

Darlington Playing Pitch and Sports Facility

Needs Assessment and Evidence Base 2015 - 2020

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1: Introduction and Context

Introduction

- 1.1 In May 2014, Darlington Borough Council commissioned naa to produce a Sports Facilities Strategy. This strategy provides the updated evidence base to support the delivery of the *Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2013-18* and updates the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sport and Physical Activities Facility Strategy (2009). It sets out the strategic direction and site specific priorities for the future delivery of sports facilities across the borough until 2026. It will remain a valid document for the period 2015 - 2020.

Strategic vision

- 1.2 The existing Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy have successfully driven significant improvement and investment into the sporting infrastructure across Darlington Borough. Successes include:

- renovation of the Dolphin Centre, the flagship leisure centre;
- negotiation of formal community use agreements for several key sporting sites;
- the development of new sporting hubs at Darlington Sports Arena and Blackwell Meadows;
- provision of AGPs at Hummersknott School and Longfield Academy;
- provision of new sports halls at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Longfield Academy, Darlington School of Mathematics and Science, Hurworth School and Kings Centre;
- securing funding to upgrade playing fields at existing school sites; and
- provision of several new MUGAs, including Red Hall, Heighington, Darlington College and St Aidans Academy.

- 1.3 This strategy seeks to build upon these successes and to deliver the sporting vision for the borough up to 2026. The vision for the strategy is therefore:

'to develop a comprehensive, robust, up to date and user friendly assessment of sports provision and need in Darlington to ensure that the right amount and type of sports facilities are protected, and where appropriate enhanced to provide a range of quality, accessible and safe facilities, in the right place at the right time to meet the needs of the community now and in 2026.'

Key drivers

- 1.4 To help achieve its planning aims Sport England has three planning objectives, which are to seek to protect sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment, to enhance existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management and to provide new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future
- 1.5 The key drivers for updating the existing document can be related to these three tenets, as follows:

Protect:

- To deliver the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, specifically paragraphs 73, 74 and 171
- To support the implementation and inform the ongoing development of the new Darlington Local Plan.

Enhance:

- To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that best uses are made of existing resources - whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets.
- To enable the prioritization of any available financial resources.

Provide:

- To provide evidence upon which funding may be secured in the future
- To provide the evidence base for the provision of new sports facilities up to 2026
- To promote and facilitate cross sport working as part of the strategy development process.

1.6 Figure 1.1 illustrates how these components link together.

Figure 1.1



Structure

1.7 The strategy considers the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future need and sets strategic and site specific priorities for a range of facilities, including:

- swimming pools
- sports halls and community halls
- playing pitches for football, cricket, rugby and hockey
- indoor and outdoor tennis
- indoor and outdoor bowls
- specialist provision; including golf courses, skateparks, athletics and climbing.

1.8 It aims to:

- present an understanding of the current supply of sports facilities in Darlington Borough;
- outline the current demand for sports facilities in Darlington and the potential demand up to 2026;
- provide an understanding of site specific activity;
- understand the overall adequacy and capacity of provision across Darlington both at the current time and also in the future; and
- identify the key issues that need to be addressed and provide a strategy for the future provision of facilities across the borough.

1.9 The sports covered in the report and the sections in which they appear are set out in the table below.

Sport	Section Reference
Sports hall sports including; badminton, basketball, judo and karate, netball, table-tennis and volleyball	Section 4
Swimming	Section 5
Football, cricket and rugby union (grass)	Section 6
Football, hockey and rugby union (AGPs)	Section 7
Bowls (indoor and outdoor)	Section 8
Tennis (indoor and outdoor)	Section 9
Athletics, golf, cycling, indoor active pursuits, squash, gymnastics, boxing	Section 10

1.10 The remainder of the strategy is therefore set out as follows:

- Section 2 Methodology
- Section 3 Strategic Context, Population and Sports Participation Profile
- Section 4 Sports Halls and Community Halls
- Section 5 Swimming Pools
- Section 6 Playing Pitches
- Section 7 AGPs and MUGAs
- Section 8 Indoor and Outdoor Bowling
- Section 9 Indoor and Outdoor Tennis
- Section 10 Specialist Provision
- Section 11 Action Plan, Implementation, Monitoring and Review

2: Methodology

Introduction

- 2.1 This assessment and strategy has been produced in line with guidance by Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; Consultation Draft; December 2013) and 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).
- 2.2 The key principles of each methodology, the sports that they cover and the tasks that have been undertaken are summarized in the remainder of this section. While set out as separate methodologies, in reality, many of the tasks have been undertaken as a coordinated and linked approach due to the cross-overs and interrelationships between the methodologies.
- 2.3 For both methodologies, the first element of work seeks to tailor the approach to reflect the geographical and sporting nature of the local area. This was undertaken through detailed discussions with the project steering group, building upon local knowledge and a clear understanding of the patterns of sports participation.
- 2.4 Reflecting the compact nature of the Borough, the adequacy of facilities is analysed throughout this assessment at a Borough wide level. The steering group determined that patterns of facility usage mean that it is not appropriate to subdivide the area further. Site specific analysis and the location of each site within the town are however taken into account when evaluating the adequacy of provision, as well as during the strategy development process.

Playing Pitch Guidance – An Approach to Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy

- 2.5 This methodology sets out a ten stage approach for the analysis of facilities for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey. The ten stages are illustrated in Figure 2.1 and it is this approach that has been followed for the analysis of pitch sports.

Figure 2.1-: Developing and delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach



2.6 The key tasks undertaken to deliver the assessment for football, cricket, rugby and hockey are therefore summarised in brief below.

Steps 2 and 3 – Gather Supply and Demand Information and Views

Supply

2.7 The data collection process included a full audit of pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Darlington. For each site, the following information was collected:

- site name, location, ownership and management type;
- number and type of pitches / courts;
- accessibility of facilities to the local community;
- overall quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (including maintenance regimes);
- level of protection and security of tenure; and
- views of users and providers.

Demand

- 2.8 To evaluate the demand for playing pitches across Darlington, data was collated on:
- all sports clubs and teams and their match and training requirements;
 - casual and other demand;
 - educational demand;
 - displaced demand (i.e. teams wishing to play within the borough but unable to);
 - latent demand;
 - future demand (including club and team aspirations for development as well as National Governing Body priorities and targets); and
 - user views and experiences, including trends and changes in demand.
- 2.9 The following tasks were undertaken to compile the supply and demand information:
- analysis of existing information; including the previous PPS
 - interpretation of findings of Sport England tools, specifically Active Places, Active People and Market Segmentation;
 - a review of National Governing Body (NGB) data on pitches and local participation;
 - full review of local league websites, fixture lists and pitch booking records;
 - use of available technical quality assessment reports and non-technical site visits;
 - a detailed survey to schools (linked with the indoor assessment);
 - a full programme of consultation with sports clubs and league secretaries;
 - engagement with providers of playing pitches; and
 - face to face and telephone discussions with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities.
- 2.10 A high proportion of teams within the Borough successfully engaged with the process specifically:
- Football – 87%
 - Cricket – 100%
 - Rugby Union – 100%
 - Hockey – 100%
- 2.11 All supply and demand information collated has been stored in an excel spreadsheet that can be monitored and kept up to date. This spreadsheet is linked to the information provided as part of the indoor / built facilities assessment.

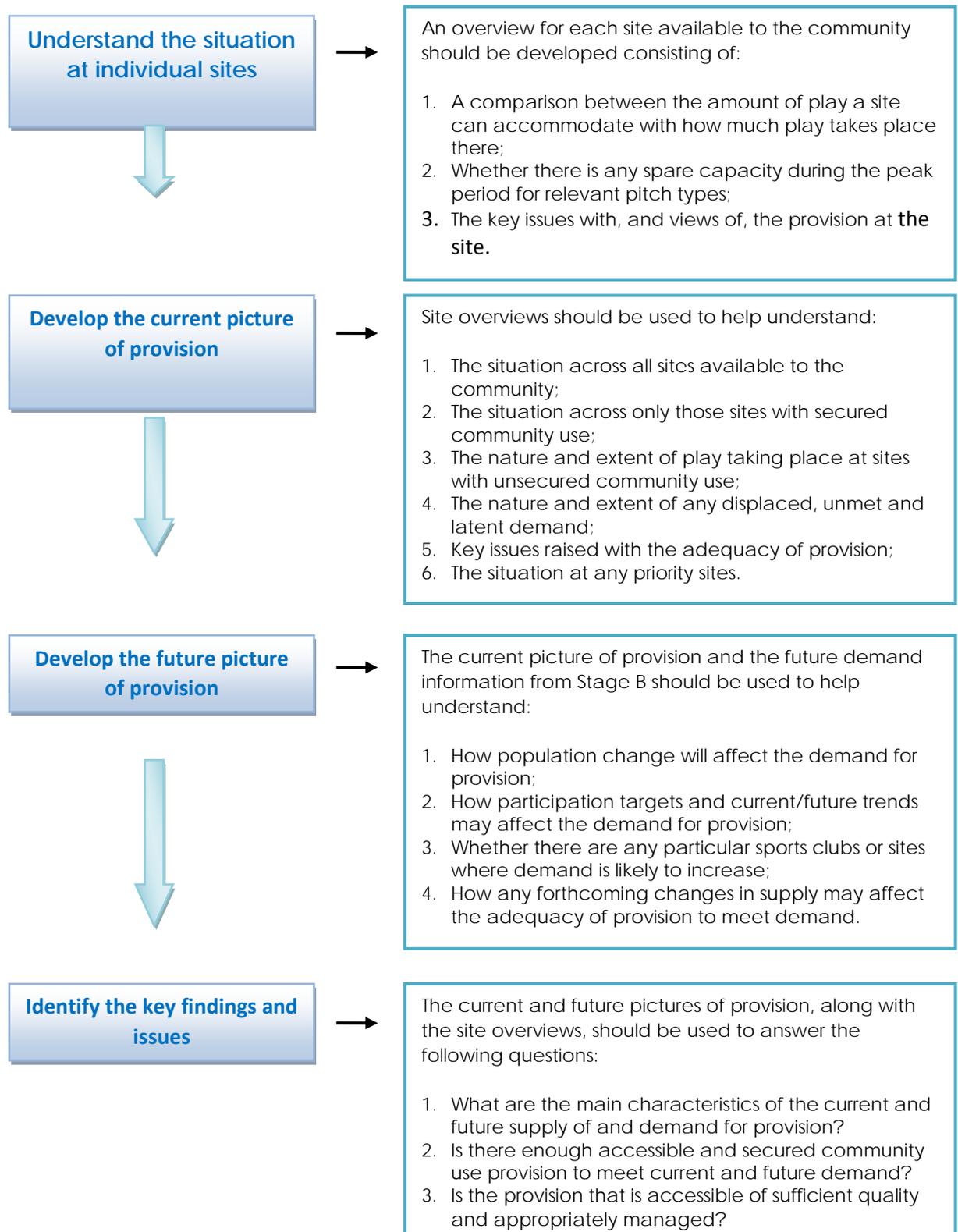
Steps 4, 5 and 6 – Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

2.12 The supply and demand information collated during Steps 2 and 3 has been used to:

- understand the situation at individual playing pitch sites;
- develop the current and projected future pictures of provision across the borough; and
- identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.

2.13 Figure 2.2 overleaf, extracted directly from the guidance (Sport England 2013), provides further detail of the issues explored during the analysis of the adequacy of provision.

Figure 2.2-: Overview of the assessment process



Steps 6 - 10 Develop the Strategy and Deliver the Strategy

- 2.14 Recommendations and strategy are developed to address the issues identified through the data collection and analysis undertaken in Steps 1 – 5.

Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; Consultation Draft; December 2013)

- 2.15 The stages of the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) approach are as follows:

A Undertaking an Assessment:

Stage 1 – Prepare and tailor your assessment

Stage 2 – Gather information on supply and demand

Stage 3 – Assessment, bring the information together

B Application of Assessment

A Undertaking an Assessment

- 2.16 As outlined earlier in this section, Stage 1 (prepare and tailor the assessment) was carried out through detailed discussions with the steering group.

Stage 2: Gather Information on Supply and Demand

- 2.17 To gather information on supply, visits were made to all the sports halls, pools, and indoor and outdoor specialist facilities within the borough, and assessments made of their quality, condition and maintenance and 'fit for purpose' rating. Discussions were held with operators, manager and users. All secondary schools and colleges were visited, and linked with the playing pitch assessment, all primary schools were contacted.

- 2.18 To gather information on demand, questionnaires were sent (many with follow up phone calls and/or visits) to all known sports clubs. Consultation took place with national and regional governing body of sport representatives.

- 2.19 An analysis of local population data was undertaken, and Sports England planning tools were used (including Active People, Sports Market Segmentation and the Facilities Planning Model) to estimate likely future demand for sports facilities in the borough.

Stage 3: Assessment – Bring the Information Together

- 2.20 The analysis seeks to bring together the evidence gathered to gain an understanding of the relationship between supply and demand. Key findings and issues to be addressed are set out for each of the sports / facilities covered.

B Application of Assessment – Strategy Development

- 2.21 Recommendations and strategy priorities are developed to address the issues identified through the data collection and analysis undertaken in Step A.

Conclusion

2.22 The development of the PPS alongside the needs assessment for indoor and outdoor sport will provide Darlington with a robust and comprehensive evidence base for sport in the area and ensure the authority is fully compliant with the requirements of the NPPF.

2.23 In terms of application the work should be used to:

- Contribute to planning policy development (e.g. The Local Plan or Neighbourhood Planning);
- Respond to Development Management issues e.g. underpinning or responding to planning applications;
- Contribute to an Infra-structure Delivery Plan (IDP) of Community Infra-structure Levy (CIL); and
- Prioritise the Council investment and funding bids.

3: Strategic Context, Population and Sports Participation Profile

Introduction

- 3.1 An understanding of the local strategic context, population and sports participation trends is essential in order to ensure that the strategy is tailored to the characteristics, profile and aspirations for the local Darlington area.
- 3.2 This section therefore briefly summarises the key policies that impact upon the preparation of this assessment and strategy and provides an overview of the demographics and sports participation trends of Darlington, and assesses the impact of this on demand for sports facilities.

Strategic context

National level

- 3.3 There are several national policies that impact upon the preparation of this Sports Facilities Strategy:
- 3.4 **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation, is set out in paragraphs 73 and 74 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application. Paragraph 73 indicates that:

'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 and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.'

Paragraph 74 states that:

- 3.5 *existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless an assessment shows that the facilities are surplus to requirements or replacement provision is provided or alternative provision is needed which clearly outweighs the loss.*
- 3.6 The NPPF also gives significant prominence to health as a cross cutting theme and through the NPPF, health now forms an integral part of national planning policy guidance. Particular points of relevance include:
 - The three roles of planning in helping to achieve sustainable development set out in para 7 (Economic, Social and Environmental), and the references to "supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities" and to "accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being" within the Social role. The requirement to "take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs" within the twelve Core Planning Principles outlined in para 17.

- The specific section on “Promoting healthy communities” (section 8; paras 69-78).
- The emphasis in the sections on Plan making on infrastructure planning (including health), and working with “public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population

National - Sport England Strategy – 2012-2017

3.7 By 2017 Sport England wants to have transformed sport so that it becomes a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. Their primary outcome is to see a year on year increase in the proportion of people playing sport once a week for at least 30 minutes. There is a particular focus on 14-25 years including reducing the number of people dropping out of sport. Sport England’s goals for 2012-17 include:

- Every one of the 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in its area
- County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community
- All secondary schools who wish to do so will be helped to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen
- At least 150 further education colleges will benefit from full-time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker
- Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college
- A thousand of the most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club
- A further £100m will be invested in facilities through ‘Places People Play’ for the most popular sports
- A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

3.8 **National Governing Body Facility Strategies:** 46 National Governing Bodies have received Sport England funding for the period 2013-17 through their Whole Sport Plans. A number also have produced National Facilities Strategies which have been considered in the preparation of this strategy document. The key priorities of these documents will be set out in the sport specific sections.

Local policy context

3.9 There are a number of local documents which underpin the development of a Sports Facilities Strategy for Darlington. These are summarised in brief and the implications of the documents for this strategy are highlighted.

Document	Key Principles of the Strategy	Implications for this assessment and Strategy
<p>Darlington Sustainable Community Strategy – one Darlington: perfectly placed; 2008 - 2026</p>	<p>This plan has a very clear and straightforward purpose. It is about a new deal for Darlington in which all residents have a part to play in creating a future that may look like this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people are enabled to live healthy and independent lives • Our children get the best possible start in life – we provide support early on to enable them to live well later, and to be able to fulfil their aspirations and potential • We all play a part in making Darlington a safe and caring community • More of us are active and involved in ensuring our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of the community • Darlington has more businesses and more jobs, and we are able to make the most of the opportunities they offer • We all take responsibility for looking after our environment and keeping it clean and attractive • There is enough support available, of the right kind, to help us to live independently as we grow older • Darlington is a place that offers a high quality of life and is designed to thrive, economically and socially <p>These are the ‘outcomes’ that it is hoped will be achieved through the plan. All of them are about creating and maintaining a good quality of life by and for everyone in Darlington (One Darlington), and about making Darlington the best possible place to live and work (Perfectly Placed).</p>	<p>The delivery of the recommendations and action plan developed as part of this playing pitch and sports facility strategy will be instrumental in the achievement of the wider aims and objective of the community strategy. Most notably getting more people active and sport and physical activity, which are key elements of the community strategy and which facility provision are key contributors towards.</p>
<p>Darlington Borough Council Core Strategy Development Plan Document</p>	<p>The Core Strategy DPD sets out how the Borough will develop over the period 2011 to 2026 and forms part of the new local development plan. The spatial vision for the strategy is that;</p> <p>‘By 2026 Darlington will be a more sustainable community, where a real step change has been achieved in enhancing the quality of life and local environment, and expanding local opportunities for work and for sustainable travel. Those who live in, work in or visit the Borough will enjoy the opportunities and vibrant life of an ambitious city, but within the fabric of a friendly, historic market town with a distinctive atmosphere, surrounded by attractive countryside and villages.</p> <p>As well as a series of strategic objectives, to achieve this vision, the document outlines a series of policies, many of which are of direct relevance to this assessment, including;</p>	<p>This sports facility strategy will update the evidence used to inform the core strategy and provide continuing information on the importance of outdoor and indoor sports facilities, and the priorities for future investment and protection.</p> <p>The impact of the identified strategic housing growth will be taken into account in order to ensure that there are enough facilities and that they are in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.</p>

Document	Key Principles of the Strategy	Implications for this assessment and Strategy
	<p>Policy CS4 – Developer Contributions – indicates that planning obligations will be negotiated to secure the necessary physical, social and environmental infrastructure required as a consequence of development</p> <p>Policy CS18 – Promoting Quality, Accessible Sport and Recreation Facilities – the policy indicates that sport and recreation facilities will be protected and where appropriate, enhanced to provide a range of quality, accessible and safe facilities. The policy refers to both important outdoor and built facilities and indicates that the loss of sports and recreation facilities will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The strategy also highlights that an additional 8675 net dwellings will be required between 2004 and 2026. It indicates that land for new housing will be allocated in the following strategic locations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Urban Area • Town Centre Fringe • North Western Urban Fringe • Eastern Urban Fringe. <p>It is also anticipated that development will take place in Darlington urban area, Central Park, Lingfield Point and West Park.</p>	
<p>Darlington Borough Council – Making and Growing Places DPD</p>	<p>The Making and Growing Places Development DPD will contain detailed development plan policies and site allocations for all types of new development, except minerals and waste and including sport and recreation, identify areas that are to be protected from development and include policies to ensure the effective management of development across the whole Borough. Once finalised, this DPD, together with the adopted Core Strategy, will form the new Local Plan for the Borough</p>	<p>The evidence collated to inform this strategy document and the key recommendations and action plan will be used to inform the development of the Making and Growing Places DPD</p>
<p>Darlington Borough Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013 - 2026</p>	<p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy draws upon the priorities of national, sub regional and local strategies and translates them into local objectives, priority actions and projects. It sets the key priorities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a quality, distinctive landscape and townscape. • Providing a connected network for wildlife to live, breed and migrate • Continue to improve off road green leisure routes and public rights of way • Improve the outdoor sport, recreation and play network 	<p>This sports facility strategy sets out the strategic direction and key priorities for the future provision of both indoor and outdoor sports up to 2026. The delivery of recommendations in this document will complement and contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives in the Green Infrastructure Assessment</p>

Document	Key Principles of the Strategy	Implications for this assessment and Strategy
<p>Darlington Open Space Strategy – 2007 - 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a diverse and economically productive landscape • Minimise the impact of climate change • Engage partners and promote initiatives to manage and maintain open spaces. <p>The Darlington Open Strategy and Update outlines the key priorities for open spaces in the borough. The update document indicates that detailed priorities relating to outdoor sports are to be addressed in the Playing Pitch Strategy rather than in the open space assessment.</p> <p>The open space strategy does consider the provision of facilities for young people, which includes skateparks and MUGAs. With specific regard to these facilities, the document states that the Council will continue to work with partners to address the small gaps in the provision of skateparks and MUGAs in Hummersknott/College wards.</p>	<p>This sports facility strategy will complement the open space strategy and will update the playing pitch strategy in providing strategic direction for the provision of playing pitches across the borough. The strategy will take on board the principles set out in this document in relation to facilities for young people.</p>

Population profile and trends

3.10 Analysis of the population profile provides a context for the interpretation of participation in different sports in Darlington. Full statistics on the current and projected future population are provided in the Appendix, drawing upon the Sport England Local Sport Profile tool.

3.11 The key issues arising from analysis of the existing population profile are as follows:

- the 2011 census revealed the population of Darlington to be just under 106,000;
- a slightly higher proportion of the population are females compared to the North East and England;
- the population profile is particularly skewed, with a higher proportion of residents aged 16 – 19 and 20 to 24 than both the North East and the England average, but significantly higher proportions aged also above 50. This means that the proportion of people in the age groups with higher participation rates for sport are lower than may be expected; and
- a lower proportion of the 16+ population are non-white compared to the South West and England.

3.12 Population projections have been prepared (Darlington Borough Council 2014) to take into account both natural change and the potential housing growth arising from proposed strategic allocations.

3.13 The key issues arising from analysis of the population projections are as follows:

- The overall population of Darlington Borough will increase only marginally (1.8% up to 2026) to 107,480
- The proportion of residents within the older age groups will however increase significantly, meaning that there are fewer residents in the age groups that are most likely to participate in sport
- Population growth will not however take place evenly across the borough, with growth in the Faverdale, Sadberge and Whesoe, Lingfield and Harrowgate Hill wards anticipated to be particularly high. This means that the location of demand may change in future years.

3.14 The above indicates that the proportion of residents most likely to participate in sport in Darlington is expected to remain broadly similar despite the overall population growth, due to the impact of the ageing population.

Sports participation profile

3.15 Sports and physical activity participation serve a role in their own right but are also important in contributing to creating and maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle. A wider objective of Darlington Borough Council is to:

- increase participation in sport and physical activity so as to create a healthy lifestyle and where choice to undertake exercise is a lifestyle choice.

- 3.16 Before undertaking the assessment of need for sports facilities related to the Darlington Council's playing pitch and sports facilities strategy it is important to evidence the sporting and physical activity participation and health profile for the borough. This ensures that sports and physical participation is very much rooted in the determination of the development of the evidence base and that the strategy is developed based on an understanding of who participates, how often, in what type of activities and the barriers and motivations for increasing participation.
- 3.17 This section sets out the profile of participation across Darlington and answers a number of questions, for example, how the profile of adult sports participation varies spatially across the borough? How does participation differ by age and gender? What is the scale of complete inactivity in any form of sporting or physical activity participation and how has this changed over time? Which are the most popular sporting activities?
- 3.18 If we know what the hard evidence is saying about the profile of sports and physical participation across the authority then we can match this up against the sports facilities – are they the right type of sports facilities for the participation profile? Are the facilities located in areas where the people living in those areas do the sports activities which the facilities provide?
- 3.19 The sequence of contents for this section are:
- Darlington's adult and young people's participation in sport and physical activity, from the Sport England Active People survey and focusing on the once a week measure over APS 1 – 8 (2005 - 06 to second quarter 2014)
 - Spatial analysis of sport and physical activity participation and the spatial profile of the health of residents
 - Impacts of the levels of sporting and physical activity and inactivity on health and the health costs of inactivity
 - Profile of adult sports participation for Darlington based on the Active People market segmentation data and compared with the findings for Tees Valley CSP and North East Region.

Sports and physical activity participation in Darlington

- 3.20 The first stage of this assessment is based on findings from the Sport England national survey of adult sports participation (Active People Survey).
- 3.21 From this assessment of sports and physical activity participation it is possible to identify options to better match the sports participation profile to the future needs for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Simply put, the provision of sports facilities should respond to identified need and demand for specific and popular activities at appropriate locations.
- 3.22 Sport England's Active People Survey provides the most comprehensive assessment of levels of sports participation across the country at a local authority, county, CSP, regional and national level. It measures a range of performance indicators including participation levels, volunteering and satisfaction with local sports provision. It also measures participation in particular sports and activities and allows for an analysis of participation according to gender, disability, ethnicity and other demographic indicators.
- 3.23 As well as participation, it is also possible to measure non-participation using Active People. This makes it possible to identify those sections of the population most in need

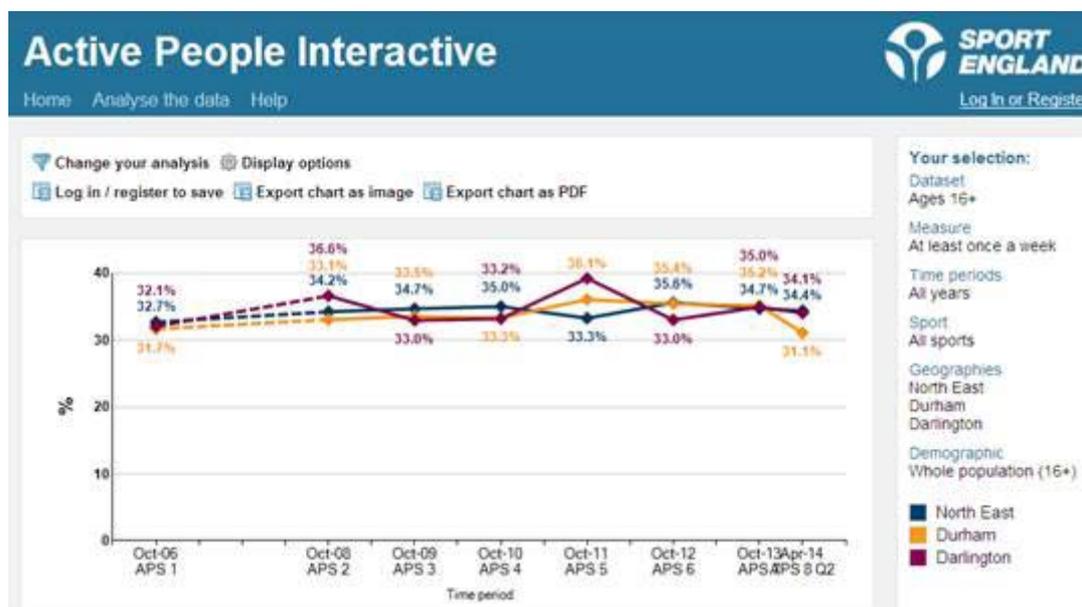
of intervention in order to increase their participation in sport and physical activity. The annual survey results can be used to identify general patterns and trends in participation across years.

- 3.24 Related to sports activity is also INACTIVITY and the impact this has in terms of the health benefit and disbenefit. The health impact of physical inactivity survey (HIPI) uses estimates of local levels of physical activity taken from the Sport England Active People survey.
- 3.25 It models the potential benefit that increased levels of physical activity has on reducing the levels of preventable death from specific levels of activity, if 100%, 75%, 50% or 25% of the local population undertake the UK Chief Medical Officers' recommended levels of physical activity. These are national sources of evidence applied to Darlington.
- 3.26 Collectively all these sources of data provide a rounded assessment of findings on the overall adult profile of sports and physical activity participation (Note this is for 16+ ages but the AP 8 survey has started to measure participation by the 14 – 16 age group.)

Sport England's Active People Survey: findings and trends on adult sports and physical participation in Darlington

- 3.27 The findings for presenting adult participation in sport and physical activity for Darlington are presented using the benchmark measure of once week participation. In the past few years the benchmark measure adopted for measuring adult sports and physical activity participation has changed to once a week participation of 1 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity. This is applied by Sport England in sports policy and its assessment of funding awards. Any sport included in the '1 x 30' sport indicator has to be undertaken for at least 30 minutes and at least moderate intensity.
- 3.28 The '1x30' sport indicator does not include recreational walking or recreational cycling (as the former NI8 indicator did). It does include more organised and intense/strenuous walking activities: Backpacking, Hill trekking, Cliff Walking, Gorge Walking, Hill Walking, Rambling, Power Walking and sport 'walking'.
- 3.29 The '1x30' sport indicator does include light intensity activities for those aged 65 and over: (in recognition that for people of this age, they can be considered moderate intensity) yoga, pilates, indoor and outdoor bowls and croquet).
- 3.30 The findings for this measure for Darlington (for comparative purposes the findings for Tees Valley CSP and North East Region are also included are across all the Active People surveys from AP 1 to AP 8 2nd quarter April 2014. These are set out below in Chart 3.1 overleaf.

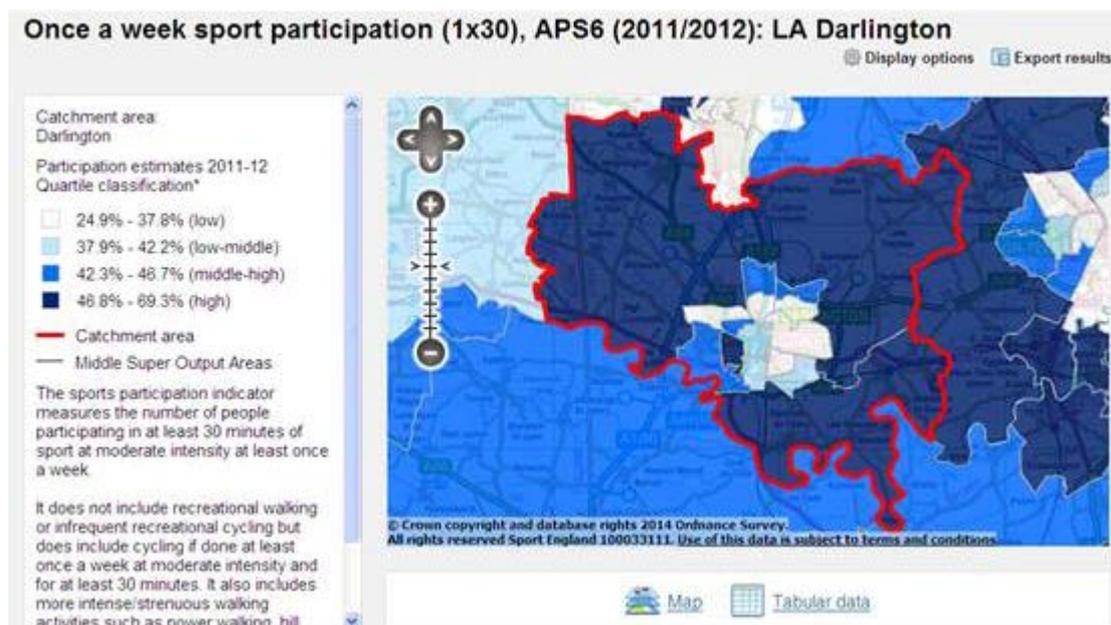
Chart 3.1:- Rate of adult participation in sport and physical activity based on once a week measure for Darlington Borough, Tees Valley CSP and North East Region



- 3.31 The chart shows the Darlington rate of adult participation (maroon line) has increased over the period of the Active People (AP) surveys. In October 2006, 32.1% of the Darlington adult population were participating at least once a week. By the start of AP 8 in October 2013 the rate had increased to 35% of Darlington's adults participating at least once a week.
- 3.32 The Darlington rate of once week participation in October 2013 is on a par with the Tees Valley CSP (yellow line) at 35.2% and above the North East region rate of once week participation at 34.7%.
- 3.33 All three areas have been within a narrow 2% - 3% range over the 2006 – 2013 period. All three areas having a slightly higher rate of participation in 2013 than in 2006.
- 3.34 The same information on rate of once a week participation can be set out spatially and this is for AP survey 6 between October 2011 – October 2012 and is in map 3.1 overleaf. The map does illustrate some quite marked contrasts in participation levels across the borough. This illustrates the rate of participation in middle output areas
- 3.35 The areas of highest participation are shaded dark blue and this is the majority of the borough. The rate of once a week participation in these dark blue areas is between 46.8% - 69.3%. Given the average across the borough is 36% in October 2011 then the percentage in the dark blue areas is very much to the lower end of the range.
- 3.36 The next highest area of participation is shaded mid blue and there are only 4 output area of this shade and in the centre and SW of the borough. In these areas the once a week participation is between 42.3 – 46.7%.
- 3.37 Then it is the areas shaded light blue of which there are only 2 output areas and in these areas to the South and SE the rate of once week participation is between 37.9% - 42.2%.

- 3.38 Finally there are the output areas shaded white in the centre and south of the borough and 6 output areas in total. In these areas the rate of once week participation is between 24.9% - 37.8% of the Darlington adult population.
- 3.39 So overall there are contrasting levels of participation across the borough, with around 80% of the LA area having the highest levels of participation (shaded dark blue), but this being the outlying more rural areas with lower population levels.

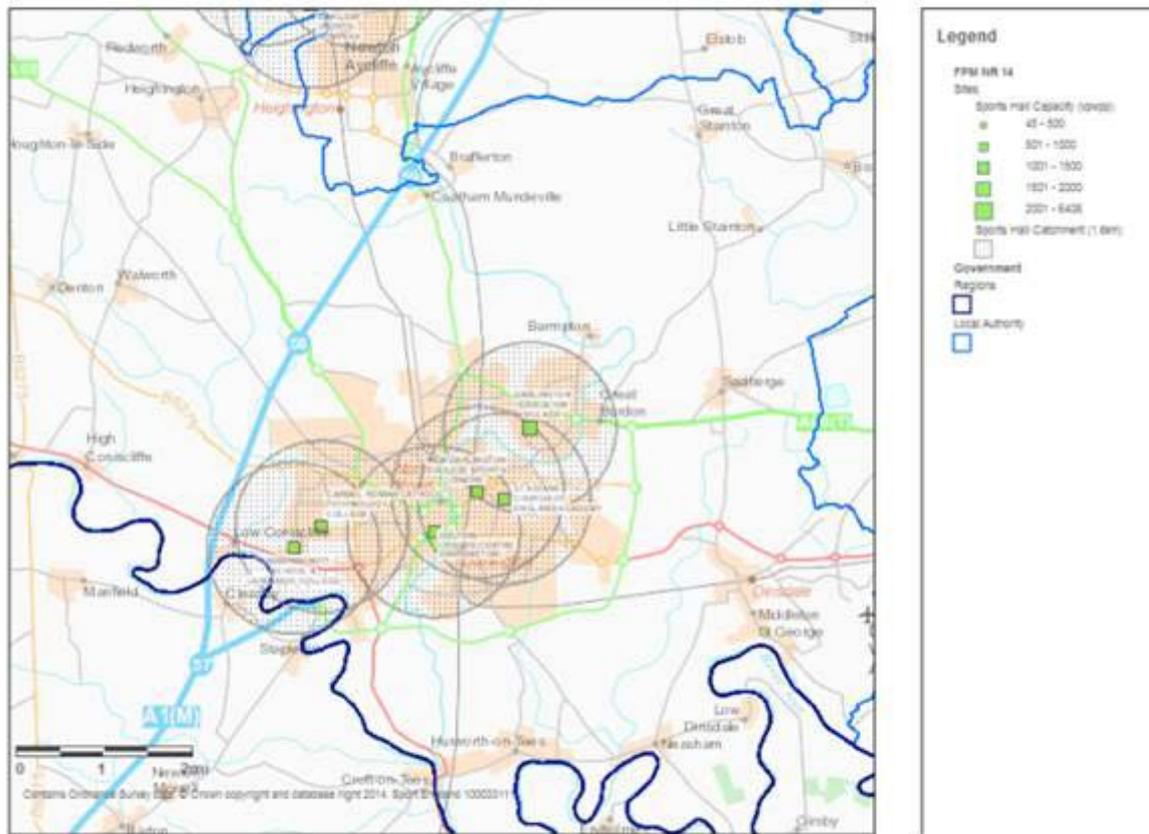
Map 3.1:- Once a week adult participation in Darlington by middle output areas October 2011 – October 2012



- 3.40 Often a reason for differential participation in areas is because of the location of the facilities and lack of provision in a particular area can lead to lower rates of participation. This does not appear to be the case in Darlington. For example Map 3.2 overleaf illustrates the location of sports halls in the borough. The areas with lowest rate of participation, based on the once a week measure, are also the areas where the sports halls are located and the rings are an illustrative one mile catchment area of each venue.
- 3.41 In short the areas of lowest participation are also the areas where sports halls are located and so in this instance lack of provision of sports halls is not a reason for a lower level of participation. In fact in the areas of highest participation there are no sports halls located in these areas. (Note: it is acknowledged that sports halls are only one facility type and there could well be other facilities such as grass pitches are located more widely across the borough. Also the venue names are not easy to read however the point of the map is to show the locations).

Map 3.2:- Location of sports halls in Darlington Borough 2014

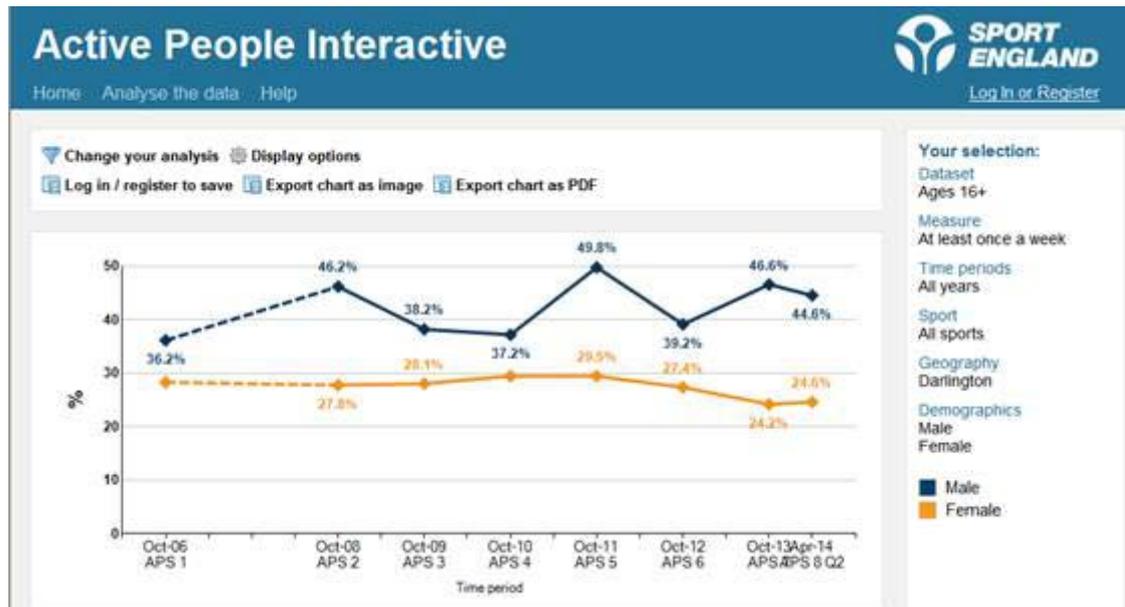
Facilities Planning Model - National Runs - Sports Halls 2014



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply 4/8/2014 10:54

- 3.42 It is important to set out and consider the rate of sports participation by the different categories of participation as this will influence the Darlington playing pitches and indoor sports facilities strategy. Topics to consider are: is the rate changing and if so by how much; and how do these changes influence the demand for the sports in the Darlington strategies?
- 3.43 The first topic is participation by gender and how this has changed over the period of the Active People surveys. This is set out in Chart 3.2 for both male and female participation over the period of the Active People surveys.

Chart 3.2-: Rate of adult male and female participation in Darlington Borough October 2006 – April 2014



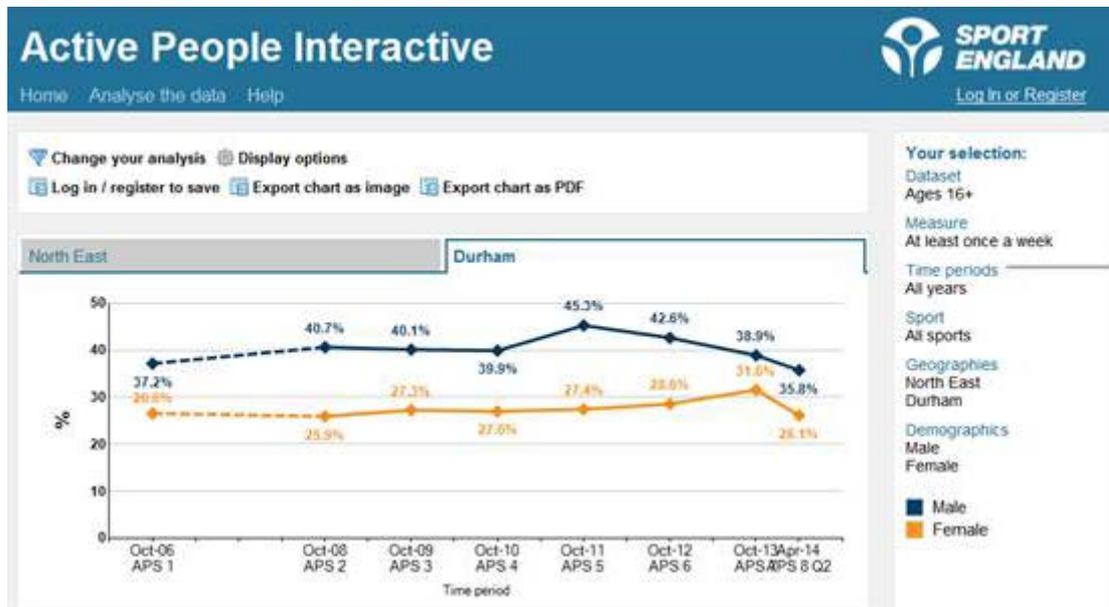
- Female participation (yellow line) has only varied by around 2% - 3% over the October 2006 – October 2013 period. In October 2006 it was 27.8% of the Darlington adult female population participating at least once a week. This increased to 29.5% in October 2011 and has declined to 24.2% of adult females participating in October 2013. So 3.2% lower than in October 2006. Further charts will review the participation rate by facility type and it will be important to see if the participation in activities most popular with women such as gym and fitness classes matches the changes in female participation
- Participation by adult males (blue line) in Darlington has been erratic and over the 7 year period of the Active People surveys the once a week participation rate has varied by 13% over the period. In October 2006 it was 36.2% of adult males participating at least once a week. By October 2011 this had increased to 49.8%, it then fell to 39.2% a year later and has increased to 46.6% in October 2013
- Overall male participation in 2013 is some 10% higher than in 2006 at 46.6% of males participating at least once a week. Given the varying nature of participation it is prudent to base provision and programming of facilities over a longer term view of participation. The trend is upwards but it is erratic.

3.44 Given the contrasting patterns of female and male participation in Darlington it is important to consider if this is similar or different to the CSP and regional participation rate. Is there a consistent trend or is Darlington different? The chart for the CSP is set out first followed by the NE Region chart. The key findings are:

- Across the CSP the rate of female participation is slightly higher and has a flatter line of moderately increasing participation when compared with Darlington. In October 2006 it is 26.6% of females in the CSP area who are participating at least once a week; it is 27.8% in Darlington. By October 2013 the CSP rate has increased at a gradual rate to 31.6% of females participating at least once a week, compared with a lower 24.7% in Darlington.
- In terms of CSP male participation it does not have the same erratic rate of change in male participation as in Darlington and it is also lower than in

Darlington over the period. The CSP male participation rate is 37.2% of males participating at least once a week in October 2006 compared with 36.2% in Darlington. The CSP rate peaked at 45.3% in October 2011, the same high year as for Darlington at 49.8% and is 38.9% in October 2013, whilst in Darlington it is a higher 46.6%.

Chart 3.3-: Rate of adult male and female participation in Tees Valley CSP October 2006 – April 2014



3.45 In terms of the North East region the findings are set out in the Chart below:

- Female participation has had an almost consistent pattern of moderately increasing participation and follows a similar rate of change as for Darlington but it has maintained an increasing rate of participation, whereas it has decreased in Darlington since 2011.
- In October 2006 the regional rate of female participation once a week was 27.2% and 27.8% in Darlington. This has increased gradually to 31.8% female participation across the region by October 2013, whereas in Darlington it has decreased since 2011 and is a lower 24.2% of females participating once a week by October 2013.
- Male participation across the region contrasts with Darlington in that it has had a smooth and consistent gradual increase of between 2% - 3% over the seven year period. It is however lower than the Darlington rate by October 2013.
- In 2006 the regional rate of male participation was 38.7% and 36.2% in Darlington. By October 2013 the regional rate of male once a-week participation had shown this gradual increase to 40.1% and it is a higher 46.6% in Darlington but it has been as high as 49.8% and 39.2% in Darlington between the two years.

Chart 3.4-: Rate of adult male and female participation in North East Region October 2006 – April 2014

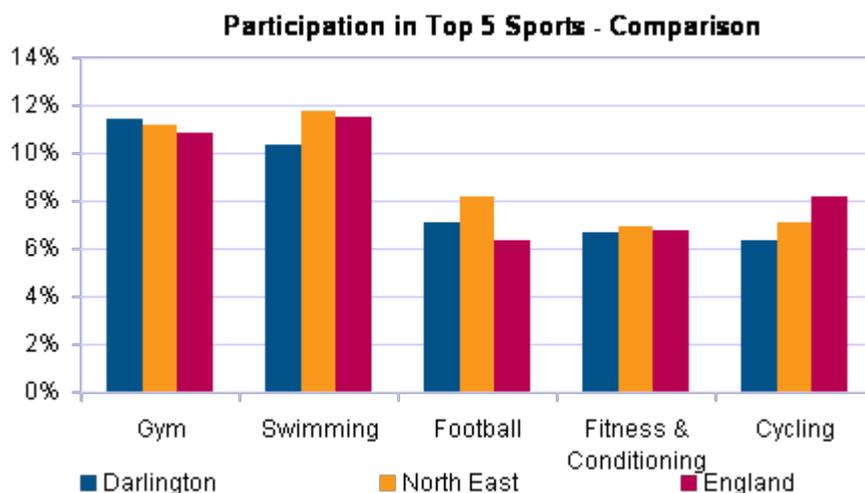
Most popular sports for participation in Darlington

- 3.46 The most popular sports played as measured by the once a week participation rate for Darlington North East Region and England wide are set out in Chart 3.5 overleaf. (Note: these are the geographies which Sport England provides for this measure).
- 3.47 The key finding is the there is a close correlation between the most popular sports played and the facility types included in the Darlington indoor sports facilities strategy and the playing pitch strategy. Four of the most popular sports and activities in terms of participation in Darlington are included in either strategy. The exception is recreational cycling, which does not in any case have a sport specific facility component. (Note: the measure applied for most popular sports is participation in the last month. Whereas the participation rate for the sports in the charts already reviewed is participation at least once a week).
- 3.48 Swimming is the second most popular activity in Darlington at 10.2% of the adult population swimming at least once a month. Whereas swimming is the most popular activity at the Regional level at 11.8% of the population swimming at least once a month and swimming is also the most popular activity across England at 11.7% of the adult population swimming at least once a month.
- 3.49 Significantly for the indoor strategy gym is the most popular activity in Darlington the once a month measure at 11.7% of the population going to the gym at least once a month.
- 3.50 There is an evident fall off in the gym participation once a month and the participation once a week. The challenge is to increase the high demand for going to the gym monthly and turn that into at least twice a month or even weekly. Gym would appear to have the biggest potential market of any activity or sport to increase participation.
- 3.51 Gym participation across the region is 11.5% and 11% England wide and is the second most popular activity.
- 3.52 Football is the third most popular activity in Darlington at 7.2% of the adult population playing football at least once a month. Again, this is an important finding for the strategy. Football across the region has a higher monthly participation rate than in

Darlington at 8.1% of the adult population. However the Darlington rate is higher than the England wide rate which is 6.2% of the adult population playing football at least once a month.

- 3.53 Fitness and conditioning are separated out from gym and this is the fourth most popular activity in all three areas. Adult participation in Darlington is slightly lower at 6.5% than the region at 6.6% but on a par with the England wide rate.
- 3.54 Recreational cycling is the fifth most popular activity in Darlington but is the fourth most popular activity in the Region and the third most popular across England. This is a potential warning for both strategies because if Darlington participants chose to do recreational cycling and it goes up to the regional and England wide levels, it would place participation higher than for football and for gym in the borough.
- 3.55 Overall the Darlington indoor and outdoor pitches facilities strategies are very much focusing on providing facilities for the most popular activities and which have the highest participation rates across the borough. Individual hall sports are not in the most popular activities but they are never going to figure in a top five most popular activities. However fitness and conditioning classes is a mainstay of sports hall usage and increasingly so.

Chart 3.5-: Participation levels for the most popular sports played in Darlington, North East Region and England wide 2012 – 13



Source: Active People Survey 7, 2012/13 Measure: Participation rate of the top 5 sports and the number of adults (16+) that participate at least once per month

Rate of NON participation and INactivity in sport and physical activity participation in Darlington

- 3.56 Whilst the levels of adult participation in sport and physical activity are high in Darlington, it is also important to set out the overall levels of NON participation.
- 3.57 A wider objective of the Borough Council may well be to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle as part of everyday life amongst residents and the direct provision of indoor and outdoor sports and recreational facilities are very much a means to achieving that end.

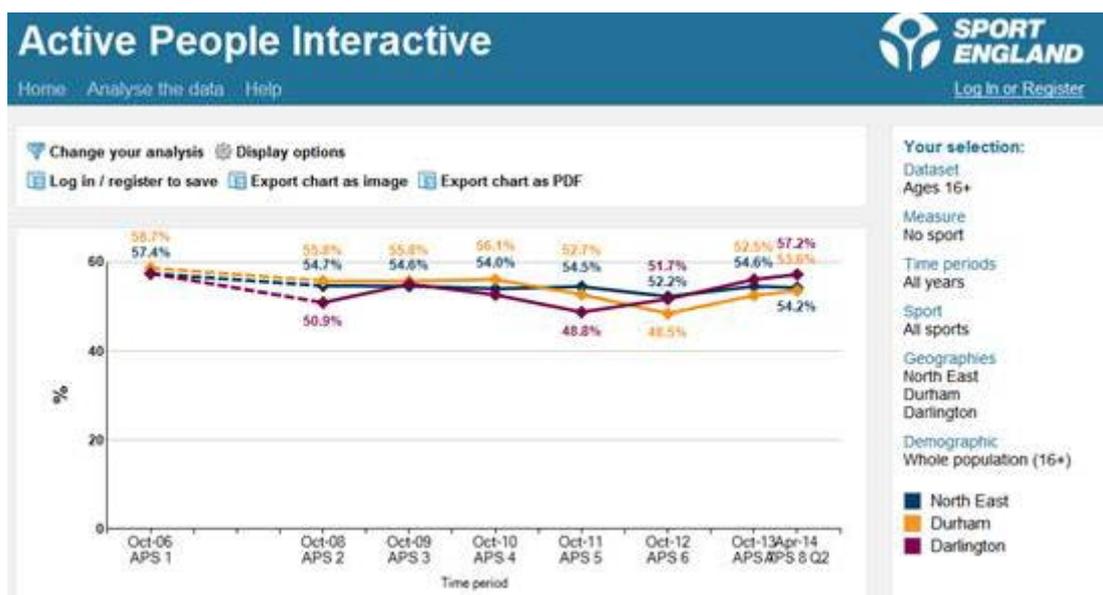
3.58 Having set out the profile of participation the next topic to consider is the scale of the challenge to get people involved who do NOT participate in any form of physical activity/ Also how has the size of this challenge changed over the years?

3.59 Set out below in Chart 3.6 is the percentage of the Darlington population over the 2006 – 13 period who do NOT take part in any form of sport or physical activity. Again for context and comparison the findings for the CSP and North East Region are included.

3.60 The key findings are:

- The rate of non participation in any sport or physical activity in Darlington is virtually unchanged over the 2006 – 2013 period. In October 2006 some 57.4% of the Darlington population did no sport or physical activity. In October 2013 the figure is 57.2% of the Darlington adult population. So whilst the once a week participation rate for Darlington has increased by around 3% over the same period (to 35% of the Darlington adult population) there is still over half of the Darlington adult population who do no sports or physical activity.
- The rate of non participation did decrease substantially between 2009 – 2011 and by 6.6% to 48.8% of the Darlington population but has increased since and by 5.8% up to October 2013. It is worthwhile establishing the reason for these changes over this 4 year period. It maybe because of the survey findings itself, it may however also be because of particular initiatives over this period between 2009 – 2011 and which impacted in reducing non participation. These may have ceased in 2011 resulting in the rate of non participation to increase back to previous levels.
- The rate of non participation has decreased in the CSP and North East Region. Across the CSP it has decreased by 5.1% from 58.7% in 2006 to 53.6% in 2013. For North East Region the decrease is 3.2% from 57.4% in 2006 to 54.2% of the Region’s population who do no sporting or physical activity.

Chart 3.6-: Rate of adult NON participation in sport and physical activity for Darlington, Tees Valley CSP and North East Region 2006 - 13



Health impact of sporting and physical activity and iNactivity

- 3.61 As mentioned, creating a healthy and physically active lifestyle is a key driver for the Borough Council. So it is important to examine the direct health benefits from increased participation. Evidence for this assessment is provided by the survey of Health Impact of Physical Inactivity (HIPI).
- 3.62 This HIPI data uses estimates of local levels of physical activity from the Sport England Active People survey. It models the potential benefit from increased levels of physical activity has on reducing the levels of preventable deaths from specific levels of activity, if 100%, 75%, 50% or 25% of the local population undertake the UK Chief Medical Officers' recommended levels of physical activity.
- 3.63 These findings are based on the 40 -79 age band and so in terms of age bands it starts with a much later age than Active People and goes beyond the 65+ age band which has been set out earlier for the profile of adult participation across Darlington. The reason for the HIPI survey selecting the 40 - 79 age range is because it is the age range when the greatest number of deaths from these illnesses occur.
- 3.64 The second set of HIPI results is up to March 2014 and the findings for Darlington are set out in Table 3.1 below. Perhaps the surprising finding in the table is that based on the once a week rates of adult participation which Darlington is achieving the levels of preventable deaths are very low within the range of between 25% and 50% of the adult population being active.
- 3.65 It is only when the participation rate is at the 75% - 100% of the adult population that the preventable deaths as a proportion of the total deaths becomes significant. These findings, allied to the findings that 57% of the Darlington adult population in October 2013 does no activity does underline the scale of the challenge to create a more healthy lifestyle and which has a health benefit.
- 3.66 Another slant on the HIPI data is that the HIPI findings are the tip of the iceberg in terms of benefits because it measures lives saved from increased activity. It does not measure the reduced costs to the health service by not having to treat so many people with these illnesses because they are more active.

Table 3.1-: HIPI burden of illness and death from physical inactivity 40 – 79 for Darlington 2014 (footnote 1)

Conditions Preventable through physical activity	Latest annual deaths for Darlington(2)	Preventable deaths if 100% active (3)	Preventable deaths if 75% active	Preventable deaths if 50% active	Preventable deaths if 25% active
Darlington					
Total deaths	471	80	53	26	-2
Coronary heart disease	210	11	7	3	0
Breast cancer	63	12	8	4	0
Colorectal cancer	532	10	7	3	0

(Source: Public Health England; Health Impact of Physical Inactivity Findings for 2014)

(1) This age range is not one of the standard age ranges for Active People measures of sports participation. The age range has been constructed for health reasons and the raw AP data extracted for this age range

(2) Latest annual figures is for deaths registered between 2007 - 2011

(3) The explanation of the definition of what is 100% active (of for other percentages of activity) is not defined. It is based on the Chief Medical Officer's definition which in turn might be one of the Active People measures of activity, for example 1 hour of physical activity once a week, or, 5 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity in sport or physical activity a week

Financial costs of activity and inactivity

- 3.67 Activity is usually measured in terms of participation to create by a more active and healthy personal lifestyle and the benefits measured in these terms as has been set out. However it is also possible to measure the financial costs of activity and inactivity.
- 3.68 The HIPI data does not measure financial costs/savings from these major illnesses. It is however possible from other sources to document the financial costs from the health impacts of physical activity and inactivity for these illnesses and North East Region and England wide. (Note: the data is for 2009 – 10).

Table 3.2:- Health costs of physical inactivity for Darlington Borough, North East Region and England wide 2009 - 10

Disease category	Darlington	North East Region	England
Cancer lower GI e.g. bowel cancer	£145,760	£3,858,400	£67,816,189
Breast Cancer	£70,730	£2,926,990	£60,357,887
Diabetes	£495,300	£11,447,850	£190,660,420
Coronary heart disease	£1,367,810	£27,444,290	£491,095,94
Cerebrovascular disease e.g. stroke	£271,800	£6,411,840	£134,359,285
Total Cost	2,351,400	£52,089,370	£944,289,72
Cost per 100,000 population	£2,364	£2,016	£1,817

(Source: Sport England commissioned data from British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Group for PCTs, reworked into estimates for Local Authorities Year 2009 – 10)

- 3.69 Possibly the key finding in Table 3.2 is the bottom row which compares the total cost of these illnesses for each area per 100,000 population. The Darlington costs are £1,538 per 100,000 population and this is 14.7% above the North East region percentage and 23.1% above the England wide figure at £1,817 per 100,000 population. So the higher rates of adult non participation are maybe a factor in the higher costs of treating these illnesses. If so it helps to make the case for investment from health into sport and physical activity.

Sports and physical activity participation and obesity levels in Darlington.

- 3.70 The final section on the findings on the health profile of physical activity and inactivity relates to levels of obesity in adults and children. This is set out because it possible the biggest health challenge in terms of the increasing numbers of people becoming obese and therefore where increased sporting and physical activity can have the

biggest health impact. Diabetes is the second highest cost category in the table above.

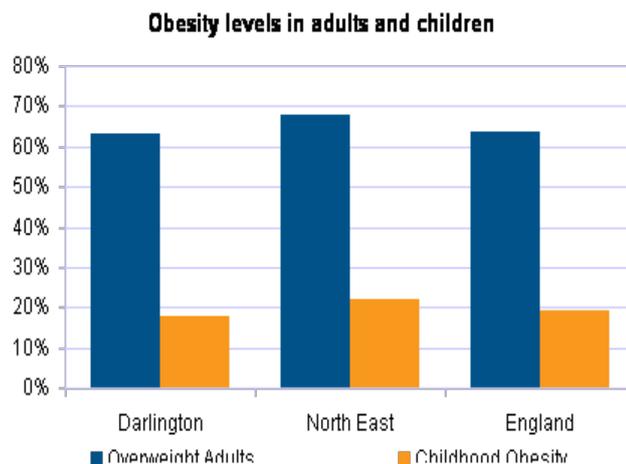
3.71 The most recent findings are from 2012 and it is possible to set out;

- how the level of people either overweight or obese in Darlington compares with the findings for North East Region and England wide. Set out in Chart 3.6 below with the blue columns representing adult obesity levels and the brown columns the findings for children; and
- how levels of obesity for adults in Darlington compares with levels of participation and how the two differ in scale and location across the borough.

3.72 As Chart 3.7 below shows adult overweight (not obesity) in Darlington represents 64% of the adult population and it is 69% in the Region and 64% England wide. So a slightly higher overweight population in Darlington compared with the region but on par with the national findings.

3.73 Whilst for the child percentages in Darlington (for obesity) it is 18% of all children and 21% in the Region and 19% across the England wide. So a lower percentage of obese children in Darlington when compared to the Region and England wide.

Chart 3.7-: Percentage of the adult and child population who are obese in Darlington, North East Region and England wide 2012



(Source Department of Health Local Authority Health Profiles 2012)

3.74 The information on levels of obesity (for the adult population) can also be presented spatially to show how this differs across Darlington and relate these findings to the level of sports and physical activity participation. Both are based on the same middle output areas. In effect, showing how the two compare based on the same geography.

3.75 Map 3.3 shows the percentage of adults who are overweight in each of the middle output areas with a gradation of dark blue to light blue in three shades. The darkest blue areas around 80% of the total output areas in Darlington are the areas which have the lowest percentage of adults who are overweight.

- 3.76 This graduates through the next two shades of lighter blue to show the areas of the borough which have the higher and highest percentage of overweight adults (areas shaded lightest blue).

Map 3.3-: Excess weight in adults by middle output areas Darlington 2012 - 13



Low 38.8% - 62.7% Dark Blue Low – Middle 62.8% - 66.5% Mid Blue Middle – High 66.6% - 69.7% Light Blue

- 3.77 Map 3.4 overleaf shows level of adult sports participation in each middle super output area based on the NI 8 measure 3 x 30 minutes of moderate sporting or physical activity once a week in 2011. (Note: not the once a week measure of 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity at least once a week, which is the measure used in all the charts and tables in the report so far). The darkest blue areas are around 80% of the output areas in the borough and in these areas there is the highest level of adult's sports participation. This corresponds with the output areas with the lowest percentage of overweight adults. Not a surprising finding.
- 3.78 The map then has three lighter shades of blue and the areas in the lightest shade of blue have the lowest levels of adult sports participation and which are the areas of the borough with the highest percentage of overweight adults. Again this is not a surprising finding.
- 3.79 What the two maps together illustrate is the areas of the borough in which to target intervention to try and increase activity amongst adults and reduce the percentage of overweight adults. This is very much in the centre core of the borough.

Map 3.4-: Once week participation by middle output areas Darlington 2011 - 12



Low 24.9% - 37.8% light blue Low to Middle 37.9% - 42.3% mid blue Middle to High 42.4% - 46.7% royal blue High 46.8% - 69% dark blue

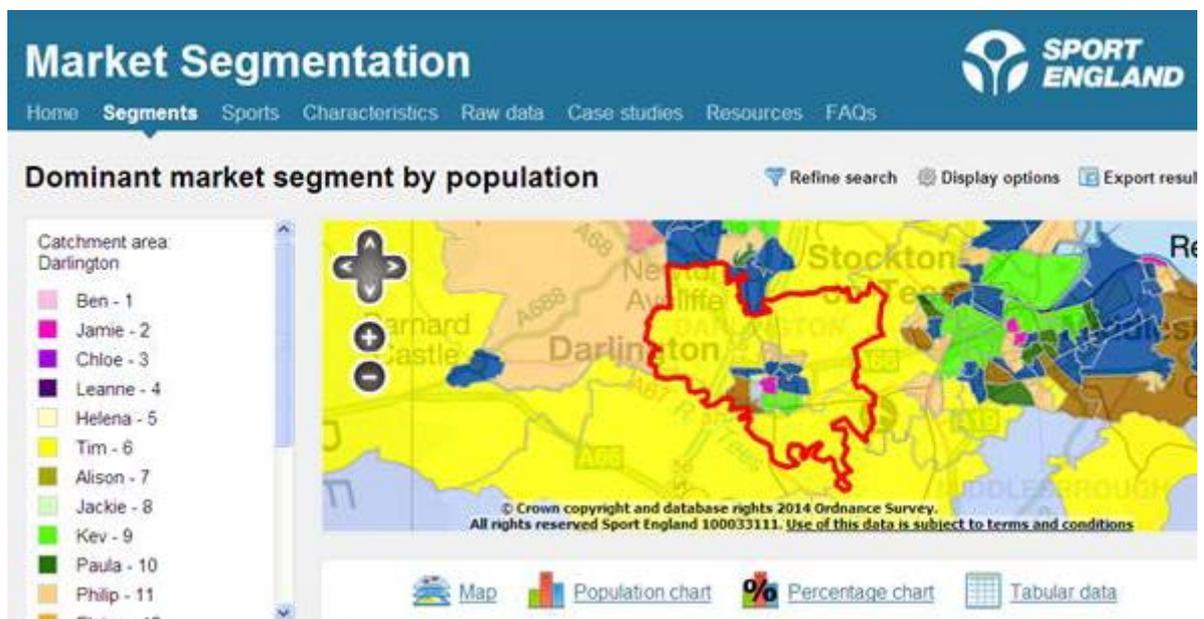
Sport England market segmentation - What is the profile of adult sports participation in Darlington?

- 3.80 The final part of the profile of sports and physical activity participation in Darlington analyses the profile of participation and how this differs across the borough.
- 3.81 As part of the Active People survey findings Sport England analysed the data on the English population to produce 19 market segments with distinct sporting behaviours and attitudes.
- 3.82 This includes information on specific sports people take part in as well as why people do sport, whether they want to do sport and the barriers to doing more sport. In addition, the segments provide information on media consumption and communication channels, social capital, health indicators including obesity and engagement in the wider cultural sphere.
- 3.83 The power of these sporting segments lies not only in their ability to help us better understand the characteristics of our potential market but also to explore the market base at differing geographic levels. It is possible to analyse the market in a particular local authority. Each segment has been assigned a name which reflects the most popular first names for the group.
- 3.84 Market segmentation allows us to develop a more sophisticated, tailored approach to delivering services. In tailoring the service we provide to the customer's individual needs, rather than adopting a 'one size fits all' approach. It is one of the best tools we have to improve public services and outcomes.
- 3.85 The market segmentation map, profile and data for Darlington are analysed. The content and sequence are:

- a map illustrating the single dominate market segment SPATIALLY in each middle output area. This does not mean there are not other market segments in each output area, just that the map only shows the MOST DOMINANT SEGMENT;
- a market segmentation chart illustrating the total population for each market segment. This is more informative than the map because it provides the picture on the make-up of ALL the 19 market segments in a local authority; and
- a table which details all 19 market segments as well as information on the proportion of the authority's population for each segment. Plus details of the activities that are most likely to appeal to each segment and information on barriers to increasing participation and motivation factors affecting them.

3.86 Each map, chart and table is followed by an assessment of what it means.

Map 3.5:- Dominant market segments in Darlington by location 2012



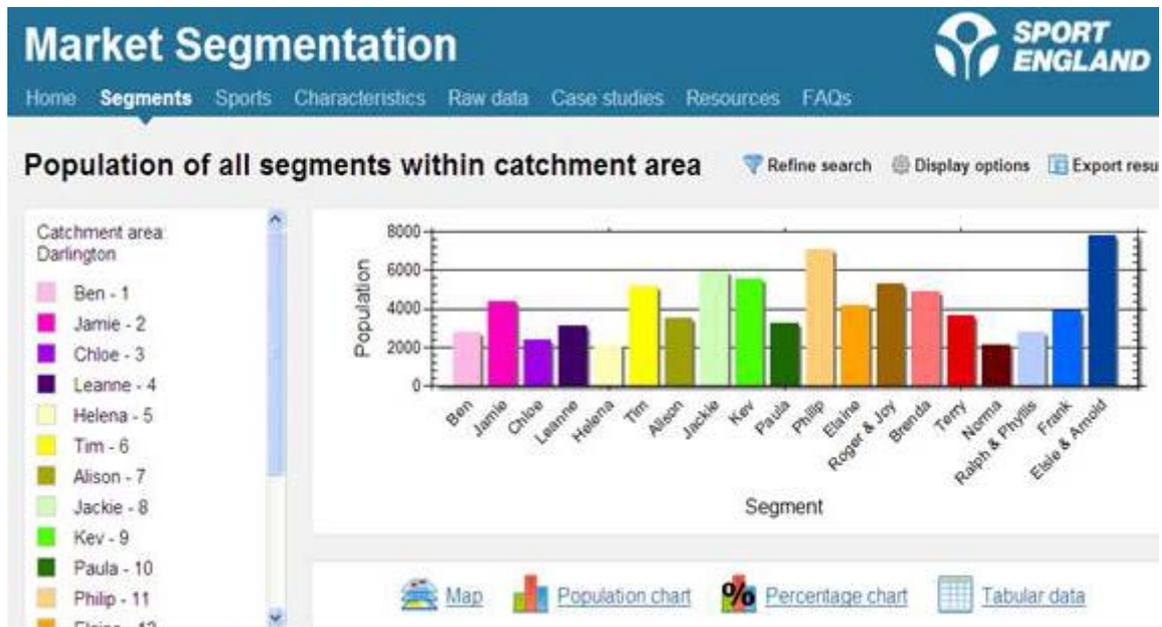
3.87 There is one very evident spatial dominant market segment across Darlington which is Tim (shaded yellow) and then a cluster of very small areas of 5 other segments in the centre of the borough. This is quite an unusual pattern of dominant segments for an authority.

3.88 The dominant market segments spatially are: Tim (shaded yellow) with over 80% of the area of the borough. Then in the centre cluster there is: Ralph and Phyllis (shaded grey/blue) in one output area; and Elsie and Arnold (shaded dark blue) in four output areas; Kev (shaded lime green) in two output areas; Jamie (shaded dark red) in one output area; and finally Roger and Joy (shaded dark brown) in one output area.

3.89 The population distribution across all 19 market segments is set out in Chart 3.8 overleaf and is a bit different from the spatial distribution. It shows that Elsie and Arnold is the segment with the highest population numbers at just below 8,000 people. The next highest in population is Philip (shaded mid brown) with a population of around 7,000 people but not a dominant segment spatially. Then it is Jackie (who is not a dominate segment spatially) and Kev each with a population just below 6,000 people. Followed by Roger and Joy with a population of just over 5,000, Then it is Tim who is the most dominate segment spatially - by far - but is sixth highest in population numbers with around 5,000 population. After that it is Brenda (mid red) with a population of around

4,500 people. Then the last dominant segment spatially is Jamie with a population of just over 4,000 people.

Chart 3.8:- Market segments by population totals in Darlington 2012



3.90 To provide population context and comparisons the population numbers for these top eight dominate market segments by population and the percentage of each segment within the total adult population for Chesterfield are set out in Table 3.3 below.

Table 3.3:- Population numbers and percentages for top six markets segments in Darlington

Name of Market Segment	Age range of segment	Total population in Darlington	% of total adult (16+) population in Darlington
Elsie and Arnold	65+	7,781	9.7%
Philip	46 - 55	7,042	8.8%
Jackie	36 - 45	5,976	7.5%
Kev	36 - 45	5,571	7%
Roger and Joy	56 - 65	5,509	6.6%
Tim	26 - 45	5,156	6.4%
Brenda	46 - 65	4,886	6.1%
Jamie	18 - 25	4,361	5.4%

3.91 In summary the findings from the map and charts are:

- there are 4 male, 2 female and 2 male/female in the top seven market segments and these make up 58.5% of the total adult population in 2012. There is dominance of male segments in the top eight segments in terms of population;

- the top 4 male segments make up 27.6% of the Darlington adult population, the top 2 female segment makes up 13.6% of the adult population. The top 2 male/female segment make up 16.3% of the Darlington adult population;
- in terms of age bands, only one of the top seven segments is in the lowest age band of 18 – 25 and that is Jamie with only 5.4% of the total Darlington adult population. It is this age range where there is a higher than the national average rate of sports and physical activity participation and where sports/physical activity participation is an important lifestyle choice for the segments in this younger age band;
- Darlington has a very low population in the 5 segments in this 16 – 25 age band. The other four segments are: Ben Chloe, Leanne and Helena and the total population across these five segments including Jamie is 14,865 people and which is 18.5% of the Darlington adult population in 2012;
- in terms of population numbers and age ranges for the top eight segments the findings are:
 - In the 16 – 25 age range there is one segment which is Jamie
 - in the 26 – 35 age range there are NO SEGMENTS
 - in the 26 – 45 age range there is one segment which is Tim
 - in the 36 - 45 age range there are two segment which are Kev and Jackie
 - in the 46 – 65 age group two segments which are Philip and Brenda
 - in the 56 – 65 age group there is one segments which is Roger and Joy
 - in the 65+ age range there is one segment which is Elsie and Arnold
- so six of the top eight segments in population numbers are above 36 years of age, with four segments above 46 years of age. Segments in these age groups have lower than national average rates of sports and physical activity participation and their reasons for participating are for recreational, social activity and with a strong personal health motivation not for improving performance or for along term commitment to sporting activity.

3.92 The activities, key barriers and motivating factors for each of the top eight market segments for Darlington are in order of population numbers summarised below.

- **Segment 19 – Retired Elsie and Arnold (60+)** Elsie & Arnold are much less active than the average adult population, but their activity levels are more consistent with other segments in this age range. They are likely to be doing less sport than 12 months ago, mainly due to health or injury. The top sports/activities that Elsie & Arnold participate in are walking, swimming, dancing, bowls and low impact exercise. 7% of this segment take part in swimming, and 3% do bowls. Motivations to do more are improved transport and more people to do activity with. Barriers are age and health
- **Segment 11 – Comfortable Mid-Life Males Philip (46-55).** Philip is another relatively active segment and is the most active segment within this age group. He is likely to enjoy team sports such as football and cricket as well as indoor activities including badminton and gym-based activities. Like Tim, Philip is likely to be a member of a club and to take part in competitive sport. Motivations for this segment include meeting friends, taking children, keeping fit and enjoyment. Barriers include being too busy, particularly due to work commitments
- **Segment 8 – Middle aged mums Jackie (36 – 45)** Jackie’s sporting activity levels are consistent with the national average, and slightly above average for some

indicators. 23% of Jackie's are likely to be a member of a health club and may also attend classes – 22% of this segment has received instruction in the past 12 months. The top sports that Jackie participates in are Keep fit/gym and swimming which are the most popular sports with around a fifth of the segment doing these, followed by cycling (7%). Motivations to participate more are keeping fit and losing weight. Barriers to increased participation are lack of time because of competing time demands with raising a family.

- **Segment 9 – Pub league playing with his mates Kev (35 – 44)** Kev has average levels of sports participation. The sports that Kev participates in are keep fit and gym with 14% of this segment doing this activity, compared to 17% of all adults nationally. 12% of this segment takes part in football compared to 4% of all adults nationally. In addition, 11% of people in this segment take part in cycling, and 10% go swimming. Kev may also take part in athletics or running, golf, angling, badminton, archery or martial arts/combat sports. Motivations to do more activity are to improve performance, more activity with friends. Barriers are cost and lack of time
- **Segment 13 – Early retirement couples Roger and Joy (56 – 65)** Roger & Joy are slightly less active than the average adult population. Roger & Joy have below average levels of sports participation. 66% of this segment has done no sport in the past four weeks, compared with 60% of all adults. 38% have participated in sport at least once a week, which is consistent with other segments of the same age

The top sports that Roger & Joy participate in are keep fit/gym and swimming which are the most popular sports with 13% of the segment doing these, followed by cycling with 8% of this segment doing cycling, golf with 6% of the segment playing golf and angling with 2% of this segment doing angling. Their participation levels are below average for all these sports, with the exception of golf and angling. Motivations to participate more are improving health and activity with family. Barriers to increased participation are transport/access and health

- **Segment 6 – Settling Down Males: Tim (26-45)** Tim accounts for 12.2% of Darlington's adult population, compared to 8.8% nationally. He is the dominant segment spatially for over 90% of the District. Tim is a relatively active segment who enjoys sport and is likely to take part on a regular basis. He is likely to be a member of a sports club and to take part in competitive sport. This segment is motivated by opportunities to improve his performance, keep fit and meet friends. Those that have children are also motivated by opportunities to take their children to participate in sport. A major barrier for this segment is work commitments indicating that facilities with longer opening hours may help to encourage this segment to participate.
- **Segment 14 – Older working women Brenda (46 – 55).** Brenda is generally less active than the average adult population. The top sports that Brenda participates in are, keep fit/gym which is the most popular sport with 15% of the segment doing this, followed by swimming (13%) and cycling (4%). Other sports are, athletics (including running) which around 2% of Brenda's participate in. This is followed by badminton, horse riding, tennis, martial arts (including Tai Chi), football and golf. In all cases Brenda's participation levels are below the national average for all adults. Motivations to increase activity are doing activity with grand children, losing weight. Barriers are personal more free time, cheaper facility costs/child care for grand children, longer opening hours

3.93 To provide the rounded picture and profile of ALL 19 market segments, their population numbers, details of the sports/activities most likely to appeal to each segment as well as information on barriers and motivating factors affecting them are set out in Table 3.4 below. The top eight largest segments in Darlington in terms of population numbers are shown in blue.

Table 3.4-: Profile of all 19 Market segments Darlington 2012

Segment	Total and (% of adult population in Darlington)	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
01	2784 3.5%	Ben Competitive Male Urbanites	Male 18-25 Single Graduate professional	Rugby, Squash, Windsurfing, Tennis, Cricket, Climbing, Gym, Football	Improving performance Training for competition Social Enjoyment Keep fit	Time Interest	Better facilities People to go with Improved transport	Most active in population Approx. 20% zero days
02	4,361 5.4%	Jamie Sports Team Drinkers	Male 18-25 Single Vocational Student	Basketball, Football, Weight Training, Badminton, Boxing, Martial Arts	Social Performance Competition	Time	Better facilities People to go with Longer opening hours	Second highest participation of all types Approx. 30% zero days
03	2,415 3%	Chloe Fitness Class Friends	Female 18-25 Single Graduate Professional	Body combat, Netball, Pilates, Running, Aqua Aerobics, Tennis, Gym, Swimming	Weight Fitness	Time	Cost Opening Hours Facilities People to go with	Active type 30-35% zero days
04	3,143 3.9%	Leanne Supportive Singles	Female 18-25 Single Likely to have children Student / part time vocational education	Swimming, Gym, Aerobics, Ice Skating, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Utility Walking	Losing weight Activities for children	Health isn't good enough Time	Help with child care Longer opening hours Cost	Least active of A but does participate 40-45% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of adult population in Darlington	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
05	2,162 2.7%	Helena Career Focused Females	Female 26-35 Single Full time professional	Gym, Road Running, Dance Exercise, Horse Riding, Skiing, Tai chi, Body Pump, Yoga	Losing weight Keeping fit Improving performance	Time People to go with	Longer opening hours People to go with	Very active type 30-35% zero days
06	5,156 6.4%	Tim Settling Down Males	Male 26-45 Single / married May have children Professional	Canoeing, Cricket, Cycling, Squash, Skiing, Golf, Football	Improve performance Keep fit Social	Time	More free time Help with childcare	Very active type 25-30% zero days
07	3,494 4.4%	Alison Stay at Home Mums	Female 36-45 Married Housewife Children	Swimming, Badminton, Aerobics, Pilates, Tennis, Cycling, Horse Riding, Exercise Bike	Taking children Losing weight Keeping fit	Time	Help with childcare Better facilities	Fairly active type 30-35% zero days
08	5,976 7.5%	Jackie Middle England Mums	Female 36-45 Married Part time skilled worker, housewife Children	Swimming, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Ice Skating (with children), Walking, Aqua Aerobics	Taking children Losing weight	Time Cost Lack of interest	Help with childcare Cheaper admissions	Average 45-50% zero days
09	5,571 7%	Kev Pub League Team Mates	Male 36-45 Single / married May have children Vocational	Football, Darts, Karate, Snooker, Weights, Boxing, Fishing, Pool, Ten Pin Bowling, Cricket	Competition Social Enjoyment (ltd) Perform	Time Slight cost factor	More free time Cost Facilities	Less active within group B Approx. 50% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of adult population in Darlington	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
10	3,237 4%	Paula Stretched Single Mums	Female 26-35 Single Job seeker or part time low skilled	Swimming, Utility walking, Aerobics, Ice Skating	Lose weight Take children	Cost Lack of childcare Poor transport Lack of interest	Improved transport Cheaper admission Help with childcare Better facilities	Least active type within Group B Approx. 60% zero days
11	7,042 8%	Philip Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Male 46-55 Married Professional Older children	Sailing, Football, Badminton, Cycling, Gym, Jogging, Golf, Cricket	Social Taking children Improving performance Enjoyment	Time Lack of childcare	More free time Help with childcare	Most active within Group C Approx. 40% zero days
12	4,145 5.2%	Elaine Empty Nest Career Ladies	Female 46-55 Married Professional Children left home	Swimming, Walking, Aqua Aerobics, Step Machine, Yoga, Horse Riding, Pilates, Gym	Keeping fit Losing weight Help with injury	Time Lack of interest	Longer opening hours More people to go with	Reasonably active type 40-45% zero days
13	5,309 6.6%	Roger and Joy Early Retirement Couples	Male / female 56-65 Retired or part-time	Swimming, Walking, Aqua Aerobics, Bowls, Sailing, Golf, Shooting, Fishing, Racquet Sports	Keeping fit To help with injury Enjoyment Taking grandchildren	Poor health Lack of interest Transport	Better facilities Improved transport	Participate once or twice a week 50-55% zero days
14	4,886 6.1%	Brenda Older Working Women	Female 46-55 Single / married May have children Low skilled worker	Swimming, Utility Walking, Dance Exercise, Aerobics, Step Machine, Keep fit	Weight Bring grandchildren Help with injury	Lack of interest Time	More free time Longer hours Cheaper admissions Help with childcare (for grandchildren)	Sometimes participates 60-65% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of adult population in Darlington	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
15	3,369 4.6%	Tery Local 'Old Boys'	Male age 56-65 Single / married Low skilled worker Job seeker	Fishing, Shooting, Pool, Utility walking, Darts, Snooker, Utility cycling	Help with injury Social	Poor health Lack of people to go with Cost	Subsidized admissions People to go with	Some low intensity participation 65-70% zero days
16	2,168 2.7%	Norma Later Life Ladies	Female 56-65 Single / married Low skilled worker Retired	Walking, Keep fit, Swimming, Aqua Aerobics	Help with injury or disability	Poor health Cost	Cheaper admissions People to go with	Lowest participation of Group C 75-80% zero days
17	2,785 3.5%	Ralph and Phyllis Comfortable Retired Couples	Male / female 65+ Married Retired	Bowls, Golf, Tennis, Table tennis, Snooker, Walking, Fishing, Swimming	Social Improve performance and keep fit Enjoyment	Transport Lack of people to go with	Improved transport More people to go with	Highest participation of Group D Approx. 70% zero days
18	3,938 4.9%	Frank Twilight Year Gents	Male 66+ Married / single Retired	Bowls, Golf, Darts, Pool, Snooker, Walking, Fishing	Social Enjoyment	Poor health	Improved transport Cheaper admission	Medium participation for group D 75-80% zero days
19	7,781 9.7%	Elsie and Arnold Retirement Home Singles	Male / female 66+ Widowed Retired	Walking, Dancing, Bowls, Low-impact exercise	Social Help with injury	Health problems and disability	Improved transport People to go with	Lowest participation of Group D Approx. 85% zero days

Summary of main findings from the sports participation profile review for Darlington

- 3.94 The overall population of Darlington Borough will increase only marginally (1.8% up to 2026) to 107,480. The proportion of residents within the older age groups will however increase significantly, meaning that there are fewer residents in the age groups that are most likely to participate in sport.
- 3.95 The Darlington rate of once week participation in October 2013 is on a par with the Tees Valley CSP (yellow line) at 35.2% and above the North East region rate of once week participation at 34.7%.

- 3.96 There is a close correlation between the most popular sports played and the facility types included in the Darlington indoor sports facilities strategy and the playing pitch strategy. Four of the most popular sports and activities in terms of participation in Darlington are included in either strategy. Swimming is the second most popular activity in Darlington at 10.2% of the adult population swimming at least once a month. Whereas swimming is the most popular activity at the Regional level at 11.8% of the population swimming at least once a month and swimming is also the most popular activity across England at 11.7% of the adult population swimming at least once a month. Significantly for the indoor strategy gym is the most popular activity in Darlington the once a month measure at 11.7% of the population going to the gym at least once a month.
- 3.97 Football is the third most popular activity in Darlington at 7.2% of the adult population playing football at least once a month. Again, this is an important finding for the strategy. Football across the region has a higher monthly participation rate than in Darlington at 8.1% of the adult population. However the Darlington rate is higher than the England wide rate which is 6.2% of the adult population playing football at least once a month.
- 3.98 The rate of non participation in any sport or physical activity in Darlington is virtually unchanged over the 2006 – 2013 period. In October 2006 some 57.4% of the Darlington population did no sport or physical activity. In October 2013 the figure is 57.2% of the Darlington adult population. So whilst the once a week participation rate for Darlington has increased by around 3% over the same period (to 35% of the Darlington adult population) there is still over half of the Darlington adult population who do no sports or physical activity.
- 3.99 The dominant market segments spatially are: Tim (shaded yellow) with over 80% of the area of the borough. Then in the centre cluster there is: Ralph and Phyllis (shaded grey/blue) in one output area; and Elsie and Arnold (shaded dark blue) in four output areas; Kev (shaded lime green) in two output areas; Jamie (shaded dark red) in one output area; and finally Roger and Joy (shaded dark brown) in one output area.
- 3.100 Six of the top eight segments in population numbers are above 36 years of age, with four segments above 46 years of age. Segments in these age groups have lower than national average rates of sports and physical activity participation and their reasons for participating are for recreational, social activity and with a strong personal health motivation not for improving performance or for long term commitment to sporting activity.
- 3.101 Table 3.5 overleaf sets out the summary of all the main findings from the review of the Darlington sports and physical activity participation profile. The key findings have been related to the sports facility types included in the Darlington Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy and the Playing Pitch strategy.

Table 3.5:- Summary - review of participation

How active is Darlington?	What are Darlington's sporting statistics?	What does inactivity cost?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington rate of adult participation has increased over the period of the Active People (AP) surveys by 3%. In October 2006 some 32.1% of the Darlington adult population participated at least once a week. By October 2013 (start of AP 8) some 35% of Darlington's adults participate at least once a week. The Darlington rate of once week participation in October 2013 is on a par with the County Durham CSP at 35.2% and above the North East region rate of once week participation at 34.7%. Female participation has only varied by around 2% - 3% over the October 2006 – October 2013 period. It was 27.8% participating at least once a week in October 2006. The range since is 29.5% in October 2011 but has declined to 24.2% of adult females participating in October 2013. So 3.2% lower than in October 2006. Male participation in Darlington has been erratic over the 7 year period of the AP surveys. The once a week participation rate has varied by 13% over the period. In October 2006 it was 36.2% by October 2011 this had increased to 49.8%, and is 46% in October 2013. If the Borough Council wishes to increase female participation then more programmed time at centres is required. Dance studios and the sports hall for fitness and conditioning are most important. Swimming pool programming is across both sexes and all age ranges. Whilst male participation in hall sports is higher than for females and across a wider range of sports/activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.6% of the Darlington adult residents are regular sports volunteers, compared to the national average of 7.3%. 19.4% are members of sports clubs, compared to 23.3% nationally. The most popular sports for adults are: gym; swimming, football; fitness and conditioning; and recreational cycling in that order. So four of the five most popular activities are the content of the Darlington indoor facilities and playing pitch strategies. The rate of NON participation in any sport or physical activity in Darlington is virtually unchanged over the 2006 – 2013 period. In 2006 57.4% of the Darlington population did no sport or physical activity. In 2013 the figure is 57.2% of the Darlington adult population. So whilst the once a week participation rate for Darlington has increased by around 3% over the same period (to 35% of the Darlington adult population) there is still over half of the Darlington adult population who do no sports or physical activity. The rate of non participation did decrease substantially between 2009 – 2011 and by 6.6% to 48.8% of Darlington adult population. It has increased since by 5.8% up to October 2013. It is worth establishing the reason for these changes over this 4 year period. It maybe because of the survey findings itself, it may however also be because of particular initiatives over this period between 2009 – 2011 and which impacted in reducing non participation. These may have ceased in 2011 resulting in the rate of non participation to increase back to previous levels. The rate of non participation has decreased in Durham CSP and NE Region. Across the CSP from 58.7% in 2006 to 53.6% in 2013. In NE Region the decrease is 3.2% from 57.4% in 2006 to 54.2% in 2013. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health costs of inactivity in Darlington are at least £1.8 million per year in March 2013 – 2014. The Darlington costs from treating major illness such as cancer and heart disease are £2,364 per 100,000 population. This is higher than the NE Regional figure at £2,016 per 100,000 population and higher than the England wide figure at £1,817 per 100,000 population. Overweight adults (not obesity) in Darlington represents 64% of the adult population and it is 69% in the Region and 64% England wide. So a slightly lower overweight adult population in Darlington compared with the Region and on a par with the national percentage. The child percentages for obesity for under 16 's are that in Darlington 18% of all children are obese and it is 19% in the Region and 21% England wide. The health gains (nationally) of a 30-49 year-old who plays football are valued at £27,600 over their lifetime.

How active is Darlington?

What are Darlington's sporting statistics?

What does inactivity cost?

- In Darlington the rate of participation in gym activities (both genders) has fluctuated by around 4% over the 2006 – 2013 period. In October 2013 is at the same level as in October 2006 with 7.8% of the Darlington adult population going to the gym at least once a week,
- Swimming participation is virtually unchanged across the AP surveys. In 2013 it is 7% of the Darlington adult population swimming at least once a week, compared with 7.7% in 2006.
- The participation rate declined between 2010 and 2013 by 1.4% and this is consistent with a national trend of declining swimming participation over this period.
- Extracting the swimming participation rate from the joint sports halls and swimming pools participation data shows participation in the collective of hall sports and activities that use sports halls is higher than for swimming. If around 7% of the combined participation for pools and halls is for swimming then it means between 16% - 17% of the joint participation between 2006 – 2013 is for sports halls.
- It is a mixed picture when comparing Darlington's rate of swimming participation with the CSP and NE region.
- The CSP level has bucked the national trend with a consistent increasing rate of swimming participation since 2009 with 6% of adults swimming at least once a week in 2009 to 9.6% in October 2013.
- The NE region rate of adult swimming participation has fluctuated by around 1% between 2006 – 13 but in 2013 some 7.5% of the

How active is Darlington?	What are Darlington's sporting statistics?	What does inactivity cost?
<p>region's adult swim at least once week - unchanged from the rate in 2006.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington's swimming participation is more reflective of the regional rate of participation and both declined between 2010 – 11. • Participation in pitch sports at NE Region level is only 0.5% lower in 2013 at 5.4% of adults playing an outdoor pitch sport at least once a week than in October 2006, when it was 5.9%. In between it did increase to 6.9% in 2008 but then decreased for three years to just under 5% of the adult population playing pitch sports at least once a week. (Note data is not available at CSP or Darlington level). 		

4: Sports Halls and Community Halls

Introduction

- 4.1 The data presented in this section has been obtained from a variety of sources including local authority records, Sport England's planning tools (including Active Places Power, the Facilities Planning Model and the Sports Facilities Calculator), site audits and visits and a wide ranging consultation programme involving clubs, facility managers and operators and national governing bodies of sport.
- 4.2 The section provides an assessment of the current provision for sports halls across Darlington Borough in 2014 and role of sports halls in the subsequent strategy. The assessment is based on the findings on the supply, demand and access to sports halls as set out in the Sport England facilities planning model (fpm) lite report January 2013 plus the wider fieldwork described.
- 4.3 There has been significant additional sports hall provision in the Borough since the report was completed. The analysis sets out the key findings in the fpm report and then makes a measured assessment of how the additional provision of 4 sports hall sites impacts on the overall supply and demand balance across the borough. The assumption is that demand for sports halls has not changed since January 2013, which based on the participation analysis appears robust. Equally population growth has not and will not be significant.¹

Sports hall supply and demand

- 4.4 The Sport England fpm lite report lists and includes in the assessment the following sports halls.

Table 4.1-: Sports hall supply in Darlington 2013

		Type	Size (no. of courts)	Year Built	Year Refurbished	Weighting
Dolphin Centre	Leisure	LA	8	1982	2006	91%
Darlington Education Village		Educ	4	2006		99%
New Darlington College	Darlington	Educ	4	2006		49%
Hummersknott School		Educ	4	1965	2005	42%
St Aidans Academy	CofE	Educ	4	2009		50%
Carmel RC College		Educ	4	1960		26%

¹ The summary at the end of the section provides updated fpm analysis using the 2015 data, which reaffirms the analysis set out

- 4.5 The overall supply for sports halls in Darlington and demand by Darlington residents can be set out and is known as supply and demand balance. This assessment is simply comparing the two – Darlington supply of sports halls with demand for sports halls by Darlington residents and is expressed in terms of numbers of badminton courts.
- 4.6 This is set out in Table 4.2 below and the figures in the table are based on the peak periods of demand with capacity of the sports halls. Supply is then adjusted to take account of facility opening hours during the peak periods and the amount of community use. This can vary, for example the Dolphin Centre Sports Centre will have full access for community use at all times. Whereas school based sports halls will vary in the amount of time they have available for community use.
- 4.7 In January 2013 in Darlington the total supply of sports halls for community use in the weekly peak period equated to 30.5 badminton courts. Total demand for sports halls by Darlington residents equated to 28 badminton courts, so there is a surplus of supply over demand of 2.5 badminton courts for community use. This figure does not include a number of important factors including the spatial interaction between the location of supply and demand as well as the nature and quality of the provision.

Table 4.2-: Overall supply / demand balance for sports halls Darlington 2013

Area	Population	Demand: expressed as equivalent no. of courts	Capacity: expressed as equivalent no. of courts	Supply- Balance: Equivalent in no. of courts
Darlington	102,100	28.0	30.5	+ 2.5

- 4.8 Since January 2013 when the fpm report was completed the following new sports halls have been opened in Darlington Borough:
- **Kings Centre** – 3 badminton courts – opened in 2014 (3 CU equivalent)²
 - **Hurworth School** – 4 badminton courts opened in 2013 (1 CU equivalent)
 - **Longfield Academy** – 4 badminton courts opened in August 2013 (4 CU equivalent)
 - **Darlington School of Maths and Science (DSMS)** – 4 badminton courts opened in January 2014 (2 CU equivalent)
- 4.9 The total increase from these 4 sites is 15 badminton courts. A large part of this was down to the last strategy, which identified a shortfall in sports hall provision.
- 4.10 St Aidan's and Longfield Academy were identified as key new facilities in the strategy. These have now come on stream and provide a good community offering. The Kings Centre has good levels of community use and is now a key centre for Table Tennis. Hurworth has been designed to meet Sport England 4-court hall requirements and is an excellent technical specification however they only have limited community use, it is informal and ad-hoc and DSMS do have community use but on a less formal basis than Longfield. The DSMS facility is a low cost 'sports hall' with limited ancillary provision.

² The CU equivalent has been calculated following site visits and the amount of community use at each site

- 4.11 Longfield has developed into a key community facility. In terms of the sports hall this is also a specialist cricket facility, part funded by the ECB, which was identified as a priority in the last strategy. In terms of future development the schools strategy has plans for the sports hall to also develop as a centre for Futsal.
- 4.12 The sports hall development which has taken place over the last five-years has therefore been significant. There are now only two schools without good quality sports hall provision. Carmel College have a 4-court hall but it is now over 40-years old and in poor condition for both curriculum and community use. Polam Hall School also does not have a 4-court hall.

Increase in sports hall provision and impact on supply and demand

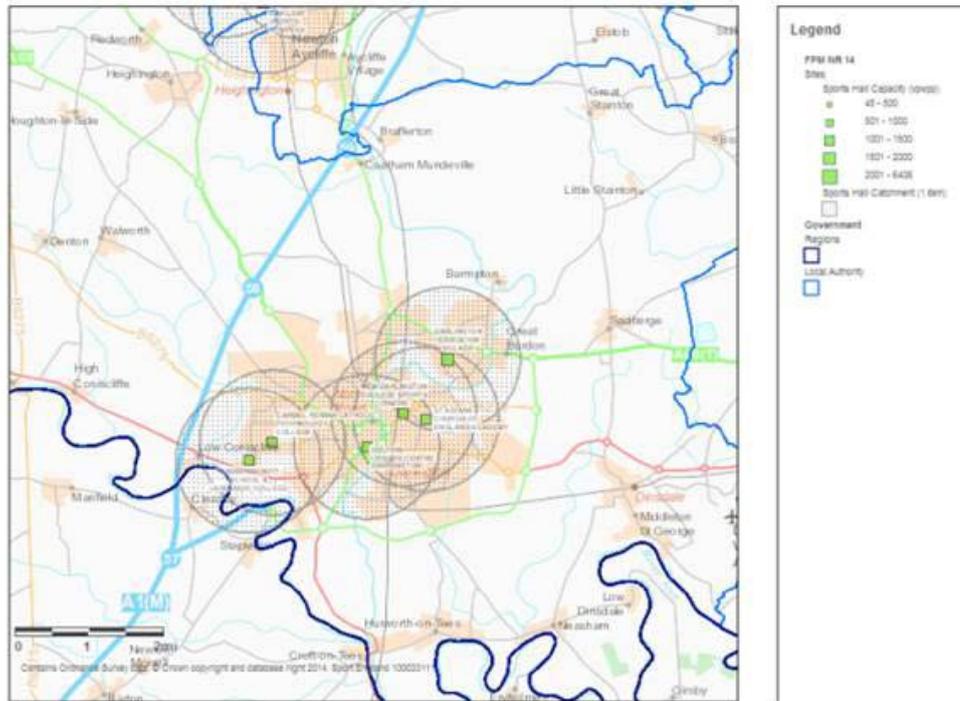
- 4.13 The increase in sports hall supply since 2013 of 4 sites and 15 badminton courts means that total supply increases to 45 badminton courts in total and demand is unchanged at 30.5 badminton courts in 2014.
- 4.14 It is known from the site visits that not all of the new 4 sports halls sites operate full community use in the weekly peak period and outside of school hours (as set out above). So the effective increase in supply for community use is between 0 and 15 badminton courts, at circa 10 courts.
- 4.15 The significant point is that in 2013 Darlington's supply of badminton courts exceeds demand by 2.5 courts and with the new 4 sites this surplus has increased to circa 12.5 courts.
- 4.16 Darlington will export some of its demand to venues outside the authority, based on the nearest sports halls to where some Darlington residents live is located outside the authority. There will also be imported demand on the same basis that the nearest sports halls for some residents living outside Darlington is a Darlington sports hall and this demand becomes part of the Darlington sports hall usage.
- 4.17 In the 2013 fpm report, the estimate was that 8% of demand for sports halls from Darlington residents is met in neighbouring authorities with residents traveling outside the borough to access facilities. A similar percentage of visits to Darlington sport halls are imported from outside the borough. So export of Darlington demand and imported demand by outside residents to use Darlington's sports halls are effectively at the same level. The impact of import and export is therefore negated.

Impact of the increasing sports hall supply in Darlington since 2013

- 4.18 The impacts of the increase in sports hall supply since January 2013 can be summarised as:
- In 2013 supply of sports halls for community use exceed supply by 2.5 courts. The new provision of sports halls has increased this surplus to around 12.5 courts based on weighted community access.
 - Darlington now has a network of very modern, high quality stock of sports halls. 4 new sports halls since 2013. Whilst of the 6 existing sites, 3 sites were constructed between 2006 – 2009 – a very modern stock overall.
- 4.19 Alongside the quantity and quality being good the facilities are also well located to serve resident needs. Darlington is a small borough and as set out in the map overleaf the sports hall are well located to meet resident needs, covering the main urban areas of the borough.

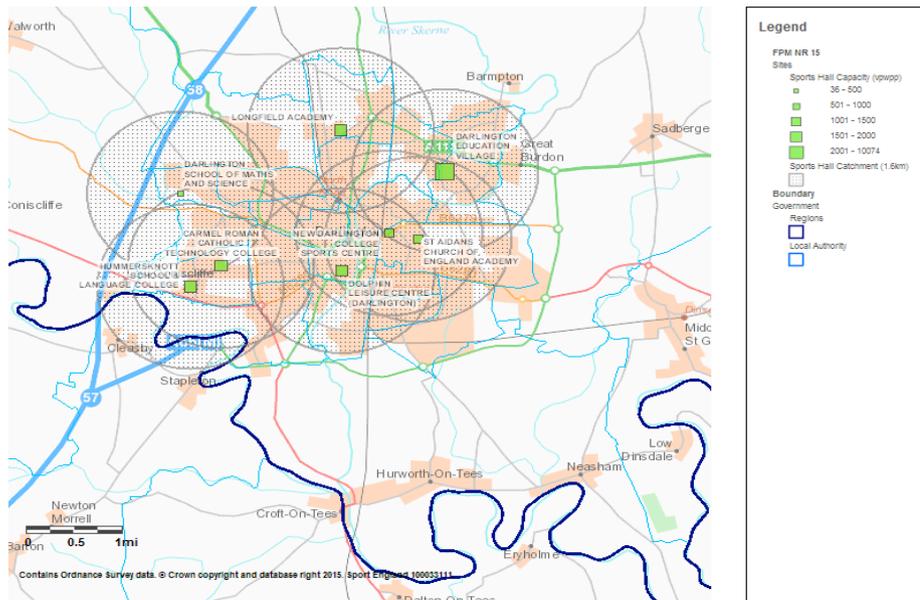
Map 4.1:- Location of sports halls across Darlington based on 2013 data

Facilities Planning Model - National Runs - Sports Halls 2014



Map 4.2:- Location of sports halls across Darlington based on 2015 data

Facilities Planning Model - National Runs - Sports Halls 2015



- 4.20 The effect of the additional sports halls at DSMS and Longfield School is apparent in terms of the location and catchments, as illustrated on the previous map. The location of the two new halls significantly enhances the network of halls in the urban area of Darlington with the effect that only the south-eastern part of the town is not within walking distance of a sports hall.
- 4.21 In terms of availability there is significant reliance on the education sector. The schools and colleges have variable community use and price and access do present a barrier to community use. Given the supply however there is felt to be sufficient capacity in the system. Hummersknott and Longfield provide extensive community use opportunities.

Sports Facilities Calculator

- 4.22 The Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) enables an estimate to be made of the likely implications on facility provision as a result of population growth and/or increases in demand across a local authority area. It is presented here as another potential source of research to aid in assessing demand for sports halls.
- 4.23 The limitations of this approach are recognized - it takes no account of any spare capacity at existing facilities, quality of existing facilities or availability for community use. However, it can provide a broad estimate of additional facility requirements (and associated costs in providing these) that come about as a result of population growth and/or increases in demand across a local authority area.
- 4.24 As we know from section 3 the population of Darlington Borough is projected to increase from 106,300 in 2011 to 107,480 by 2026. This is a minimal increase. We also know alongside this that the sports hall participation profile is also unlikely to result in increased demand for sports hall provision. Based on a population of 107,480 Darlington would require a theoretical provision of 29.56 courts. In 2015 the number of available courts adjusted for community use is 40.5 courts. The total number of courts will therefore also meet future needs.

Summary supply and demand

- 4.25 The issue is therefore not to address quantity or the quality or the sports hall stock. Darlington has an extensive network of modern sports halls. Supply is significantly greater than demand and growth is unlikely to impact on this. The sports halls are also well located.
- 4.26 A large part of this is down to developments since the last strategy. The majority of schools now have access to a modern sports hall facility, other than Carmel College and Polam Hall. It is however difficult to make a case for development based on community use and access however the condition of the Carmel schools facility is recognized as poor and requires investment and development from a curriculum perspective. Similarly Polam Hall is restricted in terms of curriculum delivery by the absence of indoor space.
- 4.27 The issues to address relate to access and availability and also to look at the type of future provision, which may not be traditional 4-court hall development.
- 4.28 In terms of access the noticeable feature is that of the now 10 sites in 2014, there are 8 sites where the provision is 4 badminton court size sports halls, which can cater for all indoor hall sports at the community/recreational level and provide for physical activity fitness and exercise classes. The Dolphin Centre is 8 badminton courts and the Kings Centre is 3 badminton courts.

- 4.29 Of the 8 sites with 4 badminton courts all of the sites are education sites - either schools of which some are academies or colleges. These are high quality buildings with variable levels of community access.
- 4.30 The issue therefore is how to access these venues but with a co-coordinated programme of use - club, classes and 'pay and play' which delivers the sports development and physical activity objectives of the Darlington strategy? Darlington is in the enviable position (almost unique) of having a very modern supply of sports halls and where demand is less than the supply - by a considerable amount.
- 4.31 Consequently there is the opportunity to work with particular venues to deliver particular activities in a co-coordinated way and with a defined level of availability for community use – underlined by the size of all the venues bar Kings Centre being able to cater for the full range of indoor hall sports activities. The Kings Centre is already playing a role in line with the provision as a Table Tennis Centre.
- 4.32 Determining which venues to work with will be governed by (a) those venues which ensure there is good geographical coverage across the borough and there is ease of physical access/travel to venues. More importantly (b) those venues where there is a commitment to community use. To repeat, given supply of sports halls is greater than demand then there is the scope to select which venues to work with and manage the delivery of community use collectively and cohesively.
- 4.33 This cohesive programming may result in a changed role for the Dolphin Centre given (a) all the education venues can provide for community level recreation and (b) the Dolphin Centre is the only venue of 8 courts and which can cater for multi use and events.

Update summary

- 4.34 During the preparation of the Darlington Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Strategy, Sport England's Facility Planning Model national run was undertaken for sports halls. The outputs became available during April 2015. As set out at the beginning of the section the updated analysis for sports halls re-affirms the position set out in the section:
- The effect of the additional sports halls at DSMS and Longfield School significantly enhances the network of halls in the urban area of Darlington with the effect that only the south-eastern part of the town is not within walking distance of a sports hall.
 - The positive impact extends to a number of other measures within the fpm data. Per capita level of provision rises to 0.437 courts which is above the national average. More significantly satisfied demand rises to 92.4% (from 91.1% in 2014) – a figure higher than both the national and regional averages (89.7% and 90.7% respectively).
 - Darlington residents should by now be feeling that they have good access to sports hall provision, as relative share across the borough is 16% better than the national average. It was 1.2% lower in 2014. The analysis of relative share shows that better than average access pervades across most of the borough, with only Skerne Park, and Brankin Moor and the eastern part of Hurworth suffering negative relative share.
- 4.35 To understand this further and develop the relevant strategy consultation was undertaken with relevant clubs and National Governing Bodies (NGBs).

Consultation

Badminton

Governing Body	Website	Link to Facility Strategy
Badminton England	www.badmintonengland.co.uk	http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/core/core_picker/download.asp?id=13656

NGB Objectives (Whole Sport Plan)

- 4.36 Badminton England's plans to get more people playing the sport are centred around strong partnerships with councils, leisure providers, county badminton associations, universities and colleges. They include:
- introduction of a new programme called Smash Up to get more young people playing;
 - increasing the opportunity for young people to play competitively at a local level;
 - expanding the highly popular 'No Strings Badminton' programme;
 - play Badminton delivered in partnership with leisure centres to increase the amount of badminton played;
 - Badminton My Way, to increase the opportunities for FE and HE students; and
 - Para-Badminton, to increase the opportunities players with disabilities through an Inclusive Club network.
- 4.37 Its Vision is to consistently produce Olympic Champions and get the nation playing badminton.

NGB Consultation

- 4.38 There are a healthy number of players as described in the Sport England Market segmentation. This is matched by a similar number wishing to play Badminton so there is good demand for courts and more promotion of the sport.
- 4.39 According to the NGB the Dolphin Leisure Centre and Eastbourne Sports Complex are the key venues across Darlington for Badminton.
- 4.40 There are no major issues in terms of facility provision other than local scheduling, which is often down to the session getting priority is the one that will bring in the most income – i.e. indoor football, fitness etc. On the whole however court prices are reasonable – there are cheaper sessions for people to play at through 'No Strings Badminton' and clubs have agreements and agreed bulk ordered court costs.
- 4.41 The Performance Centre for the area is in Stockton so players are pushed through this system.

Basketball

Governing Body	Website	Link to Facility Strategy
England Basketball	www.englandbasketball.co.uk	http://www.englandbasketball.co.uk/articles/article.aspx?aid=32&pid=67

NGB Objectives (Whole Sport Plan):

- 4.42 A one year participation investment of £815,000 will allow England Basketball to test its two main products: IM Basketball (<http://www.imbasketball.co.uk/>) and Ball Again. (<http://www.ballagain.co.uk/>).
- 4.43 A four year investment of £1.2m into satellite clubs will help grow the game and facilitate the transition of more young people into regular participation in more formal club basketball.
- 4.44 The talent investment will be used to maintain and enhance the Regional Development Programme including Regional Performance Centres, National Development Squads and National Junior Teams programmes focusing on both coach and player development. England Basketball is also planning to create a second Regional Institute of Basketball to cement the link to the elite British Basketball programme.

NGB Consultation

- 4.45 Darlington isn't currently a priority for the sport, other than one affiliated club (Darlington Storm) the NGB are not aware of other formal basketball activity taking place in the area.
- 4.46 Darlington Storm use Longfield Academy as their home venue and they play in recreational leagues in the Durham and Teesside areas. The facility is adequate for the level of basketball played by both juniors and senior members of the club and they currently have around 60 registered participants.
- 4.47 Given the lack of any other formal activity or local involvement in Basketball participation programmes quantity and quality of facilities are not currently an issue for basketball.

Judo and Karate

Governing Body	Website	Link to Facility Strategy
British Judo Association	www.britishjudo.org.uk	

BJA's Objectives (Whole Sport Plan):

- 4.48 At the heart of the investment are plans to persuade more teenagers to stay in the sport after being introduced to it at a young age. Judo membership figures show that numbers drop sharply between the ages of 14 and 17. Research shows that people are far more likely to stick with the sport once they've achieved their second grading belt so this will be a key priority.

- 4.49 Disabled and non-disabled young people who show great potential on the mat will benefit from £1.5 million of Sport England investment in the British Judo Association's talent development programme. High-quality coaching will be offered through the sport's network of clubs with the best young athletes progressing to the England Development squad.

Response from local clubs

Budokan Dojo

- 4.50 Currently train at the Education Village in Darlington one night per week. The floor is excellent for martial arts as it is 'sprung'. There are mirrors which are a bonus but not really required. The main issue is that it is very expensive which is true of all halls in Darlington. For example, the hall in Darlington costs nearly £40 for two hours and is just 100m². The club rent halls for the same martial art in Consett, Durham and Sunderland and they are all less than half this price. The club also has regular issues about cleanliness of the hall and changing rooms.
- 4.51 To further develop the sport would like to see the Council pay for the rent of a hall and then invite lots if different martial arts clubs to do demos, set up stalls etc to get more people into this. This could include judo, karate, ju jitsu, kendo, iaido, tae kwondo, aikido, yoga, maybe Pilates and boxing. Secondly, there are lots of buildings empty which could be converted into hall space for martial arts. If the council have a building they don't use which could be rented out I'm sure many clubs would be interested.

Koizumi Judo Club

- 4.52 Koizumi use what a community centre attached to Darlington School of Mathematics and Science (DMS) formerly Branksome School and Community centre. The club rent the facility by the hour and have access to a small storage area for our mats. Space around the edge of the mat is limited and there are two pillars to which we have to attach crash mats. It is however adequate.
- 4.53 They are a community based club run by volunteers and since ownership transferred from DBC to the school fees went up 50%, so whilst access times are not an issue cost is. The club are key holders (and trusted) to leave the facilities as we find them. It would be useful to have access to refreshment facilities for parents staying with their children. Toilets lack locks.
- 4.54 Main requirement is to build membership so the club can offer a second night of training and to replace worn out mats (they cost in the region of £80 to £100 each for a mat 2m x 1m).

Netball

Governing Body	Website	Link to Facility Strategy
England Netball	www.Englandnetball.co.uk	http://www.Englandnetball.co.uk/make-the-game/Facilities_and_Courts

NGB Priorities (Whole Sport Plan):

- 4.55 Netball will use Sport England funding to achieve its vision, mission and Netball 10:1:1 goals:
- Vision – Your Game, Your Way

- Mission – To establish England Netball as a top performing, financially sustainable National Governing Body that promotes ‘Netball for Life’ and develops more world class athletes
- Netball 10:1:1 Goals
 - 10 – grow participation in the game by an average of 10,000 participants per annum
 - 1 – deliver a 1st class member and participant service
 - 1 – establish England Netball as the number 1 team in the world by Winning the World Netball Championships.

4.56 Through extensive research England Netball have identified 10 separate types of current/ potential netball participants with varying motivations, expectations and needs. In order to achieve its 10:1:1 goals over the next 4 years England Netball will develop a menu of opportunities (programmes) which provides playing opportunities specifically tailored to the needs of the participants in each group.

NGB Consultation

4.57 There is a good level of netball activity taking place across Darlington:

- Longfield Academy of sport , Netball league on Sundays and a club also train out of the venue;
- Darlington School of Maths and Science, has a Back to Netball session running on Monday nights;
- St Aidens Academy, has been used in the past for Back to Netball and has a performance academy taking place at it currently; and
- Dolphin Centre, has been used a lot in the past for netball activity, there is a Junior League running out of the venue currently.

4.58 There does not seem to be a major issue with accessing facilities in Darlington for Netball Activity. The National Governing body we expect to pay approx. £20 per hour for Junior netball activity and no more than £30 per hour for adult netball activity for indoor courts. Outdoor courts approx. £15 per hour for both Junior and Senior activity.

Djs Netball Club

4.59 Located on 2 sites. Junior U11 train on Fridays at the Education Village. U16 and adults train on Wednesdays at St Aidens. Play on Sunday evening junior and adult leagues in Darlington. Both facilities are fit for purpose and are fairly new, and do meet our playing needs.

4.60 Both facilities we have to be accessed via the school, so the club have to walk right to the back of the school before they get to the gym.

4.61 The club originally started training at the Education village but due to costs and no availability, had to change our time to an earlier time of 4.30pm – 6pm to decrease costs, and move our U16 and adult sessions to another venue, which gave reduced rates.

- 4.62 Would not be able to survive as a club if had to pay the £40 plus an hour that some facilities charge. We are a small club that is looking and trying to expand but the cost and facility implications hinder that process.
- 4.63 Ideally would like to have all our training sessions under the same "roof", and be able to store our equipment safely and securely at that venue. But due to the fact of cost, and unavailability we are unable to achieve that at the moment, and because of lack of secure storage, coaches have to carry excess amount of equipment to each training session, all the way through each school to the gym/ training site.
- 4.64 The club are looking and hoping to move training to a site where access is not through a school, but closer to the car parking facilities so that coaches and players don't have so far to walk to the training site. Combining training venues and the ability to store equipment, would also make things a lot easier for all involved. Club could have their own notice board and advertise training sessions more effectively.

Table Tennis

Governing Body	Website	Link to Facility Strategy
England Table Tennis Association	www.etta.co.uk	http://www.etta.co.uk/etta_website/development_docs/etta_facilities_guidance_note_2010-13.pdf

NGB priorities (Whole Sport Plan):

- 4.65 ETTA will initially receive a one year investment to fund its participation, talent, infrastructure and operating costs. During this time it will agree a participation target with Sport England, review its staffing structure and submit revised and costed delivery plans. Sport England has also agreed a single investment of £250,000 into the successful Ping! Project.

Response from local club

- 4.66 At the time of the consultation Darlington Table Tennis Academy was located at the Longfield Academy of Sport. The facilities at Longfield were excellent for the club's needs, plenty of room, ample male and female toilets, showers and good storage facilities for equipment. Outside the car park is large enough and the outside areas are well lit for the hours of darkness.
- 4.67 It is easily accessible from all the local area, communications to Longfield are also good for visitors to the facility for regional tournaments etc as it is close to the A1(M) motorway. The hall hire charges to the Academy for using the facility were considered acceptable.
- 4.68 The club could however not use the facility at any other times outside regular long term Wednesday and Thursday bookings without enquiring about availability and then booking 'one offs'. Because of bookings to other organisations the club are therefore unable to stage major table tennis events on behalf of Table Tennis England which would require the facility to be available to us for two consecutive days e.g. Saturday and Sunday. This includes Open Tournaments and British League matches etc.
- 4.69 As regards further development of the Academy the club is always looking ahead as playing membership continues to grow. At the time they operated a 'satellite club' attached to the Academy which takes place at the King's Centre, on Monday

evenings and Friday mornings. This venue fulfils a demand owing to Longfield being unavailable to us at these times.

4.70 With regard to the development of a new facility club are aware of the fact that, depending on future increases in membership and the availability of coaches and volunteers and taking into account that demand for further sessions may happen, the club may need to search for a premises where they have access at all times. This could be at Longfield or King's Church depending on future demand for their facilities from other organizations.

4.71 The availability issues are a key barrier for the club and as a consequence have now moved and located at the Kings Centre. The facility is 'fit for purpose' and they have sessions 3-nights a-week. They have recently hosted their first ever county tournament. Longfield Academy is now used as a satellite.

Volleyball

Governing Body	Website	Link to Facility Strategy
Volleyball England	www.volleyballengland.org	http://volleymedia.dyndns.org/docs/Volleyball%20England%20Strategy%20Plan%202013-17.pdf

NGB priorities (Whole Sport Plan):

4.72 The exposure of volleyball, beach volleyball and sitting volleyball during the Olympics and Paralympics has given the sport a real opportunity to boost the number of people playing the game.

4.73 More than 90% of Sport England's investment in volleyball will be targeted at young people aged between 14 and 25, building on successful delivery in this area in 2009-13 and to help address the overall decline in the number of people playing. Volleyball England's participation plans include:

- Let's Play Volleyball (Satellite Clubs);
- more opportunities for students at university and college to get involved in the sport; and
- expanding the Go Spike campaign, to engage more community adults in regular volleyball activity and increasing the number of providers.

4.74 Volleyball England's talent programme will place greater emphasis on delivering real quality to the early stages of the talent pathway. Investment will focus on:

- developing a more extensive and systematic approach to talent identification and recruitment;
- enhanced support for local club based pathways as well as national environments;
- improved training and competition experiences in beach and indoor volleyball for young players with high potential; and
- player development monitored against agreed National Technical Standards at each stage.

Response for local clubs

- 4.75 Haughton Volleyball Club uses the Education Village and rate the facilities as good. The times of use are good but the costs can be high for some matches and prohibits using more time for training.

Summary

- 4.76 In terms of sports hall provision there does not appear to be any significant issues or demands from the NGBs, which reflects the supply and demand analysis.
- 4.77 Clubs appear to have good local choice and the quality of provision is generally good, reflecting the newness of provision. However there appear to be some access issues in terms of the consistency of use and availability and also pricing, particularly in terms of the Education Village, which is a well used facility but is considered expensive for clubs.

Future proofing

- 4.78 Sport England's recently published research into how we participate in sport '*How we play: the habits of community sport*' provides an insight into the nation's sporting habits. It appears habit is the key word and the plentiful and accessible supply of good quality opportunities appears to provide the key. The report also found that friends and social influences are also critical to participation, as is flexibility in the sporting offer.
- 4.79 As set out above All national governing bodies are being challenged by Sport England to develop new flexible forms of the game to attract and retain participants. Developing non-traditional forms of sport in non-traditional settings is changing the facility provision picture. NGBs are reflecting these trends of making sport more accessible and easier to access and enter by developing alternative and flexible forms of their sports aimed at lapsed participants and new entrants. Return to Netball and Rugby reflect two recent high profile campaigns. Door Step sports clubs and the rise of local Park Runs are further extensions of the move towards local accessible activity based opportunities, which do not rely on traditional forms of facility provision.
- 4.80 In terms of built facilities traditional sports halls, whilst still an important part of the provision jigsaw, are therefore no longer the panacea. Traditional sports are declining nationally being replaced by more class based activity, such as zumba, circuits and yoga etc. This provides both a challenge, in terms of addressing the current stock, and an opportunity for local providers. What is clear is that it presents an opportunity for providers to think differently and look at more flexible forms of local provision to meet new participation needs. This may not require traditional sports halls but smaller flexible activity spaces. The studio and community centre network is therefore also important to consider.

Studios and community centres

- 4.81 It is therefore important to look at hall provision outside the traditional four-court hall model. Smaller flexible spaces to support the Council's health and physical activity agenda will become an increasingly important aspect of the local facility infrastructure. Set out below is an analysis of the studio and community hall network.

Table 4.3-: Studio provision

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (DARLINGTON)	Studio	Studio	Operational	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2001	n/a
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (DARLINGTON)	Studio	Studio	Operational	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2001	n/a
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (DARLINGTON)	Studio	Studio	Operational	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2008	n/a
BOXFIT	Studio	Studio	Operational	Registered Membership use	Other	Commercial Management	2013	n/a
DARLINGTON EDUCATION VILLAGE	Studio	Studio	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	Private Contractor (PPP/PFI)	2006	n/a
DARLINGTON SCHOOL OF MATHS AND SCIENCE	Studio	Studio	Operational	Private Use	Academies	School/College /University (in house)	1972	1994
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Studio	Studio	Operational	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	2006	n/a
FIRST STEP 2 FITNESS (DARLINGTON)(LADIES ONLY)	Studio	Studio	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	1997	2011
HUMMERSKNOTT SCHOOL & LANGUAGE COLLEGE	Studio	Studio	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College /University (in house)	2008	n/a
KEEP FIT DARLINGTON	Studio	Studio	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	2012	n/a
LIFESTYLE FITNESS (DARLINGTON)	Studio	Studio	Operational	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2012	n/a
LONGFIELD ACADEMY	Studio	Studio	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College /University (in house)	2004	n/a
ROCKLIFFE HALL	Studio	Studio	Operational	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2009	n/a
ST AIDANS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY	Studio	Studio	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College /University (in house)	2009	n/a
THE FITNESS CENTRE	Studio	Studio	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	2011	n/a

4.82 There are a total of 15 studio venues in Darlington Borough in 2014. There is only one venue which are owned and operated by the local authority; at the Dolphin Centre. 5

venues are owned and operated by schools either state or independent schools and colleges; and 9 venues are operated by the commercial sector.

- 4.83 The 2000 decade was the major decade for provision with 9 of the 15 venues (60% of the total stock) opened in that decade. Four venues have opened since 2010 (26% of the total stock) and 1 venues opened in the 1990's and was refurbished in 2011. The one remaining studio opened in 1976 and was refurbished in 1994. So overall it is a modern or modernised stock.

Table 4.4-: Community centre audit

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
12	DARLINGTON EDUCATION VILLAGE	C						Sports activities focused specifically within sporting facilities. Martial arts including judo and karate and taekwondo				Site contains dedicated sports facilities with additional community rooms	Includes performance hall with separate dance and drama studios	WIFI, TV studio, library etc. Also includes external village green and music rooms				
27	HURWORTH GRANGE COMMUNITY CENTRE	D		Large room and smaller hall. Also includes other smaller rooms upstairs, as well as a	Hall marked out for badminton	Capacity 180 people	£200 for functions, or large room is £18 per hour and	Badminton, boot camp, tai chi, dance and drama as well as other none sporting activities	Yes but only during the day. The facility is full in the evening	excellent	Heating system	15	Decreased	Some classes have folded due to leaders retiring	No		Yes - the hall requires constant ongoing upgrades	

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
49	CLIFTON CENTRE & ST COLUMBAS	E	Hall is currently used for aerobics and fitness classes in the evenings. There are no changing facilities and the indoor provision is not big enough for badminton.	licensed bar and kitchen			small room £7 per hour	Keep Fit / Yoga. Cannot be used after 10pm and has a music license. No changing accommodation and not big enough for badminton	s					g				
51	BISHOPTON VILLAGE HALL	D	A large village hall which is available for	Parties, functions, small conferences. Main hall seats	No changing rooms and no sports		£13 per hour, some reductions	Yoga	Yes - site is well underused	Average	Insulation and heating	3	Static		Encourage any activities		The village has recently held a meetin	Lacking in volunteers. Would like to

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
			bookings. In remote area of the borough, assumed valuable local community facility.	80 and there is a smaller room for 30. There are full toilets and equipped kitchen.	markings on hall floor		for longer bookings										g to decide the future of the hall. The village committee is ageing and struggling to get new committee members. They are struggling to keep the hall ticking over due to underuse but have recently improv	increase use of the hall, but suffer from lack of website etc.

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
54	HEIGHINGTON VILLAGE HALL	E	Two small indoor halls. Takes bookings for low level exercise classes. No sports markings on the floor, no changing. Important local facility.	Old hall and new hall with smaller committee room upstairs	No sports markings or changing facilities		£9 per hour residents, £20 per hour commercial. New hall which includes stage is £12 and £22	Pilates, keep fit ramblers group	Yes - Thursday evening and weekends	Average to good	Updating and heating	5	increased	Pilates and keep fit recently provided	No		No	ed the kitchen and roof. Centre is very active with clear booking and flexible bookings at last minute
61	NEASHAM READING ROOM & CLUB	D	Small community hall with potential for aerobics etc															

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
63	RED HALL COMMUNITY AND CHILDRENS CENTRE	C	Community centre. No changing facilities just toilets	Sports hall, 2 meeting rooms	sports hall 18m x 6m - not marked out but big enough for badminton and volleyball		13.5	There is a separate sports hall with capacity for 120 + with no seating. Price £13.50 per hour with a reduction of 20% for each additional hour. Martial arts and dance clubs. Current activities limited		Good	Bio mass boiler / solar panels to keep costs down	30	increased	Back to work activities, table tennis etc	yes	5 a side and basketball	Remark and improve for next year	
67	FIRTHMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE	D	Healthy Living Centre in main building	Charitable community centre. 8 rooms for hire ranging from 120 people (main hall) to 16 people (IT suite) and 4 (interview room).	Large multi-purpose room has sprung floor, facility also includes MUGA	Largest room has capacity for 120 people	£13 per hour, business rates £20 per hour. Smaller room capacity lower	Tae kwondo and judo in large hall	Yes - capacity during both day and evenings	Good	WIFI issues. Have recently had refurb of cafe and head	20	Static		Yes	Lack of volunteers	Yes - extract or fans and deco improvements	Consider it to be important to encourage local people to use local facilities rather than travel

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
69	MIDDLETON ST GEORGE COMMUNITY ASSOC	D	Small hall, used for table tennis, no line markings, low roof	Also have MUGA and youth hall. Most common uses of facilities are meetings, conferences, weddings, parties and IT Courses, as well as martial arts and dance	No sports markings	100 people large hall, 60 people lower hall	£6-£8 per hour	Karate, zumba, pilates, aerobics and other non sporting events	Yes - particularly during the daytime and especially in the basement hall	Good	Resurface car parking and upgrade roof	10	increased	Increased due to better marketing to the community - setting up	yes	For younger residents. There is a problem that most users are older resident	Extend the larger hall - to accommodate martial arts groups aspirations and youth theatre	Lacking volunteers but hall is improving

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
71	HURWORTH VILLAGE HALL	D	Small hall with line markings used for aerobics, badminton and yoga. Hired out for sports bookings eg aerobics etc	Includes main room, committee room and kitchen. Main room can accommodate up to 100 seating	Some badminton markings but court believed to be slightly short. Floor is wooden sprung	Capacity for 100	£8 per hour	Badminton, yoga, keep fit and other non sporting activities	Yes	Very good	Redecoration of small hall	20	increased	Dancing website etc	No	s		
72	PARK PLACE COMMUNITY CENTRE	B	Small hall. An old people's community centre, linked to care flats/homes.															

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
75	RISE CARR COLLEGE - formerly known as The Phoenix Centre	B	Opened in April 08, home to new state-of-the-art premises for the town's Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) services. Does have a hall that is used for sport but no markings. Used to be the Rise Carr School	Includes sports hall and 2 kitchens	Several sports markings	Unknown	Under review	Predominantly used for meetings	Yes there are spare evenings but would require care taker to open facility	Good	None	Used day time by school pupils	Increased		No		No	All funds are reinvested in the hall which does very well.

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
81	SADBERGE VILLAGE HALL	D		Facility used for weddings , parties, shows and meetings, as well as dances, badminton and exercise classes. There is a main hall, dance studio, coffee lounge and BBQ patio.	Main hall is marked out for badminton	Main hall capacity 140, smaller halls 50 each	£20 per hour for main hall, other rooms £10 - £15 per hour	Badminton, pilates, keep fit and none sporting activities	Yes but limited - generally during the day time only	Good	Decor	6.5	Static	Same amount but changed nature of participation	Yes	Parish plan mentions table tennis as possibility	yes - refurbishment of coffee lounge	
82	HIGH CONISCLIFFE CHURCH HALL	E		1 hall, no kitchen but includes tea making facilities	No sports markings	Seats 50	£15 per hour, minimum 3 hours	None	No	Good	Electric heating and decorating	0	Decreased	Lost pilates and yoga	No	Feel hall is too small for physical activity and have concerns about damage to	No	Income essential for church

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
83	SUMMERHOUSE VILLAGE HALL	E		1 Hall	Badminton court marked out	seats 125	£10 per hour general, but specific prices for longer activities	Predominantly used for non physical activities	Yes	Good	Boiler needs renewing	0	Decreased	Used to be pilates, table tennis and keep fit but users have relocated to other halls nearer to home		décor		Would like to attract other users to the facility but struggle to do this. Have a website but it is not regularly updated and therefore is of little benefit
84	ST MARY'S COMMUNITY CENTRE	A		Main hall with stage, kitchen, very small meeting room and outside	No changing rooms and no sports markings on hall	Unknown		Judo and non sporting activities	Some spare afternoons and occasional weeken	Good	Windows require work	6	Static	Mainly judo	Yes	Badminton, but height of ceiling limits this	Would like to expand	Well used community centre

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or Changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
85	KING'S CENTRE	B		space	floor				ds		and kitchen functionality limited]							
					Sports hall includes badminton markings - 26m x 23m, 3 badminton courts. Also includes a fitness suite and it is the intention that this will be equipped for													

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
86	HOLY TRINITY YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE	A		Medium sized hall, store rooms, kitchen and toilets	None	20'x 30' - capacity approx 50 people	£12 per hour	Keep fit, zumba, step and taekwondo as well as non physical activities	Limited. Hired every evening and most mornings during the week	Good	Provision of mats	12	Static		No	Hall fully booked	Unsure	Good facility that would benefit from extension
87	THE LINKS	A		Think this is a care home														
88	THE WILLOW ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE	A		Caters for 150 people. Hall is not marked and roof is relatively low	No sports markings - roof a little low for badminton			Zumba, karate, exercise class, yoga				11.5						
89	ALL SAINTS MILLENNIUM CENTRE	E		Large milenium hall and garden room	Not marked out for sports although used for badminton	115 capacity in large hall, 50 people	£60 for 3 hours and £10 per additional hour	Pilates and badminton	Odd weekends only	Good	Electricity bills are significant -	3	increased	New pilates class	No		No	

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
90	BRANKSOME COMMUNITY CENTRE	A		Facility used by early support team in day and is a community centre in the evening.	No changing rooms and no sports markings on hall floor	Unknown	£10 per hour	Judo x 2	Yes. There are spare evenings but this is under review as it is Council	Poor	Repairs are required but costs are not	5	Increased	Additional judo group	Yes	Would like someone to run the facility and extend use but there is no	Yes - fire exit upgrade. There is no budget for remainder of work	

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues	
				Large hall and kitchen					owned and in poor condition		covered through hire charges and therefore future of centre unclear. Requires new boiler, replacement roof windows						budget for this provision		

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
91	REDWORTH VILLAGE HALL	E		Hall, kitchen and disabled toilets	No changing rooms and no sports markings on hall floor	25' x 25' - capacity 42 people	£6 per hour	None	Yes	Good	No. New kitchen and heating recently installed	0	Decreased	Lost tai chi and keep fit. Community is ageing and there is a lack of interest. The local hotel which	No			Lack of volunteers and ageing committee

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
92	WHESSOE PARISH HALL	B	Main hall capacity for 60, small hall for 15 people. Includes kitchen and disabled access. Key uses are meetings, parties, training groups,	There is a main hall and kitchen. The main hall does not have any markings for sports. Additional meeting room and toilets	No sports markings	Capacity 60 people	£10 per hour for residents of parish and £12 for non-residents.	Dancing, keep fit, zumba and other non-sporting activities	No - fully booked	Good	Lighting system requires updating. Kitchen recently modernised and new floor	20	increased	particular increase in last 6 months	No		Yes - Parish Council considering whether to increase the hall size and car park.	

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
93	GREAT STANTON VILLAGE HALL	D	play groups. Also used for clubs,	Main hall and kitchen	No changing rooms and no sports markings on hall floor	capacity 70	£7 per hour local residents, £10 per hour other	None	Yes - evenings and midweek	Good	No. Redecoration would be key priority and there are storage issues	0	Static		yes	would like to encourage yoga / keep fit etc	Looking at extension	

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or decreased?	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
94	ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL	A		No longer operates for community use							es. Also seeking extension							
95	COLERIDGE CENTRE (INCSKERNE PARK ACADEMY)	E	Small hall with no markings. Could be used for indoor aerobic/pilates. Too small for badminton.	Hall that is currently being extended and several small meeting rooms	No sports markings and hall has a low ceiling	300 capacity	£8 per day	Mostly used by DBC for adult learning. Believe there to be little interest from the local community.	Yes - generally underused despite cheap hire costs	Good	Security of building. Hall ceiling too low for sport	Used extensively by adjacent primary school	Unsure		yes	Badminton and give a side football	Has received permission for sports hall on site but need funding. This would generate extra community use	Managed by multiple different people none of who had a full picture of activity. Likely to impact on bookings received

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues
	ST THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH HALL			Large hall with stage, kitchen, toilets and car parking	No changing rooms and no sports markings on hall floor	18 x 15m and can seat 100	£14 per hour	Exercise classes including keep fit, zumba, boot camp, taekwondo, judo. Other activities including dancing, playgroup	Yes but limited - well used overall. Underused Tuesday and Wednesday mornings	Good	Heating system	17	Increased	Physical activity is key area of growth in activity - judo, boot camp and zumba have all started within the last year	Yes	Lack of volunteers	Heating system to be replaced	Lack of volunteers
	BRAFFERTON VILLAGE HALL			Kitchen, main hall and toilets	Marked for badminton but fading	5 capacity	£10 per hour members, non mem	Dance classes and other non sporting activities	Yes - recent decline	Good	Kitchen and toilet improve	15	Static		Yes	Badminton and keep fit but roof limits	New boiler and disabled toilet required	Struggle to keep going due to lack of volunteers

Site ID	Site Name	Locality Area	Comments from Previous Assessment	Overall Facilities (including halls available)	Details of Any Sports Facilities or changing rooms	Specifics of Hall size if known	Hire Charge	Sports Activities	Capacity to accommodate additional activity?	Perceived Quality	Quality Issues / Improvements	Number of hours used for physical activity	Has use of the hall for physical activity increased or	Comments	Are there any sports or activities that you would like to provide in the hall (or have been asked to) but are unable to do so?	If yes, please indicate what and why	Any future plans for improvement of facility?	Other issues	
							bers £12. To be raised soon				me nts								

4.84 The community centre network clearly plays an important role in providing opportunities for dance, keep fit, zumba, pilates etc and martial arts. Pricing appears more competitive than the traditional sports hall offer. Lack of volunteers and marketing appear to be key challenges as opposed to facility issues. There appears to be opportunities to make greater use of the community centre network through the development of a coordinated approach, led by the Council to promote opportunities and availability.

Summary

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
<p>Quantity</p>	<p>Since the beginning of 2013 there has been 4 additional sport hall sites opened in Darlington. There are now 10 sports hall sites of which 8 are 4 badminton court size venues.</p> <p>The supply of sports halls is estimated to exceed demand in 2013 by 2.5 badminton courts and by 12.5 badminton courts in 2014, once access is factored in.</p> <p>In 2015 per capita level of provision rises to 0.437 courts which is above the national average. More significantly satisfied demand rises to 92.4% (from 91.1% in 2014) – a figure higher than both the national and regional averages (89.7% and 90.7% respectively).</p> <p>Darlington residents should by now be feeling that they have good access to sports hall provision, as relative share across the borough is 16% better than the national average. It was 1.2% lower in 2014. The analysis of relative share shows that better than average access pervades across most of the borough, with only Skerne Park, and Brankin Moor and the eastern part of Hurworth suffering negative relative share.</p> <p>Based on a population of 107,480 Darlington would require a theoretical provision of 29.56 courts according to the SFC. In 2015 the number of available courts adjusted for community use is 40.5 courts. The total number of courts will therefore also meet future needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect existing levels of sports hall provision • Partners seeking to develop future sports hall provision should set out a need based on sports development and NGB requirements as opposed to general community need • Explore the potential to deliver more flexible activity spaces as opposed to formal sports hall provision part of new or refurbished developments
<p>Quality</p>	<p>The sports hall stock is very modern with six of the ten sites opened since 2006 and of good quality. The quality of facilities is therefore good and they are well located to meet resident needs. The issue for the Darlington strategy is not the quantity or quality of sports halls.</p> <p>NGB and club comments suggest the network is ‘fit for purpose.’</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to continue to support the enhancement of the current network of sports hall facilities on an on-going basis • Seek to ensure the enhancement of provision at key sports hall sites for indoor hall sports (flooring, size of run-off area etc), ensuring they are ‘fit for purpose’ for community use as part of any refurbishment programme. This should include disability access

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
		Support upgrades to the community centre network to facilitate greater community use for sport and physical activity
Accessibility	The effect of the additional sports halls at DSMS and Longfield School significantly enhances the network of halls in the urban area of Darlington with the effect that only the south-eastern part of the town is not within walking distance of a sports hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports halls are well located to meet resident needs.
Availability	<p>Of the 8 sites with 4 badminton courts all of the sites are education sites - either schools of which some are academies or colleges with variable levels of community access.</p> <p>Pricing has also been raised as a barrier at certain sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the opportunities for enhanced community access at sports halls on school sites. Seek to enhance provision and access at key sites for community sport and club / NGB use • Focus on Hurworth School and Darlington College. Sites where community use is currently limited • Pricing is a barrier at certain sites • Provide support to the community centre network to maximize the use of facilities for sport and physical activity development
Key Issues to Address - Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the beginning of 2013 there has been 4 additional sport hall sites opened in Darlington. There are now 10 sports hall sites of which 8 are 4 badminton court size venues and all of these are education sites. The supply of sports halls is estimated to exceed demand in 2013 by 2.5 badminton courts and by 12.5 badminton courts in 2014, once access is factored in • Based on a population of 107,480 Darlington would require a theoretical provision of 29.56 courts according to the SfC. In 2015 the number of available courts adjusted for community use is 40.5 courts. The total number of courts will therefore also meet future needs 	

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmel College sports hall is now over 40-years old and poor quality. Polam Hall School does not have a sports hall • The sports hall stock is very modern with six of the ten sites opened since 2006 and of good quality. The quality of facilities is therefore good and they are well located to meet resident needs. The issue for the Darlington strategy is not the quantity or quality of sports halls • There are no specific needs from NGBs. Clubs are generally well catered for but there appears potential for greater co-ordination to address the issue of consistency of access and cost • The focus for the Darlington strategy in relation to sports halls should therefore be to determine a collective and cohesive programme of community use at venues which deliver the sports development and physical activity objectives of the Council and the strategy. This may lead to more of the education sites being available for structured club use • As an example the new build at Longfield has focused on cricket and the school now has aspirations to develop as a centre for Futsal. There may be opportunities for other halls to specialize and provide long-term continuity of use for clubs and a more affordable pricing structure as a result of longer term agreements • The Community Centre network provides opportunities for the further development of health and physical activity programmes in local accessible locations, in line with the Community Strategy • In strategic terms consideration should be given to an enhanced role for the Dolphin Centre to provide for higher level activities and events. 	

Introduction

- 5.1 The data presented in this section has been obtained from a variety of sources including local authority records, Sport England's planning tools (including Active Places Power, the Facilities Planning Model and the Sports Facilities Calculator), site audits and visits and a wide ranging consultation programme involving clubs, facility managers and operators and national governing bodies of sport.

Commentary on the provision of swimming pools in Darlington Borough

- 5.2 This report provides an assessment of the quantity, quality, access and availability of swimming pools as assessed by Sport England in its 2013 assessment of swimming pool provision within Darlington Borough. As the report was completed in January 2013 reference has been made to the Sport England 2014 data and assessment of swimming pool provision to check for any changes in provision.
- 5.3 A commentary on the Sport England findings are then set out linking the Sport England assessment of need with the findings/views of the Borough Council and partners concerning the facility provision and key drivers for change.
- 5.4 The collective purpose of this assessment is to provide an evidence base to support the development of the Strategy priorities.
- 5.5 The hard evidence base of findings on swimming pools provision is set out in accordance with the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) for indoor sports facilities and built outdoor facilities such as artificial grass pitches. This guidance was published by Sport England in 2014 and replaces the now withdrawn Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Companion Guide to Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Sport and Recreation.
- 5.6 ANOG sets out the needs for indoor sports facilities under four headings of quantity, quality, accessibility and availability. The data for these four headings is taken from the Sport England 2013 facility planning model lite report and the 2014 data.

Structure to the assessment and sequence of reporting

- 5.7 The assessment content and sequence is based on:
- setting out the findings as tables for Darlington Borough Council on the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability for swimming pools; and
 - reporting on how these findings relate to the findings from consultations with the Borough Council on key strategic drivers for changes, sports development and physical activity programmes, site visits and views of facility managers.

Definitions and terms in the Sport England Data

- 5.8 The measure and terminology for supply demand and capacity for swimming pools is visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp). (Note: now referred to as either visits or visits per week). To be included in the Sport England assessment the minimum size is a swimming pool is of at least 160 sq metres of water (a 20m x 4 lane pool). All pools of this minimum size are included in the list of supply but they are only included in the assessment if they are available for public and club use in some or all of the weekly peak period. The local authority comments are not constrained by this pool size definition and their comments relate to all swimming pools and the two have been considered together in the report.
- 5.9 The list of all the swimming pools in Darlington Borough included in the Sport England assessment are set out as an Appendix to this report.

Quantity of swimming pools

- 5.10 The findings on the quantity of swimming pool provision are first set out as table xx the total supply within Darlington Borough and then table 5.1 which compares waterscape per 1,000 population in Darlington with the neighbouring authorities with a commentary. This is then followed by the total demand for pools and a table on the supply and demand balance. The definitions of supply and demand are set out following the table.

Table 5.1-: Swimming pool supply Darlington Borough 2013

Name of pool site	Ownership	Water Area* (sq m)	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Public Facilities				
Dolphin Leisure Centre (main pool)	LA	450	1982	
Dolphin Leisure Centre (Learner/Teaching/Training)		150		
Dolphin Leisure Centre (diving pool)		144		
Darlington Education Village	Educ	225	2006	
Branksome School	Educ	200	1972	2007
Hummersknott School	Educ	160	1965	2008
Longfield School	Educ	160	1968	
Commercial Facilities				
Bannatynes Health Club	Comm	120	2001	2004
Rockcliffe Hall	Hotel	160	2009	

Table 5.2:- Waterspace per 1,000 population for Darlington, neighbouring authorities, NE Region and England wide 2013

	Darlington	England	North East	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Redcar & Cleveland	Stockton
Waterspace per 1,000 pop'n in sq m of water	17.3	12.8	12.6	15.9	11.3	10.8	12.8

5.11 The supply of swimming pools is defined as the indoor swimming pools which are a minimum 160 sq metres of water (20m x 4 lanes) from all providers in an area. All pools are listed in the supply but the assessment only includes those pools which are available for public or club use in the weekly peak period.

Findings from the Sport England assessment

- There is only one local authority owned and managed pool which is the Dolphin Leisure Centre which has three individual pools and is a very extensive 740 sq metres of water
- There are 4 education owned/operated swimming pool sites. In total water area these sites have 745 sq metres of water – virtually the same as the Dolphin Centre
- The Borough Council has 5 pool sites in total. The Dolphin Centre represents a total of 50% of the total waterspace within the Borough. The remaining 50% of public waterspace is at 4 individual sites which are owned and operated by the education sector
- So one central site providing for all the swimming activities and disciplines and then 4 other sites which make up the remaining 50% of public swimming pool supply but with individual management and determination of access for community use. Furthermore only one of the education sites at Darlington Education Village is a 25m x 4 lane pool catering for the full range of community swimming activities. The other 3 sites are small scale pools at 200 sq metres of water or below and which are not suited for community recreational swimming but can cater for club use and learn to swim programmes
- Determining a cohesive and strategic management of swimming appears challenging. The Borough Council can determine and organise its own programme and has a very large one site centre to cater for all swimming activities. However determining how swimming is delivered across the borough then requires co-ordination and co-operation with the four individual education sites and their determination of swimming activity for community use. furthermore any change in supply (reduced access to education based pools) is going to increase demand for the main public pool sites – depending on access and the overall supply and demand
- A comparative measure of quantity of provision is waterspace per 1,000 population (Table 5.3). This shows that Darlington has the highest level of provision at 17.3 sq metres of water. Hartlepool has the next highest at 15.9 sq metres of water. Redcar and Cleveland has the lowest at 10.8 sq metres of water per 1,000 population. The NE Region 12.6 sq metres of water and England wide there are 12.8 sq metres of water per 1,000 population

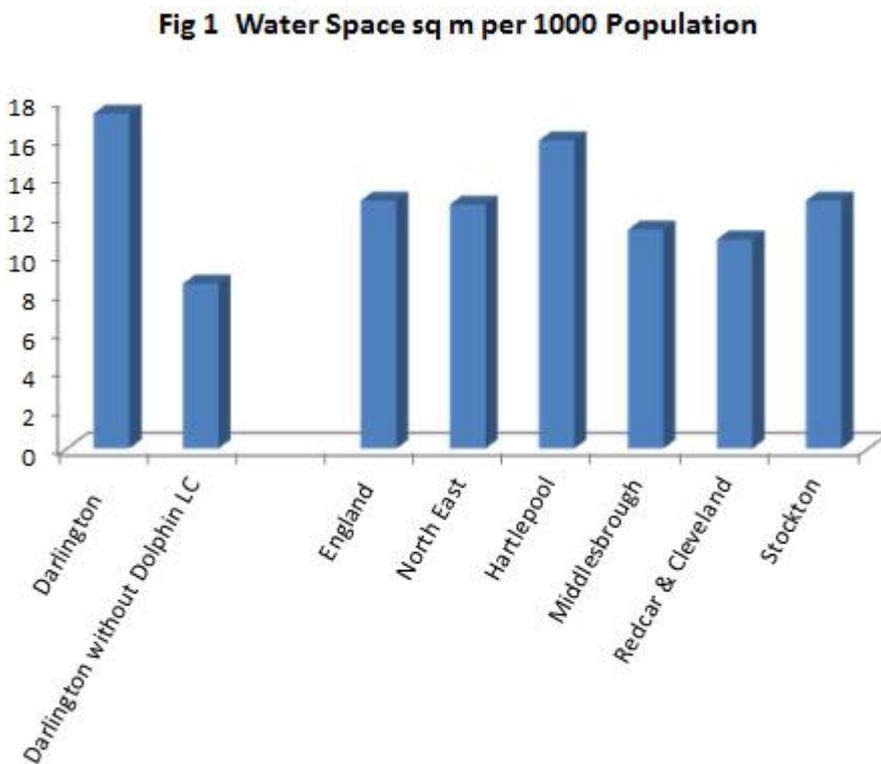
- So an extensive range of provision and based on this comparative measure Darlington has 26% more waterspace than the regional or England wide provision. Any potential change in provision in Darlington should be seen in this comparative "better off" quantity context.

What is the significance of the Dolphin Leisure Centre?

5.12 To emphasise the importance of the Dolphin Centre Sport England assessed the impact of the Dolphin Centre in meeting the overall demand for swimming within Darlington. When the Dolphin Centre is excluded from the assessment the overall amount of waterspace in Darlington falls from 17.3 sq metres to 8.5 sq metres per 1,000 population.

5.13 This would be well below the national average of 12.8 sq metres, and would be far lower than any of the other Tees Valley authorities. This is set out in figure 5.1 below with the Dolphin Centre included and excluded in the first two columns

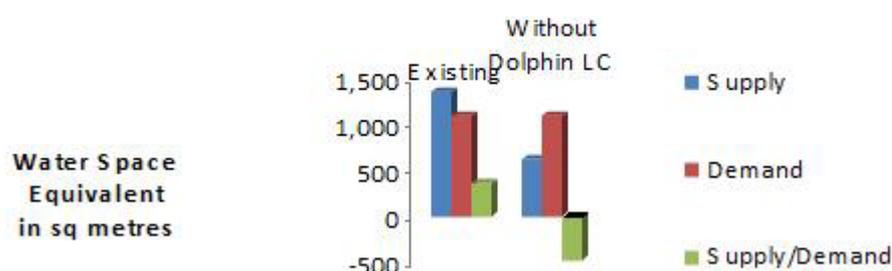
Figure 5.1-: Amount of waterspace per 1,000 population for Darlington with and without the Dolphin Centre and with other Teesside authorities



5.14 Furthermore as reported the supply and demand balance for swimming pools shows a 349 sq metres of water surplus. If the Dolphin Centre was excluded the supply and demand balance surplus becomes a deficit of 472 sq metres of water. The before and after Dolphin Centre assessment is set out in Figure 5.2 overleaf.

Figure 5.2-: Supply and demand balance for waterspace in Darlington with and without the Dolphin Centre

Fig 2 Supply/Demand Balance



5.15 In summary the Dolphin Centre is the most important swimming pool in the borough. This is in terms of the quantity of waterspace it provides in ensuring there is an overall positive balance in the overall supply and demand for swimming. Of more importance is that the scale of the centre means it can provide for all the swimming activities and it is the only facility in the borough that can provide this offer. In short the Dolphin Centre is critical to future swimming provision across the borough and should be protected and enhanced through investment.

Quantity of swimming pool provision - supply and demand balance

5.16 Supply and demand compares total demand generated within an authority for swimming with the total supply of pools within the same authority. It represents an assumption that all the demand for swimming is met by all the supply of swimming pools in the same local authority.

5.17 Supply and demand balance is not based on where the pools are located and their catchment area extending into other authorities. Nor, the catchment areas of pools in neighbouring authorities extending into another authority.

5.18 The reason for presenting this closed assessment is to understand how the local authority supply of pools (from all providers) compares with total demand for swimming from their residents. Supply and demand balance presents this comparison.

Table 5.3-: List of swimming pools in Darlington Borough included in the assessment 2014

Name of facility	Type	Area	Year built	Year refurbished	Facility Capacity visits	% Capacity used	% of capacity not used
DARLINGTON					12,034	59%	41%
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (DARLINGTON)	Main/General	120	2001	2004	1,040	28%	72%
DARLINGTON EDUCATION VILLAGE	Main/General	225	2006		1,200	80%	20%
DARLINGTON SCHOOL OF MATHS	Main/General	200	1972	2012	1,217	52%	48%

Name of facility	Type	Area	Year built	Year refurbished	Facility Capacity visits	% Capacity used	% of capacity not used
DARLINGTON					12,034	59%	41%
AND SCIENCE							
DOLPHIN CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	LEISURE Main/General	450	1982	2007	5,377	72%	28%
DOLPHIN CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	LEISURE Learner/Teaching/Training	150					
DOLPHIN CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	LEISURE Diving	144					
HUMMERSKNOTT SCHOOL & LANGUAGE COLLEGE	Main/General	160	1965	2008	1,027	43%	57%
LONGFIELD ACADEMY	Main/General	160	1968	2013	787	82%	18%
ROCKLIFFE HALL	Main/General	160	2009		1,387	18%	82%

Table 5.4-: Swimming pool supply and demand balance for Darlington 2013

	Population	Demand: expressed as equivalent waterspace	Capacity: expressed as equivalent waterspace	Supply- Balance: Demand Equivalent in Waterspace (sq m)
Darlington	102,100	1,076 sq m	1,425 sq m	+ 349 sq m

Findings from the Sport England assessment

5.19 The findings from the Sport England assessment are:

- Based on the supply and demand balance the resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of 1,076 sq metres of water. This compares to a current available supply of 1,425 sq metres, giving a supply/demand surplus of +349 sq metres
- So based on the supply of swimming pools in Darlington meeting all of the Darlington demand for swimming then Darlington has sufficient quantity of waterscape to meet its own demand for swimming in 2013
- The supply and demand balance figures do not however include a number of important factors: the spatial interaction between the location of supply and demand; and the nature and quality of the provision. While overall capacity exceeds overall demand, how well demand is actually being served will depend on how far people have to travel to access a pool and the quality and size of available pools. The Sport England data/assessment does take account of the location of facilities and how accessible they are to where people live,

accessibility by different modes of transport, the relative attractiveness of different facilities and the influence of neighbouring authorities. As some facilities are not open for the entire peak period, the supply figure is scaled down to reflect the amount of water space available for community use in the peak period. So the quantity findings of supply and demand balance have to be considered alongside these realistic interactions. These findings are set out under the accessibility heading.

Quality of swimming pools

- 5.20 Quality of swimming pools is assessed by Sport England as the age of the pools and the dates of any major modernisation. It is accepted that this is one only one measure of quality the appendix lists all the Darlington pool sites by name, the age of pools and date of any modernisation that are included in the Sport England database.
- 5.21 Set out below is Table 5.5 which is a summary of the age of each pool site by decade with the decade of any modernisation of pools.

Table 5.5:- Age and modernisation of swimming pools by decade in Darlington

Dates	Darlington	Total
Date Pools Opened		
Pre 1970	2	2
1970's	1	1
1980's	1	1
1990's		
2000	3	3
Post 2010		
Total pool Sites	7	7
Date Pools Refurbished		
Pre 1970	2	2
1970	1	1
1980's	1	1
1990's		
2000	1	1
Total pools	5	5

- 5.22 The key findings on Table 5.5 are:
- overall the swimming pool stock is modern/has been modernised. There are 7 swimming pool sites in total across Darlington

- three of the pool sites opened post 2000. However 2 of these sites are private/commercial pools, Bannatynes Health Club 2001 and Rockcliffe Hall 2009. They are also small pools at 120 and 160 sq metres of water. So whilst they are modern they are also restricted in terms of the public's ability and willingness to pay a membership. They are also limited to casual recreational swimming activity by the membership. The other post 2000 pool is Darlington Education Village, opened in 2005; and
- the remaining 4 pool sites were opened between 1965 – 1990.

5.23 In terms of modernisation the track record is good:

- All four of the pre 1990 pools have been modernised as well as one of the post 2000 pools. This being the Bannatynes Health Club modernised/refurbished in 2004.

Accessibility to swimming pools

5.24 Access to swimming pools is assessed by Sport England based on the catchment area of swimming pools and travel patterns to pools by car, public transport and walking. The Sport England data plots the catchment area of each pool and then determines the demand for each pool within its catchment area.

5.25 As the assessment is based on catchment areas this means it works across local authority boundaries. The assessment sends the demand to the nearest pool to where a resident lives (say authority A) and it can calculate if this pool is in the same local authority as where the resident lives (retained demand), or, if the nearest pool to where a resident lives is in another authority (exported demand).

5.26 The assessment also calculates if a resident lives in (say authority B) but the nearest pool to where they live is in authority A then it can calculate how much demand is exported from authority B and becomes (imported demand) in authority A.

5.27 With the spatial interaction between supply and demand included in the modelling, this suggests that 94% of demand for swimming pools in Darlington is currently being met by supply (this includes facilities both within the local authority area and those in adjoining areas which are accessible to Darlington residents). This figure is higher than both the national and regional averages, and is the highest of the Tees Valley authorities, as shown in Table 5.6 below.

Table 5.6:- Percentage of total demand for swimming pools which is satisfied

Darlington	England	North East	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Redcar & Cleveland	Stockton
94%	91%	87%	94%	85%	82%	92%

5.28 The other key data on access to pools relates to travel patterns and accessibility by different travel modes. If there is a high percentage of the population who do not have access to a car then the location of the pools and access to them by public transport and walking is important. Lack of ease of access by bus or walking to pool locations can become a barrier to participation and increase unmet demand as people chose not to swim. The 2011 Census finding is that 26% of Darlington population do not have access to a car. The percentage for NE Region is 30.3% and for England wide it is 24.3%. The findings on travel patterns to pools for Darlington and for each pool site by car, public transport and walking are set out overleaf in Table 5.7.

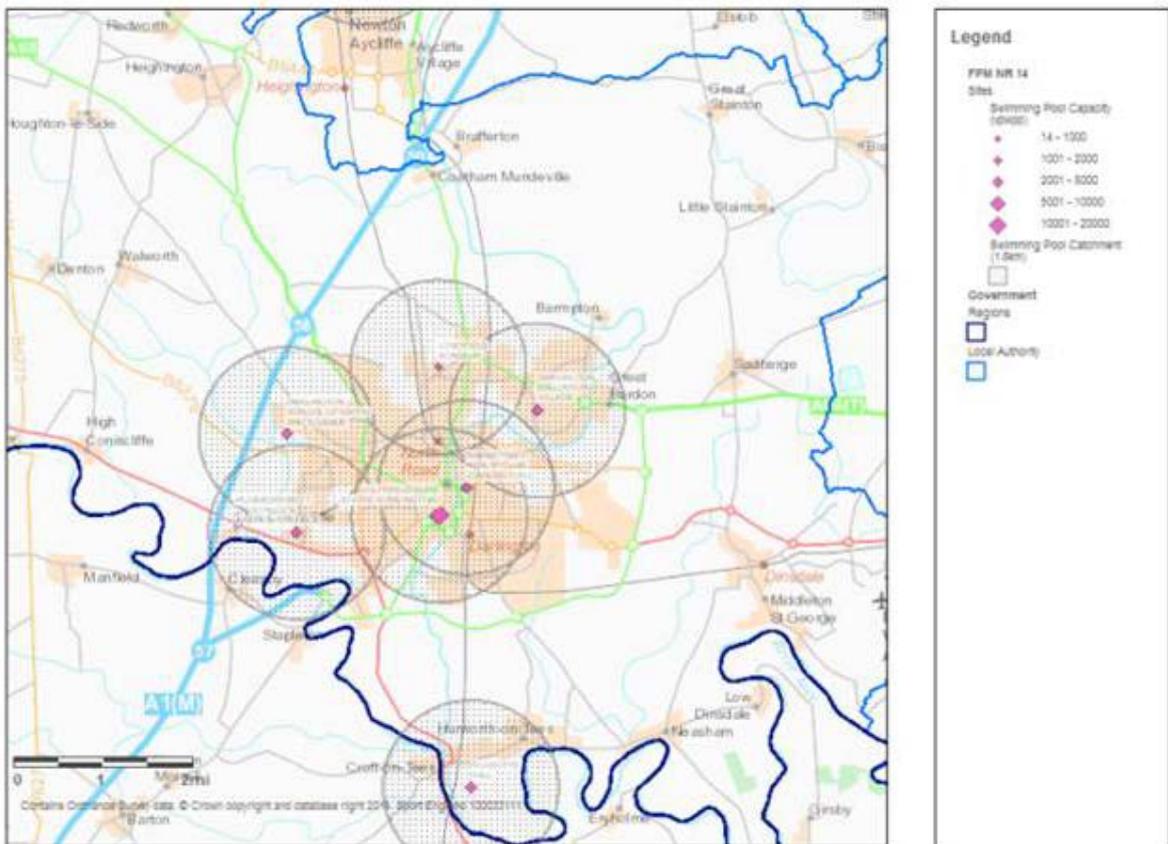
5.29 This is followed by Map 5.1 which illustrates the notional one mile/20 minutes walk to catchment area for each of the Darlington pool locations.

Table 5.7-: Travel patterns to swimming pools

Name of facility	Type	AREA	SITE YEAR BUILT	SITE YEAR REFURB	Car % Demand	Public trans % demand	Walk % Demand
DARLINGTON					72%	9%	19%
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (DARLINGTON)	Main/General	120	2001	2004	91%	5%	4%
DARLINGTON EDUCATION VILLAGE	Main/General	225	2006		68%	8%	25%
DARLINGTON SCHOOL OF MATHS AND SCIENCE	Main/General	200	1972	2012	62%	6%	31%
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Main/General	450	1982	2007	73%	10%	17%
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Learner/Teaching/Training	150					
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Diving	144					
HUMMERSKNOTT SCHOOL & LANGUAGE COLLEGE	Main/General	160	1965	2008	79%	6%	14%
LONGFIELD ACADEMY	Main/General	160	1968	2013	61%	7%	32%
ROCKLIFFE HALL	Main/General	160	2009		89%	3%	8%

Map 5.1-: Location and walk to catchment area for the Darlington swimming pool locations

Facilities Planning Model - National Runs - Swimming Pools 2014



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply. 4/6/2014 11:12

5.30 Key findings on how accessible pools are:

- The pools are very accessible and there is enough capacity at the pools to absorb nearly 9.5 out of 10 visits to pools by Darlington residents – a very high access to pools
- The Sport England assessment is that of this 94% of satisfied demand, only 5% of the Darlington demand for swimming pools being met by pools in neighbouring authorities. So the Darlington pool locations, their catchment area and location of the Darlington demand all interact very well, so much so that 89% of the Darlington demand is met at the pools in Darlington – again very high accessibility but this time to Darlington pools
- The Sport England assessment is also that 11% of the demand for pools in Darlington is imported based on the nearest pool to where residents outside the borough live is located in Darlington. So overall Darlington is a “net importer” of swimming demand with one in ten visits to Darlington pools being from outside the borough – quite a modest level of access to Darlington’s pools

- In terms of travel patterns to pools car travel is the dominate travel mode with a Borough wide average of 72% of all visits to pools by car, 9% by public transport and 19% by walking. The Dolphin Centre mirrors almost exactly the Borough wide pattern but with just a 1% higher rate of car travel and 2% lower by walking. Noticeably the commercial centres have a higher percentage of travel by car, with 91% to the Bannatynes facility
- The Longfield Academy site has a much higher walk to travel pattern at 32% of all visits and a lower 61% of visits by car.

Availability of swimming pools

- 5.31 Availability of swimming pools is the second most important category of findings after quantity. Availability is on two counts: firstly the hours of community use which are available at each site and; secondly how full the pools are.
- 5.32 On the first count pools may not be available because they are private pools for example located in independent or state schools and there is no community use or there are reduced hours in comparison to public leisure centres. Also there are very small scale pools in leisure cubs or hotels and these are assessed by Sport England as too small for community use and are therefore excluded.
- 5.33 The findings on the first count are set out in Table 5.8 below.

Table 5.8:- Total hours of community use and number of visits that can be accommodated at Darlington pools 2014

Name of facility	Type	AREA	Year built	Year refurbished	Hours in peak period	Community hours available	Facility capacity visits
DARLINGTON							12,034
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (DARLINGTON)	Main/General	120	2001	2004	52	112	1,040
DARLINGTON EDUCATION VILLAGE	Main/General	225	2006		32	40	1,200
DARLINGTON SCHOOL OF MATHS AND SCIENCE	Main/General	200	1972	2012	36.5	39	1,217
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Main/General	450	1982	2007	42.25	95	5,377
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Learner/Teaching/Training	150			42.25	95	
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Diving	144			48	86	
HUMMERSKNOTT SCHOOL & LANGUAGE	Main/General	160	1965	2008	38.5	46	1,027

Name of facility	Type	AREA	Year built	Year refurbished	Hours in peak period	Community hours available	Facility capacity visits
COLLEGE							
LONGFIELD ACADEMY	Main/General	160	1968	2013	29.5	31	787
ROCKLIFFE HALL	Main/General	160	2009		52	101	1,387

5.34 The key findings on Table 5.8 are:

- The differences between community hours available (second last column) and facility capacity (last column), For example the Dolphin Centre has less hours available at 95 hours per week than the Bannatynes centre at 112 hours but it has a much higher capacity in terms of visits at 5,377 visits with only 1,040 visits at the Bannatynes centre. So hours of opening and total available time have to be considered alongside the actual capacity of pools and their availability for community use. The Dolphin Centre is evidently the main public leisure centre and the one with the highest capacity for public use. Bannatynes has longer hours of opening/availability for its membership but far less capacity.
- The school/college sites have far fewer available hours for community use than the Dolphin Centre, at a range of 31 hours at Longfield Academy to 46 hours at Hummersknott School. This compares with 95 hours at the Dolphin Centre. If there is a need to increase community hours to meet more demand for swimming across Darlington then the "spare capacity" is located at these school/college sites.

5.35 The second heading findings on the availability of swimming pools is in terms of how full the pools are and how much available (or unused) capacity there is set out in Table xx overleaf. This includes all pools included in the assessment and the authority average precedes the data for each pool in that area.

5.36 Sport England sets a comfort level at which it considers a pool is comfortable full and this is 70% of the pool's total capacity at peak times. The basis being above this level the pool itself becomes too full and the circulation and changing areas are also too full, all creating an uncomfortable experience for customers.

Table 5.9-: Percentage of used and unused capacity for swimming pools by local authorities

Name of facility	Type	AREA	Year Built	Year Refurbished	Facility Capacity – visits	% of Capacity used	% of capacity not used
DARLINGTON					12,034	59%	41%
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (DARLINGTON)	Main/General	120	2001	2004	1,040	28%	72%
DARLINGTON VILLAGE	EDUCATION Main/General	225	2006		1,200	80%	20%
DARLINGTON SCHOOL OF MATHS AND SCIENCE	Main/General	200	1972	2012	1,217	52%	48%

Name of facility	Type	AREA	Year Built	Year Refurbished	Facility Capacity – visits	% of Capacity used	% of capacity not used
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Main/General	450	1982	2007	5,377	72%	28%
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Learner/Teaching/Training	150					
DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE (DARLINGTON)	Diving	144					
HUMMERSKNOTT SCHOOL & LANGUAGE COLLEGE	Main/General	160	1965	2008	1,027	43%	57%
LONGFIELD ACADEMY	Main/General	160	1968	2013	787	82%	18%
ROCKLIFFE HALL	Main/General	160	2009		1,387	18%	82%

5.37 The key findings on Table 5.8 are:

- The average used capacity of the pools across the Borough in 2014 is 59% of total capacity used in the weekly peak period, so well within the Sport England pools full comfort level of 70% of capacity used – as a Borough average
- There is variation in the capacity used at individual sites, compared with the borough average. There are 3 sites where the average used capacity is above the pools full comfort level of 70%, these being Longfield Academy 82%, Darlington Education Village 80% and the Dolphin Centre at 72% (all in blue typeface)
- There is lower used capacity at the commercial pools reflecting they are sites for membership use. Used capacity becomes an issue if there are possible pool closures and this will push demand and increase used capacity at other pools which are already uncomfortably full. In Darlington in 2014 this does not appear to apply because as a borough average there is 59% of pool capacity used at peak times
- It is an issue if there is a wish to re-distribute demand and reduce the used capacity at the sites estimated to be most full. The two sites which appear to have scope to increase availability and with unused capacity are the Darlington School of Maths and Science with a pool of 200 sq metres and the Hummersknott School and Language College with a 160 sq metres of water pool. Both are small pools and only suitable for learn to swim or club use as community use. So there appears to be limited scope to re-distribute demand.

5.38 During the site visits the potential future closure of Darlington School for Maths and Science swimming pool was mooted. Also Hummersknott school pool is currently closed, it is hoped to re-open again in September 2015. This illustrates the potential fragility of the school pool network. Reduction in the network would reduce the supply and demand balance close to equilibrium.

Sports Facilities Calculator

5.39 The Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) enables an estimate to be made of the likely implications on facility provision as a result of population growth and/or increases in demand across a local authority area. It is presented here as another potential source of research to aid in assessing demand for swimming pools.

- 5.40 The limitations of this approach are recognized - it takes no account of any spare capacity at existing facilities, quality of existing facilities or availability for community use. However, it can provide a broad estimate of additional facility requirements (and associated costs in providing these) that come about as a result of population growth and/or increases in demand across a local authority area.
- 5.41 As we know from section 3 the population of Darlington Borough is projected to increase from 106,300 in 2011 to 107,480 by 2026. This is a minimal increase. We also know alongside this that the swimming participation profile is also unlikely to result in increased demand for provision. Based on a population of 107,480 Darlington would require a theoretical provision of 21.37 lanes or 5.34 pools.

Consultation

- 5.42 Information on demand for pools has also been obtained through consultation with National Governing Bodies of Sport and local clubs.

NGB Consultation

- 5.43 It would seem a reasonable offer to have a central facility with smaller more intimate facilities catering for different group and programme needs however the ASA are not aware of the extent of use at the school facilities, usage patterns and how they do or do not link with the main Dolphin centre.
- 5.44 The ASA view is that the public facility stock in Darlington is getting to or has reached a stage where the age is becoming a risk factor, with the exception of the Darlington Education Village which was built in 2006.
- 5.45 All the local authority pool provision is one site, the Dolphin LC which was built in 1982. This suggests a dated offer that will need serious considerations on the long term future offer for the district. The ASA would like to see a full mechanical and structural survey undertaken to determine the investment priorities going forward, especially for the swimming pool plant that will be drawing to the end of its life cycle.
- 5.46 The school pools that provide support opportunities to the main leisure offer are old (with the exception already stated), with the youngest being 42 years old.

Local club consultation

Darlington Amateur Swimming Club

- 5.47 The club use the Dolphin Centre (DC) both in the main pool and the back tank, and the pools at Haughton Education Village (HEV), Hummersknott Academy (HK) and Longfield Academy (LF). They also do some land training at the Dolphin Centre and Haughton Education Village. In the past they have made occasional use of the pool at Darlington School of Maths and Science (DSMS).
- 5.48 The club have about 170 swimming members in 8 different squads, and 6 qualified swimming coaches. Currently offer about 50 hours of training time per week to these squads and want to increase that.
- 5.49 The divers are located at the Dolphin Centre. Some divers also train on trampolines with High Voltage Trampoline Club in Bishop Auckland. Have almost 40 divers in the club.
- 5.50 The pools at the DC and HEV are 25m pools. The back tank at the DC is too shallow to dive in, one of the lanes is obstructed by the slides so cannot be used, and the water is too warm. Those at HK and LF are only 20m long and 3 lanes wide, which means the

club cannot get many swimmers in them and they are shorter than competition length. HK and LF do not have starting blocks.

- 5.51 The rooms provided for land training at the DC and HEV are satisfactory, although storage of equipment is a problem.
- 5.52 In previous years the electronic timing equipment in use at galas we hold at the DC has been unreliable, but the DC are hopefully moving towards a solution to this.
- 5.53 Diving – the diving boards and pool have been recently refurbished so are now in a much safer and cleaner condition. However although attempts have been made to repair the agitators (for improving the visibility of the water surface for divers), they are still not working.
- 5.54 The divers would like to have affordable access to trampoline training with overhead rigging at the DC.
- 5.55 One of the main factors hampering progress for both swimming and diving is the lack of available pool time. Currently we can only swim DC on 3 weekday mornings and 3 evenings per week. We would like to be able to access the swimming pool earlier in the morning (before the current opening time of 6.30am) and to use it on more weekday evenings and also on a Saturday and Sunday morning.
- 5.56 The divers only have sole access to the diving pool on 2 evenings per week, and have to train on other evenings during public sessions, which is far from ideal.
- 5.57 The club would like to do more swimming and diving training in dedicated sessions at the Dolphin Centre.
- 5.58 All three school pools have had reliability problems with their pools to varying extents over the last few years and this has led to them being closed with or without adequate prior notice and sometimes for prolonged periods of time. This has certainly hampered swimming training.
- 5.59 All facilities users would like hire costs to be lower, but currently we consider our costs to be reasonable, with HEV being the most expensive for us to hire, the club have negotiated discounted rates at HK and LF. The estimated costs of early morning weekend training at HEV would be very high if the club were to do it.
- 5.60 Key club priority is for both swimming and diving would be to have access to increased pool time at suitable hours at the DC.

Darlington Triathlon Club

- 5.61 Our Tuesday swim sessions are at the Education Village. Club also stage autumn-to-spring Sunday swimming sessions at Longfield School, open water swimming at Ellerton lake, near Scorton, and Monday running sessions from the Dolphin Centre. Bike sessions are on open roads. The Juniors use Hummersknott pool and also train within the grounds of Polam Hall School.
- 5.62 EV is a high-quality venue that is well maintained. We stage two busy hour-long sessions there every week. The Juniors are also happy with Hummersknott. Although the Longfield School pool is small, it's able to accommodate the numbers who swim on Sundays.
- 5.63 The EV is very popular and evening slots are in high demand. Costs are not cheap but the sessions are very popular. With junior numbers expanding, it would be useful if a swimming slot could be allocated at the Dolphin Centre.

- 5.64 With membership in the senior and junior clubs expanding all the time, we are much in need of a club base. The club are investigating whether there might be accommodation for us within the QE complex on Abbey Road.

Summary

- 5.65 There is sufficient quantity of waterspace to meet the needs of Darlington residents now and in the future. The Dolphin plays a key role in swimming provision and the size, quality and location means it is well placed to do so.
- 5.66 The pools have sufficient capacity and are also well located to meet resident need. Quality is an issue as the pools are ageing and therefore long-term sustainability of the network, particularly the school sites is a concern. If any of the education sites were to close this would reduce the supply and demand balance close to equilibrium. It is therefore important to seek to protect the education network as any reduction in the school network, which is ageing and under 'potential' threat would therefore impact on the supply and demand balance.
- 5.67 NGB and clubs use across the pool network appears extensive. The Dolphin Centre is clearly a key facility for the swimming club but it is also evident it provides the only facility for extensive community swimming. Given its importance the ASA would like to see investment in the Dolphin Centres to maintain and enhance its role in the long-term. Access to clubs at the Centre will also be important to address.
- 5.68 The club use across the pool network appears to be ad-hoc across the provision with clubs competing for time slots and facilities competing for business with no co-ordination. There appears to be capacity in the system and therefore an opportunity for developing joint programmes across the pools to maximise the use of available waterspace by all aquatic disciplines.

Summary

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
Quantity	<p>There is enough quantity of swimming pool provision to meet demand. The total Darlington demand is for 1,076 sq metres of water and the total Darlington supply in 2013 is 1,425 sq metres of water. So there is a positive supply and demand balance of 349 sq metres of water (<i>Note a 25m x 4 lane pool is 212 sq metres of water</i>).</p> <p>Should any of the education based pools close then the positive supply and demand balance would move closer to balance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect all existing provision • Education based should be protected
Quality	<p>The pool stock is of reasonable quality the three centres are old but have been modernised. The Dolphin Centre opened in 1982 and was modernised in 2007; The Longfield Academy opened in 1968 and was modernised in 2013; The Darlington School of Maths and Science pool opened in 1972 and was modernised in 2012. Whilst the pools have been modernised they are however old.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to invest in the flagship facility at the Dolphin, which is well located to meet current and future needs and is crucial for swimming across the borough. The Council are committed to a £2.75m investment programme to address pool plant and infra-structure issues • Seek to invest in the school pool network to facilitate greater community use and access
Accessibility	<p>The Darlington pools are very accessible. The hard evidence data based on the location, catchment area of the pools and the capacity of the pools overlaid with the location of the Darlington demand for swimming shows the pools are very well located and accessible in relation to the Darlington demand. The findings are that:</p> <p>The pools are very accessible and there is enough capacity at the pools to absorb 94% of the Darlington demand for swimming – very high access to pools</p> <p>Of more importance the Sport England assessment is that of this 94% of satisfied demand, only 5% of the Darlington demand for swimming pools is being met by pools in neighbouring authorities. So the Darlington pool locations, their catchment area and location of the Darlington demand all interact very well, so much so that 89% of the Darlington demand is met at the pools in Darlington – again very high</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect all existing provision • Education based should be protected

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<p>accessibility but this time to Darlington pools</p> <p>The Sport England assessment is also that 11% of the demand for pools in Darlington is imported based on the nearest pool to where residents outside the borough live is located in Darlington. So overall Darlington is a “net importer” of swimming demand with one in ten visits to Darlington pools being from outside the borough – quite a modest level of import/access to Darlington’s pools.</p> <p>In terms of travel patterns to pools car travel is the dominant travel mode with a Borough wide average of 72% of all visits to pools by car, 9% by public transport and 19% by walking. The Dolphin Centre mirrors almost exactly the Borough wide pattern but with just a 1% higher rate of car travel and 2% lower by walking</p> <p>The Longfield Academy site has a much higher walk to travel pattern at 32% of all visits and a lower 61% of visits by car. This is presumably based on its location and the high residential area immediately surrounding the pool location. Also it is possibly an area of low car ownership and access and residents having to walk more to the pool.</p>	
<p>Availability</p>	<p>Availability of pools for community use is possibly the biggest issue. With capacity in the system opportunity exists to develop a more co-ordinated approach.</p> <p>There are issues of club access to the Dolphin Centre although these are being addressed by the Council and club.</p> <p>Overall there is enough capacity at the Darlington pools to meet the demand for swimming. The average used capacity of the pools across the Borough is only 59% of total capacity used in the weekly peak period in 2014 and so well within the Sport England pools full comfort level of 70% of capacity used – as a Borough average.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is committed to working with the swimming clubs to make the waterspace work harder and increased time has already been allocated. These discussions should continue and look across the network as a whole • Co-ordinate usage and programming across pools and develop a joint approach to programming across the available waterspace – maximize

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<p>There is variation in the capacity used at individual sites, compared with the borough average. There are 3 sites where the average used capacity is above the pools full comfort level of 70%, these being Longfield Academy 82%, Darlington Education Village 80% and the Dolphin Centre at 72%.</p>	<p>effectiveness of waterspace for different aquatic discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may provide the opportunity to find enhanced time for Darlington Swimming Clubs by matching programmes more appropriately to pool provision as opposed to the current free market. Opportunities may exist to work with the ASA who can support Council's to address pool programming issues
<p>Key Issues to Address - Summary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is sufficient quantity of waterspace to meet the needs of Darlington residents now and in the future. The Dolphin plays a key role in swimming provision and the size, quality and location means it is well placed to do so. The pools have sufficient capacity and are also well located to meet resident need. Quality is an issue as the pools are ageing and therefore long-term sustainability of the network, particularly the school sites is a concern. If any of the education sites were to close this would reduce the supply and demand balance close to equilibrium. It is therefore important to seek to protect the education network as any reduction in the school network, which is ageing and under 'potential' threat would therefore impact on the supply and demand balance NGB and clubs use across the pool network appears extensive. The Dolphin Centre is clearly a key facility for the swimming club but it is also evident it provides the only facility for extensive community swimming. Given its importance the ASA would like to see investment in the Dolphin Centres to maintain and enhance its role in the long-term. Access to clubs at the Centre will also be important to address. The club use across the pool network appears to be ad-hoc across the provision with clubs competing for time slots and facilities competing for business with little or no co-ordination. There appears to be capacity in the system and therefore an opportunity for developing joint programmes across the pools to maximise the use of available waterspace by all aquatic disciplines. 	

6: Playing Pitches

Introduction

- 6.1 This section summarises the supply and demand for grass playing fields in Darlington Borough and the key issues that need to be addressed. It considers the requirements for grass playing fields across the borough, specifically for football, cricket and rugby.
- 6.2 The methodology of the assessment, as well as the issues experienced, are different for each sport and analysis is therefore considered on a sport by sport basis.

Football

- 6.3 There are 43 individual sites containing football pitches across Darlington Borough. Of these, 11 sites are not currently accessible to the community.
- 6.4 Table 6.1 summarises the number of pitches that are available for community use (either secured or unsecured) and includes all pitches, regardless of access to the community. It indicates that since 2009, the number of pitches that are secured for community use has increased, with excluding 7v7 pitches, more than half of each type of pitch now formally secured. This is a result of the successful delivery of the actions of the 2009 strategy, which set to maximize the use of resources through the use of school pitches for community use. All 7v7 pitches not secured for community use are at small primary schools.
- 6.5 Most notably, in 2012, the FA undertook a review of youth football and as a consequence, new formats of the game have been introduced and the FA has produced new guidance on the sizes of pitches required. Youth football (up to U16) has been split into 11v11 football and 9v9 football (played by those in age groups U11 and U12) while mini football (U7 – U10) has been subdivided into 5v5 and 7v7. In response to this, the types of pitches provided are different from 2009 and there is a much greater variety in pitch size. There is also a greater number of smaller sized pitches, as schools must link in with the pitch sizes needed to meet the needs of their pupils.

Table 6.1:- Football pitches in Darlington Borough

Football Pitch Type	2009			2015		
	Total Pitches	Number of Pitches Secured for Community Use	% of Pitches Secured	Total Pitches	Number of Pitches Secured for Community Use	% of Pitches Secured
Adult Football	43	22	51%	42	29	69%
Junior Football	25	9	36%	11	10	91%
9v9	0	0	n/a	15	13	87%
7v7	10	8	80%	28	15	54%
5v5	0	0	n/a	6	6	100%

- 6.6 In addition to the pitches that are secured for community use, there are also sites where unsecured access is currently available. These include, Federation of Mowden Schools, Heighington Primary School, Red Hall Primary School and Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College.

- 6.7 With the exception of Rockcliffe Park (Middlesborough FC training ground – professional club) - all sites that do not offer any community use are school pitches. The main reason given for a lack of access to facilities is the impact that this will have on the pitches for school curricular use and the extra pressures that community use would place on pitch quality. Some schools are concerned about security issues.
- 6.8 Map 6.1 illustrates the distribution of football pitches across the borough, illustrating the size of sites.

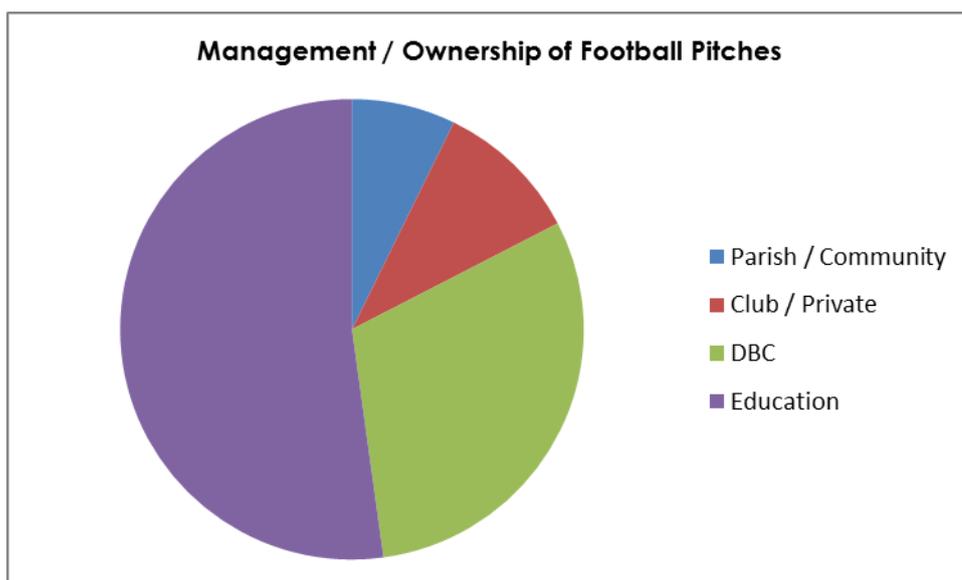
Former pitches

- 6.9 Glebe Road, McMullen Road and St George Playing Field have previously contained playing pitches but no longer do so (due to focus on larger multi pitch sites). There is also evidence of reduced playing pitches at Middleton St George Cricket Club (no football pitch this season) and Tommy Crooks Park (two pitches marked out instead of 4).
- 6.10 These changes are largely in response to the previous strategy document, which sought to focus activity on multi pitch sites that are of higher quality.
- 6.11 In addition, playing fields associated with the Cumby Arms in Heighington (which also contained a cricket pitch) and land south of Cocker Beck (near Darlington School of Maths and Science) are no longer in use. It should also be noted that land has also been created for a playing pitch within a new housing development at Skerne Park. These sites all offer the potential to increase activity

Ownership and management

- 6.12 Figure 6.1 illustrates that the majority of playing fields secured for community use are on education sites and Darlington BC is the next highest provider. There are only two sites containing football pitches managed by clubs (Darlington RA and Darlington RFC Blackwell Meadows). This demonstrates the importance of the role that schools and the borough council have in providing opportunities for football in the borough.
- 6.13 The FA National Strategy recognises the challenges that the current reliance on the public sector brings and seeks to increase the number of asset owning clubs, as well as to work closely with partners to improve the landscape for football. Darlington 21st Allstars JFC have expressed an interest in owning and managing their own facility.

Figure 6.1 - Management of Secured Community Use Facilities in Darlington Borough



Pitch quality

- 6.14 Overall, the vast majority of pitches in Darlington are rated as standard. Many of the poorer quality pitches identified in 2009 have either been improved (Longfield

Academy / Hummersknott Academy) or are no longer available (Glebe Road, McMullen Road).

- 6.15 Site visits demonstrate that many pitches are now approaching a good rating (and indeed pitches at the Education Village are of a good standard). There do however remain some poor quality pitches, many of which were designated as lower tier sites in the facility hierarchy proposed as part of the 2009 strategy and are now available free of charge to clubs.
- 6.16 Reflecting the improving quality of pitches, consultation with clubs indicated that;
- 55% of clubs believe that pitch quality has improved over the last two seasons; and
 - just 14% of clubs consider pitch quality to have declined.
- 6.17 The key reasons behind these views related to the improvements that have been made to drainage and maintenance procedures.
- 6.18 The key issues arising with regards the quality of pitches, taking into account the findings of site visits and club consultation can be summarised as;
- Pitches are predominantly flat with good grass cover and few examples of sites with poor gradient. Users also believe that the grass cover and gradient is good
 - Site visits demonstrate that Council administered pitches are generally poorest quality, with some pitches uneven, with long grass and lower quality surfaces and issues particularly around the goal mouth areas. The quality of surfaces is also one of the lowest rated factors by pitch users
 - The quality of equipment and maintenance is rated highly by pitch users and few issues are identified. Indeed, many feel that the quality of maintenance is directly attributable for improvements made to the pitch stock in recent years
 - Outside of school sites, and particularly on public pitches, dog fouling and litter is as a key issue, with many clubs highlighting the hazards that this causes and dog walking visible at the time of site visits. Lots of informal use also adds to pressures on pitches
 - There are several sites with little or no car parking, causing issues for both players and local residents. This issue was also identified during the 2009 strategy
 - There are some signs of overplay on key sites and evidence of wear and tear on pitches, particularly around the goalmouths. This may increase later in the season if overplay continues.
- 6.19 The majority of cancellations (outside frozen pitches and inclement weather) are related to waterlogging, suggesting that there remain areas of poor drainage.
- 6.20 There are also some concerns about the changing accommodation and several pitches managed by Darlington Borough Council do not include changing accommodation. These pitches are however offered for community use free of charge and most commenting clubs believe that this positively impacts on participation. It is also clear that the majority of primary schools that offer pitches are unable to provide changing accommodation.
- 6.21 Table 6.2 summarises the sites that are secured for community use, the pitch quality rating attributed to the site and the quality issues identified. Detail on the quality of all

pitches is provided in the Appendix. It clearly indicates that while most pitches are categorized as standard, there is quite a significant differentiation in quality of these sites, with some almost good quality while others border on poor.

Table 6.2-: Quality of pitches available for community use

Site Name	Pitch Provision	Pitch Ratings	Quality	Issues Identified
Carmel Roman Catholic Technology College	3 senior football	Standard		Poorly drained and limited pitch surface, approaching a poor classification. Site visits demonstrate evidence of wear and tear. Changing facilities adequate. School are concerned about the ability of the site to accommodate both community and curricular demand. Funding has been secured through the Protecting Playing Fields Fund for the enhancement of these pitches. This will help ensure the pitches remain of standard classification (and may improve to good).
Croft Working Mans Club	1 senior football	Poor		Grass long, evidence of damage to surface and patches of poor drainage. Site is also used for events, potentially reducing the ability to sustain fixtures further.
Darlington Education Village	2 senior football, 1 9v9, 3 youth football	Good		Excellent flat pitches, with recent evidence of improvement works to goalmouths. Pitches can become waterlogged in extreme weather but high quality maintenance means pitch quality is good. School indicate that there is no remaining capacity on the site in order to maintain quality. The school also set out an athletics track on the pitches towards the end of the season, reducing the number of football pitches that are available to the community.
Darlington Railway Athletic	2 senior football, the second of which is overmarked with 9v9, 7v7	Standard		Club believe overuse impacts on pitch quality and there is evidence of wear and tear on the site. Established facility but run down and requires renovation. Changing provision and pavilion insufficient for balance of teams.
Blackwell Meadows – Darlington RFC	3 senior football, 2 9v9 football, 1 7v7 football	Standard - Good		Several new pitches with good foundations. Good drainage and grass cover on the whole, one pitch slightly sloping but the grass is largely even. Strong maintenance programme but pitches still bedding in. Significant patches of clover and yellow tinge meaning additional fertiliser is required. Likely to improve as pitches continue to

Site Name	Pitch Provision	Pitch Ratings	Quality	Issues Identified
				bed in.
Darlington School of Maths and Science	2 adult football and 1 9v9 football	Standard		Secure pitches but grass cover relatively limited and surface also restricted. Clubs highlight lack of maintenance as a key contributory factor.
Eastbourne Sports Complex	1 5v5, 2 7v7, 1 9v9, 2 youth and 3 adult football	Standard - Good		Pitches are flat but evidence of wear in some goalmouths. There is also evidence of compaction on the ground and line markings are burnt, creating channels on some pitches. Wear on goal mouths is addressed on smaller pitches by rotating pitch, but this is not possible on larger pitches. Changing accommodation available and sufficient.
Gurney Pease Academy	1x 9v9 pitch	Standard		Site appears relatively heavily used. Grass cover only average
Harrowgate Hill Primary School	1 7v7 pitch	Standard		Pitch is well maintained, grass of good length, the pitch is flat and the grass even. The goals are in good condition
Hurworth Grange Community Centre	1 senior football pitch	Poor		Very uneven pitch although gradient is good. Poorly maintained with rusty goals and grass is too long. Changing in associated community building.
Heighington Playing Fields	1 senior football pitch, 1 youth football pitch and 1 9v9 pitch	Standard		Require fencing to prevent loss of balls into neighbouring property. Open access site which can impact on quality. Some issues with pitch surface and unevenness and club indicate that high usage has negative impact on pitches. Newly constructed changing accommodation.
Hummersknott School and Language College	1 senior football pitch, 2 youth football pitches and 1 9v9 pitch	Standard		Pitch quality good with no issues identified. Maintenance regime also good and changing accommodation available. Pitches approaching good classification and school believe that there is capacity to add additional usage.
Hurworth School	1 youth football and 1 9v9	Standard		Poorly drained and on a slight slope. Pitches some way from changing accommodation
Longfield Academy	2 7v7, 2 9v9, 4 senior football and two 5v5	Standard		Pitches largely flat although some uneven surfaces. Evidence of wear and tear, particularly around goal mouths of some pitches. Changing accommodation provided. Some issues with litter.

Site Name	Pitch Provision	Pitch Ratings	Quality	Issues Identified
Mount Pleasant Primary School	1 5v5 and 1 7v7	Standard		No changing facilities and pitches are on a slope. Some drainage issues cause cancellations and some parts of the surface are uneven.
North Park	1 adult football	Poor		Poor condition with puddles in goal mouth, grass too long and pitch sloping and uneven. Open site in public park with no changing accommodation. Site provided free of charge due to limited quality.
Northwood Primary School	1 x 7v7, 1 x 5v5	Standard		Playing surface average. Some patchy drainage and poor line markings. This pitch is newly constructed and is therefore likely to improve as it beds in.
Redhall Community and Children's Centre	1 adult football	Poor		Poor markings with goals in poor condition. Sloping pitch and uneven in areas. Modern changing block provided within community association.
South Park	2 youth pitches, 3 7v7 pitches and 1 5v5 pitch	Poor		Site has drainage issues and lacks top dressing. Maintenance appears limited and site is clearly well used. Evidence of significant wear and tear in parts and pitches relatively uneven. Frequently referenced during consultation as requiring improved maintenance. Site also open to general informal use due to location in public park.
Springfield Park	1 senior football and 1 7v7 football	Poor		Grass too long and some evidence of dog walking on site. Areas of uneven surface and puddles in goalmouths. 7v7 pitch of slightly higher quality. Open site in public park with no changing accommodation. Site provided free of charge due to limited quality.
Durham Tees Valley Airport	1 senior football	Poor		Site does not include changing accommodation and has limited pitch markings.
Tommy Crooks Park	2 senior football (additional space available)	Poor		Poor drainage, no changing accommodation and pitch surface poor with puddles in goals. Evidence of damage to surface and problems with access to pitches by motorbikes. Open site in public park with no changing accommodation. Site provided free of charge due to limited quality.

Demand

Current participation – match play

- 6.22 Table 6.3 indicates that there are 116 community teams playing in Darlington Borough. It summarises the number of teams in 2015 and compares this to 2009. It indicates that while junior participation is relatively static, there has been an increase in mini soccer and a decline in adult participation. This broadly mirrors the national picture. Full details of all teams playing in the borough are included in the Appendices.

Table 6.3-: Teams playing in Darlington Borough

Football Team Type	2009	2015
Adult Football	49	39
Junior Football	53	25
9v9		23
7v7	19	18
5v5		11

- 6.23 Table 6.3 indicates that circa 45% of teams require pitches for 9v9 football or smaller. This correlates almost directly with the pitch stock, where 42% of secured pitches accommodate 9v9 football or younger, suggesting that pitch stock is well matched with the demand.
- 6.24 Female participation represents just under 10% of teams, a comparatively high amount. The inclusion of female teams within a club can place additional pressures on a site, particularly with regards changing accommodation as there is a need to ensure that separate facilities are available. The Durham FA indicate that increasing girls football (including the creation of a new U9 / U10 girls league) is a key priority.
- 6.25 The structure of the above teams is mixed, but most teams are under the umbrella of a large club with several teams. All junior teams are part of a larger club and many of these clubs also have at least one senior team, meaning that there are strong foundations for the growth of football. There are also a small number of single adult football teams, primarily playing in the Darlington Sunday Invitation league.
- 6.26 Reflecting the emphasis on large clubs, FA Data indicates that 91% of youth and mini soccer teams play within a club that has achieved charter standard status – this is significantly above the national average and national target and reflects the well structured nature of football participation in the borough.
- 6.27 FA participation reports for the borough for 2013 – 2014 reflect a slight increase in participation, made up of a small increase in youth and mini soccer which has offset the decline in adult football. This mirrors the patterns evident between 2009 and 2014.

Pyramid clubs

- 6.28 There are two teams based in Darlington playing in leagues that form part of the higher echelons of the football pyramid. These are;
- Darlington Railway Athletic (Northern League); and
 - Darlington 1883 FC – will be playing in Evostick Premier Division from 2015 - 2016 season (currently displaced but wishing to relocate back into Darlington).

- 6.29 These leagues sit at Step 5 of the National League system and Step 3 of the national league system respectively. As a result, there are specific requirements that must be adhered to in relation to the facilities provided at the home ground.
- 6.30 The existing facilities at Darlington RA are becoming tired and changing facilities are inadequate, particularly if the clubs league status is to be retained. The site is also overplayed (details later).
- 6.31 Darlington 1883 are currently displaced, using facilities at Bishop Auckland FC due to a lack of appropriate facilities (that comply with ground grading requirements) in Darlington. The club is in discussion with Darlington RFC with a view to playing at Blackwell Meadows in future seasons. FA site assessments report that significant works would be required to enable this relocation, including pitch improvements and structural requirements such as car parking. The changing accommodation will also require upgrading. It is currently hoped that these improvements will be in place for the start of the 2015 / 2016 season.

Displaced demand

- 6.32 There is no further evidence of displaced demand in the borough.

Latent demand

- 6.33 Despite declining membership and participation across the borough, several clubs do however point to a perceived lack of appropriate facilities and to this end, indicate that some latent demand exists. They indicate that a lack of appropriate facilities is inhibiting club growth and participation. Notably, it is predominantly junior clubs who raise these concerns.
- 6.34 Pitch quality is however also believed to restrict the adult game, with several clubs highlighting concerns relating to quality and it is clear that despite improvements, there remain some poorer quality pitches.

Training needs

- 6.35 A higher proportion of football teams in Darlington use AGPs to train rather than grass. There is however some use of grass pitches in Darlington, with some clubs unable to access 3g pitches and / or choosing to use grass. Darlington RA train on their own grass pitches and there is also evidence of use of grass pitches at South Park and Blackwell Meadows during the playing season, as well as some training on a Saturday morning on club home grounds.
- 6.36 Use by clubs of grass pitches will be factored into analysis later in this section where it is known to take place on grass. The requirement for AGPs will be returned to in Section 7.

Educational demand

- 6.37 The majority of schools in Darlington Borough have their own playing fields and high proportions are available for use. School use of grass pitches also has limited impact on peak time demand and the availability of pitches, as this largely takes place midweek, with only ad hoc usage at weekends. Darlington College no longer have their own playing field and instead use pitches at Blackwell Meadows for competitive fixtures. This is the only regular usage of public grass pitches by schools.
- 6.38 Curricular use of school grass pitches during the week does however reduce capacity to sustain community use. School sites therefore have lower capacity for community activity than facilities owned and managed by other providers to protect against quality deterioration.

6.39 The majority of schools in Darlington Borough indicate that their facilities are sufficient to meet curricular need. Some schools did however raise concerns as follows;

- Carmel College – require a new AGP due to insufficient grass pitch and hockey provision. School also question ability of pitches to sustain both community and curricular demand, existing pitches require drainage and surface improvements (Protecting Playing Fields funding has been secured for this purpose)
- Cockerton Primary School – drainage issues mean playing fields are out of use between October and March;
- Corporation Road – lack of space; and
- St Johns C of E Academy – poor drainage means pitch is frequently out of use.

Casual demand

6.40 Many of the sites in Darlington Borough also function as public recreational areas. This impacts upon the quality of some pitches, particularly with regards dog fouling, which emerged as a key issue for many pitch users. While this recreational use is not necessarily extensive enough to reduce the capacity of pitches, particularly during the winter months, it does however impact upon the player experience on occasion. This is particularly true of Darlington Borough Council sites.

Other issues

6.41 The key issues raised by clubs, leagues and schools during consultation can be briefly summarised as;

- just under 50% of clubs are dissatisfied with existing levels of provision - this is higher than has been found in playing pitch strategies for similar authorities across the country;
- the key barriers to growth are perceived to be a lack of AGPs for training, a lack of pitches for of appropriate quality for junior football and a lack of coaches and volunteers;
- clubs believe that pitch quality remains a key issue, with there being insufficient pitches of sufficient quality in particular for junior teams;
- several clubs highlight an aspiration for floodlights on grass pitches; and
- there are concerns about the amount of pitches that have been lost in Darlington in recent years.

6.42 While cost was also raised as a concern by some clubs, it is clear that despite the increasing number of providers (with academies supplementing the pitches provided by DBC, prices remain both reasonable and relatively consistent across the borough). Poorer quality Council pitches are also offered free of charge, which participants indicate has had a positive impact on participation. Issues with regards quality of these sites should therefore be taken in the context of the lack of fee for hire of the pitch.

Adequacy of pitch provision

6.43 The Sport England Methodology enables evaluation of the adequacy of provision, taking into account both the quality and number of pitches provided.

6.44 The adequacy of pitch provision to meet demand is measured both over the course of a week and at peak time using match equivalents.

Weekly capacity

6.45 There is a strong interrelationship between the quality of a pitch and the amount of matches that it can sustain. The quality of the pitch has a greater influence on weekly capacity - this directly impacts the number of matches that it can take per week. Table 6.4 summarises the guidelines used with regards pitch capacity (extracted from Sport England Guidance on the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy, prepared by the FA).

6.46 The quality ratings attributed to each pitch were outlined earlier in this section.

Table 6.4-: Capacity based upon Pitch Quality

Agreed pitch quality rating	Adult Football	Youth Football	Mini Soccer
Number of match equivalent sessions a week			
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

Peak time demand

6.47 Peak time demand is determined by evaluating the number of match equivalents at peak time and comparing it to the number of pitches available. Peak time is deemed to be the period in which the most play on that pitch type takes place. Pitches can only be considered to have spare capacity at peak time when they are not already utilised to their full capacity over the course of a week (i.e. can sustain additional play without detrimental impact on the pitch).

6.48 The patterns of play in Darlington Borough are summarised in brief below;

- **Senior Pitches** – peak time is Sunday morning, with most adult teams playing in the Darlington Sunday Invitation league. Play on adult pitches is however spread across the weekend, with evidence of participation in all time slots when taking into account U17 / U18 football which is played on a Sunday afternoon (and using senior pitches) as well as veterans football on a Saturday morning
- **Junior Pitches** – Most youth football takes place on a Sunday afternoon, with teams playing in the Teesside Junior Alliance League. Fixtures in the Teesside Junior Alliance League, can be timed flexibly where necessary on the assumption that both teams agree, to maximise the use of pitches. League rules do however provide an agreed kick off time in line with the above peak hours where this is not agreed
- **9v9 Pitches**–peak time for 9v9 is Sunday morning although a small amount takes place on a Sunday afternoon, primarily due to the need to stagger kick off times
- **5v5 and 7v7 pitches** - peak day is a Sunday morning, with almost all teams playing in the Teesside Youth Alliance league.

6.49 The above indicates that demand in Darlington Borough is relatively concentrated with almost all play occurring on a Sunday. Demand for smaller sized pitches is particularly high at peak time. This means that a higher number of pitches are required to accommodate the teams that wish to play.

- 6.50 It should also be noted that the 3g AGPs at Hummersknott Academy and Longfield Academy of Sport can be used for match play and therefore provide extra capacity. It should be noted however that neither of these sites are regularly used for matches at the current time (although if they were it would add significant extra capacity).
- 6.51 Due to the concentration of play at peak time and the lack of use of existing AGPs, the potential use of AGPs will be considered later in this section, as they will only be able to accommodate 1 -2 forms of the game.

Situation at individual sites

- 6.52 Table 6.6 provides a summary of the activity that takes place at each grass pitch site that has community use in Darlington Borough. It sets out the current supply and demand and outlines whether the pitch is being overplayed, played to the appropriate level or is able to sustain additional fixtures. Any other issues arising with the site are also briefly summarised.
- 6.53 It should be noted that all usage is classified according to the pitch size that is used by the team. Where 7v7 teams for example are using full size senior pitches overmarked, this usage will be classified against the senior pitch. Pitch allocation should be considered indicative only, as it is clear that pitches at many club sites are used interchangeably and pitches are marked out according to the need at a specific time.
- 6.54 It should also be noted that not all spare capacity has been considered to be spare capacity. For example use at both the Education Village and Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College is restricted to maintain quality on the pitches. Representatives of both sites indicate that there is no capacity for further activity, despite pitches not being overplayed.
- 6.55 Issues will be explored by pitch type, however the key issues emerging from site overviews are as follows;
- Looking firstly across the week, there is a degree of spare capacity on most pitches. Some pitches at Longfield Academy, Carmel College, Hummersknott School and Language College, Darlington School of Maths and Science and Darlington Railway Athletic Club are however overplayed. Many of these sites are the base for larger clubs and are also amongst the higher quality sites. Both Longfield Academy and Carmel College confirm their facilities to be at capacity and most highlight the need to ensure that facilities are protected for curricular use as well as maximizing community use of the facilities. Hummersknott School and Language College indicate that there is scope to increase usage on some pitches. Most schools highlight the need to ensure that facilities are protected for curricular use as well as maximizing community use of the facilities
 - While there is some minimal spare capacity at Eastbourne Sports Complex and Blackwell Meadows, these sites are also well used and are popular venues with clubs in the borough. As pitches at Blackwell Meadows bed in, the capacity of these is likely to increase, meaning that further activity can be accommodated in future years
 - In contrast, there are several sites that receive little or no use – many of these are primary school sites that have formal lettings policies but do not necessarily have appropriate facilities to support a club. These include Whinfield Academy, Northwood Primary School and Harrowgate Hill Primary. There are also several other primary schools offering unsecured access that are unused. The other pitches that receive no use are single pitch sites which are of poorer quality, specifically Croft Working Mens and Hurworth Grange Community Centre. The

pitch at Teesside Airport appears to be primarily used for training and is heavily used for summer and pre season training

- Added to the sites that have not been previously used, there are also some sites that have scope for additional pitches to be provided suggesting that there is some spare capacity. There is notable spare capacity at South Park and Tommy Crooks Park and further pitches can also be provided at Blackwell Meadows
- Overview of the situation during peak time however indicates that reflecting the focus on Sunday football in Darlington, pitch capacity is also constrained at this time and that outside of the sites that are not used, there are few pitches with much spare capacity for additional play at peak time and at the well used sites, at least one type of pitch on each site has no further scope to accommodate additional play. This means that most of the spare capacity is at sites that are less desirable to clubs
- It is notable that for almost all forms of football, capacity during the week is as closely balanced with demand as at peak time and in some cases, more closely balanced with demand. This can be attributed to;
 - reliance upon the school stock for community pitches – schools use pitches extensively during the week as well as community use at weekends;
 - the poor quality of some pitch sites (which means limited capacity to sustain multiple matches across the week (although many of these pitches have lower levels of demand); and
 - the use of grass pitches for training by a small number of clubs, which adds to the wear and tear of pitches outside peak time. This appears to be particularly commonplace on a Saturday morning.

6.56 It is clear however for all forms of the games, the majority of spare capacity at peak time is at pitches that are not used. Patterns of use are reflective of the 2009 strategy principles, which seek to focus activity and investment on large multi pitch sites that support club development. It is largely the single pitch sites which offer limited opportunities that are unused and are offering spare capacity.

6.57 It is also clear that there is little or no use of the 3g AGPs for competitive football currently. Both facilities remain available to book at peak time for competitive fixtures and could be used by any age group.

6.58 Table 6.6 provides an overall summary of the adequacy of pitches, reinforcing the sites where pitch capacity is compromised. Further detail, including actual figures and a full picture of quality is provided in the appendices. Where a site has capacity at peak time, this is indicated by the text within the table. A key is also provided before the table.

Table 6.5-: Key

	Site overplayed in this age group
	Site played to level it can sustain
	Site has potential to accommodate more play but is not currently used
	Potential to accommodate more play - and used already for play

Table 6.6-: Site by site capacity issues

Site Name	Pitch Quality Rating	Adult	Youth	9v9	7v7	5v5	Specific impacting capacity	Issues
CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	Standard (but approaching poor)						Drainage issues impacting pitch surface	
CROFT WORKING MENS CLUB	Poor	1 Peak Time					Poor quality	pitch
DARLINGTON EDUCATION VILLAGE	Good		1 at peak time	1 at peak time				
DARLINGTON RAILWAY ATHLETIC CLUB	Standard						Poor changing. Overuse of pitches	
DARLINGTON BLACKWELL MEADOWS	Standard - Good	0.5 peak time		0.5 at peak time	1 at peak time		New pitches likely to become good when bedded in	
DARLINGTON SCHOOL OF MATHS AND SCIENCE	Standard	0 at peak period						
EASTBOURNE SPORTS COMPLEX	Standard - Good	1.5 at peak period	1.5 at peak time	0.5 at peak time	3 at peak time	1 at peak time	Some wear and tear on pitches	
Federation of Abbey Schools	Standard							
FEDERATION OF MOWDEN SCHOOLS	Standard				1 at peak time			
GURNEY PEASE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Standard			0.5 at peak time				
HARROWGATE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL	Standard				2 at peak time			
HEIGHINGTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	Standard				0.5 at peak time		Unsecured access only	
HEIGHINGTON PLAYING FIELDS	Standard		0.5 at peak time	0.5 at peak time				
HUMMERSKNOTT SCHOOL & LANGUAGE	Standard	1 at peak					Site also has spare capacity	

Site Name	Pitch Quality Rating	Adult	Youth	9v9	7v7	5v5	Specific impacting capacity	Issues
COLLEGE		time					on AGP	
HURWORTH GRANGE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Poor	1 at peak time					Poor condition - uneven with long grass	pitch - with
HURWORTH SCHOOL	Standard	1 at peak time	1 at peak time				Issues with community use arrangement - school indicate no further capacity	
LONGFIELD ACADEMY	Standard				2 at peak time	3 at peak time	Site also has spare capacity on AGP	
MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMARY SCHOOL	Standard				1.5 at peak time	1 at peak time		
NORTH PARK	Poor						Poor condition	pitch condition
NORTHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL	Standard					2 at peak time		
QUEEN ELIZABETH SIXTH FORM COLLEGE PLAYING FIELDS	Standard						Unsecured access only	
RED HALL COMMUNITY AND CHILDRENS CENTRE / RED HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL	Poor	0.5 at peak time						
RED HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL	Standard				1 at peak time		Unsecured access only	
SKERNE PARK ACADEMY	Standard			1 at peak time			Unsecured access only	
SOUTH PARK	Poor				4.5 at peak time		Poor condition	pitch
SPRINGFIELD	Poor				1 at peak time		Poor condition	pitch

Site Name	Pitch Quality Rating	Adult	Youth	9v9	7v7	5v5	Specific impacting capacity	Issues
TEESSIDE AIRPORT	Poor						Poor condition	pitch
TOMMY CROOKS PARK	Poor						Poor condition	pitch
WEST PARK ACADEMY	Poor						Unsecured access only, poor pitch condition	pitch
WHINFIELD ACADEMY	Standard				4 at peak time			

Current picture

- 6.59 The site overviews set out in Table 6.6 provide an understanding of the issues regarding the adequacy of pitch provision across Darlington Borough and the situation at individual sites. It also evaluates the scenario in which unsecured sites are no longer available for community use.
- 6.60 Issues can be further evaluated looking first at the adequacy of provision for each type of pitch. A brief overview of the quantitative picture for each form of football is set out in Table 6.7.
- 6.61 It should be noted that spare capacity does not just directly take the capacity that is available and measure it against total demand. In some instances, although there is theoretical capacity at the site based upon the quality of the pitch, there is no practical capacity due to the policy of the operators, for example allowing fewer matches to protect the pitch. The spare capacity of some pitches has been adjusted in relation to the following sites;
- Darlington Education Village - school indicate no scope to increase usage in order to protect pitches and maintain quality
 - Darlington Queen Elizabeth College - school indicate no scope to increase usage in order to protect pitches and maintain quality.
- 6.62 The two 3g AGPs can also be used for match activity due to their inclusion on the FA Register. As it is known that they play no role in current matches, their potential role will be considered later in this section.

Table 6.7-: Summary of spare capacity across Darlington (pitches available for community use - secured and unsecured)

Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Total Capacity of Pitches (Match Equivalents)	Total Demand of Match Equivalents	Spare Capacity and Overplay (Match Equivalents)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Match Equivalents)
Adult Football	32	56.5	57.25 (including school use and training)	<p>All Sites Spare capacity 7.5 match equivalents, overplay 8.25. On balance spare capacity = -0.75.</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites One site is unsecured and offers 6 match equivalents with no spare capacity. If this site was no longer available, spare capacity would reduce further to -6.75 and with a need to relocate 5.5 match equivalents. This means that provision would be insufficient.</p> <p>It should be noted that much of this pressure on adult pitches is generated by use of these pitches by junior teams (in particular at Darlington RA).</p>	<p>All Sites 5.5 match equivalents spare capacity. Potential requirement however to redistribute teams to these pitches that are using overplayed pitches. If this redistribution took place at peak time, this would equate to 5 match equivalents meaning that there would be just 0.5 match equivalents spare capacity. There is however scope to maintain access to pitches at peak time and redistribute play to other sites at other times to maximise usage.</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites There is only one unsecured site and it has no spare capacity at peak time (heavily used across the week). 0.5 match equivalents take place at peak time and would need to be relocated if no longer available. Spare capacity would therefore equate to 5 match equivalents.</p>
Junior Football	10	17	13	<p>All Sites Spare capacity 5.5 match equivalents, overplay 1.5 match equivalents. On balance, spare capacity 4. This assumes that only one additional match can be fitted at the Education Village, as the school wish to maintain lower levels of play to maintain quality.</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites There are no unsecured sites</p>	<p>All Sites 3 match equivalents spare capacity. Potential requirement however to redistribute teams to these pitches that are using overplayed pitches. If this redistribution takes place at peak time, just 2.5 match equivalents spare capacity would be available. It is however possible to redistribute outside peak time leaving the site available to accommodate peak time play.</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites There are no unsecured sites</p>

Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Total Capacity of Pitches (Match Equivalents)	Total Demand of Match Equivalents	Spare Capacity and Overplay (Match Equivalents)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Match Equivalents)
9v9 Football	14	28	23	<p>All Sites Spare capacity 5 match equivalents; overplay 3 match equivalents therefore spare capacity equals 2 match equivalents.</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites Excluding unsecured pitches however, spare capacity reduces to 4.5 and taking into account overplay, drops to 1.5. Supply is therefore very closely balanced with demand. Neither unsecured venue is currently used meaning that there would be no usage to relocate.</p>	<p>All sites 4.5 match equivalents available. Potential requirement however to redistribute teams to these pitches that are using overplayed pitches. If this redistribution takes place at peak time, spare capacity would reduce to 2 match equivalents. It is however possible to redistribute outside peak time leaving the site available to accommodate peak time play.</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites The reliance on unsecured pitches impacts 9v9 pitches. If excluding these sites and relocating teams using them, spare capacity would reduce to 3 match equivalents at peak time. If also relocating teams at overplayed sites, just 0.5 match equivalents would be available.</p>
7v7 Football	18	58	24.5	<p>All Sites Spare capacity 34.5 match equivalents. Overplay equates to 0.5 therefore supply is higher than demand (34).</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites Excluding pitches that are unsecured, spare capacity reduces to 31 match equivalents over the week.</p>	<p>All Sites 24.5 match equivalents available.</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites This reduces to 22 excluding unsecured sites. This however assumes that two 7v7 matches can be accommodated successively on each pitch. Requirements would be much lower if this was not the case.</p>
5v5 Football	6	22	11	<p>All Sites Spare capacity 11 match equivalents, no overplay</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites There are no unsecured sites</p>	<p>All Sites 7 match equivalents available at peak time, assuming that games can be accommodated successively.</p> <p>Excluding Unsecured Sites There are no unsecured sites</p>

6.63 The text below considers the adequacy of provision for each type of sport in more detail. The potential role of AGPs in supporting the stock of grass pitches will be considered later in this section.

Adult football

6.64 Demand for adult football is relatively well spread, with just under half of all teams playing on a Sunday morning. The remainder of teams requiring a full size pitch play Saturday or Sunday afternoon (age group teams in the Teesside League) and there are a few midweek teams. This means that while peak time requirements are lower than they may otherwise be, there is a greater emphasis on pitch quality, as sites may be required to sustain more than one match per week. Some adult pitches are also used by older youth teams, who predominantly play on a Sunday afternoon.

6.65 As just under 50% of the stock of adult pitches is located at school sites, there is also a significant amount of curricular use of a high proportion of adult pitches.

6.66 Overall, the amount of demand for adult football pitches exceeds the supply. This is however influenced by overplay on specific sites and there is some spare capacity available, although this is generally at poorer quality facilities. In more detail;

- Overplay of adult football pitches is focused on Darlington Railway Athletic, Longfield Academy and Carmel Roman Catholic College. More than a third of all activity on adult football pitches takes place at these three sites. As two of the three sites are school sites, their capacity is influenced by school use as well as heavy demand from community teams. Both Longfield Academy and Carmel College are home to large clubs (Darlington 21st Allstars and Darlington TSC respectively) while Darlington RA is a private club. This site has two adult pitches, but accommodates all junior activity on the site as well by overmarking and the site is also used for all club training. Overplay is the highest at Darlington RA (-4.75) and this has a significant impact on figures, as much of the overplay is generated by junior teams, who use senior pitches due to a lack of smaller sized pitches
- While there is some overplay and limited spare capacity overall across the week, this is largely spread across several sites rather than being based at one specific venue. Eastbourne Sports Complex is the only site with more than 1 match equivalent available across the week
- There is also limited remaining spare capacity at Hummersknott School, Darlington School of Maths and Science, (1) and Blackwell Meadows and Red Hall Community Centre (all 0.5 match equivalents)
- There are two sites containing adult football pitches that are available for community use but that are not used by the community. The remaining spare capacity is therefore at these sites - Croft Working Mens Club and Hurworth Grange Community Centre. These are both local single pitch sites that are of lower quality and are relatively poorly maintained. Given the events hosted at the Croft Working Mens Club site, it is also debatable as to whether this site could fulfil a season's fixtures.
- Heighington Playing Fields, North Park, Springfield, Teesside Airport and Tommy Crooks Park are currently being played to the level that they can sustain and cannot sustain any further play. All of these sites except Heighington Playing Fields are poor quality pitches, meaning that their capacity is restricted by the quality of the facility.

Teesside Airport is used predominantly for training purposes and is particularly extensively used during the summer months

- There is capacity for additional grass pitches at Tommy Crooks Park (2) as well as at Blackwell Meadows.

6.67 Like demand across the week, peak time demand is similarly restricted, with just 5.5 match equivalents available. Eastbourne Sports Complex is the only site able to accommodate more than one match equivalent (1.5). No other sites have greater than 1 match spare capacity and of these, Hummersnott and Darlington School of Maths and Science are the only sites that are currently used.

6.68 Both across the week and at peak time therefore there pressures on existing pitches. While there is some spare capacity, this is offset by overplay on key sites. The existing pitch stock is constrained by the quality of some pitches (impacting the number of matches that can be sustained across the week) as well as the use of pitches for training on a Saturday morning and the reliance on school sites. Outside of Hummersknott Language College and Eastbourne Sports Complex, the pitches that are available at peak time are also generally the less desirable facilities. If excluding Croft Working Men's Club due to events that take place, spare capacity at peak time would reduce to just 4.5.

6.69 It should also be noted, that all of the pitches that are overplayed sustain matches at peak time. If this play was relocated, the peak time availability would decrease further. In all of these circumstances however (Carmel College, Railway Athletic and Longfield Academy), overplay is caused by play outside of peak time. This play could be reallocated to other sites more easily than moving teams playing at peak time.

Pitches with unsecured access

6.70 Queen Elizabeth College has become an important community venue as the college has developed a partnership with Darlington Spraire Lads and Lasses. The site offers 3 pitches with a total of 6 match equivalents per week (4 of which are college use). Spare capacity is equivalent to 0.5 match equivalents both at peak time and across the week, but has been considered equivalent to 0, as the college have indicated that they do not wish further play to take place in order to maintain pitch quality. If the site was no longer available for community use, 1.5 community match equivalents would need to be relocated as well as the college use. This would mean that overall, pressures on existing pitches would exceed 10 match equivalents. This demonstrates therefore that the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College site is an important facility, but also how closely supply is in balance with demand for adult football.

Junior football

6.71 Table 6.7 reveals similar issues on junior pitches. Most junior play takes place on Sunday lunch / early afternoon and as a result, some teams use adult pitches (sizes can overlap). Like adult pitches however, the reliance on school sites means that the capacity is restricted across the week as well as at peak time, which is perhaps more pronounced for adult football than junior football. It is also notable that some of the activity that takes place on junior pitches is for training purposes (Saturday morning). While this does not impact upon peak time demand, it does add to wear and tear of the pitches and reduces the overall spare capacity for match play.

6.72 The overall spare capacity of junior pitches is equivalent to 5.5 match equivalents. Taking into account overplay, this means that there are just 4 match equivalents available across

the week (a standard junior pitch can take 2 match equivalents per week). This means that there is very limited spare capacity remaining. In more detail;

- the pitch at Hummersknott School is the only pitch to be overplayed. This is likely to cause increased use of the adult pitch, which has spare capacity;
- the only spare capacity is at Eastbourne Sports Complex (3), Heighington Playing Fields (1.5) and Hurworth School (1). The pitch at Springfield is not used at all and is very poor quality, while the pitch at Hurworth School is believed to be open for use in principle, but not necessarily in practice. This means that supply is very closely matched with demand across the week; and
- pitches at South Park are not currently able to sustain any more play.

6.73 At peak time, the availability of pitches is even more limited, with just 3 match equivalents spare capacity. The only sites with any spare capacity are Eastbourne Sports Complex (1.5), Heighington Playing Fields (0.5) and Hurworth School (where there are potential access issues as highlighted above).

6.74 Heighington Playing Fields has also previously been used for training, but there are no floodlights for this activity and the club currently travel to use an artificial pitch to protect the grass pitches. Teams previously using this site have moved to Greenfield Community College (on the outskirts of Newton Aycliffe) due to a lack of capacity in Heighington.

6.75 There are no junior pitches currently serving the community that are unsecured for community use although as highlighted, there are concerns with the adequacy of access to Hurworth School.

6.76 There is therefore limited scope for additional participation growth at peak time and limited capacity across the week. There are very few venues with additional capacity and few opportunities for the growth of junior football without access to additional pitches. The constraints around adult pitches further exacerbate this situation. Added to this, much of the pressure on adult pitches was caused by the overplay of pitches at Darlington RA by junior teams (4.75). Taking this into account, facilities for junior football become further compromised.

9v9 pitches

6.77 Table 6.7 reveals that like junior pitches, the supply of 9v9 pitches is constrained. In addition, play on these pitches takes place at the same time as most adult matches, so there are few opportunities to overmark pitches.

6.78 The overall spare capacity at 9v9 pitches is equivalent to 5 matches. There is however 3 match equivalents overplay, meaning that on balance, there is only capacity for 2 additional match equivalents.

6.79 Spare capacity is spread across the pitch stock, with Darlington Education Village, Skerne Park Academy, Hurworth School (all one match equivalent) and Blackwell Meadows, Eastbourne Sports Complex, and Heighington Playing Fields (all 0.5 match equivalents) having capacity to accommodate additional play.

6.80 Pitches at Darlington School of Maths and Science, Hummersknott School and Language College and Longfield Academy are all overplayed. All of these sites accommodate curricular use as well as match play and grass pitches at both Darlington School of Maths

and Science and Longfield Academy are also used for training. The pitch at West Park Academy is currently poor and unable to sustain any community use and the same is true of St Johns Church of England Academy.

- 6.81 At peak time, pitch provision is as constrained, with Darlington Education Village and Skerne Park Academy having capacity to accommodate one additional match equivalent and other sites having only 0.5 match equivalents capacity. This also assumes that the pitch that is not currently used at Darlington Education Village can be used, although it is known that the school wish to restrict overall use to maintain quality.

Unsecured use

- 6.82 Added to the pressures on 9v9 pitches, Gurney Pease School and St Johns Church of England Academy and unsecured for community use. There is no current use of St Johns Church of England Academy but 0.5 match equivalents at Gurney Pease. The pitch at St Johns Academy is also poor.
- 6.83 The loss of these sites would therefore only displace 0.5 match equivalents any teams at peak time, but would reduce spare capacity at peak time to 4.5 match equivalents. Across the week, there would be spare capacity for just 1.5 match equivalents (taking into account overplay) and 0.5 match equivalents would need to be relocated.
- 6.84 Like junior pitches, therefore the close balance between supply and demand means that there is no scope for additional participation growth and a lack of flexibility or strategic reserve within the pitch stock. The restriction on use by schools means that this is likely to directly impact participation growth, given that the bulk of pitches are education owned and managed and there is already evidence of teams restricting team numbers to fit in with the teams provided.
- 6.85 While it is therefore clear therefore that there remain strong pressures on junior and 9v9 pitches, these have clearly lessened since the 2009 assessment (which revealed an undersupply of 18 pitches). This can primarily be attributed to;
- static participation;
 - increased number of pitches available for community use and sites secured for community use;
 - provision of 9v9 / junior pitches as a proportion of the overall pitch stock is more in line with demand; and
 - greater flexibility in pitch kick off times. Some clubs enter teams into different leagues to ensure that matches are played both Saturday and Sunday.

7v7 pitches

- 6.86 Table 6.7 reveals a greater level of spare capacity for 7v7 pitches in the borough. It indicates that spare capacity is equal to 34 match equivalents taking into account overplay (a standard mini football pitch can take 4 match equivalents per week) and 31 match equivalents excluding sites without secured community use.
- 6.87 It can be seen that;

- the highest amounts of spare capacity are at Eastbourne Sports Complex, Whinfield Academy, Blackwell Meadows and Longfield Academy. All of these sites have several pitches, but all are used at peak time;
- all sites have at least some spare capacity over the course of the week and of the other sites that are used, Heighington Primary School (Heighington Boys FC) Mount Pleasant Primary School (important site for Mount Pleasant Rangers) and Federation of Abbey Schools (used for training) all have a small amount of additional capacity; and
- the remaining spare capacity is at sites that are not currently used. Many of these are schools who indicate that there is limited interest in their facilities, or that there are constraints to their use (for example challenges with access or quality). Excluding pitches at school sites, spare capacity reduces to 17 match equivalents across the week.

6.88 At peak time, like with other forms of football, the amount of spare capacity reduces significantly although there remain 24.5 match equivalents available (assuming two games can be played consecutively). Excluding schools, the supply would reduce further to 12.5 match equivalents. This indicates that there is some capacity in the pitch stock. Some schools do however have an important role to play - in particular Heighington Primary School, which is a valuable site for the local club.

Unsecured sites

6.89 Three sites containing 7v7 pitches are unsecured for community use – these include Heighington Primary School (which is of particular significance as it hosts a club) as well as Red Hall Primary School and Federation of Mowden Schools. While there are sufficient pitches to accommodate play if these were no longer available, the loss of Heighington Primary would see club relocation. These teams have already moved from Heighington Playing fields due to a lack of space.

6.90 Overall therefore, like other types of football, the amount of mini pitches is sufficient to meet demand. Pressures are lower on these pitches than on larger small sided pitches.

5v5 pitches

6.91 Table 6.7 reveals some spare capacity on 5v5 pitches. It indicates that spare capacity is equal to 11 match equivalents, with no overplay (a standard mini football pitch can take 4 match equivalents per week). This assumes matches can be played consecutively.

6.92 It can be seen that;

- the highest amounts of spare capacity are at Eastbourne Sports Complex, Northwood Primary School and Longfield Academy. Both Longfield Academy and Eastbourne sites do however accommodate use at peak time; and
- there is no remaining spare capacity at South Park and only 1 match equivalent at Mount Pleasant Primary School, suggesting that pitches are more constrained on these sites.

6.93 At peak time, like with other forms of football, the amount of spare capacity reduces significantly although there remain 7 match equivalents (assuming two games can be played consecutively). There is no further capacity for additional growth at South Park and

scope for just one additional match at Eastbourne Sports Complex and Mount Pleasant Primary School.

6.94 This suggests that there are significant facilities currently for 5 v 5 across the borough.

Future picture of provision

6.95 The future requirement for playing pitches will be impacted by several factors, including;

- population growth generated by new housing
- change to the demographic profile of the population;
- changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played;
- club specific development plans and aspirations; and
- amendments to the current facility stock.

6.96 These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand for playing pitches for each sport.

Population change

6.97 Analysis in Section 3 indicated that there is likely to be a small increase in the total population of the borough, but that this increase will primarily just offset the ageing population profile of residents.

6.98 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team and can therefore be used to project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth.

6.99 Table 6.8 summarises the current TGRs for football and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected population change on demand for football in Darlington. It reveals that there will be little change in the number of people in each age group for football by 2026. As a consequence, participation is likely to remain relatively consistent, with less than 1 additional team in each age group generated through population growth alone.

Table 6.8-: TGRs for football in Darlington Borough

Type of Football	Number of teams in age group within the area	Current population in age group within the area	Future population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	39	19656	20012	504	357	0.7
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	5	20647	21022	4129	375	0.1

Type of Football	Number of teams in age group within the area	Current population in age group within the area	Future population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group
Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	23	2522	2568	110	46	0.4
Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	2	2649	2697	1325	48	0.0
Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	20	1162	1183	58	21	0.4
Football 9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	3	1221	1243	407	22	0.1
Football Mini Soccer Mixed (6-9yrs)	29	4785	4872	165	87	0.5

6.100 This means that when taking into account just the population growth, the issues identified with the existing pitch stock are likely to remain the same in future years, although there may be a small amount of additional pressure on each of the pitch types, with up to one additional team (0.5 match equivalents) created.

6.101 It is likely that increased demand will be concentrated in specific areas of the borough where population growth is most likely to occur. This includes the central area, Harrowgate Hill, Lingfield and Sadberge and Whessoe areas. While this may influence the future location of pitches. The compact nature of the borough means that pitches in Darlington are however centrally provided and teams primarily travel to reach the pitches that they require (linking with the strategy of providing hub sites rather than local provision). That said, the location of the larger areas of housing development indicates that the North West, East and south / central areas of the borough will see the majority of growth. This is likely to create additional demand at Eastbourne Sports Complex, Blackwell Meadows and Darlington School of Maths and Science in particular unless alternative provision is considered.

Scenario Testing - Possible changes in participation trends

- 6.102 Although population growth will influence demand, changes in participation may perhaps have the greatest impact on demand for playing pitches. As demonstrated earlier in this section, while the borough has experienced decline in adult football, there has been growth in junior and mini soccer.
- 6.103 The strong foundations for youth football mean that across the borough, many clubs have aspirations to grow, and current growth plans are equivalent to 38 teams, specifically;
- 2 adult teams (1 male and 1 female);
 - 23 youth teams requiring 9v9 or youth pitches; and
 - 13 teams requiring mini soccer pitches.
- 6.104 Key aspirations are summarised in the appendices.
- 6.105 Linking with this, FA conversion rates and the FA participation report 2013 / 2014 (which compares Darlington with like for like authorities) provide a degree of understanding of the potential for the number of teams in Darlington to increase, based upon the amount of latent demand it is thought may exist. It uses the existing conversion rate for football to determine the number of additional teams that would need to be generated if participation in the borough was to fall in line with participation targets (which are based on the amount of people playing in the area). This report indicates that;
- there is potential for an increase of 21 adult male teams (10 match equivalents);
 - junior participation is more in line with target levels, with a possible increase of just 3 teams (1.5 match equivalents); and
 - despite recent increases in the number of mini football teams, there is possibility for this to increase further with an additional 16 teams (8 match equivalents).
- 6.106 This suggests that the aspirations of clubs would see participation remain below target levels for adult football and more in line with potential levels for mini soccer. If aspirations for the growth of junior teams were to be achieved, this would place participation in Darlington in this age group significantly above target levels.
- 6.107 The impact of these growth aspirations would be felt across Darlington Borough and it is clear that most of the clubs with growth aspirations are already large clubs with high pitch requirements. In particular, the impact of growth is likely to be felt at Darlington RA (insufficient capacity to sustain growth), Eastbourne Sports Complex and Heighington Playing Fields (both able to sustain a degree of growth although capacity will become restricted if all club growth aspirations are achieved) and Blackwell Meadows (spare capacity and space for additional pitches but limited if extensive growth occurs). Heighington Boys FC are currently putting together a development plan to ensure that there remain sufficient pitches for the needs of their club and Darlington RA have already reduced the number of teams that they are running in order to ensure that they can be accommodated.
- 6.108 Table 6.9 summarises the likely impact on the existing situation and provides a broad indication of the adequacy of provision to meet suggested demand in each of the different scenarios. All figures represent the number of spare match equivalents and

exclude unsecured sites. The final column includes FA aspirations for growth where these are not achieved through club growth.

6.109 It should be noted that as demonstrated, the 3g AGPs in the borough currently do not accommodate any match play. Some of the required capacity can be addressed through increased use of these facilities. This will be considered further in scenario testing in the next section.

Table 6.9:- Impact of growth (excluding unsecured sites)

Current Pitch Type	Current Position	Including Population	Future Growth	Including Growth	Club	Including Aspirations where not achieved through club aspirations	FA where not achieved through club aspirations	Additional Requirements	Pitch
Adult Football	Weekly - Spare capacity -6.75 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 5.5.	Weekly - Spare capacity -6.75 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 5	Weekly - Spare capacity -6.75 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 5	Weekly - Spare capacity -8.25 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 4	Club	Additional match equivalents - spare capacity - 13. Peak time spare capacity circa --3	8.5	At least 6 pitches. This should however be balanced with junior pitch requirements, as junior demand is currently causing overplay on senior pitches. Estimate 3 senior pitches and 5 junior. Part of this requirement (2 -3 pitches) could be delivered through greater use of AGPs (and new AGP)	
Junior Football	Weekly - Spare capacity 4 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 3	Weekly - Spare capacity 4 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 3	Weekly - Spare capacity 4 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 3	Weekly - Spare capacity - --2.25 Peak Time - Spare Capacity -1	Club growth aspirations exceed FA targets			1 - 2 pitches, but taking into account above figures, estimate 3 senior pitches and 5 junior. Part of this requirement (2 -3 pitches) could be delivered through greater use of AGPs (and new AGP)	
9v9 Football	Weekly - Spare capacity -1.5 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 3	Weekly - Spare capacity -0.5 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 3	Weekly - Spare capacity -0.5 Peak Time - Spare Capacity 3	Weekly - Spare capacity - --4.5 Peak Time - Spare Capacity -1. Scope for AGPs to increase spare	Club growth aspirations exceed FA targets			At least 2 - 3 pitches. This could be delivered through greater use of AGPs (and new AGP). All 9v9	

			capacity to -1 and 3 at peak time if used.		football could theoretically be accommodated on AGPs if 3 were provided and used.
7v7 Football	Weekly – Spare capacity 31 Peak Time – Spare Capacity 22	Weekly – Spare capacity 30.5 Peak Time – Spare Capacity 21.5	Weekly – Spare capacity 27.5 Peak Time – Spare Capacity 12.5	Additional 1 match equivalent – spare capacity-26.5. Peak time spare capacity circa -12	Existing provision sufficient (although supply closely matched with demand if single pitch sites are excluded)
5v5 Football	Weekly – Spare capacity -11 Peak Time – Spare Capacity 7	Weekly – Spare capacity -11 Peak Time – Spare Capacity 7	Weekly – Spare capacity -8 Peak Time – Spare Capacity 5	Additional 0.5 match equivalents - -7.5. Peak time spare capacity circa -5.	Existing provision sufficient (although supply closely matched with demand if single pitch sites are excluded)

Scenario Testing - Potential Role of 3g pitches in football and Impact of Quality Improvements

6.110 As illustrated, 3g pitches have a key role to play in football. Their potential role in Darlington is however complex, particularly as no existing use is made of AGPs for competitive fixtures by clubs.

6.111 Table 6.9 indicates that additional capacity is required in the pitch stock. This can be delivered through a variety of sources, including;

- Reinstatement of lapsed sites
- New provision
- Qualitative improvements
- Improved capacity.

Pitch Quality

6.112 The majority of pitches in Darlington Borough are rated as standard. Scenario testing indicates that enhancing these further would have little impact on addressing overall deficiencies, due to the focus of activity at peak times, rather than across the weekend.

6.113 The improvement of some sites would increase capacity across the week, with the following community use sites currently rated as poor: Croft Working Mens Club, North Park, Red Hall Community Centre, South Park, Springfield, Teeside Airport and Tommy Crooks Park.

6.114 Improvements to these sites would increase capacity outside peak time by;

- 8 adult match equivalents
- 2 youth match equivalents
- 2 9v9 match equivalents
- 5 7v7 match equivalents and;
- 1 match equivalent on 5v5 pitches.

6.115 This would however make limited or no impact in addressing existing pressures, as these also impact peak time, where the above improvements would not be of benefit. Added to this, the majority of sites referenced are single pitch sites and improvement to these facilities would go against strategy principles.

6.116 The exceptions to this are Tommy Crooks Park (potential to reinstate 2 pitches and improve others) and South Park. Improvements at these sites may have greater impact due to the overall scope for activity. There are also some improvements necessary (for example drainage at Carmel College) to ensure that pitches currently rated as standard do not become poor.

6.117 Quality improvements may therefore be essential to maintain current and future function of the pitch stock, but will have a more limited role to play in increasing capacity.

The Potential Role of AGPs

6.118 Across the country, the FA are undertaking pilot projects to relocate 5v5, 7v7 and sometimes 9v9 football onto AGPs, particularly those currently played on Council pitches. Several games can be sustained at any one time and this therefore reduces the need for grass pitches and ensures a consistently better quality of surface which supports skill development.

6.119 In Darlington however peak time for 9v9, 5v5 and 7v7 football is at the same time, meaning that based upon current programming, separate AGPs would be required to accommodate these forms of the game. To make better use of any AGPs provided, it would be necessary to reprogramme fixtures in local leagues. The primary league that this would impact would be the Teesside Junior Football League, which is a home and away league accommodating circa 500 teams and spreading across multiple local authorities.

6.120 Table 6.10 below illustrates the number of pitches that are required to accommodate all football at peak time for 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 football. It considers firstly the amount of AGPs that would be needed to accommodate all activity (including those currently on school sites) and secondly, just those on Council pitches. There is only one club with their own site (Darlington Railway Athletic).

Table 6.10 - Potential Role of 3g Pitches

Scenario	Format of the game	Number of teams	Fixture Equivalents	Matches per full size AGP	Number of match sessions	Duration of session (inc. changeover)	Hours of play on 3G AGP	Programme Hours Available	Pitches Required
All Teams	5v5	11	6	4	1.4	1	1.4	4	2.4
	7v7	17	9	2	4.3	1	4.3	4	
	9v9	22	11	2	5.5	1.5	8.3	3	3
Just those on Council pitches	5v5	5	3	4	0.6	1	0.6	4	1.2
	7v7	9	5	2	2.3	1	2.3	4	
	9v9	7	4	2	1.8	1.5	7	3	0.9

6.121 Table 6.10 therefore reveals that to accommodate all 9v9 football, 3 pitches would be required. These three pitches could also accommodate 7v7 and 5v5 games, but only if fixtures were reprogrammed to outside 9v9 peak time. If this did not occur an additional 3 pitches would be needed for each form of football, a level of provision that is unlikely to be sustainable in Darlington Borough.

6.122 In response to the decline in adult participation, the Durham FA are also seeking to introduce midweek and summer 11 a side leagues onto AGPs. This will increase the sustainability of these facilities, as well as seek to reinvigorate the adult game.

Rugby

Pitch supply

6.123 There are 16 grass rugby pitches and 4 midi pitches in Darlington Borough. Of these, only Polam Hall School is not available for community use, while Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College offers unsecured access arrangements.

6.124 In addition, there were 2 rugby pitches at Hurworth House School which has recently closed. There are no pitches currently provided on this site.

6.125 There are two sites containing facilities owned and managed by clubs (Darlington RFC and Darlington Mowden Park). These facilities provide 8 full sized pitches and 4 midi pitches and therefore represent half of the stock of rugby pitches. The remainder are all owned by the education sector.

6.126 There are no issues identified with security of tenure for either club, and the significant majority of pitches at school sites are also use offering long term community agreements.

Pitch quality

6.127 Table 6.11 sets out the pitches that are available for community use in more detail and highlights the facilities that are available and the quality of each site..

Table 6.11-: Quality of community use sites in Darlington

Site	Number of Pitches	Floodlit Pitches	Access Arrangements	Site Quality Issues
Carmel Roman Technology College	1	0	Secured Community Access	Pitches relatively poorly drained and some issues with pitch surface.
Darlington RFC	5	1.5 (the second pitch is half floodlit)	Secured Community Access	Pitches marked out to club need each week. Grass cover good and overall pitch quality good. Full ancillary provision. Drainage is pipe drained on 3 pitches but inadequate on remaining two. Pitch 3 is particularly susceptible to waterlogging as it rises in one corner, while pitch 4 is also prone to waterlogging due to run off from nearby road. One pitch suffers from the impact of dog walking, but overall pitch and equipment quality is good.
Darlington School of Maths and Science	2	0	Secured Community Access	Both pitches show little signs of wear although one significantly better than the other. One pitch falls below standard size parameters. Grass length however good and no recognised safety issues.
Hummersknott Academy	1	0	Secured Community Access	Pitch condition adequate with no clear issues identified. Appears to have limited use.
Hurworth School	1	0	Secured community Access	Some issues with pitch drainage and condition of surface. While there is a community use agreement available, there are currently issues with pitch access.
Longfield Academy	1	0	Secured Community Access	Grass cover good and very little evidence of wear and tear on the pitch. Some issues with litter on site but otherwise condition very good.
Polam Hall School	1	0	Not available for community use	No community access to pitches.
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College	1	0	Unsecured Community Access	Pitch on a slight slope but with good grass cover and well maintained posts. Changing accommodation

Site	Number of Pitches	Floodlit Pitches	Access Arrangements	Site Quality Issues
				provided
Darlington Mowden Park RFC - The Northern Echo Arena	3 (and 4 midi pitches).	3	Secured Community Access	Good quality floodlit pitches with good grass cover. One pitch located within the stadium, offering a high quality playing environment. No clear issues identified and pitch condition has recently been improved following drainage installation. Grass cover good although pitches are well used. There is lots of spare land on the site for additional pitch provision.

Demand

6.128 The two rugby clubs in Darlington run a total of 31 teams. The spread of teams between the two clubs is summarized in Table 6.11 and the number of match equivalents generated by each of the teams is also highlighted.

6.129 It is clear that both clubs have a spread of teams, enabling participation at all age groups. The two clubs operate within leagues of different standards (with Darlington Mowden Park first team playing in the National League and Darlington RFC playing within lower regional leagues. This means that there are opportunities for players of all standards within the borough.

6.130 In addition to competitive use of grass pitches, rugby also has a culture of training at the home ground on floodlit pitches. For both clubs, most training takes place at the club base although there is some ad hoc use of the 3g pitch at Hummersknott School when weather conditions require this. Table 6.12 also summarises the match equivalents for training at each site.

Table 6.12:- Rugby clubs in Darlington

Sport and Age Groups	Darlington RFC			Recent Participaion Trends	Darlington Mowden Park			Participation Trends
	Number of teams	Match Equivalent Per Week	Training Match Equivalents Per Week		Number of teams in age group	Match Equivale nts Per Week	Training Match Equivalents Per Week	
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	4	2	3.5	Participation has been more static at Darlington RFC with an increase in youth and midi teams, and adult team numbers remaining static. The club have a strong social media presence as well as good relationships with local schools.	3	1.5	2.5	Club has increased numbers in all age groups, particularly within mini section. Club have strong relationships with local schools as well as benefitting from word of mouth promotion of the club.
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	1	0.5	0.5		1	0.5	0.5	
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	3	1.5	1.5		6	3	4.5	
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0	0	0		3	1.5	1	
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	5	2.5	0		5	2.5	0.5	

Educational demand

- 6.131 The strong club base is underpinned by comparatively high levels of participation in schools, with all clubs with a rugby pitch playing rugby at least during the term time. Tag rugby is also played at several primary schools, some in partnership with rugby clubs.
- 6.132 There is no regular usage of the pitches at the club bases for educational use although club bases are used on occasion for school competition. There is therefore limited regular impact of school use on the rugby pitches at club sites. Curricular use of pitches on school sites does however reduce the capacity of these pitches to be used for club activity.

Assessing the supply and demand information and views

- 6.133 For rugby, the adequacy of pitch provision is measured through the use of match equivalents. The adequacy of provision to service both training needs and competitive requirements is taken into account. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both;
- the adequacy of pitch provision over the course of a week; and
 - capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.

- 6.134 For rugby, this analysis is based upon the following principles;

Capacity over the course of a week

- 6.135 The RFU sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality (pitch carrying capacity). This is based upon the drainage system installed at the site and the maintenance programme used to prepare the pitches. The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 6.13.

Table 6.13:- Theoretical pitch capacity ratings (RFU)

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

- 6.136 Demand from each rugby club is converted into match equivalent sessions. This takes into account both the requirement for pitches for competitive fixtures, and also the impact that training sessions will have on the capacity of pitches.
- 6.137 For Darlington Mowden Park – maintenance is of standard quality, while on pitch has pipe drainage and the other two have pipe and slit drained.
- 6.138 At Darlington RFC – maintenance is also of standard quality, but the drainage is inadequate on 2 pitches and is pipe drained on the remaining three.

Peak time demand

6.139 To identify spare capacity at peak time, the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available.

- Senior men's rugby union - Saturday PM;
- Youth rugby union - Sunday AM;
- Mini/midi rugby union - Sunday AM; and
- U18-U19 yrs 'Colts' rugby union –Sunday AM (male) and Sunday PM (female).

6.140 The nature of rugby clubs means that activity is primarily focused at the club base and that the club aims to accommodate all play within the club environment. Satellite sites (for example school facilities) are therefore used as back up and short term options only.

6.141 Table 6.14 therefore provides a summary of activity at each of the club bases. It indicates that there is unmet demand at Darlington Mowden RUFC equivalent to 4 match equivalents. This is broadly equivalent to 2 pitches. There is also a small amount of use of the pitches for tag rugby (small pitches) and ad hoc use by school teams (circa 6 sessions per annum). The club are actively looking to increase capacity at their club base and see the provision of a 3g pitch as a means of achieving this.

6.142 While there are enough pitches at Blackwell Meadows taking into account just senior use of the pitches, it is known that there is some use of the senior pitches by mini teams, as there are 4 mini pitches marked on top of the senior pitches. There is therefore little scope for increased participation at this club without additional pitches but there is space for additional pitches at both club bases currently.

6.143 While Table 6.14 indicates that there is limited spare capacity at the current club bases, it is clear that there is capacity to accommodate additional play on the remaining playing pitches in the borough. There are five pitches at school sites, none of which currently sustain any community use, but all of which do accommodate curricular activity.

6.144 Taking into account curricular requirements, as well as the overall condition of the pitches, spare capacity equates to 4 match equivalents per week (1 each at Darlington School of Maths and Science, Carmel College, Hummersknott Academy and Longfield Academy). The second pitch at Darlington School of Maths and Science is insufficient to accommodate community play (size) and pitches at Hurworth School are not available for use (quality issues) although there is a community use agreement in place. As highlighted previously however, the ethos of rugby clubs means that while these pitches are important in ensuring that schools are able to continue to play rugby, their potential role in providing for rugby clubs is limited.

Table 6.14-: Adequacy of Provision at Club Bases in Darlington

Club	Match Equivalents	Mini Match Equivalents	Midweek Match Equivalents	Mini Midweek Match Equivalents	Total Senior Match Equivalents	Mini Match Equivalents	Full size Pitches	Capacity of Pitches	Over/Under Capacity (Match Equivalents).	Mini Pitches Capacity	Over / Under Capacity	Spare Capacity at Peak time	Other Uses	Site Overview
Darlington RFC	4	2.5 (1.25 if using adult pitches)	5.5	0	9.5	2.5 (1.25 if using adult pitches)	5	10.5	1 (adult matches only), - 0.25 taking into account midi pitches	n/a	n/a	Senior Pitches - 3 match equivalents	One pitch suffers from dog walking. Tag rugby (2 sessions per week). School use of 12 sessions per annum	Pitch capacity is sufficient to meet current demand, although taking into account the use of senior pitches by mini teams, is just above optimum levels. This is influenced by the poor drainage on two pitches, which reduces the site capacity but is also impacted by the high number of teams that the club has. There is scope to improve the maintenance regime to increase capacity. There is spare capacity at peak time to accommodate additional play, but the amount of activity across the week means that pitches are heavily

Club	Match Equivalents	Mini Match Equivalents	Midweek Match Equivalents	Mini Midweek Match Equivalents	Total Senior Match Equivalents	Mini Match Equivalents	Full size Pitches	Capacity of Pitches	Over/under Capacity (Match Equivalents).	Mini Pitches Capacity	Over / Under Capacity	Spare Capacity at Peak time	Other Uses	Site Overview
Darlington Mowden Park RFC	5	2.5	7.5	0.5	12.5	3.5	3	8.5	-4	12	9	Senior pitches – 0 spare capacity Midi Pitches – 1 match equivalent spare capacity	Tag rugby (2 sessions per week, school use 6 sessions per annum)	<p>used.</p> <p>Training is concentrated on to just 1.5 pitches, meaning that these pitches are heavily used and are theoretically over capacity.</p> <p>Spare capacity is limited at peak time, and pitches are also overplayed taking into account the level of activity across the week. This suggests that the number of pitches provided is insufficient to meet the needs of the club.</p> <p>Although pitch quality is good and has recently improved, there is scope to improve the maintenance regime to increase capacity slightly, however this would not address the lack of spare capacity</p>

Club	Match Equivalents	Mini Match Equivalents	Midweek Match Equivalents	Mini Midweek Match Equivalents	Total Senior Match Equivalents	Mini Match Equivalents	Full size Pitches	Capacity of Pitches	Over/under Capacity (Match Equivalents).	Mini Pitches Capacity	Over / Under Capacity	Spare Capacity at Peak time	Other Uses	Site Overview
Totals	9	5	13.25	0.5	22	5.5	8	19	-4					<p>at peak time.</p> <p>The number of floodlights at the site means that training is well spread and pitch quality is reasonably good.</p>

Scenario Testing - Reduction in Floodlit Pitches

- 6.145 Table 6.14 reveals that training at Darlington RFC is currently concentrated onto just 1.5 pitches, meaning that these pitches are heavily used and are theoretically over capacity.
- 6.146 The projected move of Darlington 1883 may see use of one of the 1.5 floodlit pitches for football, meaning that just 0.5 pitches remain floodlit for rugby.
- 6.147 With 5.5 match equivalents per week midweek use for training, this will see significant overplay (capacity circa 1 match equivalent per week). To accommodate the required training, at least 2 floodlit pitches are required (hosting 2.5 - 3 match equivalents per week on each).

Displaced and latent demand

- 6.148 There is no evidence of displaced or latent demand for rugby in Darlington.

Future picture

- 6.149 The future requirement for rugby pitches will be impacted upon by changes to the population profile, as well as club specific aspirations and changing participation trends. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

Population change

- 6.150 As demonstrated in Section 3, while the population of Darlington is likely to see a small increase overall, the impact of this for pitch sports is likely to be largely negated by the ageing population.
- 6.151 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. The application of TGRs to population projections enables the projection of the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and provides an understanding of future demand.
- 6.152 Table 6.15 summarises the current TGRs for rugby and the impact that population growth will have. Reflecting the limited population growth and the ageing population, it reveals that population growth alone is unlikely to generate any additional teams in any age group. Existing unmet demand is therefore representative of the likely future unmet demand (not taking into account participation increases). The location of strategic housing sites is unlikely to influence demand for the rugby clubs in the borough, with both clubs located in relatively close proximity to each other, and similar distances from key areas of development. Choice based on location is also likely to be less pronounced due to the clubs playing at different standards (and players therefore selecting on their ability).

Table 6.15-: Impact of changes to the population profile

Sport and Age Groups		Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area (2026)	Population Change in age group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams) Current – 2026
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	7	17732	2533	18053	321.8	0.1
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	2	18626	9313	18964	338.1	0.0
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	9	3819	424	3888	69.3	0.2
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	3	4011	1337	4084	72.8	0.1
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	10	7183	718	7313	130.4	0.2

Club aspirations and Scenario Testing

- 6.153 While population growth alone will have little impact on demand for rugby (other than ensuring that existing levels are maintained), club development may see further pressures on existing pitches and both clubs in the borough are keen to see recent growth sustained.
- 6.154 Darlington Mowden Park seek to continue the recent growth of the club and to ensure that the club effectively accommodates requirements by ensuring that there are enough coaches / volunteers etc as well as coaching staff. Calculations indicate that the current supply of pitches is insufficient to meet current demand (-4 match equivalents across the week and no spare capacity at peak time).
- 6.155 Although there is space for additional grass pitches at the site, the club are currently seeking to increase pitch capacity through the provision of a stadia 3g pitch. If this was not provided, at least two additional grass pitches would be required to meet current and projected future demand.
- 6.156 Darlington RFC are also seeking ongoing development of the club, particularly with regards supporting existing teams, future player development to higher standard, youth

development and retention at senior level, further hosting of age grade internationals and development of girls rugby. The creation of girls rugby teams in particular would create additional (and unmet) demand at the club.

6.157 Added to this, Darlington RFC are currently finalising a partnership arrangement with Darlington 1883 FC. This would see the return of football to Blackwell Meadows and use of one of the rugby pitches for football (anticipated to take place from the 2015 / 2016 football season). This would place additional pressures on the pitches. It will also see the use of one of the existing 1.5 floodlit pitches (the main pitch) for football, meaning that it will no longer be used for rugby training.

6.158 Table 6.16 summarises the adequacy of provision for rugby to meet current and projected future demand and considers all possible growth scenarios. It indicates that both clubs currently require additional capacity. Although there are enough pitches available for community use in the borough to meet this need, the usual mode of an operation for a club means that these pitches would typically be provided at the club base rather than rely on outside pitches.

Table 6.16:- Adequacy of existing provision to meet projected future demand

Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely Growth from Club Development (Club / RFU)	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
Darlington RFC	-1.25 match equivalents across the week, 3 match equivalents at peak time	No additional teams created, growth will help to maintain existing participation	1 midi 2 youth 1 colts 1 female ladies (4 match equivalents + training). Club partnership with Darlington 1883 would require pitch to also sustain football	Supply currently sufficient to meet demand. Additional teams create demand for at least one further pitch. Relocation of Darlington RFC will see all club training activity accommodated onto 0.5 pitch due to use of other floodlit pitch for football. This training pitch will be overused	Improvement to drainage of 2 poor pitches Improvement to main pitch in line with FA grading requirements if football is to be accommodated Additional capacity required to meet club growth aspirations (1 -2 pitches) as well as offset use of 1 st team pitch by football club Additional floodlights to replace set currently on first team pitch (which when shared with football would no longer be used for training) and second set to spread club activity

Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely Growth from Club Development (Club / RFU)	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
Darlington Mowden Park	-4 match equivalents across the week, no spare capacity at peak time	No additional teams created, growth will help to maintain existing participation	Club keen to continue to grow number of players in teams	Insufficient to meet current demand requires additional pitches capacity	Additional capacity requirement equivalent to f 2 grass pitches (longer term 3 to meet future growth aspirations). Club are keen to deliver this through provision of an AGP.

Cricket

Pitch supply

6.159 There are 6 sites containing grass pitches for cricket and a further two sites with just a none turf wicket. This figure includes all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured community use. Pitches available are summarised in Table 6.17 further detail is provided in the appendices.

Table 6.17-: Cricket pitches across Darlington

Site	Provision	Community Use	Status	Ownership / Management
Cockerton Cricket Club	Grass Square	Available for the Community and Used	Secured community use	Club lease land, 20 years remaining
Darlington Cricket and Athletic Club	Grass Square	Available for the Community and Used	Secured community use	Club lease land, 99 years remaining
Darlington Railway Cricket Club	Grass square and non turf wicket	Available for the Community and Used	Secured community use	Leased from London and Continental Railways – lease ends 2018
Houghton Cricket Club	Grass Square	Available for the Community and Used	Secured community use	Club. Site rented / leased from farmer on annual basis
Middleton St George Cricket Club	Grass Square	Available for the Community and Used	Secured community use	Site owned and managed by club
Rockcliffe Park Cricket Club	Grass square and non turf wicket	Available for community use and used	Secured community use	85 years remaining on lease
Longfield Academy	Non turf practice area	Available for community use but not used	N/A	Academy
Hummerknott School of Language	Non turf practice area	Available for community use but not used	N/A	Academy

6.160 Table 6.17 reveals that all existing grass cricket pitches are therefore secured for community use and are at club bases – either owned or leased. There are no formal grass cricket squares at any other sites, although both Longfield Academy and Hummersknott School do have facilities for cricket (artificial training areas). Longfield Academy also have indoor cricket nets.

Former Cricket Pitches

6.161 There was also two former cricket pitches at Hurworth House School (recently closed and the playing fields are not currently in use) and Land at Cumby Arms Playing Fields which has not been used for cricket since the club folded in 2007.

Pitch quality

6.162 The quality of club cricket pitches was evaluated through detailed technical assessments undertaken by ECB Pitch Advisors and clubs were also asked to comment on the quality of their own facilities. The key issues arising as well as the overall quality rating is set out below through both means are set out in Table 6.18. Full copies of the Technical assessments, which include detailed recommendations, are provided in the appendices.

Table 6.18:- Quality of cricket pitches

Site	Provision	Technical Assessment Findings	Club / User Perception	Overall Rating
Cockerton Cricket Club	Toilets, pavilion, parking, kitchen, mowers and rollers, disabled access. There are no practice nets / portable covers for the square or sight screens	Grass sward good, more limited grass cover (60%) with visible bare patches. 40% undesirable grasses which is higher than targeted. No weeds noted but 10% pests and diseases, with worms very noticeable through the square. 4% thatch which represents a basic level. General appearance of square was good and end of season repairs had been undertaken to a good standard. Some issues with maintenance equipment including requirement for bigger scarifier. Assessment notes that site was not top dressed during autumn and only receives basic maintenance budget allowing. Issues with drainage in outfield highlighted. Linear break in the ground at 20mm and 50mm which requires aerating. A winter maintenance programme is recommended to retain and improve the pitch quality	Club believe overall standard to be average. Grass coverage, length of grass acceptable. No dog fouling or unofficial use, but the outfield is uneven. Drainage issues experienced. Drainage identified as key priority for improvement. Additional storage required for groundsman. Wicket low to medium bounce with good carry. Club also seeking urgent pavilion improvements.	Standard / Basic
Darlington Cricket and Athletic	Clubhouse, pavilion, car parking, umpires room, kitchen.	85% grass cover with 95% desirable grasses - high standard. No weeds were noted but some evidence of	Overall quality considered good. Club indicate that grass coverage is	Good (Premier standard)

Site	Provision	Technical Assessment Findings	Club / User Perception	Overall Rating
Club	Mowers / roller, sight screens, showers, score box, practice nets and portable covers, hot and cold water. There is no disabled access	worms and red thread (5%). Surface evenness and gradient good. Square had no visible debris and appearance was good, with end of season repairs undertaken to a very high standard. Club hold the majority of required equipment, although auto rota rake would benefit the up keep of the square with the existing hand held propelled machine insufficient. A winter maintenance programme is recommended to retain and improve the pitch quality	good and both outfield and square are even. Wicket usually good with low bounce and slow characteristics. Site maintained by full time groundsman.	
Darlington Railway Cricket Club	Toilets, pavilion, kitchen, mowers / rollers, sight screens, score box, practice nets, portable covers, hot and cold water. No heating	Limited ground cover (56%) with bare patches. 80% desirable grass which is good level overall, but some weeds evident (3%). Worms also noticeable across square along with some signs of red thread and fairy rings. Some signs of firework debris and worm casts, but end of season repairs undertaken to good standard. Club have access to majority of required maintenance equipment but there are existing issues with heavy roller. Square described as generally well maintained, although at time of visit had not been spiked. Recommendations for autumn and winter renovation programme made to improve playing quality on cricket square	Club believe overall standard to be average. Good grass cover and grass, with some dog fouling / stones and litter, Uneven outfield but even grass wicket with medium bounce. Uneven outfield is key priority for improvement, alongside improved grounds maintenance equipment. Fixed non turf nets and an electronic scoreboard. Toilets, showers kitchen require upgrade	Standard /Basic
Haughton Cricket Club	Pavilion, toilets, car parking. Kitchen, mowers / rollers and practice nets. There are no portable covers for the square or sight screens and there is no score box	Facility assessed as basic overall. Ground cover limited with bare patches. 40% undesirable grasses which is high and unsuitable. Weed control and thatch good (standard to high) and general appearance was good, with end of season repairs to a good standard. The square showed signs of sheep grazing. Assessment identifies some lack of equipment in particular aerators and hand tools. Issues also highlighted with low pressure to the water supply. Recommendations for autumn	Pitch quality perceived average. Grass and length of grass acceptable, no litter / damage to surface. Outfield is uneven although square is even. Wicket low bounce but generally good, although lacks pace. The uneven outfield is attributed to a mole problem which the club is trying to address. Contractor currently managing	Standard / Basic

Site	Provision	Technical Assessment Findings	Club / User Perception	Overall Rating
		and winter renovation programme made to improve playing quality on cricket square and to address level of undesirable grasses	the outfield for the club	
Middleton St George Cricket Club	Clubhouse, fencing, toilets, pavilion, car parking, kitchen, mowers and rollers, practice nets and hot water. There are no showers, sight screens, portable covers for square	Site rated as basic overall. An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket. Lack of funding can stop important works being undertaken. Square maintained to basic level, with basic grass coverage and good root development. Ground coverage equivalent to basic pitch, but level of undesirable grasses, weeds and thatch are high (and at unsuitable levels). Wicket evenness standard. Major spring preparation required although end of season maintenance was acceptable. Technical assessment recommends installation of score board. Some grounds maintenance equipment also missing and net protecting nearby properties requires improvements. Recommendations for autumn and winter renovation programme made to improve playing quality on cricket square.	Pitch quality average, with acceptable grass. Outfield is uneven and there is some dog fouling / stones and litter. The wicket is even. The groundsman is part time only and is therefore not always able to cut the strip and mark the pitch	Standard / Basic
Rockcliffe Park Cricket Club	Includes pavilion, car parking, toilets, umpires room, kitchen and mowers / rollers. Also includes sight screens, showers, practice nets and hot / cold water. There are no portable covers for the square.	Good grass sward and grass cover and square maintained to a good level. Some issues with grass types, with 33% undesirable (unsuitable). No weeds across square but some evidence of thatch. Surface even and acceptable gradients of level in line of play. General appearance of square was good although some signs of rabbits and worms (across the whole field and square). End of season repairs had taken place to high standard. Club lacking in some equipment, most notably aerators. One area of outfield is low and holding water. Assessment recommends winter maintenance programme particularly to address undesirable grasses and also to	Overall quality of pitch is good. Good grass coverage, good length of grass and no issues. Uneven outfield although square is even. No key improvements identified	Good

Site	Provision	Technical Assessment Findings	Club / User Perception	Overall Rating
		improve pitch but concludes that overall site is maintained to a good standard.		

6.163 The quality of grass cricket pitches is average overall, with no poor quality facilities. There are however several site specific quality issues identified. The quality issues identified at each site are summarised in the appendices and are also referred to later in this section when examining site specific activity.

Issues relating to supply

6.164 Consultation with cricket clubs revealed that:

- with the exception of Middleton St George CC who believe that their facility has deteriorated, all clubs indicate that their facilities have either improved or remained at a consistent standard. Both Rockcliffe Park CC and Darlington Railway Athletic CC have heavily invested in the ancillary facilities, while Darlington CC, Rockcliffe Park CC and Haughton CC have all improved pitch quality through improved grounds maintenance procedures and / or better equipment;
- the quality of pitch outfield is the issue most consistently raised by clubs. All highlight the time taken by often volunteer groundsmen to manage and maintain the quality of their facilities;
- facilities for training emerged as a key priority for clubs in the borough;
- both Darlington RA and Haughton CC have limited security of tenure. Darlington RA are currently renegotiating the lease on their facility (due to expire 2018) while Haughton CC only have an annual lease. This limits the potential for investment through external funding in these facilities; and
- sustainability appears to be a key issue for cricket, particularly for the smaller clubs who struggle to afford advanced equipment and have limited income. Several highlighted the need for cricket development activities across the borough and a greater level of support for club cricket and volunteers.

Demand

Current participation

6.165 Table 6.19 summarises the cricket teams that are playing within Darlington Borough. It indicates that there are 28 teams in total, of which the majority are adult male teams. This represents an increase in participation from the 2009 strategy.

Table 6.19-: Cricket teams in Darlington Borough

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams in Age Group (Clubs)	Number of Teams in Age Group (Friendly teams)
Cricket Open Age Mens (18-55yrs)	12	9

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams in Age Group (Clubs)	Number of Teams in Age Group (Friendly teams)
Cricket Open Age Womens (18-55yrs)	0	0
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	7	0
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	0	0

6.166 Further details of teams and the leagues in which they play are included in the Appendices. It is clear however that cricket in Darlington is divided into two forms of the game:

- **Club Based Cricket:** 66% of teams are based within six cricket clubs, all of whom manage their own facilities and play in leagues affiliated to the England and Wales Cricket Board; and
- **Friendly Teams:** The remaining 8 teams are unaffiliated to the England and Wales Cricket Board and play friendly matches using the existing cricket clubs for facilities. These clubs play friendly midweek fixtures against each other and against similar teams in neighbouring authorities. Teams that are known to regularly hire facilities at club sites in Darlington Borough have been considered to be based within Darlington.

6.167 The informal cricket teams were not identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy in 2009 and it is therefore thought that they represent an increase on the amount of cricket played. All of the increase between 2014 and 2019 has taken place in the friendly form of the game rather than club based cricket. Reflecting this, clubs indicate that participation is either static or declining, with only Middleton St George CC experiencing an increase in participation (number of players rather than total number of teams).

Training needs

6.168 Clubs primarily use indoor training nets during the winter months. A new facility has recently been provided at Longfield Academy, which includes 4 indoor training lanes.

6.169 A lack of on site non turf training pitches was however highlighted as one of the key issues during the summer months. Only Darlington Railway Athletic Cricket Club and Rockcliffe Park CC have none turf wickets (and the facility at Rockcliffe Park is poor) and all clubs but Darlington CC believe that improved facilities are required.

6.170 The lack of non-turf wickets means that most clubs are also using their grass squares for training as well as matches. This adds extra wear and tear to the pitch, impacts upon the number of games that can be played midweek and may inhibit growth of the sport longer term.

Educational demand

6.171 Demand for formal cricket pitches is much less evident from the education sector than other sports. While many primary schools play cricket, this is primarily kwik cricket played indoors or on the playground. The Chance to Shine Programme, which brings cricket back into primary schools and seeks to create strong links between schools and clubs has however been particularly successful.

6.172 There is only limited use of the cricket grounds in the borough by schools. Darlington CC and Darlington RA both play host to school cricket festivals on occasion but there is limited regular use. Longfield Academy have close links with Haughton CC. While in relatively small quantities, this use does have an impact upon the overall capacity of the cricket clubs to sustain community matches.

Casual demand

6.173 There is limited informal use of cricket pitches and many of the grounds are private property. Rockcliffe Park CC, Darlington Cricket Club, Darlington Railway Athletic Club in particular receive relatively limited use. There is a greater degree of informal recreation use at Haughton CC and Middleton St George FC. Informal use can impact on the quality of the wicket and cause damage to the surface and the timing of the cricket season (summer) means that informal use is higher than for other sports.

Assessing the supply and demand information and views

6.174 The adequacy of facilities for cricket is measured by comparing the amount of wickets available against the level of use of these wickets. This is considered firstly at a site specific level and then information and issues are compiled to present a Boroughwide picture.

6.175 For cricket, unlike other pitch sports, the capacity of a pitch is measured on a season rather than weekly basis and is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Play is rotated throughout the season across the number of wickets on a pitch to reduce wear and allow for repair and each wicket can accommodate a certain amount of play per season.

6.176 As a guide, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take:

- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults);
- 7 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors);
- 60 matches per season per non turf wicket (adults); and
- 80 matches per season per non turf wicket (juniors).

6.177 Demand is therefore measured in terms of the number of home games that each team will play per season.

6.178 It should be noted that while not all sites were deemed to be of good quality (indeed only Darlington CC and Rockcliffe Park are rated good), all clubs believe the capacity of their wickets to be 5 adult games per season. The calculations that follow therefore assume that this is the case.

Situation at individual sites

6.179 Based upon the above parameters, Table 6.20 provides an overview of site specific activity for each of the pitches that are offer community use in Darlington Borough. Full details of teams playing at each site can be found in the appendices. It should be noted that assumptions have been made about the total play on each site taking into account the views of the club on the number of games that took place the previous season, as well as the number of league games that are played. Use of the ground by friendly teams has been estimated.

- Table 6.20 clearly indicates that all facilities offering community use are well used but that there is spare capacity at all sites. The amount of spare capacity at each site is relatively consistent with all having capacity of circa 3 strips – (equivalent to 1 adult team). This means that there is relatively limited capacity to accommodate additional play at any of the sites, based upon the number of matches that are sustained and the capacity of the wickets on the site. This is influenced by the use of the pitches at club bases by friendly clubs as well as their own teams. For smaller clubs however, this represents a key part of the income
- Reflecting the information provided on quality earlier in this section, site specific analysis also demonstrates that there are concerns relating to the quality of both pitch and ancillary provision, that longer term, quality issues may start to inhibit pitch capacity. Key issues raised include drainage (Cockerton CC), ancillary facilities (Darlington CC and Middleton St George) and the poor condition of the outfield (Darlington RA, Haughton CC and Middleton St George). Technical assessments indicate that most pitches are relatively basic although good effort is made to maintain and improve the wicket. Maintenance programmes have been recommended to address the issues identified, which include high proportions of undesirable grass and weeds
- The lack of training facilities is also highlighted as key issue as outlined earlier in this section
- Looking at the capacity to accommodate additional play at peak time, it is clear that this is also limited. Middleton St George CC is the only site that would be able to accommodate an additional game on a Saturday afternoon. This site is already however overused.

Table 6.20:- Site Specific Usage

Site	Number of Strips	Capacity - Adult Fixtures	Capacity - Junior Fixtures	Current Community Use	Difference	*Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Time Availability	Key Issues and Views
Cockerton Cricket Club	11	55	77	40 (all adult matches) - uses 8 strips	3 strips	Potential to accommodate more play	3 strips - either 15 adult matches or 21 junior matches.	No	Site does not have any training nets and grass wicket therefore also accommodates this activity on occasion. Community use includes cup matches. Club has issues with pitch drainage and also struggle to store ground equipment. Site visits indicate requirement to address issues with undesirable grasses and grass cover, as well as aeration and top dressing. Reflecting drainage issues, club experienced a high number of cancellations last season, particularly in comparison to other clubs and this is identified as the key priority for improvement. Scope to increase play by circa 1-2 adult teams (or 3 junior teams). Pavilion also requires improvement.
Darlington Cricket Club	19	95	133	60 adult matches - 12 strips. 24 junior matches uses 4 strips. Adhoc use for training and festivals – circa 90 matches per	3 - 4 strips	Potential to accommodate more play	3 strips - either 15 adult matches or 21 junior matches.	No	Overall pitch quality high and has improved following recent pitch inspector visit and subsequent investment. 95% desirable grasses and strong grass cover and rated as good. Changing facilities are unacceptable and are key priority for improvement. Disabled toilets are

Site	Number of Strips	Capacity - Adult Fixtures	Capacity - Junior Fixtures	Current Community Use	Difference	*Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Time Availability	Key Issues and Views
				season.					also required. Club also has relatively limited capacity to expand, particularly as they do not have a none turf wicket.
Darlington Railway Athletic Club	15	75	105	31 senior matches plus cup games (10) - uses 8 strips. 23 junior matches. Ad hoc occasional school use of facility (2) (4.5 strips). Club indicate that 70 matches were played last season.	2.5 strips	Potential to accommodate more play	2.5 strips - either 12 adult matches or 15 junior matches (1 adult team / 2 junior teams)	No	Site has potential to accommodate small amount of additional play but lease for site ends in 2018 and therefore there is no current long term security of tenure - this is currently in negotiation. Site assessed as basic quality ground. Outfield is uneven, partly influenced by insufficient grounds maintenance equipment and is identified as key area for qualitative improvement. Technical assessment revealed limited grass cover with bare patches and some evidence of fairy ring. Changing rooms recently refurbished and high quality although showers, toilets and kitchen need further work. Club however require non turf wicket training facilities to be provided off the field, as the current arrangement places further wear and tear on the outfield. Some additional maintenance equipment also required.
Haughton Cricket Club	8	40	56	26 adult matches (5 strips). Some training on grass pitch (10 match	2 - 3 strips	Potential to accommodate more play	3 strips - either 15 adult matches	No	Lease is annual and there is no security of tenure. Outfield is currently uneven (influenced by moles) and club do not have

Site	Number of Strips	Capacity - Adult Fixtures	Capacity - Junior Fixtures	Current Community Use	Difference	*Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Time Availability	Key Issues and Views
				equivalents) although club regularly hire nets. Circa 25 matches last season in total.			or 21 junior matches.		appropriate maintenance equipment. Lack of appropriate training facilities identified as key issue. Site assessed as basic overall, with some issues with ground cover and grass type. Weed control was however considered strong. Site has capacity to accommodate more play.
Middleton St George Cricket Club	10	50	70	23 adult matches (4.5 strips). A further 15 friendly games took place (3 strips) - 38 matches. Remaining capacity 2.5 strips	3 strips	Potential to accommodate more play	3 strips - either 15 adult matches or 21 junior matches.	Yes - 1 match equivalent	Club is increasing in size but are struggling with maintenance requirements and cannot afford annual reinstatement. Small amount of capacity for additional play but assessed as basic overall and suitable for recreational cricket. Levels of weed, thatch and undesirable grasses are high. The outfield is already uneven and is deteriorating and pitches are being overused. Changing accommodation also does not contain showers or washing facilities. Club have recently invested in a cage for training but require non turf wicket. Concerns over sustainability due to reliance on individuals.

Site	Number of Strips	Capacity - Adult Fixtures	Capacity - Junior Fixtures	Current Community Use	Difference	*Comparison	Spare Capacity for Community Use	Peak Time Availability	Key Issues and Views
Rockliffe Park Cricket Club	13	65	91	35 adult matches (7 strips) + 10 cup matches (2 strips). 5 junior matches (1 strip). Club indicate that circa 75 matches were played overall last season.	3 strips	Potential to accommodate more play	3 strips - either 15 adult matches or 21 junior matches.		Recent investment in both pavilion and equipment mean that facility is good. Technical assessment identified good grass sward and grass cover and square maintained to a good level. Some issues with grass types, with 33% undesirable (unsuitable). Issues with a lack of maintenance equipment as well as drainage and rabbits. Club view training facilities as the key priority as the non turf practice area has decreased with usage and age. Site has capacity to accommodate additional play based on league fixtures, however club indicate that 75 matches took place last season. This would represent overuse of the facility, suggesting that the site is reaching capacity.

Current picture of provision

6.180 The site overviews set out in Table 6.20 can be used to develop an overall picture of provision. All sites that are available for community use have secured access and community cricket is therefore not reliant upon any unsecured facilities. Table 6.21 therefore summarises the total spare capacity for cricket across the borough.

6.181 In total, across the borough, spare capacity is currently equivalent to 17.5 strips, which could accommodate approximately 87 adult games (7 adult teams) or 120 junior games (11 teams). This means that there is some scope for growth across the borough, although this is more limited at peak time (Saturday afternoon) with only one club (Middleton St George) able to accommodate an additional match. This is the most basic quality facility in the borough and therefore is not suitable for all levels of cricket (identified as being primarily recreational).

6.182 This spare capacity is however spread across all six cricket grounds, and no individual club has more spare capacity than 3 strips (1.5 adult teams). This means that if there is significant participation growth in one area, or at one club, there may be insufficient facilities to accommodate this

Table 6.21:- Spare capacity for cricket across Darlington

Number of Strips	Capacity - Adult Fixtures	Capacity - Junior Fixtures	Current Community Use	Difference	*Comparison	Peak Time Availability
76	380	532	338	42	Potential to accommodate more play	1

Displaced and latent demand

6.183 There is no known displaced demand currently in Darlington and no clear evidence of latent demand for cricket.

Future picture

6.184 The future requirement for cricket pitches will be impacted upon by changes to the population profile, as well as club specific aspirations and changing participation trends. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

Population change

6.185 As demonstrated in Section 3, while the population of Darlington is likely to see a small increase overall, the impact of this for pitch sports is likely to be largely negated by the ageing population.

6.186 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. The application of TGRs to population projections enables the projection of the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and provides an understanding of future demand.

6.187 Table 6.22 summarises the current TGRs for cricket and the impact that population growth will have. Reflecting the limited population growth and the ageing population,

it reveals that population growth alone is unlikely to generate any additional full teams in any age group. Existing unmet demand is therefore representative of the likely future unmet demand (not taking into account participation increases).

Table 6.22:- Impact of changes to the population profile

Sport and Age Groups		Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area (2026)	Population Change in age group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams) Current - 2026
Cricket Open Age Mens (18-55yrs)	21	25615	1220	26080	465	0.38
Cricket Open Age Womens (18-55yrs)	0	26907	0	27396	488	0
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	7	6725	961	6847	122	0.13
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	0	7064	0	7192	128	0

Club aspirations

6.188 While population growth alone will have little impact (other than ensuring that existing levels are maintained), club development may see further pressures on existing pitches. Three clubs in Darlington indicate that they are seeking to further grow their club. Table 6.23 therefore summarises the adequacy of provision to meet current and projected future demand.

6.189 It demonstrates that on the whole, there is limited remaining spare capacity for growth, with provision particularly tight at Darlington RA CC. There are issues at all clubs in the borough which require addressing if provision is to be sufficient to meet future demand.

Table 6.23:- Adequacy of existing provision to meet projected future demand

Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely from Development	Growth Club	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
Cockerton Cricket Club	3 strips - either 15 adult matches or 21 junior matches.	Overall population growth will negate ageing population. Potential for larger than average impact on Cockerton CC, particularly from North West Urban Fringe / West Park	n/a		Some spare capacity on site - current and projected future activity can be sustained	Maintenance procedure in line with technical assessment (immediate and ongoing works particularly around aeration and grass type) Improvement to outfield - drainage issues. Provision of non

Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely Growth from Club Development	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
					turf wicket Maintenance equipment (scarifier / aeration) Improved pavilion
Darlington Cricket Club	3 strips - either 15 adult matches or 21 junior matches.	Overall population growth will negate ageing population. Potential for larger than average impact, particularly from North West Urban Fringe / West Park	n/a	Some spare capacity on site – current and projected future activity can be sustained	Maintenance procedure in line with technical assessment (ongoing works) Changing facilities Provision of non turf wicket
Darlington Railway Athletic Club	2.5 strips - either 12 adult matches or 15 junior matches (1 adult team / 2 junior teams)	Overall population growth will negate ageing population. Potential for larger than average impact particularly from Lingfield Point	Club seeking to develop at least one additional male and one junior team	Site already approaching capacity – extra adult team (playing outside of peak time) can be accommodated, but junior team would need to play on artificial wicket. Further extensive growth from housing development could not be accommodated	Maintenance procedure in line with technical assessment (immediate and ongoing works). Some issues with fairy rings and red thread Issues with security of tenure to be addressed Improvement to outfield Non turf wicket Longer term potential for additional land if club growth aspirations realised
Houghton Cricket Club	3 strips - either 15 adult matches or 21 junior matches.	Overall population growth will negate ageing population. Potential small impact from land at Neasham Road	Club keen to develop 1 additional junior team	Small amount of spare capacity on site means additional junior team can be sustained. No further opportunities for growth after additional youth	Maintenance procedure in line with technical assessment (immediate and ongoing works) Issues with security of tenure to be

Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely Growth from Development	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
				team	addressed Non turf wicket Improvement to outfield. Maintenance equipment
Middleton St George Cricket Club	3 strips - either 15 adult matches or 21 junior matches	Overall population growth will negate ageing population. Location of growth means this may have lower impact than on other clubs	n/a	Small amount of spare capacity to accommodate growth, although basic facility only. Club do not anticipate further growth and club will potentially be less impacted by development.	Maintenance procedure in line with technical assessment (immediate and ongoing works) including grasses, weeds and thatch Improvement to outfield and installation of scoreboard. Provision of non-turf wicket Improved pavilion
Rockcliffe Park Cricket Club	3 strips - either 15 adult matches or 21 junior matches.	Overall population growth will negate ageing population. Location of growth means this may have lower impact than on other clubs	2 additional adult teams and 2 junior teams	Site already approaching capacity – extra adult team (playing outside of peak time) can be accommodated, but capacity limited for second extra team and additional junior teams would need to play on artificial wicket. Site less likely to be impacted by housing development.	Maintenance procedure in line with technical assessment (immediate and ongoing works) Improvement to Non Turf Practice Facilities Require improved maintenance equipment (aerator)

6.190 The strategic priorities for playing pitches are set out in Section 11. The key issues that need to be addressed are summarised overleaf.

Summary

Football		
Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 43 individual sites containing football pitches across Darlington. Since 2009, the number of pitches secured for community use has increased, with more than 50% of type of pitch now formally secured. The FA youth review has also resulted in a much greater number of smaller sized pitches designed to meet the needs of players in specific age groups. There are also sites where unsecured access is currently available-, Heighington Primary School, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Gurney Pease School in particular are important sites for community play Glebe Road, McMullen Road and St George Playing Field have previously contained pitches but no longer do so. There is also evidence of reduced playing pitches at Middleton St George Cricket Club (no football pitch this season) and Tommy Crooks Park (two pitches marked out instead of 4). More than 75% of playing pitches are provided by academies or DBC and more than half of all pitches secured for community use are on academy sites. This demonstrates the role of these providers in offering opportunities for football. The vast majority of pitches in Darlington are rated as standard. Many of the poorer quality pitches identified in 2009 have either been improved (Longfield Academy / Hummersknott Academy) or are no longer available (Glebe Road, McMullen Road). 55% of clubs believe pitch quality has improved in recent years. Sites are predominantly flat with adequate grass cover although some issues with pitch surface remain. Many of the larger sites are now approaching a good rating and at Blackwell Meadows in particular (once pitches have bedded in) this is likely to be achieved - increasing the site capacity. There remain however some poorer quality facilities and many pitches still rated poorly Council maintained facilities are generally the poorest quality, with some pitches uneven with poor surfaces. Pitch surface is one of the key areas of concern for users. Quality of maintenance is considered directly attributable for improvements made on recent years. There are signs of wear and tear and overplay on some sites, reflecting pressures that are experienced The lack of car parking is highlighted as a key issue across Darlington and dog fouling / litter is also an issue on open access sites. 	<p>Carmel College- drainage issues (and wear and tear)</p> <p>Darlington RA – limited pitch quality and changing accommodation (influenced by overplay)</p> <p>Blackwell Meadows – requires works if to be used by Darlington 1883 including changing, pitch surface and structural works such as car parking</p> <p>South Park – drainage issues and lacks top dressing. Some wear and tear but poor pitches overall.</p> <p>Several other examples of pitches of limited quality:</p> <p>Tommy Crooks Park – poor drainage and no changing accommodation</p> <p>Springfield Park – uneven pitch surface</p> <p>Some clubs believe that there are insufficient pitches and</p>

Football		
Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several pitches managed by Darlington Borough Council do not include changing accommodation. These pitches are however offered for community use free of charge and most commenting clubs believe that this positively impacts on participation. It is also clear that the majority of primary schools that offer pitches are unable to provide changing accommodation. 	<p>that this is stifling demand</p> <p>Lack of spare capacity for junior and 9v 9 pitches. There is no room for larger clubs to grow. Taking into population growth therefore, there is a need to increase capacity by circa 3 adult pitches, 5 junior pitches and 1- 2 9v9 pitches (or the equivalent capacity). The requirement may increase if it is accepted that single pitch sites at small schools are not suitable for community use.</p>
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 116 community football teams, meaning that participation has remained relatively static since 2009. Over 40% of teams required pitches for 9v9 or smaller. This correlates directly with the pitch stock. Most teams are under the umbrella of a large club with several teams. All junior teams are part of a larger club and many of these clubs also have at least one senior team, meaning that there are strong foundations for the growth of football. There are also a small number of single adult football teams, primarily playing in the Darlington Sunday Invitation league. Darlington Railway Athletic (Northern League) and Darlington 1883 FC – Evo Stick Northern League play in the higher echelons of the national football league pyramid. As a result, there are specific requirements that must be adhered to in relation to the facilities provided at the home ground. Darlington 1883 are currently displaced, using facilities at Bishop Auckland FC due to a lack of appropriate facilities (that comply with ground grading requirements) in Darlington. The clubs are in discussion with Darlington RFC with a view to playing at Blackwell Meadows in future seasons. This will require improvements to the facilities at the Rugby Club. Darlington RA have their own facilities. The majority of football teams use AGPs to train. There is however evidence of training on grass pitches at Longfield Academy, South Park and Darlington RA, which places extra pressures on the grass pitches. Just under 50% of clubs are dissatisfied with existing levels of provision. The key barriers to growth are perceived to be a lack of AGPs for training (with some clubs still not able to access a pitch), a lack of pitches for of appropriate quality for junior football and a lack of coaches and volunteers. Many clubs believe that there are still not enough pitches of the right quality. 	<p>Darlington RA are at capacity and have actively reduced the number of teams that they are running due to a lack of facilities</p> <p>Heighington Playing Fields also approaching capacity longer term, with the club working on a development plan to ensure that pitch provision is sufficient</p> <p>There is a high dependency on school sites and many are overplayed with no remaining capacity</p>
Adequacy of Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across the week, there is a degree of spare capacity on most pitches. Some pitches at Longfield Academy, Carmel College, Hummersknott School and Language College, Heighington Playing Fields, and Darlington Railway Athletic Club re however overplayed. Many of these accommodate larger 	

Football

Summary

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clubs and are amongst the higher quality sites. All of the school sites that are considered to be overplayed are confirmed to be at capacity by the school, and most highlight the need to ensure that facilities are protected for curricular use as well as maximizing community use of the facilities.

- While there is some minimal spare capacity at Eastbourne Sports Complex and Blackwell Meadows, these sites are also well used and are popular venues with clubs in the borough. Both of these sites are located in areas likely to experience population growth
- There are several sites that receive little or no use – many of these are primary school sites that have formal lettings policies but do not necessarily have appropriate facilities to support activity. The other pitches that receive no use are single pitch sites which are of poorer quality, specifically Croft Working Mens and Hurworth Grange Community Centre. The pitch at Teesside Airport appears to be primarily used for training and is heavily used for summer and pre season training.
- Reflecting the focus on Sunday football in Darlington, pitch capacity is also constrained at peak time and that outside of the sites that are not used, there are few pitches with much spare capacity for additional play at peak time. This means that most of the spare capacity is at sites that are less desirable to clubs. Scenario testing also demonstrates that the high peak time demand mean that improvements to quality to increase capacity would have little impact on the overall situation
- It is notable that for almost all forms of football, capacity during the week is as closely balanced with demand as at peak time and in some cases, more closely balanced with demand. This can be attributed to reliance upon the school stock for community pitches, the poor quality of some pitch sites (which means limited capacity to sustain multiple matches across the week (although many of these pitches have lower levels of demand) and the use of grass pitches for training by a small number of clubs, which adds to the wear and tear of pitches outside peak time.
- Looking more specifically at each type of pitch;
- For adult football, there is limited spare capacity, equivalent to -0.75 match equivalents across the week and 5.5 at peak time. Pitch provision is therefore limited and there is some use of adult pitches by junior teams. Overplay of adult football pitches is focused on Darlington RA, Longfield Academy, and Carmel Roman Catholic College and over a third of all activity on adult football is focused on these sites. Hummersknott School and Eastbourne Sports Complex offer the highest spare capacity and outside these sites there is limited capacity for further play. Heighington Playing Fields, North Park,

Poor quality pitches impacting on capacity - some are lower tier sites but others accommodate large amounts of football. South Park in particular is a poor quality second tier facility

Lack of access to Hurworth School

Importance of key primary school sites that are unsecured - Heighington PS

While there are a number of primary school sites available for the community, they are less desirable due to their small size and have no toilets / changing.

Springfield, Teesside Airport and Tommy Crooks Park are currently being played to the level that they can sustain and cannot sustain any further play. All of these sites except Heighington Playing Fields are poor quality pitches, meaning that their capacity is restricted by the quality of the facility. Queen Elizabeth College is the only site allowing access to pitches on an unsecured basis. This site has become an important community venue as the college has developed a partnership with Darlington Spraire Lads and Lasses. The site offers 3 pitches with a total of 6 match equivalents per week (4 of which are college use). There is no remaining spare capacity on the site due to the college policy of retaining quality. If the site was no longer available for community use, 1.5 community match equivalents would need to be relocated as well as the college use. This would mean that overall, deficiencies would increase. This demonstrates therefore that the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College site is an important facility, but also how closely supply is in balance with demand for adult football.

- Junior Football like for adult pitches, there are pressures on pitches both across the week (4) and 3 match equivalents available at peak time.
- The only spare capacity is at Eastbourne Sports Complex (1.5), Heighington Playing Fields (1.5), Hurworth School (1) while the pitch at Hurworth School is believed to be open for use in principle, but not necessarily in practice. This means that supply is very closely matched with demand across the week. There are few sites with capacity at peak time
- Like junior pitches, the supply of 9v9 pitches is relatively constrained. Spare capacity is equivalent to 2 match equivalents across the week and 4.5 at peak time. Added to the pressures on 9v9 pitches, the loss of unsecured sites would reduce spare capacity at peak time. Overplay is again concentrated on the larger school sites and no sites have more than 0.5 match equivalents spare capacity.
- Spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 football is greater, with 34 match equivalents across the week and 24.5 match equivalents available at peak time (7v7 pitches) and 11 match equivalents on 5v5 pitches, with 7 at peak time. Most pitches are busy however the higher number of smaller sized matches that can be accommodated (and the more flexible scheduling means supply is more easily able to meet demand. There is also a greater stock of pitches on smaller school sites for 7v7 and 5v5 play. While these are secured and available for the community, they are less desirable and have no toilets / changing.
- It should be noted that the amount of use made of 3g pitches in the borough for competitive fixtures is limited, and greater use of these pitches for match play would reduce pressures on grass pitches.

Football

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Scenario modelling indicates that three pitches would be required to accommodate 7v7 and 5v5 games, but only if fixtures were reprogrammed to outside 9v9 peak time. If this did not occur an additional 3 pitches would be needed for each form of football, a level of provision that is unlikely to be sustainable in Darlington Borough.

- Population growth will have limited impact on participation in football, ensuring that current levels are maintained by negating the impact of the ageing population and potentially generating up to 1 team per type of football. Club growth is likely however to have greater impact, with clubs aspiring to run an additional 38 teams in total. If these were to be achieved, the existing stock would be insufficient to meet the needs of adult, junior and 9v9 teams.
- Taking into population growth therefore, there is a need to increase capacity by circa 3 adult pitches, 5 junior pitches and 2 9v9 pitches (or the equivalent capacity). The requirement may increase if it is accepted that single pitch sites at small schools are not suitable for community use. This requirement will also depend upon the potential to increase use of 3g pitches for match play. This will be delivered through a combination of lapsed sites and allocations within major developments, as well as the provision of additional AGPs. Recommendations in Section 11 provide site specific detail on how this will be delivered.

Key Issues to Address

- There are high pressures on junior and 9v9 pitches (and subsequent heavy use of adult pitches) and a requirement for additional capacity (equivalent to 3 adult pitches, 5 junior pitches and 2 9v9 pitches (or the equivalent capacity) to ensure that pitch supply does not constrain demand. This takes into account the impact that population growth will have on demand (negating the impact of the ageing population as well as providing new participants). In some instances, the amount of pitches is now limiting participation. Additional capacity can be provided through increasing use of 3g pitches, as well as qualitative improvements and new facilities.
- There is some site specific club based overplay, particularly at Darlington RA. This contributes to the need for additional facilities
- The use of grass pitches for training is further impacting on the amount of pitches that are available and the overall levels of use that pitches are receiving during the course of the week.
- The quality of some pitches is limited (changing and pitch quality) and may be impacted longer term if heavy use continues. There are also some pitches of very low quality with no changing or toilet facilities
- Darlington 1883 are currently displaced and looking to relocate back to the borough. They are in discussions with Darlington RFC to use

Football		
Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<p>pitches at Blackwell Meadows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing 3g pitches have limited role to play currently in match play and there is significant scope to increase the usage of these facilities. 	

Rugby		
Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 16 grass rugby pitches and 4 midi pitches in Darlington Borough. Of these, only Polam Hall School is not available for community use, while Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College offers unsecured access arrangements. 8 full sized pitches and 4 midi pitches are provided at Darlington RFC and Darlington Mowden Park RFC meaning that half of the stock of rugby pitches is located at club sites. The remainder are school sites. There are no issues identified with security of tenure for either club, and the significant majority of pitches at school sites are also use offering long term community agreements. The quality of school facilities is standard. Club facilities are good overall, with pitches at Darlington Mowden Park having recently improved and no clear issues identified. Darlington RFC also have good facilities but suffer from poor drainage on 2 pitches. Maintenance is of standard quality at both of the two rugby club sites. 	<p>Darlington RFC</p> <p>Improvement to drainage of 2 poor pitches</p> <p>Improvement to main pitch in line with FA grading requirements if football is to be accommodated</p> <p>Additional capacity required to meet club growth aspirations (1 -2 pitches)</p> <p>Additional floodlights to replace set currently on first team pitch (which when shared with football would no longer be used for training) and second set to spread</p>
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two rugby clubs in Darlington run a total of 31 teams and both clubs offer a full spectrum of teams. The two clubs operate within leagues of different standards (with Darlington Mowden Park first team playing in the National League and Darlington RFC playing within lower regional leagues. This means 	

Rugby		
Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<p>that there are opportunities for players of all standards within the borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both clubs train at their home ground as well as play, although there is some use of Hummersknott AGP in poor weather conditions. There is no regular usage of the pitches at the club bases for educational use although club bases are used on occasion for school competition. There is no use of the school facilities by the clubs. 	<p>club activity</p> <p>Darlington Mowden Park Additional capacity requirement equivalent to a minimum of 2 grass pitches (3 to meet future growth aspirations). Club are keen to deliver this through provision of an AGP (see section 7)</p>
Adequacy of Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature of rugby clubs means that activity is primarily focused at the club base and that the club aims to accommodate all play within the club environment. Satellite sites (for example school facilities) are therefore used as back up and short term options only. There is unmet demand at Darlington Mowden RUFC equivalent to 4 match equivalents. This is broadly equivalent to 2 pitches. There is also a small amount of use of the pitches for tag rugby (small pitches) and ad hoc use by school teams (circa 6 sessions per annum). The club are keen to increase capacity at their venue and believe that a 3g pitch would be an appropriate means of delivering this objective. Additional grass pitches will be required to accommodate demand if further capacity is not provided through 3g pitch. There are enough pitches at Blackwell Meadows taking into account just senior use of the pitches, it is known that there is some use of the senior pitches by mini teams, as there are 4 mini pitches marked on top of the senior pitches. There is therefore little scope for increased participation at this club. There is space for additional pitches at both club sites and there is also spare capacity equivalent to 4 match equivalents (1 each at Darlington School of Maths and Science, Carmel College, Hummersknott Academy and Longfield Academy). Population growth alone is unlikely to generate any additional teams in any age group. Existing unmet demand is therefore representative of the likely future unmet demand (not taking into account participation increases). The location of strategic housing sites is unlikely to influence demand for the rugby clubs in the borough, with both clubs located in relatively close proximity to each other, and similar distances from key areas of development. Choice based on location is also likely to be less pronounced due to the clubs playing at different standards (and players therefore selecting on their ability). 	

Rugby		
Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington RFC are currently finalising a partnership arrangement with Darlington 1883 FC. This would see the return of football to Blackwell Meadows and a ground share with the rugby first team. This would place additional pressures on the pitches and further capacity for the rugby club may be required Scenario testing reveals that floodlights would be required on at least 1.5 additional pitches in the eventuality that Darlington 1883 do move. 	
Key Issues to Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of capacity at Darlington Mowden Park (and potential provision of an AGP in context of requirement for other sports (see section 7). Requirement for additional pitches if 3g pitch is not delivered. The potential relocation of Darlington 1883 to Darlington RFC will have implications for rugby – these will include a requirement for additional floodlights and additional pitches (1 – 2). There is also a required improvement to drainage at Darlington RFC on two pitches. Limitations to the drainage are currently impacting on pitch capacity. 	

Cricket		
Area	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 6 sites containing grass pitches for cricket and a further two sites with just a non- turf wicket (Longfield Academy and Hummersknott Academy). All existing grass cricket pitches are therefore secured for community use and are at club bases – either owned or leased. There was also two former cricket pitches at Hurworth House School (recently closed and the playing fields are not currently in use) and Heighington Playing Fields (still used for football, but has not been used for cricket since the club folded in 2007). The quality of grass cricket pitches is average overall, with most facilities described as basic / standard. Darlington CC is the highest quality facility, rated good / premier. Maintenance programmes to improve quality have been identified for all sites through non technical assessments, with key issues 	

Cricket

	<p>being the level of grass cover, weeds and the presence of undesirable grasses. All sites are however functional, although improved maintenance equipment will be required to implement the necessary procedures. Clubs identify the quality of outfield as perhaps the most recurring issue. Key issues raised include drainage (Cockerton CC, Rockcliffe Park), ancillary facilities (Cockerton CC, Darlington CC and Middleton St George) and specific issues with the outfield (Darlington RA, Haughton CC and Middleton St George).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Darlington RA and Haughton CC have limited security of tenure. Darlington RA are currently renegotiating the lease on their facility (due to expire 2018) while Haughton CC only have an annual lease. This limits the potential for investment through external funding in these facilities. • Sustainability appears to be a key issue for cricket, particularly for the smaller clubs who struggle to afford advanced equipment and have limited income. Several highlighted the need for cricket development activities across the borough and a greater level of support for club cricket and volunteers. 	
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 28 teams in total, of which the majority are adult male teams. This represents an increase in participation from 2009. • 66% of teams are based within 6 clubs, all of whom manage their own facilities. The remainder are unaffiliated cricket teams that regularly hire the club sites. • There is only limited use of the cricket grounds in the borough by schools. Darlington CC and Darlington RA both play host to school cricket festivals on occasion but there is limited regular use. Longfield Academy have close links with Haughton CC. • A lack of on site non turf training pitches was highlighted as one of the key issues for clubs. 	
Adequacy of Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All club bases are well used but there is spare capacity at all sites. This is influenced by the small number of wickets that are available at the site. Spare capacity is currently equivalent to 17.5 strips, which could accommodate approximately 77 adult games (7 adult teams) or 120 junior games (11 teams). • The amount of spare capacity at each site is relatively consistent with all sites having capacity of 3 strips – (equivalent to 1 adult team). This means that there is relatively limited capacity to accommodate additional play at any of the sites, based upon the number of matches that are sustained and the capacity of the wickets on the site. This is influenced by the use of the pitches at 	<p>Cockerton CC - Maintenance procedure particularly around aeration and grass type), Improvement to outfield – drainage issues. Provision of non turf wicket. Maintenance equipment (scarifier / aeration).</p>

club bases by friendly clubs as well as their own teams. For smaller clubs however, this represents a key part of the income, particularly for the smaller clubs.

- Longer term, quality issues may start to inhibit pitch capacity and the maintenance procedures outlined within the technical assessments seek to ensure that is not the case. Issues raised include lack of training facilities and non turf wickets, poor quality of the outfield and drainage, while Darlington CC and Middleton St George CC both require improvements to their ancillary facilities.
- Looking at the capacity to accommodate additional play at peak time, it is clear that this is also limited. Middleton St George CC is the only site that would be able to accommodate an additional game on a Saturday afternoon. This site is already however overused.
- Only Darlington Railway Athletic Cricket Club and Rockcliffe Park CC have non- turf wickets (and the facility at Rockcliffe Park is poor) and all clubs but Darlington CC believe that improved facilities are required.
- Population growth alone is unlikely to generate any additional full teams in any age group. Darlington RA, Haughton CC and Rockcliffe Park CC all however have aspirations for growth. Darlington RA in particular have very limited spare capacity and if aspirations were realized, would struggle to accommodate the growth. The Darlington RA football club are also at capacity

Improved pavilion

Darlington CC - Maintenance procedure. Changing facilities, Provision of non turf wicket

Darlington RA CC - Maintenance procedure .Some issues with fairy rings and red thread, Issues with security of tenure , Improvement to outfield, Non turf wicket , Potential requirement for additional land

Haughton CC

Maintenance procedure, Issues with security of tenure, Non turf wicket, Improvement to outfield. Maintenance equipment

Middleton St George CC

Maintenance procedure including grasses, weeds and thatch, improvement to outfield and installation of scoreboard. Provision of non-turf wicket, Improved pavilion

Rockcliffe Park CC Maintenance Improvement to Non Turf Practice Facilities,

Cricket

		Require maintenance (aerator) improved equipment
Key Issues to Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are issues with security of tenure for Darlington RA CC and Haughton CC – both sites are important venues for cricket and it is important that sites are retained for the use of the club. • There are quality issues at existing sites that need to be addressed to ensure ongoing participation in cricket in the borough. • There is only limited spare capacity for cricket in the borough with Middleton St George CC already at capacity. Darlington RA will also be over capacity if realistic growth potential is achieved. • Almost all sites have a lack of (or poor quality) non turf provision, which impacts both on the grass square and the clubs ability to sustain match play. 	

Introduction

- 7.1 Hockey is now almost exclusively played on AGPs and increasingly, AGPs are also used for football. The FA now approves certain types of AGP for use in competitive fixtures (those listed on the FA register) and the FA National Facilities Strategy recognizes the role that these facilities play in the provision of facilities for football. AGPs that are compliant with World Rugby specifications can also be used for rugby match play and training.
- 7.2 This section therefore sets out the analysis of the adequacy of AGPs and takes into account the requirements for all three sports.
- 7.3 Guidance on AGPs (Selecting the Right Artificial Surface, Sport England 2010) indicates the suitability of AGPs to be as follows:
- Water Based (suitable for high level hockey and football training if the pitch is irrigated)
 - Sand Filled (acceptable surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
 - Sand Dressed (preferred surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
 - Short Pile 3g (acceptable surface for football and hockey at low standards)
 - Long pile 3g (preferred surface for football, not suitable for hockey)
 - Long pile 3g with shock pad – suitable for football and rugby, not suitable for hockey).
- 7.4 Technology continues to move on and new forms of pitch are being developed frequently. Pitch requirements are therefore likely to evolve as technology becomes more advanced.

Supply

- 7.5 Table 7.1 summarises the AGPs available across Darlington Borough. It indicates that there are four full sized pitches, of which three are accessible to the community. The facility at Rockcliffe Park (Middlesbrough FC training ground) is used primarily by the club although it is occasionally let out (for example for England training).

Table 7.1:- AGPs across Darlington Borough

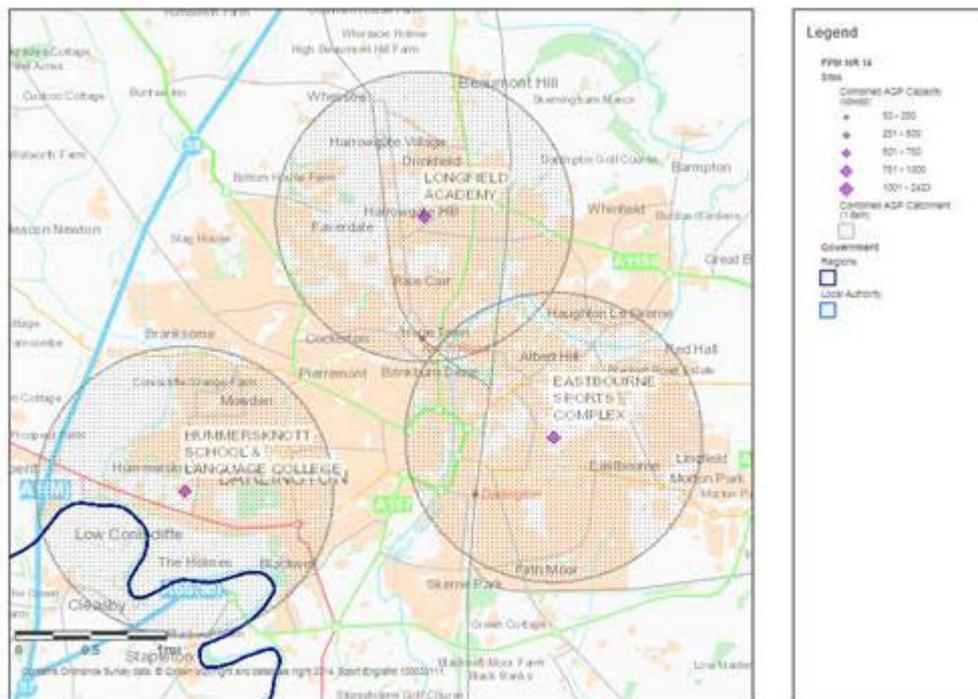
Site Name	Postcode	Management	Size and Floodlights	Surface	Pitch Age and Quality
Eastbourne Sports Complex	DL1 1LJ	Local Authority	Full size and floodlit	Sand Filled	1999, resurfaced 2011
Hummersknott School	DL3 8AR	School – Academy	Full size and floodlit	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	2008
Longfield Academy	DL3 0HT	School – Academy	Full size and floodlit	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	2011
Rockcliffe Park	DL2 2DU	Commercial (Middlesbrough)	Full size and floodlit	Rubber crumb pile	Upgraded 2012

Site Name	Postcode	Management	Size and Floodlights	Surface	Pitch Age and Quality
		Football Club)		(3G)	

- 7.6 Table 7.1 indicates that two of the three pitches that are accessible to the community have a 3g surface – this means that they are suitable for football but not hockey.
- 7.7 The facility at Eastbourne Sports Complex is the only AGP located on a public site. The remaining two facilities are both located at school sites and are managed and controlled by schools.
- 7.8 All pitches are floodlit and full size. The provision of floodlights means that they can be used evenings as well as weekends and the capacity of the facilities is therefore maximized.
- 7.9 The location of all AGPs is illustrated in Map 7.1. It indicates that provision is well distributed across Darlington Borough. While Longfield Academy is located to the north of the town, Hummersknott Academy is situated to the west. Eastbourne Sports Complex, the only sand based facility, is located to the east.

Map 7.1-: Distribution of AGPs

Facilities Planning Model - National Runs - Artificial Grass Pitch - combined 2014



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply.
4/5/2014 11:29

Theoretical Modeling

7.10 The methodology set out in the Playing Pitch Guidance evaluates the requirement for AGPs for football, hockey and rugby using a variety of techniques including:

- The Sport England FPM
- The FA Pitch Modeling
- Site specific usage analysis.

7.11 The Sport England FPM and FA Pitch Modeling are theoretical modeling tools and are therefore considered first. The findings of these are then overlaid with specific localised issues relating to supply and demand and the site specific usage analysis in order to determine the adequacy of existing provision.

FPM Modeling

7.12 FPM modeling is undertaken annually by Sport England and provides a theoretical overview of the requirements for AGPs in Darlington Borough. The results of this modelling are that:

- in Darlington the population's peak time demand equates to 3.16 pitches operating at full capacity, whilst the borough only actually has the equivalent of 2.81 pitches operating this way across the peak period; and
- As such, Darlington is considered to have a shortfall of provision equivalent to 0.35 pitches. It should be noted however that the borough is not alone in experiencing a shortfall of provision – with all the other comparator authorities (and England and the North East) showing a deficit of provision.

Unmet demand for pitches

- The model suggests that 313 visits per week in the peak period are not currently being met in Darlington
- If it was possible to site a pitch in one place to soak up all of the unmet demand it would only require a further 0.42 pitches to achieve this
- In Darlington's case, 83.7% of unmet demand is due to lack of pitch capacity at peak times to meet demand. The remaining unmet demand is down to demand for AGP's being located outside the catchment area of the existing pitches
- Those areas where unmet is discernibly higher are, Skerne Park, Firthmoor, Northgate, and Branksome / West Park.

How full are the three pitches?

- Darlington's AGPs are used to 100% of capacity during the peak hours that they are open. That is not to say that the AGPs are open across all of the peak hours. There are 34 peak hours for AGP use across a week. Hummersknott is open for 33 of those hours and as a result offers the greatest amount of capacity of the 3 pitches in Darlington

- The pitch at Eastbourne Sports Centre is open for 29.5 hrs of the 34 peak hours and offers the lowest capacity of the 3 pitches.

Conclusions

- The level of unmet demand in borough (combined with the fact that all the existing pitches are modelled to be full for all of the peak) suggests that a further AGP is needed and could be sustained
- The model suggests it should be a football facility (rather than hockey)
- As a short term measure the potential exists to increase the peak time opening hours of each of Darlington's AGPs, and consideration should be given to whether there are barriers to securing this at each of the respective sites.

FA modeling

- 7.13 The FA facility strategy seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches.
- 7.14 The recently released FA vision (November 2014) which is the result of extensive analysis on the facilities used for football (including grass roots) places greater emphasis on the benefits of 3g pitches and their importance for the future delivery of football. The vision seeks to build a sustainable model to ensure that the development of significantly higher numbers of AGPs can happen. In particular, the FA cite the additional capacity that AGPs offer compared to grass and their ability to sustain play during periods of inclement weather, resulting in a reduced number of cancellations.
- 7.15 The vision sets several targets for 2020 including:
- the creation of football hubs in 30 cities – this will include increasing the number of top quality AGPs in urban areas by 130%. These hubs will be owned or managed by a new football organisation or trust;
 - a 50% increase in the total number of full size, publicly accessible 3g AGPs across England, to over 1000; and
 - more than 50% of all mini soccer and youth football matches being played on the best quality AGPs.
- 7.16 In particular, the FA are seeking to relocate 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 football onto AGPs, particularly football that is currently played on Council venues.
- 7.17 FA data modelling evaluates the requirement for 3g pitches to meet the demands of football clubs for midweek training. It assumes that one 3g pitch is required per 56 teams and that based on FA policy, all football should take place on 3g pitches (as opposed to sand). The modelling indicates that there is a requirement for 3 3g AGPs in Darlington Borough to meet current demand. As there are two 3g pitches in the borough, this suggests that current supply is lower than the target level of provision (shortfall of 1 pitch).

The local situation

- 7.18 While the FA modelling and FPM provide a theoretical overview, analysis of actual activity at each of the sites provides a greater indication of the availability of pitches and the

adequacy of provision. It is also important to consider the requirements of each sport in detail to ensure that demand is adequately met and that the balance of facilities between sand and 3g pitches meets needs.

Demand from Hockey Clubs for sand based facilities

7.19 There are two hockey clubs playing within Darlington Borough Boundaries, specifically Darlington Hockey Club and Bishop Auckland Hockey Club. Table 7.2 indicates that there are just 4 adult teams, all playing at Eastbourne Sport Complex. It is clear that there are limited activities for juniors, with no competitive hockey played at these age groups in the borough.

Table 7.2:- Hockey Teams in Darlington Borough

Club	Teams	Location	Competition	Training	Participation Trends
Darlington Hockey Club	Two ladies teams and 1 mens team. Junior training sessions	Eastbourne Sports Complex	Durham Clubs League (Ladies) and North East Hockey League (Men)	Eastbourne Sports Complex (Tuesday evenings)	The club has experienced recent growth, with the creation of an additional ladies team. The club are now hoping to run a further men's team, although this will be dependent upon increasing numbers. Most players are from within the Darlington Borough boundaries, travelling 2 – 5 miles to reach the pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex
Bishop Auckland Hockey Club	1 adult team	Eastbourne Sports Complex	Durham Clubs League (Ladies)	Eastbourne Sports Complex (Wednesday)	Although the club are based in Bishop Auckland they are forced to travel into Darlington due to a lack of sand based facilities in the Bishop Auckland Area. The club believe that without more local pitch provision, they will fold in the next few years as the struggle to source members who are willing to travel.

Club consultation

7.20 Consultation with the hockey clubs reveals that:

- **Darlington Hockey Club** –While the club is able to access the pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex for the required number of hours, the quality of the facility is deteriorating and the pitch surface is becoming poor. There are rips in the surface, some glass / stones litter on the pitch and there is regularly evidence of misuse. The club perceive the quality of pitches to be the key issue; and
- **Bishop Auckland Hockey Club** –The club value the facility at Eastbourne and this is currently their preferred venue. They believe that the pitch quality is adequate for their needs.

7.21 Rush hockey is currently played at Eastbourne Sports Complex with a view to increasing the amount of hockey played in the borough.

7.22 There is no requirement for any use of sand based facilities for the JAC or JDC in Darlington.

Weekend requirements for hockey

7.23 Drawing upon the demand information in Table 7.2. Table 7.3 outlines the current needs of each hockey club in terms of the number of hours booked.

7.24 It considers both midweek training requirements and the need to accommodate match play at weekends. England Hockey guidance suggests that no AGP should be considered able to sustain more than 4 games on any one day.

Table 7.3-: Pitch requirements

Club	Hours Competitive Use per week	Training Hours per Week (hours)	Match Equivalent at Peak Time
Darlington HC	3	2.5	1.5
Bishop Auckland HC	0.75 (1 match every other week)	1	0.5
TOTAL	3.75	3.5	2

7.25 Hockey usage is therefore equivalent to just over 7 hours per week, taking into account both matches and training.

7.26 As England Hockey indicates that an AGP should be considered able to sustain a maximum of four games per day, there is therefore scope to increase demand by four adult teams before capacity would be reached on a Saturday.

Displaced demand

7.27 There is no evidence of displaced demand in the borough however it should be noted that Bishop Auckland HC are displaced from their preferred location into Darlington due to a lack of sand based facilities in their local area.

Football demand

7.28 Football demand for AGPs can be categorised into three areas;

- matchplay (requires use of a 3g pitch that is included on the FA register) – this links with the requirement for grass pitches;
- information / recreational use – pay and play or leagues; and
- training (The FA would like to see all clubs having access to a 3g pitch – they discourage the use of sand based facilities).

Competitive use

7.29 Although there are two 3g pitches within Darlington Borough, analysis of current patterns of play demonstrate that there is little regular use of these pitches for competitive club fixtures, with both sites having availability for hire during the peak periods for competitive play. Both sites are however able to sustain match play, having been awarded with the required certificates and inclusion on the FA register.

7.30 The lack of use of these facilities for competitive fixtures is currently a significant issue for football in the borough, particularly given the pressures on grass pitches. Increased use of such facilities would reduce pressure on the grass pitches as identified in the previous section.

7.31 The current patterns of demand for football means that peak time for 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9, along with adult football is at the same time. This means that while 3g pitches can accommodate multiple matches in a day, reconfiguration of league kick off times would be required to fully maximize the role that AGPs could play.

7.32 Based on current kick off times, there is scope to increase use for 9v9 (up to 4 match equivalents at peak time) and youth football (2 match equivalents at peak time). It is at these age groups where the pressures on grass pitches are most prevalent and usage of AGPs would therefore have greatest benefit. The provision of three 3g AGPs would enable all 9v9 play in the borough to be supported by AGPs.

7.33 An additional 2 - 3 pitches would accommodate all 5v5 and 7v7 activity too. If kick off times were reprogrammed, all 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 activity could therefore be fit onto 3 3g pitches.

7.34 If longer term, greater quantities of activity were focused on 3g pitches, the number of grass pitches required would be reduced.

Informal Leagues

7.35 A new leisure league has recently been set up to take place at Hummersknott School (Tuesday).

Training

7.36 The Martin Gray Football Academy takes place on the sand based pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex (and this site is now the formal home to this academy) as well as on the grass pitches at this site.

- 7.37 Although section 6 recorded some football training taking place on grass pitches, the majority occurs on AGPs at Hummersknott, Longfield Academy and Eastbourne Sports Complex. There is no evidence of teams travelling out of the borough to use other pitches.
- 7.38 Football clubs are split with regards opinions on whether there are sufficient AGPs, with 43% believing that more 3g pitches are required. The key issues raised with regards the current stock of training facilities were that;
- there are perceived to be insufficient 3g pitches; and
 - the cost of AGPs can be prohibitive to use.
- 7.39 In general, the clubs that are satisfied with facilities are those that currently use either Longfield Academy or Hummersknott, while those that are dissatisfied either train on grass or the sand based pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex.

Rugby

- 7.40 Demand from rugby teams for AGPs is currently limited, with little use of AGPs for training or matches. There is some ad hoc use of the facility at Hummersknott.
- 7.41 While both clubs currently train on grass pitches at their home grounds, Darlington Mowden Park RFC are seeking to install a 3g pitch (World Rugby Compliant) inside the Darlington Arena to replace a grass pitch. They see this as a means of increasing the capacity of the site (which has been identified as having a current deficiency in provision) to support the current playing programme as well as providing a high quality venue that can sustain more sports to maximize the potential of the arena. The club see this as a community facility as well as a resource for the rugby club itself.

Adequacy of provision

- 7.42 Analysis of the adequacy of AGPs therefore needs to take into account the requirements of hockey, rugby and football teams.
- 7.43 The supply and demand of AGPs is measured by considering;
- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 17:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00;
 - the amount of play that takes place (measured in hours);
 - whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
 - any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.
- 7.44 Full pitch booking records have been obtained for each site and it is therefore possible to evaluate the usage of each site in detail. Table 7.4 therefore summarises the known usage of each site and also draws upon the findings of consultation to briefly outline the key issues raised in relation to each site.

Table 7.4-: Site specific usage

Site Name	Postcode	Pitch Quality	Peak Hours Availability Midweek	Peak Hours Availability Weekend	Community Usage		Difference	Comparison	Balance (Football / Hockey / Rugby)	Key Issues
					Peak Midweek Hours	Peak Weekend Hours				
Eastbourne Sports Complex	DL1 1LJ	Standard - Poor	18	11.5	12.5	5	5.5 hours available midweek, 5.5 hours available weekend	Potentially about to accommodate additional play	32% hockey midweek, all weekend use is hockey	When used for football, AGP is primarily split into 3 smaller pitches. Hockey use full pitch. Most slots have at least 1/3 pitch used but there is some access available at most timeslots. Pitch is fully booked on Wednesday (hockey) and Friday (Middleton Rangers).
Hummersknott School	DL3 8AR	Good	16.5	14	15.5	7	Only one hour free midweek, but some spare capacity at weekends	Potentially about to accommodate additional play	20% rugby, 80% football	Site is used extensively by football clubs as well as Darlington Rugby Club who have several block bookings. The site is also used by Premier Player (a football academy) and a six a side adult football league.
Longfield Academy	DL3 0HT	Good	15.5	16	12.5	8	3.5 hours free midweek, 8 hours free at weekends	Potentially about to accommodate additional play	100% football	Availability very limited on a Tuesday evening. Good availability Monday evening and Wednesday. There is also capacity Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. AGP is usually split into three smaller pitches although the whole facility can be hired out. Pitch usage can

Site Name	Postcode	Pitch Quality	Peak Hours Availability Midweek	Peak Hours Availability Weekend	Community Usage Peak Midweek Hours	Community Usage Weekend	Difference	Comparison	Balance (Football / Hockey / Rugby)	Key Issues
										vary by the week
Rockcliffe Park	DL2 2DU	Good	0	0	0			n/a		Used by Middlesbrough FC for training purposes.

7.45 Table 7.4 therefore reveals that:

Sand Based Pitches

- There is a small amount of spare capacity at the existing sand based pitch – Eastbourne Sports Complex, with 5.5 hours available midweek and 5.5 hours available at the weekend. Current use of the site however indicates that it is an important venue for hockey, with this being the only use of the facility at weekends and also the main use of the site 2 nights per week. 30% of midweek use is for hockey, and 100% at weekends. As the only sand based surface in the borough, this site is essential for the ongoing growth and development of hockey. This is exacerbated even more so by the lack of sand based facilities in the immediate surrounding areas, forcing Bishop Auckland HC to travel in to the borough to use facilities. Outside of hockey, the remainder of use (70% of weekly peak time usage, as well as the majority of use outside peak hours) is football.

3g pitches

- There is minimal spare capacity at the 3g pitches midweek with just a few slots vacant at Longfield School and very limited spare capacity at Hummersknott (4.5 hours vacant in total midweek). There is therefore limited opportunity to increase the use of these pitches for training. There is however greater availability at weekends with Longfield Academy free on a Saturday and a Sunday afternoon and scope to use both sites for match play. During the peak midweek training hours for clubs, there is however limited opportunities available, meaning that there is no real scope to accommodate teams that are not currently using a 3g pitch.

Need for 3g Pitches

- 7.46 The remaining small amount of spare capacity, coupled with the dissatisfaction of clubs that are unable to access an existing facility, suggests that there is demand for additional access to 3g space for football. Middleton Rangers, Heighington Boys, Mount Pleasant JFC and Darlington TSC all currently train on either grass or sand based pitches.
- 7.47 Darlington Mowden Park RFC are also seeking to replace one of their grass pitches with a 3g stadium pitch to build capacity at the club and to add extra flexibility. There is evidence to support this need, with the existing grass pitches being overplayed and as such, there is insufficient capacity for club growth.
- 7.48 Theoretical demand modelling supports the need for one additional 3g pitch in the borough (either football or rugby or a combination).

Requirement for Sand Based Pitches

- 7.49 Demand from hockey clubs (Table 7.3) equates to a need for a sand based pitch in the borough, to accommodate the 7 hours of activity for Darlington HC and Bishop Auckland per week. The two matches that are played at peak time can both be accommodated on one pitch.
- 7.50 At face value, therefore, the existing facility (Eastbourne Sports Complex) is sufficient to accommodate play in quantitative terms. There are however concerns about the quality of this existing pitch and a need to resurface the site if it is to continue to be suitable to accommodate league play.

Future demand for AGPs

7.51 As well as considering the current requirements for AGPs- it is also necessary to take into account the likely impact of population growth as well as aspirations to increase participation in order to plan for future facility requirements.

Requirement for Sand Based Facilities

Impact of population change on demand for hockey

7.52 For hockey, increases in participation can be measured firstly by Team Generation Rates (TGRs), which indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.

7.53 Table 7.5 summarises the implications of population growth. For the purposes of analysis, it has been assumed that the junior training carried out by Darlington Hockey Club is equivalent to 1 junior male and 1 junior female team. Table 7.5 reveals that because of relatively low levels of hockey participation; population growth will be insufficient to generate an additional team of any type.

Table 7.5:- Impact of changes to the population profile

Sport and Age Groups	Current population in age group within the area	Number of teams in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area (2031)	Change in number of people in age group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group
Hockey Senior Men (16-55yrs)	26942	1	26941.7	27431	489	0.0
Hockey Senior Women (16-55yrs)	28301	3	9433.76	28815	5134	0.1
Hockey Junior Boys (11-15yrs)	3125	1	3124.66	3181	57	0.0
Hockey Junior Girls (11-15yrs)	3282	1	3282.34	3342	60	0.0

7.54 This means that population growth would result in demands for pitches remaining stable – the increased population will mitigate the impact of the ageing population over time.

Changes in participation trends

7.55 While population growth will have limited impact on participation, England Hockey seek to build participation in the sport, with a particular focus placed upon retention of existing players as well as an increase in the number of players aged 14+. In addition to the traditional form of the game, new forms of hockey have also recently been introduced, including Rush Hockey (which is currently played at Eastbourne Sports Complex). These forms do not require formal facilities and can be played on any facility. The impact of their introduction and the rate of transfer to club hockey is not yet known.

7.56 Darlington Hockey Club have an aspiration to increase their club by one team, however there are concerns over the long term sustainability of Bishop Auckland HC. There are therefore limited aspirations for growth in the short term and analysis of participation demonstrates that there is scope to increase the use of Eastbourne Sports Complex both on Saturday (up to 4 teams) and midweek. This suggests that there is sufficient capacity at sand based pitches to meet current demand and that one facility is required to meet future demand.

Future requirement for 3g pitches

7.57 Theoretical modeling indicates that there is a requirement for a minimum of 1 additional 3g pitch to meet current demand. There is however demand from both football and rugby for use of this pitch.

7.58 There are pressures on grass pitches for both football and rugby, and the inclusion of an additional 3g pitch would help to reduce these for both sports, as well as to provide further options for midweek training. The success of this strategy would however rely upon clubs using AGPs for competitive fixtures, which they currently do not.

7.59 Population growth alone is likely to have limited impact on participation in football and rugby, with no full teams formed (although growth will ensure existing levels of participation are maintained, negating the impact of the ageing population profile). Existing clubs for both sports however indicate that there are significant aspirations for growth in future years and there is a belief that pitch supply is constraining demand.

7.60 Aspirations for increases in football represent a potential increase of 38 teams. If this level of increase was to occur, this would lead to a requirement for an additional 0.5 AGP based upon current FA parameters of 56 teams to one pitch. The existing shortfall of 3g pitches would therefore equate to 1.5 pitches.

7.61 Increasing reliance on 3g AGPs for football by the FA may place further emphasis on the need for new provision in future years.

Balancing the requirements of football, rugby and hockey

7.62 Looking at each of the sports in isolation, it is therefore clear that there is a requirement for one sand based facility to meet the needs of hockey, as well as a minimum of one further 3g pitch (three in total) to meet the needs of football / rugby. This may increase depending upon the level of participation growth that takes place over the strategy period.

7.63 While each sport has individual requirements, all needs are interrelated and it is essential that a strategic overview is taken to the provision of AGPs. The provision of a new 3g AGP for example, would have implications for any sand based facility as it is likely to displace existing football users and therefore impact upon the income.

7.64 Table 7.6 therefore summarises the potential options for the provision of a new AGP and outlines the potential implications of each option. It assumes that 3g pitches at Longfield Academy and Hummersknott School remain, as both have only been recently provided. The future of the existing pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex is however considered, as this site requires improvement to pitch quality (through a resurface) if it is to continue to be fit for purpose.

7.65 It seeks to evaluate solutions that would result in a stock of AGPs comprising three 3g AGPs and one sand based pitch. The final option provides a scenario that includes five pitches and directly meets the needs of each club but may result in an oversupply of pitches across the borough.

7.66 A sustainable and strategic approach to the provision of AGPs across the borough is fundamental to future success.

Table 7.6-: Balancing the Requirements for AGPs

Option	Benefits	Key Issues
<p>1) Resurface sand based pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex, new 3g pitch at Darlington Arena</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures ongoing access to sand based pitch for hockey without any continuity issues that would occur if sand based facility was provided elsewhere New 3g pitch located at hub site (Darlington Arena) to address needs of rugby as well as football New 3g pitch would address capacity concerns at existing rugby club site Land and infrastructure is pre-existing Pitch at Darlington Arena may free up a small amount of capacity at Hummersknott School AGP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site is unlikely to have role in meeting needs for football at a weekend due to timing of rugby matches. Level of demand for rugby club will restrict football usage although it is anticipated that there would be some spare capacity to accommodate football during the week Limited amount of spare capacity on 3g pitch for football is likely to see some football use remain on the sand based pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex – this does not meet with FA priorities
<p>2) Retain sand based pitch at Eastbourne (and resurface), new 3g pitch at Carmel College</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New 3g pitch at smaller tier 2 site – supports curricular requirements and has guaranteed use during the day Carmel College is an important community use venue in the town No continuity issues with sand based provision for hockey club as existing site would be resurfaced and would become fit for purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School have preference for sand based pitch and this would therefore not meet their requirements Carmel College located in close proximity to Hummersknott School, which also has a 3g pitch Financial viability at Eastbourne if all football use was transferred to new 3g pitch at Carmel Rugby club would remain overplayed
<p>3) Resurface existing pitch at Eastbourne Complex to 3g, new sand based facility at Carmel College</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3g pitch at Eastbourne will see improved facilities for football clubs already at the Eastbourne site (Middleton Rangers) Links with Martin Gray Football Academy who are based at Eastbourne Sports Complex Sustainability of business model at Eastbourne more viable due to 3g provision New sand based pitch at Carmel supports curricular requirements and has guaranteed use during the day. Links with school priorities Carmel College is an important community use venue in the town Link with school will support a comprehensive programme of hockey development in the town. Hockey location will support growth of sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hockey development plan is critical for Carmel College to ensure that facility is sustainable If suggested actions do not happen quickly, quality of pitch at Eastbourne will be too poor to play hockey. If AGP is resurfaced first there are no alternatives for hockey Would require a workable interim solution for fixtures and training for the two hockey clubs during any capital development at Eastbourne Sports Complex.

Option	Benefits	Key Issues
<p>4) New sand based pitch at Carmel, Resurface pitch at Eastbourne into 3g. New 3g at Darlington Mowden Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated Facilities for each sport • Hockey location may support growth of sport • New 3g football pitch located at football centre – improved capacity for football in matches and training • Capacity issues addressed at rugby club, may become regionally important facility • Reduction of pressures on grass pitches for both football and hockey • Curricular benefits for Carmel College and sand based facility fits in with school priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability of two additional 3g pitches when there is some existing spare capacity, and concerns about the cost of such facilities from some clubs:

7.67 Table 7.6 therefore indicates that there are several options for the delivery of AGPs.

7.68 Work undertaken by Darlington Borough Council and the National Governing Bodies of sport using the above matrix indicates that the preferred delivery option is;

3) - Resurface pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex to 3g pitch and provide a new sand based pitch at Carmel College.

7.69 This option provides the strongest strategic links (facilitating the growth of hockey through links with the school, as well as supporting the development of Eastbourne Sports Complex as a football hub) and is strongly based upon the evidenced demand.

7.70 Darlington Mowden Park Rugby Club will continue to explore the feasibility of providing an additional 3g pitch at the Darlington Arena.

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)

7.71 Supporting the stock of formal AGPs and grass pitches, there are a variety of MUGAs in Darlington. These facilities were identified through a full audit of provision, including analysis of aerial photography and site visits.

7.72 These have been subdivided as follows;

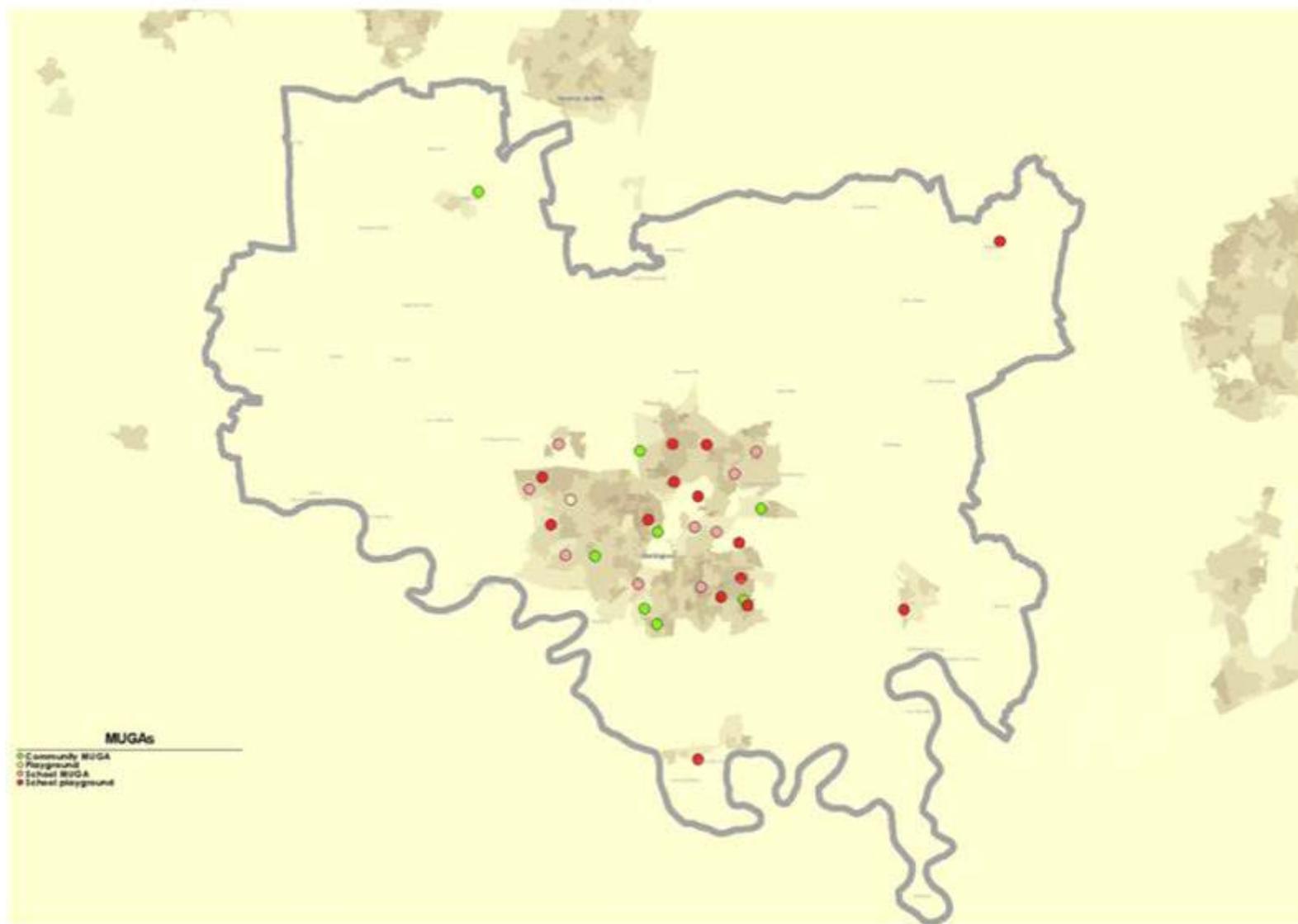
- community MUGAs – MUGAs located in parks / community centres that are in general open access and available to the community – there are eight of these;
- MUGAs at school sites –these are sporting facilities offering multi games opportunities and largely located at secondary schools. There are nine of these facilities; and
- school playgrounds – many of these also have sports markings, but they are largely used for informal recreation. Most are not currently accessible to the community.

7.73 Map 7.2 illustrates that MUGAs are dispersed across the borough, with few gaps in facilities. This is influenced by the location of at least one type of facility at most school sites. Community MUGAs in parks are less well distributed, but remain evenly positioned

around the town. The facility at Heighington is particularly important given the lack of other MUGAs in the area.

- 7.74 It is noticeable that to the north east of the town, there are a cluster of school playgrounds but no community MUGAs. The lack of access to these facilities currently means that this is the clearest gap in provision.

Map 7.2:- Multi use games areas in Darlington Borough



7.75 Table 7.7 provides details of the sites and the level of access.

Table 7.7-: Facilities provided

MUGA ID	Site Name	Facility Type	Comments	Access
1	North Lodge Park	Community MUGA	MUGA in park, low fence at sides more a play facility. Reasonable condition, lines indistinct	Community use
2	North Park	Community MUGA	Full height fencing on park muga marked for a variety of sports.	Community use
3	South Park	Community MUGA	No posts or nets for tennis. Weld mesh fencing around the 2 courts. 1 court has recessed goals, basketball hoops on 1 court	Community use
4	Firthmoor Community Centre	Community MUGA	Community Centre in deprived area. MUGA marked for a variety of sports. Basketball hoops, 5 a side goals on site. Netball marked. Rebound boards and weld mesh fencing. Net missing from one basketball hoop.	Community use
5	Coleridge Centre / Skerne Park	Community MUGA	Part of Sure Start Centre 5 a side goals and marked for a range of sports. Floodlit and well maintained	Community use
6	Red Hall	Community MUGA	Primarily five a side, mainly 5 a side but with basketball hoops, recessed goals, weld mesh fence.	Community use
7	Heighington	Community MUGA	Parish Council MUGA, weld mesh fence recessed goals but no floodlights or rebound boards, extensive car park no pavilion.	Community use
8	Brinkburn	Community MUGA	Site of formerly 3 tennis courts now one converted for basketball in form of MUGA	Community use
9	Cockerton Primary School	Playground	Playground marked out for a range of sports , recent repair some lines gone others indistinct	No access
10	West Park Academy	School MUGA	Loose gravel on surface, no path access across field rebound boards, floodlights but in need of maintenance and painting.	No access
11	Polam Hall School	School MUGA	Located at school site and not currently accessible	No access
12	Carmel Roman Catholic Technology College	School MUGA		Community use
13	Darlington School of Maths and Science	School MUGA		Community use
14	Whinfield Primary School	School MUGA	Very secure site, locked gates. Facility in good condition	Community use

MUGA ID	Site Name	Facility Type	Comments	Access
15	Darlington Education Village	School MUGA	Part of education village, new facility, weld mesh fence surround courts	Community use
16	The Rydal Academy	School MUGA	School site MUGA round the back. Not very visible. BLF funded but no evidence of community use. No tennis posts or nets. Netball posts and basketball equipment and markings.	No access
17	Darlington College	School MUGA	Excellent new facility as part of college. Multi sport	Community use
18	St Aidans Academy	School MUGA	MUGA not available for community use, but in good condition	No community use
19	Hurworth School	School playground	School playground with markings for various sports	No access
20	Corporation Road Primary School	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
21	St Johns Academy	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
22	Bishopton Redmarshall School	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
23	Federation of Abbey Schools	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
24	Federation of Mowden Schools	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
25	Gurney Pease Primary School	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
26	Harrowgate Hill Primary School	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
27	Firthmoor Primary	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
28	Heathfield Primary School	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
29	Mount Pleasant Primary School	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
30	Northwood Primary School	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
31	St Bedes Primary School	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access

MUGA ID	Site Name	Facility Type	Comments	Access
32	St Georges Academy	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access
33	St Therasas RC Primary School	School playground	School playground with netball markings and some informal games markings	No access

7.76 In addition to the above, planning permission has been granted for provision at Hurworth Primary School and Harrowgate Hill primary School but these are not yet built.

Adequacy of current provision

7.77 There are no quantitative means of measuring the adequacy of MUGAs. It is clear however from analysis of the use of the existing facilities and from discussions with clubs and National Governing Bodies, that community MUGAs are used almost entirely for informal activity, while facilities at school sites primarily meet school curricular need, with relatively limited hire for training etc (other than where these facilities provide tennis courts etc). There is little sporting activity at these sites and no evidence of further requirement from a sporting perspective.

7.78 While some football clubs identify a lack of training facilities, FA priorities are for this activity to take place on 3g pitches and there is therefore only a limited role moving forwards for MUGAs in meeting demand for football.

Quality of existing provision

7.79 Site visits were undertaken to MUGAs across the borough. These revealed that:

- the condition of MUGAs was generally good, with some sites particularly well maintained. There were however examples of litter and misuse, primarily on the open access facilities;
- the playing surface of most facilities was good and this was the highest rated attribute across MUGAs. Litter and the quality of equipment were the lowest rated features;
- while the quality of equipment at school site MUGAs was also limited, fewer issues were identified with litter and misuse, while the remaining factors were consistent. Facilities on school sites were in general however of higher quality than the community use facilities at parks; and
- North Park, Redhall Community Centre and the Coleridge Centre are the only community sites to contain floodlights – a lack of floodlights limits the use of facilities (or potential use of facilities not currently available for the community), particularly during the winter months. Darlington College, West Park Academy, Rydal Academy and Darlington Education village also contained floodlights.

7.80 The appendices contain a full list of all sites and outlines the quality issues identified.

Accessibility

7.81 While all facilities at community sites are fully accessible all of the time, facilities at school sites are more restricted. Those that are accessible are only available for a fee and they therefore accommodate more organised activity. The majority of school playgrounds are not accessible. There is therefore a large stock of potential resource

which could be tapped into. This suggests that access improvements are the key priority, rather than the provision of additional facilities.

- 7.82 The existing distribution of provision means that there are no clear geographical gaps in access and no definitive requirement therefore for additional provision.

Summary

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
<p>Supply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are four full sized AGPs, of which 3 are accessible to the community. The facility at Rockcliffe Park (Middlesbrough FC training ground) is used primarily by the club although it is occasionally let out (for example for England training). Two of the full size pitches are 3g facilities while the remaining pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex is sand based. All pitches are floodlit so they can be used evenings as well as weekends and the capacity of the facilities is therefore maximized. • Both 3g pitches (Hummersknott School and Longfield Academy) are good quality and have been recently provided. Both are currently on the FA register of pitches meaning that they are approved for match use as well as training • The sand based pitch surface at Eastbourne Sports Complex is poor (with rips) and requires replacement • Provision is well distributed across Darlington Borough. While Longfield Academy is located to the north of the town, Hummersknott Academy is situated to the west. Eastbourne Sports Complex, the only sand based facility, is located to the east. 	<p>There is an overall requirement for 3 x 3g pitch (football and rugby) and 1 x hockey pitch. Additional 3g pitch required to meet this target. This is supported by minimal spare capacity remaining at existing pitches.</p> <p>The existing sand based facility is of insufficient quality to sustain hockey and requires refurbishment or replacement.</p> <p>A 3g pitch is also viewed as a potential opportunity to address capacity issues at Darlington Mowden Park RFC.</p>
<p>Demand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two hockey clubs playing in the borough at Eastbourne Sports Complex (Darlington Hockey Club and Bishop Auckland Hockey Club). There is limited junior participation, but demand is equivalent to 2 matches at peak time (Saturday PM). England Hockey indicates that one pitch is able to sustain up to 4 matches in a day and therefore one pitch is required to meet peak time demand. Hockey usage is therefore equivalent to just over 7 hours per week, taking into account both matches and training. Population growth is unlikely to see this demand increase but club development may impact on requirements if the number of teams grows. • 3g pitches can be used for competitive fixtures, as well as for informal football and training. They can 	

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<p>also be used for rugby if they are compliant with World Rugby specifications. The new FA strategy seeks to ensure that all clubs have access to a 3g pitch for training and they discourage the use of sand based facilities. Both 3g pitches in Darlington are used for training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA modelling indicates that there is a requirement for 3 pitches to meet current demand from football clubs. While many football clubs currently use one of the two existing 3g pitches for training, Middleton Rangers, Heighington Boys, Mount Pleasant JFC and Darlington TSC all currently train on either grass or sand based pitches. Football clubs are split with regards opinions on whether there are sufficient AGPs, with 43% believing that more 3g pitches are required. In general, the clubs that are satisfied with facilities are those that currently use either Longfield Academy or Hummersknott, while those that are dissatisfied either train on grass or the sand based pitch. Football clubs also raise concerns about the cost of 3g AGPs. Darlington Mowden Park RFC are seeking to install a 3g pitch (World Rugby Compliant) inside the Darlington Arena to replace a grass pitch. They see this as a means of increasing the capacity of the site (which has been identified as having a current deficiency in provision) to support the current playing programme as well as providing a high quality venue that can sustain more sports to maximize the potential of the arena. The club sees this as a community facility as well as a resource for the rugby club itself. Carmel College have also expressed an aspiration for a sand based pitch, indicating that this is required for curricular purposes. 	
<p>Adequacy of Provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport England FPM modelling reveals that there is unmet demand for AGPs within the borough and that all existing facilities are used to capacity. It suggests that there is demand for one additional 3g pitch. Reflecting the findings of the Sport England FPM, FA demand modelling also indicates that there is a shortfall of one 3g pitch in the borough. There is a small amount of spare capacity at the existing sand based pitch, with 5.5 hours available midweek and 5.5 hours available at the weekend. 30% of midweek peak use is for hockey, and 100% at weekends. Outside of hockey, the remainder of use (70% of weekly peak time usage, as well as the majority of use outside peak hours) is football. There is minimal spare capacity at the 3g pitches midweek with just a few slots vacant at Longfield School and very limited spare capacity at Hummersknott (4.5 hours vacant in total midweek). There is therefore limited opportunity to increase the use of these pitches for training and evidence of demand 	

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<p>for existing facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is however greater availability at weekends on 3g pitches, with spare capacity on a Saturday and a Sunday afternoon and scope to use both sites for match play. Future growth in football (through club aspirations) may result in demand for an additional 0.5 pitches, generating an overall requirement for 1.5 additional 3g pitches. Of particular note, neither 3g pitch is currently used for football match play. These facilities represent a significant opportunity to increase capacity and reduce pressure on grass pitches. • All hockey activity takes place on the sand based pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex and clubs are able to access facilities at the time that they require. The Martin Gray Football Academy takes place on the sand based pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex (and this site is now the formal home to this academy) as well as on the grass pitches at this site. The quality of this pitch is however poor and is unsuitable to sustain hockey. Resurface or replacement is required in the short term to ensure that the pitch remains suitable for use. • It is therefore clear that there is a requirement to provide an improved sand based facility as well as an additional 3g pitch. • There are several options for the delivery of these facilities, with Carmel College expressing demand for a sand based facility, as well as Darlington Mowden Park Rugby Club seeking a 3g pitch. The poor condition of the surface at Eastbourne Sports Complex also provides an opportunity to review the surface at this facility. As a football hub with an array of grass pitches, there is a strong justification for the provision of a 3g pitch at this site. This would however require careful relocation of the sand based pitch to ensure continuity for hockey. Relocation of the hockey club to the Carmel College School site would provide further developmental opportunities for hockey and enable the growth of school club links. 	
<p>Key Issues to Address - Summary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for an additional 3g AGP in the borough and this is supported by theoretical modelling, as well as on the ground capacity analysis. • To support the needs of hockey, a sand based AGP is also required. The facility at Eastbourne Sports Complex needs a replacement surface and will shortly become unsuitable for club use until a replacement surface is provided. Although separate facilities, the needs of the hockey club are linked with the requirement for a new 3g AGP, as it is likely that this would displace demand from the sand 	

based facility. Continuity in provision would also be essential to ensure that there is no short or long term impact on hockey.

- There are several options for the delivery of this facility, with Darlington Mowden Park RFC keen to provide a facility on their site, Carmel College looking for a sand based pitch and the Council also keen to refurbish Eastbourne Sports Complex, potentially with a 3g AGP as opposed to a sand based surface. The delivery of facilities of each surface are therefore interrelated.
- As a football hub with an array of grass pitches, there is a strong justification for the provision of a 3g pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex. This would however require careful relocation of the sand based pitch to ensure continuity for hockey. Relocation of the hockey club to the Carmel College School site would however provide further developmental opportunities for hockey and enable the growth of school club links. Further work by the NGBs of sport suggest that this is the preferred solution
- The proposed business model of Darlington Mowden Park RFC is thought to rely on the facility also hosting football clubs, although it will address capacity issues with grass pitches at Darlington Mowden Park RFC. Depending upon rugby requirements, the provision of a pitch at this site may offer insufficient opportunities for football to meet the unmet demand, while a further pitch elsewhere in the borough is likely to reduce the number of football clubs using a facility at the rugby club and potentially make a facility at the rugby club unsustainable. The feasibility of provision of a new 3g AGP at this site would need to be considered in the context of other facilities.

MUGAs		
Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 8 MUGAs at community venues, and 9 at school sites that are used for formal sports activities. The remaining facilities are located on school sites and are primarily playgrounds rather than traditional MUGAs. All facilities on public sites are accessible free of charge at all times. In contrast, school facilities must be paid for and therefore accommodate only formal sporting activities The condition of MUGAs is generally good, with some sites particularly well maintained. There were however examples of litter and misuse, primarily on the open access facilities. Fewer issues were identified on school sites. North Park, Redhall Community Centre and the Coleridge Centre are the only community sites to contain floodlights – a lack of floodlights limits the use of facilities (or potential use of facilities not currently available for the community), particularly during the winter months. Darlington College, West Park Academy, Rydal Academy and Darlington Education village also contained floodlights. 	
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no formal measures of demand for MUGAs. The comprehensive stock of MUGAs means that there is a good level of access to facilities for residents across all areas of the borough. Most residents are within an appropriate catchment of facility, although some of these are school sites. 	
Adequacy of Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no supply and demand models available to measure the adequacy of MUGAs. The comprehensive stock of MUGAs means that there is a good level of access to facilities for residents across all areas of the borough and there is little evidence of further requirement from a sporting perspective. The quality of facilities does however in some instances restrict the use of facilities. Improvements to the existing stock of facilities may also be important to support ongoing curricular activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Park Academy – maintenance and improvements required North Park – equipment missing
Key Issues to Address - Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no clear issues for MUGAs, with no evidence that additional facilities are required from a community benefit. MUGAs are however important facilities for curricular benefit at school sites. Several sites in the borough would benefit from qualitative improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required qualitative improvements

8: Indoor and Outdoor Tennis

Introduction

- 8.1 This section assesses the adequacy of tennis provision in Darlington Borough by presenting an overview of supply (quantity, quality, accessibility and availability) and an overview of demand, for both outdoor and indoor courts. The key findings are then summarised, alongside the issues to be addressed. Strategic priorities are also highlighted.

Outdoor provision - overview of supply

Quantity

- 8.2 There are 30 active tennis courts with public /community access across Darlington Borough currently and these are located at ten sites. Two of these sites are club based and one is located at a hotel. The remainder are split between secondary school sites (5) and public sites (2). The public sites are the only facilities that are available free of charge. The only floodlit courts are located at Blackwell Lawn Tennis Club (4), Longfield Academy (5) and Darlington Education Village (3).
- 8.3 There are also 7 courts at Polam Hall School and Hurworth School, neither of which are currently available for public use (although there is a planning condition on public access at Hurworth School).
- 8.4 The facilities that are available are set out in Table 8.1 below.

Table 8.1-: Tennis courts in Darlington Borough

Site	Total Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Access Arrangements
Carmel Roman Catholic Technology College	1	1	Court on MUGA, which is available for hire
Darlington School of Maths and Science	3	0	Facilities available but not advertised for hire
Longfield Academy	5	5	Available for hire
Darlington Education Village	3	3	Courts located on MUGA and available for hire
Redworth Hall Hotel and Leisure Club	2	0	Open to club members
Stanhope Park	2	0	Open (free) access
Wellfield Tennis Club	3	0	Access for club members but pay and play also permitted
Blackwell New Lawn Tennis Club	6	4	Club members only. Members are allowed to sign in visitors
Brinkburn Dene Tennis Courts	2	0	Open (free) access
Hummersknott	3	0	Available for hire

Site	Total Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Access Arrangements
Academy			
Hurworth School	2	0	Available for public use through a planning condition but not always open for access in practice
Polam Hall School	5	0	No public access

8.5 There have been some changes to the stock of tennis courts since the 2009 strategy, with the loss of one court at Brinkburn Dene – this has been turned into a basketball court and the loss of courts at South Park – there are no longer tennis posts on site (although the MUGA on which the courts were based remain).

Quality

8.6 Site visits to tennis courts were undertaken during the summer and feedback was also gathered from providers and users. Full site assessment scores can be found in the appendices. Table 8.2 summarises the key issues arising from analysis of the quality of facilities. It clearly demonstrates that the quality of public courts is poor (impacted by the location of these sites in public venues which are always accessible) while the school facilities are more varying. Club bases offer the highest standard of provision.

Table 8.2:- Quality of tennis courts across Darlington Borough.

Site	Ownership/ Management	Site Visit Comment	Club Comment	Overall Quality
Carmel Roman Catholic Technology College	Education (Academy)	Poor condition		Poor
Darlington School of Maths and Science	Facilities available but not advertised for hire			Standard
Longfield Academy	Available for hire	Facilities of excellent quality		Standard
Darlington Education Village	Courts located on MUGA and available for hire	Excellent tennis courts located on MUGA and surrounded by strong wire mesh. Equipment well maintained and site litter free		Good
Redworth Hall Hotel and Leisure Club	Open to club members	Courts within hotel complex. Surface of only average quality but adequate line markings and fencing n/a		Standard
Stanhope Park	Open (free) access	No nets at time of site visit which was during the summer months (tennis season). Some litter evident n/a		Poor
Wellfield Tennis Club	Access for club members but pay and play also permitted	Good quality tennis courts with good equipment. More limited	Club believe that courts will soon require resurfacing. Netting around edge of courts also requires maintenance. Changing and	Standard

Site	Ownership/ Management	Site Visit Comment	Club Comment	Overall Quality
		storage. No dedicated parking – only spaces are in adjacent pub. No lighting limits evening use	pavilion also require improvement. Lack of parking	
Blackwell New Lawn Tennis Club	Club members only. Members are allowed to sign in visitors	Excellent well maintained facilities. Limited opportunities for spectating and minimal storage.		Good
Brinkburn Dene Tennis Courts	Open (free) access	Open access site limited by extensive litter. Large number of youths playing football at time of site visit although facilities were of average quality.		Poor
Hummersknott Academy	Available for hire	School indicate that facilities are now 6 years old but still in good condition		Standard
Hurworth School	Available for public use through a planning condition but not always open for access in practice	Facilities of good to average quality, located on Multi Use Games area but school indicate that they are marked all year around		Standard

8.7 It is clear therefore that there is a degree of variation in the quality of courts, with school sites and public facilities of lower quality than the club sites. There are however quality issues also identified with the club sites.

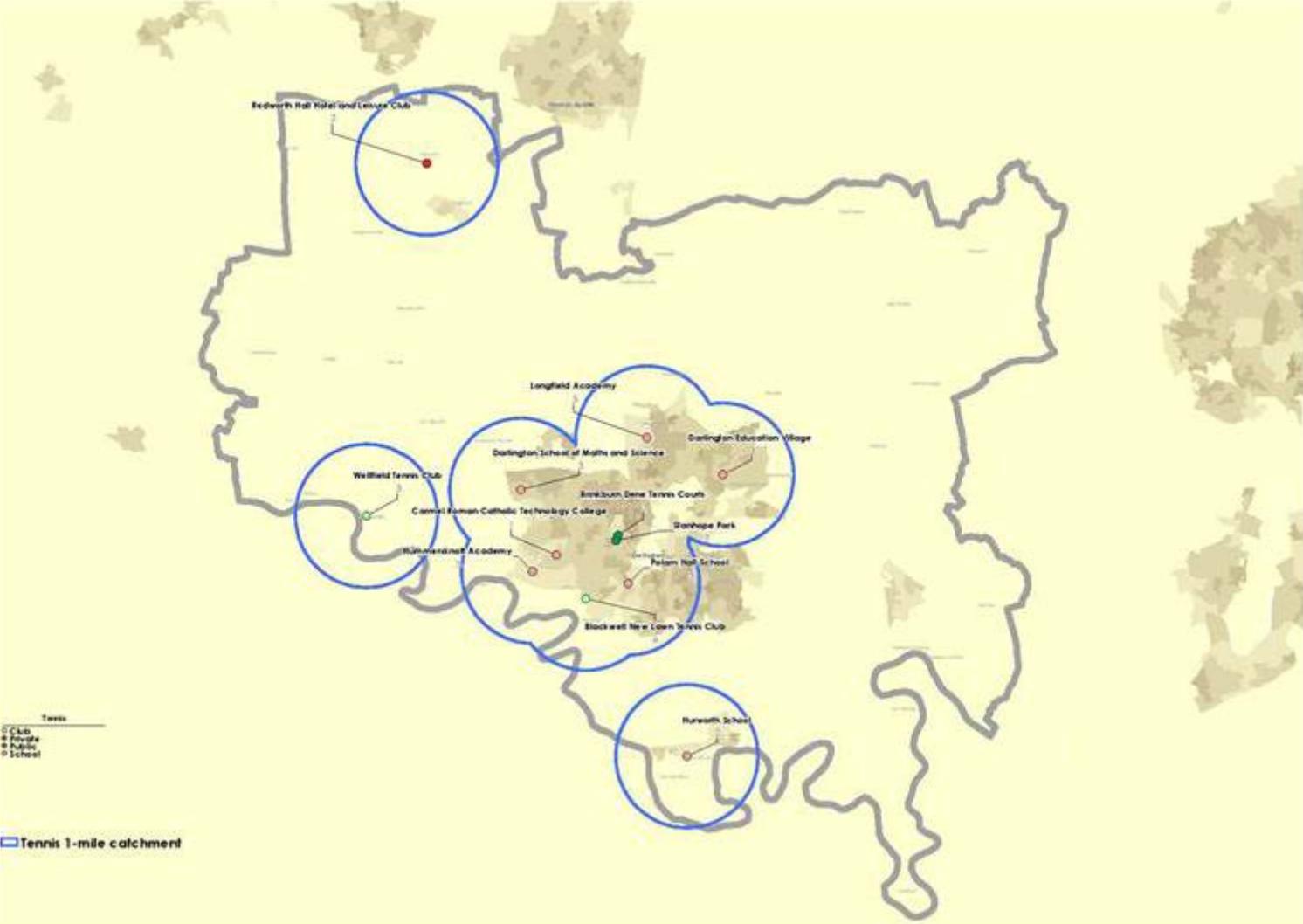
Accessibility

8.8 Map 8.1 illustrates the location of all sites containing tennis courts, with a 3 mile catchment around each club facility and a 1 mile catchment around each local facility. This reveals that almost all residents of the borough are located within 1 mile of tennis courts that are accessible.

8.9 It indicates that;

- almost all tennis courts with community use available are located to the west of the town. Only Darlington Education Village is situated in the east of the town centre. Many residents in the east of the town therefore do not have local access to existing facilities; and
- Stanhope Park and Brinkburn Dene, the two public facilities that are currently available, are located in very close proximity to each other. These are the only free to access sites.

Map 8.1:- Outdoor tennis courts in Darlington Borough



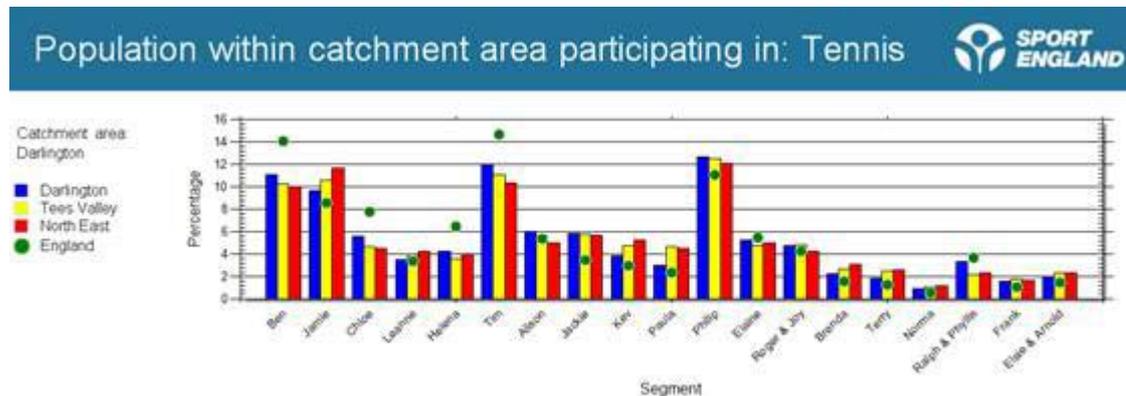
Demand

- 8.10 Active People analysis indicates that nationally, the proportion of residents playing tennis is declining. While at the time of AP 1, 1.12% of the adult population was participating, this has now decreased to 0.94%. More locally, the percentage of adults across Darlington who play tennis is represented in map and bar chart form and set out in Map 8.2 and Chart 8.1.

Map 8.2:- Percentage and location of the Darlington Borough adult population who play tennis



Chart 8.1:- Profile of the market segments who participate in tennis



- 8.11 The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- between 1.5 and 2.7% of residents of the borough play tennis. Participation is lowest in Darlington town (below 2%) and above 2% in the more rural - This does not correlate directly with the distribution of tennis courts – most courts are provided in the urban area; and
- tennis is played across both sexes and that the age of participants is much more widespread than for most other sports considered. In total 1581 people across the borough play tennis, and participation at least once per month is highest by Philip, Tim, Ben and Jamie. While the dominant participants are similar to those playing other sports, it is clear that tennis provides an effective way of engaging residents who do not participate in some other sports considered within this assessment. The more widespread participation profile also suggests that the impact of the ageing population will be less noticeable on participation in tennis than other sports. The proportion of people in the Philip category is particularly

high in Darlington compared to national averages, while the proportion of older residents playing is also higher than national levels.

- 8.12 The Active People analysis of the percentage of adults who would like to play tennis is set out in Map 8.3 and Chart 8.2. Map 8.3 reveals that propensity to play tennis is varied across the borough, with residents in Darlington town having a lower propensity to play (and reflecting current participation patterns). It does however demonstrate that there are areas to the north and south of the town currently, many of which contain existing tennis courts (South Park / Harrowgate Hill / Hummersknott) that have a higher propensity to play than are currently doing so.
- 8.13 Chart 8.2 illustrates that those that do not currently play but would like to are in similar groups to current participants, but that there is particular latent demand from Jackie and Leanne as well as Jamie, Tim and Philip. Initiatives to increase participation could therefore be targeted towards these groups.

Map 8.3:- Percentage and location of the adult population who would like to play tennis

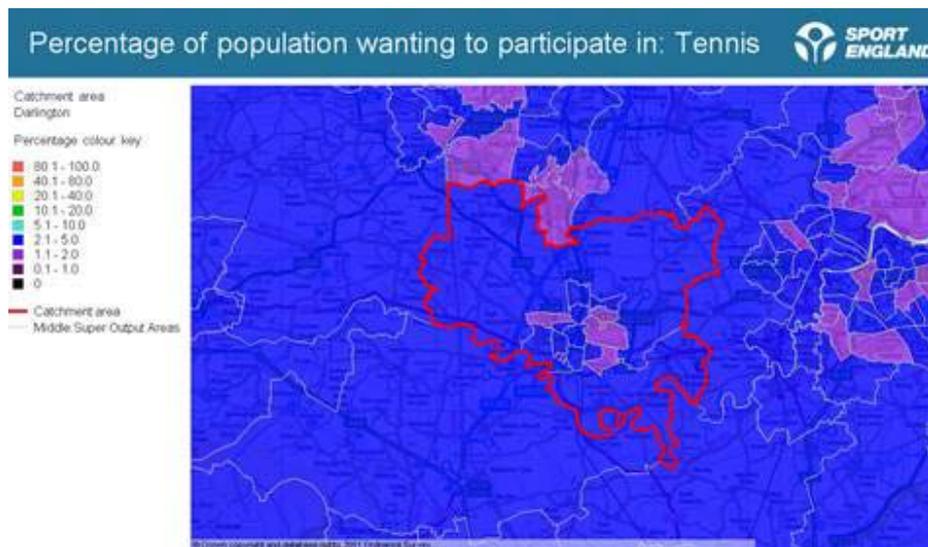
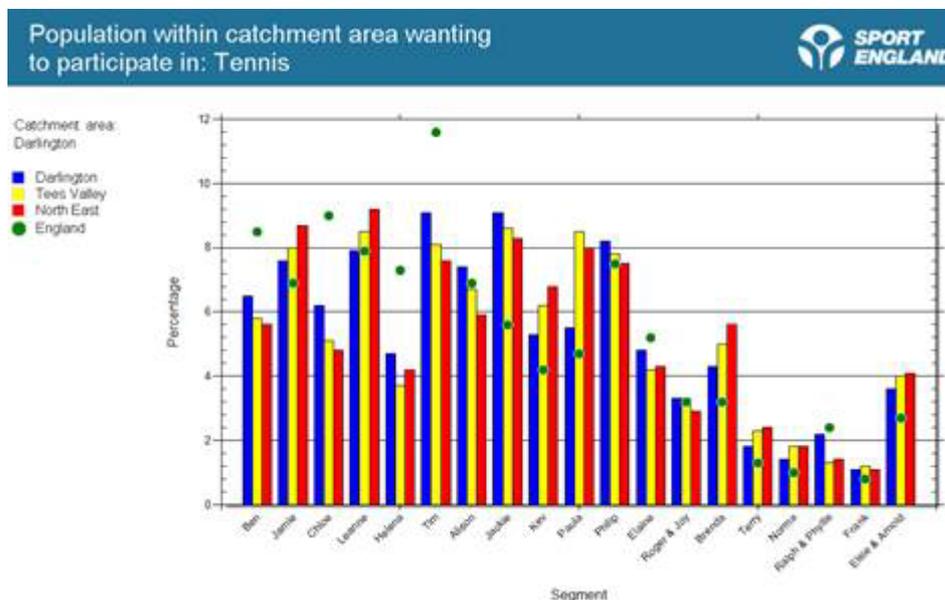


Chart 8.2:- Profile of the market segments who would like to participate in tennis



8.14 Significantly therefore, tennis is also the only sport where there are more that would like to play than do actually play (1828 people would like to play). This suggests there is a high level of latent demand for tennis and the potential to capitalise on this to increase participation.

Existing participation - clubs

8.15 There are two formal tennis clubs in Darlington Borough. These clubs and their membership trends are summarised in Table 8.2. It is clear that both clubs are experiencing fluctuating membership. While facilities in public parks are free access, both clubs have membership fees for both adults and juniors. Most school sites are available for pay and play.

Table 8.3-: Tennis clubs in Darlington

Club Name	Activities Available	Membership Numbers	Participation Trends
Wellfield Tennis Club	Competitive play, casual play, coaching and mini tennis	107 (of which 28% are junior members)	Club have experienced a slight decline in membership, primarily due to people moving away from the area. LTA analysis of participation trends reflects decline in club membership. From a peak in 2009, this has now declined and is even with levels in 2005
New Blackwell Tennis Club	Competitive play, casual play, coaching and mini tennis	178 adult members and 70 junior members, 17 children. 265 in total	Club indicate that membership availability for adults is usually at capacity and that a short waiting list is reviewed every April. LTA participation trends indicate that club has experienced decline in membership between 2005 and 2014. This is in reverse to national trends. Club seeking to grow participation

NGB priorities

8.16 The LTA are currently preparing a national facilities strategy, Informed by recent customer segmentation work and market analysis, including the identification of current, latent and potential future demand, the LTA's tennis plans for 2013-17 include:

- priority areas: working with partners in priority areas to develop bottom up tennis development plans to offer more opportunities for people to play tennis;
- parks: maximising the use of park sites to increase regular participation through the development of local authority and partnerships with other providers;
- clubs: Driving participation in clubs by supporting 'traditional' clubs to keep more people playing tennis through optimised programming and consumer offers;
- disability: To inspire and engage more disabled people in tennis, and develop a stronger infrastructure and tennis network for disabled players;
- young people: 14-25yrs will benefit from adapted product offers, more after school provision, including satellite clubs, as well as a significant expansion of the varied tennis options for FE and HE students, already trialed in 2011-13; and

- talent: to support, and continuously improve, tennis' talent ID and development structures.
- 8.17 Strategic Whole Sport Plan facilities investment will support and facilitate the delivery of the above programmes. It will be largely focused in the priority areas to address gaps or improve provision where critical to park or community programmes.
- 8.18 More locally in the North East, the Durham Tennis Association emphasise the importance of community provision, highlighting that 40% of tennis now takes place in community places – parks, leisure centres etc.
- 8.19 The Durham LTA also highlight the need to raise awareness of the availability of tennis courts, highlighting that research has demonstrated that 43% of residents in the north East do not know where local tennis facilities are located. This may be a contributing factor to the lower than average levels of participation recorded in some areas of Darlington.

Adequacy of provision

- 8.20 There are no demand models to measure the adequacy of outdoor tennis courts and adequacy of provision is measured by evaluating all information collated and the use of some baseline parameters.
- 8.21 Active People surveys reveal that across Darlington Borough, 1581 people currently participate in tennis however a further 1828 people would like to play. This significant latent demand is spread across different population groups and both genders and therefore offers a strong opportunity to promote physical activity in the town. Active People therefore suggests that there is an overall potential tennis playing population of 3409.
- 8.22 This level of participation is significantly higher than current levels of club membership (372 club members in total) suggesting that it represents either an overestimate of participation, or that the amount of pay and play / casual access activity is very high across the town. LTA research demonstrates that circa 40 – 50% of play takes place at community venues, suggesting that the Active People surveys represent perhaps the maximum possible levels of current demand and that the approximate playing population in Darlington is 744 people.
- 8.23 While there are no formal standards or measures for the amount of facilities required, the LTA have however derived indicative standards relating to the capacity of a court to provide an indication of the number of courts required. Alongside these parameters, other elements should be taken into account including tennis development, club structure and sustainability.
- 8.24 These broad figures can however be applied (drawing firstly upon data collated as part of the Active People Programme) to the estimated tennis playing population (taking into account latent demand) to give an indication of the adequacy of provision as follows;
- based upon an assumed standard of 1 court per 45 participants (not floodlit) and 1 court per 60 players (floodlit), the existing stock of active outdoor courts that are available for community use will serve 1605 players.. According to Active People, there are 1580 existing players meaning that the stock of facilities is sufficient and almost directly matches demand; and
 - if latent demand (according to Active People) was to be realized, provision would fall below the levels required. Given that the existing facilities serve 1605

players, a total playing population of 3409 people would theoretically require an additional 40 courts (depending upon the provision of floodlights this may reduce slightly).

- 8.25 This is a significant amount of additional provision. It is not possible to precisely measure the use of existing facilities, as park facilities provided by Darlington BC are accessible free of charge and usage is not monitored. Anecdotally however, there is scope to increase the use of existing facilities. All school sites with tennis courts currently accessible to the community also indicated that there is scope to increase the use of courts at their sites. This suggests that the provision of additional courts to meet with the above estimates at the current point in time would have minimal impact as better use could be made of existing resources.
- 8.26 The capacity of the club bases within the borough can be measured using the LTA parameters – this is set out in Table 8.5 below. It reveals that the current clubs have capacity for 440 players and current membership equates to 372. The facilities available are particularly restricting at Wellfield TC, where there is space for just 13 members. This is echoed by the club, who reveal that they have difficulties accommodating all players on club nights and that their facilities are becoming constrained (both court and ancillary facilities). While Blackwell LTC has a slightly greater level of spare capacity, this is also relatively limited.

Table 8.4-: Capacity of each club

Site Name	Court Capacity - Floodlit	Court Capacity - None Floodlit	Total Capacity	Membership	Comment
Wellfield Tennis Club	0	120	120	107	Space to accommodate new members – but only 13
Blackwell Lawn Tennis Club	240	80	320	265	Space to accommodate new members – additional 55

- 8.27 Overall therefore, there is capacity to increase tennis activity across the borough and in particular, there is scope to increase usage of school and public facilities. Facilities at club bases are more tightly matched with demand and may require investment longer term.
- 8.28 Instead, effort should be made to increase use of existing facilities and to maximize the role that tennis can play in increasing overall levels of participation in sport and physical activity.
- 8.29 The quality of facilities is also an increasingly important component of provision, with potential participants more likely to be attracted to a higher quality facility.

Impact of population growth

- 8.30 The wider range of participants in tennis means that population growth may have a greater impact than for other sports. Assuming that 50% of participants play casually (and unmonitored) total participation, taking into account current club membership equates to 744 people (while Active People suggests that it is double this). This represents 0.7% of the population.

- 8.31 Assuming that participation remains constant at 0.7% and applying this to future growth forecasts, there would be an increase in demand of 9 people. This could be accommodated within the existing club and public infrastructure.
- 8.32 While the stock of facilities is therefore sufficient (although some improvements to club bases may be required) it is clear that levels of participation are lower than may be expected, even taking into account the lower propensity to participate and many facilities are underused. In particular, there is scope to increase use of all school facilities.

Indoor provision

- 8.33 There are no indoor tennis courts in Darlington. Darlington is not a priority for indoor tennis development for the LTA. As set out the focus for development is on outdoor provision on park and community sites.

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
<p>Supply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 30 tennis courts with public access at 10 sites and a further 7 courts that do not offer public access. There has been a loss of three courts (South Park x 2 and one at Brinkburn Dene) since the previous strategy, all at Council managed sites. These facilities are no longer provided as tennis courts due to a lack of use. • There is significant variation in the quality of tennis courts, with provision at the club bases of much higher quality than at public venues, where the quality is generally poor (particularly the court surface). The standard of facilities at school sites is varying. The poor condition of public venues is particularly critical, as the LTA highlight improved use of park venues as a key priority moving forwards. • The key quality identified in the borough issues relate to the court surface and line markings. Many public venues also suffer from litter and misuse. • Public tennis courts are available free of charge, while there is a pay and play fee for all school sites and an annual membership for club bases. This means that there are a variety of opportunities available to play tennis. • Almost all tennis courts with community use available are located to the west of the town. Many residents in the east of the town therefore do not have local access to existing facilities. Only Darlington Education Village is situated in the east of the town centre and this is therefore an important site. The existing distribution of facilities does not correlate directly with areas of the borough where residents have the higher propensity to participate – provision is primarily located in the urban areas but residents in the more rural surrounds are more likely to play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential additional courts (or capacity through floodlighting) required for Wellfield Tennis Club / New Blackwell Tennis Club • Both Brinkburn Dene and Stanhope Park are relatively poor quality. There is a need to increase usage at park sites and qualitative improvements may be a key part of this • There are also site specific improvements required at Blackwell Lawn Tennis Club and Wellfield Tennis Club • Courts at Carmel College are poor • There is a highlighted lack of awareness of the location of tennis courts
<p>Demand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis is played across both sexes and that the age of participants is much more widespread than for most other sports considered. While the dominant participants are similar to those playing other sports, it is clear that tennis provides an effective way of engaging residents who do not enjoy other sports. • There are two tennis clubs (New Blackwell LTC and Wellfield LTC) that have a combined membership of 372 courts. These clubs offer a more formal type of participation. • Active People surveys reveal that 1581 people currently participate in tennis however a further 1828 people would like to play. This significant latent demand is spread across different population groups 	

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<p>and both genders and therefore offers a strong opportunity to promote physical activity in the town. Active People therefore suggests that there is an overall potential tennis playing population of 3409. LTA research demonstrates that circa 40 – 50% of play takes place at community venues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Durham LTA also highlight the need to raise awareness of the availability of tennis courts, highlighting that research has demonstrated that 43% of residents in the north East do not know where local tennis facilities are located. This may be a contributing factor to the lower than average levels of participation recorded in some areas of Darlington. 	
<p>Adequacy of Provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LTA have derived indicative standards relating to the capacity of a court to provide an indication of the number of courts required. Based upon this assumed standard of 1 court per 45 participants (not floodlit) and 1 court per 60 players (floodlit), the existing stock of active outdoor courts that are available for community use will serve 1590 players. According to Active People, there are 1580 existing players meaning that the stock of facilities is directly correlated with demand. If latent demand (according to Active People) was to be realized, provision would fall below the levels required. Population growth in addition to the realization of latent demand would also see the stock of facilities become insufficient using theoretical modelling as a basis for analysis. Current clubs have capacity for 440 players and current membership equates to 372 again suggesting that the amount of facilities is sufficient. The facilities available are particularly restricting at Wellfield TC, where there is space for just 13 members. This is echoed by the club, who reveal that they have difficulties accommodating all players on club nights and that their facilities are becoming constrained (both court and ancillary facilities). While Blackwell LTC has a slightly greater level of spare capacity, this is also relatively limited. Despite the close match between supply and demand, all schools indicate that they have capacity to increase the use of their courts and there is also some (albeit restricted) capacity at the clubs. Courts at park sites are also believed to be underused. Levels of use of existing facilities therefore indicate that there is no requirement for additional provision and instead that focus should be placed on improving use of existing courts. More locally in the North East, the Durham Tennis Association emphasize the importance of community provision, highlighting that 40% of tennis now takes place in community places – parks, leisure centres etc. The Durham LTA also highlight the need to raise awareness of the availability of tennis courts, highlighting that research has demonstrated that 43% of residents in the north East do not know where 	

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
Key Issues to Address - Summary	<p>local tennis facilities are located.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are sufficient tennis courts overall offering a variety of access arrangements. There is however little remaining spare capacity at club venues, and scope to increase use of school facilities as well as courts in public parks. There is a need to improve facilities at the tennis clubs, with Wellfield LTC requiring improvement to both the pavilion and court surface. • The condition of facilities in public parks is limited and the courts are underused. LTA research across the country however indicates that 40% of activities now take place in community places rather than clubs, meaning that these facilities are a key component of the overall tennis stock. Despite this, use of school facilities is also limited and there is significant scope to make better use of the stock of facilities. • Tennis provides a strong opportunity to increase participation across the borough, with a high quantity of latent demand evident. To realize this however, the LTA prioritise the need to raise awareness of the availability of tennis courts. It is therefore essential that the future provision of tennis courts and qualitative improvements are linked with programmes of use and awareness raising. • There are no indoor tennis courts in Darlington. Darlington is not a priority for indoor tennis development for the LTA. As set out the focus for development is on outdoor provision on park and community sites. 	

9: Indoor and Outdoor Bowling

Introduction

- 9.1 This section assesses the adequacy of bowls provision in Darlington by presenting an overview of supply (quantity, quality, accessibility and availability) and an overview of demand, for both outdoor and indoor greens respectively.

Outdoor bowls

Supply

- 9.2 Table 9.1 summarises the stock of bowling greens. It reveals that there are 7 sites containing functional outdoor bowls greens and two sites containing former / derelict bowling greens. There is also a derelict bowling green located at South Park alongside an existing functional facility.
- 9.3 All clubs indicate that they have an open access policy, meaning that clubs and other groups can use their facilities by arrangement.

Table 9.1-: Bowling greens in Darlington

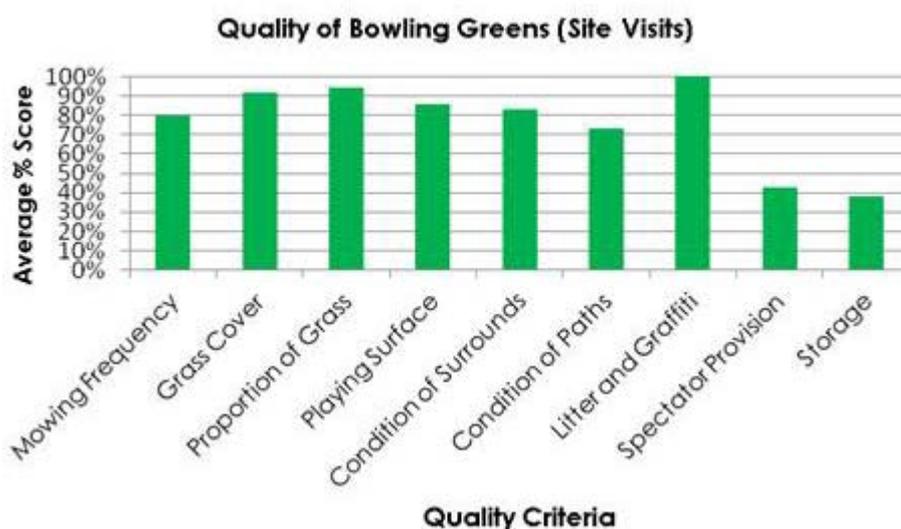
Site	Ownership / Management	Number of Greens	Club Name
North Lodge Park	Darlington Parks Bowling Association (leased from Council)	1	North Park Bowls Club / North Park Ladies Bowling Club / Post office North Lodges
Darlington Railway Athletic	Club	1	Darlington Railway Athletic Bowls Club
Middleton St George Bowls Club	Club	1	Middleton St George Bowls Club
North Park	Darlington Parks Bowling Association (leased from Council)	1	North Park Bowls Club
South Park	Darlington Parks Bowling Association (leased from Council)	2 (one derelict)	South Park Bowls Club
Eastbourne Sports Complex	Hundens Green Community Bowls Association (leased from Council)	1	Hundens Green Community Bowls Association
Woodlands Bowls Club	Club	1	Woodlands Bowls Club
Eastbourne Park	Facility currently in disrepair and not maintained	0 (derelict)	n/a
Brinkburn Dene	Site now derelict and permission recently granted for change of use	0 (no longer bowling green)	n/a

- 9.4 There is clear evidence of decline in bowls since the 2009 strategy, as the facility at Eastbourne Park has become derelict and the site at Brinkburn Dene is also no longer used and a change of use application on the site has been approved. There have been no new facilities developed. There has been no change to the situation at South Park - the second green at South Park was also not used in 2009, although it was still maintained as a bowling green.
- 9.5 Perhaps the greatest change of all has taken place in the management and maintenance of facilities. All bowling greens in the borough are managed by clubs or the Darlington Parks Bowls Association and Darlington Borough Council are no longer responsible for the management of any greens. This is a relatively recent change, with responsibility handed over to clubs using public facilities over the past year.
- 9.6 The implementation of this self-management model has led to the creation of the Darlington Parks Bowling Association, which manages and maintains the facilities that were formerly in public ownership across the borough. It seeks to safeguard the future of the remaining bowling greens.

Quality

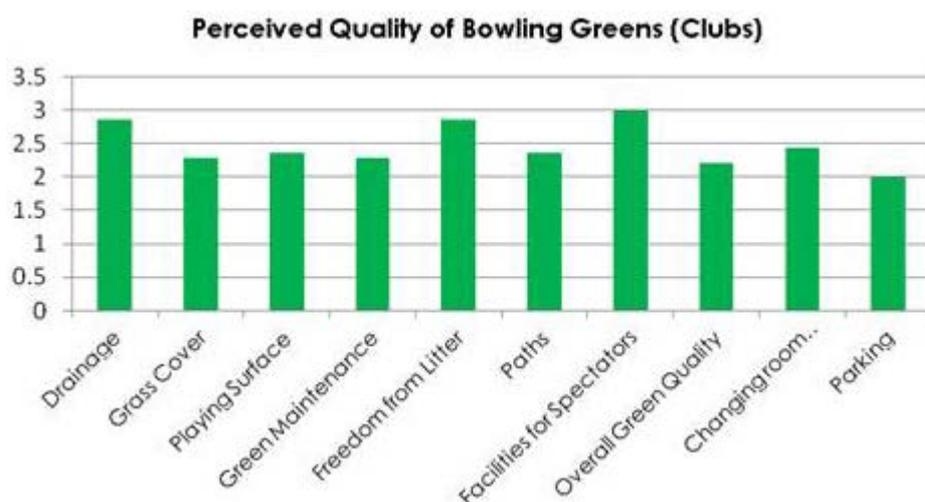
- 9.7 Site visits to bowling greens were undertaken during the playing season and a non-technical, visual assessment was made in an attempt to provide a comparative overview of the greens and highlight any apparent issues.
- 9.8 Chart 9.1 summarises the quality scores achieved through site visits. It indicates that the quality of greens is relatively consistent across most criteria, with the playing surface generally good, and pathways and surrounds the key area for improvement. All bowling greens in the borough have a pavilion, although these are of varying quality.

Chart 9.1:- Quality Scores for Bowling Greens



- 9.9 Building upon the site assessments, clubs were asked for their views on key quality. The views of clubs contrasted slightly with the findings of site visits as set out in Chart 9.2. Alongside parking and changing accommodation, clubs felt that the quality of the greens remains a key priority for improvement. Clubs are also clearly more negative about the quality of greens and just one club is happy with the overall stock of bowling greens across the borough.

Chart 9.2:- Perceived quality of bowling greens (Clubs)



9.10 Club views are relatively similar to those in 2009, when concerns were also raised in relation to the maintenance of facilities, as well as issues experienced with vandalism and graffiti. While these remain an issue, the introduction of self management has seen more focused response and many worries relate specifically to the level of maintenance required and the equipment needed to adequately maintain these facilities. The cost of maintaining the greens is also now an area of concern for clubs.

9.11 Building upon the general issues identified, Table 9.2 summarises the key issues identified by site.

Table 9.2:- Quality of bowling greens

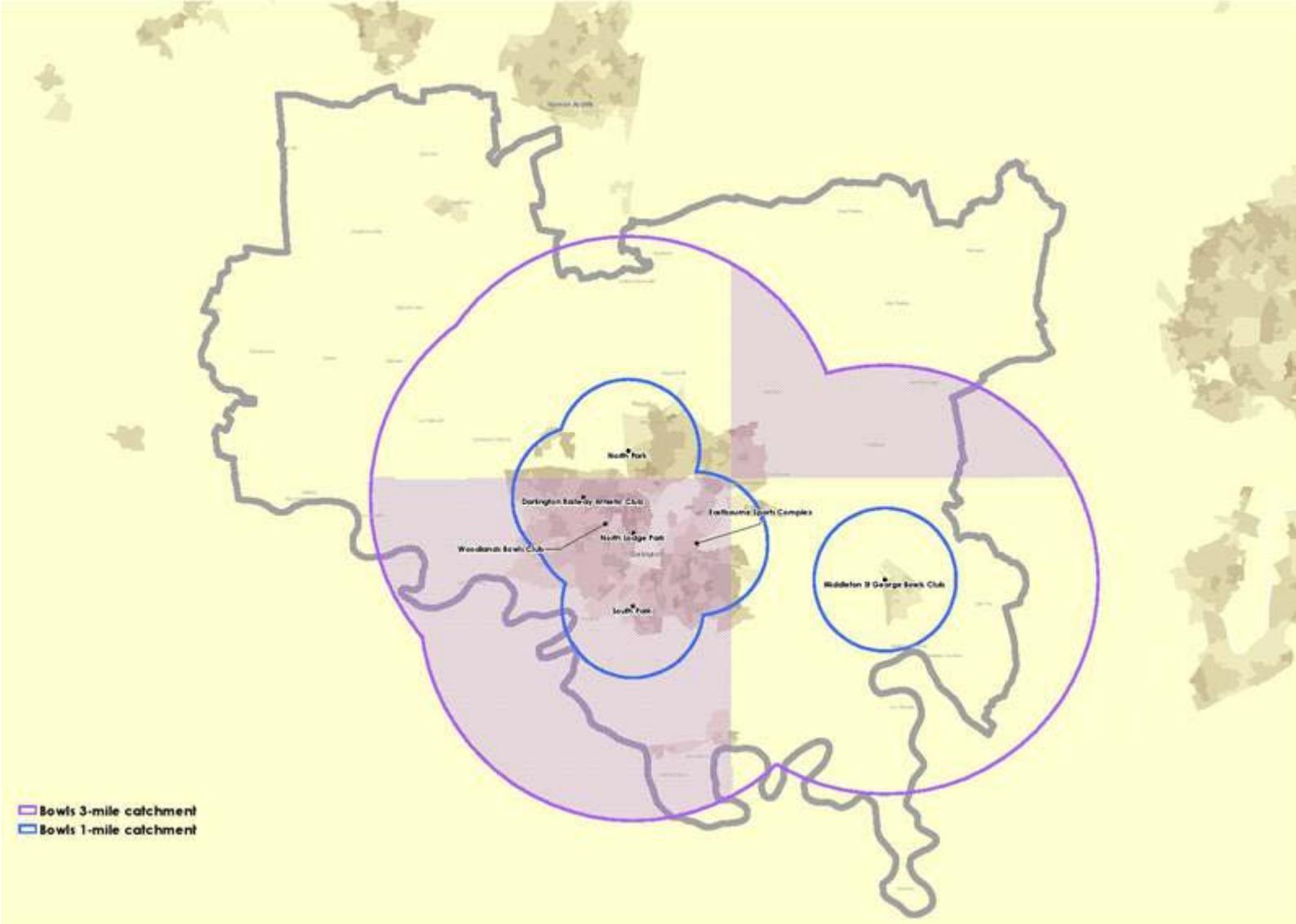
Site Name	Site Visit (%)	Site Visit Comments	Club Perception
North Lodge Park	74%	Important facility in inner urban area. Parking is outside of the park and grass cover / playing surface poorer than other greens	Playing surface acceptable, although maintenance highlighted as poor due to a wall that has collapsed. Changing pavilion identified as key priority for improvement and club highlight need for relocated and improved toilet facilities
Darlington Railway Athletic Club	85%	Long established club, pavilion looks tired but good quality green. Limited storage and spectator facilities	Green of high quality, paths are key are for improvement. Site currently suffering from cats and foxes digging the green
Middleton St George Bowls Club	90%	Shared facility as part of social club. Good quality playing surface	Site of excellent quality
North Park			Poor paths and changing accommodation. Green surface of relatively poor quality and this is attributed to the basic levels of maintenance that take place. Roof of pavilion poor condition and major repairs required
South Park	77%	Evidence of 2 greens but one is disused. The green in use is excellent quality and well used. Limited storage and spectator provision	Poor playing surface and overall poor green. Issues attributed to limited maintenance

Site Name	Site Visit (%)	Site Visit Comments	Club Perception
Eastbourne Sports Complex	87%	Secure bowling facility adjacent to Eastbourne Sports Complex. Good quality facility, modern pavilion, flower beds and seating and good playing surface	Site of good quality although green suffers from moss on occasion
Woodlands Bowls Club	87%	Excellent quality private club with good playing surface	Good quality green with acceptable grass cover.

Accessibility

- 9.12 Consultation with bowls clubs demonstrates that on average, 62% of current members of bowling greens travel less than one mile to reach a green, while a further 11% travel between one and three miles. Just 8% travel more than 5 miles, suggesting that bowling greens are expected local to the home.
- 9.13 Map 9.1 therefore illustrates the location of each of the greens and includes both a 1 and 3 mile catchment area around each green. It indicates that the majority of residents living in Darlington town are within one mile of a bowling green as a result of the even distribution of facilities. All residents in the town, and the majority of residents in the borough are within three miles. The key gap in provision is Heighington - this is the only clear settlement where residents must travel more than 3 miles. There is no known unmet demand at this time in this village.

Map 9.1:- Bowling greens in Darlington



Demand

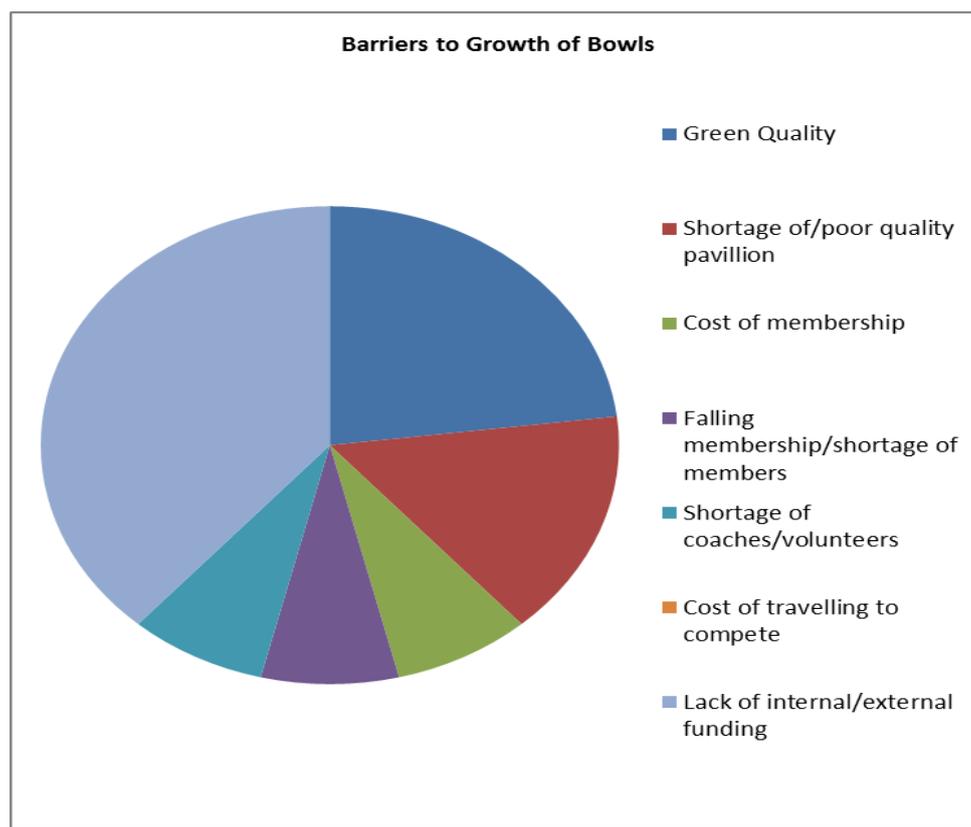
- 9.14 Table 9.3 illustrates the current membership of bowling greens across Darlington, highlighting that there are 326 senior adult players and just five players aged U18. There is therefore limited participation at a junior level, an issue that was also highlighted in the 2009 strategy. There is however evidence that membership has increased at existing sites, although it is likely that this is linked with the loss of other greens and the subsequent relocation of members from these clubs.

Table 9.3-: Membership of existing clubs

Site	Club Name	Club Membership
North Lodge Park	North Park Bowls Club / North Park Ladies Bowling Club / Post office North Lodges	21 and 2 U18 - Increased
Darlington Railway Athletic	Darlington Railway Athletic Bowls Club	36 senior – remained static
Middleton St George Bowls Club	Middleton St George Bowls Club	41 senior and 1 U18 – remained static
North Park	North Park Bowls Club	30 senior and 1 U18 – Increased
South Park	South Park Bowls Club	40 members (estimate)
Eastbourne Sports Complex	Hundreds Green Community Bowls Association	63 senior and 1 U18 - increased
Woodlands Bowls Club	Woodlands Bowls Club	90 members, none of which are junior
Eastbourne Park	n/a	n/a
Brinkburn Dene	n/a	n/a

- 9.15 All clubs indicate that they have capacity for new members and are actively seeking new participants. The flexibility of fixtures means that there is scope to accommodate more teams on all existing greens. Increasing the number of members will be key to the retention and growth of bowls in the borough.
- 9.16 Chart 9.3 illustrates the views of clubs in relation to perceived barriers to the growth of bowls in the borough. They indicate that there are several issues, primarily focusing upon the quality of greens and challenges recruiting members, rather than the number of greens.

Chart 9.3-: Barriers to the growth of bowls



9.17 Other issues highlighted as important by clubs include;

- the challenges of managing and maintaining facilities, including obtaining appropriate equipment and funding the work required;
- the importance of providing appropriate toilet and washing facilities to maximise the chance of attracting new participants to the sport;
- the need for increased support on how to apply for funding and how to increase the number of players. Some clubs have had to increase their weekly subs, but feel that this has had a negative impact upon participation; and
- the challenges of recruiting and retaining younger and junior members. Some clubs have sought to actively build relationships with clubs and schools.

Latent demand

9.18 The Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data (explained in Section 3), enables evaluation of the proportion of the population that currently play bowls and the amount of people that would like to play, and also provides an indication as to how this varies across the authority. This can be used to understand if any latent demand exists and reveals the following;

- the proportion of residents currently playing bowls is marginally lower in the central areas and the north of the borough than in the south;

- The survey reveals that 854 people in the borough are currently believed to play bowls (an amount significantly higher than the known membership of clubs). Reflecting the make up of the clubs, these are largely in the older age groups categorised as Elsie and Arnold, Frank, Ralph and Phylis and Roger and Joy. The proportion of people in the Elsie and Arnold and Frank categories playing is higher than may expected, whilst there may be scope to increase the amount of residents in the Roger and Joy and Ralph and Phylis categories; and
- 196 additional residents would like to play. These are in the same resident categories as those that are already playing bowls. This latent demand is distributed relatively evenly across the borough as a whole.

NGB priorities

9.19 Bowls England is the NGB for Flat Green Lawn Bowls in England. The organization's strategic plan (2013 – 2017) indicates that the vision of the organization focuses upon;

- promoting the sport;
- recruiting new participants; and
- retaining existing participants.

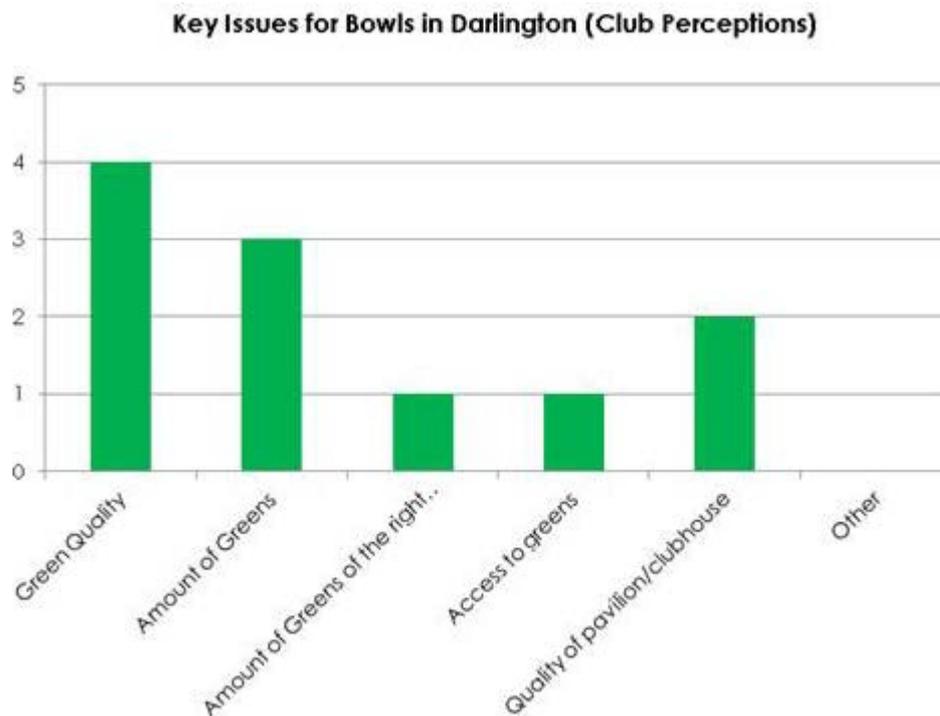
9.20 There are no direct priorities relating to facilities, although clearly facilities are an important component of increasing participation and the Governing Body will seek to support clubs and county boards through the provision of a variety of online resources.

Adequacy of provision

9.21 There are no supply and demand models for bowling greens. The adequacy of provision and key issues to address is therefore evaluated by drawing together the data collated and determining the key issues impacting current and projected future participation.

9.22 Chart 9.4 illustrates the views of clubs in relation to the key issues for bowls. It indicates that despite all bowling clubs having capacity for new members, the amount of greens is still perceived to be a key issue, alongside the quality of greens.

Chart 9.4-: Club perceptions of adequacy of bowling greens



9.23 Reflecting the concerns about the quality of greens, Table 9.2 revealed some areas requiring improvement as well as opportunities to support clubs in the improvement of the management and maintenance of clubs.

9.24 Despite issues with regards the amount of facilities provided, data collated indicates that there is no evidence based upon current participation that there is demand for additional facilities. In particular;

- all responding clubs indicate that they have scope to accommodate additional members;
- recent participation has been relatively static and most are actively seeking to obtain new members – retention of existing members and recruitment of new is highlighted as the key priority for bowling clubs across the borough and nationally;
- the average membership of responding clubs is just 46 players and most clubs have fewer members than this. This is below optimum levels and as a guide, 80-100 members is considered a healthy membership for a bowls club; and
- there are two greens that are no longer used, having recently fallen into disrepair.

9.25 Although there is sufficient capacity currently, the profile of participants in bowls means that the ageing population is likely to influence participation more so than for most other sports. Analysis indicates that the proportion of residents aged 60+ is likely to increase from 19% now, to 20.7% in 2019 and the propensity to participate in bowls is therefore likely to grow.

9.26 Table 9.4 summarises the potential impact of the population growth. It presents two scenarios as follows;

- A – using club membership as a base – this provides an accurate reflection of current participation across the borough (326)
- B – basing participation on figures according to the Active People Survey (854), which highlights a degree of latent demand.

9.27 As a full breakdown of the projected profile of the population by 2026 is not available, assumptions have been used to determine the overall number of people that will be over the age of 60 at this time. It has been assumed that this will represent the same proportion of the population as in 2019. While this may underestimate the changes slightly, it provides an indication of the impact of this change.

Table 9.4-: Calculation of potential growth in bowls

Current Situation		
Area considered	Current Participation (Known Club Membership)	Active People Survey
Current Population Aged 60+	20,140	20140
National Participation Level in Bowls	1.73%	1.73%
Current Membership of Bowling Clubs*	326	854
% of Current Population Participating in Bowls	1.61%	4.2%
Future Situation		
Future Population aged 60+ (2026)	22264	22264
Assumed Future Participation in Bowls (participation remains constant)	1.61%	4.2%
Potential Future Participants in Bowls	358	935

9.28 Table 9.4 therefore indicates that based upon existing club membership, assuming participation rates remain constant, demand for bowls is likely to increase by 32 players as a direct result of population growth. Assuming that membership of all greens is even, this would mean a membership of circa 50 players at each bowling club by 2026, which is still sustainable within the existing stock. If higher participation rates were used, this growth would increase to 135 players per green and provision may be insufficient to meet demand (optimum membership 80 – 100).

- 9.29 It is clear however that analysis of existing bowling clubs represents the most accurate means of determining demand for bowling greens, particularly in the context of the recent decline that has been experienced. It is likely that the Active People survey also includes those who use the indoor facility (to be returned to later in this section).
- 9.30 On this basis, this suggests therefore that there is sufficient stock to of facilities to meet current and future demand, based on existing participation rates and that there is some scope for growth within the facility stock. Indeed, higher levels of membership are likely to be a key way of maximising the sustainability of clubs as increased numbers of members will bring with it higher levels of income, which will be required to support the management and maintenance of greens. It should be noted however that due to the mobility of the older population, most choose to play at their local green. The varying membership at club sites means that some have more capacity than others to sustain additional growth.
- 9.31 It is acknowledged that growth is unlikely to be even, with the location of new housing developments significantly impacting the choice of club. None of the clubs are however likely to be become over capacity without significant increases on participation.
- 9.32 Future participation in bowls is only therefore likely to grow significantly if a more aggressive approach to recruitment is taken by clubs and governing bodies, in line with the recently produced Bowls England Strategy. Most clubs do little marketing of existing opportunities outside of word of mouth and leafleting currently and there has been little growth in the sport, with some who have been involved in the sport in the area for years expressing concerns about the decline in the number of members, and in the number of teams entered into league and cup fixtures. Clubs also demonstrated an aspiration for support in this area.
- 9.33 Without participation increases, or in the event of further decline in participation, sustainability of existing club sites will remain the key challenge to address. Clubs highlight the importance of increasing support and the challenges that they face with sustainability and this will be a key issue moving forwards. The retention of existing bowling greens and increasing the usage of these facilities therefore represents the key priority.

Indoor provision

- 9.34 Darlington has one indoor bowls facility opened in 1980. The Council lease the facility to an indoor bowling club. The facility is well maintained and operated.

Table 9.5-: Indoor bowls provision

Site Name	Facility Type	Unit	Number	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management	Year Built	Year Refurbished
DARLINGTON INDOOR BOWLS CLUB	Indoor Bowls	Rinks	8	Operational	Pay and Play	Sports Club	Sport Club	1980	2012

- 9.35 In terms of rinks per ten thousand, based on current population Darlington has a ratio of 0.75 compared to the national average of 0.34. In term of future population the SfC estimates that a requirement for 7.46 rinks. Current provision would therefore appear to be sufficient to meet needs.

Consultation

NGB Consultation

English Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA) Outline Plan 2013-2017

9.36 The EIBA plan covers the following areas:

- Recruit and Retain 50+; Recruit and Retain 70+ - two different markets which requires us to find a way to grow both specific groups. The 50+ requiring new versions/formats – the 70+ wishing to keep the current formats.
- Facilities – Build, Improve, Retain; Operate; Volunteer support with skills training
- Youth and the Family
- Women – increased participation and retention
- Disabled
- Competitions
- Internationals
- Promotion of our Sport
- Alternative sources of income
- Manpower to fulfil the Plans

EIBA Objectives:

- A growth in participation across the adult population in local Communities. Targeted work to increase Female participation
- A growth in participation in the 14-25 age range, plus working with Primary Schools (Year 3 & 4 – age 7 to 9)
- The provision of an excellent sporting experience for new and existing participants
- A growth in Indoor Bowls participation by people who have disabilities

9.37 EIBA consider that the current 8 Rink facility at The Morrison Centre, North Road, Darlington is sufficient to meet the demand of the local population. The Club is an important facility within the nationwide network of 300+ Affiliated Indoor Flat Green Bowling Clubs. The Venue is used for National Championship Finals and has recently benefited from Sport England “Inspired Facilities” funding. The NGB would like to see the current level of membership maintained and grow.

Local club consultation

9.38 Consultation with the club reveals their priorities to ensure sustainability and growth include:

- The development of carpet bowls
- Enhanced disabled provision
- Upgrading of the social areas, toilets and changing

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are seven active greens and 2 derelict sites – this is lower than provision in 2009 and demonstrates an evidence of decline. The quality of greens is good overall, with site visits identifying pathways and surrounds as a key area for improvement. Some sites also require improvements to the green surface. Clubs are however relatively negative about the quality and raise concerns about maintenance procedures and cost. They view quality as the key area for improvement and quality issues are highlighted as the key barrier to growth of bowls. Key concerns include the challenges of maintaining facilities, including obtaining appropriate equipment and funding and the importance of appropriate toilet and washing facilities. Clubs are either privately managed, or by the Darlington Parks Bowls Association. This is a recent arrangement which is still evolving in the borough. 	<p>North Lodge Park – green quality improvements. Requires improved pavilion / toilets</p> <p>North Park - North Lodge Park – green quality improvements. Requires repair work to pavilion</p> <p>Other sites would also benefit from investment into maintenance and site surrounds.</p>
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are active clubs on all current sites. All clubs have capacity for new members and are actively seeking new participants. Average membership is just 46(optimum levels are 80 – 100). Higher levels of membership help maximise sustainability through increased income, which will be required to support the management and maintenance of greens. 62% of bowlers travel 1 mile or less to a bowling green, suggesting that facilities are expected local to the home. The majority of residents living in Darlington town are within one mile of a bowling green as a result of the even distribution of facilities. All residents in the town, and the majority of residents in the borough are within three miles. The key gap in provision is Heighington - this is the only clear settlement where residents must travel more than 3 miles. There is no known unmet demand at this time. 	
Adequacy of Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is spare capacity at all greens and facilities are well distributed across the borough. All clubs are therefore currently accessible to residents. The spare capacity means that there is a focus on retention of existing facilities, rather than the provision of more greens. There are some quality issues evident and the quality of facilities is a key concern for existing clubs. 	

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Issues
	<p>Clubs are keen to see increased support to ensure that facilities can be improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population growth is likely to have a greater impact on the supply and demand for bowls than for other sports and based on existing membership, is likely to increase by 32 players as a direct result of population growth. Assuming that membership of all greens is even, this would mean a membership of circa 50 players at each bowling club by 2026, which is still sustainable within the existing stock. If higher participation rates were used (source: Active People), this growth would increase to 135 players per green and provision may be insufficient to meet demand (optimum membership 80 – 100). The location of housing growth and / or changing patterns of membership are unlikely to cause one club to reach capacity. Bowling greens are perceived to be less accessible to younger residents. Along with enticing additional players to the facility, attracting younger players is also a key priority for both the NGB and the local clubs. 	
Key Issues to Address - Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to retain the existing indoor and outdoor bowling greens There are several quality issues that need to be addressed - these include improvements to the green surface and the toilet wash facilities. Improvements to the maintenance regimes and purchase of equipment are also required Protect and enhance the current indoor bowls centre. The current requires some refurbishment, with a need to incorporate new disability provision and improvements to changing and toilet provision. To maximize sustainability of the sport, there is a need to increase participation and to raise awareness of opportunities that are available. Clubs have asked for support and guidance in doing this. 	

10: Specialist Provision

Introduction

- 10.1 The analysis for the remaining facility types follows the same sequence of reporting as for swimming pools and sports halls and under the same ANOG headings. However the level of data and analysis is not as extensive as for swimming pools and sports halls as there is no fpm available for these facility types.
- 10.2 The section addresses the facilities in the scope namely; athletics, golf, cycling and indoor active pursuits.

Athletics

Supply - quantity

- 10.3 Darlington has 2 athletic tracks, one each of a cinder and synthetic surface. The all weather track is 8 lanes and the cinder 6 lanes. The Eastbourne Sports Complex track has 'pay and play' access and is managed by the Borough Council. It was opened in 1999 and refurbished in 2012. The Longfield Academy track is a 6 lane cinder track opened in 1970 and is managed by the Academy. It is now in a state of disrepair and has little value. In effect Darlington therefore has one track based at Eastbourne.

Table 10.1-: Athletics provision

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	No	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
EASTBOURNE SPORTS COMPLEX	Athletics Tracks	Synthetic	Lanes	8	Operational	Pay and Play	Comm'ty school	Local Authority (in house)	1999	2012
LONGFIELD ACADEMY	Athletics Tracks	Cinder	Lanes	6	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Academy	School/College/University (in house)	1970	n/a

Quality

- 10.4 The Eastbourne track is a Class A certified track. Repairs to the track surface have been undertaken recently. The throws cage netting has been totally renewed. Staff work hard to maintain standards at the facility. The facility at Estbourne therefore provides good training and competition standard facilities, which are 'fit for purpose' in the wider sub-regional context. The track hosted 6 competitions in 2013. Nearby competition venues are located at Shildon and Middlesboro (new facility at Prissick). Basic indoor athletics specific training facilities will also be provided at the nearby new facility at Prissick.
- 10.5 Eastbourne therefore serves its purpose well however it is now 16-years old and the track requires re-surfacing having only been patched over its life to date. The Council are committed to spending circa £200k to re-surface the track.

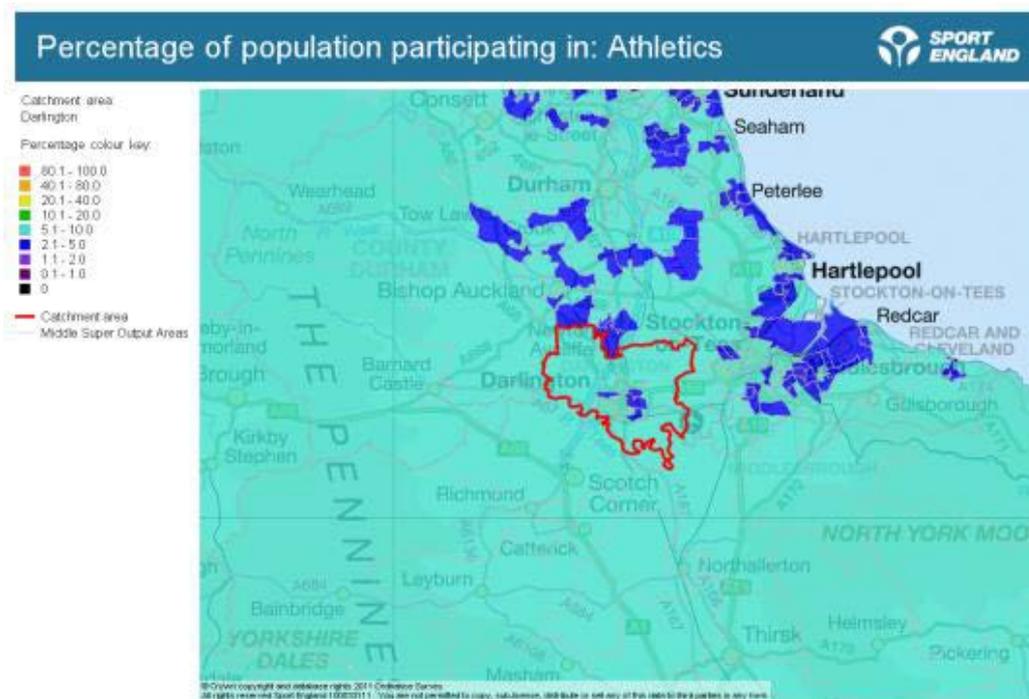
Market segmentation

- 10.6 The market segmentation map for participation in athletics and 'would like to do athletics' are set out overleaf. Map 10.1 shows the rate of participation on a

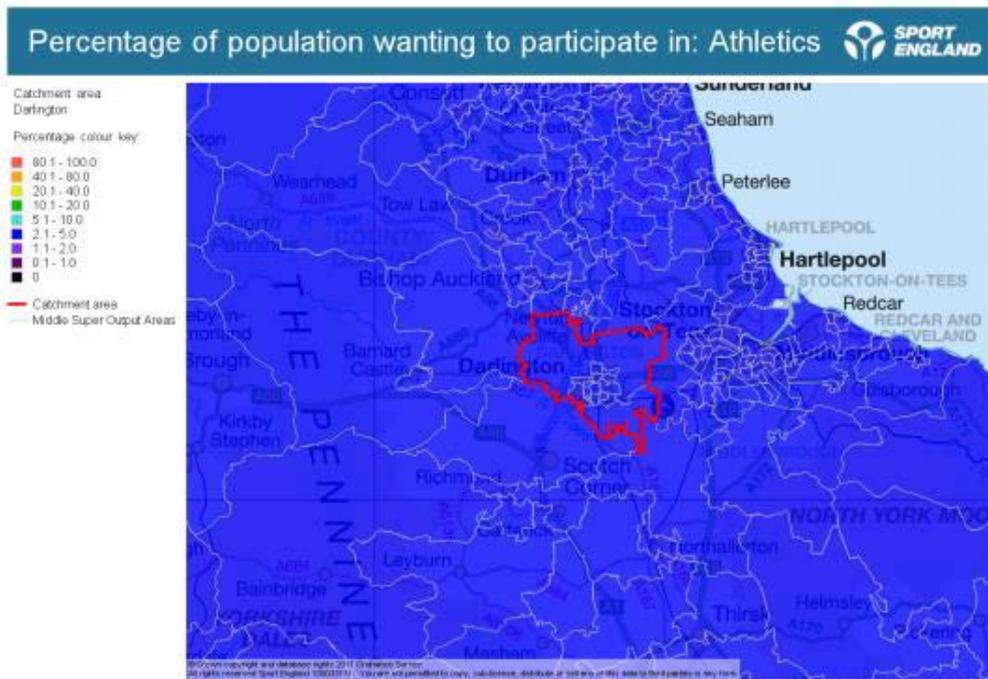
geographic basis, demonstrating that between 5.1 – 10% of the adult population of Darlington doing athletics at least once a month. Whilst in the smaller number of output areas shaded blue the rate of participation is between 2.1% - 5% of the adult population.

- 10.7 Map 10.2 shows the percentage of the adult population who would like to do athletics. This shows a near universal between 2.1% - 5% of the Darlington adult population who would like to do athletics at least once a month.
- 10.8 Both participation and latent demand would therefore appear to be in line with regional and national norms.

Map 10.1:- Percentage of the Darlington population who DO athletics

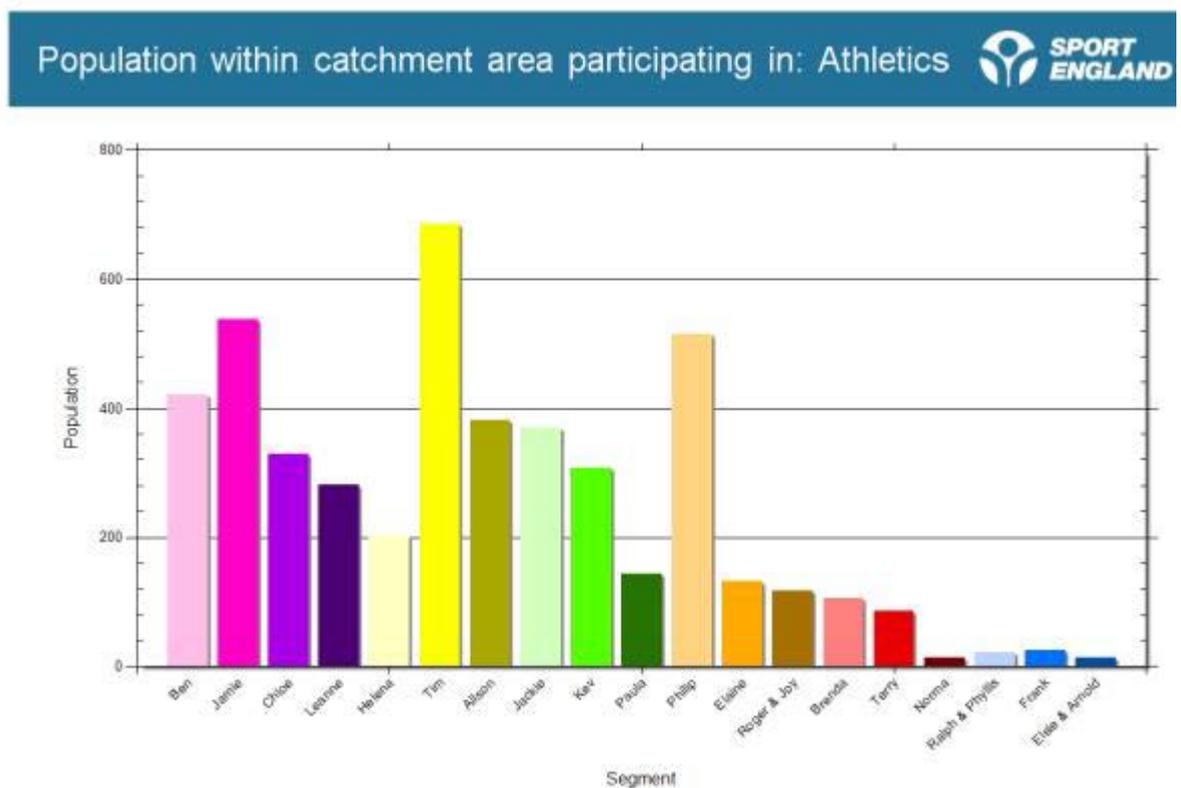


Map 10.2-: Percentage of the Darlington population who WOULD LIKE to DO athletics



10.9 In terms of the profile of athletics across the 19 market segments and the total number in each segment this is shown in the Chart below.

Chart 10.1-: Market segment population totals for athletics in Darlington



10.10 As the chart shows participation is very much focused in the market segments from Ben (pink) and Jamie (cerise, Tim (yellow) and Philip (beige). There is lower level participation in the segments from Chloe (maroon) to Kev (lime green). Athletics

participation is very much male focused at over 70% of the total and not surprisingly in the 16 – 25 age range.

Demand assessment for athletics in Darlington

- 10.11 There are two athletics clubs in Darlington. Club membership is as follows (68 in Darlington AC and 226 within Quakers RC) UKA recommends clubs with less than 200 active members should look at extending use of the athletics facility to other groups/sports in order to support sustainability. This is significant in the context of the potential further development of the wider Eastbourne Sports Complex.
- 10.12 With two clubs in the town and a combined membership of circa 300 affiliated athletes, it is a relatively small proportion of the total affiliation for the region (5.3%). Both clubs have leaders/coaches who attend events organised through the local club and coach support programmes but do not pursue any significant development work such as Clubmark Accreditation.
- 10.13 The council have been successful in attracting funding for the development of running groups but are struggling with numbers so support will be offered through CCSO time to assist in making these new groups a success.
- 10.14 If the popularity of parkrun continues and the development of the recreational running groups being implemented by Darlington Sports Development team through CSAF funding from Sport England have the desired effect in attracting more beginner runners into the sport then there is hoped there would be an increase in club affiliation which will create greater demand for facility access.
- 10.15 Despite this there is no evidence of significantly increasing demand that would outstrip the capacity of Eastbourne.

Governing Body

- 10.16 UK Athletics, the sport's governing body, produced Athletics Facilities Planning and Delivery 2007 – 2012 to guide facility provision up to and after the 2012 Olympics. The criteria for new projects sought to ensure a hierarchy of provision for competition and training purposes for both outdoor and indoor facilities. The firm, but not strict, criteria for the provision of outdoor facilities were:
- One outdoor synthetic track (6 or 8 lanes) per 250,000 within 20 minutes drive (45 minutes in rural areas).
- 10.17 Darlington easily meets this 'standard.'
- 10.18 More recently two additional strategies have been prepared by the NGBs for athletics, British Athletics and Athletics England.

UK Athletics (UKA) Facilities Strategy 2014-19

- 10.19 Success at recent events and the increase in high profile mass participation running events, are contributing to a burgeoning profile of athletics which presents a platform for the development of the sport.
- 10.20 Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

10.21 UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model, comprising a range of facilities as follows:

- **Compact Athletics Facility** - A new generation of affordable and sustainable indoor and outdoor athletics satellite facilities that provide a stepping stone into Club Venues. Compact Athletics Facilities are designed to fit available spaces and budgets, and provide functional, inspiring, facilities at which people of all ages and abilities can improve their fitness and confidence and develop the FUNdamental athletics movement skills of run, jump and throw.
- **Club venues** - Track and field facilities (indoor and outdoor) that have a strong anchor club(s) membership 100+ and a focus on athletes at the Event Group stage of the Athlete Development Model (ADM) promoting appropriate training and competition opportunities. To support site sustainability, Club Venues should have excellent social and ancillary provision and facilities that actively encourage multi-sport usage. Club venues are suitable for low level competitions only (Level 1 – local open/medal meetings).

Regional Indoor and Outdoor Venues, National Competition Venues and High Performance Centres and International Venues

10.22 In addition to Track and Field provision, it is important to recognise the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future "running" facilities. The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

10.23 UKA does not have capital development funds to invest in facilities. However, it has a key role to play in the governance and direction of the sport and will continue to support HCAFs, Home Country Sports Councils and external funding partners to identify and prioritise capital projects that address deficiencies in provision, and contribute to the achievement of key strategic objectives.

England Athletics Strategic Facilities Plan 2012-17

10.24 Active People Survey identifies that 1.9m people over the age of 16 participate in athletics regularly with recreational runners accounting for almost half this number. There are in addition a significant number of children and young people under 16 years of age, the majority of who have become members of track and field clubs, which have shown a growth in membership in the last four years.

10.25 There are a variety of athletics disciplines, a diverse athlete profile and participation environments. Athletics is a low cost participation sport that makes it very accessible. However formal tracks are underutilised outside of club night and event usage and there is an ageing stock of facilities that normally require on-going subsidy. The growth in the sport is in recreational running that has resulted in significant new runners into the sport over the past few years and evidence strongly suggest this growth will continue.

- 10.26 The facility development agenda for England will work with UK Athletics on a National level and with Athletics Networks on a local level to address future competition and training needs; to engage and exploit opportunities with other sports and agencies and to deliver support and guidance to clubs, schools and communities. The priorities for investment underpin and support the activity and programme priorities delivered by Athletics Networks.
- 10.27 For the area of road, cross-country and fell running, whilst major facility interventions are limited, England Athletics will work with relevant agencies to promote and protect urban and country-side routes and encourage the opening up of new tracks and routes. There are clear practical benefits of creating better links between running clubs, groups and track and field venues and clubs. The provision of 'drop-in' points in parks and key gathering spaces in conjunction with other sports will be encouraged and some tools developed to make recreational running more enjoyable, particularly to assist new participants.
- 10.28 Track and field venues face increasing challenges in terms of maintaining quality facilities coupled with the increasing cost of operations. More usage of tracks, engagement and collaboration between parties is to be encouraged to maximise use of tracks in and out of athletics competition in order to meet maintenance costs and improvements. The modernization of changing and social provision is also important to help sustainability and attract new participants.
- 10.29 There is a need for more locally based covered training facilities, linked to formal track and field venues that could also be utilised by other sports to help viability. Full venue assessment is to be introduced for track and field venues in relation to facilities for disabled athletes and best practice guidance will be provided to assist operators in this area.
- 10.30 Innovative solutions are required for new 'compact' facility models to drive mass participation. Facilities to fit restricted spaces and multi-sport areas; integration of tracks and straights with synthetic pitch developments; mobile sprint straights to take the sport to communities and further enhancement of higher education facilities for community access.
- 10.31 England Athletics will establish a Community Athletics Team servicing the needs of clubs, schools and communities, delivering facility development support and working closely with UK Athletics (UKA) and other partners. It will aim to provide clubs with operational and facility development support and explore and exploit opportunities for development with existing and new partners. It will provide an information hub for athletics facilities and disseminate best practice through Athletics Networks and to its clubs. If capital funding is achieved, it will also manage a capital investment programme targeting funds to projects that will make a real difference to the sport.
- 10.32 The benefits to the sport of a having more direct involvement in the facility development agenda is that England Athletics will lead and drive investment to support its clubs, schools, communities and coaches in order to help underpin the sport development priorities and programmes. It will enable better and more extensive engagement with partners and maximize effort and resources. It will enable the delivery of specific expertise within its structure to better exert influence in the area of facility planning and development – an area vital for future growth and sustainability of the sport.

Overview

- 10.33 The two new strategies update and reiterate the following previous objectives for outdoor facilities:

- Investment into community track & field and recreational running projects to underpin and accelerate EA's community activation work
- Focus on investment in existing facilities rather than creation of new ones (unless new facilities are entry level Compacts or a direct replacement for existing stock)
- New build entry level Compact Athletics Facilities in priority areas that support increased participation at the multi- activity/multi event stages of the UKA Athlete Development Model and provide pathways to existing clubs and club venues
- Multi-sport focus at club venues support increased usage and sustainability
- Sustainable business models that may include multi-sport artificial grass pitch infields and throwing areas external to the main track
- Modern, functional ancillary provision: Warm up/multi-purpose areas, Toilets and Changing rooms, Clubrooms, refreshment areas, gym/conditioning rooms, Car Parking
- Functional and appropriate floodlighting.

10.34 In strategic terms the focus on the NGB is therefore around the protection of existing provision, not the development of new and a focus around flexible recreational running opportunities.

NGB Consultation

10.35 As part of the work discussions have been held with England Athletics representatives. The views are set out below:

'There are areas within the region which are a greater priority but Darlington is an important facility for the continued development of the sport in the region.....'

'As a sport we have prioritised the development of recreational running groups as a means of increasing participation in the sport alongside satellite clubs and improving athlete performance through our coach development programmes. These priorities require strong clubs and facility offers to provide suitable exit routes

Further development of the recreational running programmes to increase participation in the sport and membership of the local clubs. Better engagement of the clubs will be needed if there is to be an increase in track and field participation across all ages, but particularly within school aged people.

EA WSP funding for recreational running projects in areas of high latent demand. EA would work with Darlington to develop funding applications if a defined need is identified. (e.g. Compact Athletics Facility).'

Club Consultation

Darlington Harriers

10.36 Located at Eastbourne Complex. The club feel the facility is excellent and is kept in a good state of repair by the council and staff. Accessibility is excellent. The spectator facilities are poor.

Quakers Running Club

10.37 Meet at QE sports field on Abbey Road on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The club use the sports field on one of the sessions in the summer with the other session being on the roads, on rough tracks or in one or other of the town's parks depending upon what the club are trying to achieve within the session. In the winter hold all sessions on the roads. Also hold a Monday session at Eastbourne on the running track.

10.38 The facilities meet the clubs requirements. Have used other school premises as a base over the years but QE is the most flexible, convenient and reliable, which is accessible at the times the club need it.

Summary

10.39 Eastbourne Athletics Track is a key facility for athletics in the borough. The provision is well located and sufficient to meet current and future needs. Investment is required in the track surface and the track should be protected and enhanced in any redevelopment proposals for the Eastbourne site.

10.40 In terms of wider priorities the Council should continue to support the club to grow membership and continue to support recreational running initiatives across Darlington.

10.41 Potential exists to explore the provision of a new community focused outdoor Compact Athletics Facility subject to needs assessment (*UK Athletics Compact heatmap*). This could be potentially located at a school site.

Golf

10.42 There are 5 golf courses in Darlington Borough and four are 18 hole courses and 1 is a 9 hole course. There are no par 3 courses. All 5 venues are pay and play, with 3 operated by clubs and 2 venues operated by commercial organisations. The oldest course is the Darlington Golf Course opened in 1908, followed by the Dinsdale Spa Club opened in 2010. There was no new clubs then for 60 years until the Blackwell Grange club opened in 1970, followed by the Hall Garth Country Club in 1993 and finally the Rockcliffe Hall course in 2009. Rockcliffe Hall is part of an exclusive 5 start hotel development.

Table 10.3-: Golf provision

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	No of holes	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
BLACKWELL GRANGE GOLF CLUB	Golf	Standard	18	Operational	Pay and Play	Sports Club	Sport Club	1970	n/a
DARLINGTON GOLF CLUB	Golf	Standard	18	Operational	Pay and Play	Sports Club	Sport Club	1908	n/a
DINSDALE SPA GOLF CLUB	Golf	Standard	18	Operational	Pay and Play	Sports Club	Sport Club	1910	n/a
HALL GARTH GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB	Golf	Standard	9	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	1993	n/a
ROCKLIFFE HALL	Golf	Standard	18	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	2009	n/a

Supply and demand analysis

10.43 There are 5 golf courses in Darlington Borough and four are 18-hole courses and 1 is a 9 hole course. There are no par 3 courses. All 5 venues are pay and play, with 3 operated by clubs and 2 venues operated by commercial organisations. The oldest

course is the Darlington Golf Course opened in 1908, followed by the Dinsdale Spa Club opened in 2010. There was no new clubs then for 60 years until the Blackwell Grange club opened in 1970, followed by the Hall Garth Country Club in 1993 and finally the Rockcliffe Hall course in 2009. Rockcliffe Hall is part of an exclusive 5 start hotel development.

10.44 This equates to a supply of 0.83 holes per 1,000 people, which is higher than the regional and national average. There is therefore sufficient provision to meet standard golf requirements.

Strategic Context

10.45 Golf is the fifth most popular participation sport in England with 1.2million people playing monthly and 710,000 playing weekly. England Golf is the national governing body for amateur golf in England and was formed in January 2012, following the merger of the English Golf Union (EGU) and the English Women's Golf Association (EWGA). There are approximately 675,000 members of England Golf within 1,900 affiliated clubs.

10.46 England Golf has a dedicated participation and club support department that supports golf clubs in their day to day operations, including areas such as advice around tax and legal issues, handicapping queries and environmental issues. The department also delivers an extensive development programme that aims to increase participation and membership in golf. Golf Mark and Get into golf are two examples of successful initiatives.

10.47 Like many other sports in England, golf faces some serious challenges. As a result of a combination of circumstances – a challenging economy, lifestyle changes and a shifting competitor and consumer landscape – the number of golf club members has been declining since 2004. Overall participation in golf has also been declining steadily since 2007.

10.48 These trends are significant and England Golf's strategy sets out ways to address these challenges.

Raising our Game – The Strategic Plan for England 2014-17

10.49 England Golf has developed a new and ambitious strategic plan entitled 'Raising our Game' to tackle golf's challenges and create an even brighter future for the sport. The new plan presents a clear vision and four ambitions:

Vision

"England Golf at the heart of a network of partners, empowering and supporting a thriving community of golfers and successful golf facilities, and widely recognised as a forward thinking and successful organisation."

10.50 Four Ambitions:

- To increase the number of people playing golf at least once a week
- To increase the number of players who are in membership of a golf club
- To further improve the talent pathway to create international success
- To improve communications, strengthen partnerships and ensure England.

10.51 Golf is recognised as a highly effective and efficient organisation The strategy provides a clear focus for the work of England Golf around seven strategic priorities:

- More players: Increasing the number of players who play golf regularly
- More members: Increasing the number of players in club membership
- Stronger clubs: Supporting clubs to attract and retain members and to achieve a sustainable business model
- Winning golfers: Identifying and developing talented golfers at every level, leading to international amateur success
- Outstanding championships: providing excellent championships and competitions for golfers of all levels
- Improved image: changing the perception of golf and improving communications with members, clubs and within the sport as a whole
- Excellent governance: improving the governance, building the infrastructure and strengthening the partnerships to develop golf in England.

Growing Golf in the UK – Sygenta

10.52 Conducted in May 2013 by GfK, the fourth largest market research company in the world, this survey questioned more than 3,500 UK residents about golf. What made this survey different to previous golf market research studies was that it interviewed more than 2,000 non-golfers and lapsed players, as well as current golfers. A number of important themes emerged from the results. The finding accord with the national strategy and offer golf clubs and courses a clear steer in terms of future direction and opportunities and potential solutions to retain existing customers and attract new players, by addressing:

- friendliness – golfers require some level of customer care as with other leisure facilities;
- flexibility – 50% of responders felt intimidated by the rules and conventions, more flexibility is needed in membership, dress code, etc;
- female participation – women prefer to play with friends and family (67%), and this is linked to children’s participation. Need schemes that encourage more juniors and females;
- friends and family – golf development needs family engagement and to encourage family memberships. Family responsibilities lead to golfers leaving the sport; and
- course conditions – 80% of golfers demand the best conditions, such as level greens, no long rough, compatibility with the environment.

Consultation

NGB Consultation

10.53 The NGB are currently working with Darlington, Stressholme and Dinsdale Spa GC actively to encourage and increase membership and participation across these clubs. Dinsdale Spa is currently reviewing the Golf Mark accreditation scheme with a view to commence the award shortly. Darlington and Stressholme both run the national recruitment campaign; Get into Golf; which offers low cost opportunities for beginners and lapsed golfers to get into the game. These sessions have been running since 1st April 2014 but it’s too early to say what impact this has had on club membership.

10.54 Darlington is one of the priority areas to deliver participation programmes such as ‘Get into Golf’ and ‘Play More Golf’ to gain to encourage more people into the game. The target market is 26+ participation, 14-25 year olds and Disability. This is what the sport are measured upon by Sport England via the Active People Survey. In order to hit these KPI’s need better access to provision across the Country and more affordable / accessible offers for more potential customers to access golf. Working

with clubs to become more flexible in their approach as one size doesn't fit all when it comes to membership, access to practice facilities etc.

- 10.55 The NGB feels Darlington need more par 3 courses, shorter formats of the game, pitch and putt courses, driving ranges and practice areas; to encourage more people to try the sport – These also address the issues of time and cost which can be perceived to be a barrier.
- 10.56 Priorities fall around the new strategy and in particular around 3 main outcomes within this; More Players, More Members; Stronger Clubs. The NGB will be working with Darlington clubs to address membership declines, engagement with the wider community, working within the schools, colleges etc with the Golf Foundation, CPD for PGA coaches and upskilling volunteers. Also encouraging clubs to become more active in applying for external funds such as Small Grants Bid and Inspired Facilities.
- 10.57 There are only two covered driving range facilities in Darlington at Blackwell Grange (10 bay floodlit) and Rockcliffe Hall (8 bays). As set out earlier Rockcliffe Hall is part of a 5 star leisure complex. There would therefore appear to be a case for additional driving range and practice facilities in line with the national trends and NGB priorities for Darlington.

Summary

- 10.58 In strategic terms the sport is not seeking to develop new golf-course provision. This is in line with Darlington's needs, which suggests there is sufficient provision. The sport is committed to growing participation and membership and maximising use at existing provision, particularly amongst key target groups; juniors, woman. Provision of facilities to get new participants into the game will therefore be an important priority moving forward. This should include practice facilities.
- 10.59 In line with the strategic direction set out, consultation through the Council's household survey suggested the need for provision of a child's golf course or mini golf course to enhance the range of facilities available for young people and the residents of Darlington. This was being pursued by the Council at Blackwell Grange however this project has stalled.
- 10.60 In line with the needs and evidence the Council however continue to be committed to developing golf facilities to broaden the base of the game and get more people playing golf. In this context there are also aspirations for an indoor driving range and practice facilities to provide a wet weather option at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club. This should be supported and is in-line with the needs and evidence set out.

Cycling

NGB Consultation

- 10.61 In terms of facilities used in Darlington, in the last couple of years British Cycling and associated clubs have used:
- West Park 4X Track and surrounding Park to run regional level mountain bike races and to host club coaching sessions for 4Motion Darlington;
 - Longfield School to run a regional level cyclo-cross race and the first Darlington schools cyclo-cross championship; and
 - West Park has proved to be a useful facility but to enable further use for events would require car parking provision and permanent toilet facilities.

- 10.62 Darlington is close enough to larger facilities with Hamsterley Forest for mountain biking and Middlesbrough's Prissick Road Cycling Circuit and soon to be outdoor velodrome. There are towns and areas in the country much further from these sorts of facilities so British Cycling would not regard Darlington as being in urgent need of cycling facility development.
- 10.63 In the context of Darlington improvements at West Park would significantly increase the usage of the facility.

Indoor Active Pursuits

- 10.64 4Motion Darlington is based at Faverdale Industrial Estate they rent the building, and use the bike track at West Park. The skatepark is a new facility which is still being developed.
- 10.65 For the skatepark the priority is developing the viewing area, cafe facility so that those watching or parents staying have a positive experience. Plus some minor improvements to the skatepark. For the future there is a piece of land outside the skatepark that the club want to develop into an outdoor riding facility i.e. dirt jumps.
- 10.66 West Park bike track is approx 7yrs old and does need a plan put in place between DBC and 4motion re how it can be maintained better. This would be supported by British Cycling.
- 10.67 Darlington Gymnastics Club also share the 4Motion site. The venue is new and purpose built and serves the needs of the club.

Squash

- 10.68 Darlington is not identified as a core priority. There is a 3 court publicly accessible facility at the Dolphin Leisure Centre, this scale of facility is identified as a development centre suitable for a wide range of junior and community initiatives. Darlington Squash Club also provides 4 courts which are of regional importance.
- 10.69 With 3 public courts provided at the Dolphin LC and the 4 Club courts at Darlington SC there is considered to be sufficient supply, the focus should be on improving/enhancing these facilities to sustain and stimulate participation
- 10.70 The leisure centre is well located in the town with good transport and parking provision. The Club is 'hidden' away from view (at the rear of a retail park) therefore signage and promotion needs improvement.
- 10.71 The three courts at Dolphin Leisure Centre are of average quality – they would benefit from refurbishment and the installation of glass doors would aid their visibility, suitability for coaching and improve child safety.
- 10.72 The four courts at Darlington Squash Club are in good condition however the facility is tired from an aesthetic perspective and the changing rooms are in average/poor condition.
- 10.73 The main focus for Darlington should be on junior development and improvement to enhance the existing provision as set out.

Gymnastics

10.74 The need for a specialist gymnastic centre was identified as a priority in the previous strategy. This has now been delivered with the development of the specialist centre as part of the 4Motion development at Faverdale Industrial Estate. Darlington Gymnastics Club are now located at the facility, which meets their needs for a high quality dedicated provision.

Boxing

10.75 Darlington has 3 boxing clubs that are affiliated to England Boxing; Albert Hill ABC, Darlington ABC and Ward Degnan's Boxing Club.

10.76 According to the Active People Survey there has been a growth in boxing participation since the London 2012 Olympics from 140,400 (2012) to 198,300 (APS9, 2015). Female participation in particular has grown following the highly publicised success of Great Britain's first female Olympic champion, Nicola Adams. England Boxing's own research highlights that 82% of clubs indicate that their membership levels are continuing to grow.

10.77 There are a number of key issues that boxing clubs face that limit their potential to engage additional participants and addressing these issues is vital if the sport's potential for good is to be maximised:

- suitability of facilities: facilities often require a lot of work to make them more welcoming, in particular clubs can be cold and they often lack decent - or indeed any - changing facilities
- security of tenure: clubs may not have formal lease arrangements which puts their future sustainability at risk
- volunteer capacity: boxing is a very time intensive sport and clubs frequently open 5 nights per week and will travel to competitions most weekends, as such there is often limited capacity to commit to additional development initiatives
- lack of funding: boxing clubs are often based in the most deprived communities and generating income to sustain and extend the club's activities can be a challenge; furthermore clubs often lack the skills required to successfully apply for external funding.

10.78 Consultation with the governing body suggests that all of these issues are relevant to the clubs in Darlington, particularly the need for facility improvements.

Summary

10.79 Of the specialist provision included in the scope of the study there are no significant needs. Darlington is not a priority location in a sub-regional / regional context.

10.80 The existing provision should be protected and enhanced:

- Eastbourne Athletics Track
- West Park Cycling facility
- Golf provision in line with national and local needs; prioritising practice facilities for beginners and learners to introduce people to the game
- Squash provision at the Dolphin Centre and Darlington Squash Club
- Gymnastics at Faverdale
- Boxing club provision

10.81 The development of further specialist provision, which clearly meets a local need and where opportunity exists to develop a sustainable facility, should be supported by the Council. The example of 4Motion provides a model of what can be achieved.

11: Action Plans, Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Introduction

- 11.1 The sections to date have summarized the key issues that the strategy needs to address for each sport. This section sets out the priority site specific recommendations that will be undertaken to support the delivery of indoor and outdoor sports facilities across the borough. Each recommendation will contribute to the achievement of the Strategy Vision, which is: ‘

‘to develop a comprehensive, robust, up to date and user friendly assessment of sports provision and need in Darlington to ensure that the right amount and type of sports facilities are protected, and where appropriate enhanced to provide a range of quality, accessible and safe facilities, in the right place at the right time to meet the needs of the community now and in 2026.’

- 11.2 Recommendations are derived from a detailed programme of analysis of the existing situation and consultations, Together, these policies and recommendations guide decision making on the future delivery of indoor and outdoor sports facilities across the borough.

Strategic objectives

- 11.3 Reflecting this, the strategy is based on the following principles:

- **Ensure any new or re-developed provision in the borough is developed in-line with the Sports Facility and PPS Strategy priorities and the needs and evidence set out** - Ensure planners adopt the evidence base as appropriate and the work directs funding
- **The strategy will focus on a hierarchy of facilities – prioritising strategic hub sites and supporting links between sports** – recognising the benefits and long term sustainability of larger sites and of those providing for multiple sports, the strategy will promote the use of larger facilities and the co-location of facilities
- **Focus will be placed on maximising resources** – the strategy will seek to maximise the capacity and function of facilities and to ensure that provision is adapted to meet with future requirements. This will include the continued use of school sites, which play a critical role in the provision of sports facilities in Darlington Borough
- **Sustainability is a key focus** – all recommendations seek to deliver new and improved facilities in a sustainable manner, focusing on large sites that are efficient and effective to maintain, maximising the capacity of sites, supporting well established clubs and promoting good practice
- **Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision** – the strategy seeks to ensure that the borough contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and in the right place. While it promotes protection of current provision, it recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the subsequent investment required
- **Investment will focus upon interventions that will have the greatest impact** – the strategy seeks to prioritise investment into sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit. It will seek to increase participation in sport and activity in terms of both numbers and standards.

Strategy objectives

11.4 Based on the needs and evidence set out, for all sports, Darlington Borough Council and its partners will seek to:

Protect

- **SO1:** Safeguard all existing sports facilities in line with Paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework, irrespective of ownership and the degree of access and use. This strategy will clearly define any facilities that are not required to meet current or projected future needs
- **SO2:** Protect access to sports facilities by promoting long term agreements with schools and other landowners to facilitate ongoing investment and improvement
- **SO3:** Maximise community use of indoor and outdoor sports facilities where this will benefit the overall facility stock.

Enhance

- **SO4:** Ensure that the quality of facilities provided is appropriate to the level and standard of play that is sustained and that it promotes participation in sport
- **SO5:** Ensure that sports facilities are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. sports lighting and changing provision)
- **SO6:** Ensure that facilities are maintained appropriately for the activities that they are sustaining and to maximise long term capacity
- **SO7:** Work in partnership with key stakeholders and voluntary organisations to secure funding.

Provide

- **SO8:** Address existing deficiencies in provision
- **SO9:** Ensure that new developments contribute towards the provision of new sports facilities and the enhancement of existing facilities
- **SO10:** Support clubs in the management and development of facilities.

11.5 The sport specific recommendations are set out in the sections that follow. They link to the above strategic objectives and outline the key priorities for each sport. Action plans to facilitate the delivery of these recommendations are included below and in the separate Strategy document.

11.6 For outdoor sports facilities, a site specific list of actions and priorities is also provided at the end of this section.

Sport Specific Recommendations

Sports Halls and Community Halls

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
<p>Protect</p> <p>SO1</p>	<p>Protect existing levels of sports hall provision</p>	<p>Since the beginning of 2013 there has been 4 additional sport shall sites opened in Darlington. There are now 10 sports hall sites of which 8 are 4 badminton court size venues and all of these are education sites. The supply of sports halls is estimated to exceed demand in 2013 by 2.5 badminton courts and by 12.5 badminton courts in 2014, once access is factored in</p> <p>Based on a population of 107,480 Darlington would require a theoretical provision of 29.56 courts according to the SfC. In 2015 the number of available courts adjusted for community use is 40.5 courts.</p> <p>Darlington does not need additional provision the total number of courts will meet future needs.</p>	<p>All sports hall sites</p>
<p>Enhance</p> <p>SO4-SO7</p>	<p>Determine a collective and cohesive programme of community use at venues which deliver the sports development and physical activity objectives of the Council and the strategy. This may lead to more of the education sites being available for structured club use and community centres for physical</p> <p>activity programmes</p> <p>Explore the opportunities for enhanced community access at sports halls on school sites. Seek to enhance provision and access at key sites for</p>	<p>Darlington has a good network of sports hall with capacity to increase usage. The Community Centre network provides opportunities for the further development of health and physical activity programmes in local accessible locations, in line with the Community Strategy</p>	<p>All schools with a focus on Hurworth School and Darlington College. Sites where community use is currently limited</p> <p>All community centres with capacity to increase usage</p>

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
	<p>community sport and club / NGB use.</p> <p>Support the community centre network to facilitate greater community use for sport and physical activity</p> <p>Seek to continue to support the enhancement of the current network of sports hall facilities on an on-going basis</p> <p>Seek to ensure the enhancement of provision at key sports hall sites for indoor hall sports (flooring, size of run-off area etc), ensuring they are 'fit for purpose' for community use as part of any refurbishment programme. This should include disability access</p>		
<p>Provide</p> <p>SO9</p>	<p>Partners seeking to develop future sports hall provision should set out a need based on sports development and NGB requirements as opposed to general community needs</p> <p>Explore the potential to deliver more flexible activity spaces as opposed to formal sports hall provision part of new or refurbished developments</p>	<p>Carmel College sports hall is now over 40-years old and poor quality. Polam Hall School does not have a sports hall</p> <p>Flexible indoor spaces provide opportunities different opportunities to drive participation as opposed to traditional sports hall provision</p>	<p>Carmel College and Pollam Hall</p> <p>Any opening up of facilities for wider community use should seek to include flexible indoor space as appropriate</p>

Swimming Pools

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
Protect SO1	Protect all existing provision particularly education based swimming pools	There is sufficient quantity of waterspace to meet the needs of Darlington residents now and in the future. The pools have sufficient capacity and are also well located to meet resident need. Quality is an issue as the pools are ageing and therefore long-term sustainability of the network, particularly the school sites is a concern. If any of the education sites were to close this would reduce the supply and demand balance close to equilibrium.	All swimming pool sites
Enhance SO4-SO7	Continue to invest in the flagship facility at the Dolphin. The Council are committed to a £2.75m investment programme to address pool plant and infra-structure issues. Seek to invest in the school pool network to facilitate greater community use and access	Dolphin Centre is well located to meet current and future needs and is crucial for swimming across the borough The school network is important to the supply and demand balance across Darlington. It is therefore important to seek to protect the education network as any reduction in the school network, which is ageing and under 'potential' threat would therefore impact on the supply and demand balance.	Dolphin Leisure Centre All education sites
Provide SO10	The Council is committed to working with the swimming clubs to make the waterspace work harder and increased time has already been allocated. These discussions should continue and	The club use across the pool network appears to be ad-hoc across the provision with clubs competing for time slots and facilities competing for business with no co-ordination. There appears to be capacity in the system	All sites with ASA support

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
	<p>look across the network as a whole</p> <p>Co-ordinate usage and programming across pools and develop a joint approach to programming across the available waterspace – maximize effectiveness of waterspace for different aquatic disciplines</p> <p>This may provide the opportunity to find enhanced time for Darlington Swimming Clubs by matching programmes more appropriately to pool provision as opposed to the current free market. Opportunities may exist to work with the ASA who can support Council's to address pool programming issues</p>	<p>and therefore an opportunity for developing joint programmes across the pools to maximise the use of available waterspace by all aquatic disciplines</p>	

Playing Pitches

11.7 While the amount of pitches has increased, and pitch provision is now more tailored to demand, there remain pressures on pitches in the borough and a need to ensure that existing quantities of pitches are protected.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions
<p>Protect</p> <p>SO1</p>	<p>Ensure that the Local Plan and subsequent DPDs contain policies protecting sites containing playing pitches, building upon the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 74) and Sport England's³ statutory consultee role on planning applications affecting playing field land.</p> <p>Sport England Policy indicates that Sport England will not object to the loss of playing fields where one or more of the following exception criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport; • the proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use; • the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make 	<p>The number of pitches provided overall is insufficient to meet demand from teams in Darlington Borough and there are shortfalls of provision. Existing provision should therefore be retained and new facilities will be required.</p>	<p>A full list of sites is provided later in this section. This outlines the key action for each site including which sites should be protected, enhanced and any sites that are no longer required to meet current or projected future need. The loss of any site not required should result in replacement provision and the list should be regularly updated in line with strategy monitoring processes.</p>

³ Sport England Policy on Playing Fields is set out in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England – Policy on Planning Applications for development on playing fields

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions
	<p>use of any playing pitch;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lost playing fields would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development; and the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields. 		

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions
<p>Protect</p> <p>SO2</p> <p>SO3</p>	<p>Protect existing security of access with timely negotiation of community use agreements with schools and with landowners where appropriate.</p> <p>Ensure that existing community use agreements are delivered and renewed.</p>	<p>The number of pitches provided overall is insufficient to meet demand from teams in Darlington Borough and there are shortfalls of provision.</p> <p>There is a particularly reliance on the school stock, meaning that sustained long term access to these sites is critical to the future of pitch provision in the borough.</p> <p>Lack of spare capacity at sites for football, cricket and rugby means that access to existing facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington RA –ongoing lease negotiations Haughton CC - issues with existing security of tenure Hurworth School – follow up of community access agreements. Agreements are in place but there is no existing access All schools with existing community access agreements - key priorities

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions
		should be protected and retained.	are Longfield Academy, The Education Village, Hummersknott School and Language College and Darlington School of Maths and Science. These schools are essential to the ongoing provision of sports facilities in Darlington Borough.

11.8 The current Darlington Borough Playing Pitch Strategy sets out a hub approach where pitches are concentrated on fewer sites with a greater number of facilities at each site. The hierarchy of facilities comprises:

- **Flagship sites** – multi pitch and multi sport sites with adequate changing, car parking and high quality maintenance (current sites Eastbourne Sports Complex and Blackwell Meadows)
- **Satellite sites** – multi pitch sites with at least 2 pitches and adequate changing accommodation (sites include South Park, Education Village, Longfield School, Darlington School of Maths and Science, Hummersknott School, Heighington Playing Fields). Carmel School should also be included within this category
- **Single pitch sites** – provides for more casual play and training, no changing accommodation required. Sites include Tommy Crooks Park Springfield Park, North Park.

11.9 This approach has proved successful and provision in Darlington Borough has improved as a result.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions
Protect / Provide / Enhance SO4 SO5 SO6	Continue to operate the strategic hierarchy of pitch provision across the borough and use this to guide prioritization for pitch improvements. The principles of the hierarchy should also continue to be adopted - the focus on large multi pitch sites and maximizing partnership	The strategic hierarchy adopted following the development of the previous strategy has proved successful and therefore provides strong foundations for the ongoing provision of playing fields in the borough. As is currently the case, the pricing structure should	All sites. All subsequent recommendations are undertaken with this strategic hierarchy in mind.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions
	working across all key providers.	remain tailored to the quality of facility that is provided.	

Football

11.10 The capacity of existing football pitches is constrained for a variety of reasons and as a result, there are insufficient pitches of the right type to meet projected demand. This is largely due to the recent growth in junior and 9v9 football and the overall pressures on the pitch stock, but is also influenced by the use of school sites (which must also accommodate curricular use) and a reliance on grass pitches for training. For adult pitches, the poor quality of facilities also restricts usage. There is a need to provide additional capacity in order to better the needs of existing clubs, but also to future proof the stock in the event of population growth and participation increases and also to ensure that demand is not constrained by supply.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions
Provide	Provide additional capacity in the pitch stock by;	Taking into account current and projected future demand, there are shortfalls in capacity equivalent to 5 junior pitches and 2 – 3 9v9 pitches, as well as 3 adult pitches. On grass pitches, there are limited opportunities to provide these facilities through increased community use, as most sites with such facilities are already open to the community. There are however opportunities to increase capacity through the provision of additional AGPs (and the use of existing facilities for match play). In particular, there is capacity for the additional AGPs to add 4 match equivalents for 9v9 as well as 2 for junior football. Scenario testing demonstrates that the provision of a further AGP would ensure that all 9v9 can be accommodated on 3g pitches. 2 youth matches could also be accommodated. Reprogramming of fixtures	AGPS
S03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting use of the existing 3g AGPs in the borough for competitive fixtures 		Promote use of 3g AGPs for competitive fixtures - both Longfield and Hummersknott have capacity. This is a key priority and will deliver significant additional capacity. To make best use of AGPs to address existing deficiencies, this should be targeted at 9v9 (Sunday morning) and Junior football (Sunday afternoon). Scenario testing reveals 3 AGPs are required to meet all demand for 9v9.
S08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing one additional 3g pitch in the borough to accommodate both matches and training. 		
S09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securing community use of key community venues currently offering unsecured access Supporting proposals by Darlington 1883 to relocate to the Blackwell Meadows site Identifying an opportunity to provide an additional youth pitches and 9v9 grass pitches (ideally at one or two multi pitch sites) 		One additional 3g AGP (priority location is Eastbourne Sports Complex) - as well as improving access for training, this should also be used to

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions
	<p>to ensure that current, as well as future needs are met. New provision required equates to circa 5 pitches.</p>	<p>would be needed to facilitate further use of AGPs for 5v5 and 7v7.</p> <p>The remainder of additional required capacity should be delivered in conjunction with key clubs.</p> <p>Darlington 1883 are currently displaced from the borough due to a lack of appropriate facilities.</p>	<p>reduce unmet demand at peak time match play for junior and 9v9.</p> <p>Explore the potential to reprogramme other local league fixtures (7v7 and 5v5) to also use AGPs by working with leagues to adjust times of games.</p> <p>New Pitch Provision</p> <p>Extension for Darlington RA (land adjacent to DSMS - land South of Cocker Beck, offers potential for investigation - 2 to 3 pitches).</p> <p>Additional new site. Darlington 21st Allstars FC have expressed an interest in managing and maintaining their own facility and are currently in talks with Darlington Mowden RFC. New facilities for the club would free up access to other sites and alleviate issues with a lack of spare capacity.</p> <p>Heighington Boys are also seeking additional land to accommodate club growth. Land at Cumby Arms provides potential to accommodate this.</p> <p>If the current preferred site is not possible, then provision on one of the new strategic Housing Sites – North West Urban Fringe and Eastern Urban should be considered. Likely requirement is 1x7v7, 1 x 5v, 1 x9v9 (if not all accommodated on AGPs) and 2 x youth. New pitches should include</p>

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions
			<p>changing and ancillary provision and meet with NGB standards and should be developed in conjunction with existing clubs. This requirement should be reviewed, as successful implementation of policies to increase use of 3g pitches will reduce the need for new pitch provision.</p> <p>Darlington 1883</p> <p>Relocation of Darlington 1883 to Blackwell Meadows.</p> <p>Secure Community Use</p> <p>Secure use of key unsecured sites – Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Mount Pleasant School, Heighington Primary School.</p>

11.11 The quality of pitches in Darlington has improved recently however there remain some sites where pitch quality is poor and improvements are required to improve capacity or to meet the aspirations of the pitch hierarchy that is in operation.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
<p>Enhance</p> <p>SO4 SO5 SO6 SO7</p>	<p>Address current and potential longer term issues with the quality of football provision by initially improving the existing pitch stock as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing capital in improving existing poor quality football pitch sites. This may include facilities in all ownership. Given the interrelationship between quality and 	<p>Pitch improvements will have a positive impact upon pitch capacity but will also improve player experience. Some quality issues identified in Darlington are impacting larger clubs which may have a particular impact on participation longer term.</p>	<p>Key Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch quality improvements at Darlington RFC to accommodate Darlington 1883 - these include pitch surface agronomy works, changing pavilion and structural

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
	<p>capacity, improvements should focus firstly on sites sustaining higher levels of usage (to ensure that benefits to capacity are felt) and multi pitch sites. Football pitches should be fit for the standard of play that they accommodate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where clubs require higher grade facilities to enable them to play within a specific league, the requirements associated with this should be facilitated. 		<p>requirements including car parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carmel College (drainage and pitch surface) - requires improvement to ensure it fits within proposed hierarchy Darlington RA (changing) South Park (pitch surface, drainage) - requires improvement to ensure it fits within proposed hierarchy

11.12 Facilities for football in the borough have improved but participation has remained relatively static. Issues relating to facility provision are evolving and constant dialogue is required to ensure that facilities meet need and are tailored to club requirements.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
<p>Enhance</p> <p>SO7</p> <p>Provide</p> <p>SO10</p>	<p>In order to drive forward football development in the borough, the Council should work alongside clubs to implement the football recommendations in the PPS and contribute to the regular updates of the document. This will also include Durham FA and the local leagues.</p> <p>The focus of this work should be on the delivery of FA priorities in the context of the local needs and evidence set out in the PPS.</p>	<p>Knowledge sharing will ensure a coordinated approach to football across the borough and will support in the delivery of this strategy.</p>	<p>All users</p>

Rugby

11.13 While there are enough rugby pitches in the borough as a whole, the stock of facilities at both club sites is insufficient to meet current and projected future needs. The nature of rugby means that satellite facilities have a limited role to play and that capacity at club grounds is a key priority.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
Provide SO8	Ensure that both clubs have sufficient access to pitches at their home ground to meet current and future demand by creating additional capacity at both sites through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to drainage works (Darlington RFC) and provision of additional 1 – 2 pitches • Provision of additional capacity at Darlington Mowden Park through either new pitches and / or the equivalent capacity (3g pitch linking with recommendations in AGP section) 	Both clubs are over capacity based on current levels of activity and have insufficient provision to meet demand both at the current time and in future years. Drainage improvements will improve capacity at Darlington RFC but both sites require additional pitches. The impact of the relocation of Darlington 1883 will further impact on the use of pitches at Darlington RFC, meaning that new pitches will be essential for the club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington RFC (drainage and new pitches). Work to facilitate move of Darlington 1883. Note floodlighting (see below) will be key priority. • Darlington Mowden Park RFC (new pitches x 2 or 3g).
Provide SO8 Enhance SO6 SO4 SO5	Ensure that clubs have access to appropriate training facilities through the provision of at least two floodlit pitches on each site.	The provision of additional floodlights ensures that the impact of training can be spread across several pitches rather than focused on one pitch. There are already 2 floodlit training pitches at Darlington Mowden Park (as well as the floodlit arena pitch) but additional provision will be required at Darlington RFC, particularly in the event of the relocation of Darlington 1883 FC, who will use the existing full floodlit pitch meaning it would be unavailable for use by the rugby club. This will leave the club with just 0.5 floodlit pitches and additional lighting will therefore be required.	Darlington RFC
Enhance SO6	Ensure that pitch quality at rugby clubs is sustained through appropriate management and maintenance procedures.	Management and maintenance of pitches is directly linked to site capacity.	Darlington RFC

Cricket

11.14 While each club manages their own facilities currently, there is little spare capacity at peak times and only limited scope to accommodate additional teams across the season.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
<p>Protect</p> <p>SO2</p> <p>Provide</p> <p>SO8</p>	<p>Ensure that clubs have access to the facilities required to sustain current and projected future activity by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Haughton CC and Darlington RA to secure long term access to their grounds Working with Darlington RA (or another club longer term) if additional facilities are required to meet current and / or projected future need. 	<p>Both Darlington RA and Haughton CC are using grounds that are unsecured for long term use. Loss of these facilities will see facilities for cricket in the borough become insufficient.</p> <p>Cricket in the borough is becoming constrained by facilities. Darlington RA are close to capacity at the current time and their aspirations for growth cannot be met within the confines of existing provision.</p>	<p>Haughton CC</p> <p>Darlington RA</p> <p>New provision could be delivered through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New pitch (linked with existing club) on urban extension the provision of facilities at a school site reinstatement of facilities at former cricket ground (Cumby Arms Playing Field /Hurworth House School). <p>Any new site, however delivered, should link with an existing club and function as a satellite facility. The club should be involved in the development of the site.</p>

11.15 Linking to the limited amount of facilities for cricket in Darlington Borough, a lack of facilities for training arose as an issue for almost every club. This can generate additional wear and tear on the grass wicket (which are all approaching capacity) as well as limit the training experience that the club can offer.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
Enhance SO4 SO5 SO6	<p>Support cricket clubs in the improvement of training facilities to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance.</p> <p>This should include improvements (or provision of) both appropriate training nets and artificial wickets for all clubs. The aspiration is for all clubs to have;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one artificial wicket • Access to appropriate training nets 	<p>The provision of inappropriate training facilities negatively impacts upon the overall capacity of a club, the attractiveness of a club and the quality of cricket that can be played. Artificial wickets can be used for both training and junior match play, meaning that they improve match capacity as well as training opportunities. Artificial wickets provide an effective way of more easily and cost effectively managing junior fixtures.</p>	<p>Non turf wickets required;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cockerton CC • Darlington CC • Darlington RA • Haughton CC • Middleton St George CC • Rockcliffe Park CC

11.16 Quality concerns relating to cricket pitches in Darlington Borough arose as one of the key issues for clubs and a key priority to address. Pitch quality impacts on both player experience and site capacity.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
Enhance SO4	<p>Work with clubs to prioritise improvements to the quality of existing cricket club bases. Key areas for improvement relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance procedures • Wicket and outfield condition (including drainage) • surface levelling • changing pavilions. <p>All pitches should be fit for the purposes they are intended and club bases should meet with NGB specifications.</p> <p>All sites for cricket should include full changing</p>	<p>The need for pitches to sustain high levels of use means that quality is essential if resources are to be maximised. This will be particularly important if aspirations to increase participation are achieved.</p> <p>ECB Research demonstrates that ancillary facilities are as important as the actual pitch in attracting new players and retaining existing facilities.</p> <p>Maintenance procedures are an essential component of quality and in many ways, influence the overall quality of the site.</p>	<p>All - maintenance issues as documented in technical assessments</p> <p>Cockerton CC - Improvement to outfield – drainage issues, pavilion</p> <p>Darlington CC - Changing facilities, Consolidation of maintenance procedure</p> <p>Darlington RA - Improvement to outfield, non-turf wicket, Consolidation of maintenance procedure</p> <p>Haughton CC - Improvement to outfield, Consolidation of</p>

	<p>accommodation and shelter as well as appropriate parking.</p> <p>Technical reports have been prepared to support this assessment. This details the improvements required to the maintenance procedure at each site are documented in these reports.</p>		<p>maintenance procedure</p> <p>Middleton St George CC - Improvement to outfield, Consolidation of maintenance procedure, Improved pavilion</p> <p>Rockcliffe Park - Consolidation of maintenance procedure, drainage issue.</p>
<p>Enhance</p> <p>SO4</p>	<p>Support clubs to obtain appropriate maintenance equipment to enable the improvement of quality issues and ensure the ongoing sustainability of cricket in the borough.</p>	<p>Maintenance of pitches is a key component of quality. Without effective maintenance, capital investment is futile and pitches are unsustainable long term. Cricket in particular requires dedicated maintenance and technical competence.</p> <p>Technical reports have been prepared to support this assessment. This details the improvements required to the maintenance procedure at each site are documented in these reports. They highlight required maintenance equipment as well as opportunities for</p>	<p>Support all clubs in training volunteers through provision of IOG pitch preparation courses</p> <p>Provision of equipment - support all clubs linked to findings of technical assessments.</p>

AGPs and MUGAs

11.17 There are currently three AGPs across the borough (two 3g and one sand based pitch). Modelling indicates that an additional pitch is required to meet demand. There are several options for the delivery of this facility and an overall financial viability modelling exercise is required to determine the most appropriate solution.

Link to Strategic Objective	Recommendation	Justification	Site Specific Priorities
Provide SO8	Linking with recommendations in football, to improve capacity for training and match play for football, provide an additional 3g pitch within Darlington Borough. This pitch should meet with FA specifications to ensure it can be used for both match play and training needs.	<p>Evidence suggests that there is a need for three 3G AGPs, meaning that there is a requirement for one additional AGP. This is further evidenced by the lack of access to 3g pitches for some football clubs for training and the need to increase capacity for match play.</p> <p>Provision of a new facility at Eastbourne Sports Complex will enable links with the existing football hub and provide a central venue for football in the borough.</p>	<p>Priority location - Eastbourne Sports Complex.</p> <p>Note - the delivery of this recommendation depends upon alternative hockey provision for the clubs based at Eastbourne Sports Complex.</p>
Provide SO8 Enhance SO4 SO5 SO6	Ensure that hockey clubs still have access to sand based hockey provision to meet their needs and requirements and pursue the development of a sand based artificial pitch at Carmel College.	<p>Hockey clubs require access to one sand based facility in order to sustain current activity and projected demand.</p> <p>The proposed location of a new pitch at Carmel College would secure the future of the two hockey clubs and would also address concerns about the adequacy of existing facilities for curricular need. The location of the facility on a school site would also enable the club to build relationships with the school which will facilitate participation increases.</p>	<p>Pursue the development of a new sand base pitch at Carmel College.</p> <p>Ensure that the two Hockey clubs have a workable interim alternative for fixtures and training during any capital development at Eastbourne Sports Complex. In the event that a pitch at Carmel College is not provided, a workable solution for hockey will be required.</p>
Provide SO8	Linking with recommendations relating to rugby (above) regularly review requirement for additional 3g AGP	Potential football growth would create demand for additional 0.5 3g AGP. The provision of rugby AGP for Darlington Mowden Park RFC is reliant upon some football income and could therefore offer a solution if demand continues to increase.	Darlington Mowden Park RFC.

Indoor and Outdoor Tennis

11.18 The existing stock of tennis courts is almost directly matched with demand. While club sites are at capacity, public and pay and play facilities at school sites have capacity to accommodate additional play.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
Protect SO1	Retain existing club based tennis courts and support activity to increase participation and membership at both club sites.	Existing club based tennis courts are almost at capacity and are valuable sites for the local community. They deliver at least 50% of tennis in the borough and are therefore valuable to current and projected future participation.	Wellfield TC New Blackwell LTC
Enhance SO4 SO5 SO6 SO7	Support clubs in the improvement of facilities where issues have been identified. Both clubs should include access to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> courts of an appropriate standard; and adequate pavilion (including toilets) and shelter. 	<p>Circa half of all activity takes place at club bases and consultation reveals that clubs are approaching capacity in terms of the number of courts that they have and the number of members that they are sustaining.</p> <p>Quality of facilities is essential if tennis activity is to be sustained, while floodlighting of courts will provide extra capacity due to the additional hours that facilities will be available.</p>	Wellfield TC Improve pavilion / changing accommodation Resurface courts Installation of floodlights to increase capacity at the site.
Protect Enhance / Provide SO9 SO10	Protect public and school courts and ensure that they offer a clear prospect for community use through qualitative improvements. These should include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improvements (i.e. floodlighting) to increase the hours of community use, including those on school sites; quality improvements to tennis courts to enhance the quality of play and skill development (e.g. resurfacing, deep cleaning); and provision of improved changing and ancillary facilities. 	<p>Public tennis courts accommodate more informal play and are thought to host circa 50% of all activity.</p> <p>LTA research demonstrates that the most successful community tennis schemes are those that take place on facilities of adequate quality and that are supported by good marketing and promotion to maximize awareness.</p> <p>The emerging LTA strategy recognises the importance of tennis provision on public sites, but also highlights the challenges of providing these facilities and in particular of maintaining the quality of key sites. It presents a series of alternative solutions for the This may include key fob access to public facilities.</p>	All existing courts. In line with the emerging LTA strategy, seek to revitalize public tennis provision through the introduction of innovative schemes to increase the use of public sites. This should link with investment into court quality.
Enhance / Provide SO9	Linking with improvements to public and school tennis courts, work in partnership with the LTA to promote opportunities for tennis (casual and formal) in the borough. School facilities are	LTA research demonstrates that the most successful community tennis schemes are those that take place on facilities of adequate quality and that are supported by good	Increase promotional activity for tennis across the borough linking with school sites and promoting the availability of the public venues that are accessible

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites
SO10	currently available but promotion is required to raise awareness.	marketing and promotion to maximize awareness. Recent research demonstrated a significant lack of awareness in tennis in the North East. Outside of the club bases, all courts in Darlington have scope to accommodate additional activity.	free of charge. Seek to establish The Education Village as an important venue for tennis, due to the location of the site on the other side of the town to the majority of courts. This may include detailed promotion and the introduction of coach led introductory sessions, linking with the LTA.
Provide SO8	No additional public tennis courts are required to support current or future population growth.	Existing sites have capacity to accommodate additional play	n/a

Indoor and Outdoor Bowls

11.19 There are enough bowling greens to meet current and projected future demand and all greens have capacity to accommodate additional play. Quality arose as the key issue for clubs to address and the retention of existing facilities is equally as important.

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Site Specific Priorities
Protect SO1	Resist the loss of any club based facilities unless replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location. Former bowling greens that are now redundant are not required to meet current or projected future need.	Current membership of bowling clubs is lower than average levels and all clubs have capacity to accommodate additional members. All current sites are however well used and the ageing population is likely to positively impact on demand for bowls. There is therefore a need to retain existing facilities and to promote access to these sites.	All clubs
Enhance SO4	Support enhancements/upgrades to existing greens where there is evidence that the playing experience is currently impacted and where	The quality of bowling greens was highlighted as the key concern by clubs and clubs with poorer quality facilities struggle to attract new	North Lodge Park – green quality improvements. Requires improved

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Site Specific Priorities
SO5 SO6 SO7	<p>improvements would lead to increased community use and help to achieve financial sustainability by increasing membership. All bowling greens should include access to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A green of appropriate standard • Adequate pavilion (including toilets) and shelter 	members.	<p>pavilion / toilets</p> <p>North Park - North Lodge Park – green quality improvements. Requires repair work to pavilion</p> <p>Other sites would also benefit from investment into maintenance and site surrounds</p>
Provide SO10	Support clubs to proactively increase participation and membership. To maximise the sustainability of bowls as a sport, efforts should focus on recruitment of junior players as well as adult and veterans. This is important for the sustainability of existing clubs as well as the growth of bowls as a sport.	With low membership, there are concerns about the sustainability of bowling clubs and income is insufficient to meet the costs of maintenance. Consultation with clubs highlights support and guidance in club development of being central to the overall future of the club.	All bowls clubs
Provide SO8	There is no requirement for the creation of additional indoor or outdoor greens, although all current functioning greens are considered valuable resources.	Existing clubs have capacity for additional bowling greens and would benefit from higher memberships.	All bowls clubs

11.20 For outdoor sports facilities, a site specific list of actions is also provided overleaf.

Outdoor Sports Facilities - Site Specific Priorities

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
Blackwell New Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Site approaching capacity. Excellent well maintained facilities. Limited opportunities for spectating and minimal storage.	Protect	
Brinkburn Dene Tennis Courts	Tennis	Open access site of average quality. Potential to improve function and usage. One court has been lost since previous strategy.	Protect and enhance	Medium Term
Carmel Roman Catholic Technology College	Football, Tennis, Rugby	Football and rugby pitches poorly drained and limited pitch surface. Evidence of wear and tear on football pitches. Tennis facilities also poor. Potential site for AGP. Pitches overplayed – important venue for football.	All Sports - Protect Football - Enhance Drainage improvements required. (School / FA) Tennis - improve court surface (School) Explore opportunity to provide new sand based AGP - this is the priority site. (School / DBC / England Hockey)	Short Term - Key strategic priority
Cockerton Cricket Club	Cricket	Site requires improvement to outfield – drainage issues. Also needs provision of non turf wicket. Some spare capacity on site. Pavilion poor quality	Protect Improve condition of pavilion, outfield (drainage) and other detailed issues identified in ECB reports. (Club / Durham Cricket Board) Provide non turf wicket (Club / Durham Cricket Board)	Short - Medium Term

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
Croft Working Mens Club	Football	Grass long, evidence of damage to surface and patches of poor drainage. Site currently has limited role to play but potential to function as recreational pitch. Site not currently used and therefore has spare capacity	Protect Site should be retained as strategic reserve. Will require enhancement before usage but potential to provide for an adult team	
Darlington Cricket Club	Cricket	Changing facilities require improvement, site also needs new non turf wicket. Some spare capacity on site.	Protect Improve changing accommodation and address other detailed issues identified in ECB reports. (Club / Durham Cricket Board) Provide non turf wicket(Club / Durham Cricket Board)	Short - Medium Term
Darlington Education Village	Football, Rugby, Tennis	Excellent facilities. Flat pitches with recent evidence of improvements, can become waterlogged in extreme weather. Excellent tennis courts located on MUGA and surrounded by strong wire mesh. Equipment well maintained and site litter free. Important venue for football and potential to increase use of tennis facilities	Protect Seek to establish The Education Village as an important venue for tennis, due to the location of the site on the other side of the town to the majority of courts. This may include detailed promotion and the introduction of coach led introductory sessions, linking with the LTA. LTA to work with school to develop such initiatives. (LTA / School / DBC)	Medium - Long Term
Darlington Mowden Park RFC - The Northern Echo Arena	Rugby	Good quality floodlit pitches including one stadium pitch. . Site at capacity and requires additional pitches - There is lots	Protect and enhance. Additional capacity required at site through either extension of existing rugby pitches or new	Medium Term

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
		of spare land on the site for additional pitch provision and club are keen to add 3g AGP	AGP. Potential for new AGP to be reviewed following installation of AGP at Eastbourne Sports Complex and Carmel College. This will require full financial business modelling. (Club / RFU) Site also to be investigated as potential to accommodate Darlington 21 st Allstars FC. (Clubs / FA / RFU / DBC)	
Darlington Railway Athletic Club	Football, cricket, bowls	Important club in borough, includes football team playing in pyramid. Issues with security of tenure to be addressed. For cricket, improvement to outfield, new non turf wicket is required and potential for additional pitch required longer term. Football pitches are also overplayed and overuse impacts on pitch quality. Renovations also required to changing accommodation. Bowling pavilion tired and holes on green. Non turf wicket required Potential requirement for additional land	Protect and enhance. Secure longer term secure of tenure. Improve pavilion to benefit all sports. Cricket - Improve condition of outfield and other detailed issues identified in ECB reports. (Club / Durham Cricket Board) Provide non turf wicket(Club / Durham Cricket Board) Review potential requirement for additional pitch longer term. Football Additional capacity required - investigate to secure potential additional land through use of existing lapsed site (Land at Cocker Beck). (Club / FA)	Short Term - Key strategic priority

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
			Bowls - address existing quality issues (Club)	
Darlington RFC	Football and Rugby	Full ancillary provision but pitch improvements required to 2 rugby pitches. Football pitches good but site is subject to proposals to host Darlington 1883 a pyramid football club. Improvements to pitch quality and other facilities required to meet ground grading requirements. Additional Floodlighting also required.	Protect Support improvements required to enable relocation of Darlington 1883 FC. (Club / DBC / RFU / FA) Provide additional floodlights to support rugby training (Club / RFU)	Short Term - Key strategic priority
Darlington School of Maths and Science	Football, Rugby, Tennis	Some signs of wear and tear on pitches with limited grass cover. Youth pitches heavily used	Protect	
Eastbourne Sports Complex	Football, Bowling Green, AGP	Important strategic venue for sport. Pitch quality good although some evidence of wear and tear. AGP in poor condition and requires refurbishment. Bowling green good quality. Some spare capacity at site.	Protect Resurface existing AGP from sand based to 3g (DBC / FA) Continue to improve football pitch quality (DBC / FA)	Short Term - Key strategic priority
Federation of Abbey Schools	Football	Pitch surface uneven. No changing facilities. Opportunity to increase usage. Site currently unsecured	Protect	

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
Federation of Mowden Schools		Pitch surface uneven. No changing facilities. Opportunity to increase usage. Site currently unsecured	Protect	
Gurney Pease Primary School	Football	Site appears relatively heavily used. Grass cover only average	Protect	
Harrowgate Hill Primary School	Football	Pitch is well maintained, grass of good length, the pitch is flat and the grass even. The goals are in good condition. Opportunity to increase usage	Protect	
Houghton Cricket Club	Cricket	Issues with security of tenure to be addressed. Some spare capacity, site also requires non turf wicket, improvement to outfield and consolidation of maintenance procedure	Protect Address issues with security of tenure (Club / Durham Cricket Board) Improve condition of outfield and other detailed issues identified in ECB reports. (Club / Durham Cricket Board) Provide non turf wicket (Club / Durham Cricket Board)	Short - Medium Term
Heighington C of E Primary School	Football	Important site that is currently unsecured for use. Average quality	Protect Secure for long term community use (DBC)	
Heighington Playing Fields	Football	Require fencing to prevent loss of balls into neighbouring property. Open access site which can	Protect. Explore opportunities to extend site onto neighbouring land - a	Medium - Long Term

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
		impact on quality, newly constructed changing accommodation. Site approaching capacity and club are already using other facilities	lapsed site (land at Cumby Arms) (Club / FA / DBC)	
Hummersknott Academy	Football, Tennis, Rugby, AGP	Pitch quality good with no issues identified. Changing accommodation available. Football pitches overused but good quality 3g pitch with scope to accommodate additional play at match times. Tennis courts in good condition. Rugby pitches not used	Protect Increase usage of 3g pitch for match play (this may require pricing review to promote usage) - (School / FA)	Short Term - Key strategic priority
Hurworth Grange Community Centre	Football	Very uneven pitch although gradient is good. Poorly maintained with rusty goals and grass is too long. Changing planned. Site currently has some spare capacity	Protect. Site should be retained as strategic reserve. Will require enhancement before usage but potential to provide for an adult team	
Hurworth School	Football, Tennis, Rugby	Facilities of average quality. Community use agreement but concerns about current levels of access to site. Some issues with pitch drainage and surface.	Protect and seek to enhance access. Pursue community use agreement (DBC)	Medium Term
Longfield Academy	Football, Rugby, AGP, Tennis	Football pitches largely flat although some uneven surfaces. Evidence of wear and tear. Changing accommodation provided. Some issues with litter	Protect Increase usage of 3g pitch for match play (this may require pricing review to promote usage) (School / FA)	Short Term - Key strategic priority

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
		and site is overplayed. Condition of AGP and tennis courts is good		
Middleton St George Bowls Club	Bowling Green	Site of excellent quality	Protect	
Middleton St George Cricket Club	Cricket	Site requires improvement to outfield, consolidation of maintenance procedure, provision of non-turf wicket and improved pavilion	Protect Improve pavilion (Club / Durham Cricket Board) Improve condition of outfield and other detailed issues identified in ECB reports. (Club / Durham Cricket Board) Provide non turf wicket (Club / Durham Cricket Board)	Short - Medium Term
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Football	No changing and pitches are on a slope. Some drainage issues cause cancellations. Important site for community football	Protect Secure formal community use. (DBC) Some pitch improvements may benefit role of site.	
North Lodge Park	Bowling Green	Playing surface acceptable. Changing pavilion identified as key priority for improvement and club highlight need for relocated and improved toilet facilities.	Protect Support enhancements to pavilion (DBC)	Medium Term
North Park	Football and Bowling Green	Football pitches in poor condition with puddles in goal mouths and sloping pitches. No changing. Bowling also of limited quality. Poor paths and changing accommodation. Green surface of relatively poor quality and this is attributed to	Protect. Site is a low tier site for football and therefore enhancements are not a priority. Improvement may however be needed longer term to ensure that the pitch can continue to function.	Medium Term

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
		the basic levels of maintenance that take place. Roof of pavilion poor condition and major repairs required	Bowling green - improve surface and address quality issues with pavilion (DBC / Club)	
Polam Hall School	Tennis, Rugby Football	No community access to pitches.	Protect	
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College	Football, Rugby	Pitch on a slight slope but with good grass cover and well maintained posts. Changing accommodation provided. Important venue for community football and site is unsecured	Protect Secure formal access (DBC)	
Red Hall Community Centre	Football	Poor markings with goals in poor condition. Sloping pitch uneven. Modern changing block provided within community association. Important site for local teams	Protect	
Red Hall Primary School	Football	Site of average quality but unsecured access only	Protect	
Redworth Hall Hotel and Leisure Club	Tennis	Courts within hotel complex. Surface of only average quality but adequate line markings and fencing	Protect	
Rockcliffe Park	Football, AGP	Facilities not available for community use. Important site for Middlesbrough FC training	Protect	

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
Rockliffe Park Cricket Club	Cricket	Improvement to Non Turf Practice Facilities	Protect Improve non turf wicket (Club / Durham Cricket Board) Address detailed issues identified in ECB reports. (Club / Durham Cricket Board)	Short - Medium Term
Skerne Park Academy	Football	Site not currently used for community play but is available for activity	Protect	
South Park	Football, Bowling Green	One disused green. Poor playing surface on remaining green. Football pitches have drainage issues and lack top dressing, but are well used. Important venue for large club	Protect and enhance. Football - Football site is key venue and requires improvement to ensure it fits within the proposed strategic hierarchy - address drainage issues and review maintenance procedures. (DBC / FA) Bowling - Second green not required to meet demand, but may represent opportunity to increase provision should demand increase significantly. Allocate as strategic reserve.	
Springfield	Football	Grass too long and some evidence of dog walking on site. Areas of uneven surface. :Poor condition and spare capacity	Protect. Site is a low tier site for football and therefore enhancements are not a priority. Improvement may however be needed longer term to ensure that the pitch can continue to function.	

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
St Johns Church of England Academy	Football	Site not currently used for community play although it is available. Pitch provision poor and does not meet curricular requirements	Protect and enhance	
Stanhope Park	Tennis	Courts of average condition. Require promotion and marketing to raise awareness	Protect Undertake marketing programme to promote availability of tennis courts). (DBC / LTA)	
Teeside Airport	Football	Site does not include changing accommodation and has limited pitch markings. Important venue for training	Protect.	
Tommy Crooks Park	Football	Poor drainage, no changing accommodation and pitch surface poor. Lower tier site but remains important venue for single adult teams. Site has potential to become higher site should demand arise	Protect. Site is a low tier site for football and therefore enhancements are not a priority. Improvement may however be needed longer term to ensure that the pitch can continue to function. Site should be prioritised if demand increases.	
Wellfield Tennis Club	Tennis	Courts require resurfacing. Site approaching capacity and may require floodlighting to extend this	Protect and provide. Resurface courts (Club / LTA) Investigate installation of floodlighting (Club / LTA)	Medium - Long Term
West Park Academy	Football	Site of average quality. Unsecured for community use and poor quality	Protect	

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
Whinfield Academy	Football	Site of average quality, scope to increase use	Protect	
Woodlands Bowls Club	Bowling Green	Excellent quality private club with good playing surface	Protect	
Glebe Road	Football	Former single playing field with limited role in football. Does not meet strategic priorities to focus on larger multi pitch sites. Any loss of pitch should see facility replaced and investment into sporting infrastructure.	Retain as green space	
Mcmullen Road	Football	Former single playing field with limited role in football. Does not meet strategic priorities to focus on larger multi pitch sites. Any loss of pitch should see facility replaced and investment into sporting infrastructure.	Retain as green space	
St George Playing Field	Football	Former single playing field with limited role in football. Does not meet strategic priorities to focus on larger multi pitch sites. Any loss of pitch should see facility replaced and investment into sporting infrastructure.	Retain as green space	
Land South of Cocker Beck	Former Playing field	Former playing field site not currently use for football	Investigate potential for reinstatement of playing fields as extension to Darlington RA (DBC / Club / FA)	Short Term

Site Name	Sports	Comments	Actions and Responsibility	Priority Level
Cumby Arms Playing Field	Former Cricket and Football Field	Land offers potential to meet future deficiencies in cricket (satellite facility for existing club) and football (extension to Heighington Playing Fields)	Investigate potential for reinstatement of playing fields as extension to Heighington Playing Fields (DBC / Club / FA)	Short Term

Implementation

- 11.21 Given the potential level of funding required, it is likely that investment will only be achieved through a combination of opportunities and funding sources as well as partnership opportunities.
- 11.22 Local authority finances are currently under pressure and previous major national funding programmes are no longer available. Some funding opportunities, however, still remain; for example, individual school capital grants have replaced BSF and Sport England now has more clearly defined capital available through its Places People Play Legacy funding programme. While the education capital funding programmes will continue to change over time, there will still be a need for investment to take place on school sites during the strategy period and opportunities for joint projects may arise.
- 11.23 The council will seek to use assets innovatively and work on a multi-agency approach to address the facility requirements in the strategy.
- 11.24 The main funding delivery mechanisms for Darlington Borough Council and others in delivering this strategy are:
- Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 developer contributions – new development and population growth will generate demand for additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities. ***All new developments should contribute towards the provision of outdoor and indoor sports, whether through the provision of new facilities or the improvement of existing***
 - Capital Grant funding: From schools and national agencies such as Sport England, including its Iconic Facilities, Improvement Fund and Inspired Facilities programmes as well as Protection of Playing Fields Funds
 - National Governing Body (NGB) support
 - Council funding: capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within the council's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets
 - Education and Further Education sector: while the previous sources of funding (including BSF and Primary Schools Programme) have changed and the scale of the education capital programmes have been reduced, the education sector is still likely to be a key funding stream.

New facilities

- 11.25 In addition to the overarching strategy principles outlined earlier in this section, the following should be considered when providing any new facilities (or new sites to facilitate club relocation).
- Location - When planning new facilities, the existing sporting infrastructure should be taken into account. In particular, club bases for cricket and rugby should be retained and the provision of single pitch sites with limited facilities should be avoided
 - Quality - Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below). The following general criteria must also be met:

- A high standard of design, construction and maintenance appropriate to the standard of play
- Adequate changing facilities that:
 - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes;
 - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act;
 - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort; and
 - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines
- Managed community access
- Accessible by public transport and by car
- Sufficient car parking
- Size of pitches and run offs complies with NGB specification
- Security of tenure (at least 20 years) if a club is to be based at the site.

11.26 All new and enhanced sports facilities must be designed in accordance with the relevant Sport England and (where applicable) National Governing Body (NGB) design guidance in order to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose and of a suitable quality.

11.27 To ensure sustainability, new sites should include a minimum of two pitches. New single pitch sites will not be supported and new provision associated with any development of insufficient size to warrant more than one pitch should be located off site as part of a multi pitch development.

11.28 Sport England's web site www.sportengland.org contains a range of current guidance documents which provide detailed specifications and information regarding the design of sporting and ancillary facilities.

11.29 This provides a link to the NGB's supported by Sport England, and to the guidance on the respective NGB websites:

<http://www.sportengland.org/our-work/national-work/national-governing-bodies/sports-we-invest-in/>.

11.30 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs.

11.31 Darlington Borough Council has an approved Core Strategy and the Council are now developing a Sites and Allocations DPD. Using the Evidence Base for indoor sport and pitches there is an opportunity to develop policies for indoor and outdoor sport based on the needs and evidence set out, and in turn use these to deliver investment for community sport and physical activity.

11.32 In the current and emerging economic environment it is also clear that facility provision should be focussing on achieving a cost neutral position for service sustainability. This introduces an element of commercial evaluation and assessment for the council to

consider as part of deliberations in future provision. It is therefore important that the council considers increasing pressure regarding, need, demand, affordability and sustainability in relation to any future investment or re investment in existing or proposed projects.

National Planning Policy Framework

11.33 The start point for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation is therefore the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and in particular paragraphs 73 and 74.

Paragraph 73

11.34 *'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 and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.'*

Paragraph 74

11.35 '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.'

11.36 The NPPF requires planning policy to be based on the establishment of an up to date needs assessment of provision now and in the future, with identified specific quantitative and qualitative deficits of surpluses and by different types of provision. It is setting out that existing provision should not be built on unless it meets one of the three requirements.

Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance

11.37 In order to apply the direction set by the NPPF Sport England developed and published two methodologies for developing needs and evidence for indoor and outdoor sport. In 2103 the Playing Pitch Strategy methodology was published and in 2014 the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) was established as the industry wide guidance and methodology for assessing needs and developing an evidence base for indoor and built sports and recreational facilities. The ANOG guidance has 4 headings in its assessment: Quantity; Quality; Access and Availability.

11.38 The evidence base for the Darlington Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy for swimming pools and sports halls has been developed applying the ANOG methodology. The PPS has utilised the new playing pitch methodology.

11.39 The direction under both ANOG and the PPS is to then set out the evidence base findings for planning policy purposes under the three headings of: *Protect and Retain; Enhance; and Provide.*



11.40 Applying the findings from the ANOG and PPS evidence base for Darlington some suggested broad planning policies are.

Protect and Retain

11.41 'The Council will seek to retain provision of the existing supply of sports halls, swimming pools, outdoor sports facilities, pitches and AGPs at the existing sites. This is based on the needs assessment identifying there is a present and continuing need for this scale of provision. Also the locations provide very good accessibility for the residents of the borough and any changes in provision/locations is unlikely to improve on the accessibility for residents.'

Reasoned justification for sports halls

11.42 The assessment on quantity of sports hall provision is that Darlington has a good supply of modern sports halls.

11.43 There is however a need to retain this level of provision as the majority of provision is on education – school or college sites. Maintaining this supply of sports halls to meet demand is contingent on continuing availability of the venues and this is at the decision and discretion of the school and college sports hall owner and operator. The projected surplus of supply over demand would be eliminated if these venues do not continue with community use, or if the rate of participation in hall sports increases and thereby increases demand.

11.44 In terms of access the assessment of need has identified the location and catchment area of the sports halls correlates very well with the location of the demand for sports halls. The majority of the demand for a sports hall by Darlington residents is located within the catchment area of a Darlington sports hall. There is enough sports halls capacity to absorb this level of demand. Changing the location of sports halls in the borough is very unlikely to improve on access to sports halls by Darlington residents.

Reasoned justification for swimming pools

11.45 There is enough quantity of swimming pool provision to meet demand in Darlington. The total Darlington demand is for 1,076 sq metres of water and the total Darlington supply in 2013 is 1,425 sq metres of water. So there is a positive supply and demand balance of 349 sq metres of water (Note a 25m x 4 lane pool is 212 sq metres of water).

11.46 Should any of the education based pools close then the positive supply and demand balance would however move closer to balance.

11.47 Given these findings the Council needs to protect the current quantity of swimming pool provision at the existing locations. The Council does not consider there is a need to provide additional waterspace/pools. They are however committed to investing in the flagship facility at the Dolphin, which is well located to meet current and future needs and is crucial for swimming across the borough. Investment should also be sought for the school pool network to facilitate greater community use and access.

11.48 The location and catchment areas of the Darlington swimming pools makes them very accessible to residents. The Darlington pools are very accessible. The hard evidence data based on the location, catchment area of the pools and the capacity of the

pools overlaid with the location of the Darlington demand for swimming shows the pools are very well located and accessible in relation to the Darlington demand.

Reasoned justification for AGPS

- 11.49 The capacity of AGPs is relatively constrained, particularly during midweek at peak times. Increases in participation are likely to result in higher demand for training facilities and there is currently little scope to accommodate this within the existing infrastructure. There is also a need to increase the stock of existing facilities in order to accommodate both training and competitive activity.

Reasoned Justification for Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

- 11.50 The strategy identifies pressures on the existing stock of grass pitches and highlights all those that should be retained. Several lapsed sites have potential to meet existing deficiencies. Given the lack of spare capacity in the stock and the need to provide additional facilities, there is a need to retain all highlighted existing deficiencies.
- 11.51 The assessment indicates that there are sufficient other outdoor sports facilities in the borough, but that all are required to meet current and projected future need.

Enhance

- 11.52 *The Council will seek to support the enhancement of the quality of the school pools to address the long-term sustainability of provision and ensure demand for improved capacity of the swimming pool accessibility through considering options to improve options for use of the pool including considering feasibility of additional provision. The Council will enhance provision of the pool by investment of section106 monies or the CIL, based on a viable business case being established.*
- 11.53 *The Council will seek to support the enhancement of the quality of the existing sports halls stock. It is recognised the Council is not the owner or operator of the vast majority of sports halls in the borough. Therefore the Council will seek to work with the school and college owners and operators to enhance the existing provision and programme accessibility on an on-going basis.*
- 11.54 *The Council will expect the existing owners to set out a reasoned business case for enhancement of its facilities in terms of financial viability and the type and programme of community use it will deliver. The Council will seek to make strategic interventions and partnerships based on the borough wide assessment of need for sports halls over the plan period. The Council will consider enhancing provision of the stock by supporting / influencing investment of section106 monies or the CIL, based on a business case developed by the provider or jointly which meets the Council's priorities for community use requirements identified in its assessment of need.*
- 11.55 *Based on the audit and analysis the Council will seek to support investment in the community centre network to provide sustainable local active recreation opportunities'.*
- 11.56 *Based on the key priorities identified, the Council will seek to support investment in the outdoor sports facilities, playing field and AGP stock to ensure that sustainable local recreation opportunities are provided.*

Reasoned justification for swimming pools

- 11.57 There is sufficient quantity of waterspace to meet the needs of Darlington residents now and in the future. The Dolphin plays a key role in swimming provision and the size,

quality and location means it is well placed to do so. It should be protected but also invested in and enhanced on an on-going basis.

- 11.58 The pools have sufficient capacity and are also well located to meet resident needs. Quality is however an issue as the pools are ageing and therefore long-term sustainability of the network, particularly the school sites is a concern. If any of the education sites were to close this would reduce the supply and demand balance close to equilibrium. It is therefore important not only to seek to protect the education network but enhance it through investment to ensure long-term sustainability. As any reduction in the school network, which is ageing and under 'potential' threat would impact on the supply and demand balance

Reasoned justification for sports halls and community centre provision

- 11.59 The needs assessment has identified that the Council does not own or manage the sports halls, apart from the Dolphin Centre. The stock is located on school / college sites. It is a very modern stock largely constructed in the last decade. It is therefore a good level and quality borough stock with very little immediate need for enhancement.
- 11.60 The evidence base and consultation work has identified that schools are generally committed to community use. However each school develops its own programme of the type and level of community use. It is effective but responsive to local needs identified, and provided by schools and sports clubs responding to their own needs and opportunities. There is an individual site by site approach to the provision and management of sports facilities by schools and a varying level of expertise in the planning, delivery and management of these facilities for public use.
- 11.61 The established approach needs to be enhanced, strategically developed and co-ordinated across the borough, so as to maximise the potential of school sites for community use. To do this effectively it requires a co-ordinated management programme of community use and delivery.
- 11.62 It is fully recognised the independence of schools and colleges to determine and manage their own arrangements for community use of sports facilities. It is also fully recognised that the schools lack sufficient capital funding to further improve and enhance facilities. Given the age and quality of the stock this is not an immediate issue. However as the stock ages it will need to be enhanced and modernised. Future growth in population and residents of new housing will make use of the school based sports facilities. It is most cost and sports effective to invest in what is already in place at existing sites to meet the continuing need for community use and access to sports halls over the plan period.
- 11.63 The Community Hall network (village halls, church halls and community halls) are an important part of the provision mix of community assets across Darlington. They provide opportunities for residents who do not want formal sporting opportunities in larger sports halls, but more activity based opportunities in small flexible spaces. Community based provision is also particularly important for delivering to the health agenda where local accessible opportunities in the community reflect the approach of getting the inactive more active. The community centre network clearly plays an important role in providing opportunities for dance, keep fit, zumba, pilates etc and martial arts. Pricing appears more competitive than the traditional sports hall offer. Lack of volunteers and marketing appear to be key challenges as opposed to facility issues. There appears to be opportunities to make greater use of the community centre network through the development of a coordinated approach, led by the Council to promote opportunities and availability. This may require small investments and upgrades.

11.64 Strategically planned application of Sec 106 funding or CIL funding from new housing development to support and influence modernisation of the community infrastructure of school sports halls and community centres should therefore be considered over the plan period. In return for any CIL investment the Council would develop a formal joint use agreement and a contractual arrangement between the Council and the school/college based on a business case for investment and setting out the programme for the type, hours and philosophy of community use that will be delivered.

Reasoned justification for AGPs and Grass Pitches

11.65 The quality of playing fields is impacted by several things, including;

- the facilities provided;
- the maintenance regime (and the degree to which this is appropriate for the level of use sustained); and
- the amount of activity that takes place on the site.

11.66 Pitch quality is a key component of the pitch stock and will influence capacity of a pitch as well as attractiveness to users and the ability of a site to be used for play in specific leagues. The role of a playing field in meeting needs is reduced if the pitch is of poor quality. There are some clear quality issues in Darlington Borough where the future potential of a pitch to accommodate play is likely to be compromised if not addressed.

Provision

11.67 *'The Council will seek to support prioritised provision of a new 3g pitch or hub in the borough to increase the capacity of the AGP stock for football as well as the provision of additional football pitches to support key clubs. In the event of resurface of the existing sand based AGP to create the 3g football hub, an additional sand based AGP will be required. The Council will seek to enhance access to swimming by investment of section106 monies or the CIL, based on the predicted growth in the borough.'*

11.68 *Support proposals for delivery of additional community centre provision where any gaps are identified in the audit.'*

Reasoned justification AGPs and Grass Pitches

11.69 Scenario testing has enabled determination of the appropriate mix of AGPs and grass pitches and provided an understanding of the number of pitches to meet local needs.

11.70 There are two full sized 3g pitches in the borough and a requirement for an additional AGP to meet future needs. Assuming the creation of a football hub to include resurfacing of the existing sand based AGP to 3g, there is also a need to provide a further sand based AGP to support the needs of hockey. This will ensure that there remain facilities suitable for hockey within the Darlington Borough Council boundaries.

11.71 To ensure that there are sufficient grass pitches to meet future growth (and even when assuming some competitive activity takes place on 3g pitches), further grass pitches are also required. The numbers proposed are needed to ensure that supply meets projected future demand and new provision is focused around the needs of key clubs.

Role of developer contributions in part financing indoor and outdoor sports facilities

Section 106 Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy

- 11.72 Local authorities have sought and secured developer contributions for local physical and social infrastructure through Section 106 (and other provisions) of the various Planning Acts. Strict regulations have controlled these contributions in order that they are reasonable and proportionate to the development, and in principle are necessary for the development to be acceptable in planning terms.
- 11.73 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) introduced in 2010 allows local authorities to charge a tariff, at a locally set rate, on many types of new development. The money can then be used to pay for a wide range of community infrastructure that is required as a result of development. This can include indoor and outdoor sports facilities as an integral part of community infrastructure.
- 11.74 It is understood that CIL money does not need to be used for providing infrastructure on the geographical site it is collected from. The relationship between a site's infrastructure requirements and level of contributions made is broken although any infrastructure which is directly required as a result of a development can continue to be sought through Section 106. S106 obligations will therefore remain alongside CIL but will be restricted to that infrastructure required to directly mitigate the impact of a proposal. CIL is for strategic infrastructure, S106 will still apply to onsite provision (such as recreation and sport) and to offsite provision that is to meet the requirements of that development (i.e. non –strategic) subject to the pooling limitations.
- 11.75 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is not programmed to be introduced in Darlington until at least 2018-19. Until then the Planning Obligations SPD will set out guidance on how planning obligation matters should be addressed in Darlington. If CIL is introduced, it is anticipated that planning obligations will remain in use; although their focus is expected to change slightly.
- 11.76 The two elements of provision could be treated as follows:
- Provision of facilities necessary to meet the needs of the new housing, or enhancement of existing facilities nearby (which can be achieved by S106 commuted payments and possibly CIL for larger schemes)
 - Provision of significant enhanced facilities which serve major new housing developments or stand alone strategic schemes or both (CIL).
- 11.77 The Darlington assessment of need has not identified the need for new provision of swimming pools or sports hall, but does require an additional AGP and grass pitches. This is based on the assessed demand in 2013 and future need up to 2026.
- 11.78 The evidence base has also identified the need to enhance existing sports halls over time and the most beneficial way to do this is to invest in the current stock over the plan period, particularly focussed around supporting the education network and investing to ensure long-term sustainable community use. This is based on the stock is modern (now) and the scale of provision and location does meet the needs of Darlington residents.

Contributions from New Development

- 11.79 It is reasonable and proportionate to secure developers contributions to meet the cost of facility enhancements based on the use residents of new housing will make of the existing indoor stock of facilities as well as of existing and proposed new grass pitches and AGPs. Furthermore for all sports it is cost effective to invest in the existing facility locations given that the needs assessment has identified that across the borough the

existing sites provide excellent accessibility by the three travel modes of car (predominate) public transport and walking.

11.80 The evidence position is that developer's contributions can contribute to enhancement of the existing stock based on where the housing allocations and developments will take place and the catchment area of an existing facility including this new housing area. Any investment should also be based on a sound sustainable business case addressing both participation and health impact linked with balanced affordability.

Sports Halls and Swimming Pools - Sports Facility Calculator

11.81 It is possible to identify the scale of sports facility requirements and the costs from projected population growth by use of the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC). The SFC calculates the required provision from the population increase in terms of water area for swimming pools and number of badminton courts for sports halls. It can then calculate the cost of this scale of provision at 2015 prices.

11.82 Based on the Darlington population estimates setting out an estimated growth from the 106,300 population from the 2011 Office of National Statistics (ONS) projections to 107,480 by 2026, an increase of 1,180. The requirement for swimming pools generated by this scale of population growth is for 0.23 lanes of water at a capital cost of £161,279 at 2015 prices. For sports halls it is a requirement of 0.32 badminton courts at a capital cost of £187,054 at 2015 prices.

11.83 The scale and costs of providing for these facility types from population growth is therefore not extensive and does not equate to what is the effective size of provision. For a swimming pool this would be at least a 25m x 4 lane pool of 212 sq metres or a 4 badminton court size sports hall.

11.84 This only serves to underline that the focus for the expenditure should not be to provide new facilities but to contribute to the modernization and enhancement of the existing sports hall and swimming pool stock to protect the long-term sustainability of provision.

11.85 For pitches, this strategy forms site and project specific evidence to underpin the CIL and S106 requirements for the sports included within its scope.

Summary

11.86 Three key points are acknowledged and reinforced:

- CIL will fund only a proportion of strategic infrastructure, and spending will have to balance a number of competing priorities. Other priorities may outweigh sport. CIL will be only one of the ways in which new infrastructure is paid for and other funding streams will need to be sought and considered, under the auspices of the delivery plan. The rate of CIL must be based on the evidence of viability.
- CIL funding can only be sought for the committed housing development that does not already have consent.
- Whilst the strategy sets out there is already a good supply of indoor sports facilities, and a need to enhance the existing outdoor sports facility stock, as well as provide new, this does not mean that developer contributions should not be sought. New development and the associated population growth will place pressures on the existing facility stock and generate new participants across all ages. Increased use of these venues places greater importance on their quality

and capacity and as a consequence, it is concluded that contributions towards indoor and outdoor sports facilities should be required from all new developments. Contributions should therefore be made towards the delivery of the strategy objectives in line with the needs and evidence base. This should be tempered with appropriate consideration around sustainability delivery assessment.

11.87 The strategy sets out key projects and priorities based on the needs and evidence, to deliver now and in the future. Delivery through the planning system and future grant-aid, using the strategy recommendations, can help to deliver the priorities set out.

Monitoring and review

11.88 The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust.

11.89 Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy is a key component of both the Assessing Needs and Opportunities guidance (ANOG) and the Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (Sport England).

11.90 The steering group are therefore committed to keeping the strategy alive through;

- monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action;
- recording changes to the facility stock and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information;
- assessing the impact of changes to participation and changing trends on the amount and type of facilities required;
- assessing the impact of demographic changes and any changes to forecasted plans for housing growth;
- ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for new or improved facilities in the area;
- analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities;
- reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development; and
- ensuring that the strategy continues to provide an up to date and robust evidence base to underpin CIL / S106 obligations.

11.91 The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led by Darlington Borough Council through establishment of a working group that meets twice annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising.

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