AGPs that are available and affordable. These would accommodate training demand and some junior match demand;

- No displaced demand to neighbouring local authorities was identified as part of consultations with key clubs;
- The quality of facilities is adequate, however there are few examples of large club demand being met at one site only (such as Whitehaven AFC Whitehaven Miners Social Welfare Club); and
- There are examples of large club utilising a number of sites across Copeland to accommodate their existing demand, however the majority of these have stated to be happy with this set up.
- Due to the aspirations of clubs looking to keep expanding, there are examples of clubs requiring improvements to existing ancillary facilities, as well as additional training facilities, in order to make this feasible.

3.4 Supply

3.4.1 To gather a full understanding of the supply of football pitches in Copeland, the 4global research team visited all football sites, 47 pitches across 35 sites, in the area and assessed the facilities using the FA's guidelines, as shown in Playing Pitch Strategy Appendix 2 - Football Association[3]. Site assessments were undertaken in February of 2019.

3.4.2 A detailed record of all the supply data can be found in Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis, however this section will summarise the key findings.

3.4.3 Table 3.1 summarises how the grass football pitches in the Study Area were assessed, in line with Sport England PPS guidance (non-technical assessments). It shows that most pitches across the borough are rated as ***Standard*** quality, with an evident lack of ***Good*** quality pitches.

Table 3.1 – Supply of grass pitches in the Study Area. Source: 4global site assessments

Quality score	Adult football	Youth football		Mini soccer	
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Good (80-100%)	6	0	0	0	0
Standard (50-79.9%)	10	6	3	8	0
Poor (0-49.9%)	6	3	1	4	0

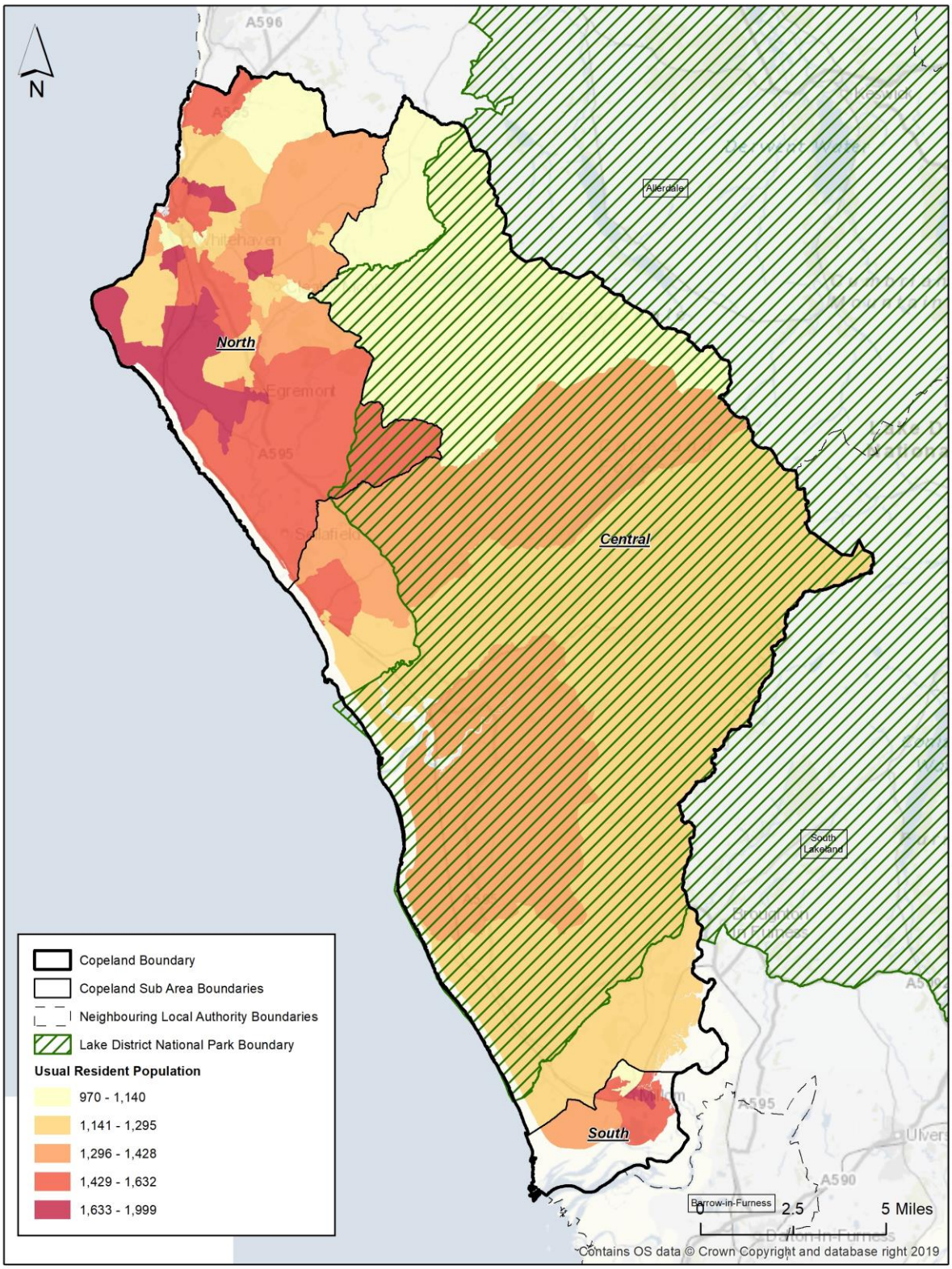
SPATIAL ANALYSIS

3.4.4 To provide a spatial analysis of football provision supply in Copeland, Figure 3.2 overleaf provides an illustration of all football provision by pitch typology, showing the distribution of provision across the Study Area. Figure 3.2 shows there is a concentration of supply within the North sub-area. The sub area with the least amount of football supply is the Central sub-area.

3.4.5 The Central sub-area is mostly rural, a large part of which lies in the Lake District National Park. The North and South sub-areas contain more urban areas and flatter spaces more suitable for playing pitches.

[3] Sport England PPS Guidance – Football Appendix (http://goo.gl/em3wyj: 2015)

Figure 3.2 – Football provision in Copeland. Source: 4g site assessments



Usual resident population by lower super output area in Copeland (2020)

PITCH OWNERSHIP

3.4.6 As is common across the UK, a large proportion of pitch provision in the Study Area is owned by the local authority (34%), or education establishments (28%), with other ownership spread across a number of different organisations.

3.4.7 In terms of management, there is a large proportion sites that are managed by education facilities (37%), followed by sites managed by Clubs (34%).

3.4.8 Table 3.2 below shows the spread of ownership, illustrating the broad spread of management and ownership types across the Study Area

Table 3.2 – Site ownership and management in Copeland.

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Charity, Trust	3	1
Club	5	12
Community Organisation	2	2
CSSC	0	2
Diocese	1	0
Education	10	13
Government	1	0
Local Authority	12	3
Other	0	1
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	1	0
Private	0	1

SECURITY OF USE

3.4.9 To understand the long-term trends and potential risks for football provision, it is important to understand the 'security' that is afforded to community access on football provision across the Study Area. Decisions relating to security of use are taken on a case by case basis, using 4global's industry experience and through collaboration with the project steering group. As a starting point, one of the following elements typically constitutes a secure site;

- A formal community use agreement
- A leasing or management agreement requiring pitches to be available to the community
- A formal policy for community use adopted by the owner and or educational establishment
- Written confirmation from the owner and/or educational establishment

3.4.10 As stated in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013), where community use is not formalized through any mechanism such as the above, a site can be considered unsecured for long-term use. The guidance also states that, unless local information suggests otherwise, Local Authority and Parish/Town Council sites should be classified as providing secured community use.

3.4.11 While issues around the security of use a particular club may have at a site are important to be considered, this should not be confused with determining the security of community use at the site.

3.4.12 The following points provide a summary of the general security of use for football provision across the Study Area;

- 20 out of 35 sites are classified as secured (57%) leaving 12 sites (34%) being identified as unsecured, the remaining 9% being unavailable for community use. The long-term security of football provision across the Study Area is adequate as a result. It is to be noted that security is referring to security of community use, therefore there is a high proportion of hirers rather than a formal lease agreement in place.
- Local authority ownership and management typically leads to sites being identified as secured. In Copeland, only four local authority owned sites have been identified as secured, three of which are schools.

3.4.13 Detail of all sites and their security of use is contained within the Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis, as well as in the site by site analysis later in this report chapter.

EDUCATION SUPPLY

3.4.14 Football facilities are provided at educational establishments across the study area, with different levels of community use and security of tenure. 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.

3.4.15 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 Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis, as well as the site by site analysis.

Table 3.3: Education facilities unavailable for community use

Site Name	Sub Area
BOOKWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL	North
HENSINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL	North

3.5 Demand

3.5.1 Football is the most popular team participation sport across Copeland, with a total of 155 teams recorded by the study, as shown in Table 3.4. To illustrate the distribution of football teams across the Study Area, this data has been broken down into the three sub-areas.

Table 3.4 – Team Profile for football in Copeland

Sub Area	Adult teams		Youth teams				Mini teams		Total
	Men's	Ladies	Boys		Girls		Mini soccer		
			11v11	9v9	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	
North	31	4	21	13	5	4	23	29	**130**
Central	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**3**
South	6	0	4	4	0	0	4	4	**22**
Study Area	**40**	**4**	**25**	**17**	**5**	**4**	**27**	**33**	**155**

3.5.2 Table 3.4 illustrates that the vast majority of demand is concentrated within the North sub-area, with 130 teams, followed by the South sub-area with 22. There is far less formal football in the Central sub-area, with only 3 teams present.

3.5.3 Using the above team data and the volume of all 26 clubs present in Copeland that were surveyed, the club to team ratio in the borough is 1:5.96 i.e. each club has around 6 teams. There are teams that meet/surpass this including Whitehaven AFC, Cleator Moor Celtic Juniors, Millom Junior FC, St Bees Athletics, Moor Row Juniors, Whitehaven Miners Social FC and Windscale FC. This compares to a national ratio of 1:3.3 and shows that there are significantly more teams per club compared to

national levels. This is likely to increase the demand for large football sites with multiple pitches of different sizes, as well as high quality ancillary facilities provision, due to club aspirations are often based around meeting all demand on one site. Further detail is provided as part of Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis, which contains a detailed account of consultations with major clubs across Copeland.

EDUCATION DEMAND

3.5.4 As part of the demand analysis, it is important to understand the impact of school usage on the capacity of football pitches and as to whether school demand has an impact on the supply and demand of pitch provision

3.5.5 As part of the consultation phase of the project, all schools were asked whether school (both curriculum or after school usage) leads to pitches either being unavailable or partially available for community use.

3.5.6 Further detail on how education facilities have been addressed in the capacity analysis is included in the football supply and demand section of this report.

IMPORTED DEMAND

3.5.7 No imported demand was identified in Copeland as part of the study.

DISPLACED DEMAND

3.5.8 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.

3.5.9 Table 3.5 summarises where this has been identified during the primary research phase, which is defined as 'displaced demand' in line with the 2013 PPS Guidance.

Table 3.5 – Displaced demand for football in Copeland

Club	Adult Teams		Youth Teams		Mini Teams		Total Displaced Demand (Match Equivalent Session)	Location of Displaced Demand	Reason for Demand Displacement
	M	F	11 V 11	9 V 9	7 V 7	5 V 5			
FC Cosmos	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	Senior team train for 1 hour a per week on the 3G pitch at Lakes College in Workington	Lack of availability at a more suitable location

3.6 Supply and Demand Balance

3.6.1 This section presents the supply and demand balance findings for grass football pitches (both for current and future estimated demand) for the study area, split by sub-area.

3.6.2 For every site, 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. The capacity for natural grass pitches to regularly provide for matches, training and other activity over a week and a season is most often determined by their quality. The quality of both the pitch and the ancillary facilities will determine how well a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand. The following key terms are summarised below, with more detailed definitions included within the glossary;

- Spare capacity: When the level of recorded demand for a pitch is less than the weekly carrying capacity of that pitch
- At capacity: When the level of recorded demand for a pitch is equal to the weekly carrying capacity of that pitch
- Overplay: When the level of recorded demand for a pitch exceeds the weekly carrying capacity of that pitch.

3.6.3 It should be noted that this section of the supply and demand analysis refers to 'theoretical capacity' over the period of a week, however it does not allow for the fact that teams and participants may want to play at the same time, therefore generating a high level of demand during certain points of the week. This point is referred to as the 'Peak Period', which is explained in more detail later in this chapter.

OVERPLAY

3.6.4 Overplay occurs when a grass football pitch is played on to a greater extent than is recommended by the pitch's carrying capacity. For example, if an adult football pitch is given a quality rating of ***standard,*** then it has a recommended maximum usage of 2 match equivalent sessions and/or training sessions per week If, however, this pitch is used for 3 adult football matches per week (equating to 3 match equivalent sessions), the pitch is being used over and above its carrying capacity and is therefore being overplayed by one match equivalent session. 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.

3.6.5 It is important that any overplay of pitches is considered as part of the overall supply and demand analysis, therefore Table 3.6 below identifies all sites that have pitches with overplay.

3.6.6 Where overplay has been identified as part of this analysis, it is included within the overall supply and demand analysis for football in the Study Area. Whitehaven AFC is currently subject to significant overplay, which is influenced by a lack of provision and a significant amount of demand for formal football provision.

3.6.7 A full capacity analysis of all sites with football provision is included within Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis.

Table 3.6: Overplay of Football pitches in Copeland (Only sites with overplay included)

Site Name	Sub Area	Balance - Overplay or Spare Capacity (match equivalent sessions)				
		Adult	Yth 11v11	Yth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
ADAMS RECREATION GROUND	North	0.5	-0.5	0.5	-1.5	No pitch provision
BISHOPS PARK	North	-1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
CLEATOR RECREATION GROUND	North	-2	No pitch provision	1	-1	No pitch provision
MILLOM RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	-1.5	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	4.5	No pitch provision
MOOR ROW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	North	No pitch provision	-2	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
SASRA SPORTS COMPLEX	North	1.5	No pitch provision	2	0	No pitch provision
ST BENEDICTS HIGH SCHOOL	North	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	0	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
WHITEHAVEN AFC	North	-9	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	-3.5	No pitch provision

3.7 Peak time analysis

3.7.1 In line with the 2013 Sport England PPS guidance, this study has considered the total supply and demand for facilities, measured in match equivalent sessions per week.

3.7.2 While this is a valuable measure as to whether or not pitches are at capacity, have spare capacity or are overplayed, the patterns of demand should also be considered when assessing whether there are sufficient facilities across the Study Area.

3.7.3 With this in mind, this section undertakes a peak time capacity analysis, to assess whether there are sufficient facilities during the periods that the greatest proportion of the population like to play football.

3.7.4 This will indicate whether there are enough pitches to satisfy the demand where a large amount of football is played at the same time (e.g. are there enough Adult 11v11 pitches so that all adult teams can to play on Saturday afternoons?)

3.7.5 The following assumptions on peak times have been developed using data collected during the demand consultations with clubs and the Whole Game System FA report.

- Adult peak demand is assumed to be Saturday PM
- Youth 11v11 peak demand is assumed to be Sunday PM
- Youth 9v9 peak demand is assumed to be Sunday PM
- Mini Soccer 7v7 peak demand is assumed to be Sunday AM
- Mini Soccer 5v5 peak demand is assumed to be Sunday AM

3.7.6 A full methodology for calculating peak time capacity can be found in Appendix A

3.7.7 Table 3.7 provides an analysis of all sites across Copeland. For all relevant sites, it has been identified whether there is spare capacity during the peak period (highlighted green). It should be noted that where sites are at an overall deficit of capacity (highlighted red), it is assumed that there is not spare capacity during the peak period. It has also been assumed that all sites that are currently available for community use but have no formal demand identified, there will be spare capacity at the peak period. Conversely, all sites that are not available for community use are assumed to have no spare capacity at the period of peak demand.

3.7.8 Table 3.7 illustrates the majority of grass provision does not have any spare capacity at the peak period. This is as expected for a Study Area with a high level of football demand, especially in the youth and adult age groups.

Table 3.7: Spare peak time capacity for football

Site Name	Sub Area	Available for use?	Adult	Yth 11v11	Yth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
ADAMS RECREATION GROUND	North	Available	0.5	No spare capacity	0.5	No spare capacity	No pitch provision
BECKERMET C OF E SCHOOL	North	Available	No pitch provision	1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
BISHOPS PARK	North	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
BLACK COMBE JUNIOR SCHOOL	South	Available	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	2	No pitch provision
BOOTLE AFC	Central	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
CLEATOR MOOR CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision

Site Name	Sub Area	Available for use?	Adult	Yth 11v11	Yth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
CLEATOR RECREATION GROUND	North	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No spare capacity	No spare capacity	No pitch provision
CONISTON AVENUE PLAYING FIELD	Central	Available	1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
CUMBRIA SPORT ACADEMY	North	Available	1	1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
GOSFORTH C OF E SCHOOL	Central	Available	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	1	No pitch provision
GOSFORTH PLAYING FIELD	Central	Available	0.5	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
HENSINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL	North	Not Available	No spare capacity – site not available for community use				
HMP HAVERIGG	South	Not Available	No spare capacity – site not available for community use				
JUBILEE FIELD	North	Available	1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
LOWCA AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB	North	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
MILLOM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB	South	Available	1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
MILLOM RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	South	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No spare capacity	No pitch provision
MILLOM SCHOOL	South	Available	1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	1	No pitch provision
MILLOM ST JAMES	South	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
MOOR ROW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	North	Available	No pitch provision	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
SASRA SPORTS COMPLEX	North	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	1	No spare capacity	No pitch provision
SEASCALE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Central	Available	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	1	No pitch provision
ST BEES VILLAGE SCHOOL	North	Available	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	1	No pitch provision
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
ST BENEDICTS HIGH SCHOOL	North	Available	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
THE SPORTS FIELD	North	Available	No pitch provision	1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY	North	Available	2	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
THORNHILL PLAYING FIELDS	North	Available	0.5	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
THWAITES VILLAGE HALL	Central	Available	No pitch provision	1	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
WEST LAKES ACADEMY PLAYING FIELDS	North	Available	No pitch provision	2	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No pitch provision
WHITEHAVEN AFC	North	Available	No spare capacity	No pitch provision	No pitch provision	No spare capacity	No pitch provision

3.8 Site by Site Analysis

3.8.1 An analysis of each football site in the borough is presented in table 3.8 below. The table provides a summary of the availability, supply, demand and capacity balance of each site. Additionally, this table serves to summarise the key parts of the PPS assessment that have been identified so far within this sport specific section.

3.8.2 To confirm the sites that have spare capacity or a deficit, the site-by-site analysis in this section will provide a total balance per site to illustrate the sites that need investment either to improve the quality of pitches (and therefore carrying capacity), as well as the sites that need a greater number of grass pitches in order to satisfy demand. This will be shown in the ‘capacity for community use’ column.

3.8.3 This table does not include lapsed or disused sites that have been identified as part of the study. These are included in the following section

Table 3.8 – Site by site summary for football provision

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
ADAMS RECREATION GROUND	North	Available	Secured	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	0.5 match equivalent of spare capacity	This is a key site for football in Copeland, it is used by several junior and mini teams from St Bees Athletics FC, one of the largest clubs in the area. Pitch provision on site was identified as poor as part of the assessment and an improve maintenance regime is required.
				2x Youth 11v11	2	1.5	0.5	0.5 match equivalent of spare capacity	
				Youth 9v9	1	0.5	0.5	0.5 match equivalent of spare capacity	
				Mini 7v7	2	1.5 +2 (Mini 5v5)	-1.5	No spare capacity	
BECKERMET C OF E SCHOOL	North	Available	Unsecured	Youth 11v11	2	0	2	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	The site is available for community use, however no formal football demand has been recorded as part of the study. No priority areas for investment were identified as part of the assessment.
BISHOPS PARK	North	Available	Unsecured	Adult	1	1 + 0.5 (Youth 11v11) + 1 (Mini 7v7)	-1.5	No spare capacity	The site is home to adult teams from FC Cosmos and Moor Row FC, as well as junior teams from Moor Row Juniors. The adult pitch on site was rated as poor during the assessment, suffering from severe drainage problems. Club consultation also revealed that the changing facilities are located too far away from the pitch and that access to the site is unsafe and unsuitable for disabled.
BLACK COMBE JUNIOR SCHOOL	South	Available	Unsecured	2x Mini 7v7	8	0	8	2 match equivalents of spare capacity	The site is available for community use, however no formal football demand has been recorded as part of the study. No priority areas for investment

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
									were identified as part of the assessment.
BOOKWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL	North	Not Available	N/A	AGP sand			N/A – site not available		The site is not available for community use, however it is used by pupils of the school for PE and other physical activity. No priority areas for investment/enhancement were identified as part of the assessment
BOOTLE AFC	Central	Available	Secured	Adult	2	1	1	No spare capacity	The site is home to Bootle AFC, who have 2 adult teams playing from the site. The adult pitch on site was rated as standard as part of the assessment, however club consultation revealed that it suffers from unevenness and drainage problems. The club also identified the chancing rooms as poor, with a requirement for the roof to be replaced.
CLEATOR MOOR CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Available	Unsecured	Adult	3	1.5	1.5	No spare capacity	The site is home to Cleator Moor Celtic FC, who have 3 adult teams. The pitch and ancillary facilities on site are of good quality, however consultation revealed that it is a priority for the management on site to refurbish the inside of the whole ancillary facility. The road on entry to the site is poor and requires resurfacing to a proper tarmac road surface.
CLEATOR RECREATION GROUND	North	Available	Secured	2x Adult	2	4 (Youth 11v11)	-2	No spare capacity	The pitches on site are heavily used by junior and mini teams

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
				Youth 9v9	2	1	1	No spare capacity	from Cleator Moor Celtic Juniors FC.
				Mini 7v7	4	2.5 + 2.5 (Mini 5v5)	-1	No spare capacity	The pitches on site were rated as standard as part of the assessment, however there is some level of overplay and an improved maintenance regime would allow for increased carrying capacity. There is some Youth demand potentially taking place on the adult pitch, and some 5v5 on the 7v7 pitch. A potential re-configuration of pitches should be considered in order to better accommodate current levels of demand.
CONISTON AVENUE PLAYING FIELD	Central	Available	Secured	Youth 11v11	1	0	1	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	The site is available for community use, however no formal football demand was recorded as part of the study. The site should be protected as football provision to allow some capacity in the area to accommodate any growth in youth demand. The pitch on site was rated as poor and an improved maintenance regime is required on site.
CUMBRIA SPORT ACADEMY	North	Available	Secured	Adult	3	0	3	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	The site is available for community use, however no formal club demand was recorded at the site as part of the study. The youth 11v11 pitch on site was not marked and was overgrown at time of assessment
				Youth 11v11	1	0	1	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	
				1x 3G AGP (80x30)	N/A				

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
									due to the Sunday league teams who had previously used it having folded. The adult pitch on site is in good condition and currently used by rugby league teams. There is also a small sided 3G AGP present which requires refurbishment. A priority for the management on site is to change the floodlights on the athletics track/football pitch, however they are currently seeking funding for this.
EGREMONT RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Available	Secured	1x 3G AGP (36x20)	N/A				There is a small sided 3G AGP on site that is used by local football clubs for training purposes, as well as the rugby club. The pitch scored as standard as part of the assessment and no priority areas for investment were identified.
GOSFORTH C OF E SCHOOL	Central	Available	Unsecured	Mini 7v7	2	0	2	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	No formal football demand was recorded at the site, however the Mini 7v7 pitch on site is used by pupils of the school for PE and other physical activity. The football pitch was rated as poor due to undulations and poor line marking and an improved maintenance regime is required.
GOSFORTH PLAYING FIELD	Central	Available	Secured	Adult	2	0.5	1.5	0.5 match equivalents of spare capacity	The site is home to an adult team from Gosforth FC. The adult pitch on site was rated as standard and, although it suffers from a slight slope, no priority areas for enhancement were identified as part of the

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
									assessment.
HENSINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL	North	Not Available	N/A	Youth 11v11	0		N/A – site not available		The site is not available for community use, however it is used by pupils of the school for PE and other physical activity.
HMP HAVERIGG	South	Not Available	N/A	Adult	0	0	N/A – site not available		The site is not available for community use. The adult pitch on site was identified as of standard quality as part of the assessment and no priority areas for investment were identified.
JUBILEE FIELD	North	Available	Unsecured	Adult	1	0	1	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	The site is available for community use, however no formal club demand was recorded as part of the study. Capacity analysis for the North sub-area shows a deficit of adult provision, and therefore the site should be protected as football provision. The adult pitch on site was rated as poor with very poor drainage, and an improved maintenance regime is required in order to improve pitch quality attract demand to the site.
LOWCA AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB	North	Available	Secured	Adult	2	2	0	No spare capacity	The site is home to 3 adult teams from Bransty Rangers and Lowca Pirates. The adult pitch on site scored as standard, however club consultation revealed that there is some damage to the playing surface and goal posts are poor and in need of replacement.
MILLOM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB	South	Available	Secured	Adult	3	2	1	No spare capacity	The site is home to four adult teams from Millom FC and

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
									Millom St James. The football pitch is in a good condition, however, the ancillary facility is in a poor state and in need of refurbishment.
MILLOM RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	South	Available	Secured	Adult	2	3 + 1 (Youth 9v9)	-2	No spare capacity	The site is home to 2 adult teams from Haverigg United, as well as several junior and mini teams from Millom Juniors FC. The pitches on site were identified as Standard as part of the assessment, however there are drainage issues with one of the 7v7 pitches. When the site is at capacity there are not enough changing rooms available for both the rugby and football and the clubs stated in consultation that they would like to extend the ancillary to have extra changing rooms which can be externally accessed by juniors.
				2x Mini 7v7	8	2 + 1.5 (Mini 5v5)	4.5	No spare capacity	
MILLOM SCHOOL	South	Available	Unsecured	Adult	1	0	1	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	The site is available for community use, however no formal club demand was recorded as part of the study. The football pitches on site are used by pupils of the school for PE and other physical activity. The pitches were rated as Poor during the assessment, and an improved maintenance regime is required.
				Mini 7v7	2	0	2	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	
MILLOM ST JAMES	South	Available	Secured	Adult	2	1.5 (Youth 11v11)	0.5	No spare capacity	The site is used by 3 junior teams from Millom Junior FC. Due to the nature of current demand, the re-configuration of

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
									the pitch to a Youth 11v11 should be considered. No further enhancement requirements have been identified for the site.
MOOR ROW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	North	Available	Unsecured	Youth 11v11	1	1 + 1 (Adult) + 1 (Youth 9v9)	-2	No spare capacity	The site is used by adult and junior teams from Moor Row Juniors FC. The pitch was rated as Poor as part of the assessment and an improved maintenance regime is required.
SASRA SPORTS COMPLEX	North	Available	Secured	2x Adult	5	1 + 2.5 (Youth 11v11)	1.5	No spare capacity	The site is home to Windscale FC, who have 2 adult and 8 junior teams playing from the site. Changing facilities on site were identified as of good quality, however consultation revealed that the pitches suffer from poor drainage and often get waterlogged. There is currently no formal demand for the 9v9 pitch, and the re-configuration of this as a Youth 11v11 pitch should be considered.
				Youth 9v9	2	0	2	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	
				Mini 7v7	2	0.5 + 1.5 (Mini 5v5)	0	No spare capacity	
SEASCALE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Central	Available	Unsecured	Mini 7v7	4	0	4	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	No formal football demand was recorded at the site, however it is used by pupils of the school for PE and other physical activity. There are considerable drainage issues at the site and the pitch is unusable for large parts of the season. There is a new school being built on site and the old one is due to be knocked down soon. Due to the lack of mini 5v5 provision in Copeland, the re-

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
									configuration of this pitch should be considered.
ST BEES VILLAGE SCHOOL	North	Available	Unsecured	Mini 7v7	4	0	4	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	No formal football demand was recorded at the site, however it is used by pupils of the school for PE and other physical activity. Due to the lack of mini 5v5 provision in Copeland, the re-configuration of this pitch should be considered.
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Available	Secured	Adult	3	1.5	1.5	No spare capacity	The site is home to Mirehouse FC, who have 3 teams playing from the site. The adult pitch on site was rated as good as part of the assessment and no major issues were raised in consultation. There is a small 3G AGP on site that was installed in 2009, is showing signs of ageing and will require resurfacing within the next 3 years.
				1x 3G AGP (60x42)	N/A				
ST BENEDICTS HIGH SCHOOL	North	Available	Secured	Youth 9v9	1	2 (Adult)	-1	No spare capacity	The site is used by 4 adult teams from Lowca Pirates FC, Workington FC, Windscale FC and Moor Rown Juniors. At the time of assessment, the site was undergoing construction works for the installation of additional grass pitches (one adult and one smaller pitch). There is also a full-sized 3G AGP on site, which is of good quality and heavily used by local clubs for training purposes.
				1x 3G AGP (100x60)	N/A				
THE SPORTS FIELD	North	Available	Secured	Youth 11v11	1	0	1	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	The site is available to the community, however no formal football demand was recorded

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
									as part of the study. Due to the projected increase of junior demand, the site should be protected as football provision. The pitch on site is of standard quality and no priority areas for investment were identified.
THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY	North	Available	Unsecured	2x Adult	4	0	4	2 match equivalents of spare capacity	No formal football demand was identified at the site as part of the study, however it is used by pupils of the school and due to the current deficit of adult provision identified as part of the analysis, it should be protected as football provision.
THORNHILL PLAYING FIELDS	North	Available	Secured	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	0.5 match equivalents of spare capacity	The site is home to Thornhill FC, who have an adult team playing from here. The pitch on site was identified as poor as part of the assessment and an improved maintenance regime is required.
THWAITES VILLAGE HALL	Central	Available	Secured	Youth 11v11	2	0	2	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	No formal football demand was recorded at the site as part of this study. The analysis demonstrated that there is sufficient 11v11 provision to satisfy current levels of demand in the Central sub-area, and therefore the site could be considered for re-designation as open space or for other sports.
WEST LAKES ACADEMY PLAYING FIELDS	North	Available	Unsecured	2x Youth 11v11	4	0	4	1 match equivalent of spare capacity	No formal club demand was identified as part of the study, however the pitches are used by pupils of the school. The Youth 11v11 pitches on site were rated as standard and no priority areas for investment were identified.

Site Name	Sub-area	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch Supply	Pitch Capacity in MES	Pitch Demand In MES	Capacity Balance (grass pitches only) in MES	Spare Capacity in the Peak Period	Key Issues
WHITEHAVEN AFC	North	Available	Secured	Adult	3	5 + 3 (Youth 11v11) + 4 (Youth 9v9)	-9	No spare capacity	The site is home to the largest club in Whitehaven with over 30 teams, as well as an adult time from Cockermouth Athletic. The site has ambitious plans to develop the ancillary facilities and expand the site into the land to the south. These are available from Cumbria CFA. There is also a good quality 3G AGP on site that is used for match play and training.
				Mini 7v7	4	3.5 + 4 (Mini 5v5)	-3.5	No spare capacity	
				1x 3G AGP (100x60)	N/A				

3.9 Future Demand

DEMAND DRIVEN BY POPULATION GROWTH

3.9.1 To calculate the future demand for football in the Study Area, the study has utilised Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC). The PPC uses the following factors to determine future provision need; existing population; the number of teams in each age category; the peak-time distribution of demand; the growth trends for each age/gender group; and, the projected change in participation rate.

3.9.2 The future demand is an estimate and does not take into account local factors such as spatial distribution, changes in participation rates and the impact of projects. The results have been used within the Strategy to help inform recommendations on how best to meet any additional demand for football pitches. Please note that the future additional need for pitches indicated below is on the assumption that all future demand generated will be required to be met by additional (new) pitches. In reality it may be that this could be met by the existing pitch stock (this will be tested below).

3.9.3 It should be noted that the projected growth in participation in each age and gender group has been determined in consultation with each national governing body. In this instance Cumberland FA and Lancashire FA have not provided projected change in each age group due to insufficient evidence.

Table 3.9: Projected Growth of Football in Copeland by age and gender group between 2019-2035.

Age/gender group	Change	Justification
Adult men	0%	FA has insufficient evidence to confidently provide projections over this length of time
All female age groups	0%	
Youth boys (9v9 and 7v7)	0%	
'Mini 'age groups	0%	

Table 3.10: Sport England: Playing Pitch Calculator - Additional pitch need produced by projected growth of football in Copeland by 2035

DATA INPUT		PPC OUTPUT
Current Population	68,400	
Projected Growth	+5,988	
Projected Future Popn.	74,388	

Age / Gender Group	Current				Future ADDITIONAL need		
	Population of Group	Number of teams	% of participation in the peak period*	% change in participation	Number of teams generated by the new population PLUS any change in demand	Additional match equivalent sessions per week (MES)	Additional MES by pitch type
Adult Football Men (16-45yrs)	11,171	4	100%	0%	**2.91**	**1.45**	**1.60**
Adult Football Women (16-45yrs)	11,109	25	100%	0%	**0.29**	**0.15**	
Youth Football Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	1,491	5	100%	0%	**1.82**	**0.91**	**1.09**
Youth Football Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	1,407	17	100%	0%	**0.36**	**0.18**	
Youth Football Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	813	4	100%	0%	**1.24**	**0.62**	**0.77**
Youth Football Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	712	27	100%	0%	**0.29**	**0.15**	
Mini Soccer 7v7 Mixed (8-9yrs)	1,471	33	100%	0%	**1.96**	**0.98**	**0.98**
Mini Soccer 5v5 Mixed (6-7yrs)	1,554	4	100%	0%	**2.40**	**1.20**	**1.20**

3.9.4 Table 3.10 above illustrates that the population projection in Copeland is to lead to an increase in demand for football, with an additional 11.26 teams expected across the borough by 2035. This will generate additional need for access to pitches equivalent to 6 match equivalent sessions during the peak period. This information will be used to inform recommendations on how best to accommodate this new demand. For example:

- Utilising existing spare capacity;
- Improving the quality of poor or standard pitches;
- Providing new pitches

3.9.5 The age/gender group with the highest projected growth is the Adult Men age group, with 2.91 teams produced by population growth, followed by Mini 5v5 with 2.4 teams and Youth Boys 11v11 with 1.82 teams.

3.9.6 Female football is projected to have relatively small growth over the lifespan of the strategy, with a total of just 0.94 teams projected. The smallest absolute growth is in the Adult and Youth Girls 9v9 football at 0.29 teams each.

3.9.7 Utilising the current demand for football in each of the sub areas and how each of the sub-areas is projected to grow, table 3.11 provides an estimation of how the growth of demand is likely to be allocated across the three sub-areas.

Table 3.11: Growth in Football Teams in Copeland by Sub Area

Age Group	North	Central	South	Total
Adult Football Men (16-45yrs)	2.36	0.20	0.34	**2.9**
Adult Football Women (16-45yrs)	0.23	0.02	0.034	**0.284**
Youth Football Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	1.46	0.12	0.21	**1.79**
Youth Football Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	0.29	0.02	0.04	**0.35**
Youth Football Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	0.99	0.08	0.14	**1.21**
Youth Football Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	0.23	0.02	0.034	**0.284**
Mini Soccer 7v7 Mixed (8-9yrs)	1.60	0.14	0.23	**1.97**
Mini Soccer 5v5 Mixed (6-7yrs)	1.94	0.17	0.28	**2.39**
Total	**9.14**	**0.79**	**1.33**	**11.26**

3.9.8 Table 3.11 highlights that the greatest growth in football demand across all age/gender categories is expected to be in the North sub-area. Here, 9.14 teams, are expected to be added to the sub area. This represents 81% of the growth in demand across the entire borough. The greatest growth is expected in the Adult Men and Mini 5v5 categories, with 2.9 and 2.39 additional teams respectively.

3.9.9 The other two sub areas show only a slight growth, with 1.33 new teams projected in the South sub-area and 0.70 in the Central sub-area. The age/gender categories with the greatest level of growth within these sub areas are also Adult Men and Mini 5v5.

3.9.10 Due to the very small increase in demand expected within the Central and South sub-areas, the projected growth for some age groups in these areas can be considered insignificant, at figures below 0.1. Clearly, it is not possible for team numbers to change by a fraction of a team and therefore, in the capacity analysis section of this report, these figures will be rounded to the closest whole number.

DEMAND DRIVEN BY UNMET DEMAND

3.9.11 While a large amount of future demand will be driven by population growth, there is also expected that that unmet demand for football exists 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.

3.9.12 The following clubs identified unmet demand for facilities. Where data was provided this is shown, with figures being incorporated into the future supply and demand analysis for Football

- Millom FC: the club stated that they currently have no training facilities due to unavailability of the all weather surface at Millom School. They currently have four teams that are not able to train at all.
- Moor Row Juniors FC revealed that their teams under 12-14s and u18 have no grass pitch to train on as they have access to Bishops Park for games but as a club they do not allow training on there to preserve the pitch for games. Therefore they have to pay for artificial surfaces to train on.

DEMAND DRIVEN BY LATENT DEMAND

3.9.13 In addition to unmet demand, latent demand for football has also been identified across the study area. Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist, 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.

3.9.14 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.

Table 3.12: Latent demand for football by sub-area

Club	Sub Area	Latent Demand commentary	Total latent demand (teams)
Bransty Rangers FC	North	They would potentially add another girls team and a boys one but this is dependent on the ability to secure additional teams. It was stated that they currently have the players but struggle to get the coaches for the teams.	2x junior (1 match equivalent)
FC Cosmos	North	The club believe that they could possibly increase the number of youth teams if additional facilities were available	2x junior (1 match equivalent)
Gosforth FC	Central	The club would like to add an over 35s side and a couple of junior age groups.	1x adult and 2x junior (1.5 match equivalents)
Lowca Pirates FC	North	The club believe they will increase across all kids & youth age groups	6x Junior and 2x Mini Soccer (4 match equivalents)

Millom FC	South	The club see an increase of one extra team in coming years due to number of playing members	1 x adult (0.5 match equivalents)
Millom Junior FC	South	2 more teams are expected in coming years, 1 in u13's and 1 in u14's	2 junior (1 match equivalent)
St Bees Athletic FC	North	Projected growth in senior participation	1x adult (0.5 match equivalents)
Windscale FC	North	The club expect to add an U13 and U11 sides within the next 3 years	2x junior (1 match equivalent)

3.9.15 It should be noted that the latent demand 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.

3.9.16 Table 3.12 illustrates the projected growth that clubs are expecting over the next 3 – 5 years. This is influenced by a significant demand for youth and mini football in the Study Area, as well as the presence of a number of well-run junior clubs with high growth ambitions.

3.9.17 It is important to note that this projected growth should be treated with an element of caution, as the source of information is club consultations. In some instances, clubs projected growth is aspirational and in reality, actual growth is dependent on a number of factors enabling that growth e.g. access to pitches and sufficient volunteers to run new teams.

3.9.18 Notwithstanding this, it is important that where clubs have the ambition and structure to increase in size, therefore getting more children and adults physically active, they should be supported. With this in mind future supply and demand analysis for football provision will include the projected growth from latent demand identified in this section.

3.10 Current and future supply and demand balance summary

3.10.1 Table 3.13 to 3.17 below show the balance between supply and demand for sub-area, split by pitch typology. For each pitch typology, the total amount of available provision in each sub-area (in the peak period) is compared with the total demand for pitches, providing a balance analysis across the whole study area.

3.10.2 The points below provide further explanation on the terms used within the tables:

- **Actual capacity:** The amount of supply from all pitches that are available and secured for community use during the peak period, quantified in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)
- **Total demand**: The total amount of football demand in the area, calculated by adding together the match play and training demand data captured from clubs in the specific sub-areas
- **Current position**: The supply and demand balance for grass pitch provision, when taking into consideration the actual capacity and the total 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

- **Future position**: The projected supply and demand analysis for 2035, taking into consideration the additional demand from unmet, latent, displaced and future (population growth) demand.

Table 3.13 – Adult 11v11 supply and demand analysis – all data in MES

ALL AVAILABLE SITES							
Analysis Area	**Actual spare capacity**	**Total overplay**	**Current position**	**Unmet/latent demand**	**Displaced demand**	**Future demand**	**Future position**
North	7	12	-5	0.5	0.5	2	-8
Central	1.5	0	1.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.5
South	3	2	1	0.5	0	0.5	0
Copeland Borough (total LA)	**11.5**	**14**	**-2.5**	**1.5**	**0.5**	**3**	**-7.5**

3.10.3 Table 3.13 illustrates that for adult 11v11 pitch provision, there is some level of spare capacity in the Central and South sub-areas. However, the large amount of overplay in the North sub-area leads to an overall deficit of 2.5 match equivalents across Copeland.

3.10.4 When incorporating latent and displaced demand, as well as demand driven by population growth, the future position analysis shows that the deficit of provision in Copeland is increased to 7.5 match equivalent. The spare capacity in the South and Central sub-areas is also converted into a deficit, demonstrating the need for additional Adult provision across Copeland.

Table 3.14 – Youth 11v11 supply and demand analysis – all data in MES

ALL AVAILABLE SITES							
Analysis Area	**Actual spare capacity**	**Total overplay**	**Current position**	**Unmet/latent demand**	**Displaced demand**	**Future demand**	**Future position**
North	3	2.5	0.5	3	0	4	-6.5
Central	1	0	1	0.5	0	0.5	0
South	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	-1
Copeland Borough (total LA)	**4**	**2.5**	**1.5**	**4**	**0**	**5**	**-7.5**

3.10.5 Table 3.14 illustrates an overall spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalents in the current position for Youth Football 11v11 in the study area. Sub-area analysis for the current position shows that there is a small amount of spare capacity in the North and Central sub-areas (0.5 and 1 MES respectively), and no spare capacity in the South sub-area.

3.10.6 Future analysis, including future and displaced demand, shows that the current spare capacity for Youth 11v11 pitch provision is converted into a deficit of 7.5 match equivalents during the life of the strategy. This is highly influenced by the significant increase in demand identified within the North sub-area through the conversion of unmet and latent demand into actual demand, as well as the incorporation of displaced demand and additional teams generated through population change.

Table 3.15 – Youth 9v9 supply and demand analysis – all data in MES

ALL AVAILABLE SITES							
Analysis Area	**Actual spare capacity**	**Total overplay**	**Current position**	**Unmet/latent demand**	**Displaced demand**	**Future demand**	**Future position**
North	2.5	0	2.5	3	0	3.5	-4
Central	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	-1
South	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	-1
Copeland Borough (total LA)	**2.5**	**0**	**2.5**	**4**	**0**	**4.5**	**-6**

3.10.7 Table 3.15 demonstrates that there area 2.5 match equivalents of spare capacity across the borough for Youth 9v9 provision in the current position, all of this in the North sub-area, due to the lack of provision of this pitch typology in the Central and South sub-areas.

3.10.8 This spare capacity for Youth 9v9 provision in Copeland is projected to be converted into a significant deficit (of 6 match equivalents) by the end of the strategy. Some of this new demand is expected to be generated in the Central and South sub-areas, and therefore the development of additional pitches in these areas may be required.

Table 3.16 – Mini Soccer 7v7 supply and demand analysis – all data in MES

ALL AVAILABLE SITES							
Analysis Area	**Actual spare capacity**	**Total overplay**	**Current position**	**Unmet/latent demand**	**Displaced demand**	**Future demand**	**Future position**
North	1.5	6	-4.5	0.5	0	2	-7
Central	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
South	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
Copeland Borough (total LA)	**8.5**	**6**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0**	**2**	**-2**

3.10.9 Table 3.16 shows a small amount of spare capacity for Mini Soccer 7v7 provision in Copeland, however there is a significant deficit in the North sub-area, where most of the demand is concentrated.

3.10.10 It must be highlighted that there is currently no demand for this pitch typology in the Central sub-area.

3.10.11 When including future demand projected by 2035 as identified in this study, the future scenario shows that the spare capacity for Mini Soccer 7v7 provision in the borough is converted into a deficit of 2 match equivalents, with all the overplay occurring in the North sub-area.

Table 3.17 – Mini Soccer 5v5 supply and demand analysis – all data in MES

ALL AVAILABLE SITES							
Analysis Area	**Actual spare capacity**	**Total overplay**	**Current position**	**Unmet/latent demand**	**Displaced demand**	**Future demand**	**Future position**
North	0	0	0	0.5	0	2	-2.5
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copeland Borough (total LA)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**	**0**	**2**	**-2.5**

3.10.12 There is currently no Mini 5v5 provision in Copeland, it is therefore assumed that all Mini 5v5 demand is currently taking place on Mini 7v7 pitches or Adult/Youth pitches through overmarking. Table 3.17 illustrates this in the current position.

3.10.13 Future analysis demonstrates that a total of 2.5 match equivalents of additional demand are expected to be generated in the North sub-area through population change and the conversion of latent demand. The provision of mobile goals and the potential reconfiguration of sites and pitches is recommended in order to better address the demand for Mini Soccer in the borough is recommended.

3.11 Football summary

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

3.11.2 Table 3.18 includes the response to 5 key questions which are identified in the Sport England PPS Guidance Checklists (Steps 6 1a-e). 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 3.18 – Key PPS findings for football in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	There are 47 football pitches across 35 sites in Copeland, and 32 of these sites are available to the community. 34% of football sites are owned by the Local Authority, followed by educational establishments, who own 28% of the sites. The management of sites is also dominated by the education sites (37%), followed by club owned sites (34%). The level of demand has stayed at a relatively consistent level, with major clubs continuing to grow, offset by the contraction of demand for smaller affiliated adult's teams. There are 26 football clubs across the study area, comprising a total of 155 teams, the majority of these in the Adult and Mini Soccer age groups. The club to team ratio in Copeland is 1:5.9, higher than the national average of 1:3.3. Spatially, the vast majority of supply and demand is concentrated within the North sub-area, followed by the South sub-area. There are only football teams based within the Central sub-area.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	The current supply and demand analysis for available pitch provision shows a small amount of spare capacity for Youth and Mini 7v7 provision, and a deficit of Adult provision across Copeland. There is no provision of Mini 5v5 pitches across the study area and therefore demand for this typology is potentially taking place on 7v7 pitches or adult/youth pitches through overmarking. The North sub-area shows a significant deficit for Adult and Mini 7v7 provision that should be addressed. Given the lack of Mini 5v5 pitches in Copeland, the provision of mobile goals and the potential reconfiguration of sites and pitches is recommended in order to better address the demand for Mini Soccer in the borough. Through consultation with local clubs, a need for additional 3G training facilities was also identified.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	The quality of football grass pitch provision across the Study Area is adequate with 57.4% of the 47 grass pitches rated as 'Standard' and 12.8 as 'Good'. The remaining 29.8% of the total grass football pitches were rated as 'Poor', demonstrating a need to put in place improved maintenance regimes at a number of sites. Several clubs have identified issues with drainage and maintenance, and the overall quality of facilities and the robustness of maintenance regimes is in need of improvement.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	With the projected growth in population and changes in participation rates during the lifetime of the plan period to 2035, the requirement for pitches is likely to increase. The analysis using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator projects 11 additional teams, with Adult men demand being the area of greatest growth. In addition, club consultations reported latent demand for 21 teams. Taken together, this indicates a projected growth of 32 teams in Copeland by 2035. The supply of football provision is also likely to change during the lifespan of the strategy, with a clear need for additional 3G facilities identified as part of club consultations.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand	There is insufficient supply to meet the projected level of future demand in the study area for football. Given the current level of overplay, plus the additional projected demand modelled in the latent demand review and the projected demand from the Playing Pitch Calculator, the additional demand will exacerbate the overplay currently experienced across Copeland's football pitches, with all pitch typologies estimated to be operating over capacity by the end of the strategy. Adult and Youth 11v11 pitches are expected to have the greatest deficit, influenced by the high amount of overplay and projected demand within the North sub-area. Due to the lack of Mini 5v5 provision in Copeland, demand for this pith typology is estimated to be currently taking place on Mini 7v7 or Adult/Youth pitches through overmarking. The re-configuration of existing sites and provision of additional pitches should be considered in order to better address the current nature and level of football demand in the borough.

Section 4: Artificial Grass Pitch analysis

4 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) analysis

4.1.1 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 focuses on third generation (3G) facilities that are suitable for football and rugby, as well as sand-based provision that is currently used for football training. The Hockey section (Section 7) of this needs assessment presents the position for sand-based and water-based provision.

4.2 Utilising 3G AGP provision for training and matchplay

3G AGP USAGE FOR FOOTBALL

4.2.1 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 Charter Standard Community Clubs through a partnership agreement.

4.2.2 The FA has adopted the use of 3G pitches across all its competitions and incorporated this into the standard code of rules. 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.

4.2.3 Competitive affiliated football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been tested to FA standards and is on the FA 3G Football Turf Pitch Register. All football training can take place on sand and water-based surfaces but a 3G surface is preferred.

3G AGP USAGE FOR RUGBY

4.2.4 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.

4.2.5 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.

4.2.6 For facilities to be used for contact training or affiliated match play, pitches must be World Rugby 22(WR22) compliant, which ensures pitches have an adequate shock pad and length of synthetic grass to ensure they are safe to play on.

4.2.7 The RFU's Rugby365 programme invests in 3G AGP provision, with the overall objective of improving player experience. Further information can be found on England Rugby's website.

4.3 Supply analysis

4.3.1 Table 4.1 overleaf provides a list of all sand-based and 3G AGP's in Copeland identified as part of the audit. For each of the AGP's across the Study Area, the supply data has been summarised in table 4.2, with identification of spare capacity in the peak period where relevant.

4.3.2 Detailed audit data for each facility, as well as whether they are included on the FA register, are included in Technical Appendix A – Football Analysis

4.3.3 The Study Area currently has two full sized 3G AGP's – at St Benedicts High School and Whitehaven AFC - both of which are available for community use and used through periods of peak demand. There is also a full sized 3G AGP at Lakes College, which is located outside of the borough, but is utilised by a number of local clubs for training purposes.

4.3.4 The weekday peak time period for AGPs is set out in Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013) as Monday to Thursday 5pm to 9pm, Fridays 5pm to 7pm and Saturday and Sunday 9am to 5pm, totalling a maximum possible number of hours as 34 hours in the peak period. Both facilities are floodlit, therefore can be used by the community at peak times throughout the winter. In addition to the full-size pitches, there are three small-sided 3G pitches at Cumbria Sport Academy, Egremont RUFC and St Benedict's RUFC that can be used for football and non-contact rugby training and junior match play. The additional capacity that is provided by this facility will be addressed in the following supply and demand balance section.

4.3.5 None of the 3G AGPs in Copeland were identified as World Rugby 22 (WR22) compliant at the time of assessment, however consultation with the RFU revealed that the AGP at St Benedicts High School has been recently re-tested and approved as WR22 compliant. Also, the 3G pitch at Lakes College (outside of the borough within Allerdale) is WR 22 compliant

4.3.6 Table 4.1 Illustrates that there are only two AGPs within Copeland that are not available for community use. These are the small-sided, sand based pitches at Bookwell Primary School and HMP Haverigg.

Table 4.1 – AGP audit

Site Name	Sub Area	Availability	Security of Use	Surface Type	Size (M)	Age of Surface	Flood -lit	Score	FA Registered	WR22 Compliant
BOOKWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL	North	Not Available	N/A	Sand Dressed	50x30	less than 2 years	No	78.49% - Standard	No	No
COPELAND BOWLS AND SPORTS CENTRE (CLEATOR MOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE)*	North	Available	Secured	Sand Dressed	100x60	5-10 years	Yes	40.00% - Poor	No	No
CUMBRIA SPORT ACADEMY	North	Available	Secured	3G	80x30	over 10 years	Yes	42.59% - Poor	No	No
EGREMONT RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Available	Secured	3G	36x20	over 10 years	Yes	64.81% - Standard	No	No
HMP HAVERIGG	South	Not Available	N/A	Sand Filled	47x32	over 10 years	Yes	47.31% - Poor	No	No
LAKES COLLEGE	Out of the borough	Available	Secured	3G	120x80	2-5 years	Yes	96.77% - Good	No	Yes
MILLOM SCHOOL	South	Available	Unsecured	Sand Filled	100x60	over 10 years	Yes	23.15% - Poor	No	No

Site Name	Sub Area	Availability	Security of Use	Surface Type	Size (M)	Age of Surface	Flood -lit	Score	FA Registered	WR22 Compliant
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Available	Secured	3G	60x42	over 10 years	Yes	55.56% - Standard	No	No
ST BENEDICTS HIGH SCHOOL	North	Available	Secured	3G	100x60	less than 2 years	Yes	94.62% - Good	Yes	Yes
WHITEHAVEN AFC	North	Available	Secured	3G	100x60	2-5 years	Yes	81.48% - Good	Yes	No

*The site scored in the lower end of the Standard category as part of the assessment, however consultation with England Hockey revealed that the pitch is no longer considered fit for purpose for match play by local leagues and is overdue a resurface, this is agreed by the Local Authority and GLL, managers of the site. Pitch rating has been updated to Poor

4.4 Demand

4.4.1 As part of consultations undertaken with Football, Rugby Union and Hockey clubs as part of the study, the following demand was identified as in taking place on artificial ground pitches.

Table 4.2: AGP demand – teams

Site Name		Pitch Type	Clubs Using the Site		
			Football	Hockey	Other
BOOKWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL	North	Sand Dressed	-	-	-
COPELAND BOWLS AND SPORTS CENTRE (CLEATOR MOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE)*	North	Sand Dressed	-	Western Lakes HC	-
CUMBRIA SPORT ACADEMY	North	3G	Moor Row Juniors FC	-	-
EGREMONT RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	3G	St Bees Athletic Gosforth FC Windscale FC	-	Egremont RUFC
HMP HAVERIGG	South	Sand Filled		-	-
LAKES COLLEGE	Out of the borough	3G	FC Cosmos Moor Row Juniors FC	-	Egremont RUFC
MILLOM SCHOOL	South	Sand Filled	-	-	-
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY	North	3G	-	-	St Benedict's RUFC

Site Name		Pitch Type	Clubs Using the Site		
			Football	Hockey	Other
UNION FOOTBALL CLUB					
ST BENEDICTS HIGH SCHOOL	North	3G	Cleator Moor Celtic FC Lowca Pirates FC Whitehaven Miners Social FC Windscale FC Moor Row Juniors Workington AFC	-	-
WHITEHAVEN AFC	North	3G	Gosforth FC Bransty Rangers Cockermouth Athletic Whitehaven AFC	-	-

4.5 Current supply and demand analysis

CURRENT SUPPLY AND DEMAND MODELLING – FULL SIZE 3G AGP PROVISION (FOOTBALL)

4.5.1 While Table 4.3 provides a capacity analysis for all AGP sites across the Study Area, further analysis is required to identify whether there are sufficient facilities to meet the demand, based on national parameters and calculations.

4.5.2 As part of the FA National Game Strategy, the Football Association has 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 show that a full size 3G AGP (available for community use at peak times) is required for 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).

4.5.3 Using the demand data for Copeland 155 teams have been identified as playing within the borough. Using the FA's suggested ratio of 1:38, this demonstrates the theoretical need for 4 full sized 3G AGPs.

4.5.4 Supply and demand data for the project identifies two 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 AGP's across the Study Area.

4.5.5 As demonstrated in table 4.1, there are two small-sided AGPs in the borough, which play a role in meeting local demand. Consultation with the FA has determined that small sided provision will not be taken into consideration for the analysis due to the following reasons:
- the range of use that small-sided AGPs cater for such as commercial 5aside leagues and pay &play;
- no guarantee that the club's younger sections would be able to access small-sided provision at the desired times;
- affiliated match play on 3G AGPs must take place on sites included in the FA 3G Register, whilst small-sided pitches may not be able to meet this requirement.

4.5.6 It should be noted that this theoretical analysis only includes full sized 3G AGP's, in line with the strategic objectives of the FA, Football Foundation and Sport England.

COMBINED SUPPLY AND DEMAND ANALYSIS

4.5.7 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.

4.5.8 To provide a more accurate picture of how AGP provision is currently being utilised, Table 4.2 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.

4.5.9 The data underpinning the table below has been compiled using the affiliated demand survey responses provided by local clubs, plus consultations with pitch providers as to the amount of spare capacity at their sites during peak times. The results of this process are provided below.

Table 4.3: Supply and demand analysis for all AGP provision (demand figures in hours and secured facilities identified in bold)

Site Name	Supply				Demand produced by Affiliated Clubs (in MES)							Supply and demand balance
	Surface Type	Size (M)	Floodlit	Total Peak-time Capacity	Football Match Demand	Football Training Demand	Hockey Training Demand	Hockey Match demand	Rugby Training Demand	Rugby Match demand	Formal Total Demand	
COPELAND BOWLS AND SPORTS CENTRE (CLEATOR MOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE)	Sand Dressed	100x60	Yes	34	-	-	2	2	-	-	4	30
CUMBRIA SPORT ACADEMY	3G	80x30	Yes	34	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	27
EGREMONT RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	3G	36x20	Yes	34	-	12	-	-	4.5	-	16.5	17.5
LAKES COLLEGE	3G	120x80	Yes	34	-	9	-	-	2	-	11	23
MILLOM SCHOOL	Sand Filled	100x60	No	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	3G	60x42	Yes	34	-	-	-	-	4.5	-	4.5	29.5
ST BENEDICTS HIGH SCHOOL	3G	100x60	Yes	34	0.5	30	-	-	-	-	30.5	3.5
WHITEHAVEN AFC	3G	100x60	Yes	34	4.5	9	-	-	-	-	13.5	20.5
Total – all available sites				**272**	**5**	**67**	**2**	**2**	**11**	**-**	**87**	**185**
Total – All secured sites				**238**	**5**	**67**	**2**	**2**	**11**	**-**	**87**	**151**
Total – full sized 3G pitches				**102**	**5**	**48**	**-**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**55**	**47**
Total – full sized sand-based pitches				**68**	**-**	**-**	**2**	**2**	**-**	**-**	**4**	**64**

4.6 Future supply and demand analysis

AGP FUTURE SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE

4.6.1 To understand the projected level of demand for 3G AGP's in Copeland across the lifetime of the project, the ratio of 1:38 has been applied to the additional demand identified in this needs assessment. This includes the additional 32 teams identified in the PPC and latent demand calculations from the football section up to the end of the Local Plan period (2035).

4.6.2 Using these updated parameters, it is projected that one (rounded from 0.84) new full sized 3G AGP will be required by the end of the local plan period in Copeland. This is to be considered along with meeting the current theoretical deficit of two AGPs highlighted as part of the current analysis.

4.6.3 Table 4.4 below breaks down this future demand by sub area, which will feed into the site-specific recommendations and actions. There may not be sufficient demand in any one area that equates to the provision of 1 new AGP. Further analysis is required to establish whether current AGPs have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional demand, or more detailed spatial analysis shows the need for a new AGP in a location that meets demand from a combination of sub areas.

4.6.4 It should be noted that the future supply and demand analysis considers only full sized 3G AGP's.

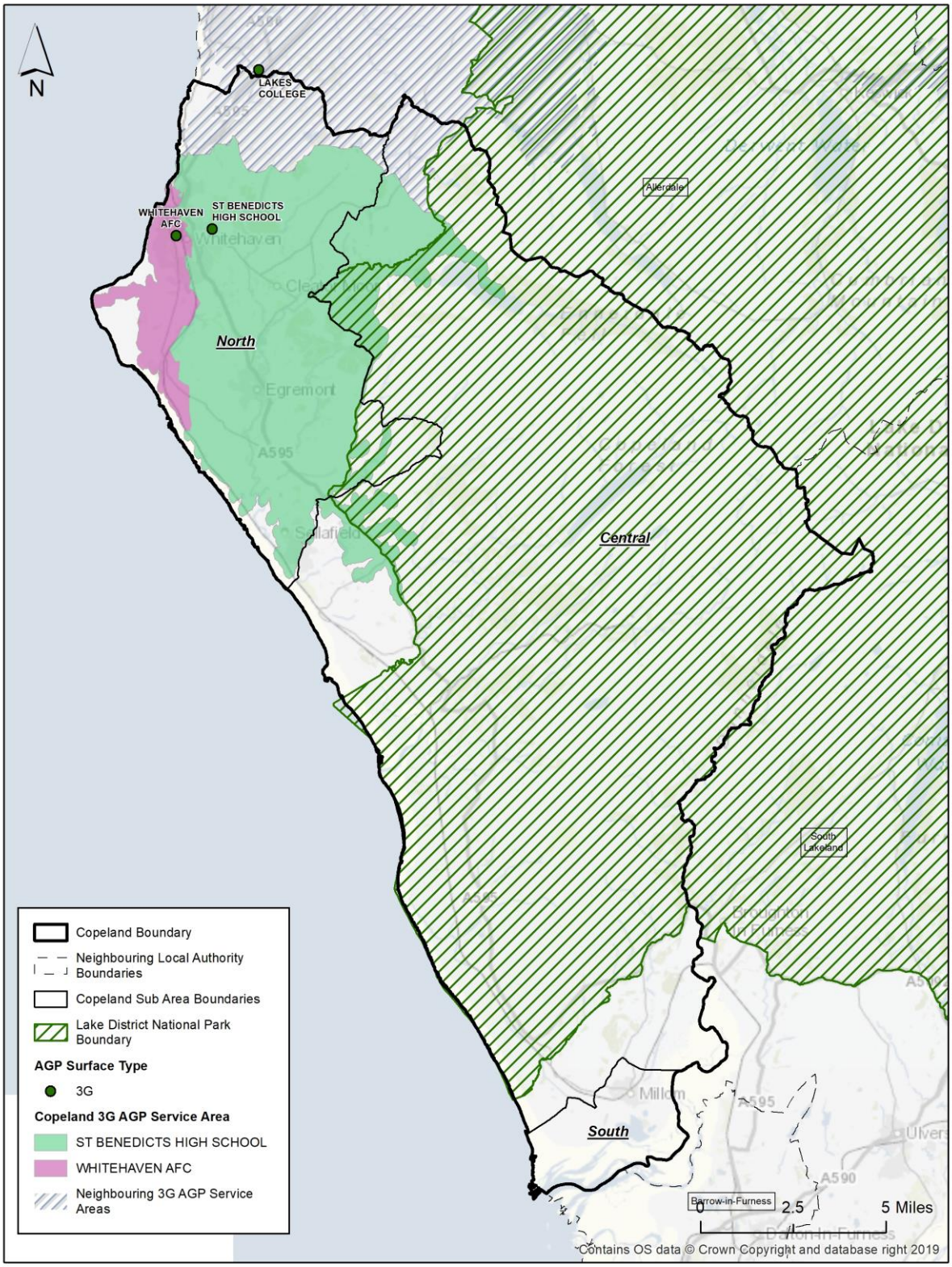
Table 4.4: Future Capacity Analysis for AGP's by sub-area

Sub Area	Total New Teams (Future)	New AGP Provision Required
North	24	0.64
Central	4	01
South	4	0.1
Copeland Borough (ALL)	32	0.84

4.6.5 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. Figures 4.1 and 4.2 overleaf show the catchment and service area analysis for 3G AGP's in Copeland, which can be used to assess the accessibility of full-size 3G AGP facilities across the Study Area.

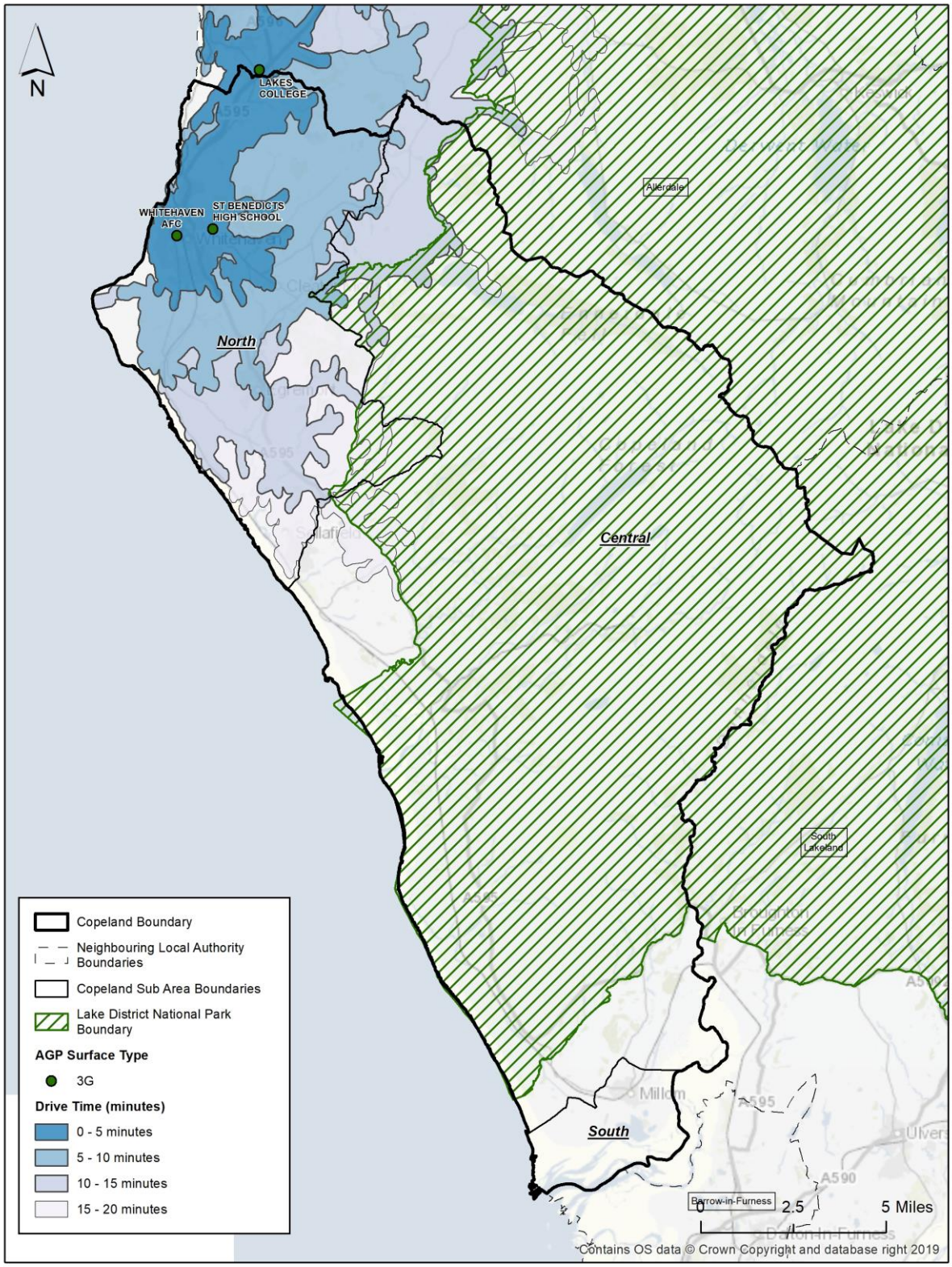
4.6.6 Figure 4.1 shows the 20-minute (non-overlapping) catchment areas for the two full-sized 3G AGP's in Copeland Study Area. This illustrates that the residents of the North sub-area are served (within a 20-minute drive time catchment) by the 2 full sized 3Gs in Copeland, as well as Lakes College (outside the borough). However, a large proportion of the Central sub-area and the South sub-area sit outside the catchment area and are not served by one.

Figure 4.1 – Full sized 3G AGP service area analysis for Copeland



Full size 3G AGP (100m x 60m and above) with community use availability service areas in Copeland (up to 20 minutes drive time)

Figure 4.2 – Full sized 3G AGP Catchment area analysis for Copeland



Full size 3G AGP (100m x 60m and above) with community use availability catchment areas in Copeland (20 minutes drive time)

MEETING THE CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMAND FOR 3G AGP FACILITIES ACROSS COPELAND

4.6.7 To meet the shortfall for both current and future 3G AGP supply and demand, the likely solution will be a combination of new 3G AGP development, resurfacing sand-based pitches and increasing the current level of usage at 3G AGP facilities across the study area. A key consideration when identifying potential development sites is meeting the current and future demands for Hockey to ensure that the current and future needs are being met, before identifying any sites for re-surfacing. It should be noted that any proposal to resurface an existing sand-based AGP to 3G must be discussed with England Hockey and Sport England.

4.6.8 A 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, 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.

4.6.9 In addition, it is key that other sports clubs have suitable access to 3G AGP facilities, to ensure that participants can train and play on high quality facilities and to reduce the amount of match cancellations caused by waterlogging on grass pitches.

4.6.10 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, rugby or lacrosse development programmes, including coach education and a recreational offer, using spare off-peak capacity to deliver this
- Be able to explore shared projects across multiple sports, education usage and additional community usage, in order to ensure facilities are used throughout the peak and off-peak periods.

4.7 AGP summary

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

4.7.2 Table 4.5 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 4.5 – Key PPS findings for AGPs in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	There are currently two full sized and three small sided 3G facilities, and two full sized and sand based facilities that are available to the community in Copeland. There are also two small sided sand based pitches, however these are not available for community use. The quality of AGP provision across the Study Area is standard and appears to have stayed at a consistent level over the past years. Consultation with local clubs also revealed that there is a need for additional 3G training facilities across Copeland.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	The current supply and demand analysis for secured and accessible 3G pitch provision shows that all facilities are currently well utilised some level of available pitch capacity. FA calculations based on current levels of demand indicate that there is a current theoretical deficit of two full sized 3G AGPs in Copeland.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	While a number of clubs and sites have identified issues regarding cost and availability of AGP provision, the quality of facilities and the robustness of maintenance regimes is standard. There are three AGPs within Copeland identified as Poor during site inspections, located at Cumbria Sport Academy, HMP Haverigg and Millom School. The highest scoring pitches are located at St Benedicts High School and Whitehaven AFC, which are also the most heavily used facilities.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	There is expected to be a need for one further full sized 3G AGPs within Copeland, in addition to the current theoretical deficit of two AGPs, by the end of the strategy. In line with the strategic objectives of the Football Foundation, FA, Sport England and the RFU, it is expected that the demand for 3G AGP provision will increase over the period of the local plan, as there is an ambition to improve the overall playing experience of participants by moving more grass-roots participation onto artificial surfaces.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand	**The future supply and demand analysis for secured and accessible pitch provision shows there is a significant total theoretical deficit for secured provision equivalents across all AGPs, equating to 3 full sized 3G AGPs** (2 for meeting existing demand and 1 for future demand, as explained in previous sections of the report) The areas of specific concern are the North sub area, where the largest team growth has been identified, and the South sub-area, where there is currently no 3G provision.

Section 5: Hockey analysis

5 Hockey analysis

5.1 Introduction and strategic context

5.1.1 In order to understand the overall objectives and priorities of England Hockey, an analysis of key recent strategies and documentation has been undertaken and summarised below.

ENGLAND HOCKEY FACILITIES STRATEGY (2017)

5.1.2 In 2017 England Hockey published the latest facilities strategy for the sport, which replaces the previous 2012 edition and aims to help every hockey club in England work towards having appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Vision: For every hockey player in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

5.1.3 The club market for hockey is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result, only a few occasional teams lie outside of the EH affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

5.1.4 England Hockey has the ambition of growing participation by 10,000 adults and 32,500 children. To enable this, the following three objectives have been highlighted;

- **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision.** EH currently has over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities). We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country
- **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively).** The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
- **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain.** This might include consolidation hockey provision in a local area where appropriate. Research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered at one site.

5.1.5 Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 5.0: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	**Essential** International Hockey - Training and matches	**Desirable** Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	**Essential** Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	**Desirable** All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	**Essential** All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	**Essential** None	**Desirable** Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

5.1.6 For senior hockey teams, a full sized pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

5.1.7 It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

5.2 Supply

5.2.1 Copeland has two sites that have full size sand or artificial grass pitches that are suitable for competitive hockey.

5.2.2 All club play from the only hockey club in Copeland is accommodated at one of these two sites.

5.2.3 As part of the PPS, each site that is suitable for hockey has been assessed by an independent research team and scored according to England Hockey's facilities framework contained within the 2013 Sport England Playing Pitch Guidance. Table 5.1 below provides a summary of the quality assessments for all hockey suitable sites in the Study Area, with assessments undertaken at two key sites.

Table 5.1 – Quality overview for hockey facilities in Copeland

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type and Size	Floodlit	Pitch assessment score	Availability	Security of Use	Year built	Year resurfaced
CLEATOR MOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE	North	Sand Dressed (100x60)	Yes	40.00% - Poor*	Available	Secured	1995	2013
MILLOM SCHOOL	South	Sand Filled (100x60)	No	23.15% - Poor	Available	Unsecured	2006	N/A

*The site scored in the lower end of the Standard category as part of the assessment, however consultation with England Hockey revealed that the pitch is no longer considered fit for purpose for match play by local leagues and is overdue a resurface, this is agreed by the Local Authority and GLL, managers of the site. Pitch rating has been updated to Poor.

5.2.4 Table 5.2 indicates that both hockey AGPs in Copeland are available for community use, however only one has secured long-term community access and it has been deemed not fit for purpose.

5.3 Demand

CURRENT DEMAND

5.3.1 There is one hockey club using hockey facilities in Copeland. Western Lakes Hockey Club has only 2 junior teams and is based at Cleator Moor Activity Centre. The scale of the club is demonstrated by Table 5.3, which shows the club profile by age group and gender.

Table 5.3 – Membership data for Hockey in Copeland

Hockey club	M 5-10	F 5-10	M 11-13	F 11-13	M 14-16	F 14-16	M 17-18	F 17-18	M 19-21	F 19-21	M 22-25	F 22-25	M 26-35	F 26-35	M 36-45	F 36-45	M 46+	F 46+	Total
Western Lakes HC	6	1	3	2	4	2	2	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	33

5.3.2 The tables below highlight how the two hockey teams across Copeland creates demand for AGP match and training hours throughout the week.

Table 5.4 – Match demand for hockey in Copeland

	Number of teams	Competitive hours required		
		Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Senior teams (16-65)	0	-	-	-
Junior/Mini teams (5-15)	2	-	-	2

Table 5.5 – Training demand for hockey in Copeland

	Number of teams	Training hours required		
		Weekday	Saturday	Sunday

Senior teams (16-65)	0	1	-	-
Junior/Mini teams (5-15)	2	1	-	-

KEY CLUB CONSULTATION

5.3.3 To develop a greater understanding of the need for hockey in Copeland, consultation was undertaken with the Western Lakes HC – the only hockey club in the study area – with a summary provided in the table below.

Table 5.6 – Key club consultations in Copeland

Club	Consultation Summary
Western Lakes Hockey Club	The club currently plays at the AGP that is located at Cleator Moor Activity Centre. The membership base is made up of 22 juniors and 11 adult members. Despite having 11 adult members, the adult section does not typically play competitive games as they often do not have enough players and members may play for other clubs. The adult section is predominantly a training only section. A lot of the juniors go and play at other clubs because they don't have an adult team. The club feel that the current facility at Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre is of an inadequate standard. There isn't sufficient bunding of the pitch and so a lot of silt is washed onto the pitch when it rains, so it is often very slippery and dangerous. The club feel that the pitch surface needs replacing. The floodlighting is also a safety hazard, as previous high winds have caused the glass to shatter and fall onto the pitch. In terms of the equipment provided by GLL, a local football team used to play on the pitch and have broken the net out of the hockey frame so the goals are now in a poor condition. There are also no dedicated changing facilities. The club have not used the site for competitive hockey or a tournament for two years because of the pitch. The club feel that the poor quality of the site means that they struggle to grow the club and instead the club has become a feeder to other clubs. This is emphasized by the fact that 5 years ago, the club had nearly 100 members and so has experienced a large decline. The nearest alternative facility that could possibly facilitate the club is in Cockermouth (Cockermouth School – 14.6 miles driving distance), yet this is not accessible for the majority of the club members. The club feel that a move to a new site would be most beneficial to the club as they feel that they are being forced out of the venue due to political pressure for a 3G surface. England Hockey and the Football Foundation / Cumberland FA are working together to remedy this situation.

IMPORTED AND EXPORTED DEMAND

5.3.4 No imported or exported hockey demand was identified in Copeland as part of the study:

5.4 Supply and demand balance

PEAK TIME CAPACITY ANALYSIS

5.4.1 To calculate whether there is any spare capacity at hockey sites in the Study Area, Table 5.7 shows the supply and demand figures for community use hockey facilities in Copeland. This table contains demand (in hours) from competitive matches as well as training required by local clubs (including Football training).

5.4.2 In order to assess the availability of hockey facilities at peak times, it has been assumed that the period of highest demand for hockey matches is on a Saturday. As identified in the AGP section of this report, no formal football demand was registered at sand-based facilities.

Table 5.7 – Supply and demand balance for hockey in Copeland

Site name	Supply (hours)			Demand (Hours: training and matches)			Balance (hours)		
	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun
CLEATOR MOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE	18	8	8	2	0	2	16	8	6
MILLOM SCHOOL	0*	8	8	0	0	0	0	8	8

*Millom School: weekday peak-time capacity has been set as 0 due to the lack of fit for purpose floodlighting identified as part of consultation.

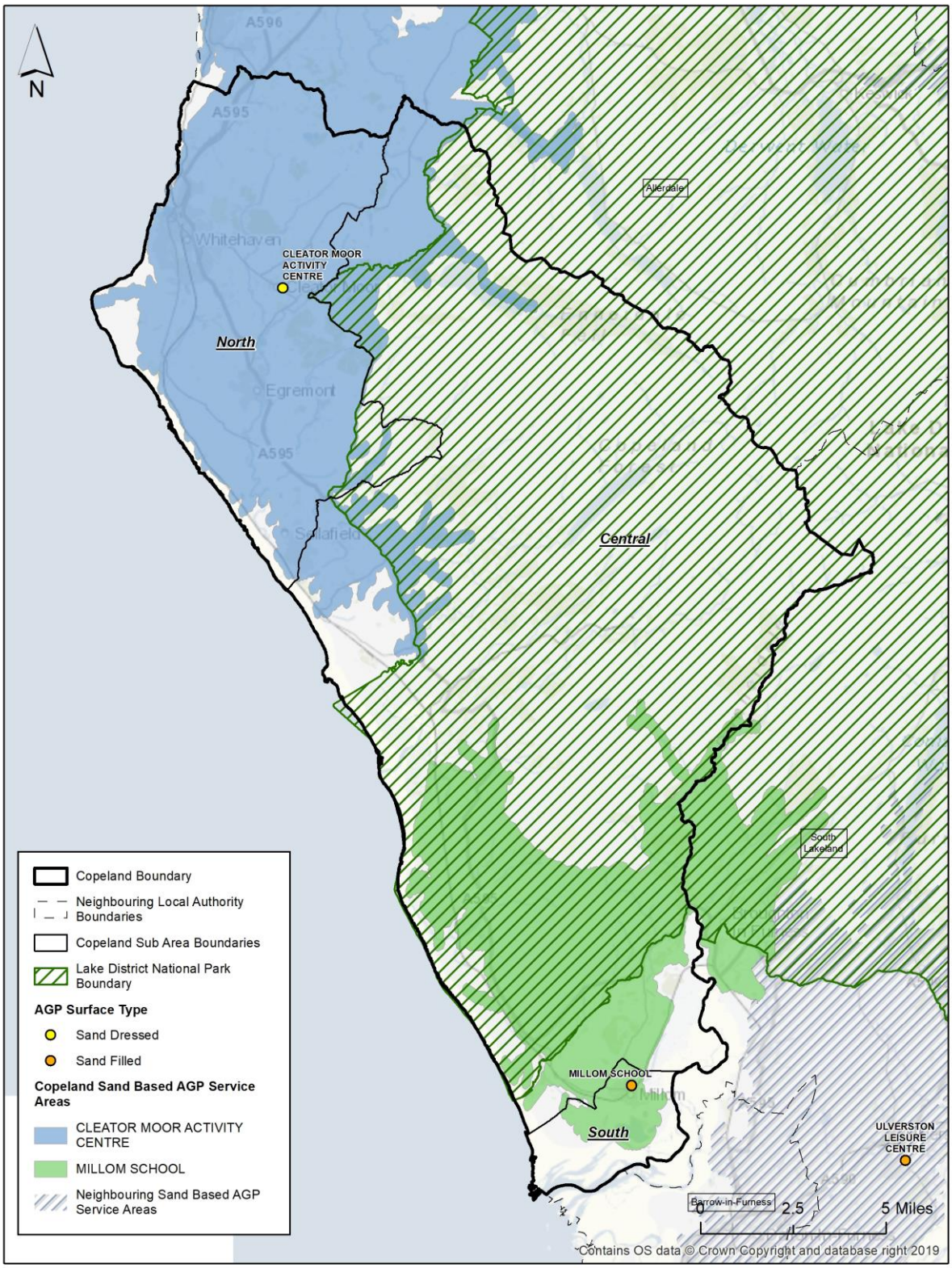
5.4.3 Table 5.7 illustrates that there is sufficient capacity at Cleator Moor Activity Centre to accommodate current levels of demand. However, consultation with England Hockey and site users Western Lakes HC revealed that the pitch is no longer considered fit for purpose for match play and is due a resurface.

5.4.4 No formal club demand was identified at Millom School, and the facility also scored very poorly as part of the assessment, with damage to the surface, poor lighting and currently unsuitable for competitive use.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE – SPATIAL ANALYSIS

5.4.5 Figure 5.1 overleaf provides a spatial analysis of full-size sand based AGP's in the Study Area in order to assess whether the current provision of 'strategic' hockey facilities meet the needs of the local residents. These maps also include full size AGP's from neighbouring local authorities, as there is a significant potential export of demand if the facilities in neighbouring local authorities are an attractive offer for residents, with facilities that are more suitable for example. The coloured areas show the unique catchment area of each of the AGP's, which indicates the closest AGP, within 20-minute drive time, for local residents.

Figure 5.1 – Spatial analysis and cross –boundary demand for sand-based AGP's in Copeland, all AGP data from Active Places Power (Sport England)



Full size sand based AGP (100m x 60m and above) with community use availability service areas in Copeland (up to 20 minutes drive time)

5.5 Site by site analysis - protection, enhancement and provision

5.5.1 Table 5.8 provides a justification for how the all AGP's used for hockey should be Protected, Enhanced or Provided.

Table 5.8 – Site by Site Analysis for Hockey

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Type and Size	Quality rating	Peak time balance (Weekdays)	Peak time balance (Saturdays)	Peak time balance (Sundays)	Key Issues
CLEATOR MOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE	North	Sand dressed (100x60)	40.00% - Poor	16 hours of spare capacity	8 hours of spare capacity	6 hours of spare capacity	The site is used by Western Lakes HC, who have 2 junior sides playing and training from the site, as well as adult members training only. The site scored in the lower end of the Standard rating as part of the assessment, however consultation with England Hockey and the Council revealed that the pitch is in poor condition and no longer fit for purpose for match play, with an urgent need for resurfacing. Club consultation also revealed that the floodlights are a health hazard, as previous high winds have caused the glass to shatter and fall onto the pitch, and there are no dedicated changing facilities on site. In addition to this, there isn't sufficient bunding of the pitch and so a lot of silt is washed onto the pitch when it rains, so it is often very slippery and dangerous. The club also stated that they feel that they are being forced out of the venue due to political pressure for a 3G surface on site, and England Hockey and the Football Foundation / Cumberland FA are currently working together to remedy this situation.
MILLOM SCHOOL	South	Sand filled (100x60)	23.15% - Poor	No spare capacity due to the lack of fit for purpose lighting	8 hours of spare capacity	8 hours of spare capacity	No formal hockey demand was recorded as part of the study, however the AGP is used by pupils of the school for recreation and physical activity. The pitch on site was identified as poor, it was installed 13 years ago and never resurfaced. There is a lot of damage on one corner where the drainage system leads to an accumulation of silt and sand during times of rainfall due to no drainage being put in properly by initial contractors. The floodlights have also had to be taken down 12 months ago due to issues from the same contractors (the floodlights were not properly installed and were at risk of collapse). The fencing around the AGP is also in very poor condition with one side bending and gaps in the fence. There has never been any hockey use on this pitch, despite being a sand based AGP and the School stated in consultation that they want to change this surface to a 3G AGP and are looking for potential grants to do so.

5.6 Future demand

5.6.1 Having reviewed the current demand for pitches within the Study Area, the report will now move to review the projected future demand for Copeland.

FUTURE DEMAND DRIVEN BY POPULATION GROWTH

5.6.2 To calculate the future demand for hockey in the Study Area, the study has utilised Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC)[4]. The PPC uses the following factors to determine future provision need; existing population; the number of teams in each age category; the peak-time distribution of demand; the growth trends for each age/gender group; and, the projected change in participation rate.

5.6.3 Full guidance regarding the methodology behind the calculator is available via the Sport England tool Active Places Power[5] (authorisation may be required to access this tool). Please note that the future additional need for pitches indicated below is on the assumption that all future demand generated will be required to be met by additional (new) pitches. In reality it may be that this could be met by the existing pitch stock (this will be tested below).

Table 5.9: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator future projections for hockey Provision in Copeland

DATA INPUT		PPC OUTPUT
Current Population	68,400	
Projected Growth	+5,988	
Projected Future Popn.	74,388	

	Current				Future ADDITIONAL need			
Age / Gender Group	Population of Group	Number of teams	% of participation in the peak period*	% change in participation	Number of teams generated by the new population PLUS any change in demand	Additional match demand in match equivalent sessions per week (MES)	Additional training demand in match equivalent sessions per week (MES)	Additional pitches required
Adult Men (17-55yrs)	16,062	0	100%	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Adult Women (17-55yrs)	16,133	0	100%	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Youth Boys (14-16yrs)	1,074	1	100%	0%	0.07	0.04	0.01	**0.02**
Youth Girls (14-16yrs)	1,039	1	100%	0%	0.07	0.04	0.01	
Youth Boys (11-13yrs)	1,174	0	100%	0%	0.00	0.00	0.01	

[4] https://www.activeplacespower.com/reports/playing-pitch-calculator

[5] https://www.activeplacespower.com/reports/playing-pitch-calculator/download

	Current				Future ADDITIONAL need			
Age / Gender Group	Population of Group	Number of teams	% of participation in the peak period*	% change in participation	Number of teams generated by the new population PLUS any change in demand	Additional match demand in match equivalent sessions per week (MES)	Additional training demand in match equivalent sessions per week (MES)	Additional pitches required
Youth Girls (11-13yrs)	1,043	0	100%	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Mini Mixed 5-10yrs)	4,557	0	100%	0%	0.00	0.00	0.01	

5.6.4 The above table demonstrates that, due to the low current levels of demand, the population projection in Copeland is to lead to an insignificant increase in demand for hockey, with a total requirement of 0.02 additional pitches identified as part of the PPC.

5.6.5 It can therefore be concluded that no additional demand is expected to be generated in Copeland as a result of population change during the lifespan of the Local Plan to 2035.

DEMAND DRIVEN BY LATENT DEMAND

5.6.6 While a large amount of future demand will typically 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 hockey.

5.6.7 Through consultation with Western Lakes HC, the club revealed that they currently have 11 adult members training only, and it is believed that if better facilities were available, they would potentially be able to field an adult team in the future and attract back further demand to the site.

5.7 Capacity Analysis

5.7.1 The following section contains the summary capacity analysis for hockey in Copeland. This takes into consideration the current position for hockey, as well as a potential future analysis, incorporating any additional future demand identified as part of this study.

Table 5.10: Summary of capacity balances for hockey (all in hours)

Analysis	Notes	Supply (Hours)			Demand (matches + training in hours)			Balance (supply minus demand)		
		Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun
1. All secured sites	This includes all secured sites and their capacity	15	8	8	2	0	2	13	8	6
2. All available sites	If demand displaced out of the area came back in.	30	16	16	2	0	2	28	16	14
3. All secured sites; FUTURE analysis	As above, but including the projected growth in demand	15	8	8	2	1	2	13	7	6

5.7.2 As highlighted above, the analysis shows sufficient capacity at secured hockey sites in Copeland. This is projected to stay consistent in the future, with only a minor increase in adult demand identified as part of latent demand analysis.

5.7.3 However, it must be highlighted that the quality of provision was identified as very poor as part the study, and is considered to be unsuitable to host competitive hockey. The improvement of existing facilities is therefore urgently required in order to satisfy current and future demand from local residents.

5.8 Hockey Summary

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

5.8.2 Table 5.11 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 5.11 – Key PPS findings for hockey in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	There are two hockey sites in Copeland: Cleator Moor Activity Centre ad Millom School. Both facilities are available to the community, however Millom School was identified as unsecured for long-term use. There is only one hockey club in Copeland, Western Lakes HC, who currently have 2 junior teams and an adult section that trains only, and utilises Cleator Moor Activity Centre as home provision. The number of members at Western Lakes Hockey Club has declined from over 100 members 5 years ago which is reported to relate to the decline in the quality of the facilities at Cleator Moor Activity Centre.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	One of the two hockey pitches in Copeland (Millom School) lacks security of long term community access, however the analysis shows that there is sufficient secured capacity at Cleator Moor Activity Centre to satisfy the very low current levels of demand. It must be highlighted that are located approximately 30 miles from each other (50 minute journey drive time). Western Lakes HC have expressed during consultation that a move to a different site would be most beneficial to the club as they feel that they are being forced out of the venue due to political pressure for a 3G surface. England Hockey and the Football Foundation / Cumberland FA are working together to remedy this situation.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	The quality of hockey facilities in Copeland is very poor, with both sites scoring poorly as part of the assessment and being identified as unsuitable for competitive hockey following consultation with England Hockey and Western Lakes HC. The quality of surface and floodlighting at both sites was identified as poor and in need of replacement.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	Future demand for hockey in Copeland is not projected to change through population growth, and very little latent demand was identified as part of the study (potentially one new adult team). However, the number of members at WLHC has declined over the last 5 years, reportedly due to the poor facilities available at Cleator Moor Activity Centre, and if better facilities were available then members may return. Furthermore, it is important to recognize that the sport has also enjoyed significant growth since the Women's gold medal at the Rio Olympics, which it is hoped will stimulate further growth at both junior and adult age groups across the country.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand	Future capacity analysis indicates that over the lifetime of the Local Plan period (2035), there is expected to be sufficient capacity to satisfy hockey demand, provided that at least one of those sites remains available for hockey. However, in order to allow this, the improvement of existing facilities is urgently required.

6 Rugby Union Analysis

6.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

6.1.1 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 June.

RFU STRATEGIC PLAN (2017-2021)

6.1.2 In October 2017, the RFU published its strategic plan, with the overall objective of being England's strongest sport, underpinned by good governance and regulation, as well as increased investment in the game to drive elite performance and community participation.

6.1.3 The following key areas of focus are particularly relevant for this strategy;

- **Protect our clubs**: Support clubs to protect themselves against risks to sustainability in the key areas of leadership, facilities and finances. Support clubs to meet all their statutory and regulatory obligations
- **Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches**: Install and manage strategically placed Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) nationwide, increasing playing opportunities for the 15- a-side game and other variants in communities where natural turf pitches are significantly overused. Improve access to rugby in non-traditional and urban areas
- **Engage new communities in rugby**: Increase female player numbers, with more teams and matches, expansion in the education environment and transitioning more players to clubs
- **Grow the grass-roots game**: Increase the number of active male and female (14+) 15-a-side teams by 10%. Increase the number of 15-a-side matches played by 20%. Increase the number of active rugby union players by 10%.

6.1.4 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.

RFU FACILITIES STRATEGY (2014-2018)

6.1.5 The RFU published its Facility Strategy (2014) for the next four years. The strategy includes the following relevant objectives and priorities relevant to the PPS:

- The core aims of the RFU are to create effective and efficient facilities, management and governance along with community integration
- Facility priorities include improving changing provision, natural turf pitch quality, AGPs and floodlighting for both matches and training. These affect commercial opportunities within community clubs.

ENGLAND RUGBY WOMEN AND GIRLS ACTION PLAN (2017-2021)

6.1.6 As part of the four-year strategic plan summarised above, England Rugby has launched the women and girls action plan for the next four years. The plan recognises the significant growth in the female game over the last four years and sets out a plan for the next four years to continue to grow the number of women and girls engaging in rugby.

6.1.7 There are currently 512 women and girls' teams in England and 27,500 existing players, however by 2021 England Rugby wants to growth these numbers, engaging 100,000 females in rugby and converting 25,000 of those into new players.

6.1.8 It is key that the future supply and demand analysis considers this growth and provides appropriate facilities and opportunities for women and girls to play rugby at clubs across Copeland.

6.2 Supply

QUANTITY OVERVIEW

6.2.1 There are 10 sites in Copeland comprising 16 pitches, all of which are Senior sized. 5 of these sites currently accommodate community Rugby Union use. The ownership of the rugby sites across the study area is shown in Table 6.1 by the number of pitches, to reflect the significance of each ownership and management type.

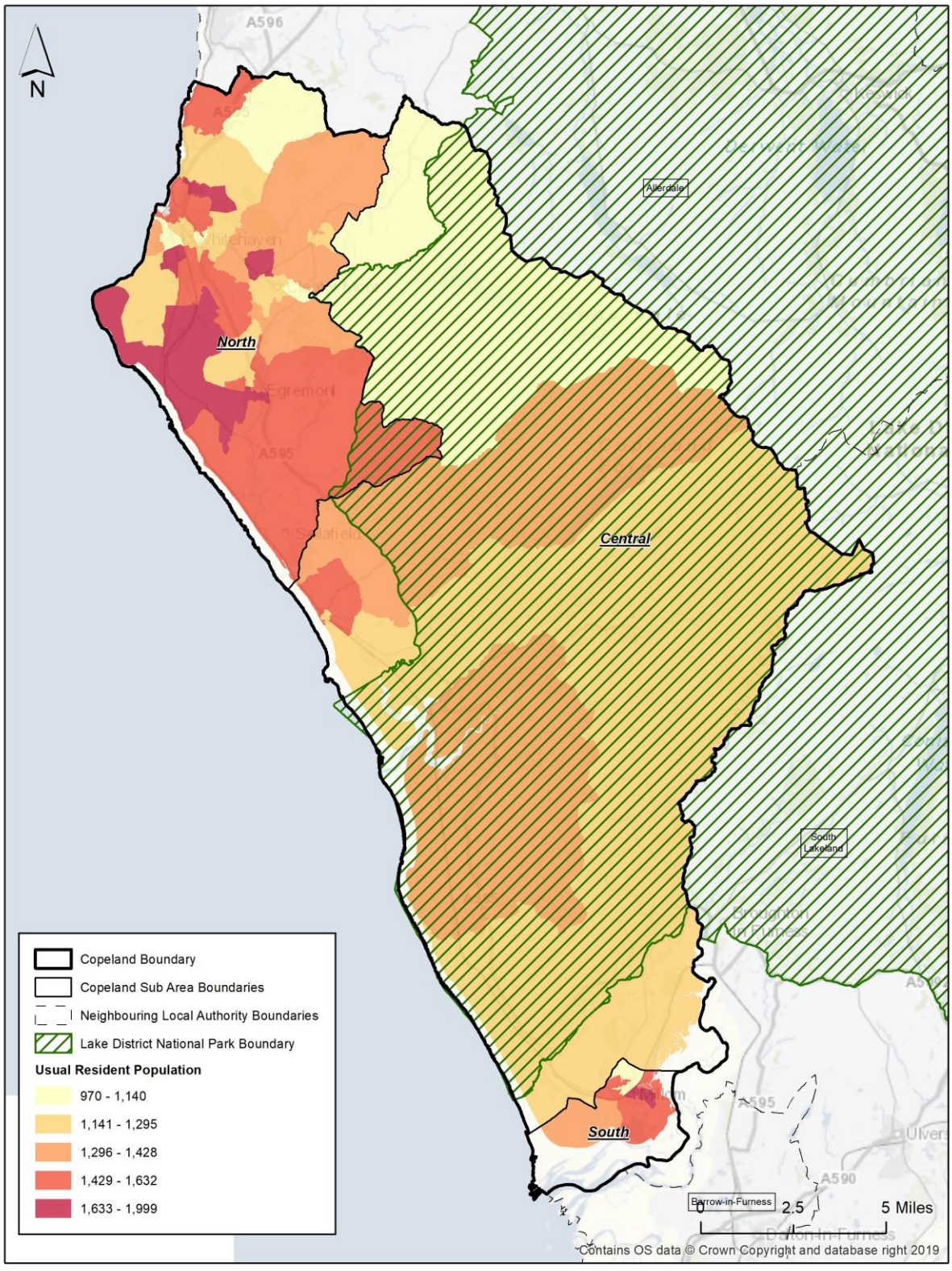
Table 6.1: Ownership of Rugby Sites in Copeland

Sub-category	Ownership	Management
Club	6	7
Education	5	9
Private	2	0
Local Authority	3	0

6.2.2 Table 6.1 shows that Club sites dominate the ownership and management of rugby union pitches in Copeland. Only two sites (3 pitches) is owned by the Local Authority.

6.2.3 Figure 6.1 shows the geographic location of the rugby pitches across the study area and illustrates that the current supply is predominately in the North sub-area, with two sites in the South sub-area and no rugby provision within the Central sub-area.

Figure 6.1: Rugby Pitch Audit in Copeland



Usual resident population by lower super output area in Copeland (2020)

6.2.4 Table 6.2 provides a breakdown of the rugby sites in Copeland.

Table 6.2: Rugby Site Breakdown of Security and Community Use

Site Name	Pitch Type	Pitch Name	Community Use	Community Access	Drainage - Score	Maintenance - Score	Pitch Capacity (MES)	Floodlit?
EGREMONT RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Secured	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	11 – Good (M2)	3.5	No
MILLOM RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Secured	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	7 – Standard (M1)	3	Yes
	Senior Rugby Union	2	Available	Secured	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	7– Standard (M1)	3	No
MILLOM SCHOOL	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Unsecured	Natural inadequate (D0)	7 – Standard (M1)	1.5	No
	Senior Rugby Union	2	Available	Unsecured	Natural inadequate (D0)	7 – Standard (M1)	1.5	No
MORESBY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Secured	Natural inadequate (D0)	5 – Poor (M0)	0.5	No
ST BEES SCHOOL	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Unsecured	Natural adequate (D1)	11 – Good (M2)	3	Yes
	Senior Rugby Union	2	Available	Unsecured	Natural adequate (D1)	11 – Good (M2)	3	Yes
ST BENEDICT'S HIGH SCHOOL	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Unsecured	Natural adequate (D1)	6 – Standard (M1)	2	No
ST BENEDICT'S HIGH SCHOOL	Senior Rugby Union	2	Available	Unsecured	Natural adequate (D1)	6 – Standard (M1)	2	No

Site Name	Pitch Type	Pitch Name	Community Use	Community Access	Drainage - Score	Maintenance - Score	Pitch Capacity (MES)	Floodlit?
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Secured	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	13 – Good (M2)	3.5	No
THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Unsecured	Natural adequate (D1)	6 – Standard (M1)	2	No
	Senior Rugby Union	2	Available	Unsecured	Natural adequate (D1)	6 – Standard (M1)	2	No
WEST LAKES ACADEMY PLAYING FIELDS	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Unsecured	Natural adequate (D1)	5 – Poor (M0)	1.5	No
WHITEHAVEN RUGBY CLUB	Senior Rugby Union	1	Available	Secured	Pipe drained (D2)	7 – Standard (M1)	2.5	No
	Senior Rugby Union	2	Available	Secured	Pipe drained (D2)	7 – Standard (M1)	2.5	No

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

6.2.5 Each site was visited and assessed by 4global using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFU. Site visits were undertaken in 2019. The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality analyses two key elements; the maintenance programme and level of drainage.

6.2.6 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 6.3: Rugby Pitch Maintenance Quality Assessment Specifications

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

Table 6.4: Rugby Pitch Drainage Quality Assessment Specifications

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

6.2.7 These scores are then combined to provide a match equivalent capacity, as calculated in Table 6.5 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.

Table 6.5: Match Equivalent Calculation

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (MO)	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

6.2.8 Table 6.6 summarises the quality assessment results for those sites currently available to the community.

Table 6.6: Pitches by Match Equivalent Calculation

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	1	2	-
Natural Adequate (D1)	1	4	2
Pipe Drained (D2)	-	2	-
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	-	2	2

6.2.9 Across all pitches, 4 pitches (25%) are recorded as receiving ‘good’ maintenance. The majority of pitches (62.5%) were identified as having ‘standard’ maintenance, and only 2 pitches were considered to be ‘poor’, these are the senior pitches at Moresby RUFC and West Lakes Academy Playing Fields..

6.3 Demand

CURRENT DEMAND

6.3.1 This section covers the demand for rugby union pitches produced by the community.

6.3.2 Five clubs have been identified as playing in Copeland. Their home-grounds and the number of competitive teams they field is detailed in Table 6.7.

Table 6.7: Profile of clubs in Copeland

Club	Sub-area	Home Ground	Adult Teams	18-19 Colt Teams	Junior Teams (U12-17)	Mini / Midi Teams (U7-U11)	Totals
Egremont Rugby Union Football Club	North	Egremont Rugby Union Football Club	1	0	3	5	9
Millom Rugby Union Football Club	South	Millom Rugby Union Football Club	1	0	3	0	4
Moresby Rugby Union Football Club	North	Moresby Rugby Union Football Club	1	0	0	0	1
St Benedict's Rugby Union Football Club	North	St Benedict's Rugby Union Football Club	1	0	3	5	9
Whitehaven RFC	North	Whitehaven Rugby Club	2	0	0	5	7
Copeland			**6**	**0**	**9**	**15**	**30**

6.3.3 Table 6.7 shows that there are a total of 30 rugby teams in Copeland. Egremont RUFC and St Benedict's RUFC are the largest clubs in the area, providing junior and adult rugby for a total of 9 teams respectively, followed by Whitehaven RFC have 7 teams.

UNMET AND LATENT DEMAND

6.3.4 In addition to the existing demand, the study also seeks to identify where existing current demand is not being fulfilled. The 2013 Sport England Methodology prescribes that this should be done through the identification of demand that is unmet, or latent. The definitions of these terms can be found below:

- Unmet demand is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.
- 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 who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

6.3.5 The table below captures the levels of unfulfilled demand in the Study Area:

Table 6.8: Latent or Unmet Rugby Union Demand in Copeland (teams)

Club Name	Adult		Junior		Mini	Total	Reason(s)
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls			
Egremont Rugby Union Football Club	1	-	2	-	-	**3**	The club have a development plan which includes advertising, engagement with primary and secondary schools, school festivals, etc. to

							continue developing their youth section. They expect to add three new teams in coming years.
St Benedicts RUFC	1	-	1	-	2	**4**	The club have plans to add an adult team and three youth/mini, however additional training facilities are required to allow this. The club currently utilise artificial pitches for training and it was stated that these need improving, and some sort of lighting to allow larger area to train on, (playing area) is also needed.
Copeland	**2**	**-**	**3**	**-**	**2**	**7**	

6.3.6 The table above shows there is a fairly significant amount of unfulfilled demand in the Study Area, with a total of 7 teams not fulfilled.

DISPLACED DEMAND

6.3.7 During consultations with clubs, each were asked if they had any demand that they could not accommodate at their home sites and were therefore, forced to use facilities outside of the area.

6.3.8 Although no displaced demand was raised by clubs, consultation with the RFU revealed that they have a development programme at Lakes College (outside the study area) and Copeland clubs access the site for training, as well as a weekly touch rugby programme (a total of 2hs of usage per week).

6.4 Future Demand

6.4.1 Having reviewed the current demand for pitches within the Study Area, the report will now move to review the projected future demand for Copeland.

FUTURE DEMAND DRIVEN BY POPULATION GROWTH

6.4.2 To calculate the future demand for rugby in the Study Area, the study has utilised Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC). The PPC uses the following factors to determine future provision need; existing population; the number of teams in each age category; the peak-time distribution of demand; the growth trends for each age/gender group; and, the projected change in participation rate.

6.4.3 The future demand is an estimate and does not take into account local factors such as spatial distribution, changes in participation rates and the impact of projects. The results have been used within the Strategy to help inform recommendations on how best to meet any additional demand for football pitches. Please note that the future additional need for pitches indicated below is on the assumption that all future demand generated will be required to be met by additional (new) pitches. In reality it may be that this could be met by the existing pitch stock (this will be tested below).

Table 6.9: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator future projections for Rugby Provision in Copeland

DATA INPUT		PPC OUTPUT
Current Population	68,400	
Projected Growth	+5,988	
Projected Future Popn.	74,388	

	Current				Future ADDITIONAL need			
Age / Gender Group	Population of Group	Number of teams	% of participation in the peak period*	% change in participation	Number of teams generated by the new population PLUS any change in demand	Additional match demand in match equivalent sessions per week (MES)	Additional training demand in match equivalent sessions per week (MES)	Additional pitches required
Senior Men (19-45yrs)	10,110	6	100%	0%	**0.44**	**0.22**	**0.22**	
Senior Women (19-45yrs)	10,128	0	100%	0%	**0.00 (1*)**	**0.00**	**0.00**	
Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	2,120	9	100%	0%	**0.73**	**0.36**	**0.36**	**0.72**
Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	2,022	0	100%	0%	**0.00 (1*)**	**0.00**	**0.00**	
Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	4,551	15	100%	0%	**1.09**	**0.14**	**0.27**	

6.4.4 Table 6.9 illustrates that a total of 3 (rounded of from 2.25) teams are likely to be generated in Copeland through population change by the end of the Local Plan period to 2035.

6.4.5 The highest projected growth is expected in the Mini/Midi age group, followed by Youth Boys. It must be highlighted, however, that there is not sufficient demand projected in Youth and Adult age groups to generate one full team.

6.4.6 Utilising the current demand for rugby in each of the sub areas and how each of the sub-areas is projected to grow, table 6.10 provides an estimation of how the growth of demand is likely to be allocated across the three sub areas. It must be highlighted that there is currently no rugby supply or demand in the Central sub-area and therefore it is assumed that no new teams will be generated in this area. However, it is assumed that residents of the Central sub-area that wish to play rugby currently travel to the North or South sub-areas to access provision.

Table 6.10: Project change in demand by sub area

	North	Central	South
Senior Men (19-45yrs)	0.3	0	0.14
Senior Women (19-45yrs)	0.67	0	0.33
Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	0.48	0	0.24
Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0.67	0	0.33

Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	0.73	0	0.36
Total	**2.85**	**0**	**1.41**

6.4.7 The table shows that the North band sub-area is projected to see the majority of the demand growth across the Study Area (67%), with the remaining 33% of the growth expected in the South sub-area.

6.4.8 There is currently no demand for rugby in the Central sub-area, and therefore no projected new demand generated through population change.

6.4.9 While the PPC does not project growth in female senior or junior teams due to the lack of current demand, it should be noted that one the RFU's key strategic objectives is to increase female participation, with potential investment leading to a growth in demand.

GROWTH OF FEMALE RUGBY

6.4.10 *The future growth in female rugby is calculated using a ratio of future growth to existing team numbers. Due to the current lack female teams in Copeland, there is no projected growth in female rugby identified by the PPC. Given the strategic priority of England Rugby (RFU) to increase women and girl's rugby across the country, a projected increase of one senior women's team and one junior girls team has been added to the future growth projections, which aligns to the overall target of increasing team numbers by 350 across England over the next four years.

6.5 Supply and Demand Balance

OVERPLAY AND SPARE CAPACITY

6.5.1 To calculate whether there is any total spare capacity at rugby sites in Copeland, Table 6.11 shows the supply and demand figures across the Study Area.

6.5.2 As part of the analysis supply data is filtered to show those sites that are used by rugby clubs for training and matches. This excludes education sites as these can give a false impression of capacity as they are used by school teams whose demand is not included as part of this survey and the pitches are usually unavailable at peak times due to this usage. This exercise allows only those sites that are part of the existing community supply to be analysed in terms of existing and projected future capacity. As such, all demand has been calculated from community clubs only.

6.5.3 Supply and demand are measured in match equivalent sessions (MES). The Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy guidance document states that demand should be calculated as:

- 1 team playing a home match every fortnight (due to alternating fixtures) can be said to produce 0.5 MES of match demand per week.
- 2 teams undertaking a single training session is calculated as 1 match equivalent per week. The true training demand for clubs has been calculated from the club consultations and survey feedback.

6.5.4 It is common for junior and mini demand to be played on senior match pitches. When mini demand is placed on a senior pitch (due to lack of min supply) this is calculated at 25% of senior match equivalents (MES). This is shown in the column titled “Unmet Mini Demand Placed on Senior Match Pitches.” The purpose of the table is to give a complete picture of the rugby sites in Copeland, show where demand is placed and demonstrate the effect of this demand.

6.5.5 Training pitches are those identified as taking the majority of midweek training demand. These are removed from match supply if found to be over capacity and, in cases where there is additional capacity, any positive balance is carried into match supply. In those cases where there is no permanent flood-lighting but the club run midweek training at a site, it is assumed that the club are using temporary floodlighting on the pitches.

Table 6.10: Site by Site Capacity Analysis for Rugby Sites

Site	Sub-area	Number of Floodlit Pitches	Security	Mid-Week Floodlit Training			Weekend Match Day Senior/ Junior			Weekend Match Day Mini			Unmet Mini Demand Placed on Senior Match Pitches (25% of Senior MES)	Total Match Pitch Balance
				Supply	Demand	Balance	Supply	Demand	Balance	Supply	Demand	Balance		
EGREMONT RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	0	Secured	0	9	-9	3.5	2	1.5	0	0	0	1	-8.5
MILLOM RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	South	1	Secured	3	4	-1	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	3
MORESBY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	0	Secured	0	1	-1	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	-1
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	0	Secured	0	1	-1	3.5	2	1.5	0	0	0	1	-0.5
WHITEHAVEN RUGBY CLUB	North	0	Secured	0	3	-3	5	1.5	3.5	0	0	0	1	-0.5

6.5.6 Table 5.10 demonstrates that Egremont RUFC, Moresby RFC, St Benedict’s RFC and Whitehaven Rugby Club are currently operating over capacity, which is mainly caused by the lack of floodlit training provision at these sites.

6.5.7 As identified during site and club consultation, the provision of additional floodlights is required in order to increase training capacity and contribute to addressing the current issue of overplay. The displacement of some training demand to the AGP at St Benedict’s School (recently re-tested as WR22 compliant) is also recommended.

.

6.6 Site by Site Summary

6.6.1 Table 6.12 details the balance of pitch supply and formal demand from clubs in the area. All sites have been included with their availability and security of use listed alongside.

6.6.2 There is also a measure of peak period capacity where by each pitch has a predetermined number of match slots. Peak time capacity is as follows: senior pitches are available for senior men's and colt teams on Saturday afternoon for 2 match slots and Sunday morning for junior and women's teams for 2 match slots. Junior pitches are available on Sunday morning to mini teams for 2 match slots. Capacity is factored into these calculations and can limit the peak time capacity.

6.6.3 Education demand is captured as part of the survey. Where schools reported that they had spare capacity to accommodate community demand and had a desire to open their facilities for community use, this spare capacity is captured. Where schools stated that there is either no spare capacity or that there is no balance on educational sites has been adjusted to factor in school use. This should result in a fair representation of the balance of supply and demand in the area from a community use perspective. The balance is measured in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES).

Table 6.12: Site by Site Analysis of Rugby Sites in Copeland

Site Name	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity (MES)	Community Pitch Match Demand (MES)	Balance (MES)	Site summary
EGREMONT RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Available	Secured	1x Senior	3.5	12	-8.5	The site is home to Egremont RUFC, who have 1 adult and 9 junior teams playing from the site. The senior pitch on site was identified as of good quality as part of the assessment, and the club are currently undertaking a £91,000 project to install a pipe drainage system, which started in April 2019 and expected completion is August 2020. Club consultation revealed that to support the club's extensive youth development programme, the development of a 4G pitch in the Egremont area is required.
MILLOM RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Available	Secured	2x Senior	6	3	3	The site is home to 1 adult and 3 junior teams from Millom RUFC. The pitches on site were identified as of standard quality and have no drainage issues,

Site Name	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity (MES)	Community Pitch Match Demand (MES)	Balance (MES)	Site summary
							which is helped by the sand base that they're built on. One of the pitches has floodlights, however these are not fit for purpose and it is one of the club's priorities to improve these. The ancillary facilities were identified as being of poor quality and in need of refurbishment. It was also revealed in consultation that there are not enough changing rooms available when the site is at capacity and the football and rugby clubs on site have aspirations to extend these.
MILLOM SCHOOL	Available	Unsecured	2x Senior	3	0	3	No formal club demand was recorded at the site, however it is used by pupils of the school for PE and other physical activity. There are two senior rugby pitches on site, which scored in the lower end of the standard rating and suffer from considerable issues with drainage. This issue is compounded by the park run that takes place every week across the pitches. There is also a sand-based AGP no site that the school would like to convert to 3G and are currently seeking funding for this.
MORESBY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Available	Secured	1x Senior	0.5	1.5	-1	The club has 1 adult team and is at the heart of its community, being the only community hub in the village of Moresby, which has no pub or village hall. The club house has been recently refurbished and is of good quality, however the club has a small prefabricated building that houses a fitness room, which was identified as very small and not in the greatest condition. The club's main facility priority for the clubhouse is to refurbish the changing rooms and the showers, which are small and not in an appealing state. On the pitch, the club's main issue is the drainage of the main field. The club has installed its own drainage (with some support from the RFU) to address this but it is a still an

Site Name	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity (MES)	Community Pitch Match Demand (MES)	Balance (MES)	Site summary
							issue on certain parts of the ground.
ST BEES SCHOOL	Available	Unsecured	2x Senior	6	0	6	The site is available to the community, however no formal club demand was recorded at the site. It is used by pupils of the school for school matches, PE and other physical activity. Both pitches on site are floodlit and were rated as Good as part of the assessment. No priority areas for enhancement/investment were identified.
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Available	Secured	1x Senior	3.5	4.5	-1	The site is home to the club's 9 teams, including 1 adult, 3 juniors and 5 minis. The clubhouse was identified as small and in need refurbishment as part of the assessment, particularly in the changing rooms and club room. There is an all-weather pitch on site, which was built in 2009 and club consultation revealed that it is in poor condition and requires resurfacing. The installation of floodlights to allow training on grass is also required.
THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY	Available	Unsecured	2x Senior	4	0	4	The site is available to the community, however no formal club demand was recorded at the site. It is used by pupils of the school for school matches, PE and other physical activity. There are two senior pitches on site, with adequate drainage and maintenance, and no enhancement requirements were identified at the site as part of the study.
WEST LAKES ACADEMY PLAYING FIELDS	Available	Unsecured	1x Senior	1.5	0	1.5	No formal club demand was recorded at the site, however it is used by pupils of the school for PE and other physical activity. The senior pitch on site was identified as Poor as part of the assessment and an improved and more robust maintenance regime is required.
WHITEHAVEN RUGBY CLUB	Available	Secured	2x Senior	5	5.5	-0.5	The site is home to the club's 2 adult and 5 mini teams. There are two senior pitches on site, both of which are pipe drained and

Site Name	Availability	Security of Use	Pitch supply	Pitch capacity (MES)	Community Pitch Match Demand (MES)	Balance (MES)	Site summary
							adequately maintained. Consultation with club officers was not possible on site and no priority areas for investment were identified.

6.7 Future Balance

6.7.1 The following section provides a summary of the current view of capacity, as well as analysis on how future supply and demand will change the balance in the area. Table 6.13 takes into consideration sites that are currently used by community clubs only, whilst table 6.14 includes all available rugby sites across Copeland.

6.7.2 It is important to consider that even the high estimate of projected demand may be low considering the potential growth of female rugby and/ or the impact of any future participation campaigns from the RFU.

6.7.3 Assumptions about the demand placed on pitches from future teams are as follows:

- A senior team will train twice per week generating 1 MES training demand. They will play 1 home game every other weekend generating 0.5 MES demand on senior pitches
- A junior team (U13 and up) will train once per week generating 0.5 MES training demand. They will play 1 home game every other weekend generating 0.5 MES demand on senior pitches
- A mini team will not generate midweek training demand. They will play 1 home game per week generating 0.5 MES demand on junior pitches.

Table 6.13: Current and Projected Future Capacity Balance of Rugby Sites in Copeland (club sites only)

Site	Provision Type	Current (all in MES)			Future (all in MES)		
		Spare Capacity	Overplay	Balance	Playing Pitch Calculator	Latent/Unmet	Balance
North sub-area	Training	2.5	13	-10.5	2.5	3.5	-16.5
	Senior Match Pitch	6.5	3	3.5	1.5	3.5	-1.5
South sub-area	Training	0	1	-1	1	0	-2
	Senior Match Pitch	4	0	4	1	0	3
Copeland	**Training**	**2.5**	**14**	**-11.5**	**3.5**	**3.5**	**-18.5**
	Senior Match Pitch	**10.5**	**3**	**7.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**1.5**

6.7.4 Table 6.13 shows that there is some overplay of training pitches across Copeland, resulting in an overall deficit of training provision of 11.5 match equivalents in the current position. This is projected to worsen significantly when including projected future demand in the analysis, with a projected deficit by 2035 of 18.5 match equivalents.

6.7.5 The overall balance for match provision in the current position shows some amount of spare capacity (7.5 match equivalents), with all community club facilities in Copeland having some level of spare capacity, with the exception of Moresby RUFC and Egremont RFC (the club have no option for improvements following the recent pitch works and improved maintenance programme). It must be highlighted, however, that given the high level of overplay for training and the fact that most of this demand is likely taking place on match pitches, it can be considered that club sites in Copeland are currently operating near or at capacity.

6.7.6 When projected demand is added to the existing balance, the area as a whole is considered to be operating severely over capacity for training and almost at capacity for match provision, with a spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalents projected. It should be noted that a large proportion of future demand relates to latent demand identified by clubs, which may be overambitious.

Table 6.14: Current and Projected Future Capacity Balance of Rugby Sites in Copeland (all available sites)

Site	Provision Type	Current (all in MES)			Future (all in MES)		
		Spare Capacity	Overplay	Balance	Playing Pitch Calculator	Latent/Unmet	Balance
North sub-area	Training	8.5	13	-4.5	2.5	3.5	-10.5
	Senior Match Pitch	22	3	19	1.5	3.5	14
South sub-area	Training	0	1	-1	1	0	-2
	Senior Match Pitch	7	0	7	1	0	6
Copeland	**Training**	**8.5**	**14**	**-5.5**	**3.5**	**3.5**	**-12.5**
	Senior Match Pitch	**29**	**3**	**26**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**20**

6.7.7 Table 6.14 shows that, when including all available sites in the analysis, the level of overplay of training pitches is reduced both in the current and future positions, and the amount of spare capacity for match provision is significantly increased.

6.7.8 It must be highlighted that the balances reflected in table 6.13 are a more realistic representation of the current and future scenarios, as generally rugby clubs prefer to focus meeting their needs on club sites even if capacity is available on school sites to avoid club fragmentation.

6.8 Rugby Union Summary

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

6.8.2 Table 6.15 includes the response to 5 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 6.15: Key PPS Findings for Rugby Union in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	Across all rugby provision in the study area, there are 10 sites in Copeland comprising a total of 16 senior pitches, with no junior pitches present. 5 of these sites currently accommodate community rugby union from local clubs. The ownership of sites is dominated by Club sites, followed by Education and Local Authority sites. Demand is produced by 5 clubs, with a total of 30 teams (6 senior and 24 junior/mini) identified across Copeland. The largest clubs in the area are Egremont RUFC and St Benedict's RUFC, with 9 teams respectively, and Whitehaven RUFC with 7.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	All sites currently used by local rugby clubs were identified as secured for long term use. The analysis shows a large deficit of floodlit training provision in the current picture, with some level of spare capacity for match provision, however due to a high level of training overplay potentially taking play on match pitches, it can be considered that club sites in Copeland are overall operating near or at capacity. Egremont RUFC, Moresby RUFC, St Benedict's RUFC and Whitehaven were identified as currently operating at or over capacity and consultation with local clubs revealed that additional training facilities and the provision of additional floodlighting to allow greater training capacity are required.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	The vast majority of pitches across Copeland (87.5%) were identified as Standard or above as part of the assessment, with only 2 pitches scoring as Poor, and it can therefore be concluded that the quality of rugby provision across the study area is generally adequate. The top scoring pitches are the senior pitches at Egremont RUFC and St Benedict's RUFC, both of which and pipe and slit drained. The pitch at Moresby RUFC was identified as poor, however the club are currently undertaking development works to install a pipe drainage system. Ancillary facilities are considered to be in need of improvement, with a number of clubs such as Moresby, Millom and St Benedict's highlighting the need for refurbishment works as part of consultation.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	Overall there is projected to be 3 (rounded up) additional teams produced in the area via population growth as identified as part of the PPC analysis. The main areas of growth caused by population change is at youth and mini age groups, and an additional 2 female teams were also included as part of the analysis, in line with the RFU's priority to increase female participation across the country. In addition to the growth caused by population change there is also some additional change from unfulfilled demand in the Study Area (latent and unmet demand). The combined figure for unfulfilled demand reported by clubs was 7 additional teams, including 2 adults and 5 juniors. The level of supply is likely to stay consistent for grass pitch provision, however the pitch improvement plans in place at a number of sites and the recent re-testing of the AGP at St Benedict's High School as WR22 compliant, the match and training capacity across the area is likely to be increased.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	The future demand for rugby is projected to increase slightly across the Study Area, with the current deficit for training provision likely to increase further over the lifetime of the Local Plan. Further floodlighting at existing sites, and access to the additional AGP facilities is required to meet the current and future needs of local residents. Match provision appears to be sufficient in both the current and future positions and there is not sufficient evidence to justify the provision of additional pitches in Copeland.

7 MUGA, BMX and Skateparks Analysis

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This section provides greater detail of the existing strategies that are current priorities for Multi-Use Game Areas (MUGAs), BMX and Skate Parks. Following this, the supply and demand section of this report evaluates the adequacy of facilities for netball and considers:

- The supply of sites and demand for these
- The quality of sites in Copeland
- Recommendations moving forward.

Strategic Priorities for Sport England

7.1.2 In 2013, Sport England released their Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport Guidance6. The strategy has been designed to optimize the provision of all such outdoor playing facilities whether they are in new or existing schools, local parks, sports clubs or part of a large regeneration project. Sport England believes that good facilities are fundamental to developing sporting opportunities for everyone, from the youngest beginner to the international class athlete. Outdoor sports facilities, whether large or small, can encourage civic pride and assist the process of revitalising deprived neighbourhoods. The guidance lays out 6 main advantages of artificial surfaces over natural grass:

- Greater durability
- More efficient use of space
- Increased usage
- Flexibility
- Better overall value for money
- Detailed performance characteristics

7.1.3 Critical to the success of any sports facility is an assessment of the likely use of the facility and the ability of a location to meet the strategic and local sport's needs. The choice of sports and the feasible balance between accessibility quality is important to the success of any facility.

7.1.4 The base for a MUGA is normally a porous engineered construction consisting of two courses of open-textured bituminous macadam laid above a graded stone 'sub-base' foundation. This form of construction has gained acceptance due to its ability to offer the greatest possible level of stability to the final surface, resisting frost heave and spreading surface loading. In addition, it is simpler to replace or upgrade the surface of the MUGA when the need arises

Wider Context

7.1.5 This assessment aims to provide a complete hierarchy and network of MUGAs and other outdoor facilities to identify what areas of the Study Area are being served by individual sites.

7.1.6 In order for these sites to be successful it its recommended the maximum walking time should be 20 minutes from homes.

7.1.7 A hierarchy of provision of sites will need to be adopted and priorities established which should reflect local need/demand, shortfalls in provision. In terms of a MUGA hierarchy this will be based upon the rating system established by our site assessors and through consultations. The facilities at the top of this hierarchy will be sites which best suit the needs of the local community.

7.1.8 A MUGA needs to accommodate several different sports and activities. Most commonly, played sports on MUGA's are football, basketball, netball, cricket, tennis. There is inevitably a need for compromise by some sports about the playing surface, as certain surface types are more suitable than others for different sports.

[6] Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport Guidance - https://super.sportengland.org/media/4536/artificial-surfaces-for-outdoor-sports-2013.pdf

Accessibility of Sites

7.1.9 Accessibility is especially important when applied to MUGA, BMX and Skate Park sites due to the typical demographic that use the site. Instead of drive times, which is typical for other sporting facilities, the analysis should have a focus on walk time and community accessibility in terms of local housing numbers.

7.2 Supply

7.2.1 The following section will detail the supply of outdoor MUGA, BMX and Skate Park facilities in Copeland.

7.2.2 Table 7.1 provides a full overview of all sites identified as being available for use by the community. It includes a summary of the notes from the site visit and a quality score.

Table 7.1: MUGA, Skate Parks and BMX Supply in Copeland

Site	Type	Post Code	Availability	Notes	Quality
BLACK COMBE JUNIOR SCHOOL	MUGA	LA18 5DT	Not available	The site has a tarmac-surfaced MUGA and play area containing line markings for netball and football, and it is not floodlit. It is used by pupils of the school only and not available to the wider community.	Standard
BOOKWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL	MUGA	CA22 2LT	Not available	There are two non-floodlit MUGAs on site. The smaller one (20x14) is marked out for netball and the larger one is fenced and marked out for netball, football and tennis, as well as a four-lane athletics track. The site is for private use from the school only and not available to the wider community.	Standard
BOOTLE AFC	BMX	LA19 5UL	Available	No site information.	Standard
EGREMONT SKATE PARK	Skate Park	CA22 2DY	Available	Egremont skatepark is made up of metal ramps on a tarmac base. The skatepark is made up of a back and forth run with a quarter pipe and flat bank either side of a funbox.	Standard
ENNERDALE RECREATION GROUND	MUGA	CA23 3AR	Available	There is a 35x18 tarmac-surfaced MUGA on site, which is not floodlit and has line markings for tennis and netball, as well as basketball hoops. The surface and fencing appear to be in good condition and there is adequate access to the site, however parking capacity is very limited.	Good
FRIZINGTON RECREATION GROUND	MUGA	CA26 3QF	Available	There is a 20x10 tarmac-surfaced MUGA on site, with adequate fencing and line markings for basketball (as well as hoops). The MUGA is not floodlit and appears to be Standard condition.	Standard
GOSFORTH COE PRIMARY SCHOOL	MUGA	CA20 1AZ	Not available	There is a 25x13 MUGA on site with line markings for netball, football and basketball. It is not floodlit and used only by pupils of the school.	Standard
GOSFORTH PLAYING FIELD	MUGA	CA20 1AH	Available	There is a non-floodlit MUGA on site (30x13), which has provision available for football and basketball, aside of the grass provision (football and cricket). The facility is of good quality, with no damage or litter present.	Good
HENSHINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL	MUGA	CA28 8QZ	Not available	The site is not available to the community and used only by pupils of the school. There is a non-floodlit MUGA (35x26) on site, which is in standard condition and contains football line markings and goals.	Standard
KIE SKATEPARK	Skate Park / MUGA	CA28 8SR	Available	Kie Park Skatepark is a concrete plaza style skatepark with bowl. It was built by Wheelscape in May 2016 and it is of good quality. In addition to this, there is a small, non-floodlit MUGA on site with provision for football and basketball.	Good
MILLOM PARK	MUGA	LA18 4JA	Available	There is a 45x37 MUGA on site that is in adequate condition and contains appropriate fencing and line markings for two separate tennis courts and a basketball court and hoops (also separately). Access to the site is good, however there are no dedicated parking facilities.	Standard

Site	Type	Post Code	Availability	Notes	Quality
MILLOM SCHOOL	MUGA	LA18 5AD	Not available	The site has a large MUGA (45x35) containing line markings for three tennis and two netball courts (overmarked on the tennis courts). The MUGA is not floodlit and it is used only by pupils of the school.	Standard
MONTREAL COE PRIMARY SCHOL	MUGA	CA25 5LW	Not available	There is a small MUGA on site with line markings for football and netball that is not floodlit or available to the wider community. Additionally on site there is a larger MUGA with an astro surface, containing line markings for tennis and netball.	Standard
MOOR ROW PRIMARY SCHOOL	MUGA	CA24 3JW	Not available	There is a non-floodlit, 26x18 MUGA on site with netball line markings. This is not available to the community and only used by pupils of the school.	Standard
SEASCALE SPORTS HALL	BMX	CA20 1PZ	Available	Seascale Pump Track is a BMX track built to national competition standard by the Downhill Dragon Crew and it is a replica track of the Bryn Bach Pump Track. There are tracks for both novice and experienced riders, with bumps and ramps, and the track has tarmac corners.. Next to the Pump Track is a bowling green, cricket field, play area and sports hall.	Good
ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	MUGA	CA22 2BD	Not available	The site has a MUGA and pay area approximately 40x18 metres, including line markings for netball. This is not floodlit and only available for use of the school's pupils.	Standard
ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	MUGA	LA3 2 ER	Not available	The site has a non-floodlit MUGA and play area with line markings for netball. It is of adequate quality and not available to the wider community.	Standard
THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY	MUGA	CA28 8TY	Not available	There are two MUGAs on site, a larger one (55x33) containing line markings for three separate tennis courts, overmarked with netball, and a smaller one (32x17) with basketball hoops. They are not floodlit and line markings and surface quality appear to be poor on both MUGAs.	Poor
THORNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL	MUGA	CA22 2SJ	Not available	There is a 23x13 MUGA on site that contains line markings for netball and football. It is not floodlit and used by pupils of the school school, but not available to the wider community.	Standard
VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY	MUGA	CA28 8DA	Not available	There is a small (22x15) MUGA on site that is not floodlit and marked out for netball. The court is available for school use only.	Standard
WEST LAKES ACADEMY	MUGA	CA22 2DQ	Available	There are two good quality, floodlit MUGAs on site (72x35 and 50x30). The larger one is fenced and contains line markings for a total of four netball/basketball courts, as well as football goals, and the smaller ones provides for 3 netball courts. The facility is owned by the academy and it is available for access by local sports clubs and the wider community.	Good
WHINLATTER ROAD	MUGA	CA28 8ER	Available	There is a 20x12 tarmac-surfaced MUGA on site that is not floodlit and provides basketball and football provision. The facility has a low fence and is available for access by the community. It appears to be in good condition with no damage to the surface or the fencing.	Good

Site	Type	Post Code	Availability	Notes	Quality
WHITEHAVEN (LOWCA) BMX TRACK	BMX	CA28 6QA	Available	No site information.	Standard
WHITEHAVEN SKATE PARK	Skate Park	CA28 6AX	Available	Whitehaven skatepark is a simple park made up of metal ramps on a tarmac base. It features a mini ramp and next to this is a back and forth run made up of two facing quarter pipes with a spine in the middle and further aside to these are a funbox, rail and bench.	Standard
WORKINGTON SKATE PARK	Skate Park	CA14 4EA	Available	Hidden amongst the trees in Curwen Park is Workington skatepark, a mainly transitions focused park made up of concrete obstacles with some street elements thrown into the mix. On the back side there is a mini ramp with a perpendicular quarter pipe coming off one of the platforms. This is the end part of a back and forth run which is comprised of a funbox with a hubba and starts with a series of flat banks with rails and ledges. On the opposite side to these is a corner block with two perpendicular flat banks and a line of rails leading off one of them. This a great local park with some obstacles that are not too challenging making it perfect for beginners to learn the basics. There are some nice lines here but the arrangement is very back and forth based.	Good

7.2.3 Table 7.1 illustrates that there are 7 MUGAs, 4 Skate Park and 3 BMX facilities available to the community in Copeland. These are spread across 25 sites with 1 site (Kie Skatepark) offering provision of both types (Skatepark and MUGA). There are also 12 MUGAs that are located at educational establishments and not available to the wider community.

7.2.4 In terms of quality, 7 of the sites (28%) achieved a 'good' rating, 17 (68%) were rated as 'standard' and only 1 site (4%) was given a 'poor' rating.

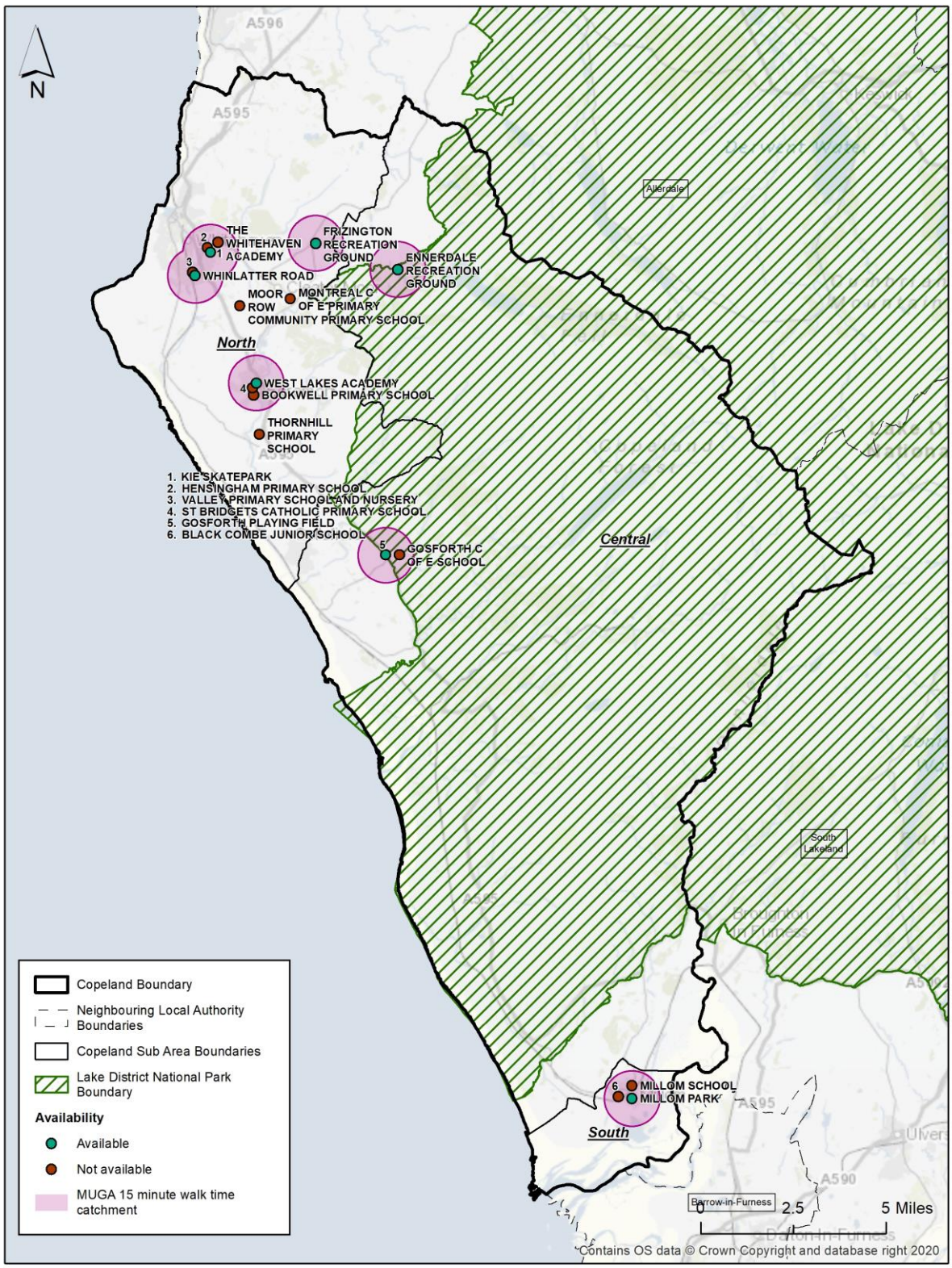
7.3 Walk Time Analysis

7.3.1 When calculating the potential population that would use a MUGA, BMX or Skate Park facility a walk time catchment was created. Walk time catchments were favoured over drive times due to the nature of these facilities and what portions of the population tend to access the facilities. Typically, a younger population (7-17 years old's) would tend to access MUGA sites so will not have access to a car and as a result will have to walk to these sites.

7.3.2 For each one of the available MUGA sites a walk time catchment of 15 minutes has been calculated using GIS analysis and the coordinates of each site. These catchment areas were calculated to show accessibility to these sites in terms of walk time.

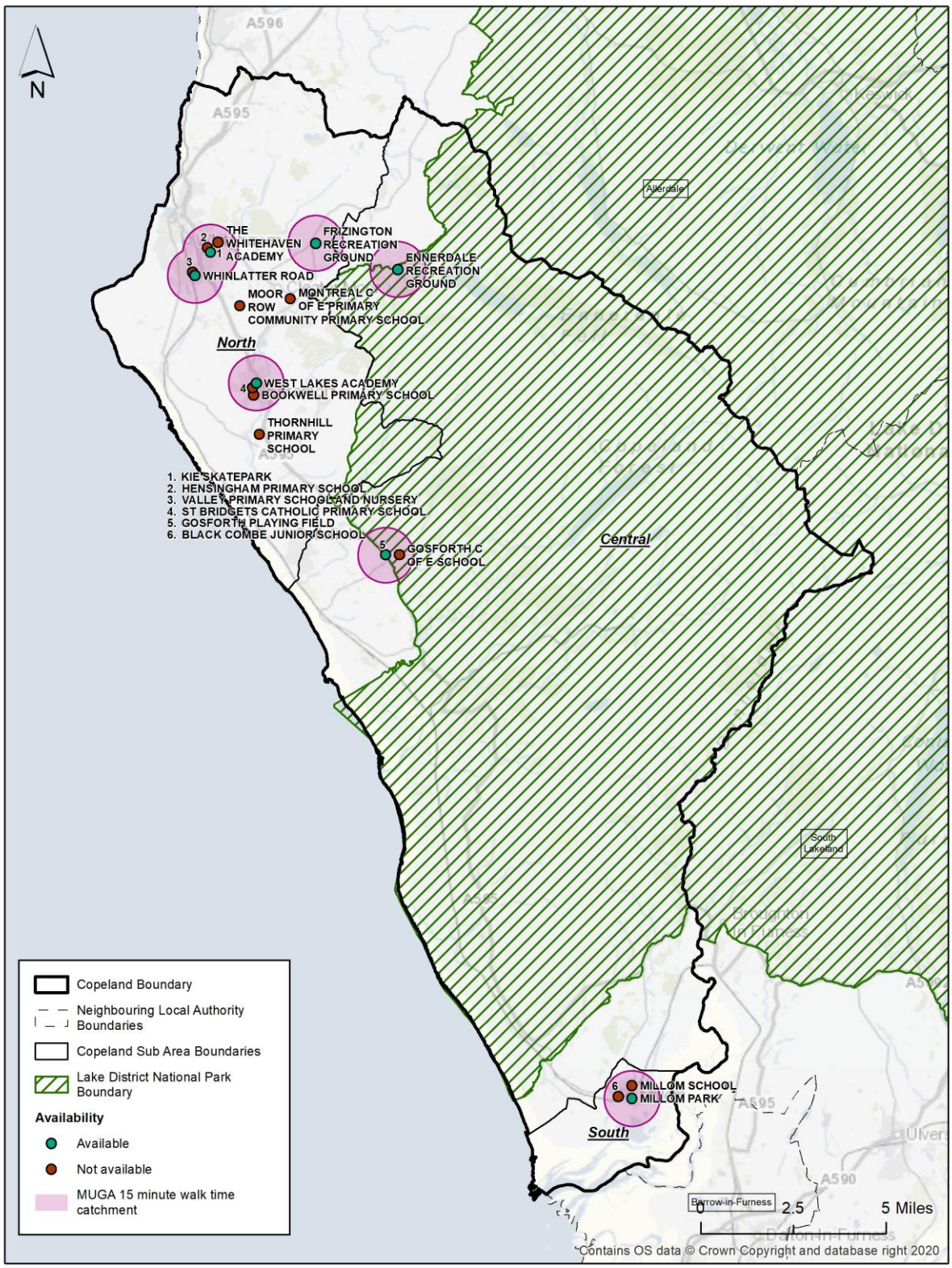
7.3.3 Figures 7.1 to 7.3 show walk time catchments for available MUGA, Skatepark and BMX facilities. The majority of the sites (of all three types) are centered around most densely populated areas, of the borough, with only 4 facilities located within the Lake District National Park boundary. All skatepark facilities are located within the North sub-area and there are no BMX facilities in the South sub-area.

Figure 7.1: Available MUGA sites with waking catchment areas in Copeland



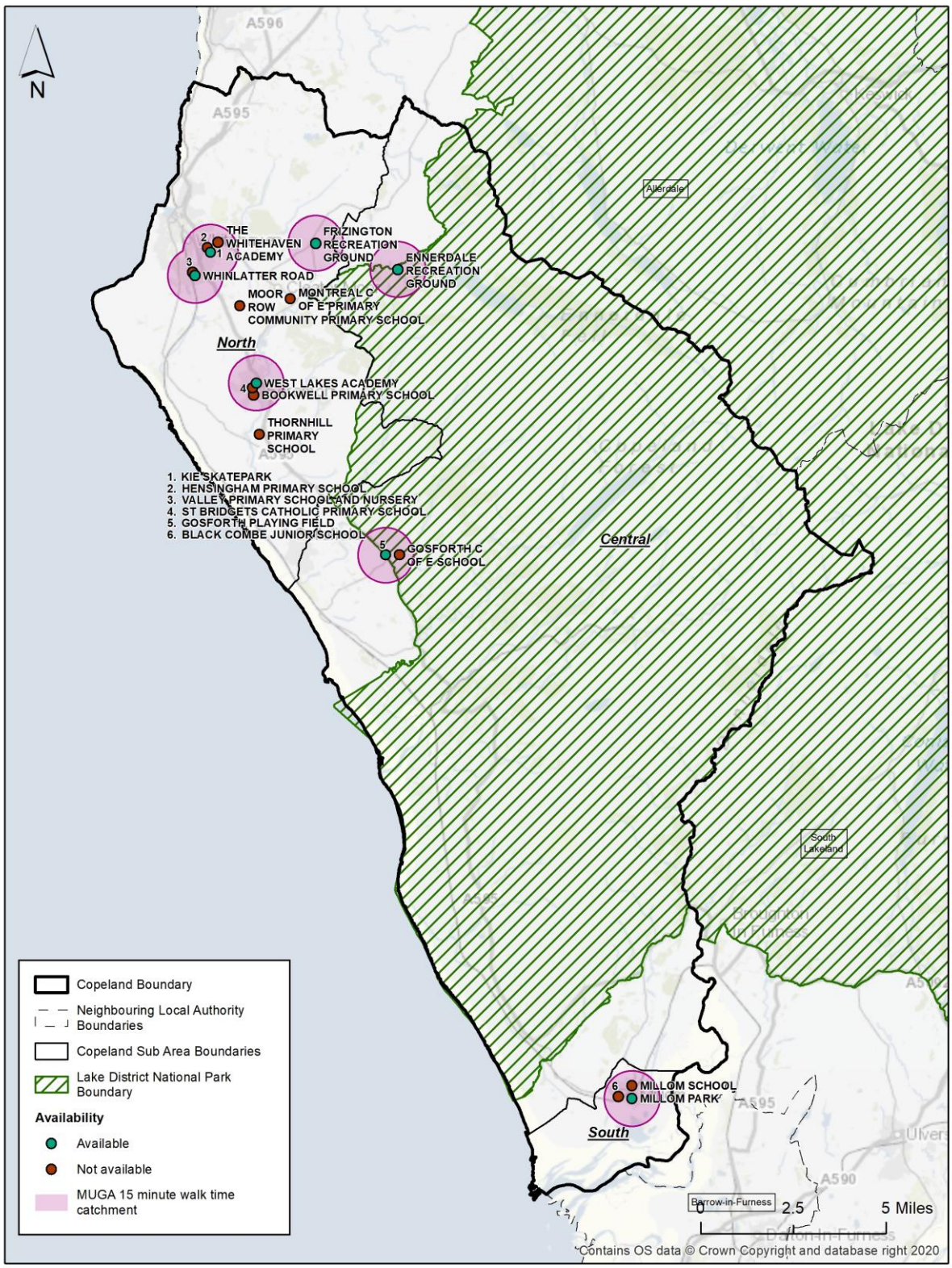
MUGAs with community use availability walk time catchment areas in Copeland (15 minutes walk time)

Figure 7.2: Available Skatepark sites with waking catchment areas in Copeland



MUGAs with community use availability walk time catchment areas in Copeland (15 minutes walk time)

Figure 7.3: Available BMX sites with waking catchment areas in Copeland



MUGAs with community use availability walk time catchment areas in Copeland (15 minutes walk time)

7.4 MUGA, Skatepark and BMX, Skatepark

7.4.1 This section summarises the findings from the MUGAs, Skate Park and BMX analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendations and action plan section for Copeland.

7.4.2 Table 7.2 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 7.2: Key PPS Findings for MUGAs, Skate Parks and BMX in Copeland

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	Of the sites that are available to the community there are 7 MUGA, 4 Skate Park and 3 BMX sites. 1 of these has provision of both types (MUGA and Skatepark). The provision tends to be located in the most populated areas, with the majority of facilities located towards the North of the borough. There are no skatepark or BMX facilities within the South sub-area.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	Due to the typical demographic of those who use these sites, strategic location very close to where residents live is important. There is a significant number of accessible MUGA's within the study area and enough provision to meet current demand.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	Generally, the quality and maintenance of the sites is adequate, with only one site identified as Poor. There are no outstanding issues or trends regarding maintenance across the sites.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	There are currently no known plans to change the supply of community sites. However, demand is likely to increase in-line with population growth and full feasibility studies will required to determine whether additional provision is required.
Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet future demand?	It is likely that Copeland will not experience a significant increase in the target demographic to warrant future investment.

Glossary of terms

8 Glossary of Terms

8.1.1 In order to fully understand the PPS, 4global have created a glossary detailing key terms and phrases mentioned throughout. The glossary is detailed below, along with appropriate definitions;

ACRONYMS

- **3G AGP:** Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitch
- **4g:** 4global Consulting
- **AGP:** Artificial Grass Pitch(es)
- **APS:** Active People Survey(s)
- **CC:** Cricket Club
- **CIL:** Community Infrastructure Levy
- **CSP:** County Sports Partnership
- **ECB:** England and Wales Cricket Board
- **EH:** England Hockey
- **FA:** Football Association
- **FC:** Football Club
- **FE:** Further Education
- **GIS:** Geographical Information Systems
- **HC:** Hockey Club
- **HE:** Higher Education
- **IOG:** Institute of Groundsmanship
- **JFC:** Junior Football Club
- **LDF:** Local Development Framework
- **LMS:** Last Man Stands
- **LSOA:** Lower Layer Super Output Area
- **MES:** Match equivalent sessions
- **NPPF:** National Planning Policy Framework
- **PPS:** Playing Pitch Strategy
- **PQS:** Performance Quality Standard
- **RFU:** Rugby Football Union
- **RUFC:** Rugby Union Football Club
- **S106:** Section 106 Agreement
- **U:** Under.

PHRASES

8.1.2 **National Governing Body of Sport (NGB) -** typically these are independent, self-appointed organisations that govern their sports through the common consent of their sport. Sport England has a recognition process for NGBs that aims to identify a single lead NGB structure which governs a sport at UK, GB or home country level.

8.1.3 **Unsecured Community Use** - these are pitches that are currently used or available for community-use, however there is no secure management/usage agreement in place.

8.1.4 **Secured Community Use** - all pitches in LA, town and parish council ownership would typically be considered secure. It must be noted that secured access relates to community users of pitches in general terms having secured access to sites, not individual teams/clubs.

8.1.5 **Team Generation Rate** – Provides an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team. A TGR can be calculated by dividing the current population within an age group for a sport by the number of teams in the area within that age group. This is then used to calculate the number of teams that will be required in the future, to allow for future population growth or reduction.

8.1.6 **Displaced demand** generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the Study Area (i.e. from residents of the Study Area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the Study Area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/Study Area.

8.1.7 **Unmet demand** is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

8.1.8 **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 who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

8.1.9 **Future demand** is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the Study Area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.

8.1.10 **Casual use or other use** could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- Informal training sessions
- More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

8.1.11 **Carrying capacity** is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB.

8.1.12 **Overplay** is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

8.1.13 **Spare capacity** is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in additional to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity, to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed actual spare capacity.

8.1.14 **Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.

End