

MIDDLESBROUGH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Final Report

Prepared For



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CONTENTS

	Page No.
1. <u>Background</u>	5
2. <u>Scope of Outdoor Sport</u>	6
3. <u>Trends in Participation</u>	18
4. <u>Facilities</u>	26
5. <u>Policy Context</u>	30
6. <u>Key Characteristics</u>	33
7. <u>Assessment of Demand</u>	36
8. <u>Key issues raised by clubs</u>	55
9. <u>Supply of playing pitches</u>	60
10. <u>Quality of playing pitches and changing accommodation</u>	80
11. <u>The Assessment of the Supply and Demand for Playing Pitches</u>	97
12. <u>Conclusions</u>	115
13. <u>Recommendations</u>	119
Appendix A: List of Football Clubs	
Appendix B: Key to Map of Playing Pitch provision	
Appendix C: Pitch Quality Assessment Sheet	
Appendix D: Changing Room Quality Assessment Sheet	

1. Background

Ashley Godfrey Associates was commissioned by Middlesbrough Council in May 2007 to support the council in undertaking an assessment of playing pitch provision within the borough.

This assessment provides an analysis of the current level of pitch provision within the local authority area of Middlesbrough Council. The report follows the methodology recommended by Sport England as set out in the publication, “Towards a Level Playing Field”¹. An assessment is made of the likely future demand for playing pitches in the area and identifies any shortfalls in provision.

¹ Towards a level playing field: A guide to the production of playing pitch strategies, 2003. Sport England.

2. Scope of Playing Pitches

It is important to have a clear understanding of what types of provision are included in this report on playing pitches in Middlesbrough.

2.1 Playing Pitches

2.1.1 Definition of a playing field

Within planning legislation, Statutory Instrument 1817² defines a playing field as 'the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch'. It defines a pitch as 'a delineated area which, together with any run-off area, is of 0.4 hectares (1 acre) or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo (grass or artificial surface)'. The area of 0.4 hectares equates to the recommended minimum size of a junior football pitch, including run-offs.

The Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) definition of a sports pitch as described in section 77 of The School Standards and Framework Act is:

'Open grassed land that is capable of forming at least a small pitch, which is equal to or larger than the Football Association's recommended area for games played by under 10s, that is 2,000 m². It should also have a configuration and topography making it suitable for a sports pitch, whether it is laid out or not;

Synthetic or artificial playing surface, or dedicated hard games court of more than 2,000 m² that is set out for team games.'

In order to maintain conformity with current legislation the following definition is therefore proposed:

A pitch is a grass or artificial surface which is marked out as a pitch for at least part of the year and on which a match can be played, and has a minimum size of 0.2 hectares, including run-off areas.

2.1.2 Synthetic Turf Pitches

² The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order 1996

Artificial surfaces make a significant contribution to outdoor playing space. Virtually all competitive hockey is now played on artificial surfaces. For football, they complement rather than replace natural turf pitches. The recent ruling of the Scottish Premier League (SPL)³ against the use of this type of pitch by Dunfermline Athletic despite support from Uefa, Fifa and the Scottish Football Association is likely to delay its use for competitive football. However, Uefa has given the go-ahead for European games to be played on this type of surface and Fifa has approved their use for World Cup qualifiers.

The main role of STPs for football is to absorb midweek training and, in some cases, matches where these could not be played on grass pitches due to the lack of lighting. Mostly they are used to accommodate five-a-side football, often in commercial venues such as the 'Goals' facility in Stockton Road.

The main advantage of Synthetic Turf Pitches (STP⁴s) is that they have a much higher capacity than natural turf pitches and can be used 7 days a week. They can be also used in most weather conditions. However, they cannot accommodate the range of activities suited to natural turf.

In terms of modelling demand for STPs the recommended approach is to use the Sport England strategic planning tool, Active Places Power. With regard to the Playing Pitch Model, 'Towards A Level Playing Field' states that:

".. the assumption should be made that the average peak day capacity for an STP is four, that is, no more than four matches can be played on an STP on the peak day (normally Saturday)."

2.1.3 Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)

³ SPL Executive Board decision 2 May 2005.

⁴ This term covers all sand based and rubber crumb (Third Generation) pitches.

Sport England has prepared guidance notes⁵, in partnership with the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA) for MUGAs.

Five principal types of MUGA/STP are detailed in this guidance although not all of these are recommended as being suitable for the pitch sports considered in this report. Each type has a different surface although certain surface types are more suitable than others for different sports. Types 1 and 2 have macadam surfaces and these are not considered suitable for football, hockey and rugby. Type 3 has a polymeric surface which has a degree of inherent shock absorption. To provide the high degree of slip resistance required by sports such as tennis and netball a specially modified final coating can be applied, although the use of this surface for ball contact sports will cause a rapid reduction in its slip resistance. Type 4 MUGAs have thicker forms of the polymeric surface to accommodate five-a side, football, basketball and general sports and recreational training and play. Type 5 MUGAs have synthetic turf areas surfaced with a shockpad and either sand filled or sand dressed synthetic turf or a needle-punch carpet. The areas are used for sports such as hockey, uni-hockey, five-a-side football, football, lacrosse, American football and training areas for activities such as rugby union and rugby league. There are many different types of synthetic turf construction. The majority of synthetic turf pitches are surfaced with tufted sand filled carpets. Experience has shown this form of carpet to have good durability and performance when used in the extreme wear conditions experienced on MUGAs.

2.1.4 Dual Use Facilities

School playing fields are provided primarily for the physical education and enjoyment of children attending the school. Some schools make their pitches available for use by the community. For these pitches to be included within the overall supply of sports pitches they must be secured for use by the community. Where sports pitches are subject to formal community use agreements they can be counted within the standard. The agreement needs to ensure that the future

⁵ Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) including Multi-Sport Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs) Part 1 to 3 – General Guidance and Design Considerations; Dimensions and Layouts. Produced by Sport England, in conjunction with the Sports and Play Construction Association.

availability of the land is not lost as a result of changes in the staff or governing body of the school.

School playing fields were included in the audit undertaken for this strategy to provide a full understanding of the supply of pitches in Middlesbrough. Only those pitches that are in secured community use were considered in the assessment of current provision. However, pitches not currently available offer the potential to meet future growth in demand, especially from junior teams. In many cases this will require improvements to playing surfaces and capacity, providing or improving changing accommodation and possibly providing revenue subsidies.

2.1.5 Private sports grounds

Sports facilities within the voluntary, private, industrial and commercial sectors which serve the outdoor recreational needs of their members or the public are included in the standard. This includes institutional facilities that are available to the public as a result of formal community use agreements. Also, any facilities that are owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals and which, as a matter of policy and practice, are available to large sections of the public through membership of a club or through an admission fee. The grounds of professional or semi-professional clubs and workplace facilities solely for the benefit of employees are excluded.

2.2 The Value of Pitch Sports

Everyone's quality of life is improved through participation in sport. It is an enjoyable leisure activity that brings fun, challenge and competition, as well as opportunities for social interaction as part of leisure time activities.⁶

In answer to the question, 'What do you think are the main benefits of children's participation in sport?'⁷ Parents regarded children's participation in sport as having a number of benefits with the primary benefit being keeping fit and healthy (67%). The enjoyment of participating (66%) and the social aspect of being involved (62%) were also regarded as major benefits. Around three in five also said that it is a good way of learning team skills (57%).

2.2.1 Enjoyment

Sport offers friendship, rivalry, challenge and enjoyment. The enjoyment of sport is derived from a combination of physical and psychological benefits. Sport can be a source of personal satisfaction. It also provides opportunities to meet people and develop friendships.

The Government's strategy for sport and physical activity concluded that:

⁶ "Sport Playing Its Part" Sport England, Department of Culture, Media and Sport's and the Local Government Association. 2005.

⁷ Nestlé Family Monitor study on 'Sport and the Family' was undertaken with the Youth Sport Trust. 543 adults were interviewed by MORI throughout Britain between 5 April and 23 April 2000.

'Winning is neither the only nor the most common reason for participation. Having fun, learning new skills, doing something one is good at, making friends, and fitness are all factors alongside experiencing success.'⁸

A significant minority of young people stop participating in sport for negative reasons such as lack of fun.

2.2.2 Sport and health

Medical research evidence shows that regular physical activity can yield a number of physiological benefits in adults. People with active lifestyles are at lower risk of contracting coronary, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases than those with sedentary lifestyles.

There is a strong relationship between physical activity and coronary heart disease. It has been shown that the higher the levels of physical activity or cardiorespiratory fitness, the lower the level of coronary heart disease. The 25% of the population with the lowest levels of cardiorespiratory fitness are at particularly high risk of coronary heart disease.⁹

Obesity levels for children aged 6 have doubled in the last 10 years, and have tripled in 15 year olds. 22% of adults are obese and about 40% are overweight. Being overweight or obese accounts for as much as 30% of heart disease and 80% of diabetes and costs the UK £2.5 billion a year.¹⁰ A health and lifestyle survey of adults (aged 16-74) carried out in 2000 in the Tees area ¹¹(covered the local authority areas of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton on Tees), reported 44% (4 in 10) of men as overweight and 16% (1 in 6) as obese. For women, 28% (3 in 10) were overweight and 18% (1 in 6) were obese. There

⁸ Game plan: a strategy for delivering government's sport and physical activity objectives. Government's Strategy Unit and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. 2002.

⁹ Studies cited in At least five a week: Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health. A report from the Chief Medical Officer.2004.

¹⁰ NATURAL FIT: Can Green Space and Biodiversity Increase Levels of Physical Activity? Dr William Bird. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. 2004.

¹¹ Reilly M, Ashton V, Eynon C, Lowson D, Heywood P. Health and Lifestyle Tees area 2000: Tees Health Authority, 2001.

was a marked increase in the proportion of people who are obese in each of the local authority areas and amongst all age groups between 1995 and 2000.

Poor health is a characteristic of the Middlesbrough population¹². Key indicators include: Middlesbrough:

- On average, men in Middlesbrough live 74.1 years compared with 76.9 years for England and life expectancy for women is 78.7 years compared with the England average of 81.1 years.
- Rates of early deaths from heart disease and stroke and from cancer are higher than the averages for England. Heart and circulatory disease death rates in Middlesbrough are 16% higher than national rates. Cancer death rates in Middlesbrough are 22% higher than national rates
- It is estimated that about 34% of adults smoke; on average smoking kills over 300 people each year in Middlesbrough.

Regular exercise can be important in helping to prevent obesity and its associated problems. This is particularly important for children and adolescents. Overweight children are at increased risk of many health problems including hypertension, respiratory and orthopedic problems. Obesity in adolescence is independently associated with chronic diseases that develop in adulthood.

It is the view of the Chief Medical Officer that:

‘The low incidence of overweight and obesity in active individuals suggests that there is a clear benefit in regular physical activity. Achieving at least 30 minutes of at least moderate intensity physical activity on 5 or more days a week (150 minutes per week) will represent a significant increase in energy expenditure for most people, and will make a substantial contribution to their ongoing weight management’¹³

People with active lifestyles have a higher bone density than those with sedentary lifestyles. Joints, muscles, ligaments and tendons benefit from physical activity.

¹² Middlesbrough Health Profile 2007. Association of Public Health Observatories.

¹³ Ibid Page 48.

Physical activity also acts positively through improved glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity to benefit late-onset diabetes.¹⁴

Some of the greatest gains from activity programmes relate to psychological health and increased feelings of well-being. Research has found a consistent link between exercise and anxiety reduction and protection against the development of depression.¹⁵ This is significant for Middlesbrough where, based on national information 1 in 10 of children and young people could have some form of mental health problem.¹⁶

Participation in a one-off bout of physical activity can result in a reduction in anxiety levels and self-reported feelings of increased well-being. Such improvements have been reported to last for up to three hours after the activity session¹⁷.

One example of how football can contribute to improving health is the Middlesbrough Football Project. Professional footballers and Middlesbrough Football Club staff are helping Middlesbrough PCT educate children and other community members about healthy living through a partnership which also includes the Local Strategic Partnership. Middlesbrough FC runs one day health workshops throughout the year for years five and six in local schools (9-11 year olds). During the workshops, the children learn about healthy eating and diet, exercise and not smoking, all in the context of the football club training ground and premises. The children can talk to players who are household names and ask them what they eat, and about their lifestyle. The football club community staff lead them in exercises and games. Since the programme began more than 25,000 children have benefited from it.

2.2.3 Sport and crime:

¹⁴ Ibid Sections 5.1 to 5.4.

¹⁵ Craft LL, Landers DM. The effect of exercise on clinical depression and depression resulting from mental illness: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology* 1998.

¹⁶ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Middlesbrough 2008.

¹⁷ Raglin, J S (1990) 'Exercise and Mental Health: Beneficial and Detrimental Effects', *Sports Medicine*, 9 (6), 323-329.

There is a widely-held view that sport can have value as part of a package of measures to tackle crime. Sport appears to be most effective when combined with programmes which seek to address wider personal and social development so that diversion needs to be complemented by development.

An evaluation of the West Yorkshire Sports Counselling project, established in 1991 with the aim of using sport to reduce rates of re-offending by Probation Service clients, found that those who completed eight weeks or more of their sports counselling programme were significantly less likely to be re-convicted than a control group. Improvements in self-esteem and perceptions of their own fitness resulted from a programme that included voluntary involvement and one-to-one counseling. Participants were also introduced to new social networks, role models and opportunities.¹⁸

The Middlesbrough Strategic Assessment 2007 highlights that young people between the ages of 16 and 24 years are the most vulnerable age group and more likely to become victims of crime. They are also the group that are most likely to be responsible for committing crime.

The Safer Middlesbrough Partnership Community Safety Plan 2008 to 2011 has identified that diverting young people away from crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and reducing the vulnerability of young people to prevent them becoming victims of crime is a key priority. The Partnership is seeking to Identify new and innovative ways to promote diversionary activities among young people.

2.2.4 Sport, young people and education.

Evidence from case studies¹⁹ lends support to the view that sport may have direct or indirect impact on cognitive, emotional and motivational development, which may in turn lead to improved academic performance. Secondly, sport can be used to attract under-achieving students to educational programmes.²⁰

¹⁸ Nichols, G. and Taylor, P. (1996) *West Yorkshire Sports Counselling: Final Evaluation*, West Yorkshire Sports Counselling Association, Halifax

¹⁹ Sharp, C., Mawson, C., Pocklington, K., Kendal, L. and Morrison, J. (1999) *Playing for Success National Evaluation (Final Draft)*, National Foundation for Educational Research

Playing for Success is a ten-week programme for underachieving pupils based in Study Support Centres in professional football clubs. Small groups work on a range of activities. These include an integrated learning system testing maths, spelling and reading.

A four-year evaluation found significant improvement in pupils' literacy, numeracy and use of information and communications technology (ICT). Although initially below national averages of literacy and numeracy, pupils' scores had risen closer to national norms by the end of the course. For numeracy, pupils were achieving just below the expected level for their age.

The Middlesbrough Football Club Study Support Centre, based within the Willie Maddren Centre at the Riverside Stadium, is a partnership between Middlesbrough FC and the Government. Primary and secondary school pupils, mainly at Key Stages 2 and 3 (aged 10-14), can learn after school and in the holidays. The Centre helped over 1,000 young people in 2004 by giving them the Playing for Success experience. This experience has at its core the aim of helping its partner schools raise standards across the curriculum, particularly in the key skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT, the foundation stones of their education.

Evaluation of the project showed significant gains over the course of the core out-of-school hours, eight-week course and indicate increased levels of motivation, enjoyment and popularity. Mentors recruited from the nationally acclaimed Meteor Project run by the University of Teesside guide the students through their course.

The Study Support team worked directly with 26 Middlesbrough schools over the 2003/04 academic year, providing a variety of courses ranging from the development of reading with year 3 pupils to journalism with year 10 students. The Study Support team also helped and facilitated the transitional phase from primary to secondary school, working in partnership to design activities that complemented and challenged the new intake of year 7 students.

2.2.5 Community development and volunteering in sport.

²⁰ Realising the potential of cultural services the case for sport. Fred Coalter, Centre for Leisure Research at the University of Edinburgh.2001.

Volunteering in sport offers possibilities for the development of a sense of self esteem and social purpose. Sport is also seen as an activity to promote qualities such as teamwork or leadership.

2.2.6 Environmental value of sport.

Sports facilities can make an important contribution to the physical infrastructure of communities, providing a social focus for a community and affecting people's perception of their neighbourhood. Recreation related improvements have a significant role to play in the development of the quality of life in communities.

Planning and Climate Change: Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1²¹ sets out to take forward the recommendations in the Stern Review in relation to climate change.

Climate change will exacerbate the temperature gradient that peaks in city centres creating an urban 'heat island effect' because warmer urban air lies in a 'sea' of cooler rural air". Green infrastructure such as outdoor sports facilities will have an important role in seeking to lower surface temperatures. The contribution made by outdoor sports spaces as 'carbon sinks' and 'urban cooling' areas should help to protect them from inappropriate development, although it may limit opportunities to develop synthetic surfaces or other sports facilities which would have to be done via carbon offsetting.

Maintaining the environmental benefits of outdoor sports provision will necessitate the provision, collection, storage and distribution of freshwater to provide for the irrigation during periods of "*summer heat stress*".

²¹ Planning and Climate Change: Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1. DCLG 2007.

3. Trends in participation in outdoor sports

3.1 Active People

The Active People survey, commissioned by Sport England, provides detail on the levels of participation in sport and physical activity by adults (16+) for each local authority in England (this data is based on a sample of 1,000 interviews in each area in 2005/6). The results for Middlesbrough are shown below.

Table 1: Active People survey results for Middlesbrough

Indicator	Middlesbrough			North East			England		
	Tot	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot	M	F
At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate activity	19.1 %	25.1 %	13.4 %	20.8 %	24.5 %	17.4 %	21.3 %	23.8 %	19.1 %
Taken part in organized competitive sport in last 12 months	10.8 %	17.2 %	4.8 %	13.5 %	20.4 %	6.9 %	15.5 %	22.3 %	9.1 %
Football - Outdoor	6.5 %	6.5 %	6.5 %	5.5 %	10.4 %	0.7 %	5.5 %	10.2 %	0.8 %

Table 1 shows that the percentage of adults aged 16 and over in Middlesbrough who participated in 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation at least three times a week was 19.1% compared to an average of 20.8% in the North East and 21.3% for England. Female participation (13.4%) is markedly lower than in the North East (17.4%) and England (19.1%).

Participation in terms of having taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months is also lower in Middlesbrough (10.8%) compared with the North East (13.5%) and England (15.5%)

3.2 Football

The “average” club consists of 3.8 teams, has 2 qualified (mostly level 1) coaches and 8.7 volunteers²². National participation trends indicate a decline in male adult 11-a-side football especially in Sunday morning football²³ with players defecting to five-a-side. There has been substantial growth in informal 5-a-side football²⁴ with 35% of 11-a-side players also playing 5-a-side football²⁵. This growth is attributed to changing leisure/work patterns, better facilities and improved team organisation. There are now more mid-week fixtures and greater use of non-grass pitches. Participation in football declines significantly after the age of 30 years²⁶.

There has been an increase in the numbers of disabled children and adults participating in football with over 10,000 disabled children and adults participating in Ability Counts sessions. Over 600 football coaches have attended the Coaching Disabled Footballers Course and 45 Football in the Community schemes offer regular playing and coaching opportunities for disabled players.²⁷

Table 1 above includes the participation rate for outdoor football of adults over the age of 16 in Middlesbrough as 6.5% compared to the slightly lower national figure of 5.5%.

3.2.1 Junior Football

Mini-soccer has experienced a rapid growth since 1997, with 250,000 participants nationally under the age of ten. There has been a growth of 30% in the numbers of 7 – 10 year olds playing mini-soccer between 2003 and 2006. The FA is currently examining the feasibility of introducing a new non-competitive 4 a side game for 5/6 year olds and a 9 a side game for under 11's.

A major quantitative survey, undertaken on behalf of the FA, interviewed 1,200 children throughout England in three age groups, 7-9, 10-12 and 13-15. The

²² The Football Development Strategy 2001–2006

²³ Reported by County FAs

²⁴ Data provided by FA (unpublished).

²⁵ Football Development Strategy 2001-06, Football Association

²⁶ 30.8% for age 16-19 years down to 8.8% age 30-44 years. General Household Survey (GHS) 2002.

²⁷ Football Facility Development Strategy 2003-2006, The Football Association

research found that 60 per cent of the population of 7-15 year old girls in England - nearly 1.5 million girls - played football in 2002²⁸.

Out of school, football has experienced the biggest growth out of all sports in 'frequent' participation from 37% in 1994 to 43% in 2000. More children are playing due to the popularity of mini-soccer.

The survey revealed that small-sided soccer and park matches account for a large proportion of football activity, while school-based participation only accounts for 19 per cent.

3.2.2 Women's Football

In 1993, there were 11,200 registered women players. By 2003, that figure had grown to 88,000 players (including mini soccer) in 4,200 teams. Football became the top female sport in England in the season 2001/02. Affiliation in girls' football has leapt from just 80 11-a-side teams in 1993 to 4,820 in 2002 with football surpassing the traditional girls' favourite team sports of hockey and netball as the top female sport.

Research conducted on behalf of the FA²⁹ has shown that 1.4 million girls in England were taking part in some sort of footballing activity on a regular basis in May 2002.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are comparable to England and have increasing numbers of players and clubs with females playing at a range of abilities and ages. In Scotland, participation numbers in girls' and women's football continues to increase, and there are now over 57,000 girls in primary schools involved in the Association's co-ordinated schools programme, which covers the whole of Scotland, as well as a further 17,500 involved in mixed football at primary schools.

In 2001 research by Nike and the Youth Sport Trust into Girls in PE and Sport highlighted that football is the sport of choice for teenage girls. A survey by Sport

²⁸ Research conducted on behalf of The FA conducted by BRMB.2003.

²⁹ Research conducted on behalf of The FA conducted by BRMB.2003.

England revealed that the numbers of girls playing football in school had increased from 7% in 1994 to 12% in 2002.

3.2.3 Football Association

Key facts about Football in Middlesbrough are reported in the Football Association's Local Area Data report for 2007/2008. The findings of the report are based on data collected through the annual Football Association (FA) and County FA's (CFAs) affiliation process and stored in the County Administration System (CAS).

The FA reported that Middlesbrough has a total of 233 teams 72 (30.9%) of which are adult teams, 88 (37.8%) are youth teams and 41 (17.6%) are Mini-Soccer teams and 32 (13.7%) are small sided. 115 Youth and Mini-soccer teams of the 129 total (89.1%) play in a club that has achieved a Charter Standard Award as compared to a national average of 46.8%.

Small sided teams normally play 5-a-side football at a purpose built all-weather 5-a-side centres such as Teesside Goals Soccer Centre which has fourteen floodlit rubber-crumb synthetic grass pitches.

The number of teams has decreased by 99 teams in Middlesbrough from season 06/07 to season 07/08.

The FA have calculated football participation rates in Middlesbrough and compared the result to regional and national rates. These are calculated by comparing the number of persons playing football to the relevant population. The number of individuals playing football is found by multiplying the number of teams by the average number of players involved in the different forms of football³⁰. The result is expressed as a proportion of the relevant population or 'conversion rate'.

The adult male conversion rate in Middlesbrough is 4.0% compared to 5.3% for England. The conversion rate in Middlesbrough is also lower for youth male (20.4%) compared to England (23.9%) and youth female (0.7%) compared to England (2.3%). The conversion for mini soccer is 5.4% in Middlesbrough and 8.7% in England.

³⁰ The FA assumes 15 players are involved in an 11 a side squad, 10 players in a mini soccer team squad and 8 in a small-sided team squad.

These findings could indicate that there is a not insignificant level of latent demand which if realised would create demand for additional pitch provision.

3.3 Rugby

“Rugby - Making An Impact”³¹ is the most comprehensive study into participation trends in rugby union in England. A total of 254 ex-players, 193 people involved in rugby at all levels, and 1,708 members of the public were interviewed between January and April 2003.

The study found that:

- There had been a 12% reduction in the number of senior men playing rugby in the past between 1998 – 2003. This had been offset in part by the growth of women’s rugby (from 2,000 players in 1988 to 8,000 in 1998) and Mini-Rugby (4% more teams in 2002 than 1998).
- Less than one fifth of the population was interested in rugby union, down from a quarter in 1996. Only rugby league, boxing and snooker had suffered a greater decline in interest over that period.
- Just 4% of the population (aged 15+) had played rugby, either in the 15-a-side or modified versions.
- The number of active rugby clubs had fallen between 2001 and 2002, from 1,537 to 1,480.
- Over the past five seasons, the average number of sides fielded by each active club has fallen (from 2.9 in the 1997-98 season) to an average of 2.7 per club.
- Three in ten ex-amateur players would be interested in non-contact rugby to prolong their careers.
- Rugby ranked 15th among school sports and physical activities, behind dance. Only volleyball had seen a greater decline in participation since 1994.

³¹ Rugby – Making An Impact. Rugby Football Union, 2003.

- Since 1994, participation in rugby among primary schoolchildren had increased by 3% to 18%. Participation in rugby in secondary schools had declined by 11% to 28%.
- There were fewer adult volunteers than in 1991 and those who are volunteering are doing so for longer - an average of four hours a week, compared to less than three hours in 1991.

Rugby union is not an obvious sport for those with disabilities to play but modified versions of the game are popular.

By November 2004 there had been a 16% increase in the number of people playing rugby union since England won the World Cup. An additional 33,098 people had started playing club rugby, taking the total number to more than 230,000. 3,135 coaches had been recruited, taking the total number to 22,469, with an extra 783 referees taking the number up to 6,060.

The participation figures for 2006 show continued growth in Mini (+2%) and Youth (+1%) rugby and a small decline in adult participants (-0.9%), although that sector has still grown by 3.1% since 2003.

The Active People Survey³² showed that 0.7 % of the adult population (267,817 people) over the age of 16 participated in rugby union once a month and 0.3% (110,553) participated in rugby league once a month. Based on the same parameters 0.2% of the adult population participated in Rugby Union in Middlesbrough and 0.3% participated in Rugby League. Rugby Union was the 21st and Rugby League the 37th most popular sport.

3.4 Cricket

³² The Active People Survey was carried out by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Sport England.

Adult participation (aged 15+) has shown a steady decline in male participants since 1991. The decline in participation has been matched by a decline in the number of clubs.

Most cricket participants are male. Around two-thirds are in the 15-34 age group, about a third is in the 35-54 age group, and a very small number are aged 55+.

Kwik Cricket - a game specially devised for youngsters - is proving very popular. 1.1 million pupils, in 90% of the country's primary schools, now play the game - 434,000 of these are girls. There are currently 2.1m children playing the game in schools and clubs nationwide.

The number of women's clubs increased from 4,200 in 1997 to 7,611 in 2001³³. A record 600,000 girls and women currently play cricket. The national women's team enjoys an increasingly high profile.

The Active People Survey showed that 0.9 % of the adult population (380,366 people) over the age of 16 participated in cricket once a month compared to the lower figure of 0.7% in Middlesbrough. Cricket was the 17th most popular sport.

3.5 Hockey

Over half a million adults participate in hockey annually and there are in order of 100,000 players. Hockey is the 8th most popular sport played frequently in school time. The downward trend in popularity seen between 1994 (20%) and 1999 (17%) has been arrested with 18% of children participating at least 10 times a year³⁴.

Research in 1998 found that nearly half of all children participated in hockey at least once in the previous twelve months. However, outside school hockey ranks only 26th alongside other sports.

The Active People Survey showed that 0.3 % of the adult population (141,351 people) over the age of 16 participated in hockey once a month on a national basis, the sample size is too small to provide a statistically robust figure for Middlesbrough. Hockey was the 30th most popular sport.

³³ Data provided by the England and Wales Cricket Board (unpublished)

³⁴ Young People and Sport, Sport England (2003) and Young People and Sport in England (1999)

3.6 Conclusion

Changing patterns of participation are likely to have implications in the requirements for specific types of provision. An increase in participation in a pitch sport or a sector within that sport can lead to increased levels of usage of particular types of pitch or if there is a shortfall in provision in one area, to teams having to play their sport in locations where sports pitches are available. For example, the growth in participation in junior football and mini-soccer has resulted in the need for pitches of a suitable size to accommodate the increased demand. A shortage of pitches or their ancillary facilities can constrain the level of participation in that sport as participants drop out of the sport because of the lack of suitable provision. Changing patterns of participation are therefore likely to have an impact upon pitch and related facility requirements in the Middlesbrough Council area.

4. Facilities

Changing patterns of use, rising maintenance costs and technological developments will have implications for the future provision of facilities for pitch sports.

4.1 Football

Research undertaken by the Football Association (FA)³⁵ found that:

The majority hire pitches from Local Authorities (53%) and Local Education Authorities (25%) and the minority have bar/club facilities (25%), training area (20%) and floodlights (13%). The qualitative and quantitative research undertaken revealed that the provision of quality pitches and facilities was the major concern of football clubs.

Community Clubs

The FA's Community Clubs initiative builds upon the foundations of the Charter Standard scheme. Community Club status has a requirement of at least ten teams of different age groups and both sexes, based at a site with at least five pitches and changing facilities capable of accommodating a diverse range of users. Community Club accreditation provides both status, and expectation of quality, but also reward in the form of funding eligibility.

Women's football

Changing provision for women and girls remains generally poor at all pitch sites and is likely to act as a deterrent to new and continued participation, as well as raising serious questions over equalities.

Synthetic Turf Pitches

The role of Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs) for football is currently to absorb midweek training and, in a limited number of cases, matches. The role of STPs as an alternative to grass pitches is limited due to current league rules.

Commercial small-sided football

³⁵ The Football Development Strategy 2001–2006

The significant growth of the small-sided (mainly five-a-side) game as a commercial venture principally involves small, all-weather, floodlit pitches. This could supplement and possibly displace demand for full-sized natural turf pitches.

School Pitches

Many school pitches are used extensively during the week, and therefore additional usage at the weekend may be detrimental to the pitch (and all parties involved). In Plymouth, the City Council carried out a study into the school use of playing pitches using the 'team equivalent' approach specified in 'Towards a Level Playing Field'. The aim was gain a better understanding of the wear and tear that might be expected in dual-use circumstances (in other words - in situations where school pitches are used by community teams as well as school pupils for PE classes and extra-curricular sports club activities).

Three independent case studies were undertaken and it was found that in each case school use amounted to the 'equivalent' of three games per week for football and between five and seven games per week for rugby for each pitch available for community use

Clearly, the condition and the playability of individual pitches will vary depending on the physical quality of the pitch including drainage, type of soil, grass cover, wear and tear, slope and quality of maintenance, These factors will determine the individual capacity of each pitch. However, Towards a Level Playing Field indicates that:

'In the absence of local pitch capacity data, an average figure of two games per week should be assumed.'

On this basis, the Plymouth study found that most of the pitches available to the community were being overused with the inevitable consequences in terms of wear and tear and the long term quality of those pitches.

It should not therefore be assumed that school pitches are an underused resource which could readily accommodate the needs of community sports clubs.

4.2 Rugby

This shift in patterns of participation has significant implications for pitch provision (with more small-sided Mini-Rugby pitches needed) and for changing facilities (with appropriate provision made for juniors and women).

4.3 Cricket

The need for good quality grass pitches is highlighted for both club and district level play. However, in many instances facilities now comprise an artificial grass wicket set in a lightly mown outfield, with no grass cricket table (or square) as such. The maintenance of good quality grass wickets is a major challenge.

There is a continuing trend for cricket clubs to acquire and develop their own facilities in contrast to football clubs, the majority of whom rely heavily on the public sector.

Increased participation by women, improved access is needed to quality training pitches and improved ancillary facilities, in smaller clubs, is required

4.4 Hockey

Nearly all club games are played on Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs) and the number of full size STPs in England is now in excess of 600.

4.5 Synthetic Turf Pitches

Synthetic turf pitches (STPs) provide for the needs of hockey and football for an all-weather surface. For hockey, it provides a better playing surface than natural grass and for football a hard wearing all weather alternative. Technical developments have meant that use of STPs has widened considerably for both competitive play and training.

The following Football Association Committees have now approved the use of such pitches in their respective competitions for season 2007/08:

- FA Trophy
- FA Vase

- FA Youth Cup (qualifying rounds only)
- FA Women's Premier League and Cup
- FA Sunday Cup
- FA County Youth Cup

The use of such pitches is however dependent on compliance with conditions of use. In future, matches may be played on artificial grass pitches that conform to the FIFA 1 star standard, or the equivalent International Artificial Turf Standard (IATS) in all FA Competitions, except the FA Cup (all rounds) and FA Youth Cup (Rounds proper). To qualify for use, the pitch must be certified by The FA as meeting the FIFA 1 Star standard or the equivalent International Artificial Turf Standard. The performance standards for the system have been based on the work currently being undertaken by UEFA for professional football. The tolerances for non-league or community football will be greater, given the likely higher usage levels.

Sport England and Sport Scotland undertook a survey of the use of STP facilities in 2005 to help understand how local communities and teams use STPs. Seventy-six percent of users traveled by car, either as a driver or passenger and 14% walked to the STP. Only 4% traveled by public transport. The average distance traveled was six miles with most users, 70%, travelling under 5 miles. However this overall figure masks substantial differences between football players, who traveled 5 miles on average, and hockey players, who travelled 11 miles on average. Among football players 19% traveled less than 1 mile and 39% traveled less than 2 miles.

The average journey time was 22 minutes for all users, (20 minutes for football, 33 minutes for hockey), almost two thirds (63%) of users had a journey of 20 minutes or less with similar journey lengths for both car users and walkers/cyclists. Only 14% of all users had a journey time of over 30minutes.

5. Policy Context

5.1 National Policy Context

5.1.1 Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation) was issued in August 2002. PPG 17 indicates that local authorities have a responsibility to undertake a robust assessment of needs with regards to open space and sports and recreational provision. Where a robust assessment of playing field needs has not been undertaken or completed, PPG 17 cites a number of tests which should be satisfied, before permission to develop playing fields can be granted.

5.1.2 Sport England's policy on playing fields

Since 1996, Sport England has published a number of documents reflecting current issues and guidance relative to playing fields. Sport England's policy on planning applications for development on playing fields is included in their planning policy statement 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' (1998).

The policy states that they 'will oppose the granting of planning permission of any planning permission for any development that would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of, all or any part of a playing field, or land last used as playing field or land allocated for use as a playing field in an adopted or draft deposit local plan unless, in the judgement of Sport England, one of the specific circumstances applies. Those specific circumstances are:

E1: A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

E2: 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.

E3: 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 use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on site.

E4: The playing field or playing fields that would be lost as a result of the proposed development 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.

E5: 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'.

The policy statement includes a set of circumstances applicable to each of the above exceptions that are taken into account by Sport England when assessing planning applications.

5.2 Local Policy Context

5.2.1 The Active Middlesbrough Strategy 2003-08

The 'Active Middlesbrough Strategy' is a five-year strategy (2003-2008). Its overriding aim is to make more people more active and to drive greater engagement in activity. The strategy is underpinned by seven Primary Aims, which include:

Primary Aim 1 - To ensure that the opportunity to participate in and excel in sport and physical activity was central to the education and lifelong learning process in Middlesbrough.

Primary Aim 2 - To identify and target those sections of the community that were less likely to be physically active and to raise their activity levels.

Primary Aim 3 – to develop a network of neighbourhood based facilities and amenities to give all citizens access to high quality, appropriate, sport and physical activity opportunities. This would be done through the development of new facilities and by enhancing and diversifying the use of existing community facilities.

This playing pitch strategy should therefore seek to contribute to these aims through ensuring that all sections of the community will have opportunities to participate in pitch sports in the future.

The new emerging physical activity strategy will reinforce the key theme of making ‘more people more active’ and as such will support facility and pitch improvements and any opportunities for sport and club development.

5.2.1 Local Area Agreement

Middlesbrough’s Local Area Agreement sets out the priority outcomes, targets and indicators that will be used to measure progress towards achieving the vision for Middlesbrough. A key elements of Middlesbrough’s vision is that it should be a healthy, safe, attractive place to live, work and visit that is accessible, cosmopolitan and inclusive.

Strategic Priority 3 is to increase life expectancy, improve health and reduce health inequalities. The key indicator for this strategy is:

‘Percentage of adults participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation on three or more days a week’

The intention is to seek a 1% year on year increase in the number of adults participating at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation. The Active People Survey undertaken by Sport England in 2006 found that 19.07% of Middlesbrough’s population over 16 years achieved this level of activity. The intention is for this to increase to 22% by the year 2009/10.

6. Key Characteristics

6.1 Population

The population of Middlesbrough in 2006 is estimated to be 137,310 of which 51% are females and 49% males based on the revised 2004-based ONS Subnational population projections³⁶. Approximately 27,900 (20.3%) of Middlesbrough's population are aged under 16 years. Lower births throughout the period will see the number of children fall from making up 21% in 2003 of the population to 18% in 2021. There are some 58,200 households.

Middlesbrough is divided into 23 Council wards, 12 of which appear within the 10% most deprived wards in England and Wales, with the Middlehaven and Thorntree wards being classed as the 6th and 17th most deprived wards in the country. However, Middlesbrough also has wards, which are more affluent than the English average such as Nunthorpe and Marton West.

The percentage of the economically active population in proportion to the total population of Middlesbrough is 67.3%. Unemployment rates have fallen from 6.4% in 2002 to 5.3% in 2004, although this is still significantly higher than the national unemployment rate.

The percentage of lone-parent households in Middlesbrough is 9.9%, when the national equivalent figure is 6.5%. The percentage of non-white residents is 6.3%. The largest ethnic minority group is British - Pakistani making up 3.6% of the population.

Population and Household Projections for Middlesbrough 2003 - 2021

The 2003 based population projections for Middlesbrough over the period 2003 to 2021 indicate the following :-

- Total population – a decrease of 6.4% from 139,000 in 2003 to 130,000 in 2021.
- Children (0 - 15) - a fall of 20% from 29,300 to 23,500

³⁶ Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit Projections for Middlesbrough 2003 - 2021

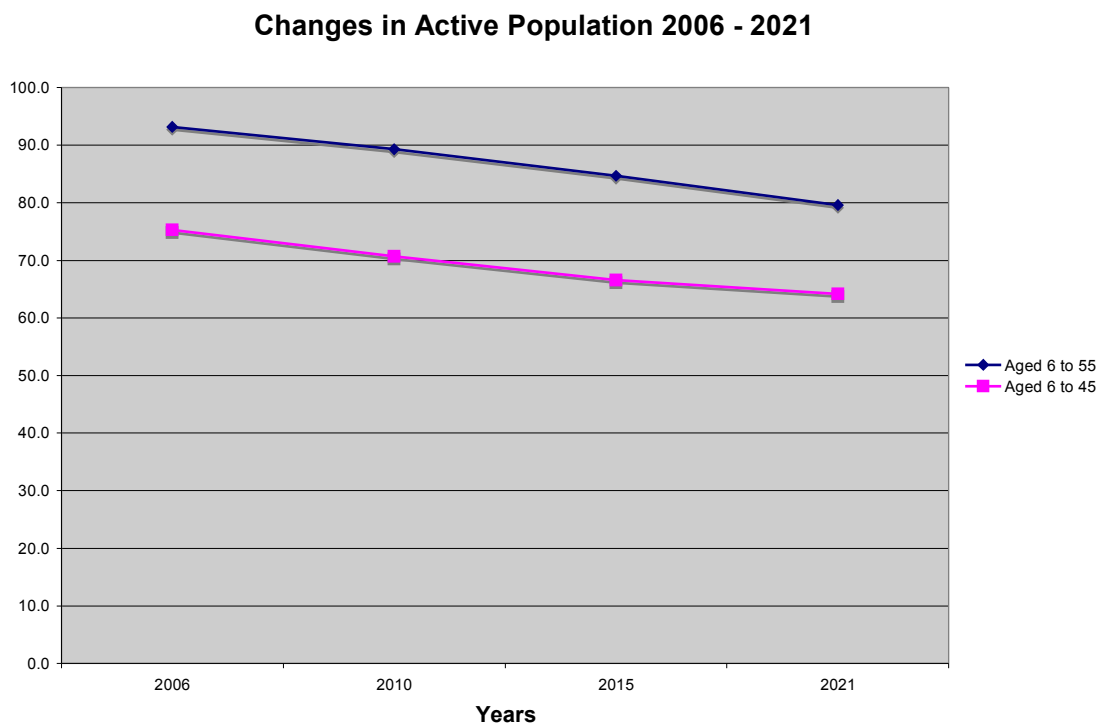
- Working age population (16 - Retirement) – down 11% from 85,600 to 76,200 by 2021.
- Older people (Retirement +) - an increase of 26% from 24,000 to 30,300 by 2021.
- Number of households - a rise of 11% from 56,700 to 62,800.

House vacancy rate – the Regional Spatial Strategy indicates that vacancy rates for the Tees Valley will fall to 3% by 2011. The rate for Middlesbrough at the time of the 2001 Census was 6.1%.

Active Population

The Sport England Playing Pitch Model considers that the demand for playing pitches will come from the 'Active Population' which is considered to be between the ages of 6 to 55 years. However, for pitch sports such as football this is more likely to be between the ages of 6 to 45 years. It is therefore pertinent to consider what changes are projected for these age groups over the period to 2015. **Table 2** and **Diagram 1 (Projections 2006 to 2021)** show that for both these age groups, there is a steady decline.

Diagram 1: Active Population Projections 2006 - 2021



Source: Revised 2004-based ONS Subnational population projections Tees Valley JSU.

Table 2: Active Population

Active Population	2006 (000's)	2010 (000's)	2015 (000's)
Aged 6 to 55	93.2	89.3	84.7
Aged 6 to 45	75.3	70.7	66.6

Source: Revised 2004-based ONS Subnational population projections Tees Valley JSU.

7.0 The Assessment of Demand

7.1 Sources of data

Towards a Level Playing Field indicates that for a successful and accurate playing pitch assessment it is necessary to obtain as accurate a tally as possible of the number of teams and other users of the pitches and the existing pattern of play.

In the first instance, a direct count of teams can be derived using a number of sources including:

- governing body, county association handbooks and league handbooks
- interviews with league secretaries
- booking records for local authority, educational and other pitches (where available – this will also supply information on patterns of play/temporal demand)
- sports club directories
- local press and telephone directories
- local knowledge.

In addition a questionnaire survey can provide information relating to demand.

The information gathered from these sources relating to demand includes:

- membership, membership trends and number of teams per club
- place of origin of team members
- matches played per season (home and away)
- length of season
- number of postponements and cancellations last season
- level of activity at existing facilities
- unmet demand

- financial status (for predicting future numbers of clubs)
- links with local schools and other users
- sports development plans.

7.1.1 Latent and future demand

Latent demand is demand that cannot be expressed because of lack of access to pitches or other ancillary facilities. Factors to take into account when assessing latent include:

- Current frustrated demand – e.g teams that are waiting for home pitches so that they can join a league or are not currently playing in their preferred location.
- Influence of sports development initiatives – targets may be set in local sports development initiatives. For example, if Middlesbrough’s aspiration to achieve an overall increase in the number of adults participating at least 30 minutes in moderate intensity sport and active recreation on three or more days a week is achieved, this will have an impact on future demand for sports pitches.
- Quality of pitches/ancillary facilities - poor-quality facilities may restrict new players from being attracted to sport or result in poor retention levels.
- Lack of facilities such as changing accommodation as is the case with some pitch sport venues in Middlesbrough.
- National sporting success and its influence on increasing participation
- Pricing policy - a high cost for hiring/leasing facilities may prevent teams from forming (or hinder the long-term sustainability of existing clubs).
- Sport in the school curriculum - increased profile of school sport may encourage more people playing team sports beyond school hours and school years.
- Impact of mini-sports in engendering long-term increases in adult play

- Lifestyle changes and other activities competing for leisure time/spend - may lead to a reduction in overall demand for formal pitch sports. Small-sided soccer at commercial venues may lead to fewer teams playing on Sunday mornings.

7.2 Football

7.2.1 Number of Teams

To ascertain the details of the number of teams in the study area, we employed the North Riding County Football Association league handbook.

In addition, we consulted the North Riding County Football Association website, which provides an interactive database that enables anyone to find out which clubs are located within their area. The database was developed from the Register of Football Facilities (REFF) compiled by the Football Association.

Further detailed information was obtained through a questionnaire survey. The questionnaire was distributed to all the football clubs and where no response was obtained this was followed up with a telephone call and in some cases with a second questionnaire. The final response rate was 96%.

The clubs that did not respond to the survey are listed in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Non respondent football clubs

Football Club
Beckfields
Nunthorpe Athletic Veterans
Riverside

There are 70 football clubs in the Middlesbrough Council area running a total of 201 teams. Details of the numbers of mini, junior and adult teams are shown in **Table 4** below..

Table 4: Football Teams in the Study Area.

Number of Mini teams			Number of Junior teams		Number of Senior teams		Number of Veteran teams
Male	Female	Mixed	Male	Female	Male	Female	
37	4	0	91	3	61	4	1

The number of junior male football teams (91) outnumbers the adult male teams (62) by a ratio of 3 to 2. Women’s football is not well represented with only 4 adult women’s teams and 3 junior girl’s teams located in Middlesbrough. A full list of football clubs and teams can be found at **Appendix A**.

Although it is outside the terms of reference for this study, there is a thriving Ability Counts club in Middlesbrough. This club has shown a commitment to providing opportunities for disabled people to take part in coaching and competitive football and is the hub for disability football in Middlesbrough. The MFC Soccability Club currently has teams competing at Premiership, Championship and League One level, with 28 players representing their club in the North East Ability Counts League.

7.2.2 Mini Football

The number of mini football teams is 41. These are teams that fall within the Under 7,8,9 and 10 categories. The majority of the teams (37) are male but there are 4 girls teams. The majority of teams belong to the Teesside Junior Football Alliance League which runs mini-soccer mainly on Sunday mornings.

Mini soccer is played in a different way to junior and adult soccer with teams attending one venue to play a series of time limited matches. Mini soccer pitches are usually marked out on a temporary basis so it is difficult to model demand and supply. For this reason, mini soccer has been excluded from the Playing Pitch Model analysis.

7.2.3 Leagues

Teams within Middlesbrough play in a total of 10 leagues. The number of teams playing in each league is shown in **Table 5** below.

Table 5: Football Leagues in the Study Area

League	No. Teams ³⁷	Normal Day/Time of Games
Boddy Printers Middlesbrough & District Sunday League	3	Sunday AM
BUSA	6	Wednesday PM
Langbaugh Sunday League	12	Sunday 10.30 AM
Teesside Junior Football Alliance	94	Sunday am and pm
Hathaway & Cope Stokesley & District League	4	Saturday PM
Northern Combination	2	Sunday
The North Riding and Tees Valley Charter Standard Girl's League	4	Saturday AM
Jack Hatfield Sports Teesside League	3	Saturday PM
Pertemps Middlesbrough Over 35 League	3	Friday Evening
Teesborough Football League	26	Sunday 10.30

It is estimated that over 90% of senior games are played on Sunday morning with the remainder on Saturday and Sunday afternoons or midweek. Virtually all the junior football is played on Sundays both in the morning and in the afternoon.

³⁷ The number of teams is not accurate and is indicative only. This is because complete details could not be obtained.

7.2.4 Membership

The numbers of players currently playing football in Middlesbrough is shown in **Table 6** below.

Table 6: Number of football players

Junior Male members	Junior Female members	Adult Male members	Adult Female members	Veteran members	Total members
1921	84	1255	82	5	0

There are an estimated 3347 people playing football in Middlesbrough who are members of football clubs. 95% of players are male and 5% female. Junior players account for 60% of all players with adults comprising 40%.

The majority of football clubs have adult members with only 5 of these having adult female members.

The clubs with junior members are shown in **Table 7** below:

Table 7: Number of football players

Club	Total members	Junior Male members	Junior Female members
ACKLAM FC	16	16	0
BEECHWOOD YC	84	84	0
CARGO FLEET JUNIORS	60	60	0
CBP JUNIORS	18	18	0
CLEVELAND JUNIORS	130	127	3
COULBY NEWHAM JUNIORS	300	300	0
KADER FC	290	238	34
LEEMING LADS FC	60	60	0
M3 ENGINEERING	20	20	0
MARTON FC	300	280	20
MIDDLESBROUGH LADIES	35	0	7

NEWHAM RANGERS FC	17	17	0
NORTH ORMESBY FC	220	200	0
NUNTHORPE ATHLETIC JUNIORS	150	130	20
PRISSICK ROVERS	33	33	0
PRO-LINE SECURITIES	15	15	0
THORNABY AND INGLEBY BARWICK FC	150	140	0
WHINNEY BANKS FC	220	180	0

7.2.5 Membership Trends

Of the 70 clubs that responded to the questionnaire survey, 23(36%) responded that the membership of the club was increasing and in some cases clubs were turning prospective players away. 5 clubs (8%) reported that their membership was declining with 36 (56%) indicating that membership was static.

Of the 18 junior football clubs 14 (78%) reported increases in membership, 1 (6%) reported that its membership was declining with 3 (17%) indicating that membership was static.

7.2.6 Area in which majority of players live

Clubs were asked where the majority of their players live. 66 clubs provided a response and all of these have some players who live in the Middlesbrough area.

7.2.7 Clubs Playing Outside Middlesbrough

There is 1 club with teams that use pitches located outside the local authority area. This is Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick FC which has players living in both Stockton and Middlesbrough and plays at 7 different venues located in Stockton. The club will lease a new site recently acquired by Stockton Borough Council in the near future. The club aim to develop the site to provide 3 full size pitches, 2 mini-soccer pitches and changing facilities.

7.2.8 Live outside, play in the borough

Apart from the semi-professional clubs, a small number of clubs (7) have some players who live in area outside Middlesbrough. Players travel into Middlesbrough from Stockton, Guisborough, Yarm, Carlin How, Saltburn and Redcar. The clubs and location of their players are itemised in **Table 8** below.

Table 8: Clubs with players who live outside Middlesbrough

Club	Location of players
BUCCANEER LADIES	Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick
MARTON ROVERS	Yarm, Redcar, Carlin How, Saltburn, Darlington
MIDDLESBROUGH LADIES	TS10 & TS17
NEWHAM RANGERS FC	YO21
NUNTHORPE ATHLETIC JUNIORS	Guisborough
ST. HILDA'S	Guisborough
STAGECOACH	Stockton
VILLAGE PARK RANGERS	TS15 & TS17
YARM VINEYARD	Stockton

7.3 Cricket

7.3.1 Membership

There are 617 playing members of 19 cricket clubs in Middlesbrough. Adult members make up 67 % of the membership and junior members account for 33%. There is only one female member of a cricket club. Details are shown in **Table 9** below.

7.3.2 Clubs

There are 19 clubs based in Middlesbrough.

The largest club is Marton CC with 100 members. Middlesbrough Cricket Club is the second largest club with 91 playing members. The smallest club, with only 13 members is All Stars Cricket Club.

The clubs field a total of 40 teams and these are listed in **Table 10** below. There are 27 adult teams and 12 junior teams of under 16's. In addition, one club fields 3 mini teams playing Hard Ball and Kwik Cricket for under 11's.

The questionnaire survey revealed that an estimated 31% of adult games are played on Saturday and 31% on Sunday with 14% of games being played on Wednesday and 24% on other midweek days. An estimated 32% of junior games are played on Saturday and 26% on Sunday with 42 % of games being played midweek.

Marton C.C has signed up to the commitments required to attain Focus Club standard under the England and Wales Cricket Trust scheme. A Focus Club is one that has been identified for a clear strategic reason, and one that is committed to long-term junior development. The aim of the programme is to build a nationwide network of 'vibrant, robust and dynamic cricketing communities' that offer high-quality junior development programmes for young players.

Table 9: Cricket Club Membership

Name of club	Total members	Junior Male members	Junior Female members	Adult Male members	Adult Female members	Veteran members
ACKLAM GRANGE	15			15		
ALLSTARS	13	1		12		
BILLINGHAM BALTI HOUSE	18			17		1
CHAND ELEVEN	15			15		
CLEVELAND CABLE CC	25			25		
GV DECORATORS	20			10		10
HEMLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB	17			17		
ISAAC WILSON	15			15		
JAP PARTS UK	25	6		18		1
JMG MARTON	55	15		30		10
LLOYDS TSB	17			11		6
MARTON CC	100	60		40		
MIDDLESBROUGH CC	91	60		30		1
NORMANBY HALL CC	87	50	1	30		6
NUTHORPE MERLIN	25	5		10		10
ORMESBY HALL	24	4		15		5
RIMSWELL CC	21	1		5		15
SHAWS CRICKET CLUB	14	2		4		8
SPECSAVER STOCKTON	20			20		
TOTAL	617	204	1	339	0	73

Table 10: Teams

Name of club	Junior Male Teams	Adult Male Teams	Mini Teams
ACKLAM GRANGE		1	
ALLSTARS		1	
BILLINGHAM BALTI HOUSE		1	
CHAND ELEVEN		1	
CLEVELAND CABLE CC		1	
GV DECORATORS		1	
HEMLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB		1	
ISAAC WILSON		1	
JAP PARTS UK		1	
JMG MARTON	1		
LLOYDS TSB		1	
MARTON CC	3	5	
MIDDLESBROUGH CC	3	3	3
NORMANBY HALL CC	3	3	
NUTHORPE MERLIN		2	
ORMESBY HALL		2	
RIMSWELL CC			
SHAWS CRICKET CLUB		1	
SPECSAVER		1	

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

STOCKTON			
TOTAL	10	27	3

7.3.3 Membership Trends

Of the 18 clubs that responded to the questionnaire survey, 10 (56%) responded that the membership of the club was increasing, particularly in terms of junior membership, and in some cases clubs have reached their capacity. 6 clubs (33%) reported that their membership was declining with 1 club indicating that membership was static.

The clubs that report an increase in membership include all the larger clubs. The clubs that have experienced a decline in membership are all small clubs.

7.3.4 Area in which majority of players live

Clubs were asked where the majority of their players live. All the clubs provided a response and of these 11 (58%) have players who live exclusively in the Middlesbrough area. The remaining clubs (8) have some players who live outside the Middlesbrough area and there are 4 clubs with players who all live outside the Middlesbrough area but play their cricket on pitches in Middlesbrough.

7.3.5 Leagues

The majority of clubs play in the Middlesbrough Midweek League. The first teams of the three larger clubs, Marton CC, Middlesbrough CC and Normanby Hall CC play in the North Yorkshire South Durham League.

7.4 Rugby

7.4.1 Number of Teams

There are only 2 Rugby Union Clubs in Middlesbrough. These are Acklam Rugby Club and Middlesbrough Rugby Club.

In total there are 8 adult teams and 1 veterans team, 12 junior teams and 6 mini sides. Details of the teams are shown in **Table 11** below:

Table 11: Rugby Teams

Club	Number of Mini teams	Number of Junior teams	Number of Senior teams	Number of Veteran teams
MIDDLESBROUGH RUGBY CLUB	6	4	6	0
ACKLAM RUGBY CLUB	0	8	2	1
TOTAL	6	12	8	1

7.4.2 Leagues

Acklam Rugby Club First XV play in the Durham & Northumberland League and the Second XV in the Teesside Merit League. Middlesbrough Rugby Club First XV play in the North One League and the Second XV in the Teesside Valley League.

7.4.3 Membership

There are a total of 526 members of the two rugby clubs. There are only 11 female members and these are all juniors. There are 371 adult members (71%) and 155 junior members (29%). The details are shown in **Table 12** below.

Table 12: Club Membership

Club	Total Members	Junior Male members	Junior Female members	Adult Male members	Adult Female members	Veteran members
MIDDLESBROUGH RUGBY CLUB	296	200	6	80	0	10
ACKLAM RUGBY CLUB	230	160	5	35	0	30
TOTAL	526	360	11	115	0	40

7.4.4 Membership Trends

Both rugby clubs have seen their membership increase over the last five years.

7.4.5 Area in which majority of players live

Middlesbrough Rugby Club attracts members mainly from Middlesbrough and some are from Stockton and Guisborough. Membership of the Acklam Rugby Club is confined to the Middlesbrough area.

7.5 Hockey

7.5.1 Number of Teams

There are four hockey clubs in Middlesbrough with a total of 10 teams 1 of which is a junior team and 1 a women's team. Details are shown in **Table 13**.

Table 13: Hockey Teams

Club	Number of Female Junior teams	Number of Female Senior teams	Number of Male Teams	Number of Veteran teams	Total number of teams
MACKINLAY PARK LADIES	0	1	0	0	1
ROSEBERRY LADIES	1	2	0	0	3
TIOXIDE LADIES	0	1	0	0	1
MARTON FURNESS	0	1	4	0	5
TOTAL	1	5	4	0	10

7.5.2 Leagues

Mackinlay Park Ladies and Tioxide Ladies play in the Sunday Invitational League whilst Roseberry Ladies play in the Northern League.

Marton Furness Hockey Club is based at Marton Cricket Club. The club currently runs 4 mens teams, The first team plays in division two east of the Northern counties league. The other teams play in the North east hockey league in divisions 2, 3 and 4. The start of the 2007/08 season saw the introduction of a Ladies team for the first time.

7.5.3 Membership

Table 14: Membership of Hockey Clubs

Club	Number of female junior members	Number of female senior members	Number of veteran members	Total members
MACKINLAY PARK LADIES	2	13	5	20
ROSEBERRY LADIES	15	20	0	35
TIOXIDE LADIES	4	12	4	20
MARTON FURNESS	NOT KNOWN			
TOTAL	21	45	9	75

All the hockey clubs have a relatively small membership all of whom are female. The largest club is Roseberry Ladies with 35 members of whom 15 are juniors. Details are shown in **Table 14** above. Marton Furness Hockey Club, plays all its home games at the pitch at the University of Teesside, Olympia buildings.

7.5.4 Membership Trends

None of the clubs report an increase in membership. Mackinlay Park Ladies and Roseberry Ladies have a relatively static membership but Tioxide Ladies have experienced a decline.

7.5 5 Area in which majority of players live

Roseberry Ladies is the only club with a membership who all live in Middlesbrough. Mackinlay Park Ladies attracts players from Redcar as well as Middlesbrough whilst the members of Tioxide Ladies live in the wider area of Cleveland.

8. Key issues raised by clubs

8.1 Key Issues for Football Clubs

The main problems encountered by respondent football clubs are summarised in **Table 15**.

Table 15: Key Issues for Football Clubs

Key Issue	Number of clubs affected
Quality of Pitches	15
Quality/Availability of Changing rooms	17
Lack of Pitches	7
Cost	17
Cleanliness	2
Vandalism	3
Car parking	4
Funding	1
Lack of officials	1

Clubs were asked whether there were any issues that presented problems for the club at present. Forty eight clubs provided a response specifying key issues. A further fifteen clubs stated that there were no issues which present them with a problem at present. The quality and quantity of pitches, the quality of changing rooms and high rents were the problems most frequently encountered by football clubs.

8.1.1 Pitches

Clubs are concerned about the overall quality of the pitches. Mention is made of the slope of the pitch, lack of drainage, poor maintenance, poor line marking, condition of goalmouths and lack of drainage. Damage to the pitch by off road motor bikes is a further concern.

Linked to the problem of the poor quality of pitches is the issue of lack of available

pitches which is mentioned by 7 clubs. In several instances it is clear that whilst stating that the problem is lack of pitches, the real issue is the lack of good quality pitches. Pitches are a natural resource and their capacity³⁸ to accommodate games over the given period of time is determined by their physical quality. An average quality football pitch will have a capacity of two games per week.

8.1.2 Changing rooms

The existing quality of changing rooms does not meet the expectations of many football clubs. For eight clubs it is the absence of changing facilities that is the main problem with one respondent club stating that:

“The lack of changing rooms in Middlesbrough is a disgrace and is one of the main reasons football is on the decline.”

Also, the lack of segregated changing rooms is seen to be holding up the development of women’s football.

Vandalism is mentioned by two clubs and this presumably refers to the changing rooms. Security of changing rooms is an additional problem. Associated with the changing rooms is the issue of car parking which in four cases is seen as being inadequate.

8.1.3 Costs

Fifteen clubs mentioned the cost of the hire of a pitch as a key issue with rents being considered to be too high. The remaining two clubs that referred to cost were concerned with overall cost or problems in financing travel. Comments on the high rents were linked to the poor quality of the pitches and/or changing facilities in seven instances.

8.1.3 Other issues

The other issues raised by clubs related to cleanliness and the presence of dog mess and in one case difficulty in finding match officials. One club raised the issue of funding in relation to a desire to develop their own facilities.

³⁸ An estimate of the number of games per week a pitch can accommodate.

8.2 Key Issues for Cricket Clubs

The main problems encountered by respondent cricket clubs are summarised in **Table 16**. Fourteen clubs provided a response to the question relating to issues that cause the club concern with one club stating that they had no issues to raise.

Table 16: Key Issues for Cricket Clubs

Key Issue	Number of clubs affected
Quality/Availability of Pitches	7
Quality/Availability of Changing rooms	4
Cost	3
Security	2
Vandalism	1

8.2.1 Pitches

The availability and quality of pitches is the main concern for cricket clubs. One club felt that the pitches are marked out too early and that matches are being cancelled. In addition one club mentioned the lack of practice facilities.

Marton Cricket Club has identified a future shortage of provision when they start an under 12s side.

8.2.2 Changing Facilities

The poor quality of changing facilities was a concern for four clubs with one club stating that:

“Changing facilities are terrible. Third world countries have better.”

The facilities at Prissick were criticised for being too small and cramped. Associated with changing rooms is the issue of vandalism, which was mentioned by one club. One club mentioned the need to replace its current facilities.

Security is a problem for two clubs particularly in relation to vehicles being broken into where players have parked to gain access to changing facilities. This is an issue at Prissick, which indicates that future investment may not be a priority unless the security issue can be addressed.

8.2.3 Costs

Three clubs referred to high costs. One club was concerned with the costs of maintaining the pitch. The other two clubs linked the issue of costs with the quality of pitches with a feeling that they did not receive value for money.

8.3 Key Issues for Rugby Clubs

Middlesbrough Rugby Club is concerned about the increased cost of its lease at Tollesby Road and the lack of ability to receive financial help. For Acklam Rugby Club the key issue is the poor drainage of its pitches especially the main pitch. In addition there are problems with car parking.

8.4 Key Issues for Hockey Clubs

The main issues for hockey clubs is the shortage of suitable Synthetic Turf Pitches in the Borough and the poor quality of the existing pitches at Acklam Sports Centre and Southlands Leisure Centre.

Car parking is the key issue for both Mackinlay Park Ladies and Tioxide Ladies hockey clubs. In addition Mackinlay Park Ladies is concerned about running costs and recruiting younger players. The Roseberry Ladies hockey club is concerned about poor pitch quality.

9. Supply of playing pitches.

9.1 Football

9.1.1 Ownership and accessibility

The ownership and accessibility of pitches will influence their actual availability for community use. The definition of pitches in ‘secured community use’³⁹ includes those in Category A in **Table 17** below.

Table 18 shows the results of the audit of playing pitches in the Study Area. There are 44 adult football pitches and 14 junior football pitches that fall within the Category A i.e. are in secured community use.

Table 17: Categories of pitches

Category	Definition	Supplementary information
A(i)	Secured community pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management
A(ii)		
A(iii)		Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public ⁴⁰
		Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements ⁴¹
B	Used by community, but not	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school/college pitches without formal user agreements

³⁹ Towards a Level Playing Field

⁴⁰ Where there is a charge, this must be reasonable and affordable for the majority of the local community.

⁴¹ Pitches in secured community use are pitches that are available for use by community teams and whose future use is secured for the coming seasons by one or more of the following:

- a formal community use agreement

	secured	
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments that are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

-
- a leasing/management arrangement between the school and LEA requiring the pitch(es) to be available to community teams
 - a policy of community use minuted by the school or LEA, including tariff of charges, etc
 - minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams
 - written commitment from the school to the current community team(s) using the pitch(es), and, where it is the intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times (ie evenings, weekends and/or school holidays) for the next two or more years.

Table 18 Pitches in secured Community Use

Site Name	Outdoor Adult Pitches	Outdoor Junior Pitches	Outdoor Mini Pitches	Outdoor Artificial Pitches	Outdoor Artificial 5 a side	Changing Rooms	Car Parking	Operator	Comments
Local Authority									
Mill Hill	3	1				Yes		MBC	Poor quality changing
Millbrook	1					No		MBC	
Netherfields	3					No		MBC	
Ormesby Road	4	1				No		MBC	
Pallister	1					Yes		MBC	
Prissick	6	1				Yes		MBC	
Saltersgill								MBC	This site has not been used for some time but was previously laid out as dedicated football pitches.
Thorntree	1					Yes		MBC	
Vicarage Road	2	1				Yes porta cabins		MBC	Under lease to North Ormesby Juniors
Acklam Sports Centre / Kings Manor School	4	1				Yes		MBC	Subject to BSF development.
Hemlington Recreation Ground	2	1				Yes		MBC	

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

Depot Road – St Hilda’s	1					Yes		MBC	No formal Community Use Agreement. Pitches available as a matter of custom and practice to one team.
Marlon Road (Beechwood Club)	1					No		MBC	Changing by agreement with social club
Trust									
Hustler Trust, Hall Drive	3	3		1		Yes		Trust	The number of pitches varies. One pitch is permanently waterlogged.
West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust				1	1	No		Trust	Community build anticipated.
Education									
Kings Academy (not an LEA school)	2	1				Yes		LEA	
St Mary’s College (not an LEA school)	3							LEA	No formal Community Use Agreement. Pitches available as a matter of custom and practice.
Acklam Grange (Acorn Centre)	3					Yes		LEA	

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

Unity City Academy (not an LEA school)									5 football pitches currently being constructed
Kings Manor / Hallgarth Schools									As above with Acklam Sports Centre – Dual use
Private Club									
Acklam Iron & Steelworks	1					Yes		Private Club	
Dorman Long Athletic Club	1					Yes		Private Club	
Marion Sports & Recreation Club (Cricket Club)		1				Yes		Private Club	
Marion Hall Drive		3				Yes		Private Club	Leased from Local Authority by Marion Juniors
Nunthorpe Sports Centre	2	1				Yes		Private Club	
Total	44	15		2	1				

The breakdown of ownership of pitches in Middlesbrough is shown in **Table 19** below.

Table 19: Ownership of Grass Football Pitches (other than trust)

Pitch Type	Local Authority	Private Club	Education
Adult Pitches	29	4	8
Junior Pitches	6	5	1
Mini Pitches ⁴²	0	0	0
Total	35	9	9

The Borough Council is the largest provider of football pitches in Middlesbrough, providing 29 adult and 6 junior pitches at 11 sites, with only Mill Hill, Prissick, Acklam, Hemlington and Pallister having changing rooms (other than dual use facilities). Private sports clubs provide 4 adult pitches and 5 junior pitches at 5 sites, all with changing rooms. There are 3 dual use education sites providing 1 junior pitch and 8 adult pitches.

9.1.2 Mini Soccer Pitches

There are different possible pitch dimensions for mini soccer, depending on the team size. There are no permanently marked-out mini-soccer pitches in Middlesbrough. However, pitches are marked out on a temporary basis. There is a dedicated mini-soccer site as part of Prissick Playing Field, but even here pitches are marked on a temporary basis. Any shortfall in mini-soccer pitches is difficult to identify because the playing pitch model only takes account only of marked-out pitches. Mini-soccer can be and is played on larger pitches or on artificial surfaces.

9.1.3 Junior Football

The calculation of the adult / junior team ratio shows that the percentage of adult teams in Middlesbrough is 41% compared to the percentage of junior teams at 59%. This is not reflected in the availability of football pitches with the number of adult

⁴² Mini soccer is taking place in a variety of locations. Some of these are outside Middlesbrough, some are on Synthetic Turf Pitches such as those at Grange Park.

pitches that are available for community use accounting for 73% of pitch provision compared to 27% for junior pitches.

9.1.4 Synthetic Turf Pitches

Active Places Power enables a comparison to be made of the amount of facilities in Middlesbrough with that of national and regional levels of provision and those of near neighbour authorities.

Table 20: Facilities per 1000 population

Area	Capacity Ratio per 1000 population
England	0.03
North East Region	0.03
Middlesbrough	0.037
Redcar and Cleveland	0.014
Stockton-on-Tees	0.034
Hartlepool	0.023
Darlington	0.02

Active Places Power indicates that there are 5 STPs of any type in Middlesbrough. The ratio of provision per 0.037 per 1000 population compared to 0.03 for both England and the North East Region. It is also a higher level of provision compared to the four neighbouring North East local authorities (see **Table 20** above).

Of the five STPs identified in Active Places Power, two are currently local authority managed (Acklam Leisure Centre - dual use, Southlands Leisure Centre) one is managed by a Trust (West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust) and two are located in and managed by, education establishments (University of Teesside and King's Academy)

Whilst the current level of provision appears to be comparable with national and regional levels of provision, it should be borne in mind that, at present, the Education facilities are not in secured community use. Moreover, the local authority and dual use facilities are at the end of their life span and need to be replaced.

There are 5 STPs in Middlesbrough and these are listed in **Table 21** below:

Table 21: Synthetic Turf Pitches

Location	Type of STP
Southlands Leisure Centre	Full size floodlit outdoor artificial pitch that can accommodate up to 3 7 – a – side football pitches or league hockey.
Acklam Sports Centre (Hustler Trust)	Astroturf pitch (3 x 7 a side pitches)
Kings Academy	Floodlit Astroturf (100m x 60m) comprising Football (3 x 7 a side pitches) and Hockey Pitches
Acklam Sports Centre/Whinney Banks (West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust)	3 rd Generation synthetic turf pitch & MUGA
University of Teesside	Floodlit ArtificialTurf Pitch

There is a full size STP at Southlands Leisure Centre where football is the majority user with 89% of usage⁴³ and hockey constitutes 11% of the current use. There is an STP (3 x 7 a side pitches) which is owned by the Hustler Trust at Acklam Sports Centre (Dual use facility Hallgarth and King's Manor schools) which is available for community use. In addition there is a 3rd Generation synthetic turf pitch and a MUGA at Whinney Banks, which is managed by the West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust. Finally, there is a floodlit STP at the University of Teesside, which mainly caters for students but has some limited community use for hockey. The STPs at Kings Academy and the University of Teesside are not generally available for community use although one hockey club uses the University of Teesside STP for its home matches.

9.1.5 Five –a-side Football Centre

There is one commercial five-a-side football centre in Middlesbrough with fourteen floodlit rubber-crumb synthetic grass pitches. These cater for teams playing in mid week leagues as well as weekend matches.

9.2 Cricket

⁴³ Report to Executive Member for Community Safety and Leisure, November 2006.

9.2.1 Ownership

The breakdown of ownership of pitches in Middlesbrough is shown in **Table 22** below.

Private clubs operate four of the cricket grounds. The council provides five cricket pitches on two sites.

Table 22: Cricket Pitches

Cricket Ground	Outdoor Cricket Pitches	Changing Rooms	Operator
Mill Hill	2	Yes	MBC
Prissick	3	Yes	MBC
Marton Sports & Recreation Club (Cricket Club)	1	Yes	Private Club
Dorman Long Athletic Club	1	Yes	Private Club
Middlesbrough Rugby/ Cricket Club	1	Yes	Private Club
Nunthorpe Sports Centre	1	Yes	Private Club
Total	9		

9.3 Rugby

There are five locations with rugby pitches. The details are shown in **Table 23** below:

Table 23: Rugby Pitches

Venue	Rugby Pitches	Changing Rooms	Operator
Mill Hill	1	Yes	MBC
Acklam RUFC Talbot Park, Saltersgill Avenue	4	Yes	Private Club (leased from University of Teesside)
Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Tollesby Road	2	Yes	Private Club
Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Green Lane	2	Yes	Private Club (leased from council)
Macmillan School	2		LEA
Kings Academy	2	Yes	Local Education Authority

The two main rugby clubs are the main providers with Middlesbrough Rugby Club having two sites with two pitches at each site. Acklam Rugby Club leases Talbot Park in Saltersgill, where there are 4 pitches, from University of Teesside.

9.4 Schools

A separate questionnaire was sent to all schools in Middlesbrough. Responses were obtained from 31 schools. The survey revealed that there are 4 schools with a formal agreement for the community to use its pitches. The schools are Kings Academy and St Mary's College, Acklam Grange and UCA. Kings Academy has 2 adult and 1 junior football pitch and 2 rugby pitches. St Mary's College has 3 adult football pitches. Acklam Grange currently has 3 adult pitches which are poorly

drained but which will be improved as a result of the BSF programme. UCA will have five adult football pitches (100m x 60m) pitches.

Football pitches are used by two community teams at Newlands F.C.J. where there is one adult football pitch. There are 2 adult and 1 junior football pitch used by community teams at Acklam Grange and Leeming Lads junior football team use the pitch at Linthorpe Primary.

There is a floodlit MUGA at Priory Woods and Tollesby / Beverley School that are used for training on evenings and weekends. A small synthetic turf area also exists at Macmillan School, which can be utilised for training purposes only. Schools with sports pitches are listed in **Table 24**.

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

Abingdon Primary School														1 ⁴⁴ School Sport & PE	No
Acorn Centre/Acklam Grange			3												Yes
Tollesby/Beverley School														1 floodlit synthetic	Yes
Breckon Hill Primary														1	No
Caldicotes Primary School															No
Easterside Primary School														1 ⁴⁵	No
Kings Academy	1		2								2				Yes

⁴⁴ Non standard size not floodlit

⁴⁵ Non standard size not floodlit

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

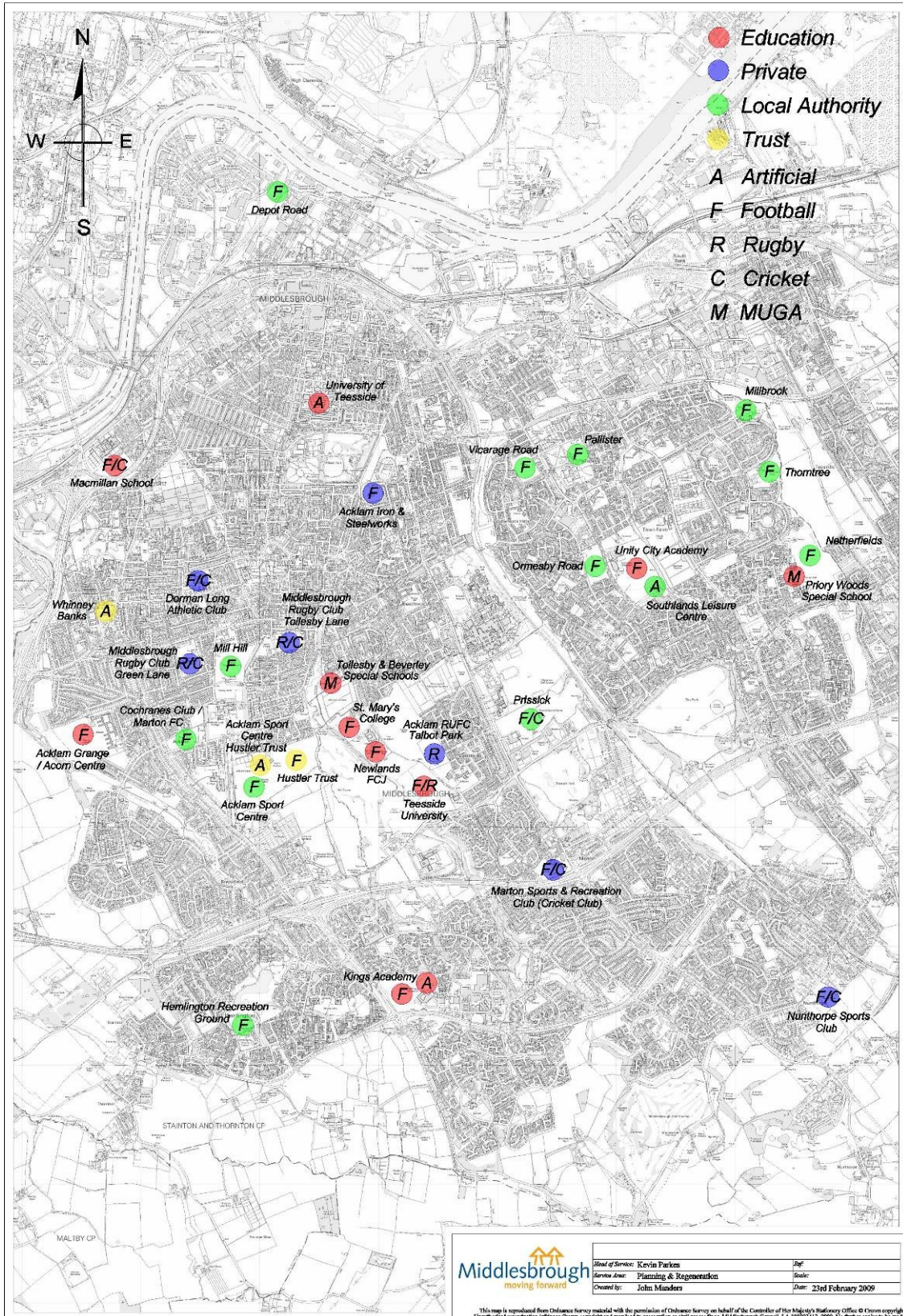
Macmillan Academy						1							2		Synthetic but not standard	No
Priory Woods Special School															1 floodlit	Yes
Sacred Heart RC Primary School															1 ⁴⁶	No
St Mary's College			3													No
Thorntree Primary School															1 ⁴⁷	No
Whinney Banks Primary						1								1		No

⁴⁶ Non standard size not floodlit

⁴⁷ Non standard size not floodlit

Map 1: Playing Pitch Sites in Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy



9.5 Pitches in Secured Community Use

The total area of playing pitch provision is shown in **Table 25** below.

Table 25: Area of playing pitch provision in secured community use.

Site Address	Size (Hectares)
Hemlington Recreation Centre	4.41
Marion Cricket Club	2.92
Nunthorpe and Marion Recreation Club	4.12
Lingfield Farm	5.87
Netherfields	5.69
Thorn tree Park	3.44
Millbrook	1.21
Pallister Park	2.56
Vicarage Road	3.89
Ormesby Road	4.96
Depot Road - St Hildas	1.10
Prissick	15.95
Marion Road	3.87
Mill Hill	7.34
Acklam Sports Centre (inc. Hustler Trust and Hallgarth and Kingsmanor Schools)	31.93
Marion Hall Drive	3.25
Acorn Centre (Acklam Grange School)	11.33
Acklam Iron and Steel Works	2.00
Middlesbrough Rugby and Cricket Club (Tollesby Road)	3.18
Acklam RUFC, Talbot Park, Saltersgill Avenue.	6.25
Dorman Long Athletic Club	1.76
Middlesbrough Rugby and Cricket Club (Acklam Park)	4.02
Beechwood Club, Marion Road	1.82
Unity City Academy	3.55
Total	131.56

The current total population of the borough is 137,310. The playing pitch methodology carried out for this study identifies that there is a total of 131.56 hectares of playing pitches in secured community use in Middlesbrough available to meet the demand from local teams and clubs. This equates to a current level of provision of 0.96 hectares per 1000.

Playing Pitch provision in Middlesbrough is shown on **Map 1** above. The key to this map can be found in **Appendix B**

10. Quality of the Playing Pitches and Changing Rooms

10.1 Visual quality assessment

A visual quality assessment was undertaken of all the playing pitches and changing rooms. This assessment employed the Sport England Visual Quality Assessment provided with the Electronic Toolkit for 'Towards a Level Playing Field'. The assessment sheets can be found at **Appendix C** and **D**.

The assessment is intended to provide a standard approach to helping to assess the quality of pitches. The intention is that it is capable of being carried out individuals who do not have any specific technical expertise in pitch quality. The assessment provides a snapshot of the condition of the playing surface and supporting facilities on the day of the assessment.

The survey was undertaken at the end of the football/rugby season and the beginning of the cricket season. In some cases it was difficult to assess features such as the line markings because the pitches had not been marked for a few weeks. It was therefore necessary to assess the lines, where appropriate, as being 'Moderate' unless circumstances indicated otherwise.

The quality ratings are as shown in **Table 26** below.

Table 26: Pitch Quality Ratings

Score	Quality Rating
91%+	An excellent pitch
71-90%	A good pitch
61-70%	An average pitch
40-60%	A below average pitch
Less than 40	A poor pitch

	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Junior Pitch Quality Score %	Junior Pitch Quality Score %	Junior Pitch Quality Score %	Mini Pitch Quality Score %	Changing Quality Score %
Ownership/Location of Pitches	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Pitch 3	Pitch 4	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Pitch 2	Pitch 1	Changing Room 1
Hustler Trust, Hall Drive	69	68	71		77	63	63		51
Beechwood Club, Marton Road	73								66
Acorn Centre	81	76	74						95
Nunthorpe Sports Centre	77	82			79				90
Local Education Authority									
Kings Academy	77	77			79				93
St Mary's College	79	77	81						80
Private Club									
Acklam Iron & Steelworks					73				44
Dorman Long Athletic Club	66								51
Marton Sports & Recreation Club (Cricket Club)					82				100
Marton Hall Drive (Cochranes Sports & Social Club)					79	74	74		78

	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Junior Pitch Quality Score %	Junior Pitch Quality Score %	Junior Pitch Quality Score %	Mini Pitch Quality Score %	Changing Quality Score %
Ownership/Location of Pitches	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Pitch 3	Pitch 4	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Pitch 2	Pitch 1	Changing Room 1
CRICKET									
Mill Hill	68	58							37
Prissick	77	76	73						68
Marton Sports & Recreation Club (Cricket Club)	90								100
Dorman Long Athletic Club	74								51
Middlesbrough Cricket and Rugby Club	89								83
Nunthorpe Sports Centre	89								90
RUGBY									
Mill Hill	74								37

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Adult Pitch Quality Score %	Junior Pitch Quality Score %	Junior Pitch Quality Score %	Junior Pitch Quality Score %	Mini Pitch Quality Score %	Changing Quality Score %
Ownership/Location of Pitches	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Pitch 3	Pitch 4	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Pitch 2	Pitch 1	Changing Room 1
Acklam Rugby Club	82	77	82	79					80
Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Tollesby Road	76	76							83
Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Green Lane	76	76							78
Local Education Authority									
Kings Academy	81	74							93

Table 28: Summary of Football Pitch Quality Ratings

Quality Rating	Number of Sites	%
An excellent pitch	0	0%
A good pitch	41	75%
An average pitch	12	22%
A below average pitch	2	4%
A poor pitch	0	0%

10.2 Football

10.2.1 Pitches

The results of the assessments for football pitches are shown in **Table 27** above and the ratings of the pitches are summarised in **Table 28**.

41 football pitches (75%) achieve a score of Good. No pitches were assessed as being Excellent and none were assessed as being Poor. 12 pitches (22%) are considered to be Average and only 2 pitches Below Average. The worst scoring pitch was at Millbrook with a score of 58%. The two best scoring pitches are at Acklam Sports Centre with scores of 85%. The median score is 74%.

10.2.2 Football club views about pitch quality

Clubs were asked to assess the overall quality of main match pitch on a five-point scale ranging between very good to very poor. The club's assessment reflects the overall performance of pitches over the season. 64 clubs provided a response to this question. Over half, 55% (35), of clubs rated their main match pitch as being good or very good. A third, 36% (23) rated their main match pitch as being average. 9% (6) thought their main match pitch was poor or very poor.

Clubs were asked which pitches they considered were the three best played on during the past season and which were the three worst pitches.

The most frequently mentioned 'best' pitches are at Acklam Sports Centre and Prissick both with 8 mentions each. Acklam Sports Centre and Dormans were the

most frequently mentioned as being the second best pitch. More details of the club responses are to be found in **Table 29**.

With regard to the worst pitches (**Table 30**), the most frequently mentioned site is Prissick with 13 mentions. However, it is not possible to identify which individual pitches are considered to be worst. Ormesby Road is considered to host the next worst pitch with 8 mentions. Views about the second worst pitch are less conclusive with three sites receiving 4 mentions. These are Netherfields, Mill Hill and Ormesby Road.

Table 29: 'Best' Pitches

Best Pitch	No. Mentions	Second Best Pitch	No. Mentions	Third Best Pitch	No. Mentions
Acklam Sports Centre	8	Acklam Sports Centre	4	Marton	3
Prissick	8	Dormans	4	Mill Hill	2
Eston Academy	4	Prissick	3	Pallister Park	2
Dormans	3	Ormesby Road	3	Prissick	2
Stokesley	3	Stokesley	3	Smith Dock Park	2
		Thorntree	3	Thornaby	2
		Newlands School	3		
		Netherfields	3		

Table 30: 'Worst' Pitches

Worst Pitch	No. Mentions	Second Worst Pitch	No. Mentions	Third Worst Pitch	No. Mentions
Prissick	13	Netherfields	4	Prissick	5
Ormesby Road	8	Mill Hill	4	Mill Hill	4
Mill Hill	5	Ormesby Road	4	Ormesby Road	3
Saltersgill	3	Saltersgill	3	Smith Dock Park	3
Unity City Academy	3	Prissick	2		
Marton Road	3	Smith Dock Park	2		

10.2.3 Training

The use of the home match pitch for training by clubs can be one of the reasons for the poor condition of football pitches. Clubs were therefore asked whether they did use the match pitch for training. 65 clubs responded to this question and 47 (72%) stated that they did not use the match pitch for training although 28% (18) confirmed that they did.

10.2.4 Changing Accommodation

The quality of the changing accommodation at sites with football pitches was assessed using the assessment criteria to be found at **Appendix D**. The results are shown in **Table 31** below:

Table 31: Quality scores for changing accommodation

Location	Quality Score
Local Authority	
Mill Hill	37
Millbrook	N/A
Netherfields	N/A
Ormesby Road	N/A
Pallister	80
Prissick	68
Acklam RUFC / University of Teesside	80
Thorntree	63
Vicarage Road	34
Acklam Sports Centre	85
Hemlington Recreation Ground	90
Depot Road – St Hilda’s	34
Beechwood Club, Marton Road (changing is not Local Authority)	66
Trust	
Hustler Trust, Hall Drive	51
Education	
Kings Academy	93
St Mary’s College	80
Acorn Centre	95
Private Club	
Nunthorpe Sports Centre	90
Acklam Iron & Steelworks	44
Dorman Long Athletic Club	51
Marton Sports & Recreation Club (Cricket Club)	100
Middlesbrough Rugby and Cricket Club	New facilities under construction
Marton Hall Drive (Cochranes Sports &	78

Social Club)	
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There are three main providers of changing accommodation. The quality of changing accommodation varies considerably with scores ranging between 100% and 34%. The highest scoring facility is Marton Sports & Recreation Club. The worst scoring facility is that at the Vicarage Road where the changing rooms are simply containers without any services in a poor condition . Only slightly better are the changing rooms provided by the council at Mill Hill. The median score is 78%

10.2.5 Quality of School Pitches

The quality of the school pitches that were assessed are shown in **Table 25**. In addition, schools were asked to rate the quality of their pitches and the results are shown in **Table 32** below.

Table 32: School’s Ratings of Sports Pitches and Changing Accommodation

School	Overall Quality of the Pitch	Quality of the Changing Accommodation
Newlands F.C.J.	Acceptable	Good
Linthorpe Primary	Acceptable	Poor
Acklam Grange	Good	Good
Breckon Hill Primary	Poor	Good

Only schools where there is at least one grass pitch which is currently in community use are reported here. Schools with Synthetic Turf Pitches have not been included. It has not been possible to secure the views of the two schools with Community Use agreements.

10.3 Cricket

10.3.1 Pitches

The results of the assessments for cricket pitches are shown in **Table 33** below.

Table 33: Cricket Pitch Quality Results

Site Name	Pitch 1 Quality Score %	Pitch 2 Quality Score %	Pitch 3 Quality Score %	Changing Accommodation Quality Score %
Mill Hill	68	58		37
Prissick	77	76	73	68
Marton Sports & Recreation Club (Cricket Club)	90			100
Dorman Long Athletic Club	74			51
Middlesbrough Rugby Club	89			83
Nunthorpe Sports Centre	89			90

The quality scores of 80% (8) of the cricket pitches is rated as Good with one Average pitch and one Below Average. A summary of pitch quality ratings is shown in **Table 34** below. The worst scoring pitch is at Mill Hill. The best scoring pitches are at Marton Sport & Recreation Club, Middlesbrough Rugby Club and Nunthorpe Sports Centre.

Table 34: Summary of Cricket Pitch Quality Ratings

Quality Rating	Number of Sites
An excellent pitch	0
A good pitch	7
An average pitch	1
A below average pitch	1
A poor pitch	0

10.3.2 Changing Accommodation

The quality of the changing accommodation for cricket is highly variable. The highest scoring cricket pavilion achieved a score of 100% and that is at Marton Sport & Recreation Club. This score contrast starkly with the score achieved by the changing facilities at Mill Hill (37%) where the changing rooms are used for both cricket and football.

10.4 Rugby

10.4.1 Pitches

The 11 rugby pitches were assessed for their quality and the results are shown in **Table 35**.

Table 35: Rugby Pitch Quality Results

Rugby Pitch	Pitch 1 Score	Pitch 2 Score	Pitch 3 Score	Pitch 4 Score
Acklam Rugby Club	82%	77%	82%	79%
Mill Hill	74%			
Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Tollesby Road	76%	76%		
Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Green Lane	76%	76%		
Kings Academy	81%	74%		

All the pitches were rated as good pitches and this is shown in **Table 36**.

Table 36: Summary of Rugby Pitch Quality Ratings

Quality Rating	Number of Sites
An excellent pitch	0
A good pitch	11
An average pitch	0
A below average pitch	0
A poor pitch	0

10.4.2 Changing Accommodation

Changing rooms for Rugby were assessed at all five sites and the results are shown in **Table 37** below.

Table 37: Rugby Changing Room Quality Results

Name of Site	Changing Accommodation Quality Score %
Mill Hill	37
Acklam Rugby Club	80
Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Tollesby Lane	83
Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Green Lane	78
Kings Academy	93

Four of the changing facilities achieve a good score but the facilities at Mill Hill are clearly below the standards of the others.

10.4 Hockey

Only one of the hockey teams plays its matches in Middlesbrough. This is the Marton Furness Hockey Club that plays its matches at the University of Teesside. Mackinlay Park Ladies use Ryehills in Redcar, Roseberry Ladies use Eaglescliffe School and Tioxide Ladies play at Thornaby Central.

11. The Assessment of the Supply and Demand for Playing Pitches

The method for the assessment of the supply and demand for playing pitches recommended in 'Towards a Level Playing Field' follows the eight stage process outlined in the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM).

11.1 The Playing Pitch Methodology

The PPM comprises eight stages (see **Diagram 2**). Stages 1 to 6 involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages 7 and 8 develop issues and solutions. The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand (identified through Team Generation Rates), and problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account.

Stage 1 - Identifying Teams/Team Equivalentents

The key task here is to count how many pitch sport teams there are within the study area, recorded according to sport, type of team (adult, junior, mini) and sex. This will include those teams that are resident in Middlesbrough but play their games elsewhere.

The likely number of future teams within Middlesbrough requires information on the forecast population increases from the national census. Team Generation Rates or TGRs can then be applied to provide an indication of future levels of demand.

Stage 2 - Calculating Home Games Per Team Per Week

The second stage of the model is to calculate the total number of home games played by each team per week in the study area. This information is collected from a questionnaire survey.

This variable is calculated in two stages. The first stage requires the total number of home games to be divided by the number of weeks in a season to provide the average number of home games per week. Secondly that figure is divided by the number of teams to provide the average number of home games per team per week.

Stage 3 - Assessing Total Home Games Per Week (Stage 1 x Stage 2)

Stage 3 is the calculation involving multiplying the total number of teams (Stage 1) by the total number of home games per team per week (Stage 2). This provides an assessment of the total number of home games per week taking part in Middlesbrough i.e. how many games have to be accommodated within Middlesbrough in a typical week.

Stage 4 – Establishing Temporal Demand for Games

This stage determines the proportion of home games played on each day of the week. The temporal demand is the proportion of matches that are played each day. This shows the periods of peak demand and this usually occurs on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings and afternoons, particularly in relation to football, however this needs to be quantified accurately from the questionnaire survey.

Stage 5 – Determining the Number of Pitches Used/Required on Each Day

By multiplying Stages 3 and 4 together (i.e. the total number of home games x days on which they are played) it is possible to determine the number of pitches currently used on/at each day/time during the week.

Stage 6 – Establishing Pitches Available

Having established through stages 1 – 5 the number of teams in Middlesbrough and when they use the pitches, in order to identify any potential shortfall in supply, it is then necessary to count the number of pitches that are available for community use within the study area.

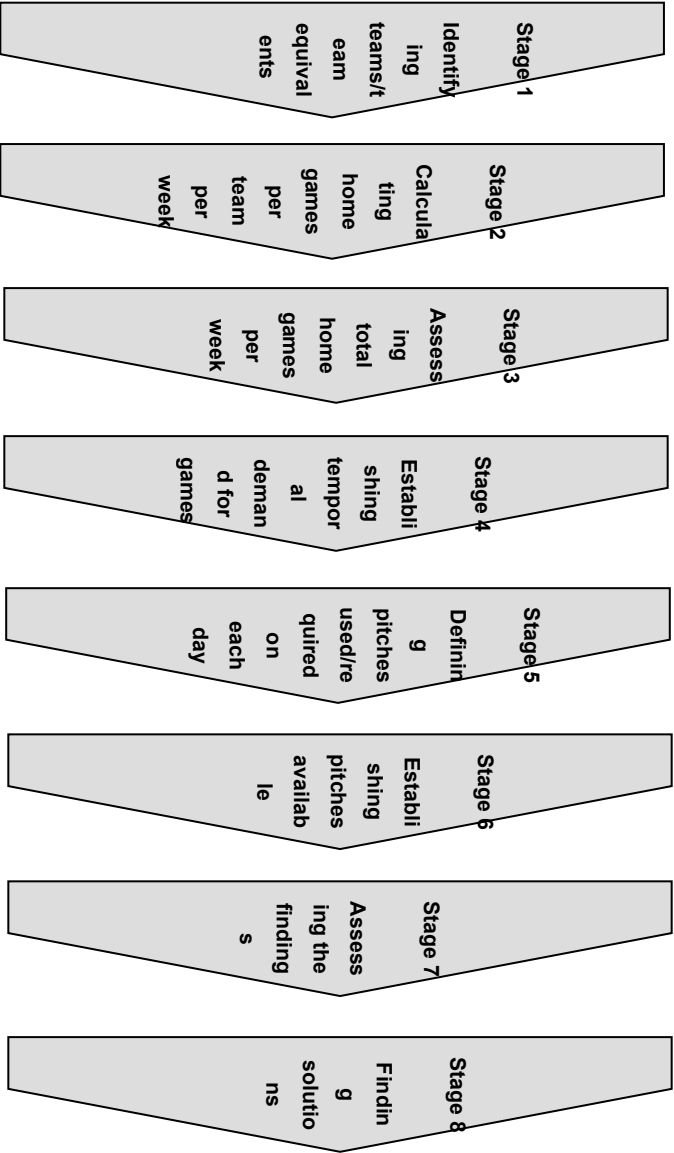
Stage 7 – Assessing the Findings

Stage 7 compares the number of pitches required on each day (Stage 5) with the number of pitches available (Stage 6). This identifies whether there are spare or underused pitches, excess demand or if supply matches demand.

Stage 8 – Identifying Policy Options and Solutions

The final stage of the Playing Pitch Model is to translate the findings obtained from Stages 1 – 7 into a strategy based on the identified level of supply and demand.

Diagram 2: Flow-chart to illustrate the key stages:



11.2 The Playing Pitch ‘Calculator’

The calculations set out in Stages 1-7 above can be undertaken by the Playing Pitch Calculator which is based on an excel spreadsheet comprising six tabulated sheets.

11.2.1 Analysis of Supply and Demand

The results of the audit of playing pitches and teams in Middlesbrough facilitate the calculation of any surplus or deficit of pitches.

11.2.2 Team Generation Rates

Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables fair comparison to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken.

Dividing the estimated number of male teams playing each sport into the estimated total number of males aged between 6 - 45 years gives an overall TGR of 1:416 for football in the Study Area. This means that there is one football team for every 416 of the population aged 6 - 45.

Table 38 below compares TGRs for football with those of other studies.

Table 38: Local Authority TGRs⁴⁸

Local Authority	Mini -Soccer - Teams per 1000 pop	Junior Boys - Teams per 1000 pop	Senior Men -Teams per 1000 pop
Bradford	4.90	9.62	2.69
Leeds	2.56	8.06	2.17
Peterborough	8.55	9.71	3.72
Walsall	2.93	13.16	2.22
Southampton	3.01	2.14	1.83
Knowsley	6.33	7.04	1.90
Nottingham	2.56	5.13	2.05
Birmingham City	2.01	2.53	1.19
Middlesbrough	6.6	17.9	2.3
NATIONAL AVERAGES	4.56	10.98	2.79

There are no North East local authority comparables available. However, these results do indicate that there is a relatively high TGR for mini-soccer and junior football in Middlesbrough compared to both the national averages and most of the urban authorities cited here. The TGR for senior men's teams is less than the national average. The Football Association's Local Area Data report for 2007/2008 reports that the number of teams has decreased by 99 teams in the period 2006/2007 to 2007/2008.

⁴⁸ Sport England TGR database

11.2.3 Assumptions

A number of factors are built into the PPM process. Firstly, the temporal demand should reflect patterns of play. These have been assessed on the basis of the information obtained from League Handbooks and the responses to the questionnaire. The split in times of play has been based on the numbers of teams within each league that are based in the Study Area. The leagues have standard kick off times so it is possible to assess what proportion of teams are playing at peak times i.e. Saturday and Sunday. With regard to junior football, the main league is the Teesside Junior Football Alliance. This league runs both mini soccer and junior football on Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. It has not been possible to ascertain exactly how the games are split so it is assumed that 50% of games are played in the morning and 50% in the afternoon.

A growth factor of 10% is built in to the calculator to allow for increased participation resulting from sports development initiatives and wider government programmes to increase activity. This assumption is supported by the LAA target of a 1% year on year increase in the number of adults participating at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation on three or more days a week.

Population growth has been calculated using the revised 2004-based ONS Subnational population projections provided by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit. It has been assumed that the strategy needs to consider the situation over the next 5-year period and a population forecast for 2013 has been applied. The projections do not go down to 1 year age bands. Quinary age groups are the lowest level that ONS work to for projections. For the purposes of the playing pitch strategy, the quinary groups have been divided by 5 to give an average figure for the 1 year age band.

An assumption also has to be made about the future balance between junior and adult sides. The current split is 60% junior to 40% adult and it has been assumed that this balance will remain the same over the next five years.

Although there are 3 STPs available for community use in Middlesbrough, there is no evidence that these are used for matches by any of the clubs. They are used for

training, mini soccer and five a side games. They have not therefore been included in the PPM on the grounds that to do so would provide a misleading result.

The Sport England Electronic Calculator uses the 6-55 age group as the 'Active Population' for pitch sports. However, this disguises the differences in the active populations for the individual pitch sports. The active population for football is 6-44. It was found that using the active population employed by the calculator (6-55yrs) overestimated the number of teams in the projection of future pitch requirements for football. The football analysis was therefore also undertaken using the 6-44 age group as the active population.

11.3 Playing Pitch Model Results⁴⁹

The results of the survey of clubs and the audit of playing pitches were entered into the playing pitch calculator to ascertain the current and future requirements for playing pitches in the Study Area. The individual pitch sports are considered in turn.

11.3.1 Current and Future Situation for Football

11.3.1.1 Current Situation

The current situation with regard to football is summarised in **Table 39** below.

Table 39: PPM Summary of Current Situation for Football

Active Population Aged 6-44

Football	Stage 7											
	Shortfall or surplus											
	Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)
Football												
Middlesbrough	39.0	38.3	15.0	15.0	8.6	37.0	-8.5	-8.5	39.0	15.0	39.0	15.0

The audit of pitches revealed that there are a total of 39 senior football pitches and 15 junior pitches in secured community use and consistently available in Middlesbrough.

The model calculates the number of games played on each day. The shortfall in provision occurs at the time of peak demand when there are not enough pitches in secured community use to meet that demand.

The current situation for football indicates that there is a shortfall in provision of 8.5 junior pitches at the peak times of Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. However, there is a surplus of 8.6 adult pitches in Middlesbrough on Sunday morning and 37 pitches on Sunday afternoon.

⁴⁹ The full analysis of the Playing Pitch Model can be found on the CD version of this report.

The problem of the shortage of junior pitches would appear to be being resolved in a number of ways. Clubs are playing in several locations and in some cases it is likely that junior sides are using adult pitches. It is also possible that the number of games being played on some pitches is greater than the capacity of those pitches.

11.3.1.2 Future Situation

The results are shown in **Table 40** below.

Table 40: PPM Summary of Future Situation for Football in 2013

Active Population Aged 6-44

Football	Shortfall or surplus											
Football Future Year 2013	Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)
Middlesbrough	39.0	38.4	15.0	15.0	12.3	37.3	-13.4	-13.4	39.0	15.0	39.0	15.0

In calculating the future situation the model assumes that the number of pitches in secured community use remains static. However, demand changes partly because of changes in the population and partly because the model builds in growth as a result of increased participation as a result of sports development and an increase in interest in healthy activity. This is evidenced in Middlesbrough by the growth in the popularity of junior football.

The future situation shown in **Table 39** that the shortage of junior pitches for football has increased with a deficiency of at least 13 junior pitches at the peak times of Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. At the same time, there does appear to be a surplus of adult pitches on both Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. However, the surplus of adult pitches on Sunday morning is slightly less than the predicted demand for junior pitches.

11.3.2 Current and Future Situation for Cricket

11.3.2.1 Current Situation

The current situation with regard to cricket is summarised in **Table 41** below. In this case the Sport England Electronic Calculator uses the 6-55 age group as the 'Active Population' for pitch sports.

Table 41: PPM Summary of Current Situation for Cricket in 2013

Active Population Aged 6-55

Cricket	Shortfall or surplus							
Cricket Future Year 2013	Saturday (senior)	Saturday (junior)	Sunday (senior)	Sunday (junior)	Mid week 1 - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. (senior)	Mid week 1 - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri (junior)	Mid week 2- Wednesday (senior)	Mid week 2- Wednesday (junior)
Middlesbrough	3.9	6.4	3.9	7.1	5.3	7.6	7.3	7.6

The audit revealed that there are 10 cricket pitches available in the Middlesbrough area. Both junior and senior teams will use these pitches. If junior and senior matches are played at different times during the day then there is an apparent surplus. However, if only one match can be played on a pitch in a day the demand for senior and junior cricket must be combined. In this case there is a balance of supply and demand on Saturday and a marginal surplus on Sunday. However, there are only 4 clubs with junior members and these are the larger clubs with access to better facilities.

11.3.2.2 Future Situation

The future situation with regard to cricket is summarised in **Table 42** below.

Table 42: PPM Summary of Future Situation for Cricket in 2013

Active Population Aged 6-55

Cricket	Shortfall or surplus							
Cricket Future Year 2013	Saturday (senior)	Saturday (junior)	Sunday (senior)	Sunday (junior)	Mid week 1- Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. (senior)	Mid week 1- Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri (junior)	Mid week 2- Wednesday (senior)	Mid week 2- Wednesday (junior)
	Middlesbrough	4.5	6.2	4.5	7.5	5.7	7.5	7.5

The model indicates a balance in cricket pitch provision in the area at all times. Overall, the number of cricket pitches in Middlesbrough would appear to be adequate to meet future needs. The change from a shortfall of provision the Middlesbrough Council area to a sufficient number of pitches is likely to be as a result of the changing population profile of the area.

The model does not take into account any frustrated demand, particularly in the inner areas of Middlesbrough where there are a higher proportion of people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities whose propensity to participate in cricket is high but where there are very few facilities available to participate. The lack of pitches and facilities that meet the requirements for league cricket in these locations could mean that people who might otherwise participate in cricket are not currently doing so

The situation in the Middlesbrough area could however change if the impact of 'focus club status' (Cricket Governing Body Profile) on local cricket clubs results in increased participation in cricket at the junior level.

11.3.3 Current and Future Situation for Rugby

11.3.3.1 Current Situation

The current situation with regard to rugby is summarised in **Table 43** below.

Table 43: PPM Summary of Current Situation for Rugby in 2013

Active Population Aged 6-55

Stage 7 (S6- S5)

Rugby	Shortfall or surplus											
Rugby Future Year 2013	Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)
Middlesbrough	9.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	9.0	-5.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	9.0	0.0

The audit revealed that there are 9 senior rugby pitches and no junior rugby pitches in Middlesbrough. The model shows that for the current situation there is an overall shortfall of over 5 junior rugby union pitches on Sunday morning. In reality the junior sides are likely to be playing across senior pitches. It would therefore appear that this apparent shortfall is not creating any particular difficulties at present.

11.3.3.2 Future Situation

The future situation with regard to rugby is summarised in **Table 44** below.

Table 44: PPM Summary of Future Situation for Rugby in 2013

Active Population Aged 6-55

Rugby	Shortfall or surplus											
Rugby Future Year 2013	Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)
Middlesbrough	9.0	5.8	0.0	0.0	9.0	9.0	-3.2	0.0	9.0	0.0	9.0	0.0

The future situation indicates that the current number of rugby pitches in Middlesbrough may be inadequate to meet future needs for junior games on a Sunday mornings. Again there is a surplus of senior pitches at this time which will accommodate these junior games.

12. Conclusions

12.1 Football

12.1.1 Supply

When considering the Middlesbrough area as a whole there is a current shortfall of 8.5 junior football pitches on both Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. However there is a balance of provision on Sunday morning because of the availability of an equal number of senior pitches. There is a surplus of 37 senior pitches on Sunday afternoon.

Sport England recommend that it is prudent for there to be a contingency allowance of 10% in the overall provision of pitches to accommodate the time required for maintenance, improvements to pitches or pitches not being available due to waterlogging. Clearly this would not be the situation at the time of peak demand on Sunday morning when there are only just sufficient pitches to meet demand.

Whilst it is not possible to model the situation for mini soccer there would appear to be a potential shortage in provision for these small sided games for players under the age of 10. There are no permanently dedicated mini soccer pitches available in Middlesbrough. However, games are likely to be played at existing football pitch locations as well as on synthetic turf pitches. Clubs often mark out mini soccer pitches temporarily with cones which explains the lack of dedicated pitches.

The lack of suitable facilities for girls and women's football would appear to be acting as a constraint on the development of this sector of the game.

Whilst the model indicates that there is not a shortage of pitches as a whole in the area, several pitches exist which do not have associated changing facilities such as those at Millbrook, Netherfields and Ormesby Road. These pitches cannot be used for certain league games because the league rules require changing facilities to be available.

12.1.2 Demand

Over half the clubs indicated that their membership has remained static over the last five years. However just under one third indicated that their membership is increasing

with only a small proportion of clubs reporting that their membership is declining. Three quarters of the clubs with a substantial junior membership reported that their membership is increasing. This reflects the national situation of growth in football being concentrated on the junior sector.

There are 8 junior clubs with over 100 members of which 4 have in excess of 200 members. 11 junior football clubs with over 50 members account for over 1800 participants in junior football. In contrast many of the exclusively male adult clubs are quite small often having just the one team.

Clubs are concerned about the high costs of renting pitches and this could be a factor that might inhibit future participation.

12.1.3 Quality

The assessment of pitch quality found that almost most football pitches were of a 'good' standard. However, the quality of pitches is a key issue for many football clubs. The perceived shortage of pitches may relate to a lack of good quality pitches. Clubs are concerned about factors such as the slope of the pitch, lack of drainage, poor maintenance, poor line marking, condition of goalmouths and lack of drainage.

Clubs are concerned about the lack of changing facilities in some instances and the poor quality of existing changing facilities. The lack of segregated changing rooms is seen to be holding up the development of women's football. Other issues include problems with vandalism and security.

12.1.4 Overall Conclusions for Football

There would appear to be an adequate supply of pitches available to meet current and future demand although this is marginal at the time of peak usage on Sunday mornings. If more school sites are secured for community access through Community-Use Agreements Middlesbrough should be able to meet predicted demand.

The quality of pitches is a key concern for users. There is a disparity between the findings of the quality assessment of pitches and the expectations of users. There may well be a need to employ more resources to improve quality and increase the capacity of existing pitches. A good pitch can sustain three games per week, and a

fully drained, well maintained pitch may be able to take five. Selection of the best pitches, together with appropriate ground works will produce a stock of pitches able to meet current and future requirements.

Changing facilities present a significant problem. Users rightly expect to find that there are good quality changing facilities available when they wish to participate. It is not acceptable to have sites with football pitches that do not have any changing facilities. Existing changing facilities do not appear to be fit for purpose. There is a need for segregation and flexibility to accommodate young children, girls and women, and disabled users. This cannot be achieved in outmoded changing facilities.

There are insufficient mini soccer/junior pitches and there is a need to provide more small pitches, the dimensions of which must be appropriate for the age of users. Reducing the number of senior pitches and reconfiguring them as mini/juniors can achieve this.

The Community Club approach promoted by the Football Association presents a way forward in terms of strategic direction. Concentrating resources on high quality, multi-team venues with good quality training and playing facilities will provide opportunities for players irrespective of age, gender, and ability.

A review of current pricing structures might be necessary in view of the comments made by clubs about the high costs of pitch rental.

12.2 Cricket

12.2.1 Supply

Junior and senior teams use the same pitches. At present there would appear to be a balance of supply and demand on Saturday and a marginal surplus on Sunday. However, in future there may well be a shortfall in provision to accommodate the development of junior cricket, particularly at the 'focus club', Marton CC.

12.2.2 Demand

The membership of the larger clubs is increasing, particularly in terms of junior membership, and in some cases clubs have reached their capacity.

12.2.3 Quality

Cricket pitches were rated as good by the visual quality assessment. The best quality pitches are at the larger clubs. However, the quality of pitches is a key concern, particularly for the smaller clubs.

The quality of changing at the larger clubs such as Marton is good. However, facilities at venues used by small clubs are considered to be poor. As with football, there is a need to improve the quality of some of the cricket pitch sites, and also to address the poor quality of some of the existing pavilions and changing rooms. This will be particularly important if more young people and women are to be encouraged into the game.

12.3 Rugby

Overall there would appear to be sufficient pitches available to meet current and future needs. However, there is a lack of junior pitches and this may necessitate the reconfiguring of some senior pitches to accommodate this demand.

Pitch quality is an issue for Acklam Rugby Club although this is not reflected in the pitch quality assessment.

12.4 Hockey

The fact that only one of the clubs covered by the survey play their hockey in Middlesbrough indicates that there is a shortage of sand based STPs.

12.5 Synthetic Turf Pitches

In order to alleviate the pressure on grass pitches and to allow them time to recover after use, it is essential to provide an alternative for training purposes. This demand could be met by STPs and MUGAs.

13. Recommendations

Recommendations

The playing pitch assessment indicates that the basis for maintaining and enhancing playing pitch provision in Middlesbrough needs to address the following key areas:

- overcoming identified deficiencies and planning for new provision
- enhancement of existing provision
- ensuring access to facilities for all participants
- protection of existing provision
- developing a local standard.

Quantitative deficiencies

Objective 1

To provide a sufficient number of adult and junior pitches to meet both current and future demand and to ensure that in addition to providing the quantity of pitches to meet minimum requirements, an additional 10% is provided to allow for the rest and recovery of sites.

The current and projected future deficiencies identified emphasise the need for the protection of all existing areas of playing pitch land in public, private and educational ownership located in Middlesbrough.

Recommendation 1.

All existing pitches should be safeguarded from development.

Such protection should be afforded through the development of planning policies within the emerging Local Development Framework.

Playing pitches should not be developed unless a playing pitch or pitches of equivalent or better quantity and quality and in a suitable location would replace the playing pitches that would be lost as a result of any proposed development.

The former pitches at Saltersgill are no longer used for playing pitches. The site has been identified as being part of the strategic open space network and will be afforded protection as open space through the LDF process. Whilst there are no immediate plans for the site to be used to meet the growth in junior/mini soccer or the 10% contingency requirement, it could nevertheless provide additional capacity, should the need arise.

The Middlesbrough Local Plan safeguards 'Primary Open Space' from development. Exceptions relate to developments that are of overriding importance to the community as a whole, and would not result in a significant loss of open space. To this extent, there are proposals to develop the existing playing pitch at Depot Road. Mitigation will take the form of a contribution to new changing provision and the supply of an additional junior football pitch at Mill Hill.

Recommendation 2.

It is recommended that standards of provision be adopted, to safeguard the adequacy of existing and future pitch and outdoor sports facility provision in Middlesbrough.

An important outcome from a playing pitch strategy is the development of local standards of provision, in accordance with national planning policy. Such standards will:

- underpin negotiations with developers over their contributions towards new pitch provision to meet the needs of new residential developments.
- provide an additional overview of the general supply of pitches/level of provision
- assist in protecting land in playing field use
- assist in benchmarking with other areas/authorities.

The current level of provision is 0.96 hectares per 1000 population and this is detailed in **Table 25**. A further 5 pitches overall are required to meet the 10% contingency recommended by Sport England. The recommended local standard of provision for

playing pitches is therefore 1.05 hectares per 1000 population. The calculation of the standard is shown in **Table 45** below.

Table 45: Local Standard of Provision

Population	Area of Pitches	Current Level of Provision per 1000 Population	10% Contingency	Standard (Hectares per 1000 Population)
137,310	131.56	0.96	0.10	1.05

In addition the PPG17 assessment recommends that Middlesbrough should have at least three STP’s which equates to a quantity standard of 0.03 hectares per 1000 population. This equates to the existing level of provision of STP’s that are available for community use.

Minimum standards of provision

Playing pitches

A minimum of 1.05 hectares per 1000 population.

Synthetic Turf Pitches

A minimum of 0.03 hectares per 1000 population.

Multi-Use Games Areas

Young people mostly use MUGAs and therefore accessibility is more important than quantity. A walking distance threshold is considered to be the most appropriate standard and this should be 1000 metres. MUGAs that cater for pitch sport activity should be a Type 4 or Type 5 MUGA and should be floodlit.

Actions to address quantitative deficiencies

New facilities

- a) There is spare capacity at Pallister Park to provide at least one and possibly two additional junior football pitches.
- b) Additional pitches should become available for secured community use through developing robust community use agreements with schools - especially those

where the facility will be improved through BSF. It is not possible to identify the exact number of pitches that are likely to become available at this stage because the plans for many schools are yet to be finalised.

- c) The lack of a suitable venue for hockey in Middlesbrough (that has secured community use) should be addressed through the provision of at least one Synthetic Turf Pitch (sand based). This should be located at one of the multi sport hub sites or through secured community use of new school provision through BSF.
- d) The site at Saltersgill will be re-instated as playing pitches provided:
 - (i) the need can be justified; and,
 - (ii) there is still a shortfall in provision notwithstanding the availability of school playing pitches secured for community use through formal community use agreements.

Improved capacity (see Qualitative deficiencies)

Pitch Sizes

The Playing Pitch Model identified a deficiency in the current level of provision of junior football pitches on Sundays. At the same time there is a surplus of senior football pitches. Responding to this changing pattern of demand indicates a need to reconfigure some existing adult pitches to meet the demand for junior football and mini soccer. This could be undertaken at the following locations:

- a) Mill Hill
- b) Netherfields
- c) Prissick
- d) Ormesby Road
- e) Acklam Sports Centre
- f) Hustler Trust

Qualitative deficiencies

Objective 2

To ensure that the quality of sports pitches and ancillary changing accommodation meets the expectations of current and future participants.

A poor playing surface will be detrimental to the quality of the playing experience and at times will result in the pitch being unavailable. Many factors can affect the quality of the pitch including slope, exposure (openness to elements), soil type, drainage and grass cover. These factors will have a major impact on the number of games that can be played on a pitch over a given period, and hence the overall pitch capacity. Factors such as drainage and soil type will also greatly influence the extent to which matches may be lost during periods of wet weather.

The quality of ancillary facilities such as changing, car parking, social provision and practice areas also determine whether the facility can contribute to meeting the demand from various groups and for different levels of play.

Recommendation 3.

All existing pitches should meet a minimum quality standard.

The quality of sports pitches was assessed using the Visual Quality Assessment. The median scores for different pitches are as follows:

Football	74%
Cricket	76.5%
Rugby	76%

All pitches should meet this minimum standard.

Actions to improve pitch quality

Pitch Improvement and Maintenance

It is recommended that the Council and all other providers should adopt a rolling programme of improvements to their playing pitches with a view to meeting the minimum quality standard for all pitches.

Priority should be given to locations identified as hub sites in the hierarchy of provision.

Improvements could be achieved through:

1. Implementation of a programme of levelling and drainage improvements such as the re-instatement of sand slits to link up with existing drainage, at the following sites:
 - a) Ormesby Road
 - b) Mill Hill
 - c) Hustler Trust
 - d) Netherfields
 - e) Prissick
2. Initiation of a programme of re-turfing/re-seeding the worn areas of goalmouths and other areas of the playing surfaces of pitches that have suffered damage. Where possible there should be sufficient space to facilitate variation in the layout of pitches to help them to recover from natural wear and tear. This rotation should be employed where possible.
3. Reducing the number of pitches at selected sites to allow pitches to be re-orientated and moved to reduce the impact of wear and tear.
4. Introduction of kickabout goals at sites that are subject to unauthorised use. Often children and young people will play casual games on pitches and inevitably will seek to use the area in front of the goals when goalposts are left in place. This leads to excessive wear in the goalmouth area. One way to counter this is to provide alternative facilities in the form of kickabout areas with goalposts away from the main pitch areas.
5. Provision of fencing at locations where security is a priority.
6. Co-ordination of the provision of grounds maintenance courses for clubs and organisations who are currently maintaining their own facilities.

Higher League Football

The English Football League system or football pyramid functions at different levels. Clubs in Middlesbrough play in the Teesside Football League. It consists of two divisions and covers levels 12 and 13 in the English Football League system. The league is a feeder to the Wearside League which is at step 7 (or level 11) of the league system. Any club seeking to be promoted to the higher league will need to institute ground improvements to meet league requirements. Support for ground improvements could assist with the development of football in Middlesbrough by encouraging young players to follow the natural progression to the Wearside League and fulfill their aspirations to play at higher levels.

Synthetic Turf Pitches

Synthetic Turf Pitches (sand based) provide opportunities for training and practice in the case of football and for matches for hockey. Synthetic Turf Pitches (3 G rubber crumb) provide opportunities for training and practice for football. Training on grass pitches that are also used for matches leads to greater wear and tear and has a significant impact on pitch quality. The quality of pitches can only be improved if the measures taken to improve pitch quality are matched by the provision of good training opportunities.

There are proposals to replace the existing Synthetic Turf Pitch at Acklam Sports Centre. Through the Building Schools for the Future Programme, it is likely a new pitch will be provided at the Acklam School site. A further STP may be developed at the proposed new Catholic School in Middlesbrough. The detail of this development, and nature of the proposed pitch, has yet to be finalised. The strategy findings would support development of a 3G rubber crumb surface that would support football delivery and the development of a sand based STP which would provide for competitive hockey in Middlesbrough.

It is strongly recommended that community use of these sites is secured with robust community use agreements made with the providers on the education sites.

In addition, there are proposals to replace the existing Synthetic Turf Pitch at Southlands Leisure Centre, which is near the end of its useful life. This will be a 3G Synthetic Turf Pitch, which is better suited to football and other grass pitch sports.

MUGAs

There is potential to provide training facilities, particularly for football, in the form of Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) at the following locations:

- a) Ormesby School (proposed)
- b) Berwick Hills Primary School
- c) Beechwood Primary School
- d) Archibald Primary School

Recommendation 4

Changing accommodation should be provided at all first and second tier⁵⁰ locations and should meet a minimum quality standard.

The quality of existing changing rooms does not meet the expectations of many users. However, for some the absence of changing facilities is a key problem. The lack of segregated changing rooms is seen to be holding up the development of women's football. Associated with the changing rooms is the issue of car parking which is inadequate and not perceived as secure in some locations.

Actions to improve the quality of changing facilities

Changing facilities

It is recommended that all facility providers should adopt a rolling programme of improvements to changing facilities, such that all eventually conform with at least the 'average' standard set out in the Sport England Visual Quality Assessment. Particular attention should be paid to:

- Provision for use by women and girls.

⁵⁰ See Accessibility for definition of first and second tier.

- Access and use by people with disabilities.

Priority should be given to sites in Tier 1 and Tier 2 that are currently either lacking in changing accommodation or where there are sub-standard changing facilities. This particularly applies to locations that have been identified as hub sites in the hierarchy of provision. Sites identified for improvement are as follows:

- a) Mill Hill
- b) Netherfields (linked to Ormesby Sports Centre)
- c) Prissick (possible link with Middlesbrough College)
- d) Acklam Sports Centre/Hustler Trust (West Middlesbrough Hub Site)
- e) Whinny Banks (for 3 G pitch and MUGA)

However, there are issues about security at both Mill Hill and Prissick and any new changing facilities will need to be designed, following Secured by Design principles, to achieve a good standard of security. New changing accommodation is to be provided at Unity City Academy to service the five new pitches being constructed on the site. North Ormesby Juniors will lease the changing facilities and pitches at weekends and evenings. These proposals will form part of the larger sports complex linked to Southlands Leisure Centre.

Additional changing is also to be provided under the BSF programme at Acklam Grange. It is expected that these pitches will be available for both school and community use.

Accessibility

Objective 3

To ensure that sports pitches and ancillary changing accommodation are easily accessible to participants.

Sports pitches will only have value to the local community if they can be reached by those who want to use them. Sports pitches that are inaccessible will have little relevance in terms of meeting identified local needs. Centralising a number of sports pitches on a single municipal site will have major effects on accessibility, particularly

for young people and those without a car. Local community pitches are still needed to meet local need. At the same time, the cost of use must be considered reasonable and affordable by the majority of the community.

Recommendation 5.

All existing and future sports pitch provision should be easily accessible to all members of the local community who wish to use them.

Hierarchy of provision

In looking at the relative value of facilities, a hierarchy has been developed to guide future investment in the improvement of pitches. This hierarchy seeks to reflect the role and value of local authority, school and private pitches, and the need to provide facilities, which enable progression through various stages of competitive play, i.e. are there facilities to cater for the various standards of league competition played by local teams. The larger and higher quality facilities will attract users from a wider area than small or lower quality sites.

It should be remembered that playing pitch provision is not just about grass facilities, but access to STP facilities, MUGAs and training areas, to facilitate training and junior development.

The aim has been to design a hierarchy to suit the local context of Middlesbrough which satisfies the different aspirations of users. The hierarchy set out in **Figure 1** provides a framework for future provision.

Figure 1: Hierarchy for playing pitches

Casual games	Casual games	Casual games	Casual games	Casual games	Casual games	Casual games	Casual games
Local Provision	Local Provision	Local Provision	Local Provision	Local Provision	Local Provision	Local Provision	Local Provision
Secondary Hub Site		Secondary Hub Site		Secondary Hub Site		Secondary Hub Site	
East Middlesbrough Hub Site				West Middlesbrough Hub Site			

The hierarchy allows for progression by individuals from learning basic skills at an early age in a 'doorstep' location, moving on to becoming members of a local team playing on a pitch close to their local community and finally playing with a larger club that may be located at a 'hub' site.

Within the diagram:

- the **casual** level of the hierarchy would include kick-about areas, five-a-side pitches, MUGAs and 'rough' pitches for casual use which encourage initial participation (**Tier 4**).
- the **local** level offers facilities for those clubs on the lowest rungs of regular competitive play, where changing accommodation will normally be available and pitches will be of a reasonable quality (**Tier 3**).
- the **secondary hub** level offers facilities for those teams that have reached a good standard of play and are playing regular league matches where there may be requirements for well-drained, 'true' playing surfaces and changing facilities (**Tier 2**).
- the **hub** level represents the peak of the hierarchy and might cater for clubs in regional leagues. Facility requirements will be commensurate with the standard of play and might include spectator facilities, floodlighting and so on (**Tier 1**).

Informal facilities clearly play an important part in the local hierarchy of provision. Their provision should not be considered in isolation from formal facilities.

For the purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy, hub sites are considered primarily as facilities which provide multi-sport and multi-activity opportunities. However, Sport England's concept of hub sites goes beyond this. They see the facilities as a method for improving the coaching and voluntary workforce. Therefore, the model for a hub site is effectively a campus style facility at which a number of sports take place, and within which there will be benefits from the common elements of organised sport and physical activity. These common elements would include:

- Coaching and coach education
- Administration and facilities

- Changing and social provision
- Training and conditioning
- Child protection
- Club development

The centre of the hub may be a school or leisure centre and the overall concept embraces neighbouring or “satellite” hub sites that are able to add value, as additional, complementary opportunities through their being associated with the core facility. The hub concept therefore calls for a shift in outlook away from the traditional sports approach.

The cohesion between each part will be vital, in ensuring that individuals can readily access the activity that attracts them. As their skills develop, individuals will also be better placed to be able to find pathways to the level of participation or performance to which they aspire.

These multi-sport, multi-activity sites will provide opportunities to establish common management structures. They also represent an optimum basis for planning, and the allocation of resources, whilst providing for effective co-ordination of membership, fees, and promotion.

The hubs will enable economies of scale to be realised. These include:

- changing facilities that service different sports;
- a direct contribution from STP income;
- grass pitches that can be more frequently let, due to their improved condition; and,
- improved security, through controlled access and increased presence (where a school or leisure centre site is used).

The recommended East Middlesbrough central hub sites are

- a) Southlands Sports Centre/Unity City Academy (Football focus) – where a partnership between the school, Middlesbrough Council and North Riding

Football Association have been seeking to develop a centre of excellence for football based at the Leisure Centre with funding from the Football Foundation. This is the preferred site, because the proposals 'fit' with the hub concept in that there is an established infrastructure, existing football user base on which to build, experienced leisure management presence on the site and the impact the sport can have on communities in areas of deprivation.

North Ormesby Junior Football Club, currently accommodated at Vicarage Road pitch site, is seeking to access more pitch space and club house facilities to enable expansion of its junior section, football official and coach development and greater community engagement. The intention is that the club will be the main user of the pitches and will take responsibility for the new changing facilities during out of school hours.

A successful bid will see five new grass pitches on the Unity Academy Site and one replacement third generation artificial pitch on the Southlands Leisure Centre site.

In addition the ECB are aiming to start a new Girl's Cricket Academy and this will be located at UCA. The academy will link directly to the Yorkshire Cricket Board's programme and allow girls the opportunity to develop their skills before progressing into the Yorkshire Team.

- b) Marton Sports & Recreation Club (Cricket Focus Club) – Marton Cricket Club has been identified as a key deliverer within the County Cricket Board Strategic Development Plan. The club has achieved ECB Clubmark and is committed to delivery of junior development programmes and development activities with specific target groups (disability, women/girls, and ethnic minorities). As a Focus Club it is able to access and utilise ECB, County Cricket Board and local development resources to support the delivery of their club development plan. Marton Cricket Club is committed to achieving the objectives within 'Building Partnerships' and will work in partnership with ECB, the County Cricket Board, schools and the community to deliver high quality outcomes.

There are four secondary hub sites.:

- a) Prissick - where there is the potential to develop new changing facilities and undertake pitch improvements in partnership with Middlesbrough College subject to the resolution of a Master plan for the area.
- b) Netherfields / Ormesby School Sports Centre – the Building Schools for the Future programme offers the opportunity to bring the school playing pitches and the pitches on the adjoining Netherfields site under the community management of Ormesby School Sports Complex.
- c) Acklam Rugby Club / Saltersgill/ University of Teesside – where there is a variety of pitch provision and agencies using the site and the potential for a more integrated approach between the University/Rugby club, local authority and any other clubs that may base their play at the site in the future.
- d) Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Acklam Park, Green Lane - - this club has a good infrastructure, facilities and provides for both cricket and rugby. It would link with the club's leased site on Tollesby Road

The recommended West Middlesbrough hub site is:

- a) Acklam Sports Centre/Hustler Trust/ Kings Manor and Hallgarth School (Football and Hockey focus). – where there are proposed changes to the Kings Manor and Acklam Hall school site, as part of the BSF Programme. Pitches on the site should be replaced and improved. The currently fragmented operation of pitches on the site could be brought under the control of a single community provider. It is likely the development of a new STP on the site will provide enhanced options for community use.

There are two recommended secondary hub sites.:

- a) Mill Hill – where new changing facilities are proposed (though this may not be short term) and where the reconfiguration of the rugby pitch will provide 2 junior football pitches. Depending on whether the pitch on the adjoining Middlesbrough College site becomes available as part of the redevelopment of Acklam Hall there may be the potential to extend pitch provision at this site.

- b) Acklam Grange School (Acorn Centre) where there is a Community Use Agreement covering the sports pitches. These will be enhanced with new drainage and changing as part of the BSF programme. A floodlit MUGA will be developed on the site and a cricket pitch is to be reinstated.

The application of the hierarchy to sports pitch provision in Middlesbrough is shown in **Table 46** below.

Table 46: Hierarchy of Provision in Middlesbrough

Hierarchy	East Middlesbrough	West Middlesbrough
Central Hub Sites (Tier One)	Southlands Sports Centre/Unity City Academy	Acklam Sports Centre/Hustler Trust/ Kings Manor and Hallgarth School
		Marton Sports & Recreation Club (Cricket Focus Club)
Secondary Hub Sites (Tier Two)	Prissick	Mill Hill
	Netherfields / Ormesby School Sports Complex	Acklam Grange School
		Acklam Rugby Club / Saltersgill/ University of Teesside
		Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Green Lane & Tollesby Road
Local provision (Tier Three)	Millbrook	Marton Hall Drive
	Ormesby Road	Hemlington Recreation Ground
	<i>Vicarage Road</i>	Lingfield Farm
	Pallister	Whinney Banks Primary School
	Beechwood Club./Marton Road	Acklam Iron & Steelworks
	Thorntree Park	Nunthorpe Sports Centre
		St Mary's College
		Saltersgill
		Kings Academy
		Dorman Long Athletic Club
Casual (Tier 4)	Primary School MUGAs	Primary School MUGAs
	Kickabout areas	Kickabout areas

Recommendation 6.

To make available the outdoor sports facilities together with access to toilet/changing facilities at schools in Middlesbrough for use by the community outside school hours.

Community use of education facilities

The opening up of school sports facilities is a cost effective means of maximising access for all in the community to sporting opportunities. The challenge is to promote and manage community use in ways which will achieve worthwhile results in terms of sport and generate community satisfaction, without being in any way detrimental to the over-riding educational role of the school or socially exclusive. Schools themselves can benefit from a widening of network with a whole range of other organisations such as local sports clubs and an improved relationship with their communities.

School sports pitches could potentially provide a valuable resource in providing opportunities for local people and sports organisations to participate in sport and physical activity and to develop their skills. Opening up school facilities could provide the opportunity to address quantitative deficiencies in sports pitch provision and ensure that residents have access to facilities close to their homes.

Whilst the community use of sports pitches in schools seeks to make optimal use of existing resources there are some issues which need to be considered, including:

- the capacity of school pitches to accommodate both curricular use in school time and community use 'out of hours' without detriment to the quality of the playing surface;
- the poor quality of the playing surface of many school sports pitches with poor drainage and low quality of maintenance;
- difficulties of providing access to changing facilities;
- problems of availability during school terms; and
- change of pitch use from football to cricket/ athletics for curricular use may not coincide with the requirements of community use terms.

The Building Schools for the Future programme offers a significant opportunity to negotiate 'community use agreements' with schools. A key government aim for the programme is to secure greater community use of schools including sports facilities. The Building Schools for the Future Schools will affect schools with existing sports pitch provision including the following:

- a) Acklam Grange;
- b) Ormesby and Priory Woods
- c) Hall Garth/King's Manor;
- d) Newlands/St David's/St Mary's;
- e) Tollesby/ Beverley

Similarly, under the Primary Strategy for Change (PSfC) programme, there will be opportunities to negotiate community access to facilities such as MUGAs and the provision of junior pitches on some sites e.g. – Berwick Hills and Beechwood Primary Schools.

Access to existing and proposed school facilities by the general community will be secured through the following actions.

- a) Sports pitches at Unity City Academy are to be restored following the development of the new City Academy building. A Community Use Agreement has been negotiated will provide five new football pitches for use by local junior football teams.
- b) The potential exists through the Primary Schools Development Programme to provide additional junior pitches at Berwick Hills and Beechwood Primary Schools, which would become available through Community Use Agreements.
- c) There are currently two school sites in Middlesbrough without community-use agreements, which are used on an ad hoc basis by community teams, The two schools are Newlands Catholic FCJ School and St. David's R.C Technology College. These two sites play an important role in the facilitation of pitch sports

- in the area and consideration must therefore be given to securing their future use.
- d) It might not be appropriate to develop secured community use agreements with all schools, but priority should be given to securing agreements with the following schools that are included in the BSF programme:
- (i) Ormesby School
 - (ii) King's Manor School/ Hall garth School
 - (iii) St Davids/ Newlands Schools
 - (iv) Acklam Grange School
- e) MUGAs at primary schools have the potential to provide casual (Tier 4) opportunities for children and young people living in the locality of the school. There is potential to secure greater community access to these facilities.
- f) Community Use Agreements will include securing community access to STP provision on school sites.

Management

Objective 4

To secure improvements in the operational management and maintenance of sports pitches and changing rooms.

The efficient and effective management and maintenance of sports pitches and changing facilities is essential to the development of pitch sports in Middlesbrough. It was also contribute to achieving the target of 1% year on year increase in the number of adults participating at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation on three or more days a week as set out in the Local Area Agreement.

It is evident that there is a degree of fragmentation in responsibilities for the management of sports pitches. The Parks and Countryside section, through Stewart Park, manage most of the pitch bookings for council pitches. However, there are exceptions with the pitches at Hemlington Recreation Ground being managed through Hemlington Recreation Centre. Street Scene Service / Area Care section manages

the maintenance of pitches. There is no formal link between the booking system and information on the use and condition of pitches and this could result in particular pitches being over or under played or being under maintained.

Whilst Parks manage the practical delivery of pitches to clubs on Saturday and Sunday, opening sites and changing rooms. Sport and Leisure are the agency that work to support club development and the link to National Governing Bodies such as the North Riding FA. There is a need to provide better co-ordination between the activities of these two sections of the council.

The division of responsibility has meant that no one person is in a position to take an overview of sports pitches and as a consequence there is no 'champion' for pitches to drive improvements in quality and seek external funding to support this process. Sports pitches have a low priority and lower budget allocations for maintenance have resulted in a gradual deterioration in the quality of pitches and more obviously in the quality of changing provision. Whilst some improvements to pitches were secured through the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) including the improvement and conversion of senior pitches to senior, junior and mini soccer provision at Ormesby Road Playing Fields, improvements to pitches at Hemlington Recreation Centre and the relocation and improvement of the rugby pitches at Mill Hill Playing Field, these improvements have been difficult to sustain.

Recommendation 7.

Work towards better co-ordination in the delivery of high quality pitch sports facilities.

A position in the Council should be given the responsibility within the Council to take the lead in co-ordinating the delivery of outdoor sports facility projects. This responsibility should include:

- establishing priorities for pitch leveling and drainage projects
- reviewing current pitch layouts to reconfigure any surplus adult football pitches for junior and mini soccer provision

- reviewing current pitch layouts to examine opportunities for the movement of goal posts to reduce the wear of turf pitches
- goal post safety
- establishing priorities for the development of new changing and the refurbishment of existing changing facilities
- ensuring that improvements to the stock of changing facilities provides for female changing
- provision of support and advice on making applications for external funding
- ensuring high quality design of outdoor sports facilities
- Liaising with user clubs and teams, league secretaries.
- Coordinating community use

Partnership working.

Recommendation 8.

Promote joint and partnership working across the Council and with key stakeholders in the provision of playing pitches through the development of a joint working group.

One approach to securing improved co-ordination would be to establish a joint working group that would involve key stakeholders across the council including Sport and Leisure Services, StreetScene, Education, Key Clubs and Urban Policy. Consideration should also be given to the development of increased partnership working between clubs.

Again responsibility for partnership working could rest with the individual charged with co-ordinating the provision of good quality sports pitches.

Pitch booking system

Recommendation 9.

Ensuring that there is a simple and efficient pitch booking system.

Whilst the current system at Stewart Park works well, this should be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with users. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of school facilities with formal dual use agreements in the system to facilitate access by users to these sites.

Value for money

Recommendation 10.

Ensure that sports pitches and changing facilities offer value for money.

Some clubs questioned the cost of hiring pitches in the context of perceived poor quality of facilities at some locations. Consideration should be given to a review of the pricing policy. This would sensibly take the form of a benchmarking exercise with neighbouring local authorities to compare the price of hiring sports pitches and changing facilities and the relative quality of facilities available.

Self Management

Recommendation 11.

Consider the further introduction and development of self management agreements for outdoor grassed pitches and changing facilities to be managed by individual sports clubs.

Responsibility for running outdoor grassed pitches and changing facilities has been handed over to users in a number of successful self-management arrangements in Middlesbrough. Vicarage Road (North Ormesby Juniors), Hall Drive (Marton Juniors) and Tollesby Road (Middlesbrough Rugby and Cricket Club) are all outdoor grassed pitch sites with changing facilities that are currently managed by sports clubs under self management agreements. Increasingly clubs want greater control over facilities and longer term sustainability of their facilities.

Self management has the benefit of empowering the community to manage the facilities they use, instilling ownership and pride. In addition, there is the potential for facilities to be better maintained and it could help to reduce vandalism. Other benefits include an increase in help from volunteers, improved partnership working with local community groups, and an increase in external funding, often match funding for

Football Foundation grants to improve facilities. This could lead to cost savings for both the council and the clubs in terms of administration and officer time. The potential result would be the long term sustainability of high quality local community facilities.

If suitable arrangements could be put into place, self-management could help support the long term development of facilities at other sites.

Funding Opportunities

Recommendation 12.

Maximise external funding opportunities.

The Council will need to maximise its ability to secure external funding for improving pitch facilities and working in partnership with other agencies is an important means of unlocking additional funding sources.

- (a) The Council will work with the North Riding FA and the Football Foundation to improve facilities for football and other sports in local communities.
- (b) The Council will work with the national Governing Bodies for Cricket, Rugby and Hockey to secure additional funding for facility improvement.

Planning Obligations and Section 106 Agreements

The Local Development Framework will be the statutory instrument for implementing the Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy through the planning process. Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 can secure the provision of recreational, sports, and other community facilities as part of new developments. Government Circular 05/05 gives further guidance on the use of Section 106 agreements.

The strategy aims to identify deficiencies in terms of quality and quantity in order to direct funding through Section 106 Planning Agreements and other sources. Capital receipts from land disposal, Section 106 agreements and joint venture agreements can be 'ring-fenced' in order to upgrade sports pitch sites. Together with Capital receipts from land disposal, and joint venture agreements, such capital funds will help to lever in additional external funds and support a programme of re-investment.

The emerging Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document will provide more detailed guidance on the use of S106 agreements.

Appendix A

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

Club	No. of Teams	Mini		Junior(under16)		Senior		Veteran(over40)		Leagues
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
LONGLANDS FC	1					1				Teesborough, League Cup, NRFA Cups
E.R.W LTD FC	1					1				Boddy Printers
THE FOUNTAIN FC	1					1				Teesborough League (Premier Division)
RIVERSIDE ROVERS FC	1					1				Teesborough
NEWHAM RANGERS FC	1			1						T.J.F.A.L
ACKLAM ELECTRICAL FC	1					1				Langbaugh Sunday Football
CARGO FLEET JUNIORS	4	1		3						T.J.F.A and N R C F A
A.L.M ENGINEERING FC	1					1				Teesborough Sunday League, North Riding cup competitions
NORTH ORMESBY FC	13	4	0	6	0	3	0			T.J.F.A., NRFA Cup, League Cup, Teesside League
ST. HILDA'S	1					1				Langbaugh Sunday Football

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

DOCKSIDE INDUSTRIAL	1					1				Langbaugh, NRFA Cup
MARTON ROVERS	1					1				Langbaugh, NRFA Cup
PRO-LINE SECURITIES	1			1						T.J.F.A
TRADER JACKS FC	1					1				Teesborough League
THORNTREE FC	1					1				Teesborough
BEADS	1					1				Teesborough League Saturday
BEADS OVER 35'S	1					1				Over 35's
ACKLAM STEEL WORKS	2					2				Stokesley and District (sat) Teesborough (Sun)
MARTON FC	21	8		12	1					Teesside Junior Football Alliance
KADER FC	18	7	2	7	1	1				N.R.F.A Girls T.J.F.A Boys
ICELAND TEESSIDE FC	1			1						Langbaugh League
THE GREENWAY FC	1					1				Teesborough Sunday League, North Riding

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

										cup competitions
ESTON VILLA	1					1				Teesborough League
ACKLAM STEELWORKS	1					1				Teesborough NRFA Cups
CLEVELAND CABLE FC	1					1				Langbaugh, NRFA Cups
DERECK CAMPBELL FC	1					1				Langbaugh Other
ACKLAM FC	1			1						NRFA Cups, TJFA
WHINNEY BANKS YCC FC	11	4		5		2				NRFA Cups, TJFA
PRISSICK ROVERS U 11's	2	16								League Cup. TJFA
BUCCANEER LADIES	1						1			NRFA Cups, NR Womens FL
MCR	1					1				Teesborough, NRFA Cups
MANDALE UTD	1					1				Teesborough, League Cup
TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY	6					5	1			BUSA
BRAMBLES FARM FC	1					1				Langbaugh
WHINNEY BANKS FC		4		5		2				League Cup, NRFA, TJFA, Teesside

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

										League
PARK END FC	1					1				Langbaurgh, NRFA
MIDDLEBECK FC	1					1				Teesborough, League Cup, NRFA Cups
WHINNEY BANKS FC	8	4		5		2				NRFA, League Cup, TJFA, Teesside League
MIDDLESBROUGH CC	1					1				Middlesbrough Midweek League
THE SMITHY FC	1					1				NRFA Cups & Stokesley
LINGFIELD ATHLETIC	1					1				Teesborough, NRFA Cups
UCA 2007 FC	1					1				Teesborough, NRFA Cups
CBP	1			1						TJFA
SPIRIT OF OZ	1					1				Teesborough, NRFA Cups
THORNTREE HOTEL	1					1				Teesborough NRFA Cups
NORTH ORMESBY CONS	1					1				Teesborough NRFA Cups
HALF MOON	1					1				Teesborough NRFA Cups
INN OFF THE	1					1				Teesborough NRFA

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

PARK										Cups
YARM VINEYARD	1					1				Stokesley and District
LA GALAXY ALLSTARS	1					1				League Cup, NRFA Cups
PRISSICK ROVER U13'S	2			2						League Cup NRFA, TJFA, Stokesley
THE TAVERN	1									Teesborough, League Cup
CLEVELAND JUNIORS	1			1						League Cup, NRFA TJFA
BUCCANEER	1									Boddy Printers
DORMANS IND VETERANS	1					1				Friday Night League
STAGECOACH	1	1				1				Wednesday 5-a-side soccer sensations
COULBY NEWHAM JNRS	15			15						TJFA
LAZENBY UTD	1					1				Teesborough NRFA Cups
BEECHWOOD YC	9	5		4						TJFA
CLEVELAND CAR CENTRE	1					1				Langbaugh
DORMAN UTD	1					1				Teesborough
LEEMING LADS FC	3			3						TJFA
M3 ENGINEERING	1					1				Teesborough

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

LIBERTYS IN TOWN	1					1				Teesborough
BECKFIELDS						1				Teesborough League
GABLES MANDERS						1				Boddy Printers
NUNTHORPE ATHLETIC						1				Teeside League
NUNTHORPE ATHLETIC JUNIORS		4		9						Teeside Junior Football Alliance
NUNTHORPE ATHLETIC VETERANS						1				
NUNTHORPE YC				1						
NUNTHORPE GIRLS			1							North Riding and Tees Valley Girls League
RIVERSIDE						1				Langbaugh Sunday League
VILLAGE PARK RANGERS						1				Langbaugh Sunday League

Appendix B

Sports Pitches in Middlesbrough (Excluding Primary Schools)

Sports Pitches	Type
Acklam Grange (Acorn Centre)	Education
Acklam Iron & Steelworks	Private Club
Acklam RUFC Talbot Park, Saltersgill Avenue	Private Club
Acklam Sports Centre	Dual Use Local Authority
Acorn Centre/Acklam Grange	Education
Marion Road	Local Authority
Depot Road – St Hilda’s	Local Authority
Dorman Long Athletic Club	Private Club
Hemlington Recreation Ground	Local Authority
Hustler Trust, Hall Drive	Trust
Kings Academy	Education
Macmillan School	Education
Marion Hall Drive	Local Authority / leased
Marion Sports & Recreation Club (Cricket Club)	Private Club
Middlesbrough Rugby Club, Green Lane	Private Club
Middlesbrough Rugby/ Cricket Club, Tollesby Road	Local Authority / leased
Mill Hill	Local Authority
Millbrook	Local Authority
Netherfields	Local Authority
Newlands FCJ	Education
Nunthorpe Sports Centre	Private Club
Ormesby Road	Local Authority
Pallister Park	Local Authority
Priory Woods / Ormesby School	Education
Prissick	Local Authority
St Mary’s College	Education
Thorntree Park	Local Authority
Tollesby/Beverley School	Education
Unity City Academy (not an LEA school)	Education
Vicarage Road	Local Authority/ Leased
University of Teesside, Saltersgill	Education

Artificial Turf Pitches	Type
Southlands Leisure Centre	Local Authority
Acklam Sports Centre (Hustler Trust)	Trust
Kings Academy	Education
Whinney Banks (West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust)	Trust
University of Teeside, Olympia buildings	Education

Appendix C

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)											
Element	Rating									Guidance notes	Comments
About the winter pitch/cricket field											
Grass cover - entire pitch / cricket field	>94%		85-94%		70-84%		60-69%		<60%		Where, 90%+ grass cover should be given 'Excellent'; less than 60% should be considered 'very poor'
Length of grass	Excellent		Good		Poor				Very Poor		The ideal length of grass will vary between sports
Size of pitch / cricket field	Yes - fully				No- but adequate				No - not adequate		Does it meet the NGB standard? See pitch sizes tab for dimensions
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully				No- but adequate				No - not adequate		Does it meet the NGB standard? See pitch sizes tab for dimensions
Slope of pitch / cricket outfield (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe		Cricket wickets should be flat.
Evenness of pitch / cricket field	Excellent		Good		Poor				Very Poor		Where field is completely level = 'Excellent'
Problem Areas: Evidence of Dog fouling	None				Yes - some				Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None				Yes - some				Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey
Problem Areas: Evidence of Unofficial use	None				Yes - some				Yes - lots		eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. If no evidence, assume none .May wish to refer to user survey
Problem Areas: Evidence of Damage to surface	None				Yes - some				Yes - lots		eg. golf divots, car-parking on field etc. If no evidence, assume none.May wish to refer to user survey
Training ; Estimated number of hours per week in season	0		1 to 2 hrs		2 to 4 hrs				4+		Training which takes place on the pitch area
Changing Accomodation											
Changing Accomodation	Yes					No					Is the pitch served by changing facilities
About the equipment/ wicket...											
Winter Sports Only- Goal Posts - quality	Excellent			Good			Poor				Upright, straight, painted , for football, goals are there safe net hooks at both ends. If posts are dismantled after game, or are removable goals, assume Excellent.
Cricket Only - Is the wicket protected when not used	Yes					No					Is the wicket protected when not in use - can be roped off or covered.
Line markings - quality	Excellent			Good			Poor				e.g. Have they been painted recently; are lines straight and clear etc
Training area	Yes					No					eg nets/ goals/ grids off main body of pitch

Appendix D

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Changing Accomodation												
Site ID				Assessment undertaken by:								
Changing Accom Name				Date of Assessment:								
Site Name:												
Capacity of changing rooms;				(Number of teams that can change at any one time in the facility)								
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)												
Element	Rating						Guidance notes			Comments	Score	
About the Changing Accomodation												
Overall Quality	Excellent		Good		Average		Poor		No changing		Perceived quality of changing accommodationDoes it look well maintained, clean, safe etc	0
Evidence of vandalism	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots				Damage to pavillion, graffiti, broken glass etc	0
Showers	Yes - Good		Yes - OK			Yes -poor		No		Are there showers facilities, what is their quality (if known)	0	
Toilets	Yes - Good		Yes - OK			Yes -poor		No		Are there toilets - what is their condition (if known)	0	
Parking	Good			OK				Poor			Is there enough for circa 20 cars, bays marked out etc	0
Links to public transort	Good			OK				Poor/non			Is the site close to public transport links, proximity to bus stop, train station, hubs.	0
Security	Good			OK				Poor			Does the accomodation look secure - secure doors/windows, evidence of breakins (may get info from	0

Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy

						User Surveys)		
Segregated changing	Yes		No			Are there separate changing rooms for each team - can accomodation be used by both male and female teams at same time		0