

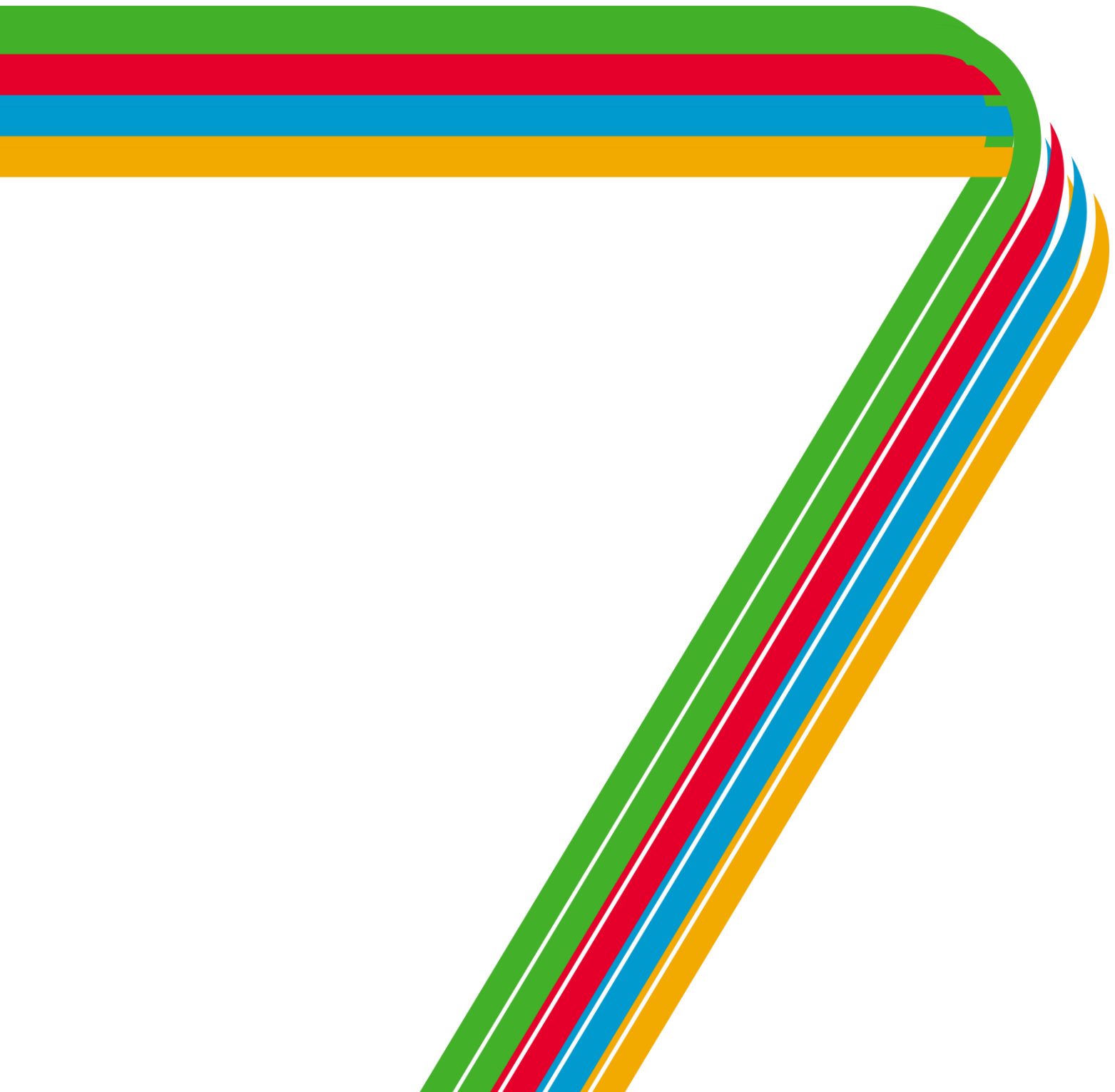


*Proud of our past. Energised for our future.*

## Copeland Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Strategy and Action Plan v3.0

March 2021



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 – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

This document sits alongside the Copeland Borough Council PPS Needs Assessment (Stage C document), November 2020.

The assessments informing both documents 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 when the document was being produced.

It is also acknowledged that parts of this document are out of date due to changes that have taken place at the Cleator Moor Activity Centre which has impacted upon pitch provision in the borough.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 the Needs Assessment and Strategy and Action Plan documents shortly to ensure it has a robust and up-to-date understanding of the 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 and has not been signed off by all Steering Group members, it does contain the most up-to-date evidence that was available at the time of its completion in March 2021.



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## 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 local plans for the Borough 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.

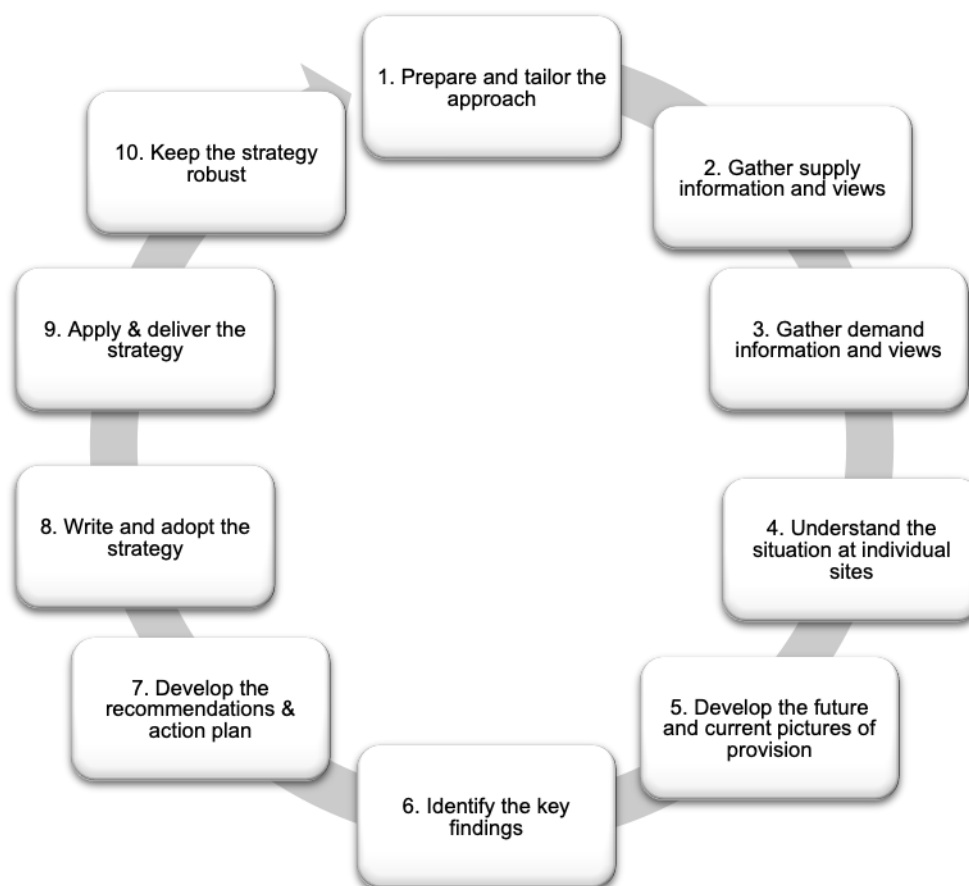


- Provide a robust evidence base to support funding bids to National Sports bodies like Sport England and National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of sport.
- Ensure that a planned approach to sport and physical activity facilities takes place in Copeland now and up to 2035, ensuring that the borough community 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<sup>1</sup>. 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)**



<sup>1</sup> <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**

Name	Email	Phone Number	Visit Seasons	Actions
APPLECROFT SCHOOL	admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BIRCHWOOD AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL	admin@birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE	carrie.lloyd@hatfield-herts.gov.uk	07891 830839	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BISHOPS HATFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL	head@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
Breaks Manor Youth Centre	info@breaksmanor.org	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BROCKETT HALL GOLF CLUB	0	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BROOKMANS PARK GOLF CLUB	0	#N/A	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
CHANCELLOR'S SCHOOL	head@chancellors.herts.sch.uk	01707 650 702 Ext: 245	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
Commonswood School	admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk	01707 880420	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
COOPERS ROAD	regcheek@live.co.uk	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]

Showing 1 to 10 of 76 entries

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 Glossary of Terms

1.4.1 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

- 1.4.2 **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.
- 1.4.3 **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.
- 1.4.4 **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.
- 1.4.5 **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.
- 1.4.6 **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.
- 1.4.7 **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.
- 1.4.8 **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.
- 1.4.9 **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.
- 1.4.10 **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.
- 1.4.11 **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.

- 1.4.12 **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.
- 1.4.13 **Spare capacity** is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition 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.
- 1.4.14 **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.

## 1.5 Statement on COVID-19

- 1.5.1 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.
- 1.5.2 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.
- 1.5.3 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

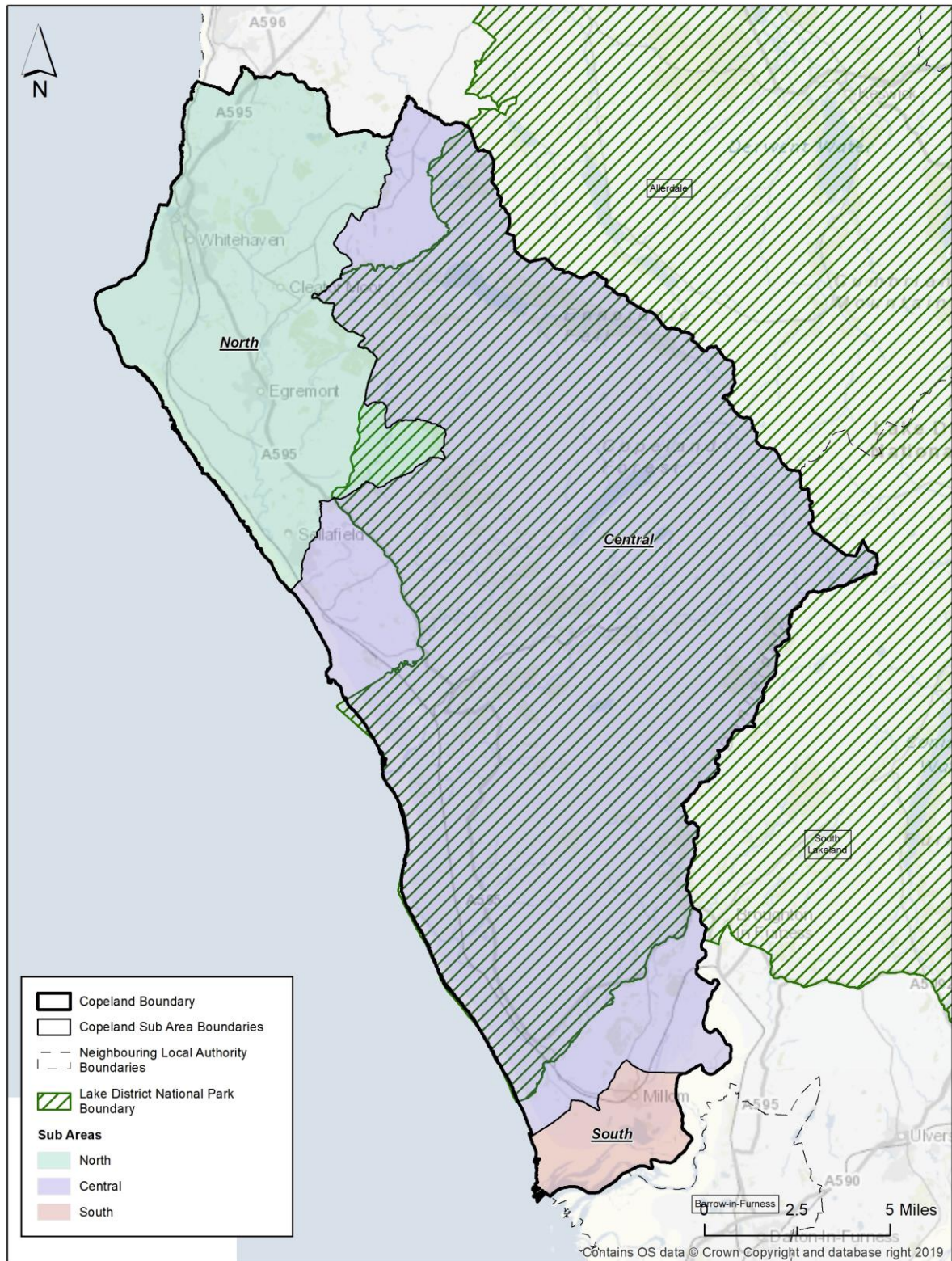
### 2.1 The Study Area

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 km<sup>2</sup>, 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 Borough's coastline 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 has 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<sup>2</sup>:

- **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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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 consultation on the Preferred Options Draft ended in December 2020, and the document can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.copeland.gov.uk/attachments/copeland-local-plan-2017-2035-preferred-options-draft-report>.

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 Local Planning Policy – Lake District National Park emerging Local Plan 2020-2035

2.7.1 The Lake District National Park Authority began reviewing their Local Plan in 2016 and submitted it in August 2019 to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.

2.7.2 Once adopted, the Local Plan will set out the strategy for all new development in the Lake District and provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency.

2.7.3 The emerging Local Plan and all policies can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-review>.

## 2.8 Sports and Physical Activity Strategy Context

2.8.1 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

2.8.2 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.

2.8.3 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.

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

2.8.5 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’**

2.8.6 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’.

2.8.7 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**

2.8.8 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.

## 2.9 Population and Demographics Analysis

- 2.9.1 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

- 2.9.2 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.

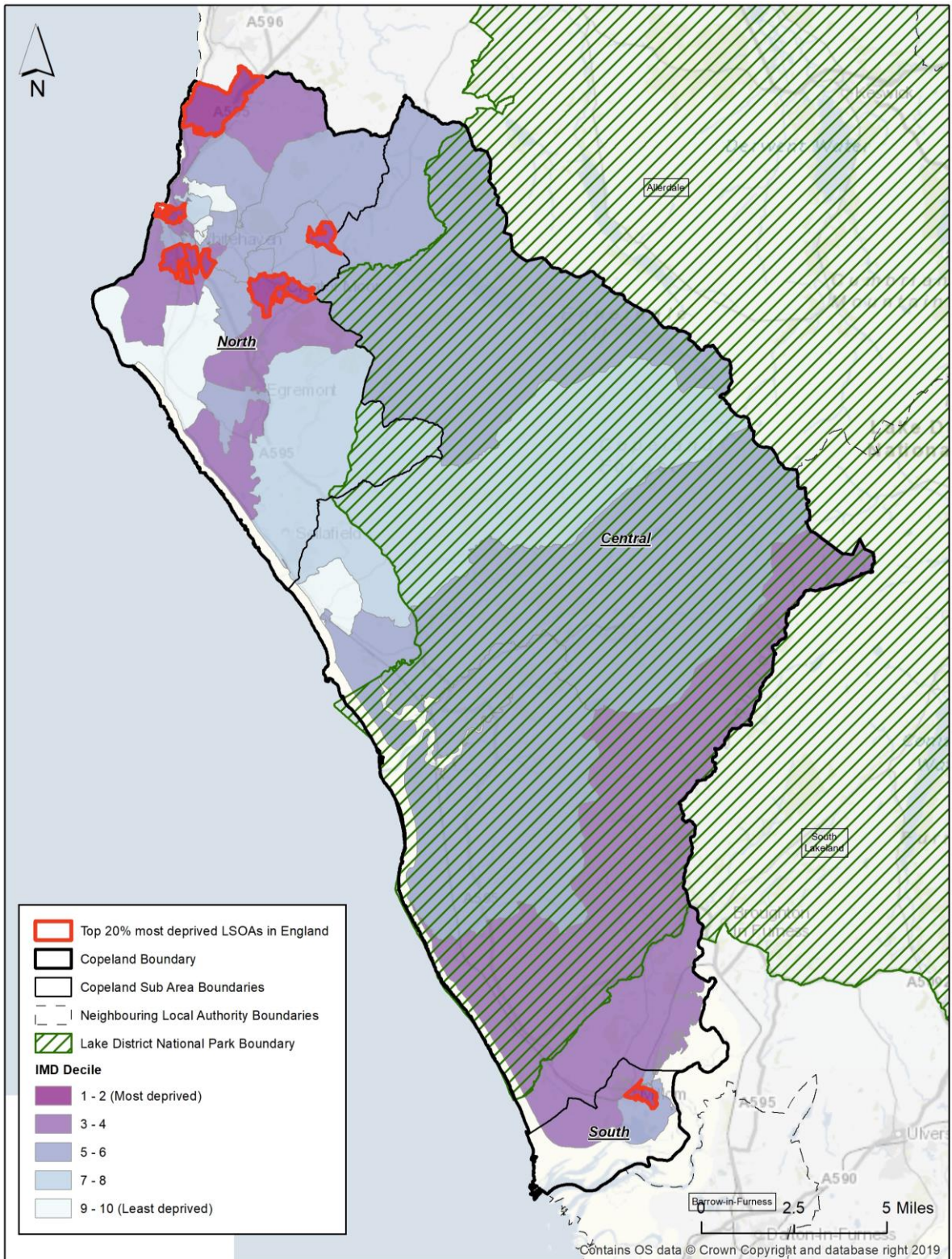
**Table 2.2: Population and demographics analysis for CBC**

Copeland Demographic Summary	Data
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.

\*Further details on population projections in Copeland can be found in Scenario 7 (page 40)

- 2.9.3 To provide greater insight into the current and projected population trends across the Borough, figures 2.2 and 2.2 below show the overall 2020 population per lower super output area (LSOA) and the 2020 population density.
- 2.9.4 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.
- 2.9.5 Figure 2.2 illustrates the total number of residents by LSOA. Figure 2.3 shows population density by LSOA.

Figure 2.2– Population by LSOA (2020)

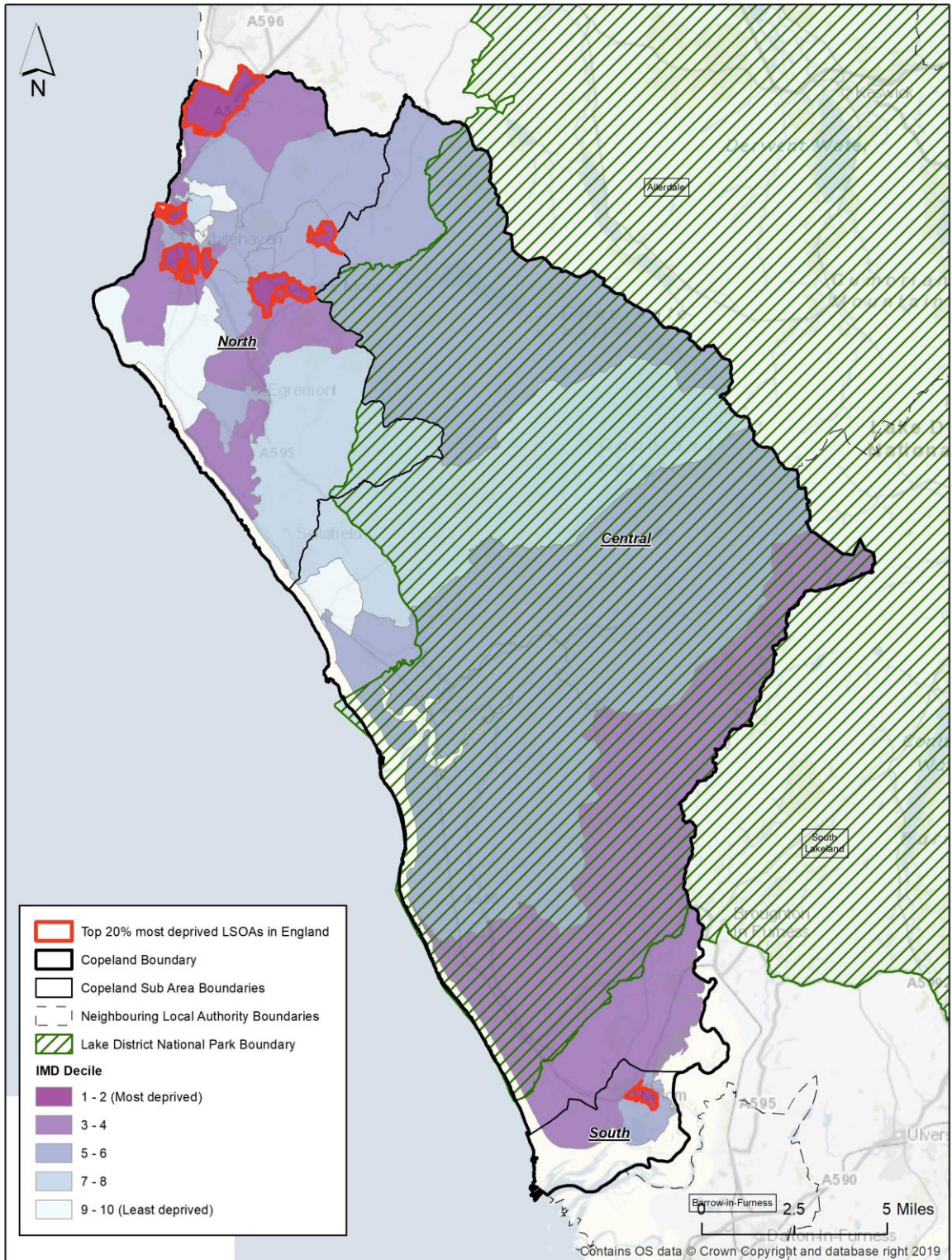


Index of multiple deprivation by lower super output area in Copeland (2019)





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



Index of multiple deprivation by lower super output area in Copeland (2019)

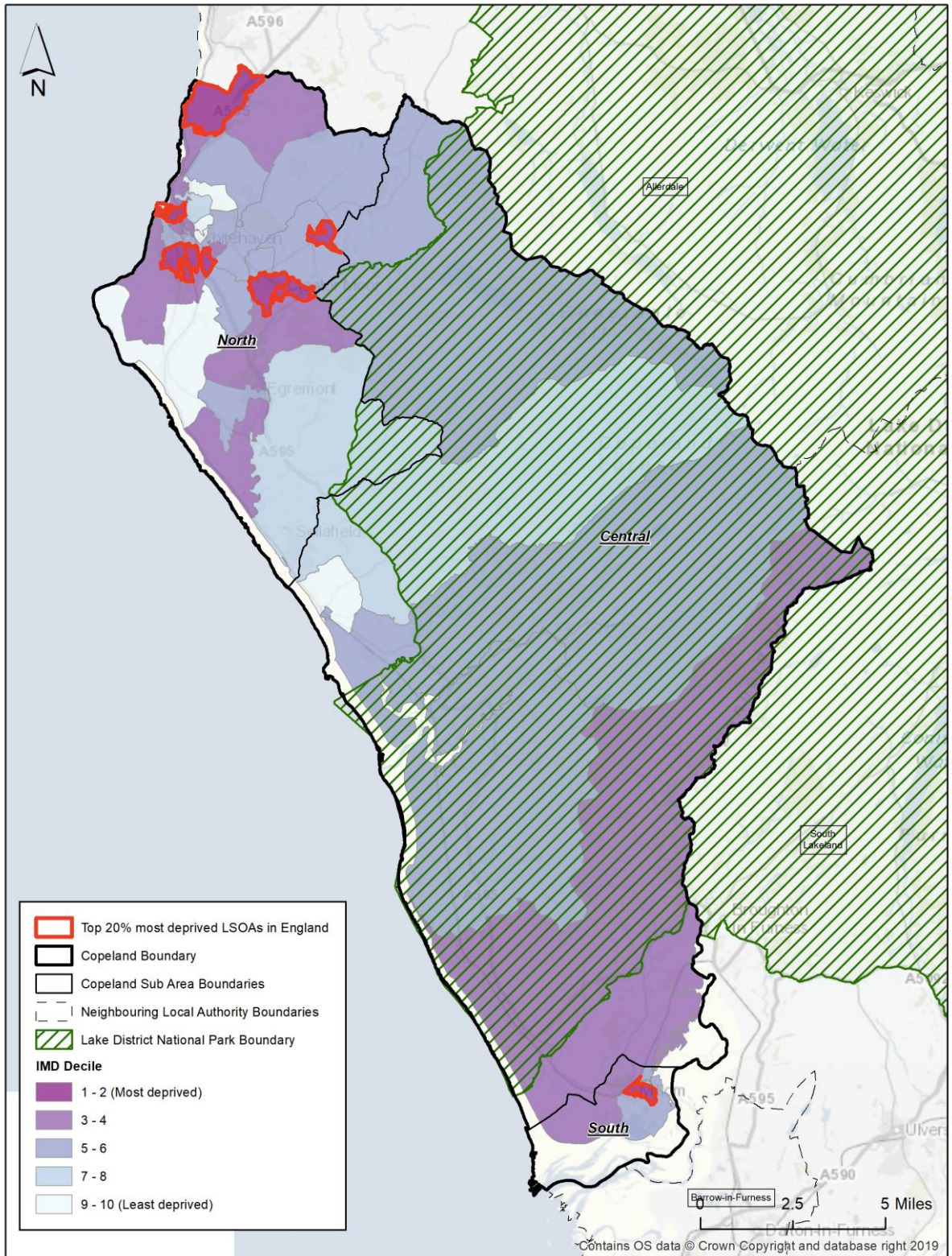


- 2.9.6 As expected, Figure 2.2 indicates that main settlement in the North and South sub-areas have the highest population density, with pockets of relatively high density in smaller settlements. Figure 2.3 illustrates the low density of population that exists across the majority of the Borough, which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

#### **DEPRIVATION ANALYSIS**

- 2.9.7 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.
- 2.9.8 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.

Figure 2.4: Deprivation Analysis – 2020



Index of multiple deprivation by lower super output area in Copeland (2019)



## 2.10 Physical Activity and Participation

### THE VALUE OF PARTICIPATION

- 2.10.1 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
- 2.10.2 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.
- 2.10.3 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

- 2.10.4 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.
- 2.10.5 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%.
- 2.10.6 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 %

- 2.10.7 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
2016/17	74.7%	78.3 %	77.2 %
2017/18	75.7 %	79.2 %	77.4 %
<b>May 2018/19</b>	<b>77.3 %</b>	<b>78.4 %</b>	<b>77.9 %</b>

2.10.8 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.

### 3 Key Supply and Demand Findings

#### 3.1 Introduction and Overview

- 3.1.1 This section summarises the key findings identified within the needs assessment, which should be used as the evidence base for this strategy. A comprehensive supply and demand analysis has been undertaken for all sports across the study area, with the project steering group engaged at all stages of the process.
- 3.1.2 The following section provides a summary of the key findings for each of the sports analysed within the main report. The format of these tables follows the five key questions that are asked as part of the PPS Guidance Document for Stages A – C of the process.

#### 3.2 Football Key Findings

**Table 3.1 – Key PPS findings for football in Copeland**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>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%).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Spatially, the vast majority of supply and demand is concentrated within the North sub-area, followed by the South sub-area. There are only 3 football teams based within the Central sub-area.</p>
Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Through consultation with local clubs, a need for additional 3G training facilities was also identified.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>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.</p> <p>The analysis using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator projects 11 additional teams, with Adult men demand being the area of greatest growth.</p> <p>In addition, club consultations reported latent demand for 21 teams. Taken together, this indicates a projected growth of 32 teams in Copeland by 2035.</p> <p>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.</p>

Key Question	Analysis
Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>There is insufficient supply to meet the projected level of future demand in the study area for football.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 pitch 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.</p>

### 3.3 Rugby Key Findings

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

**Table 3.2 – Key PPS findings for rugby in Copeland**

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>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.</p> <p>The ownership of sites is dominated by Club sites, followed by Education and Local Authority sites.</p> <p>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.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?	<p>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 place 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.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality & appropriately maintained?	<p>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.</p> <p>The top scoring pitches are the senior pitches at Egremont RUFC and St Benedict's RUFC, both of which are 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The level of supply is likely to stay consistent for grass pitch provision, however the</p>

Key Question	Analysis
	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.

### 3.4 Hockey Key Findings

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

**Table 3.3 – 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 and 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, the Football Foundation / Cumberland FA and Copeland Borough Council 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.



Key Question	Analysis
demand	

## 4 Scenario Testing and Options Appraisal

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The supply and demand analysis undertaken in each of the previous sections provides a clear view of the capacity for sports facilities across Copeland, based on the existing supply of facilities and the demand for these facilities from residents, both now and in the future.
- 4.1.2 This data provides an accurate evidence base, on which future planning and investment decisions can be made, using the guidelines outlines in the 'Delivering the Strategy' chapter of the strategy.
- 4.1.3 To complement the analysis that has been undertaken in each of the sport-specific sections, this chapter contains detailed further analysis on a small number of key scenarios, which have been identified by the project steering group throughout the development of the PPS.
- 4.1.4 For each of the scenarios identified below, a short summary is provided to explain why the scenario needs to be tested. Following this, a needs assessment for each of the relevant facility types is undertaken and explained.

### 4.2 Scenario 1: Loss of Unsecured Sites From Supply

- 4.2.1 As identified through stakeholder consultation, ensuring all available sites also have security of use for current and future football provision is vital for the sustainability and growth of pitch sports within Copeland.

#### FOOTBALL

- 4.2.2 Table 4.1 below shows the current and future positions for football carrying capacity if only secured sites were to be included in the analysis. It should be noted that all local authority owned and maintained pitches have been retained as part of the supply. This is because although the individual teams or clubs playing on the site may not have security of use, the sites are considered to have some security in terms of remaining available for hire and use.

**Table 4.1: Current position with only secured football supply**

Sub area	Current Position (ALL Available)					Current Position (Secured Sites Only)				
	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
North	-5	0.5	2.5	-4.5	0	-8	-0.5	2.5	-5.5	0
Central	1.5	1	0	2	0	1.5	1	0	0	0
South	1	0	0	3	0	-1	0	0	0	0
<b>Copeland Borough</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 4.1b: Future position with only secured football supply**

Sub area	Future Position (ALL Available)					Future Position (Secured Sites Only)				
	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
North	-8	-6.5	-4	-7	-2.5	-11	-7.5	-4	-8	-2.5
Central	0.5	0	-1	2	0	0.5	0	-1	0	0
South	0	-1	-1	3	0	-2	-1	-1	0	0
<b>Copeland Borough</b>	<b>-7.5</b>	<b>-7.5</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-12.5</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-2.5</b>

- 4.2.3 Table 4.1 shows that when only securely available supply is considered there is a significant reduction in the spare capacity in Copeland (capacity tables are available in the needs assessment chapter tables 3.13 – 3.17).
- 4.2.4 When removing unsecured provision from the supply of football pitches, the current spare capacity for Youth 11v11 is reduced and the one for Mini 7v7 football is converted into a deficit, whilst the amount of spare capacity for 9v9 football remains consistent.
- 4.2.5 The reduction of spare capacity across the Borough is majorly influenced by the changes in the North and south sub-areas, where the balance for all pitch typologies (except 9v9 pitches in the North sub-area) is affected when taking into consideration secured sites only.
- 4.2.6 In the future analysis, when removing all secured sites, the deficit already identified in all available sites is significantly increased for all pitch typologies. The improvement of maintenance regimes on existing sites in order to increase carrying capacity, as well as the provision of additional pitches and training facilities is recommended in order to address this.

**HOCKEY**

- 4.2.7 The impact of removing all unsecured supply is shown in table 4.3 below. It shows that due to the very low level of current demand, there is sufficient capacity in both scenarios both in the current and future positions.

Table 4.3: Current position with only secured hockey

Area	Balance (All Available Sites)			Balance (Secured Sites Only)		
	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun
Copeland Borough	28	16	14	13	8	6

Table 4.3b: Future position with only secured hockey

Area	Balance (All Available Sites)			Balance (Secured Sites Only)		
	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun
Copeland Borough	28	15	14	13	7	6

- 4.2.8 There are only two hockey facilities within Copeland. The scenario of losing the provision at Millom School – identified as unsecured – does not have a severe impact in the current and future hockey provision. This is because the facility is in very poor condition, with unsuitable lighting and not currently used for formal hockey demand.
- 4.2.9 Although tables 4.3 and 4.3b show that the current capacity is sufficient to accommodate current and future demand, it must be highlighted that both hockey facilities in Copeland (Cleator Moor Activity Centre and Millom School) were identified as poor as part of the assessments and club consultations, and it is likely that the improvement of these facilities would attract further demand.
- 4.2.10 Both facilities have also been identified as having potential to be resurfaced as 3G, and it is recommended that the Council, England Hockey, the Football Foundation and Sport England work in conjunction to remedy this situation and guarantee that sufficient hockey provision to satisfy local demand is provided.

### RUGBY UNION

- 4.2.11 The following table shows the position should all unsecured supply be removed from the rugby capacity calculations. Again, local authority sites where the pitch users may not have secured access to the site are retained as part of the capacity as these pitches are not considered to be at risk of loss from the pitch stock.

**Table 4.4: Future position with only secured rugby union supply**

Sub Area	Current Balance (All available sites)	Current Balance (Secured Sites Only)
North	4.5	-11
Central	-	
South	6	3
<b>Copeland Borough</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>-8</b>

**Table 4.4b: Future position with only secured rugby union supply**

Sub Area	Future Balance (All available sites)	Future Balance (Secured Sites Only)
North	-0.5	-16
Central	-	-

South	5	2
<b>Copeland Borough</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>-14</b>

- 4.2.12 Table 4.4 above demonstrates that the spare capacity for all available sites is converted to a deficit when removing unsecured provision from the analysis, both in the current and future position. The loss of unsecured pitches from the supply would lead to a deficit of 8 MES for rugby in Copeland, which is increased to 14 in the future position.
- 4.2.13 The sub area that would experience the greatest reduction in capacity is the North sub-area, with the existing spare capacity converted into a deficit of 11 MES. This is due to the presence of several education establishments within the sub area (St Bees School, St Benedict’s High School, Whitehaven Academy and West Lakes Academy), which have been identified as unsecured.
- 4.2.14 The analysis in table 4.4 identifies a need for an increase in the number of secured Rugby Union sites in the study area, as well as the improvement of existing pitches at club sites (and potentially the provision of additional pitches)..

### 4.3 Scenario 2: Moving From Grass to Artificial

- 4.3.1 During the last decade, 3G AGPs have played an increasing role within the national game. They are regarded by the Football Association (FA) and Football Foundation (FF) as the optimum facility for training by clubs. In recent seasons, they have also become more popular for competitive matches. With this in mind, before developing the recommendations and action plan for this PPS, a key scenario has been looked at to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size floodlit 3G AGPs in Copeland if increased amounts of play were to take place on them.
- 4.3.2 In line with national priorities, to get more young people playing football on 3G AGP’s this scenario considers the likely total demand if all youth 9v9 and mini demand that is currently being played during the period of peak demand is moved from grass pitches to 3G AGP.
- 4.3.3 While it is understood that in practice it is unlikely that 100% of demand will transfer for these age groups, it provides a valuable assessment of the potential impact on pitch capacity, if the FA and FF are successful in changing player and coach behaviour and moving clubs from natural grass to 3G AGP provision.
- 4.3.4 Table 4.5 takes information from the assessment stage of this PPS to present the number of youth 9v9 and mini teams playing on natural grass pitches during the relevant peak periods. This then calculates an estimated number of matches at peak time and associated 3G AGP requirement.

**Table 4.5: Number of 3G AGP's that would be required to meet demand if all mini and youth 9v9 match play was moved to AGP**

Format	Number of Teams	Number of matches at peak-time	3G Units per Match	Total Units required formats	3G Pitches Required
	(x)	(y)= x/2	(z)	(A)= (y)*(z)	B= (A)/64
<b>5v5</b>	33	16.5	4	66	1.03
<b>7v7</b>	27	13.5	8	108	1.68
<b>9v9</b>	21	10.5	10	105	1.64
					<b>4.35</b>

- 4.3.5 Table 4.5 illustrates that a total of 4 pitches (rounded down from 4.35) would be required to meet the need at peak times for mini and youth 9v9 match demand, based on parameters provided by the FA and FF.
- 4.3.6 As identified in the Football section of this report, Stage B data identifies two existing full sized 3G AGP facilities within Copeland that are available for community use. It can therefore be concluded that if all youth 9v9 and Mini demand that is currently being played during the peak period is moved from grass to 3G AGP, there would be a requirement for at least two additional full-sized 3G facilities in Copeland.
- 4.4 Scenario 3: Hockey – Conversion of Millom AGP to 3G and Upgrade of Cleator Moor AGP to Gen 2**
- 4.4.1 As identified as part of the Needs Assessment and stakeholder consultation, there are current aspirations from Millom School to convert the existing poor-quality, sand-based AGP into a 3G surface and there is also potential for the AGP at Cleator Moor Activity Centre to be upgraded to a Gen 2 surface (a multi-sport suitable, sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad that can be used for Hockey, Netball, Tennis, small-sided Football, Futsal, Lacrosse and more).
- 4.4.2 The following scenario aims to measure the impact that the completion of these projects would have in the capacity for Hockey within Copeland.
- 4.4.3 Tables 4.6 and 4.7 below show the current and future analysis for hockey both at individual sites and Copeland as a whole as identified in the Needs Assessment, in comparison to the potential scenario of completion of the projected projects at Millom School and Cleator Moor Activity Centre.

**Table 4.6 – Supply and demand balance for hockey in Copeland**

Site name	Supply (hours)			Demand (Hours: training and matches)			Current balance (hours)			Balance (hours) with the completion of projected developments		
	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun			
<b>CLEATOR MOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE</b>	18	8	8	2	0	2	16	8	6	16	8	6
<b>MILLOM SCHOOL</b>	0*	8	8	0	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0

4.4.4 Table 4.6 demonstrates that no change in capacity is expected at Cleator Moor Activity centre due to the change of surface, and therefore the balance is not affected in this analysis. However, it can be assumed that an upgrade in quality from the existing poor surface, as well as this being suitable for multiple sports, will attract further demand to the site, including the potential introduction of new teams from Western Lakes HC.

4.4.5 At Millom School, the conversion of the existing AGP to a 3G surface would mean that the site would no longer be capable of accommodating hockey demand due to this surface not being suitable for the sport.

**Table 4.7: Summary of capacity balances for hockey (all in hours)**

Analysis	Notes	Supply (Hours)			Supply with the completion of proposed developments (Hours)			Demand (matches + training in hours)			Balance (supply minus demand)			Balance with the completion of proposed developments		
		Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun	Week	Sat	Sun
<b>1. All secured sites</b>	This includes all secured sites and their capacity	18	8	8	18	8	8	2	0	2	16	8	6	16	8	6
<b>2. All available sites</b>	If demand displaced out of the area came back in.	18	16	16	18	8	8	2	0	2	16	16	14	16	8	6
<b>3. All secured sites; FUTURE analysis</b>	As above, but including the projected growth in demand	18	8	8	18	8	8	2	1	2	16	7	6	16	7	6



4.4.6 Table 4.7 demonstrates that the loss of the AGP at Millom School due to 3G conversion would result in a reduction of 16 hours of weekend capacity, while no change is expected on weekdays as this pitch was identified as not fit for purpose due to the lack of floodlights and its capacity was set as 0 as part of the assessment.

4.4.7 As in table 4.6, no change in supply or demand is shown for Cleator Moor in this table, but it is expected that demand at the site should increase significantly with the introduction of a higher quality, multi-sport surface.

#### 4.5 Scenario 4: Rugby – Increasing Floodlit Training Provision

4.5.1 The aim of this section is to model the impact that having all rugby training demand on floodlit pitches only would have in the overall capacity for rugby at club sites.

4.5.2 There are currently only two floodlit pitches at club sites in Copeland – at Millom RUFC and Egremont RUFC – providing a carrying capacity of 6.5 match equivalents weekly. For the purpose of this scenario testing, it will be assumed that at least one of the existing pitches at each club site will be floodlit. Table 4.8 below shows the hypothetical pitch audit at club sites to include this. Highlighted in green are the sites where training capacity has changed due to the installation of floodlights.

**Table 4.8: Rugby Club Site Breakdown (increased floodlight provision scenario)**

Site Name	Pitch Type	Pitch Name	Drainage - Score	Maintenance - Score	Pitch Capacity (MES)	Floodlit?	Updated site training capacity
EGREMONT RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Senior Rugby Union	1	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	11 – Good (M2)	3.5	Yes	3.5
MILLOM RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Senior Rugby Union	1	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	7 – Standard (M1)	3	Yes	3
	Senior Rugby Union	2	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	7– Standard (M1)	3	No	
MORESBY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL	Senior Rugby Union	1	Natural inadequate (D0)	5 – Poor (M0)	0.5	Yes	0.5

Site Name	Pitch Type	Pitch Name	Drainage - Score	Maintenance - Score	Pitch Capacity (MES)	Floodlit?	Updated site training capacity
CLUB							
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	Senior Rugby Union	1	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	13 – Good (M2)	3.5	Yes	3.5
WHITEHAVEN RUGBY CLUB	Senior Rugby Union	1	Pipe drained (D2)	7 – Standard (M1)	2.5	Yes	2.5
	Senior Rugby Union	2	Pipe drained (D2)	7 – Standard (M1)	2.5	No	

4.5.3 Table 4.8 demonstrates that with the introduction of additional floodlighting at all club sites, training capacity across Copeland is increased by a total of 6.5 match equivalents.

4.5.4 Table 4.9 compares the findings from the rugby capacity analysis in the Needs Assessment, against the projected balance when assuming that all rugby training in Copeland takes place on floodlit pitches.

**Table 4.9: Capacity analysis scenario - all training demand on floodlit pitches**

Site	Provision Type	Current Position	Current Position (all training on floodlit pitches)	Future position	Future position (all training on floodlit pitches)
		Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
Copeland	Training	-11.5	-1.5	-18.5	-8.5
	Senior Match Pitch	7.5	7.5	1.5	1.5

4.5.5 Table 4.9 shows that, although the introduction of floodlight provision at all club sites would reduce current and future overplay significantly, there is still a deficit of 1.5 match equivalents in the current position, and 8.5 in the future position. The improvement of pitch drainage and maintenance, particularly at Moresby RUFC would contribute to continue increasing training capacity in the borough.

4.5.6 This scenario evidences the need for additional floodlit rugby pitches in Copeland. The development of a rugby compliant 3G AGP (in conjunction with the FA) would also allow for additional training capacity in the borough, this will be analysed in the following section.

#### 4.6 Scenario 5: Installation of a WR22 Compliant AGP in Egremont

- 4.6.1 The following scenario will look at the potential impact that the installation of a new Rugby-compliant 3G pitch would have in the carrying capacity and supply vs demand balance at rugby club sites in Copeland.
- 4.6.2 Table 4.10 below presents the current and future positions at club sites when all additional match and training capacity from the proposed AGP is included in the analysis, in comparison to those identified as part of the Needs Assessment.
- 4.6.3 It must be highlighted that peak-time capacity for an AGP is calculated at 20hs for training (4hs each day Monday-Friday) and 16hs for matches (8hs on Saturdays and Sundays). This scenario will therefore consider an additional 10 MES for training and 8 MES for match capacity.

**Table 4.10: Overall Capacity Analysis for Rugby Sites – new WR22 AGP scenario**

Site	Provision Type	Current Position	Current Position – introduction of new WR AGP	Future position	Future position - introduction of new WR AGP
		Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
Copeland	Training	-11.5	-1.5	-18.5	-8.5
	Match Pitch	7.5	15.5	1.5	9.5

- 4.6.4 Table 4.10 demonstrates that the introduction of a new WR22 AGP would reduce the current level overplay on floodlit pitches during the week, however this is not sufficient to address the current and future deficits identified as part of the assessment. For match provision, the introduction of the new AGP would increase the existing level of spare capacity significantly, potentially allowing some rest on grass pitches and contributing to increasing their maintenance and quality.
- 4.6.5 As identified in Scenario 4, the installation of additional floodlights on grass pitches would also contribute to increasing training capacity across the borough. Table 4.11 combines scenarios 4 and 5, to analyse the impact that the completion of both development plans would have in the overall capacity at rugby sites in Copeland.

**Table 4.11: Overall Rugby capacity – new WR22 AGP and increased floodlit provision**

Site	Provision Type	Current Position	Current Position – introduction of new WR AGP	Future position	Future position - introduction of new WR AGP
		Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
Copeland	Training	-11.5	8.5	-18.5	1.5
	Match Pitch	7.5	15.5	1.5	9.5

- 4.6.6 Table 4.11 shows that the installation of a new WR22 AGP, in combination with additional floodlit grass provision at rugby sites would increase overall capacity significantly and convert both the current and future training deficits into spare capacity.

4.7 Scenario 6: Completion of Priority Developments as Identified in the Local Football Facility Plan

4.7.1 This following scenario will model the impact that the completion of priority projects identified in the LFFP would have in the capacity of football pitches across Copeland.

4.7.2 Table 4.12 below lists all sites where a proposed development has been identified, comparing current capacity and balance with the expected scenario once the project is completed. For all grass pitch improvements, it has been assumed that the playing surface will be refurbished to a Good standard.

**Table 4.12 – Scenario: completion of priority projects identified in the LFFP**

Site	Current provision	Pitch Capacity	Balance	Proposed development	Expected Capacity	Expected Balance
Whitehaven AFC	1x Adult 1x Mini 7v7	7	-12.5	- Refurbish existing 3G AGP - Natural grass pitch improvements - Refurbish changing pavilion	9	-10.5
South Copeland 3G		N/A		New full sized 3G Millom School identified as potential location, there is also potential for co-location with a health & well-being hub being developed on adjacent former church buildings.	The completion of these projects would contribute to addressing the current deficit of two full-sized 3G AGPs identified as part of the analysis.	
North Copeland 3G		N/A		New full sized 3G AGP Rationale- Consultation with steering group confirmed the potential for an additional 3G FTP in the North of the borough. Conversion of sand based AGP at Cleator Moor activity centre, which is in poor condition, to a 3G surface has been suggested, explore potential for other locations.		
St Bees FC (Adams Recreation Ground)	1x Adult 2x Youth 11v11 1x Youth 9v9 1x Mini 7v7	6	0	Natural grass pitch improvements	21	15
SASRA Sports Complex	2x Adult 1x Youth 9v9 1x Mini 7v7	9	3.5	Natural grass pitch improvements	18	12.5

Site	Current provision	Pitch Capacity	Balance	Proposed development	Expected Capacity	Expected Balance
Millom Rugby League Football Club (Millom FC)	1x Adult	3	1	Natural grass pitch improvements New changing pavilion	3	1

4.7.3 Table 4.12 demonstrates that, once all pitch improvements are undertaken, the majority of sites will see an increase in their carrying capacity and the current deficit is converted into spare capacity. The only exception to this is Whitehaven AFC, where the increase in carrying capacity is not sufficient to meet the current level of adult football demand at the site.

4.7.4 In addition to this, the development of 2 full sized 3G pitches in the North and South of the borough will address the current deficit of 3G provision identified as part of the study.

#### 4.8 Scenario 7: Applying Different Population Projections

4.8.1 Copeland Borough Council have 3 different scenarios for their population growth to 2035. The Needs Assessment document has used the middle scenario to calculate future demand. The three scenarios are:

Modelled scenarios	Popn ONS 2018	Total housing completions 2017- 2019 popn <sup>5</sup>	SNPP 2014 60 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn <sup>6</sup>	SHMA 140 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn <sup>7</sup>	SHMA 200 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn <sup>8</sup>	TOTAL POPN
Scenario 1	68,400	948	2,160			71,508
Scenario 2	68,400	948		5,040		74,388
Scenario 3	68,400	948			7,200	76,548

4.8.2 Demand projections have been calculated considering the Borough as a whole however and not just those areas with CBC jurisdiction.

4.8.3 In order to understand what impact the high estimate could have on future demand, Scenario 3 has been applied to the TGR and future demand. As done in the future demand sections of the Needs Assessment, the Playing Pitch Calculator will be utilised to calculate the impact that a larger population increase would have in the projected future demand for sport in Copeland.

4.8.4 Table 4.13 below shows the population figures utilised for this scenario, whilst table 4.14 compares the outputs obtained in the Needs Assessment sections to those of this scenario.

**Table 4.13 – Scenario: higher population increase projections**

DATA INPUT		
	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Current Population	68,400	68,400
Projected Growth	+5,988	+8,148
Projected Future Popn.	74,388	76,548

**Table 4.14 – PPC: higher population increase projections**

Age / Gender Group	Future ADDITIONAL need					
	Number of teams generated by the new population PLUS any change in demand	Number of teams generated by the new population PLUS any change in demand - Scenario	Additional match equivalent sessions per week (MES)	Additional match equivalent sessions per week (MES) - Scenario	Additional pitches required	Additional pitches required-Scenario
	FOOTBALL					
Adult Football Men (16-45yrs)	2.91	3.76	1.45	1.88	1.60	2.07
Adult Football Women (16-45yrs)	0.29	0.38	0.15	0.19		
Youth Football Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	1.82	2.35	0.91	1.18	1.09	1.41
Youth Football Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	0.36	0.47	0.18	0.24		
Youth Football Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	1.24	1.60	0.62	0.80	0.77	0.99
Youth Football Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	0.29	0.38	0.15	0.19		
Mini Soccer 7v7 Mixed (8-9yrs)	1.96	2.54	0.98	1.27	0.98	1.27
Mini Soccer 5v5 Mixed (6-7yrs)	2.40	3.10	1.20	1.55	1.20	1.55
HOCKEY						
Adult Men (17-55yrs)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03
Adult Women (17-55yrs)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		

Age / Gender Group	Future ADDITIONAL need					
	Number of <u>teams</u> generated by the new population PLUS any change in demand	Number of <u>teams</u> generated by the new population PLUS any change in demand - Scenario	Additional match equivalent sessions per week (MES)	Additional match equivalent sessions per week (MES) - Scenario	Additional pitches required	Additional pitches required-Scenario
<b>FOOTBALL</b>						
Youth Boys (14-16yrs)	0.07	0.09	0.05	0.06		
Youth Girls (14-16yrs)	0.07	0.09	0.05	0.06		
Youth Boys (11-13yrs)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
<b>RUGBY UNION</b>						
Senior Men (19-45yrs)	0.44	0.56	0.44	0.56	0.72	0.93
Senior Women (19-45yrs)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	0.73	0.94	0.73	0.94		
Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	1.09	1.41	0.41	0.53		

- 4.8.5 Table 4.14 demonstrates that when utilising the higher population increase projections, there is minimal change in the projected demand growth for all three PPS sports.
- 4.8.6 For all age groups in Football, Rugby and Hockey, demand is only expected to grow by a fraction of a team when compared to the outputs obtained in the Needs Assessment, meaning that less than an additional match equivalent of demand will be generated for each age band, which would have a minimal impact on the capacity for each of these sports in Copeland.
- 4.8.7 Overall, the calculator shows that, in comparison to previous outputs, there would be requirement for the following of pitches across the borough:
- Adult Football: +0.47
  - Youth 11v11 Football: +0.32
  - Youth 9v9: +0.22
  - Mini 7v7: +0.29
  - Mini 5v5: +0.35
  - Hockey AGP: + 0.01

- Rugby Union: + 0.21

4.8.8 Given the above figures, it is not required to run an updated capacity analysis for each of the relevant sports as part of this scenario, as the changes in demand are minimal and are not expected to have a significant impact in the results obtained as part of the Needs Assessment.



## Section 5: Strategic Recommendations and Action Plan



## 5 Strategic Recommendations and Action Plan

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 To facilitate the development of sport and physical activity across Copeland Borough, it is advised that the Steering Group, set up as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy project, continues to work together to deliver the recommendations defined as part of this strategy.
- 5.1.2 This section of the report provides a set of strategic recommendations, to guide future governance and investment into pitch sport provision across the study area.

### 5.2 Strategic Recommendations

- 5.2.1 This section brings together the complete evidence base and analysis that has been developed as part of the PPS and provides a clear strategy for the future delivery of sports provision in Copeland Borough.
- 5.2.2 At a strategic level, the following key recommendations have been identified for each of the sport typologies, as well as for general sports provision.

#### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation G1:** It is recommended that Copeland Borough Council and Lake District National Park Authority local planning policy continues to protect all playing field sites under its jurisdiction as identified in this document, in order to reduce the risk of loss and subsequent impact on sport and physical activity provision. This includes any lapsed sites, currently disused sites or any school playing fields that were not marked out as formal pitches at the time the research for this study was undertaken (2019) and are therefore omitted from this report<sup>3</sup>. This study does not support the disposing of any dormant or currently disused playing field sites (unless otherwise stated) without a full investigation into the possibility of the site being provided as additional supply for sporting activity.

Where a site is to be lost, the future development plan for the site should meet one of the five policy exceptions identified in Sport England's March 2018 issue of the Playing Fields Guidance. In addition, it is key that local authority planning policy supports the development of new, high quality sports provision required to meet the needs generated by major housing development and population growth. This policy and associated strategic planning is particularly key when existing provision cannot meet the growing need generated by a large numbers of new residents living in a single area. It is recommended that the tools and guidance identified in this strategy are used to identify the typology and quantity of provision, as well as the overall strategic direction of sport facility development in the study area.
- Recommendation G2:** Work with local sports clubs to utilise the existing volunteer network across Copeland District and providing more autonomy for clubs, allowing

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<sup>3</sup> Disclaimer: If any playing field sites, sport facilities, and/or pitches are not contained within this Playing Pitch Strategy, this is due to an oversight, and does not in any way mean that they can be redeveloped. Planning applications to develop any omitted sites will still need to be considered against Paragraph 97 of the NPPF.

those organisations that have adequate governance and financial stability to develop facilities and participation.

- **Recommendation G3:** Address the issue of poor ancillary and changing pavilion quality where required through the refurbishment and replacement of existing ancillary facilities, prioritising those on multi-pitch sites that are currently well used. Utilise the action plan to identify specific sites for enhancement.
- **Recommendation G4:** Enhance the drainage and maintenance of both natural turf and artificial pitches at priority sites, to increase the pitch capacity to accommodate demand of current user clubs, especially on council-maintained pitches. Utilise the action plan to identify specific sites for enhancement.
- **Recommendation G5:** Work with educational establishments that provide playing pitches for use by community teams, through artificial provision, to secure formal community use of pitches and ancillary facilities through a Community Use Agreement. Where these community use agreements currently exist, work with education establishments and users to ensure that requirements for community use are being enforced.
- **Recommendation G6:** Work with clubs based at Local Authority owned sites, to establish long-term security use agreements, ensuring that clubs and participants have security of use and are able to grow and develop through grant funding wider investment.
- **Recommendation G7:** Address site specific needs as identified in the action plan below.

## FOOTBALL

- **Recommendation F1:** Protect all grass pitches for future football use and develop further capacity through improved maintenance and the development of 3G AGP provision, to ensure there is spare capacity for football over the lifetime of the strategy
- **Recommendation F2:** Ensure sites that have community use available also have security of use to protect the future provision of football, allowing clubs based on council sites to apply for grants and investments from various governing bodies.
- **Recommendation F3:** Provide sites where there is significant use of adult pitches to meet youth pitch demand with mobile goal posts to ensure the appropriate sized goals and pitches are being used for these age-groups.
- **Recommendation F4:** Copeland District currently has a deficit of two community available AGP provision within the study area, increasing to three when considering future demand. Identify sites to develop full sized 3G AGP provision, to meet the growing demand for this pitch type and meet the needs of local clubs and residents.
- **Recommendation F5:** In conjunction with the FA's Pitch Improvement programme, increase the level of maintenance at sites identified as being close to the poor rating, in order to mitigate the risk of pitches falling into disuse and lowering the carrying capacity of pitch provision in the study area. Investment into artificial drainage is a key consideration also.
- **Recommendation F6:** Focus on the provision of further youth and mini soccer provision, to meet future demand, and the development of ancillary facilities located

at local authority sites in terms of changing room provision to accommodate this. Given the projected growth in female participation, work with clubs to upgrade facilities to ensure they are appropriate for hosting matches for both genders at the same time. This should be in conjunction with the Football Foundation.

## RUGBY UNION

- **Recommendation R1:** Protect all sites designated as Rugby playing fields in this PPS, in line with Sport England's Playing Fields policy.
- **Recommendation R2:** Monitor the growth of women's and girls' rugby to ensure there is sufficient capacity to allow clubs to develop these sections. Work with clubs to upgrade facilities to ensure they are appropriate for hosting matches for both genders at the same time. Refer to the action plan for specific sites where improvements should be focused.
- **Recommendation R3:** Improve pitch drainage and maintenance regime across all key rugby sites, to increase the capacity of grass rugby pitches, especially those at Moresby RUFC, St Benedict's RUFC and Whitehaven Rugby Club which are currently operating over capacity.
- **Recommendation R4:** Install permanent or demountable floodlighting to increase training capacity.
- **Recommendation R5:** Ensure clubs have access to pitch maintenance support and guidance across Copeland, including opportunities to maximise investment into pitch maintenance.

## HOCKEY

- **Recommendation H1:** protect all sites designated as Hockey playing fields in this PPS, in line with Sport England's Playing Field policy.
- **Recommendation H2:** Work with Millom School and Cleator Moor Activity Centre, both identified as of poor quality, to improve pitch quality and provide suitable lighting, and support Western Lakes HC to attract further demand to these facilities.
- **Recommendation H3:** Ensure long-term community use agreements are in place, particularly at Millom School (which has been identified as unsecured for long-term use), to further develop hockey within the area.
- **Recommendation H5:** Safeguard sand based AGP provision for future use and not allow the conversion from sand based to 3G AGP's to occur unless offset with new hockey provision. Work in conjunction with the Football Foundation and Sport England to manage current aspirations to convert one of the existing sand-based AGPs to 3G, ensuring that sufficient capacity is guaranteed to satisfy demand from both sports.
- **Recommendation H6:** To work with England Hockey to promote their informal Hockey offer: Back to Hockey, Hockey Heroes and Indoor Hockey.
- **Recommendation H7:** Work with existing AGP facilities and any new future AGPs providers to that are available to the community and ensure that there is a sink fund in place to guarantee the future sustainability of the pitch.

### 5.3 Action Plan

- 5.3.1 Through a detailed supply and demand analysis of the sports included in the scope of the strategy, as well as stakeholder consultations across the study area, an action plan has been created, which will guide the steering group in their delivery of sports provision and facility decisions over the next 10 years. The action plan is broken down by site with clear owners, timescales and expected resources. This is shown Table 5.1.
- 5.3.2 The table identifies potential sources of external funding. It should be noted that funding for the actions below could come from one, or a combination, of funding sources shown below. This is not an exhaustive list and could be extended to other sources, depending on availability.
- CIL monies
  - Section 106 funding
  - Community Grant Schemes
- 5.3.3 The Action Plan does not identify all those clubs that may be partners or provide resources in relation to its delivery. It is assumed that where clubs have a long-standing interest in a specific site that they will be a partner in delivering the actions and contribute financially or in-kind where appropriate.
- 5.3.4 The Action Plan does not identify Copeland Borough Council as a key resource either in terms of officer time or finance, except for those sites owned and/or managed by the Council. However, the Council has an interest in all those projects delivered within the local authority area and may contribute towards them either financially or in-kind, as appropriate and subject to available resources. It should be noted that not all sites have actions allocated to them, as it is unrealistic to expect funding partners to contribute to improvements at all facilities across a local authority.

#### ACTION PLAN TERMINOLOGY

- Issue/ opportunity: The issue or opportunity that can be addressed
  - Key Actions: Numbering indicates order of preference
  - Partners: Top listed partner is identified as lead partner
  - Resources: Key resource implications (time and money)
  - Timescale: Short: 0–2 yrs. Medium: 2-5 yrs. Long 5-10 yrs.
  - Priority: Low, Medium and High, depending on overall impact for sports participation
  - Acronyms: CBC (Copeland Borough Council), FA (Football Association), FF (Football Foundation), ECB (England & Wales Cricket Board), Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), EH (England Hockey), RFU (Rugby Football Union), CC (cricket club), HC (hockey club), FC (football club).
- 5.3.5 All costs are estimated, based on 4global desktop research and consultation with industry experts. These are not based on firm pricing or quotes from reputable contractors, unless stated otherwise.
- 5.3.6 All maintenance costs represent the full cost for maintaining the pitches. They do not, therefore, reflect any maintenance that is currently being undertaken at the site and the cost incurred for these services. In reality, the cost for additional maintenance would be reflected

by an increase of the current maintenance cost, rather than the full price stated as part of this action plan

- 5.3.7 There is not unlimited funding to invest in sports facilities, for any of the identified partners. As a result, actions have been prioritised on sites that are currently either not fit-for-purpose, showing a deficit of provision, or those that represent a viable investment opportunity that will significantly increase the quality, quantity or accessibility of sports provision in Copeland.
- 5.3.8 To provide the Council and Steering Group with a clear identification of 'strategic' investment priorities across the study area, high profile strategic investment projects have been identified overleaf in bold. These projects are likely to be limited in number due to their size but will deliver a significant level of benefit for grass-roots sport and physical activity. These projects are likely to cost approximately £250,000 or more and will include a number of different stakeholders and funding partners.
- 5.3.9 For ease of reference, the table is organised so that the actions pertinent to each sub area are easily identifiable.

Table 5.1: Copeland PPS Action Plan (2019-2035)

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
ADAMS RECREATION GROUND	North	Football – Enhance	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.	Work with the FA to put in place a more robust maintenance regime in order to improve pitch quality on site. Utilise FA's Pitch Improvement Programme and associated reports to determine required works	CBC / FF	Explore potential for CBC and FF funding	Short	Medium
BISHOPS PARK	North	Football – Enhance	The adult pitch on site was rated as poor during the assessment, suffering from severe drainage problems.	Explore the feasibility of adding improved drainage to pitches. Utilise FA's Pitch Improvement Programme and associated reports to determine required works	CBC / FA / FF / Club	Work established following GMA assessment.	Short-Medium	Medium
BOOTLE AFC	Central	Football – Enhance	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 changing rooms as poor, with a requirement for the roof to be replaced.	1. Explore the feasibility of adding improved drainage to pitches. Utilise FA's Pitch Improvement Programme and associated reports to determine required works. 2. Invest in the refurbishment of changing room provision	CBC / FA / FF / Club	1. Work established following GMA assessment. 2. Explore potential for CBC and FF funding	1. Medium 2. Medium	1. Medium 2. Medium
CLEATOR MOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE	North	Hockey - Enhance	The site is used by Western Lakes HC the only hockey club in Copeland. The site scored in the lower end of the Standard rating as part of the assessment, however consultation with England Hockey and the	1. Replace existing surface and install suitable floodlighting	CBC / EH	Explore potential for CBC and EH funding	Short	High

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
			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 floodlights need replacement and there are no dedicated changing facilities on site.					
		Hockey - Protect	The club 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.	Protect the site as hockey provision, work with England Hockey, the Football Foundation and Sport England to guarantee that a suitable solution for both sports is agreed, ensuring that suitable sand-based provision is provided elsewhere in the area if the pitch is to be converted to 3G .	CBC / EH / FF / SE / Club	Officer time	Short	High
CLEATOR MOOR CELTIC FC	North	Football – Enhance	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.	Support the club and provide information on potential funding opportunities for the refurbishment of the existing ancillary facilities and resurfacing of the road.	Club / CBC / FF	Explore potential for CBC and FF funding	Short-Medium	Low
CLEATOR MOOR RECREATI	North	Football – Enhance	The pitches on site were rated as standard as part of the assessment, however there is	1. Put in place a more robust maintenance regime in order to improve pitch quality on	CBC / FF	Explore potential for CBC and FF funding for	1. Short 2. Short	1. Medium 2. Medium



Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
ON GROUND			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.	site. Utilise FA's Pitch Improvement Programme and associated reports to determine required works.  2. Explore potential for pitch re-configuration on site		increased maintenance		
CONISTON AVENUE PLAYING FIELD	Central	Football - Protect	The site is available for community use, however no formal football demand was recorded as part of the study. The pitch on site was rated as poor and an improved maintenance regime is required on site.	Protect the site as football provision and put in place a more robust maintenance regime in order to provide additional capacity in the area to accommodate growth in youth football demand. Utilise FA's Pitch Improvement Programme and associated reports to determine required works.	CBC / FF	Explore potential for CBC and FF funding	Short	Medium
EGREMON T RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Rugby – Enhance	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	Support the club with their current development plans and provide information on potential funding opportunities	CBC / RFU / Club	Club funds, explore potential for CBC and RFU funding	Medium	Medium

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
			of a 4G pitch in the Egremont area is required.					
JUBILEE FIELD	North	Football – Protect/ Enhance	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,	Protect the site as football provision and put in place a more robust maintenance regime in order to improve pitch quality and attract demand to the site. Utilise FA's Pitch Improvement Programme and associated reports to determine required works.	CBC / FF	Explore potential for CBC and FF funding	Short	Medium
LOWCA AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB	North	Football – Enhance	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.	1. Explore the feasibility of adding improved drainage to pitches. Utilise FA's Pitch Improvement Programme and associated reports to determine required works. 2. Invest in the replacement of existing goal posts.	CBC / FF / Club	Explore potential for CBC and FF funding for drainage works and new goal posts	1. Medium 2. Short	1. Medium 2. Low
MILLOM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB	South	Football – Enhance	The football pitch is in a good condition, however, the ancillary facility is in a poor state and in need of refurbishment.	Provide support and information on the potential funding opportunities for ancillary facility refurbishments	CBC / FF	Explore potential for CBC and FF funding	Short-Medium	Medium
MILLOM RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	South	Football – Enhance	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	1. Put in place a more robust maintenance regime, with a view to improve drainage of the pitches. 2. Undertake further feasibility work to determine the scale and cost of the	CBC / FF / Club / SE	CBC and club funds for improved maintenance. Explore potential for FF and SE funding for changing room expansion	1. Short 2. Medium	1. Medium 2. Medium

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
			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.	work required for an expansion of the existing changing facilities				
		Rugby – Enhance	One of the pitches on site 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.	<p>1. Provide support and information on potential funding opportunities for the installation of suitable floodlights.</p> <p>2. Work in conjunction with the FF to support both sports on site with the renovation/extension of the existing ancillary facilities</p>	CBC / RFU / FF	CBC and RFU funding for floodlights. Explore potential for RFU, FF and SE for ancillary development works.	<p>1. Short</p> <p>2. Medium</p>	<p>1. Medium</p> <p>2. Medium</p>
MILLOM SCHOOL	South	Football – Provide	The site was identified in the LFFP as a potential location for the development of a new full sized 3G AGP.	Undertake further feasibility work to determine the most suitable location for 3G development in the South of the borough.	CBC / FF / SE	Officer time. Explore potential for FF and SE funding for new 3G AGP	Medium	High
		Hockey - Protect	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. There has never been any hockey use on this pitch,	Work in conjunction with the school and England Hockey to determine if the pitch is surplus to requirement and could be considered for conversion to a different surface	CBC / Millom School / EH	Officer time	Short	High

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
			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					
		Hockey – Enhance	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.	If the site is kept as hockey provision, undertake full refurbishment of the pitch including resurfacing, installation of suitable floodlights and renovation of fencing.	CBC / EH / Millom School	Explore potential for CBC and EH funding	Medium	High
MILLOM ST JAMES	South	Football – Provide	The site is used by 3 junior teams from Millom Junior FC. Due to the nature of current demand, the re-configuration of the pitch to a Youth 11v11 should be considered.	Work with site users and the FF to explore a potential pitch re-configuration at the site	CBC / FF / Clubs	CBC and FF funding	Short	Medium
MOOR ROW COMMUNIT	North	Football – Enhance	The pitch was rated as Poor as part of the assessment and an improved maintenance	Put in place a more robust maintenance regime	CBC / FF / School	School funds, explore potential for FF funding	Short	Low

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
Y PRIMARY SCHOOL			regime is required.					
MORESBY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Rugby – Enhance	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 still an issue on certain parts of the ground.	Support the club and provide information on potential funding opportunities for the refurbishment of changing facilities. Undertake pitch assessment to determine the scale and cost of work required to improve drainage of the main field.	RFU / Club / CBC	Explore potential for RFU and CBC funding	Short	Medium
SASRA SPORTS COMPLEX	North	Football – Enhance	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.	Put in place a more robust maintenance regime with a view to improve drainage, and explore the potential for pitch re-configuration.	FF / CSSC / CBC	FF funding	Short	Medium
SEASCALE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Central	Football - Provide	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-configuration of this pitch should be considered.	Explore potential to re-configure the site as Mini 5v5 provision	CBC / FF	School / FF funding	Short	Low
ST BEES VILLAGE SCHOOL	North	Football - Provide	Due to the lack of mini 5v5 provision in Copeland, the re-configuration of this pitch should be considered.	Explore potential to re-configure the site as Mini 5v5 provision	CBC / FF	School / FF funding	Short	Low

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
ST BENEDICT'S RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB	North	Football – Enhance	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.	Invest in the resurfacing of the pitch by 2023	FF / RFU / CBC / Club	Explore potential for FF and RFU funding	Medium	Medium
THE SPORTS FIELD	North	Football - Protect	The site is available to the community, however no formal football demand was recorded as part of the study. Due to the projected increase of junior demand, the Youth 11v11 pitch on site should be protected.	Protect the site as football provision and work with local clubs to attract youth demand to the site	CBC / FF	Officer time	Short	Medium
THORNHILL PLAYING FIELDS	North	Football – Enhance	The pitch on site was identified as poor as part of the assessment and an improved maintenance regime is required	Put in place a more robust maintenance regime in order to improve pitch quality and increase carrying capacity.	CBC / FF	CBC and FF funding	Short	Medium
WEST LAKES ACADEMY PLAYING FIELDS	North	Rugby – Enhance	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	Work with the school to put in place a more robust maintenance regime and improve pitch quality	School / RFU	School and RFU funds	Short	Low
WHITEHAVEN AFC	North	Football – Enhance	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	Support the club and provide information on funding opportunities to undertake ancillary facility developments on site	CBC / FF / SE / Club	Club funds. Explore potential for CBC, FF and SE funding.	Medium-Large	High

Site	Sub Area	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources/ Costs	Timescale	Priority
			facilities and expand the site into the land to the south.. There is also a good quality 3G AGP on site that is used for match play and training.					

## Section 6: Delivering the Playing Pitch Strategy





## 6 Delivering the Playing Pitch Strategy

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 To facilitate the development of sport and physical activity across Copeland, it is advised that the Steering Group, set up as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy project, continues to work together to deliver the recommendations defined as part of this strategy.
- 6.1.2 The success of a PPS will be determined by how it is used. It is recommended that the delivery of the strategy is led by the Council, with close support by the steering group that has been developed as part of this project. It is suggested that a Stage E meeting is held for this purpose. Further guidance is provided in Sport England’s PPS Guidance in the form of the Stage E commentary and associated checklist. Further detail on how a PPS can be used is included in Technical Appendix G – Applying the Playing Pitch Strategy.

### 6.2 Keeping the PPS Relevant and Up-to-Date

- 6.2.1 To ensure that the Playing Pitch Strategy stays relevant and continues to support stakeholders in the delivery of sport and physical activity facility investment and development, an annual review should be undertaken. This review, which if undertaken regularly will have a reduced scope than the full PPS, will allow the steering group to review progress against the PPS recommendations and action plan. The review will also identify any emerging issues and apply any lessons learnt through recent development or investment projects.
- 6.2.2 Through the development of the PPS, data has been stored and analysed on the 4 global Playing Pitch Strategy Platform, which has up to date supply and demand data for pitch sports across the district. This data is available to Copeland Borough Council and it is recommended that this is used as the starting point for future strategy refresh projects.

**Figure 6.1: Copeland Borough Council Playing Pitch Platform**

Site Name	Site Address	Site Assessor Name	Scheduled At	Completed At	Responded	Confirmed	Time to visit	Actions
BELLINGHAM LEISURE & LIFESTYLE CENTRE	Talbot Place, London, SE3 0TZ	Brooke Butler	2018-01-29 09:48:00	2018-11-20	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit
DOWNHAM HEALTH & LEISURE CENTRE	Glenbow Road, Bromley, BR1 4RL	Sam James	2018-01-29 12:20:00	2018-11-20	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit
ST DUNSTONS COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	Canadian Avenue, London, SE6 4SW	Brooke Butler	2018-06-19 11:20:00	2018-11-08	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit
THE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CENTRE (ABBOTSHALL ROAD)	Whitefoot Lane, Bromley, BR1 3SQ	Brooke Butler	2018-06-18 10:30:00	2018-09-25	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit
TEN-EM-BEE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE	Kangley Bridge Road, London, SE26 5AQ	Sam James	2018-01-29 12:00:00	2018-09-25	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit
DEPTFORD GREEN SCHOOL	Evelyn Street, London, SE8 5R	Sam James	2018-01-25 10:30:00	2018-09-19	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit
THE BRIDGE LEISURE CENTRE	Abbotshall Road, London, SE8 1SQ	Sam James	2018-01-26 11:20:00	2018-07-24	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit
CATFORD WANDERERS SPORTS CLUB	Amblecote Road, London, SE12 8TN	Sam James	2018-01-26 13:00:00	2018-07-24	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit
Perrymount Primary School	BR1 5LL	Brooke Butler	2018-01-26 09:00:00	2018-07-12	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit
Warren Avenue Playing Fields	97 Doornberry Rd, Bromley BR1 9QE	Brooke Butler	2018-06-19 13:00:00	2018-07-12	Yes	Yes	Data passed	View Edit

6.2.3 In the short term, it is advised that the Council sets up an implementation group (which should be a continuation of steering group set up as part of the PPS), to co-ordinate preparation of a short-term action plan, as well as undertaking further sub-regional needs assessment for major cross-boundary development projects. The PPS has identified, on a site by site and sub-area level, the needs for pitch and ancillary provision across Copeland. Where the current level of supply does not meet the current or future needs of residents for specific sports, pitch typologies and ancillaries have been identified as requiring further capacity to meet demand.

6.2.4 In order to provide this additional capacity, guidance has been provided as to whether the steering group and partner organisations should look to;

- Enhance existing pitches to increase their capacity and ensure adequate maintenance to maintain the higher use, and/or
- Secure greater community access to sites and undertake necessary works to allow for such use to occur, and/or
- Provide new playing pitches on new sites (natural or artificial grass pitches).

6.2.5 Where the third option has been recommended, further guidance is available from Sport England and National Governing Bodies to advise on the best course of action for local authorities and delivery organisations.

### 6.3 Securing Additional or Improved Pitch Provision Through Development

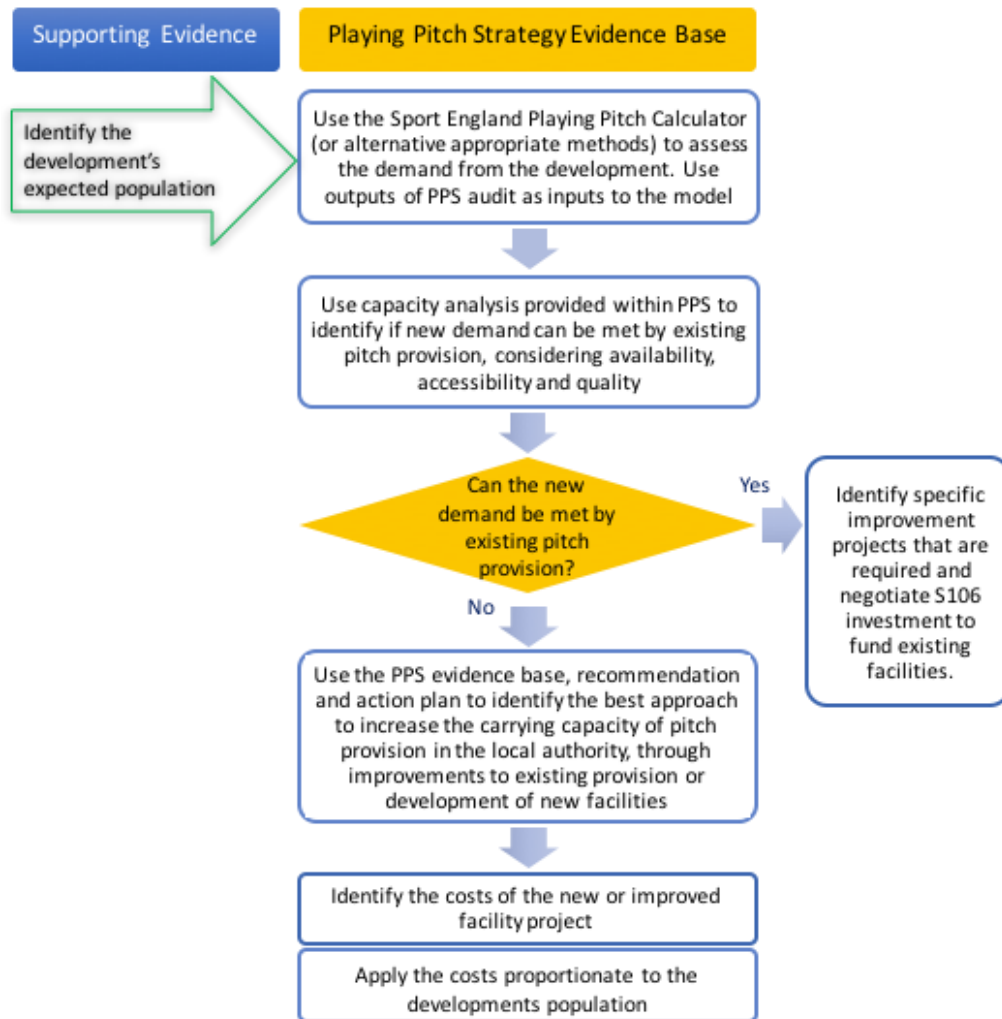
6.3.1 In addition to the specific site by site recommendations identified throughout the needs assessment, it is also key that the strategy provides a clear approach to securing playing pitch provision in the case of new development, or utilising Section 106 (S106) or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions to improve the quantity of existing provision.

6.3.2 It is important to note that for any contribution secured through S106, a clear and tailored approach is required, to demonstrate how the contribution will be used to benefit residents. Specifically, the Playing Pitch Strategy's evidence base and action plan should be used to justify the need arising from the specific development and how these are to be met.

6.3.3 While S106 investment should typically be used for improvement projects nearby new development, or for developing new provision on new sites, CIL contributions are typically more appropriate for key strategic investment projects.

6.3.4 The graphic overleaf and associated commentary identifies the stages that should be followed, when utilising the Playing Pitch Strategy to secure additional or improved pitch provision through development.

Figure 6.2: Securing additional or improved pitch provision through development



6.3.5 Although the population of a single development may not in itself generate the demand for a full pitch, it will still generate additional demand which should be quantified and be met.

## 6.4 Using the Community Infrastructure Levy to Invest in Pitch Sport Provision

6.4.1 If a Local Authority uses CIL to invest in community projects, there are a range of resources available to support the development of these investment cases, alongside the evidence from this Playing Pitch Strategy.

6.4.2 Sport England continue to keep the advice note for CIL and Planning Obligations updated<sup>4</sup>, with the latest version found on the organisation’s website. The following key points have been updated and are particularly relevant to the outcomes of this PPS.

### TOP TIPS FOR USING CIL

- Develop and maintain a robust and up to date evidence base for sporting provision.
- Use the evidence base to:

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/community-infrastructure-levy-and-planning-obligations-advice-note/>

- Estimate the nature and level of needs that may be generated from new development(s) for sporting provision;
- establish clear deliverable actions (with associated costs) that have the potential to help meet the needs that will be generated from new development in the area.
- Based on the nature of the actions, the level of new development in an area, and the realistic ability to secure investment into sport through CIL or planning obligations, decide how best to use CIL and planning obligations alongside one another to deliver sporting infrastructure and to support development.
- Where CIL is in place ensure any sporting provision to be placed on the Reg 123 list is:
  - Project specific so it does not unnecessarily restrict the use of planning obligations;
  - focused on high level priority projects of a strategic nature that CIL has potential to deliver rather than a long list of projects that CIL will never be able to fund. This will allow the potential for other projects to be funded by planning obligations;
  - backed by strong high level officer and political support within the LA so that there is some confidence that CIL funds will be directed to the sporting provision.
- Where CIL is not in place, or where the wording of a Reg 123 list allows for the use of planning obligations, ensure that:
  - any obligations sought are based on a tailored approach to each development, using the robust evidence base to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met;
  - a proactive approach is taken to planning for the use of planning obligations in the context of the current pooling restrictions (i.e. as far as is practical matching specific developments to identified projects). This could be through the use of a Planning Obligations SPD which identifies potential projects from a playing pitch strategy or sports facility strategy that could help meet the need arising from planned developments in a Local Plan.

6.4.3 Further information is available as part of Sport England’s CIL and Planning Obligations Advice Note, however it is key to note that in relation to the 1st top tip identified above, the development and delivery of this PPS is the first stage in utilising CIL to leverage grass roots sport investment.

## 6.5 Securing Additional or Improved Pitch Provision Through Development

6.5.1 In addition to the new or improved pitch provision that is identified in line with the process demonstrated above, the cost for maintenance of new facilities should also be sought for both on-site and off-site provision. For example, where 3G facilities are installed, the carpet will require replacement (approximately every 10 years depending on level of usage and maintenance) and costs towards a sinking fund should also be sought.

6.5.2 Where a pitch or pitches are required on-site, this may include requiring delivery through a planning policy and a masterplan approach for the whole area. This can ensure that enough suitable land is planned from the outset and provided at no cost. This is particularly important where there is a need for a large land-take associated with pitches.

6.5.3 Planning policy should seek to ensure that where sites are developed in phases or through multiple applications, and where the pitch provision is required on-site, that this provision is coordinated and delivered by the landowners/developers. In some circumstances, a single site for pitches serving all the development or all its phases can be required.

6.5.4 The timing and delivery of the pitches and related changing and parking facilities should be considered in relation to development phasing to achieve a balance between ensuring provision is in

place in time to meet the needs of the residents, avoiding pressure being placed on existing facilities, and the financial viability of the development.

- 6.5.5 Where there are separate developments in close proximity that taken together generate a need for a whole pitch, contributions need to be made towards new provision or improving, existing pitches. For new pitches, the planning policy therefore also needs to identify where that pitch and related changing and parking facilities are to be located, how sufficient land is to be secured, and (where known) the individual developments that need to contribute to it. This also applies to where there is a need for a larger strategic site serving a large catchment. This may require the developers to provide the land on-site or for the local planning authority to identify the land through the Local Plan process.

## 6.6 Securing Appropriate Land Provision From New Development

- 6.6.1 Suitable land needs to be provided by developments, in line with the guidelines below;

- Where the investment need is for a new pitch and related changing and parking facilities to meet the demand directly generated by the population of the new development(s), then the developer is expected to meet all these costs. These include provision, maintenance and land costs
- Where the demand is for the majority (50% or more) of a pitch and related changing and parking facilities, that is to be provided on site, suitable land will be provided by the developer at no cost, as well as the population-related proportion of the cost of the pitch
- Where the demand is for less than 50% of a pitch and related changing and parking facilities, that is to be provided on-site, then suitable land needs to be planned into the development, however only a proportionate amount of this land will be provided for free and the remainder will need to be funded from other sources (e.g. from pooled contributions from other developments, from grants or other sources)
- Where the land cannot be provided for on-site because of proven master-planning constraints, financial viability or other relevant reasons, then the local authority may negotiate an appropriate alternative contribution, where this is S106 compliant.

## 6.7 Identifying the Appropriate Provision for Contribution

- 6.7.1 As identified in the policy context for this document, the Council will secure developer contributions where appropriate towards future sports infrastructure to support future development in accordance with Local Plan policies and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Developer contributions will primarily be sought through S106 agreements, but other funding sources may also be secured where possible. The Council will continue to work with partners and infrastructure providers in order to secure improvements to sport infrastructure to meet the future needs of the district.

- 6.7.2 In the case of S106 contributions, the following should be noted;

- Section 106 contributions must be directly related to the development in question; however the impact of any development can affect the wider community. This means that S106 contributions can be used to deliver improvements to facilities that are located some distance away from the development, such as a local town centre or major sports facility hub site
- Development that is funded through S106 contribution should be focussed on specific projects, identified through the strategic need's assessments (such as this Playing Pitch Strategy) that have been issued by the Council.

## 6.8 Conciliating Contributions

6.8.1 To calculate the scale of a developer's financial contribution for the provision of pitches and related facilities, the following should be used:

- Sport England's Playing Pitch New Development Calculator should be used to assess pitch and related facilities arising from specific developments. This can be supported and evidenced by Sport England's latest facility costs for pitches and related facilities, as well as detailed feasibility work and support from qualified cost consultants. The latest version of this calculator can be found here: <https://www.activeplacespower.com/reports/playing-pitch-caCouncilulator>
- The cost of maintenance and sinking funds, where justified, should be calculated using Sport England or NGB advice and supporting documents, however local knowledge and previous costs from similar maintenance contracts should be considered. Maintenance and sinking costs can also be provided by Sport England's 'Lifecycle Costs' (2017) however where specific and robust knowledge is available it is recommended that this is used
- Where a land cost is justified this cost will be based on the local market cost for the relevant sport/leisure land use. There may also be a need to add the cost of other local and site-specific costs (e.g. abnormal ground conditions, site access needs etc.)
- All costs should date related and inflation needs to be considered (e.g. if a facility is to be delivered in 3 years' time the planning condition must apply an appropriate inflation index).

6.8.2 If the PPNCD is to be used, the Council should ensure that the most recent template is used, as financial

**End**