

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL12 September 2018Joint Report by Directors of Environment and EducationINDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND SPORTS PITCHES STRATEGIES**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To seek the Council's approval for the draft Indoor Sports Facilities and Sports Pitches Strategies. These are proposed strategies for all partners with some proposals for actions.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the Council:
- (a) notes the key issues identified;
 - (b) notes the range of options for addressing the issues;
 - (c) approves the key strategic recommendations outlined in the report and summarised in paragraph 9;
 - (d) notes that further work will be required to develop an action plan which can be funded by the Council; and
 - (e) requests that the Community Planning Partnership discuss the strategy and the role that the various partners can play in implementation.

BACKGROUND

3. The previous strategies for indoor sports facilities and sports pitches were completed in 2008/09 are now substantially out of date. Much has been achieved in the last 10 years to reshape and improve the infrastructure for sport and physical activity in East Renfrewshire but there is now a need to reassess those assets and provide a framework for the next 10 years.

4. The revised draft strategies were commissioned by the Council and funded jointly by ERC Education and Environment Departments and **sportscotland**. Copies of the strategies are attached. It should be noted that the strategies cover the East Renfrewshire area and whilst the Council and ERCLT will play a leadership role, there will be many partners.

5. The recent public consultation around the future of Eastwood Leisure Centre should be seen in the context of these strategies (see para 9 below).

REPORT

6. Research underpinning these strategies was undertaken between July–October 2017 by a specialist sport and leisure consultancy. It included the following key activities:

- Assessment of the quality, distribution and programming of facilities in the area.

- Consultation with facility owners and operators to identify needs and opportunities.
- Consultation with Scottish National Governing Bodies of Sport, key stakeholders and clubs to determine the levels of demand for facilities in the area.
- Assessment of the strategic drivers and context for East Renfrewshire Council and its residents.
- Assessment of the need and opportunity for new, refurbished and enhanced provision across the area.

Key issues

7. The strategies identify a number of key issues. These include;
- Of the 14 sports halls operated by the Trust on behalf of the council only Barrhead Foundry offers accessible sports halls during both off peak and peak times. Access at the remainder is limited during the day because of the priority given to educational use.
 - Reliance on the education sector for access to sports halls limits levels of daytime community use.
 - Eastwood Park Leisure Centre and Neilston Pool are both over 40 years old and in need of significant investment or replacement.

Key Strategic Recommendations

8. The strategies also identify some key strategic high level recommendations. These are;

Indoor sports strategy: Strategic recommendations

Strategic recommendation 1: to develop the optimum set of fit for purpose, high-quality ERCL managed indoor and built facilities in key strategic locations.

Strategic recommendation 2: undertake a programming and facility usage review to assess the extent to which facilities are efficiently utilised and made available to the right community groups, clubs and casual users at the right times.

Strategic recommendation 3: ensure that recommendations from the strategy are adopted as policy across ERC.

Sports pitch strategy: Strategic aims

To protect the existing supply of playing pitches when it is needed for meeting current and future need.

To enhance playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving the quality and management of sites.

To provide new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so.

Key Site Specific Recommendations

9. There are a number of site specific recommendations contained within the strategies. However, the Council's attention is drawn to some key recommendations within the strategies which include:-

- Replace Eastwood Park Leisure Centre to meet the sporting and cultural demands (including consideration of library, theatre etc.) Address where possible the local and regional shortfalls and challenges in a campus/hub type facility.
- Replace the facilities at Neilston Leisure Centre to meet local demand. Improve daytime access to sports facilities which will enable two key population age groups 0-5 years and 65+ years to access facilities. This should be incorporated into the design and programming of current and proposed new facilities.
- Improve the health and fitness daytime offer in Newton Mearns and Eaglesham.

10. Overall, the strategies support the vision and the delivery of activities associated with the Community Plan and Fairer East Ren Plan which the Council has developed with its partners. They also provide clear direction to all partners so that together they can plan and develop a more modern, efficient and sustainable range of community based sport and leisure facilities that East Renfrewshire requires.

11. Implementation of the strategies will contribute directly to the delivery of the Community Plan in particular;

strategic outcome 2 –East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work and

intermediate outcome 2.4 – ‘Residents are as healthy and active as possible’

12. Specific desired outcomes from the strategies are that;

- Opportunities are made available to/for all residents of East Renfrewshire to take part in physical activity to contribute positively to their health and wellbeing.
- ERC works through its main leisure operator of the Trust to ensure that facilities and infrastructure are provided to support sustainable communities in the Council area.
- Facilities and programmes of activity will continue to contribute to reducing health inequalities across the Council area for all age groups especially through partnership work with community sports hubs, schools and private leisure providers.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

13. Any future financial related matters relating to these strategies will be addressed in due course.

14. In addition to the above it should be recognised that the recommendations detailed in the strategies are not solely for the Council to action nor do they imply an expectation that it will or can afford to make the investments required. The purpose is to guide investment for any relevant bodies, including but not limited to The Council, **sportscotland**, Sports Governing Bodies (SGBs) and the Trust. Furthermore partners should undertake further consultation with users and stakeholders in order to fully understand issues which may affect facilities development at individual sites and address need identified through the strategies.

CONSULTATION

15. Extensive discussions have taken place with stakeholders and partners to develop the draft strategies.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

16. There is a strong emphasis in the strategies on partnership and facilitation in addition to the direct delivery of services. Whilst the Trust is the key driver on behalf of the Council, it is expected that successful delivery will require input from, for example, specific Scottish national governing bodies of sport (SGBs), local clubs, **sportscotland**, community sports hubs, businesses, other leisure centres and ER schools.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

17. There are no staffing, equality or sustainability implications associated with this report at this stage. Investment in sports facilities as recommended in the report will have financial implications which will be quantified on a project by project basis.

CONCLUSIONS

18. The adoption of the strategies will contribute substantially to the desired outcomes associated with the Council's Community Plan in particular strategic outcome 2 and intermediate outcome 2.4.

RECOMMENDATION

19. It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) notes the key issues identified;
- (b) notes the range of options for addressing the issues;
- (c) approves the key strategic recommendations outlined in the report and summarised in paragraph 9;
- (d) notes that further work will be required to develop an action plan which can be funded by the Council; and
- (e) requests that the Community Planning Partnership discuss the strategy and the role that the various partners can play in implementation.

Directors of Environment and Education

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY 2018 - 2028

APRIL 2018

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY**

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

This is the Indoor Sport and Leisure Facility Strategy for East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) area for the period 2018 – 2028. Strategy recommendations are drawn from the Assessment Report, researched and prepared between July 2017- October 2017 by specialist sport and leisure consultancy, Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP). Both the Assessment Report and Strategy were prepared in accordance with the guidance from **sportscotland**, which builds on Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG), December 2014.

The focus of this Strategy is to provide clear direction to all partners so that together they can plan and develop the more modern, efficient and sustainable range of community based sport and leisure facilities that East Renfrewshire requires. This will ensure residents have the opportunity to be physically active and healthier and where appropriate develop their sporting ambitions within their local community.

Strategic context and summary

As the commissioning body for the Strategy, ERC has invested responsibility in operating its facilities in East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust (ERCL). It is, imperative that the Strategy is aligned to a range of ERC priorities including the Council's Corporate Statement which identifies its vision to be a modern ambitious council, creating a fairer future with all. ERC has agreed to deliver five positive outcomes with Community Planning partners (e.g. NHS, Police and Fire) working across East Renfrewshire to achieve best outcomes for:

- ◀ Early Years
- ◀ Learning Life and Work
- ◀ Economy & Environment
- ◀ Safe & Supporting Communities
- ◀ Older People

Fairer EastRen, the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, aims to make East Renfrewshire fairer, with fewer inequalities; it is initially based around four key themes identified through community engagement:

- ◀ Reducing the impact of Child Poverty – Residents are supported to minimise the impact of poverty, particularly on children.
- ◀ Improved employability – Residents are supported to access good quality, stable employment.
- ◀ Improving mental health and wellbeing – positive mental health is supported to enhance residents' wellbeing and quality of life.
- ◀ Reducing social isolation, loneliness and increasing safety – Residents feel socially connected, included and safe.

A core vehicle for delivering local strategic outcomes is sport and physical activity. Key sport and physical activity outcomes are considered to be that:

- ◀ Opportunities are made available to/for all residents of East Renfrewshire to take part in physical activity to contribute positively to their health and wellbeing.
- ◀ ERC works through its main leisure operator of ERCL to ensure that facilities and infrastructure are provided to support sustainable communities in the Authority.

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- Facilities and programmes of activity will continue to contribute to reducing health inequalities across the Authority for all age groups especially via partnership work with community sports hubs, schools and private leisure providers.

Increases in sport and physical activity (and, therefore, positive contribution to the Fairer EastRen agenda) will only be achieved via the targeting of increasingly scarce resources. It is, thus, essential that indoor sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness venues are accessible and available and that the 'offer' is developed based on the needs of local communities.

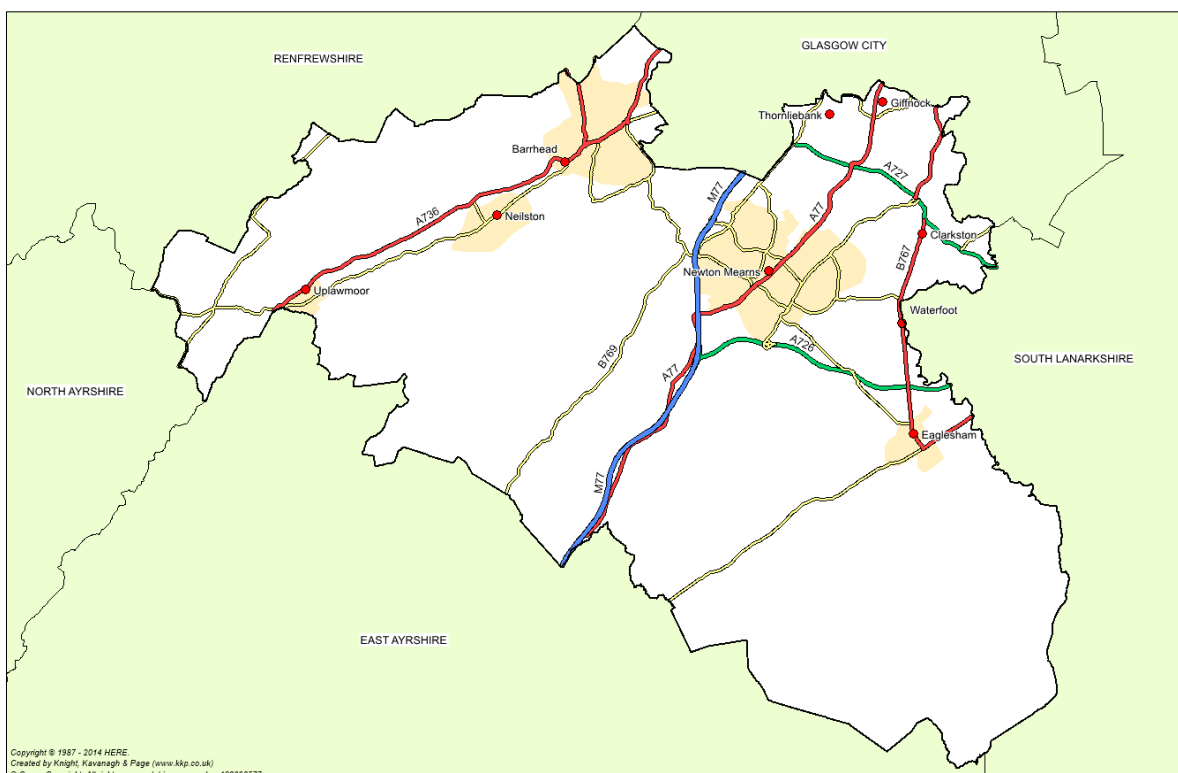
There is a requirement for sport to have a strong voice from the voluntary sector in East Renfrewshire. This could be achieved via the developing community sports hubs. They are increasingly reaching out, attracting new members and looking to get the inactive more active. It will be preferable to have a coordinated approach (and voice) across the Authority.

Partners

This is a plan for the ERC area. Whilst ERCL is the key driver on behalf of the Council, it is expected that plans and actions emanating from it will be delivered via partnership work conducted with and between the Council and other key stakeholders and predicated upon them accepting and taking responsibility for different aspects of its implementation. This approach to Strategy delivery is necessary to make best use of the assets and resources available to drive development of sport and physical activity in East Renfrewshire. This Strategy takes account of, consultation with a range of agencies and will require input from, for example, specific Scottish national governing bodies of sport (SGBs), local clubs, **sportscotland**, community sports hubs, businesses, other leisure centres and ER schools.

About East Renfrewshire

Figure 1: Main towns, road routes and population density of East Renfrewshire



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East Renfrewshire is one of the 32 council areas of Scotland. Formed in 1996 it is, in effect, the successor to the Eastwood district, along with Barrhead, Neilston, and Uplawmoor. It borders the City of Glasgow, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire and is dissected by the M77 from north to south.

East Renfrewshire demographics

Population: East Renfrewshire has a total population of 93,810 (NRS Scotland estimated population 2016). This has increased from 92,940 (2015 MYE) where the population comprised slightly more females (48,692) than males (44,248). There was a higher proportion of 5-19 year olds (19.3% compared with 16.2% in the rest of Scotland) and fewer people in the age groups from 20-39 (East Renfrewshire; 20.2% compared with the Scottish average of 26.0%).

The ethnic composition is reflective of Scotland as a whole. According to the 2011 Census, the majority (94.1%) classify their ethnicity as White compared to the comparative Scotland rate of 96.0%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian, at 5.0%; this is higher than the Scotland equivalent (2.7%). The median figure for full-time earnings (2016) in East Renfrewshire is £35,792; the comparative rate for Scotland is £27,903 (-22.0%) and for Great Britain is £28,132 (-21.4%).

Relative to other parts of Scotland, East Renfrewshire experiences low levels of deprivation; less than one in 10 of the Council area's population (9.0%) falls within the areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 68.5% live in the three least deprived groupings; this, again, compares to a 'norm' of c.30%.

Health problems are less widespread in East Renfrewshire's communities, when compared to national averages. In keeping with this, life expectancy in East Renfrewshire is higher than the national figure; the male rate is currently 79.7 compared to 76.9 for Scotland, and the female equivalent is 83.0 compared to 81.0 nationally.

The most recent National Records of Scotland (NRS) projections indicate a rise of 13.3% in East Renfrewshire's population (12,317) over the 25 years from 2014 to 2039. Over this extended timeframe there are rise and fall based fluctuations at different points for the majority of age groups. Several key points for East Renfrewshire are outlined below:

- ◀ There is a progressive rise in the number of 0-15 year olds, rising by 1,686 (9.3%) over the first half of the projection (to 2026).
- ◀ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+. This represents an increase of 26.4% (4,671) in the first period continuing to rise to 53.3% (9,424) between 2014 and 2039. While the age group represented 19.1% of East Renfrewshire's population in 2014 it is projected to be 25.9% of the total by 2039.

The projected increase in the general age and size of the population in East Renfrewshire will place increasing pressure on a range of services. This is likely to be exacerbated in areas where housebuilding will be significant. Figures are also subject to change. Strategically, it is important to take this into account when seeking to ensure that the population which is currently active remains so, and the inactive become active (with a view to sustaining and improving the overall general health of the local population).

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

Research underpinning this Strategic Plan was undertaken between July–October 2017 by specialist sport and leisure consultancy, Knight Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP). It included the following key activities:

- ◀ Assessment of the quality, distribution and programming of facilities in the area.
- ◀ Consultation with facility owners and operators to identify needs and opportunities.
- ◀ Consultation with SGBs, key stakeholders and clubs to determine the levels of demand for facilities in the area.
- ◀ Assessment of the strategic drivers and context for ERC and its residents.
- ◀ Assessment of need and opportunity for new, refurbished and enhanced provision across the area.

KKP's commentary on ERC's sports facility infrastructure and the Strategy to improve on the current position is, thus, informed by a clear understanding of the community sport and physical activity sector and knowledge of innovative solutions to meeting the needs of communities.

Overview

There is a range of nationally generated policies, documents and reports which identify the importance of sport and physical activity in supporting 'A More Active Scotland'. Engaging and keeping residents' active in either sport or physical activity is a high priority. Ensuring an adequate supply of suitable facilities with appropriate programming and pricing regimes is, therefore, essential to meet national, regional and local need.

ERC recognises the importance of its current and future leisure facility stock to the strategic needs of the area. The relationship between ERC and ERCL is productive and positive. ERCL operates ten libraries, four sports centres with gyms and pools, a 330 seat theatre, 18 community facilities incorporating a wide range of halls, social function and events venues, community centres and pavilions, on behalf of the Council. It also manages the letting of 35 schools in the evenings and weekends. ERCL's vision is "To help and inspire people to be actively involved in sport, arts and culture" and its mission is "to be the highest-performing Leisure Trust in Scotland".

ERCL's stated purpose is, thus, to promote the health, fitness, personal development and wellbeing of the residents of East Renfrewshire (and beyond) by:

- ◀ Encouraging the population of East Renfrewshire to be more active in promoting and supporting the development of sporting and health and fitness opportunities that are accessible for everyone.
- ◀ Supporting people to be more creative and nurture potential for personal success and wellbeing through the provision of cultural facilities and resources.
- ◀ Helping individuals and community groups to benefit from social engagement, community interaction and volunteering.
- ◀ Promoting and making available lifelong learning opportunities, including the promotion of literacy and digital inclusion and stemming from these opportunities make a social and economic contribution to society.

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Key findings

The key findings from the needs assessment report are as follows:

ERCL operates all 14 sports halls in the Authority at the freestanding venues such as Barrhead Foundry and the school site based dual use facilities such as Eastwood High School. Only Barrhead Foundry, Maccabi Youth and Sports Centre and Parklands Country Club offer accessible sports halls during both off peak and peak times, access at the remainder is limited during the day because of the priority given to educational use. Three sports halls are relatively new and are rated as being in good condition, three are above average and eight are below average. At the time of the audit (Summer 2017) St Ninians was being refurbished; this should enhance its quality. In addition, two new schools have been built in the area; all will have new sports hall provision (Calderwood Lodge/St Clare's and Barrhead High School) with the new Maidenhill School opening in Aug 2019.

As noted, reliance on the education sector for access to sports halls limits levels of daytime community use; this is further affected during the daytime and evenings during the times of year when examinations take place.

There are five indoor pools 20m x 4 lanes or larger in size, four of which are considered accessible to the community, the other is David Lloyd. One pool (Eastwood High School) is assessed as being of above average condition and the other three are below average. Reportedly 2,100 swimming lessons are being delivered although there is a significant waiting list, much of which is identified as a requirement for additional one to one classes.

Demand for the majority of swimming lessons (76%) emanates from ER residents. Schools are also encouraged to use the swimming pools as they are only charged for swimming instructor time, not facility hire. The refurbishment of Barrhead Foundry (January 2018), is likely to have a negative impact on swimming in the shorter term. Eastwood Park Leisure Centre and Neilston Pool are both over 40 years old and in need of significant investment or replacement. Ren96 is the incumbent swimming club across the Authority (and beyond) which is both rare and helpful with regard to the coherent development of swimming across the Authority.

Health and fitness provision is increasing in its importance to the general health and wellbeing of the population. There are nine health and fitness suites offering 595 publicly accessible fitness stations. The three health and fitness facilities rated as good are all private member based. Eastwood High fitness gym is only accessible in the evenings and at weekends. Eastwood Park Leisure Centre fitness gym is of below average standard and is compromised because of the lack of a dedicated dance/aerobic studio.

The Newton Mearns and Eaglesham areas have no publicly accessible health and fitness facilities available during day time hours. Accessibility to fitness facilities reduces to 52% of residents within one mile during the day when Eastwood High School is not accessible. There is a heavy reliance on the supply of commercial health and fitness facilities. Five of the 9 health and fitness suites are commercial; these currently supply 465 of the 595 stations available.

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As noted, overall East Renfrewshire has lower levels of deprivation (higher socio-economic groups tend to take part in sport and physical activity more in comparison with people from than lower socio-economic groups). There is a good range of clubs in a number of indoor sports including, for example, combat sports, volleyball, basketball, netball etc.

There is a high level of demand for sporting activity which is evidenced by handball, basketball and netball currently being at capacity and unable to grow without additional access to sports hall space. In addition, there is a waiting list of over 600 in relation to gymnastics.

The projected population increase in 0-5 years and 60+ population is likely to place increasing pressure on the sports development team and facilities, over the next few years. Actual/latent demand could/should underpin the pursuit of an opportunity to develop a significant wet and dry facility to replace Eastwood Park Leisure Centre that is well beyond its lifespan.

Looking to the future it is likely that the work undertaken by the community sports hubs, with support from ERCL's sports development team may begin to falter if facility availability and booking time does not increase to satisfy demand (especially for gymnastics). Strategic programming is required within sports hall and swimming pools if use of facilities is to be maximised, participation is to grow and revenues increased. In order to do this, it will also be necessary to change the balance of sports hall programming in favour of indoor hall sports – to significantly increase capacity and growth potential (this will also need to be addressed via the implementation of Sports Pitch Strategy recommendations with regard to 3G pitches).

Ren 96 already uses 25m and 50m pools outside the Authority (and there are still significant waiting lists). Eastwood Park Leisure Centre requires significant investment to maintain its swimming offer; it is time to consider looking for alternative accommodation for swimming and enhancing Eastwood to accommodate other cultural/recreation opportunities. This has the potential to complement other programmes of activity such as dance, linking to the wider cultural offer also offered by ERCL.

Other key findings suggested include the option to develop open water swimming and adventure sports in with the Balgray reservoir development. Changes to the accessibility of sports facilities in the education stock using more time of an evening and weekend is currently, and will further, detrimentally affect community use. This is an opportune time for East Renfrewshire to review how it intends to offer facilities in the future, the communities it wishes to serve and its links with the SOA and Fairer EastRen agenda.

Emerging opportunities

Local Development Plan June 2015

The adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out the long-term vision and strategy for East Renfrewshire up to 2025 and beyond and the policies and proposals required to deliver this. Together with the Approved Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (July 2017), these documents form the basis on which all planning applications are determined.

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All the schools at which KKP conducted site assessments, have received investment from the Scotland's School's for the Future building programme. The level varies ranging from an entire new school building, to extensions, to two schools having a new 3G pitches (St Luke's and St Ninian's).

Funding to implement the strategy

The Strategy has not addressed in detail how proposals and recommendations will be funded. It is noted that ERC has, very recently (October 2017), committed significant investment in a replacement sport and leisure facility (Subject to public consultation exercise) within the Eastwood area of the Authority. It will be necessary to determine whether additional funding is required and, if so, where this can be obtained from, given the reduced capacity of **sportscotland** to contribute to such projects.

Strategic summary

Local government has changed dramatically over the past ten years with significant cuts in public service funding and the expansion of responsibility to deliver health and wellbeing services for communities. There is a need for leisure centres to be more than just places where residents with a propensity to participate in physical activity can do so. The identified vision for the community sport and physical activity infrastructure is that facilities will be part of strategic hub sites, co-located with other complementary service providers and delivering against wider health and wellbeing outcomes. Therefore, there will be a need for ERCL to develop new ways of working which help to deliver on the objectives of the Council and its partners.

ERCL will need to continue to develop wider relationships and networks beyond its facilities so as to fully engage with appropriate partners and communities. This will require it and the Council to develop a business model which recognises that high income generating activity should cross subsidise other physical activity interventions with targeted groups which enable the Council and its partners to address health inequalities.

As part of the development of new facilities the Council should seek to continue to support the level of sports development currently operated by the Trust as a way of continuing to drive up physical activity and identify appropriate performance measures which reflect its wider health and wellbeing aspirations. Whilst ERCL aspires to the introduction of new facilities in Eastwood and Neilston, this necessitates further work including in depth feasibility and public consultation.

The following strategic drivers should be considered within the next stage of the process in order to develop the medium to long term indoor and built facilities strategy for East Renfrewshire:

- ◀ Replace Eastwood Park Leisure Centre to meet the sporting and cultural demands (including consideration of library, theatre *etc.*) Address where possible the local and regional shortfalls and challenges in a campus/hub type facility.
- ◀ Replace the facilities at Neilston Leisure Centre to meet local demand.
- ◀ Improve daytime access to sports facilities which will enable two key population age groups 0-5 years and 65+ years to access facilities. This should be incorporated into the design and programming of current and proposed new facilities.
- ◀ Conduct a bookings policy review for sports halls (programming and pricing).

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- ◀ With regard to programming consider increasing the percentage of 'indoor sports' bookings whilst reducing the percentage of 'outdoor sport's, thus enabling indoor sports to grow (in conjunction with the Sports Pitch Strategy review).
- ◀ With regard to pricing, consider how weekend charges can work in tandem with midweek prices to help transfer demand to weekends and reduce the pressure on midweek times (which are currently in very high demand).
- ◀ Improve the health and fitness daytime offer in Newton Mearns and Eaglesham.
- ◀ Retain and, where possible, improve levels of community use at educational sites.
- ◀ Ensure that the community use of any new facilities developed is protected by specific, clear agreements.
- ◀ When developing new facilities utilise the opportunity to address latent demand in sports especially swimming and gymnastics - reduce waiting lists.
- ◀ Continue the good sport development work with hubs and clubs to grow sports in the area.
- ◀ Maintain key facilities to a high quality standard so they can compete commercially to drive up participation. Ensure sufficient funds are available.
- ◀ Maximise the investment into existing and new sports facilities through the effective use of the Council's planning system, linked to strategic housing and population growth across ER.
- ◀ Ensure that the indoor and built provision required for the future also links to the findings within the Sports Pitch Strategy 2018. This states:
 - ◀ That a proportion football activity move from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision, where appropriate, in order to release capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports.
 - ◀ The need for a review of the spatial aspect of lettings policy for full sized 3G pitches in order to maximise use of pitch space and timeslots; for example, quarter pitch allocations for mini soccer teams rather than thirds or halves; or half pitches for adult teams rather than entire pitches, in order to maximise usage of space.
 - ◀ The SFA estimates that one 3G pitch can accommodate 42 teams, one new 3G pitch could have a big impact on the reduction of teams playing indoors. For example, St Luke's High School where currently 100% of sports hall bookings is football.
- ◀ Improve the strategic programming of sports facilities to ensure that there is sufficient access for a range of key sports to enable them to grow and increase participation.
- ◀ Support local clubs in their facility development aspirations. In particular, gymnastics and swimming as there are large waiting lists across both sports.

The strategic recommendations have been identified to deliver the above vision over the period 2018 – 2028. They provide strategic direction for ERC, its partners and stakeholders which provide facilities and opportunities for residents to pursue sport and recreation as a means to engage in physical activity.

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STRATEGY VISION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This Strategy sets the vision and objectives for ER's physical infrastructure for the period 2018 to 2028. It considers all of the area's community sport and leisure assets required to ensure ER has a 'fit for purpose' network of facilities to enable residents to be as physically active as possible.

The Strategy does not solely focus on the condition, replacement and refurbishment of various leisure assets in the area; it also considers how these should be put to best use so that they contribute directly to realising ERC's vision to be a modern, ambitious council, creating a fairer future for all.

This is supported by ERCL which is aiming to be the highest performing leisure trust in Scotland; its vision is 'to help and inspire people to be actively involved in sport, arts and culture'. Its strategic aims are to:

- ◀ Create a financially sustainable business model, balancing strong ambitions with commercial viability.
- ◀ Develop an understanding of the customers and audiences and an offer that attracts them, working in partnership with organisations across the region to remove barriers to participation (e.g. daytime access to facilities and programming football outdoors).
- ◀ Develop a strong, diverse, resilient and committed workforce, building on the commitment to growing people and ideas.
- ◀ Establish its role at the heart of vibrant communities through the services delivered, the opportunities provided and the support on offer.
- ◀ Develop resilient, dynamic and productive partnerships that are developed and nurtured to grow the business and maximise the impact in the community.

A number of emerging opportunities will influence and/or drive development and potential improvement of the infrastructure within the area. These include housing growth, new school builds and the desire to integrate health and wellbeing services. It will be necessary to, where possible, synchronise approaches to facility development, ensuring that communities do not lose out, whilst awaiting new build (i.e., ensuring that key facilities remain open and accessible, when newer ones are being developed). The Community Planning Partnership Board is instrumental to this process as it provides strategic direction and has oversight of community planning activity.

ERLC's vision for its facilities is therefore to:

"Work with partners to create high quality, sustainable leisure and sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation and provide accessible, inclusive activities for the residents of East Renfrewshire as part of an active lifestyle."

Strategic recommendation 1: to develop the optimum set of fit for purpose, high quality ERCL managed indoor and built facilities in key strategic locations

Eastwood Park Leisure Centre

This is not fit for purpose as a modern 21st Century leisure centre. Overall, the sports facilities are beyond their anticipated life expectancy. The swimming pools and changing rooms are ageing, in poor condition and suffer from the outdated design. Signage to the site along the local road network is also inadequate.

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The inappropriateness, scale limitations and dispersal of the spaces available at the venue makes the fitness offer weak, there is also no room for spinning or dedicated dance studios (which are needed to contribute to a flexible approach to the provision of fitness).

There is, despite the operator's best programming efforts no real flow and coherence to customer movement through and transitions in the sports areas of the building because of its design.

Car parking is shared between the leisure centre, council building and school facilities. It is insufficient in scale to cater for the current range of uses and tends to be inaccessible at key peak times.

A facility is, however, needed in or near this location to serve the generic sport and physical activity needs of the local and wider population of the area.

Replacement leisure centre; Eastwood

Whilst the ERCL Trust aspires to the introduction of a new Eastwood Park Leisure Centre, this will be determined by a range of work including public consultation.

Based on the needs assessment (further public consultation and in depth feasibility) there is a requirement for a facility to replace the Eastwood Park Leisure Centre (incorporating cultural opportunities within a campus/hub type facility). The aim should be to provide a modern fit for purpose environmentally and economically viable sport/leisure centre, with integrated services (economies of scale) and cross fertilisation of activities. It should comprise, **at minimum**, the following mix of facilities:

- ◀ Needs assessment and Scottish Swimming consultation would suggest that a swimming pool with sufficient capacity (8 (or 10) lane 25-metre) to balance public, club and development demands with spectating seating to cater for local swimming galas with a Teaching pool (with a moveable floor) would be optimal.
- ◀ 120 – 150 station fitness suite.
- ◀ Dedicated spin studio.
- ◀ 2 x flexible scale adjoined group fitness studios.
- ◀ 6 to 8 court sports hall (sufficiently large to accommodate key local sports events and suitable space to add spectating seating bleacher style).
- ◀ Wet and dry (plus possibly, given the fact that much of the market competition is private sector based, dedicated fitness) changing rooms.
- ◀ Cafeteria.
- ◀ Office space and meeting rooms (determined by the number of services on offer e.g. GP Referral, physiotherapy etc.). This may need to be considered in the context of the number potentially retained at the Eastwood Park Leisure Centre venue – it is new format).
- ◀ Walking, running and cycling routes to and from the centre to support/enable active travel.
- ◀ Adequate parking to service the site.
- ◀ Outdoor synthetic floodlit sports pitches to accommodate small sided games.
- ◀ Indoor and outdoor children's play areas.
- ◀ Incorporating latest industry energy saving technologies.
- ◀ Disability and dementia friendly design.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

In terms of market demand a new facility should be positioned somewhere in Eastwood but close to the location of the current facility and planned major new housing growth subject to planning conditions.

A key challenge will be sourcing a suitable (and preferably publicly visible/accessible) venue for the new facility. This must, self-evidently, be able to accommodate the venue itself, enable adequate parking and offer excellent access.

In terms of service provision for customers and residents, sequencing of developments will be crucial. It is suggested that the Eastwood Park Leisure Centre be kept open and operating in its present form until the new venue is opened. Although this is an opportunity to review existing programming and usage (see below) it is also important to ensure that the custom ERCL is keen to retain is allowed to make as seamless a transition to the new venue as possible.

It is, thus recommended that the proposed adaptations and changes to Eastwood Park Leisure Centre take place after the new centre has opened and the relevant user groups have been 'decanted'.

Alternatively, if refurbishment was considered an option the building would require significant alterations and enhancements. The following identifies the minimum adaptations to be addressed with a brief rationale as to why in order to meet the current and future needs of the population.

- ◀ The incorporation of latest technologies to ensure maximum energy and efficiency savings.
- ◀ The swimming pool needs to increase from the current 5 lanes x 25 m to an 8/10 lane 25m pool.
- ◀ The reconfiguration would need to contain sufficient learning water space.
- ◀ The current health and fitness offer needs to be relocated into one space which incorporates up to 120-150 stations as well as functional training areas.
- ◀ One spin studio is required as this is not currently available.
- ◀ Due to local demand, two **dedicated** flexible studios are necessary. (This is currently provided in the Carmichael Hall, which is primarily used as an events space/theatre).
- ◀ There is demand for a six/eight courts sports hall (this is not currently available on site).
- ◀ New wet and dry changing provision is required with separate fitness changing in order to service the needs of the projected additional demand and usage.
- ◀ Consideration needs to be given to adding office space and meeting rooms for administration, health and wellbeing services, GP referrals, coach education etc.
- ◀ Additional car parking is required to meet current and future needs of the leisure centre and projected increase in participation at the site.
- ◀ Indoor and outdoor play space in order to ensure that the facility is as economically viable as possible
- ◀ Active travel infrastructure linking to wider health and wellbeing initiatives. .
- ◀ Any refurbishment should ensure it is compliant with all legislation but in addition should be disability and dementia friendly in design.

Any investment in the facility should be of adequate scale to accommodate events and provide the full range of activities from physical activity (getting the inactive, active) to performance sport and competition. It is noted that

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

It should be noted that extensive renovations and refurbishment of the size and scale identified above is likely to necessitate the closure of some or all of the facilities whilst the work is being undertaken. This has the potential to reduce participation over a prolonged period of time.

The ERCL Trust vision and aspiration is to provide above and beyond the minimum requirement listed above and increase the facilities mix. This is in order to create a flagship facility which attracts all age groups, links to the wider health and wellbeing agenda and provides maximum financial return on investment. In particular ERCL has aspirations for:

- ◀ Increasing the size of the swimming pool to a 50m x 6 lane competition pool, equipped with a movable floor with a maximum depth of 3m, a moveable boom and 300 benched spectator seats
- ◀ 10m x 15m lane learner / teaching pool separate from the main pool
- ◀ 1 conference / party catering suite with interactive theme wall
- ◀ Interactive play area
- ◀ Theatre
- ◀ Small community library space
- ◀ Health suite, including sauna, steam room and showers
- ◀ Café area for 50 covers
- ◀ 4 outdoor five-a-side court size football artificial grass pitches with floodlighting and access to the changing village
- ◀ Staff changing facilities
- ◀ Staff management / administration suite
- ◀ 200 car parking spaces, with 10 additional spaces allocated for parent and child
- ◀ Hard landscaping including grass-crete to support overflow parking
- ◀ Good access roads, signage and planting.

This option relates to the possible provision of a new 8,000 m² high-quality flagship facility on an alternative site (to be identified) within the Eastwood area. This would treble the leisure space currently being provided in the existing Eastwood Park facility (2,384 m²).

A new build facility would be highly comparable in quality with commercial venues in the current market, would provide the Council with a longer term solution and would have a design life of 35 to 40 years.

This option would increase and enhance the leisure and sports provision offered in terms of sport, recreation and associated activities. It would provide an opportunity to inspire the community to participate in activities, attract a wider market, generate income and create a unique selling point associated with the facility.

A new build option rather than a refurbishment would allow the existing facility to remain open providing continuity of service, retention of the customer base and the potential avoidance of financial compensation by the Council to the Trust with regard to income loss.

In addition, this option could help put East Renfrewshire on the sports and leisure “map” which could facilitate the leveraging in of external funding.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Barrhead Foundry

Originally built in 1976, the four-court sports hall, 50-station fitness gym, three studios and two squash courts were all refurbished in 2015.

Phase two of the upgrading programme has started and will continue in 2018. This will, over a six months period redevelop and upgrade the five lane 25m swimming pool, pool plant and swimming changing facilities and the fitness gym changing rooms and toilets.

Overall, on completion of all refurbishment, additional work is still required to upgrade the dance/aerobic studio, gym studio and controlled access. Should this be achieved then the facility will be fit for purpose – for community use for sport and physical activity in the coming years.

Eastwood High Sports Centre

Home to the only facility based Community Sports Hub; built in 1965, this was refurbished in 2013. The indoor sports facilities comprise two 4-court halls, a 20m swimming pool and a small (20 station) fitness gym that is not accessible to the community during the daytime. The swimming changing rooms and toilets require refurbishment and enlargement to adequately cater for the school and swimming programme.

The refurbishment work undertaken at this venue and its present condition means that it should be fit for purpose - for community use for sport and physical activity - for the next 10 years.

Neilston Leisure Centre

Built in 1975, this facility (a six lane 25m pool and 20 station health and fitness gym based upon a squash court conversion) has only received limited investment since it opened. It is now operating beyond its anticipated life expectancy but is still a key facility for the local community.

A new primary school is being considered (bringing together St Thomas and Neilston primary schools into a single campus) and the future of all Council owned facilities is under discussion in this context.

Several organisations in Neilston are looking to influence developments within the town, not least, the Neilston Development Trust.

There is also concern at the lack of suitable football pavilion in the town and the option to develop an artificial turf pitch at the new combined primary school has been mooted. The Sports Pitch needs assessment and wider strategy addresses this issue, but it should be considered as part of a wider master plan of sports facilities in the town.

Specifically, the opportunity, therefore, arises to master-plan for and develop a new fully community accessible joint use sports facility located on an appropriate part of the site of the new school with a range of co-located facilities. ERCL Trust's aspirations would be for a joint campus with the following mix: but this will be determined by further work including public consultation.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

- ◀ 4 lane 25-metre swimming pool.
- ◀ 30-50 station fitness suite.
- ◀ Fitness studio
- ◀ 4-court sports hall
- ◀ Dedicated spin studio (to be determined)
- ◀ Library/community hall
- ◀ Pending review of the precise recommendations emanating from the Authority's Sports Pitch Strategy 2018, consideration should be given to locating a fully community accessible, floodlit (full sized) 3G pitch to meet local need.

Recommendations (subject to public consultation)

1.a: Commission a feasibility study, to determine the best location, scale, specification, capital cost requirements and revenue business plan implications for a new leisure facility in the Eastwood area. This would be to replace the main sport and leisure functions of the Eastwood Park Leisure Centre and service the existing and growing local resident base.

1.b: Concurrently and as part of the feasibility study for a proposed new leisure centre in the Eastwood Area, assess the feasibility of the current facilities:

1.c: Commission a linked or separate condition survey and/or feasibility study to determine the projected life span of Neilston Leisure Centre with a view to developing complementary and co-located sport/leisure centre and library on the site of the proposed new combined primary school in Neilston.

Strategic recommendation 2: Undertake a programming and facility usage review to assess the extent to which facilities are efficiently utilised and made available to the right community groups, clubs and casual users at the right times.

This should be delivered with a view to:

- ◀ Ensuring improved access for a range of key sports to enable them to thrive and grow, underpinning increases in participation (this also applies to the health and fitness offer in Newton Mearns and Eaglesham).
- ◀ Securing improved daytime access to sports facilities which to enable the two key population age groups (children age 0-5 years and adults aged 65+) to access facilities.
- ◀ Raising the percentage of sports hall occupancy by 'indoor sports' whilst reducing the percentage of outdoor sports (essentially football) enabling indoor sports to grow (in conjunction with the Sports Pitch Strategy review).
- ◀ Ensuring the fairness and equitability of pricing policy and elasticity so the ERCL can gain the capacity to, for example, increase participation, generate higher levels of income from certain user groups and cross-subsidise access for people in greatest need - whilst ensuring that the achievement of financial targets is not compromised.
- ◀ As part of this, evaluating weekend pricing in lieu of seeking to decant midweek evening use to weekend booking slots.

In delivering the above the Council and partners will, within appropriately considered operating parameters, consider how the facilities management contract is set up to:

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- ◀ Ensure that price is not a barrier to participation; especially for young people and economically challenged residents.
- ◀ Ensure that, where possible, income generated via health and fitness service elements cross-subsidises other activities; especially those that address local physical inactivity, obesity and health related challenges.
- ◀ Enable agreement with partners in respect of delivering bespoke, high level interventions that help shape the delivery of services across all facilities to meet the wider health and well-being objectives in East Renfrewshire.

Recommendation

2: Undertake a strategic review of programming of all ERCL operated venues

Strategic recommendation 3: Ensure that recommendations from the strategy are adopted as policy across ERC

ERC should:

- ◀ Reflect key land use policies and proposals within the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan.
- ◀ Develop a range of associated priorities to assist in the allocation of development contributions emerging from new development within the Council area.
- ◀ Gear itself to, and then deliver an annual 'light touch; review of the Strategy implementation and the implications this has for the subsequent updating of plans.
- ◀ Undertake a complete review within five years of its implementation.

3: Consider the wider management and planning resource required to deliver and update the recommendations cited above and keep the Strategy up to date.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

PRIORITIES

The following action plan provides an overview of the priorities in East Renfrewshire and a framework for officers and members to work with in order to deliver a network of indoor sports facilities that contribute to meeting the wider needs of ERC residents: The trust aspiration but subject to further work which includes public consultation.

Importance order	Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
1A	<i>Strategic recommendation 1:</i> Replace Eastwood Park Leisure Centre with a strategically significant community sport and wellbeing hub with a modern fit for purpose community flagship leisure facility in the heart of East Renfrewshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ ERC Council to agree on the need to replace Eastwood Park Leisure Centre. ◀ Commission a feasibility to understand the requirements for a new leisure facility to service local and wider need as the Council's main strategic sport and wellbeing hub. ◀ Agree with partners and stakeholders how the new facility can be delivered (whilst maintaining current levels of activity) and determine key partners in its development. ◀ Determine the preferred location for maximum impact, profile and cost effectiveness. 	ERC in consultation with ERCL and stakeholders	Short - medium
1B	As part of the wider feasibility for a leisure centre in Eastwood, assess the options/opportunities of the current facility in light of the M&E report 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Commission a feasibility to assess and recommend the future use options. 	ERC in consultation with ERCL and stakeholders	Short - medium
1C	Undertake a feasibility study to determine the projected life span of the Neilston Leisure Centre with a view to developing complementary and co-located facilities including a wet and dry facility, with health & fitness provision and a library (plus possibly an artificial grass pitch) alongside and as an integrally linked facility for the proposed new combined school in Neilston.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Commission a feasibility study to evaluate the viability of developing a new community access focused swimming and health and fitness (and AGP) facility in Neilston. ◀ Consider co-location opportunities taking account of new school development and library developments. ◀ Determine the preferred location (in the context of the combined school master-plan) for the facility. 	ERC in consultation with ERCL and stakeholders	Short - medium

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Importance order	Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
2	Strategic review of programming and pricing of facilities – ensure that facilities are commensurate with driving up increases in participation in line with Council/ERCL priorities.	Review current Trust programming policy. Define the role of each facility within the wider community use offer across East Renfrewshire. Develop a site by site action plan for improving programming across the Authority. See below.	ERCL	Short - medium
3	Consider the wider management and planning required to undertake the recommendations above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Develop regular liaison meetings with Planning and Education to identify potential improvements to school sports facility stock. ◀ Align the requirement to establish a community use agreement to any investment in school sports facilities. ◀ Reflect key land use policies and proposals within the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan, ◀ Develop a range of associated priorities to assist in the allocation of development contributions emerging from new development within the Council area. 	ERC, ERCL	Immediate

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

ACTION PLAN

The following actions are relative to the overall management and programming of key facilities in East Renfrewshire. All actions identified below should take account of accessibility issues (hearing, visual and wheelchair access).

Strategic function/aim	Challenges	Recommended actions	Facilities	Time-scale	Partners	Importance
Sports halls Provide	Improving access to facilities during the day time given the current reliance on educational facilities for indoor activity.	Programming and policy review the activities taking place in halls – priority to indoor sports On a site by site basis (particularly schools) consider different solutions to extending day time access, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Designing in good access to new facilities ◀ Working with schools to accommodate community based organisations 	All sports halls	Short	Schools	Medium
Planning Protect, Enhance, Provide	To recognise the importance of this study and ensure recommendations are acted upon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Reflect key land use policies and proposals within the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan. ◀ Develop a range of associated priorities to assist in the allocation of development contributions emerging from new development within the Council area. 	All	Short	Strategic Services	High
Monitor and review	Keeping the Facilities Strategy relevant and up to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Complete a light touch review of the study annually; ◀ Undertake a complete review within 5 years of its implementation. 		Medium	ERC, ERCL	High

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

The following actions relative to each of ER's key facilities is identified below:

Facility	Management	Overview and key challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency(s)	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)	Objective
Eastwood Park Leisure Centre	ERCL Trust	Below average facility with a 5 lane 25m pool built in 1972 and is 45 years old. It has a community accessible theatre hall that has no markings and is used as fitness studio and for community events. The 40 fitness stations are split between two cramped rooms which are operationally difficult to staff. The main challenge is keeping the facility operational until a replacement is developed.	Replace Eastwood Park Leisure Centre through conducting a feasibility on facility mix and options for new facilities that meet the demands and addresses where possible the shortfalls and challenges through the development of a regional facility.	ERC	Short	High	Protect, Provide Enhance
Barrhead Foundry	ERCL Trust	Built in 1976 some of the building was refurbished in 2015. Phase 2 refurbishment is planned to start in Winter 2017. The 4-court sports hall is above average quality. The 5-lane 25m pool is of below average quality. This will change with planned refurbishment. Fitness gym changing will also improve as part of Phase 2 refurbishment. The fitness and aerobic/dance studios are below average and the small hall is above average. Both squash courts are average quality, therefore a 3 rd Phase to bring these to date will be required. The main challenge is to ensure that the facility is maintained and retain the quality and usage maximised to meet the needs of the current residents.	Continued investment in current facilities to maintain them to the best standard possible. Phase 3 to be considered.	ERC	Long	Medium	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview and key challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency(s)	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)	Objective
Neilston Leisure Centre	ERCL Trust	<p>Built in 1975, this facility has had limited investment since. The facility mix includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A six lane 25m pool in below average condition ▪ One below average squash court that has not been used as a squash court for a number of years. ▪ A 20-station health and fitness gym that has had recent investment and is rated above average. <p>The main challenge is to replace the pool before it becomes too old and expensive to operate</p>	<p>Replace the leisure centre with fit for purpose facilities that meets the needs of the residents through a feasibility study.</p> <p>Consider co-location of other facilities to improve footfall and make the new facility as economically viable as possible.</p>	ERC	Short	High	Protect and Provide
St Luke's High School	School/ ERCL Trust	<p>This 3-court sports hall and smaller hall and small fitness gym are rated as below average; built in 1979, it has only had limited refurbishment.</p> <p>The current sports hall bookings consist 100% of outdoor sports being played indoors.</p> <p>The main challenge is to improve the quality of the sports hall and encourage outdoor sports to move outdoors which could free up space for more indoor sports¹.</p>	<p>Improve the quality of the sports halls by modernising the facility with improved lighting, flooring and decoration. Should suitable funding become available.</p> <p>Increase the number of indoor sports bookings using the sports hall.</p>	ERC, ERCL	Medium	Medium	Enhance
Barrhead High School	School/ ERCL Trust	<p>This new 4 court sports hall and dance studio was built as part of a new school in 2017 and is accessible to the community.</p> <p>The main challenge will be to retain the quality and maximise the use of the hall for the community, preferably prioritising indoor sports usage, such as handball.</p>	<p>Ensure that community access is maximised.</p> <p>Increase the number of bookings for indoor sports</p> <p>Maintain the quality of facilities</p>	ERC, ERCL	Long	Low	Protect

¹ Scottish Government School Estate Data = Satisfactory

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview and key challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency(s)	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)	Objective
Woodfarm High School	School/ ERCL Trust	This 4 court and 3-court sports halls are rated below average; built in 2006. Both the school and the community report issues with the size of the changing facilities (too small). The heating and lighting in the hall has been refurbished as part of the facility upgrade ² .	Explore the options of improving the size or increasing the number of changing rooms and toilets should suitable funding become available. Invest in the sports hall to improve the quality. Increase the number of bookings for indoor sports	ERC, ERCL	Medium	High	Enhance & Protect
Mearns Primary school	School/ ERCL Trust)	3-court sports hall that is above average quality built in 2002. ³	Retain the quality as it ages and continue to maximise community usage.	ERC, ERCL	Long	Medium	Protect
Mearns Castle High School	School/ ERCL Trust	Two x 4-court sports halls which are assessed as below average. It was built in 1979. A key venue for volleyball. Invest to improve the quality. ⁴	Improve the quality of the halls in particular the lighting and general decoration and ensure it can continue to be used for volleyball. Increase the number of bookings for indoor sports	ERC, ERCL	Medium	Medium	Protect
Williamwood High School	School/ ERCL Trust	Built in 2006, Williamwood has two x 4 court sports halls and a smaller gym hall that are good quality. It is a key facility for netball and wheelchair basketball. The changing facilities are small for the size of the facility and strain on facility users.	Retain the good quality, ensure netball and wheelchair basketball continue to be accommodated. Increase the number/size of the changing facilities to retain and encourage continued use by the clubs and also meet the needs of the school.	ERC, ERCL	Medium	Medium	Protect

² Scottish Government School Estate Data = Satisfactory

³ Scottish Government School Estate Data = Satisfactory

⁴ Scottish Government School Estate Data = Satisfactory

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview and key challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency(s)	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)	Objective
Eastwood High Sports Centre	School/ ERCL Trust	<p>Home to the community hub, it has two four court halls, one good and one above average a smaller gym hall and a dance/aerobic studio. Built in 1965, it was refurbished in 2013. A key venue for basketball.</p> <p>There is also a 4 lane 20m swimming pool that offers culturally sensitive swimming sessions as well as a more traditional swim programme.</p> <p>The 20 station fitness gym is not accessible to the community during the daytime.</p> <p>Swimming pool changing facilities are small and do not meet the needs of the school nor the community, this limits the income generation potential from Learn to Swim activities.</p> <p>There is a good school-trust-community partnership link.</p> <p>Occasional use of the facility by the School at night can affect the community sports programme.</p> <p>The main challenges are to continue to invest in the facility as it ages to retain its quality and to increase the number and proportion of hard to reach users that attend and use the facility.</p> <p>This is a significant and high quality facility which hosts a range of sports and draws in users from a wide area.⁵</p>	<p>Retain community use of facilities. Continue to ensure programmes link to wider NGB priorities.</p> <p>If funds become available, invest in the swimming pool changing facilities to improve the quality and ensure they are accessible to families and groups accessing the pool. There is a need to expand/reconfigure the changing area to increase the size and quality.</p>	ERC, ERCL	Long	Medium	Protect
St Ninian's High School	School/ ERCL Trust	<p>One 4 court hall and one 3 court hall and a small hall and fitness gym are both below average.</p> <p>School uses the 3-court hall 18.00-20.00 on four evenings a week significantly reducing availability to the community at peak time.</p> <p>This is a key facility for wheelchair basketball and martial arts.⁶</p>	<p>Continue to maximise community use at the facilities.</p> <p>Invest in the quality of the sports halls through improved lighting and decoration as suitable funding becomes available.</p>	ERC, ERCL	Medium	Medium	Protect and Enhance

⁵ Scottish Government School Estate Data = Satisfactory

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview and key challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency(s)	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)	Objective
Belmont House School	Independent School (in house)	Private use 3-court hall (age and quality unknown).	Engage with the school to understand the current situation and future plans regarding the long term access to a sports hall.	ERCL	Long	Low	Enhance
David Lloyd – Glasgow Rouken Glen	Commercial	Commercial H&F facility built in 2016. It has a 150 station fitness gym, three indoor tennis courts, a 4 lane 20m swimming pool, a 25m lido. It is currently private use only with use restricted to members.	Explore opportunities for community use especially in regards to the tennis facilities.	David Lloyd Glasgow Rouken Glen	Medium	Low	Enhance
Zippys Gymnastics Academy Ltd	Commercial/ Sports Club/ Association	Established in 2003, a dedicated gymnastics venue offers recreational to advanced level. There are waiting lists at all age groups. It is currently operating at capacity.	Engage with Zippy's as part of the strategic planning of gymnastics	ERCL	Long	Low	Provide
Maccabi Youth & Sports Centre	Commercial/ Community Sports Association	3-court sports halls, below average quality and built in 1970. The main challenge is to improve the quality and retain the community access.	As finances become available consider what investment and improvements need to be made.	Maccabi Youth & sports Centre	Medium	Medium	Enhance
Parklands Country Club	Commercial (Parklands Country Club)	4-court sports hall and changing rooms, rated below average in quality. Owned and maintained by ERC, the Country Club operates the facility and retains the income.	Investigate how this facility sits within a wider ERCL offer. Following this consider specific improvements to fit with wider strategic objectives. Improve the quality of the sports hall and changing rooms.	ERC, ERCL, Parklands Country Club	Medium	Medium	Protect
Joint Faith School (St Clare's and Calderwood Lodge)	Schools, ERCL	This new school built in 2017 has a 3 court hall. The key challenge will be to ensure that the School offers community use which is complementary with the rest of the Authority. Sports hall and changing quality will need to be maintained.	Retain the good quality. Maximise community use with a priority on indoor sports bookings.	ERC, ERCL	Long	Medium	Protect

⁶ Scottish Government School Estate Data = Satisfactory

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview and key challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency(s)	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)	Objective
Maidenhill Primary School	School & ERCL	Opening in 2019, it is anticipated that it will have a 3-court hall. The challenges are to ensure the hall and ancillary facilities meet the needs of the school and community. It will be necessary to ensure that programmes of activity complement other Authority wide activities.	Investigate how this facility sits within a wider sports development offer. Maintain the quality of the sports hall.	ERC, ERCL	Medium	Medium	Protect



EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

APRIL 2018

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**EAST RENFREWSHIRE SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Sports Pitch Strategy (SPS) for East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) and its partners. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2017 and 2027.

Recommendations detailed herein are not solely for the Council to action nor do they imply an expectation that it will or can afford to make the investments required. The purpose is to guide investment for any relevant bodies, including but not limited to **sportscotland** and the Sports Governing Bodies (SGBs) in the sports to which recommendations refer. Furthermore, East Renfrewshire Leisure & Culture (ERLC) and the SGBs as drivers for sports development should undertake further consultation with users and partners in order to fully understand issues which may affect facilities development at individual sites, to further qualify strategic need identified through the SPS.

A Steering Group has led, and will continue to lead, the SPS to ensure the delivery and implementation of its recommendations and actions. It comprises representatives from the Council, East Renfrewshire Leisure & Culture Trust (ERLC), **sportscotland**, the Scottish Football Association (SFA), Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), Scottish Hockey (SH), Cricket Scotland (CS), the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), Bowls Scotland (BS) and UK Athletics (UKA).

The following types of outdoor sports facilities are included in the Assessment and Strategy.

Pitch sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Hockey/synthetic turf pitches (STPs)
- ◀ Third generation turf pitches (3G pitches)

These were assessed according to Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. Adoption of this approach has been supported by **sportscotland**. This also covers rugby league and other grass pitch sports such as lacrosse, Gaelic sports, American football and Australian Rules football. No demand is identified for any of the aforementioned sports in East Renfrewshire.

Outdoor sports:

- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Athletics tracks
- ◀ Netball courts
- ◀ Golf

These were assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). Again, this approach is supported by **sportscotland**. Non-pitch outdoor sports require a different methodology to assess demand and supply to that used for pitch sports.

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The Sports Pitch Strategy provides the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements. Planning policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base so as to ensure that planning, local policies and sport development criteria can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

The strategy is capable of the following in East Renfrewshire:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the local area, picking up particular local demand issues;
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth, and or major growth/regeneration areas;
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision;
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision;
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study;
- ◀ Providing realistic implementable aspirations within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. Many of the objectives and actions will need to be delivered and implemented by sports organisations and education establishments in addition to the Council.

Strategy structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within East Renfrewshire to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver Strategy recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A range of sport by sport and local authority wide scenarios to help inform policy recommendations and prioritisation of actions.
- ◀ Key strategic recommendations to provide a framework for improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for East Renfrewshire for implementation over the next ten years. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to enable implementation, it points out potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

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Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review in respect of the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group. The SPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group; this represents best practice. It also helps to maintain momentum and commitment built up during the SPS development process. Taking into account the time taken to develop the SPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. Part 7 of this report contains a suggested process for updating and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree this process prior to Strategy adoption.

Study area

East Renfrewshire is one of the 32 council areas of Scotland, formed in 1996. It is, in effect, the successor to the Eastwood district, along with Barrhead (which was formerly part of the Renfrew district). East Renfrewshire borders the City of Glasgow, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire.

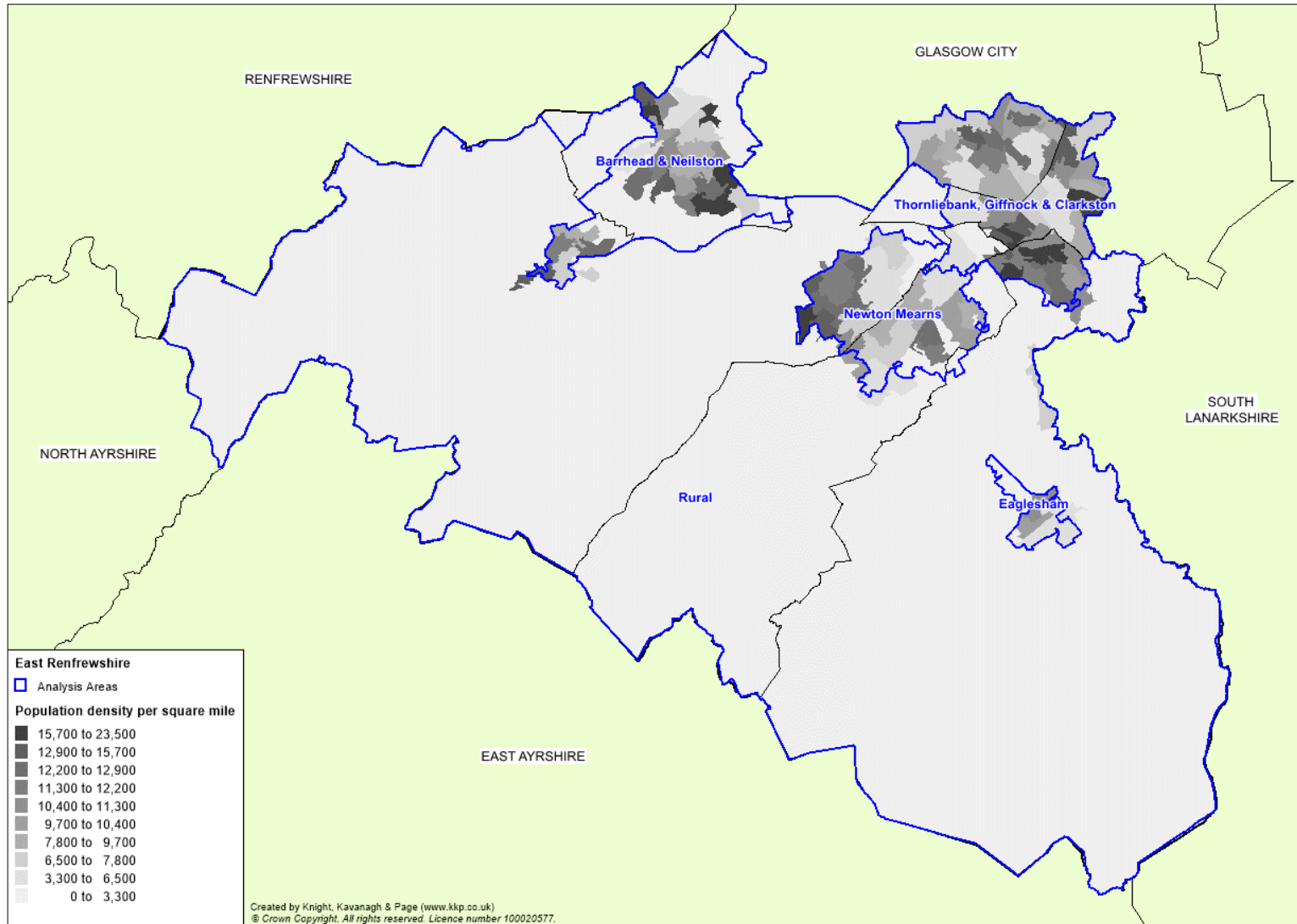
The study covers the boundary area of East Renfrewshire; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. A number of sports teams from outside the specified area use pitches within East Renfrewshire and sports teams from inside the Area use facilities in other local authority areas. This cross-boundary movement, where applicable, was taken into consideration where applicable when producing the Assessment Report.

For the purpose of this analysis, East Renfrewshire is broken down into five analysis areas, as follows:

- ◀ Barrhead & Neilston
- ◀ Eaglesham
- ◀ Newton Mearns
- ◀ Rural wards
- ◀ Thornliebank, Giffnock & Clarkston.

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Figure 1.1: Map of the study area with identified analysis areas



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Population growth

East Renfrewshire covers an area of 17,379 hectares. It is located to the South West of Glasgow and borders South Lanarkshire (to the East), East Ayrshire (to the South) and both North Ayrshire and Renfrewshire (to the West). Notwithstanding the main urban areas, most of which are located immediately to the South of Glasgow City, East Renfrewshire is predominantly rural. Settlements in the area comprise a wide range of environments from the industrial northern suburbs of Barrhead to the rural southern hinterlands of Uplawmoor and Eaglesham.

The East Renfrewshire population is currently 93,810 (NRS (Scotland estimated population 30 June 2016). By 2027 (to reflect the period of the SPS) the population is projected to increase to 99,156¹ - an increase of 5,346 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 6%) according to National Records of Scotland (NRS) data.

Team generation rates were used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area; these are set out in the Assessment Report.

East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan

The adopted Local Development Plan (LDP - June 2015) sets out the long-term vision and strategy for East Renfrewshire to 2025 and beyond, including the policies and proposals required to deliver this. Together with the Approved Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (July 2017), these documents form the basis upon which all planning applications are determined. The LDP sets an all tenure housing supply target of 4,100 homes (3,200 private and 900 affordable homes) to be provided during the period 2009-2025.

¹ Source: NRS 2014-based principal population projections for council areas, by sex, single year of age and year

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Headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future picture (2027) ²
Football (grass pitches)	Barrhead & Neilston	Adult pitch demand can be met with some spare capacity. Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches is balanced, with no spare capacity available	Adult pitch demand can be met with some spare capacity Shortfall of 2.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions per week, though this could also be accommodated on 3G pitches as is the preferred surface for mini soccer in the District
	Eaglesham	Supply and demand is balanced, with no spare capacity available	Supply and demand is balanced, with no spare capacity available
	Newton Mearns	Adult pitch demand can be met with some spare capacity. Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches is balanced, with no spare capacity available	Adult pitch demand can be met with some spare capacity. Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches is balanced, with no spare capacity available <i>Future demand may increase dependent on impact of significant housing growth in the area</i>
	Rural	Supply and demand is balanced, with no spare capacity available	Supply and demand is balanced, with no spare capacity available
	Thornliebank, Giffnock & Clarkston	Demand can be met with some spare capacity	Demand can be met with some spare capacity
Football (3G pitches) ³	East Renfrewshire	Football training demand can be met by existing provision, <i>though there may be scope for additional 3G pitch provision if viable and sustainable, or for example based on school need.</i>	
Rugby union	Barrhead & Neilston	No club demand	No club demand
	Eaglesham	No club demand	No club demand
	Newton Mearns	No club demand	No club demand
	Rural wards	Shortfall of 21.5 match equivalent sessions per week, requirement to develop better quality and fully compliant ancillary facilities for female rugby at Whitecraigs RFC	Shortfall of 22.5 match equivalent sessions per week, requirement to develop better quality and fully compliant ancillary facilities for female rugby at Whitecraigs RFC
	Thornliebank, Giffnock & Clarkston	Shortfall of 11.75 match equivalent sessions per week	Shortfall of 11.75 match equivalent sessions per week

² Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

³ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future picture (2027) ⁴
Cricket	East Renfrewshire	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square
Hockey (Sand/water STPs)	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply and access	Demand can be met by existing level of supply and access
Tennis	East Renfrewshire	Demand for access to additional court capacity in the Thornliebank, Giffnock & Clarkston area to service demand from Giffnock TC	
Outdoor bowls	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply	Demand can be met by existing level of supply
Athletics	East Renfrewshire	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision
Golf	East Renfrewshire	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply

Conclusions

The existing position for all pitch sports is either that demand is currently being met or there is a shortfall. The highest shortfalls are for cricket and rugby union, whilst there is demand for increased capacity for both football and tennis.

As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met. Some shortfalls such as those for football can be eliminated via offering increased access to existing or planned future provision, however additional facilities are required for cricket and rugby union such is the level of shortfall evidenced.

⁴ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

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Definitions

Match equivalent sessions

Pitches are limited in terms of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate that the comparable unit is match equivalent sessions. This may, however, include training sessions.

Based on how they tend to be played this unit for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relate to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions (MES) over the course of a season.

Pitch capacity

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing football. In extreme circumstances it can result in an inability for a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is regularly influenced by weather conditions and drainage.

As a guide, each SGB has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity):

Sport	Pitch type	Number of matches per week		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3	2	1
	Youth pitches	4	2	1
	Mini pitches	6	4	2
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season		
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		

Rugby union pitches		Maintenance rating		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage rating	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

Shortfalls

Please note that shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions rather than as pitches as it is possible that shortfalls could be accommodated in various ways (e.g. through pitch improvements) and not just by providing more pitches. For a full glossary of terms please refer to Appendix One.

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PART 2: AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The strategy seeks to;

- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs
- ◀ Ensure that there are sufficient facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.

The following overarching aims are based on the three themes (see Figure 1 below). Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, the Steering Group.

It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Sports Pitch Strategy and meet **sportscotland** requirements.

Aim 1 - To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future need.

Aim 2 - To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

Aim 3 - To **provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 1: Planning objectives - Protect, Enhance and Provide



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PART 3: SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations detailed herein are not solely for the Council to action nor do they imply an expectation that it will or can afford to make the investments required. The purpose is to guide investment for any relevant bodies, including but not limited to **sportscotland** and the SGBs in the sports to which recommendations refer. Furthermore, ERLC and the SGBs as drivers for sports development should undertake further consultation with users and partners in order to fully understand issues which may affect facilities development at individual sites, to further qualify strategic need identified through the SPS.

There are several sites across the District at which the Council has no influence with regards to facilities and assets, for example in sports other than football many clubs are self-managing through freehold or leasehold. Given the varying nature of site ownership and management, as well as varying roles assumed by the numerous stakeholders across East Renfrewshire within the SPS, the responsibilities and actions included herein can broadly be attributed as follows:

Key local stakeholder	Type of site	Actions pertaining to:
East Renfrewshire Council	Council managed assets, including municipal formal sports provision and school facilities permitting community use	Improvement or sustenance of quality in relation to pitches or ancillary facilities.
		Increasing or retaining level of community access to formal sports provision.
		Protection or mitigation of sites which maybe be under threat, through application of planning policy.
		Informing the planning process and facilities mix of new developments where new formal sports provision is to be provided (supported by ERLC).
East Renfrewshire Culture & Leisure (ERLC)	Support of sports clubs/organisations at all sites where formal sport is played, though ERLC holds no responsibility regarding grass pitch management or maintenance.	Support of clubs (including those playing at non-Council sites) to drive participation growth.
		Concurrent consultation to further understand subjective supply and demand issues reported through the SPS process, in order to inform Council decisions and strategy on capital assets including outdoor sports provision.
Sport Governing Body (SGB) and other private organisations	Privately managed sites where the Council has no influence over management of facilities assets. These include the likes of private commercial facilities and club managed sites through lease or freehold.	Support of clubs with regards to governance, facilities development, operating models, sustainability and participation growth (supported locally by ERLC).
		Possible support through partnership funding where clubs are able to demonstrate a robust operating model and meet required criteria, or through a local authority or joint led application.

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In addition to the sport specific actions, noted are broader recommendations which pertain more directly to the mechanism via which the development of sport and facilities is co-ordinated in East Renfrewshire:

ERC should:

- ◀ Secure local community sports hub engagement in the planning process for new facilities, particularly new school sports facilities that will be utilised by the community. Consideration should be given to how new facilities, particularly those located in, or attached to schools, could help meet community need as well as servicing the primary function of school provision.
- ◀ ERCL and SFA to encourage football clubs to demonstrate greater awareness of facility share with regard to the spatial element of lets, particularly with reference to STP's and 3G pitches. This would help to reduce underuse of pitch space where activities and number of participants do not require the full extent of lettable space in order to maximise capacity and distribute access to a wider range of local clubs.

Key partner recommendations

East Renfrewshire Council:

- ◀ Sustain current standard and extent of pitch maintenance to ensure continued quality for use.
- ◀ ERC to consider current state of STP at Mearns PS and approach contractor with a view to an upgrade, potentially to 3G
- ◀ Consider business case for a capital bid through CAMG for upgrade of poor quality STP at Crossmill Park, potentially as a conversion to 3G.
- ◀ Consider capital bids through CAMG to develop new changing and toilet provision at Kingston Playing Field to support pitches.
- ◀ Develop two new, free for play, tennis courts at Rouken Glen Park.
- ◀ Consider capital bids through CAMG for resurfacing blaise tennis courts at Cowan Park and create additional floodlighting.

East Renfrewshire Leisure & Culture:

- ◀ Aim to transfer a greater proportion of present indoor football demand from halls to outdoor pitches in order to create capacity for the development of indoor sports.
- ◀ Support self-managing clubs with aspirations for facilities development, for example in rugby union, tennis or cricket, with developing robust operating structures and models and application for external funding.
- ◀ Support development-minded clubs with regards to access to facilities in order to drive participation growth, such as those which are Qualitymark accredited.
- ◀ As an ERLC focus sport, support East Renfrewshire Cricket Club with aspirations to develop a natural turf cricket square at Woodfarm Playing Fields and how it may be able to fund the development.
- ◀ Undertake further consultation with both rugby union clubs and determine where additional off-site rugby union pitch provision could support to alleviate onsite overuse.
- ◀ Assess grant funding opportunities with SGB's for refurbishment and floodlighting of Cowan park blaise tennis courts.

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SGBs & Self-managing Clubs

- ◀ Develop a natural turf cricket square at Woodfarm Playing Fields for use by East Renfrewshire Cricket Club
- ◀ Support Glasgow Hutchesons' Aloysians RFC with aspirations to develop a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch onsite.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at both rugby club sites through improved and more regular maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of present overuse.

Sport specific scenarios and recommendations

To support the process of developing the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for the playing pitch sports. These have led to the following overarching sport-specific recommendations.

Football pitches

Current pitch supply is sufficient to accommodate current demand; when future and latent demand are factored in this sufficiency reduces without overplay occurring.

Youth 11v11 demand could be accommodated on adult pitches. Factoring this into future demand further decreases potential capacity.

Demand for provision to cater for mini 5v5 and 4v4 teams is likely to increase in the future, however, this should be accommodated within the current supply of 3G pitches, provided that ERSDA continues to operate in its current format.

Summary – grass

- ◀ There are 44 pitches across 11 sites; all available for community use on some level.
- ◀ No pitches are overplayed in East Renfrewshire.
- ◀ There are seven full sized 3G pitches upon which competitive football matches are played, providing additional capacity to support grass pitches.
- ◀ Most available pitches in East Renfrewshire (57%) are mini 7v7 sized; this reflects the number of teams playing in this format of the game.
- ◀ Car parking at council sites is an issue, particularly during mini-football peak periods.
- ◀ 235 football teams play matches or train within East Renfrewshire. Of these, 124 consistently play home matches on grass pitches during 2017/18 season.
- ◀ Most (73%) of pitches available for community use are rated good quality, with 27% rated as standard. No pitches are rated poor.
- ◀ TGRs based on population indicate the likely creation of 11 additional teams across the various formats. Several clubs have plans to increase team numbers next season; requirement for a further 12.5 match equivalent sessions across different pitch types.
- ◀ In total, latent demand amounts to one match equivalent session on youth 11v11 pitches, one on mini 7v7 and five on mini 4v4 pitches.
- ◀ Many teams highlight a lack of accessible, affordable floodlit training facilities as a key issue. Some utilise 3G pitches whilst others use several sites, some with small STPs.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity amounts to 18 match equivalent sessions across all pitches types.
- ◀ ERCL is responsible for the local development of football within the Area. East Renfrewshire Council manages pitch bookings.

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Scenarios – grass

- ◀ **Introduction of 9v9 format football** – should ERSDA in time choose to introduce youth 9v9 football from 2019, new 9v9 pitches will need to be marked.
- ◀ The development of a new full sized 3G pitch at Barrhead High School within Cowan Park could contribute an additional eight mini match equivalent sessions per week on Saturday mornings with matches played back to back.
- ◀ This could allow for the reconfiguration of grass pitches at Cowan Park. For example, four mini 7v7 pitches could be converted to two youth 9v9 pitches. The site could realistically be reconfigured to accommodate at least four youth 9v9 pitches.

Recommendations – grass; are to

- ◀ Direct development contributions emerging from new development within the Council area towards sports provision.
- ◀ The Council and ERLC are presently discussing the future of the pitch hire process including potential to review the mechanism for pitch hire and consider the merits of transferring pitch hire policy and responsibility to ERLC - to bring greater synergy to sports development work outcomes and subsequent impact on facilities need.
- ◀ Accommodate a greater proportion of present indoor football at outdoor sites (where age and type appropriate) in order to free up capacity in sports halls for indoor sports, as recommended within the East Renfrewshire Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy.
- ◀ Protect the quantity of existing pitches, except where low value/single pitch sites are considered suitable/feasible to be lost for development on condition that re-provision of playing field land elsewhere represents a preferable and greater benefit to sport.
- ◀ Develop sustainable, multi-pitch football hubs including onsite 3G pitch provision to create an all-in-one football offer capable of servicing team training, short-formats and non-traditional participation and match play across grass and certified 3G pitches.
- ◀ (Where pitches are overplayed and rated as standard or poor quality) prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure that it is/ they are of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Utilise actual spare capacity expressed on sites to cater for existing/future demand including overplay. This may require necessitate improvements to pitch quality. This is explored on a site by site basis within the accompanying action plan.
- ◀ Maximise use of 3G pitches for match play; it is the preferred surface for mini soccer especially, in order to increase capacity available to address future shortfalls and review impact on grass pitches as part of the SPS Annual Review.
- ◀ Ensure that over time, anticipated growth in female football (especially at girls age groups) is able to be sufficiently accommodated on grass pitches where required and where grass becomes the preferred surface for play, given there is a current preference for younger girls' teams to play on 3G pitches.
- ◀ Improve, provide and increase access to changing facilities which serve grass football pitches. Ensure that any work undertaken ensures provides suitable female and disability access to facilitate increased participation in these formats of football. This may include the targeted development of compliant facilities for female football at some sites in future to supplement grass pitches as a girls' football focus site or hub.
- ◀ Secure community use via formal agreement and/or the planning process - should there be development of new football pitch provision.

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3G pitches

Supply and demand analysis highlights that East Renfrewshire has sufficient 3G pitches to meet current and future demand, based on the training model and the range of sports which also require access to such provision.

Summary

- ◀ There are seven full sized, floodlit 3G pitches in East Renfrewshire.
- ◀ All seven 3G pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ A further 12 small sized 3G pitches, five located at a commercial small sided football centre, are available.
- ◀ No current 3G pitches are suitable for competitive and contact rugby union activity (i.e. certified as World Rugby compliant) although many of those based at school sites do cater for school rugby training.
- ◀ There are plans and aspirations to develop of new 3G pitch provision, most notably at Glasgow Hutchesons' Aloysians RFC for a World Rugby compliant full sized 3G.
- ◀ All seven of the full sized pitches are rated as good quality and are within the recommended ten year life-span.
- ◀ Use of 3G pitches is dominated by football, no other sports presently access 3G pitches.
- ◀ Use of 3G pitches for match play is set to increase, with ERSDA to establish new girls' competitions in 2018 meaning the existing 3G pitch at Cowan Park will be used on Sundays as well as Saturdays.

Scenarios – 3G pitches⁵

- ◀ **Development of new full sized 3G pitch provision** – creating a new full sized 3G pitch at Barrhead High School with Cowan Park would provide additional capacity for football at peak times.
- ◀ In practice, the new pitch could accommodate eight mini soccer match equivalent sessions on Saturday mornings, thus eliminating the future shortfall at mini 7v7 format and providing extra capacity for growth. It would also create capacity at non-peak times, for example for adult football on Saturday afternoons or female football on Sundays.
- ◀ Alternatively, it could be used to facilitate the adoption of youth 9v9 format football and would create capacity of four match equivalent sessions on Saturday mornings. This would mean retaining a proportion of mini 7v7 soccer on the grass pitches onsite rather than transferring all to 3G.

⁵ Refer to Appendix One: FA 3G Pitch Scenarios for the programming model used.

Recommendations – 3G pitches; are to

- ◀ Secure community access to the new full sized 3G pitch at Barrhead High School for both team training and match play and facilitate growth of mini soccer via use as a double pitch ERSDA central venue, eliminating shortfalls for mini soccer in the Barrhead & Neilston area.
- ◀ Resurface the small-sized STP at Crossmill Park as a 3G surface and improve quality of surrounding areas to bring back into use for junior football training/recreational use.
- ◀ Ensure current supply is maintained regularly and rigorously as required to ensure continued quality for use. Maintain it at the present, sufficient quality level.
- ◀ Seek to maximise use of capacity where available at weekends to accommodate match play in order to service grass pitch shortfalls.
- ◀ Secure access to any new 3G pitches built - via usage agreements where possible as a condition of partnership investment or planning conditions.
- ◀ If/where new 3G pitches are built, ensure that (where land footprints allow) they meet required specifications and SFA recommendations rather than minimum dimensions - so as to maximise opportunities for use for all formats of competitive play.
- ◀ Encourage providers to install mechanisms which ensures that the long term sustainability of provision is ensured via, for example, the creation of adequate sinking funds for repairs or resurfacing over time. The amount held by providers in allocated sinking funds is not presently known.
- ◀ Should any new 3G pitches be built, consider potential to certify then for competitive use by sports other than football as part of a shared scheme, for example World Rugby compliancy to reduce shortfalls for rugby union.
- ◀ ERLC and SFA to encourage football clubs to demonstrate greater awareness of facility share with regard to spatial element of lets, particularly with reference to STPs and 3G pitches. This would help to reduce underuse of pitch space where activities and number of participants do not require, in order to maximise capacity for shared access by all clubs in the District.
- ◀ Accommodate a greater percentage of football presently played (indoors) on outdoor provision (where age/type appropriate) to free up sports hall capacity for indoor sports, as recommended in East Renfrewshire's Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy

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Cricket pitches

Overall across East Renfrewshire there is insufficient cricket provision supply at present to cater for demand from East Renfrewshire Cricket Club and schools. When taking account of future demand and likely future growth this insufficiency is exacerbated.

Not only is the current capacity of existing facilities insufficient to service levels of demand, the type of provision available cannot suitably provide for competitive cricket demand and there is an evident requirement for a natural turf cricket square at Woodfarm Playing Fields.

Summary

- ◀ There are no natural grass cricket squares in East Renfrewshire. One non-turf pitch (NTP) at Woodfarm Playing Fields represents the only outdoor cricket provision.
- ◀ The NTP is available for community use and is significantly used. It is of poor quality.
- ◀ East Renfrewshire CC leases the NTP and playing field area at Woodfarm Playing Field but not the pavilion which it rents on an hourly basis. The Club, ERCL and ERC should review management arrangements for the pavilion at Woodfarm Playing Fields.
- ◀ East Renfrewshire CC believes that the current onsite ancillary facilities to be of poor quality. They lack showers and shared use by other community groups adversely affects quality. The cost of renting the ancillary facilities on an hourly basis is also reported to be unsustainable.
- ◀ East Renfrewshire CC is the only cricket club in the Authority. It comprises one senior men's team, six junior boys' teams and two mini training groups.
- ◀ Future TGR-based demand projections (2027) predict an increase in participation at junior boys age, though increases in participation are not thought likely to be sufficient to result in establishment of a whole new cricket team.
- ◀ East Renfrewshire CC actively engages with local educational institutions, delivering PE lessons and after-schools clubs in order to increase cricket participation within the Area, signposting potential members to it.
- ◀ Barrhead Hub statistics show that Club membership numbers have incrementally grown each year since its inception.
- ◀ The NTP is overplayed by a total of 42 matches through a combination of club use for matches and training, as well as significant levels of community delivery.

Scenarios

- ◀ **Creation of new NTP provision** – creating a new NTP at a secondary site would double presently available capacity from 60 to 120 match sessions per season across the District. It would help facilitate increased schools activity and allow for junior matches.
- ◀ **Creation of natural turf provision** – new NTP provision cannot meet current league requirements for match play which needs a natural turf pitch. Creation of a natural turf pitch with between six to eight wickets would significantly reduce overplay at Woodfarm Playing Fields, with a proportion of use still retained on the NTP onsite and potentially an NTP at Cowan Park.

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Recommendations – cricket; are to:

- ◀ East Renfrewshire Cricket Club to undertake improvements to site drainage and replace the poor quality NTP at Woodfarm Playing Fields to service high levels of match play and training demand in the short to medium-term.
- ◀ East Renfrewshire CC to develop a natural turf cricket square at Woodfarm Playing Fields to increase capacity onsite to alleviate overplay and to meet the facility requirements of local leagues. This should include mechanism for sustainability, including maintenance equipment package and onsite storage, with access to grounds care training if required.
- ◀ ERLC to support East Renfrewshire CC to access external grant funding to improve facilities onsite.
- ◀ East Renfrewshire CC to purchase a mobile net cage with storage facility to improve training provision.
- ◀ ERLC to develop NTP provision elsewhere to create one or more satellite sites for cricket development in the District - as one of ERLC's focus sports. This is likely to require a share with grass football provision.

Rugby union pitches

Current supply is insufficient to cater for the level of present demand expressed in East Renfrewshire. This totals (a need for) a further 33.25 match equivalent sessions on senior pitches. Future requirements are predicted to be even greater; there is a requirement for facilities to accommodate 34.25 match equivalent sessions.

Summary

- ◀ There are six rugby union pitches in East Renfrewshire across two community club sites, all of which are senior sized.
- ◀ Four are rated as standard quality whilst the two at Whitecraigs RFC are rated as poor.
- ◀ Two of the community clubs in East Renfrewshire are considered to have security of tenure, owning their respective home venues. Glasgow Alphas RFC is not considered to have security of tenure, renting pitches on an annual basis at Whitecraigs RFC.
- ◀ Clubs in East Renfrewshire train on a combination of match pitches and dedicated training areas. Many schools in the area train on 3G pitches that are not WR compliant.
- ◀ There is a need to improve quality and compliancy of ancillary facilities at both club sites to facilitate the growth of female participation, especially Whitecraigs RFC which has aspirations to increase the number of girls' teams.
- ◀ The three community rugby union clubs playing in East Renfrewshire run a total of 33 teams. Nine of these are senior teams; one of which is a women's team. There are ten junior teams, all boys'; and 14 mini squads.
- ◀ TGRs anticipate no new teams being created by population change alone, though Whitecraigs RFC has plans to grow female participation and teams,.
- ◀ Five pitches across two sites are overplayed totalling 34.25 match equivalent sessions. Only the third pitch at Whitecraigs RFC is not overplayed.
- ◀ Factors contributing to pitch overplay include significant levels of training and school use. This may be alleviated via the establishment of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ Glasgow Hutchesons' Aloysians RFC aspires to develop a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at its home site and following an initial unsuccessful bid, has again submitted a joint application to the SRU and **sportscotland** for grant funding to do so, the outcome of which is pending.

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Scenarios

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality** – based on existing levels and distribution of use, improving maintenance from poor (M0) to standard (M1) or standard (M1) to good (M2) at both club sites would create additional capacity of three match equivalent sessions (MES) per week at Glasgow Hutchesons' Aloysians RFC and 2.5 MES per week at Whitecraigs RFC.
- ◀ This would help to reduce overplay at to 8.75 and 20 MES per week respectively. It is not significant enough to completely eliminate overplay and access to additional capacity is required.
- ◀ **Conversion of natural turf to 3G pitch – conversion of the main pitch at Glasgow Hutchesons' Aloysians RFC to World Rugby compliant 3G** would reduce total overplay from 11.75 to 8.75 MES per week; transferring all training demand from the adjacent two pitches would eliminate overplay onsite completely.
- ◀ However, the Club must be able to demonstrate that conversion to 3G would be both economically viable and sustainable, with revenue put aside over time to form a sinking fund for repairs and eventual resurfacing.

Recommendations – rugby union; Whitecraigs RFC and GHA RFC are to:

- ◀ Protect existing rugby union pitches.
- ◀ A dual approach is required to reducing the level of overplay across club sites, supporting initial and sustained improvement to natural turf pitch quality with increased access to 3G provision compliant for contact rugby union activity.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at both club sites via improved and more regular pitch maintenance plus the installation of dedicated drainage systems if required. The transfer of some demand to other facilities or 3G surfaces will also help reduce the impact on pitch quality caused by significant levels of demand.
- ◀ Explore the potential development of a World Rugby compliant 3G natural turf pitch conversion at Glasgow Hutchesons' Aloysians RFC so as to better accommodate demand and reduce level of onsite overplay.
- ◀ If this is not achievable, consider options to make one or more existing 3G pitches compliant for contact rugby union activity, if not full match play with pitch furniture for training and school of rugby activity to reduce level of overplay at existing club sites.
- ◀ Ensure ancillary provision at existing clubs sites is compliant and of the required quality to facilitate development of women's and girl's rugby.

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Hockey including synthetic turf pitches (STPs)

The current supply of hockey suitable STPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand at peak time; and anticipated future growth in participation.

Summary

- ◀ There are currently four full sized sand based STPs in East Renfrewshire, all are available for community use; but only three are floodlit.
- ◀ Three full sized hockey suitable STPs are rated as good quality. Mearns Primary School is rated as poor quality.
- ◀ The pitch at Mearns Primary School is in excess of the recommended ten year lifespan and should be considered for surface replacement in coming years.
- ◀ Giffnock Hockey Club (HC) has unsecured tenure as the pitch at Eastwood High Sports Centre based on a block booking.
- ◀ Five hockey teams (from one community club) use one STP in East Renfrewshire.
- ◀ Junior players are displaced from East Renfrewshire for recreational matches on Sundays despite local capacity at this time.
- ◀ TGRs do not predict the creation of additional teams based on population forecasts.

Scenarios

- ◀ **Conversion of STPs to 3G** – conversion of the STP in need of surface replacement at Mearns Primary School to 3G would have no foreseen impact on community hockey users and would further increase provision of floodlit 3G provision for football team training.
- ◀ However, the pitch acts primarily to service primary school demand and the School should be consulted on the optimal choice of surface to best support curricular activity.

Recommendations – hockey; are to:

- ◀ ERLC to retain the STP and level of access for Giffnock HC at Eastwood High School.
- ◀ Education Department to approach contractor to resurface the poor quality STP at Mearns Primary School. It is not presently used for club hockey and its quality affects the volume of school use. It may hold potential for 3G conversion, subject to School curricular facility requirements.
- ◀ Explore potential to offer community use at St Ninian's High School in the evenings through the summer months.
- ◀ Increase participation driven through community clubs and schools.
- ◀ Maintain STPs regularly and to the standard required to preserve quality for performance. Monitor quality and rate of natural deterioration and seek resurfacing when required so not to impact on hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure providers have in place a mechanism for sustainability such as a sinking fund, (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface repair or replacement when required) to maintain STP pitch quality in the long-term. This is especially important with regards to Mearns Primary School which is in present need of resurfacing.

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Tennis

There is insufficient supply of tennis courts in East Renfrewshire to cater for current and future club demand.

Though current supply at most club sites is sufficient to cater for membership (where known) there is a clear shortfall at Giffnock Tennis, Squash & Hockey Club and a need to access additional capacity in the Thornliebank, Giffnock & Clarkston Area.

Summary

- ◀ There are 38 tennis courts in East Renfrewshire; 23 are floodlit and four are junior sized.
- ◀ Most (29) courts were rated as good quality (76%), whilst the remainder were rated as either standard (five courts – 13%) or poor (four courts – 11%) quality.
- ◀ There is an approved proposal to create new outdoor tennis court provision at Rouken Glen Park (Rural Area).
- ◀ The Council also has aspirations to resurface the three blaise courts at Cowan Park and add both floodlighting and a digital access entry system to develop a park tennis hub.
- ◀ Five tennis clubs operate within East Renfrewshire as well as Barrhead Community Tennis which offers opportunities for tennis participation.
- ◀ Uplawmoor TC is the only club not to own its home venue. It leases the site from the Council and is responsible for site maintenance and upkeep.
- ◀ Uplawmoor, Giffnock and Whitecraigs tennis clubs quantified plans to grow future membership, whilst Busby TC reported aspirations for membership numbers to increase.
- ◀ Uplawmoor TC was the only club to report demand for greater access to floodlit provision.
- ◀ Based on LTA capacity guidance, outdoor court provision at all tennis club sites is able to cater for current membership where known, with the exception of Giffnock Tennis, Squash & Hockey Club and Whitecraigs Tennis Club which are significantly underserved.
- ◀ It is possible that ERCL may include three indoor courts in a new facility proposal for Newton Mearns if LTA funding can be secured via national LTA/sportscotland representatives.
- ◀ The use of indoor courts, such as the three located at David Lloyd Rouken Glen can accommodate a combined 600 members. However, as these are not openly available for community use this capacity is not included within the overall analysis.

Recommendations – Tennis; are to:

- ◀ Resurface remaining blaise tennis courts at Cowan Park and add floodlighting and digital access system, to develop a community tennis hub.
- ◀ Offer access to grow tennis participation at the new Barrhead High School as an LTA School of Tennis.
- ◀ Pursue development of new publicly accessible tennis provision at Rouken Glen Park.

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Bowling

Supply of outdoor bowling greens is sufficient to accommodate current demand across East Renfrewshire.

There is a need to ensure mitigation is secured towards reinvestment into bowling facilities in the given locality should the green at Whitecraigs BC or indeed any other be lost. This includes ability to re-accomodate affected users at other local sites, as well as increases in demand arising from new development.

Summary

- ◀ There are 15 flat bowling greens in East Renfrewshire. Arthurlie Bowling Club and Giffnock Bowling Club have two greens each.
- ◀ There is one disused green at Cowan Park, the former home venue of St John's Bowling Club which is now believed to have folded.
- ◀ Most greens in East Renfrewshire are rated as good quality (nine – 60%). The remaining greens are assessed as standard (four – 27%) and poor (two – 13%) quality.
- ◀ All greens are owned, managed and maintained by local clubs. None are managed by the Council.
- ◀ 13 clubs use bowling greens in East Renfrewshire.
- ◀ Based upon the limited membership information gathered via consultation, club sites are generally considered able to accommodate current and anticipated future membership whilst maintained by sufficient numbers of members to make them sustainable.

Recommendations – Bowling; are to:

- ◀ Support clubs to sustain and grow membership to ensure sites remain viable in future.
- ◀ In the event greens are lost, ensure mitigation is secured towards reinvestment into bowling facilities in the given locality to service increase in population and ensure any current users can be accommodated at greens elsewhere.
- ◀ Partners to advocate the benefits of a national review of bowling facilities in order to fully understand local needs and evidence the case for both improvement of facilities and mitigation should bowling greens be considered for loss to development.

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Athletics

Athletic track supply in East Renfrewshire is considered to be able to cater for current and future demand for track training.

The lack of a competition licensed track is an issue and results in exported demand to access such facilities in Glasgow.

There is a key need for field event facilities, as there is presently no provision for field event practice either adjacent to or separate from tracks.

Summary

- ◀ There are currently two athletics tracks in East Renfrewshire, located at Williamwood and Eastwood High Sports Centre. Both have floodlighting and are of good quality having been developed or refurbished within the past four years.
- ◀ Inside both tracks are fenced 3G pitches which prevent throwing events taking place.
- ◀ Both sites have long jump pits but due to a lack of covers both are considered to be poor quality. Overall supply of facilities for field events is poor.
- ◀ There are plans for an additional athletics track to be built at the new Barrhead High School development.
- ◀ Neither of the current tracks is licensed or suitable for competition use.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities are deemed poor, with a lack of accessible changing facilities, stands or shelters adversely affecting overall quality and user experience.
- ◀ Giffnock Amateur AC - the only athletics club in East Renfrewshire with approximately 770 members - has secured use through agreements in place at both venues
- ◀ The Club exports demand to neighbouring Glasgow to the access competition certified outdoor track provision which is unavailable in East Renfrewshire.
- ◀ It has unmet demand in the form of a waiting list of prospective members, currently unable to be accommodated due to insufficient coaching and volunteer resource.
- ◀ A number of other running initiatives such as Parkrun, Couch to 5k and jogscotland are likely to lead to increased demand for running. This could in turn lead to higher club membership or increased demand for track access from other running groups which form part of the wider fitness and exercise market.

Recommendations – Athletics; ERLC are to:

- ◀ Secure access to suitable ancillary facilities for Giffnock Amateur AC at track sites to allow access to toilet, shelter and bag storage provision.
- ◀ Explore potential development of a field event practice facility in the Council area, at or near to one or more of the tracks presently used by the Club.
- ◀ Determine the potential to develop a competition standard track so that competitive demand can be accommodated within the Council area.
- ◀ Ensure that facility restrictions which inhibit the potential use of existing track facilities are considered and not replicated where possible when creating new track provision.
- ◀ Support Giffnock AC to capacity build in terms of volunteer resource and infrastructure to facilitate further growth and accommodate unmet demand.

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Other sports

Netball:

Though court areas such as at leisure centres and schools may be able to accommodate netball play, use of outdoor facilities for netball is not preferred and all netball activity in East Renfrewshire is delivered using indoor facilities.

Consequently, given the preference for indoor provision, supply and demand for netball is better ascertained through an assessment and analysis of indoor and built sport facilities.

Golf:

Current supply and level of access to golf course provision is considered to be sufficient to service need in the Council area.

Focus should be placed on developing participation and working with local clubs and schools to do so, ensuring sufficient level of access to facilities.

Archery:

Current demand for archery can be catered for by a combination of outdoor playing fields and indoor provision.

Summary

Netball:

- ◀ There are three affiliated junior netball clubs in East Renfrewshire but no senior clubs.
- ◀ Key indoor venues for netball include Williamwood High School, St Ninian's High School and Carlibar Primary School.

Golf:

- ◀ There are ten golf courses in East Renfrewshire, the majority of which are privately owned. All are 18-hole courses with the exception of Mearns Castle Golf Academy which has nine holes.
- ◀ There are also two floodlit driving ranges. These are located at Rouken Glen Golf Course and Mearns Castle Golf Club.
- ◀ ERLC reports limited engagement with local golf clubs beyond ad-hoc meetings on a club by club basis around membership and junior access and development.
- ◀ No facilities issues were identified at present, though greater engagement with local clubs may identify opportunities and areas for improvement in future.

Archery:

- ◀ There is one Archery club in East Renfrewshire. It is Giffnock Archers; shooting at Whitecraigs RFC.
- ◀ The Club uses one of the rugby union pitches onsite mainly during the summer months during the rugby union off-season.
- ◀ Giffnock Archers is not a member of Newton Mearns Community Sports Hub based at Whitecraigs RFC but it is hoped that it will become an active member within the group to provide opportunities for new participants.

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Recommendations – ERLC are to:

- ◀ **Netball** – continue to develop participation around indoor provision and consider sites which may be suitable to host outdoor activity during summer months should there be demand for outdoor play.
- ◀ **Golf** – continue to grow participation, especially junior participation through local schools, maintaining and increasing where possible level of access to golf provision.
- ◀ Work with golf clubs on a club by club basis to grow participation, partnership links and address any future facilities issues.
- ◀ Seek greater engagement with local golf clubs and to use the SPS as a catalyst to garner more knowledge and input from clubs on facilities issues and demand.
- ◀ **Archery** - encourage Giffnock Archers to join the Newton Mearns Community Sports hub and advocate the potential benefits of so doing. Seek to increase participation and opportunities for adults and juniors.

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PART 4: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed from the key issues cutting across all playing pitch sports and categorised under each of the Strategy aims. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

Aim 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitch facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

Recommendations:

- a. Protect playing field sites through national and local planning policy
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership working.
- c. Maximise community use of education sites where there is a need to do so

Recommendation a – Protect playing field sites through local planning policy

The SPS Assessment shows that all existing playing fields and sports pitches require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the SPS, the Local Development Plan should continue to provide a policy framework which seeks to safeguard existing sport and leisure facilities.

Proposals which would result in the loss of existing community leisure or educational facilities will only be supported where it can be clearly shown that:

- ◀ Appropriate alternative local provision of at least equivalent suitability and accessibility will be provided; or
- ◀ That the existing use is no longer required/viable; or
- ◀ There is no demand and the facility is incapable of being made viable or adapted for other community, leisure or educational uses.

Lapsed and disused – playing field sites that formerly accommodated playing pitches but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use.

- ◀ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they are categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

The SPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from inappropriate development or replaced as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.

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It is recommended that the Council seeks to protect all disused/lapsed sites as playing fields in the first instance until such time as the Council, considers alternative appropriate uses. It is also recommended that the following priority order of options is adopted with regards to addressing disused/lapsed sites:

- 1) Firstly, explore the feasibility of bringing the site back into use. A feasibility study may show either:
 - a) The site can be brought back into sustainable use where funding is available and use is secured by the Council and relevant SGBs/Community Groups; or
 - b) The site is not in a sustainable location and in which case no amount of money will make it desirable.
- 2) The site could become public open space to meet an identified need; or
- 3) Consider alternative uses

Each currently disused/lapsed site is included within the action plan together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified with the Assessment.

Development management - the SPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, sportscotland as statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field will use the SPS to help assess that planning application.

Development Contributions - The Council's Development Contributions Policy makes provision for financial contributions to be sought from developments that would have a direct impact upon community facilities including sports grounds, sports halls and centres. These contributions are then used to provide new or enhance existing facilities in the area. Contributions will continue to be secured from proposed and future developments which would have an impact on sports grounds, halls and centres and in order to provide a level of certainty the calculation of cost is set out in the adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance: Development Contributions June 2015 which forms part of the adopted East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan.

Recommendation b – Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership working

A number of school sites are being used in East Renfrewshire for competitive play, predominately for football and especially 3G pitches. In all cases, use of pitches has not been classified as unsecure because although use for clubs is not secured in the long-term, the Council Football Pitch Lets Policy secures season-long use for clubs and teams.

sportscotland has produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use:

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/documents/resources/guidetocommunityuseofschoolsportsfacilities.pdf>

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Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, ERLC and SGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including governance, membership, funding, access to facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an (or more) income through their facilities they self-manage. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

Moving forward, consideration should be given to the merits of potentially transferring responsibility for Sports Pitch site management and community hire from the Council to ERLC. This could help to smooth the customer journey and develop greater synergy between sports development outcomes and focuses driven by the role of ERLC and community access to facilities, which along with maintenance by its Environmental department is presently administered by the Council.

The Council reports it would like to develop a more effective mechanism through which to engage and consult with partners, clubs and organisations regarding partnership working, including but not limited to applying for capital funding. This could be achieved through retention of the steering group and close working with both ERLC and SGBs to develop local relationships and identify opportunities for growth and development of clubs and leagues.

Recommendation c – Maximise community use of education sites where there is a need to do so

Given the mix of provider in East Renfrewshire, including some private clubs, there is a need for the Council and SGBs to work with other partners to help maximise use of outdoor sports facilities and in particular grass pitches, STPs and 3G pitches.

To maximise community use of educational facilities a coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs find challenge in finding good quality places for all teams to play and train. A number of sporting facilities are located on education sites. Making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and local clubs. Level of access to schools in East Renfrewshire is good, with the Council administering let's to supplement its community facilities at other sites, all within the remit of its Football Pitch Lets Policy.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised. Even on sites where community use is established for example, access to grass pitches is often limited. In some instances, they are unavailable due to their poor quality and remedial work is required prior to community use being implemented. **sportscotland** guidance, online resources and toolkits offer advice on how to open up and retain school sites for community use:

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/documents/resources/guidetocommunityuseofschoolsportsfacilities.pdf>

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Aim 2

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendation:

- d. Improve quality
- e. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Recommendation d – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality. These are explored below.

Addressing quality issues

Generally, where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, review/improve maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring existing maintenance of good quality pitches continues is also important.

Based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard is used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database, provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to these outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being *good*, *standard* or *poor* quality. In East Renfrewshire, for example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.

Good quality refers to pitches with, for example, a good maintenance regime coupled with good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to those which, for example, offer access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking. For rugby union, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, an adequate maintenance regime coupled with adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear, goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets. For rugby union, drainage is natural and adequate.

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, poor levels of maintenance coupled with inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior. For rugby union, drainage is natural and inadequate.

In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing room sizes, no showers, no running water and old dated interiors.

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Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites such as those mentioned above should be given priority for improvement. There may also be a need to improve ancillary facilities and to develop facilities to be suitable for certain groups in order to facilitate participation growth and maximise pitch use, for example compliancy for female or disability participants.

In order to prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group uses the SPS action plan to provide a steer on future investment. The Council seeks to do so and in turn secure investment into outdoor sports facilities through inclusion in it's Open Space Asset Management Plan.

Addressing overplay

To improve the overall quality of the playing pitch stock; it is necessary to ensure that they are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. The Sport England guidance adopted for this SPS recommends a number of matches that a good quality grass pitch should take:

Sport	Pitch type	Number of match equivalent sessions per week		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		

A number of sites are of poor quality but are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites generate less demand than others but could cater for greater demand were quality to increase. Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being over played, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular.

There is also a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites. Therefore, work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.

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Improving pitch maintenance

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of poor drainage. In some instances, ensuring appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each SGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

Where pitches are recommended for improvement within the action plan, carrying out additional regular work such as aerating, sand dressing, fertilising and/or weed killing will all improve quality. An improvement in post-season remedial work is also recommended. It is recommended that the Council works with users and the SFA to fully determine the scope of technical works required on a site by site basis, meeting SGB guidelines on equipment and processes where possible.

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the District, including some local authority sites. It is recommended that a holistic view is taken with regard to improvements and provision onsite and that where improvements are required to more than one aspect of facilities, for example pitch quality and ancillary facilities, that these improvements are undertaken as part of one scheme where possible. This way investment into improvement is of value and maximised without retaining obstructive factors, such as poor quality or insufficient provision limiting potential for use of newly improved pitches.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports such as Kingston Playing Field and sites which are key focuses for growth in female participation such as Whitecraigs RFC should be prioritised for improvements. There is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance.

Recommendation e – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch facilities.

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a co-ordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Sports Pitch Steering Group.

Some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important, however, that the Council seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development involving education, SGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding provision duplication.

Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence. However, one of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health and wellbeing.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Aim 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Recommendations:

- f. Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock.
- g. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendation f - Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations. It is important that current levels of grass pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports, the future demand for provision identified in East Renfrewshire can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality to improve pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.
- ◀ Re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

While maximising the use of existing pitches offers scope to address the quantitative deficiencies for most sports, new or additional pitches may be required to meet the levels of demand identified for football and rugby both now and in the future.

There may be an opportunity to use some senior pitches to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (applying different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). However, further work should be undertaken on this as an action for the Council/SGBs. Furthermore, the re-designation of adult pitches that are not currently used may cause a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates to unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e., it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The table on page 31 highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities. However, it is important to note that these are subject to change.

Retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where low demand is identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. Site-by-site action planning provides further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Recommendation g - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both current and future demand

The Council should use, and regularly update, the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Furthermore, any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer the potential to meet community need on a localised basis. Where schools close their playing fields may be converted to dedicated community use to help address any unmet community need.

Some sites (or adjacent land) in East Renfrewshire also have the potential to accommodate more pitches. This may offer a solution to meeting shortfalls identified as is further explored within the action plan.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PART 5: ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The site-by-site action plan list lists key issues identified in the accompanying Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. Recommendation H below explains the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed via Strategy implementation.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with SGBs and other partners to set out a priority list of actions based on local priorities, SGB priorities and available funding.

Recommendation h – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) for the management and improvement of sites

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities

Identification of sites is based on strategic importance in a District-wide context i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified on a sport by sport basis or for the District as a whole.

Recommended tiered site criteria:

Hub sites	Key sites	Local sites	Reserve sites
Strategically located. Priority sites for SGB.	Strategically located within the Analysis Area.	Serves the local community. Likely to include education sites.	Serves the local community.
Accommodates three or more good quality grass pitches. Including provision of at least one STP/3G pitch.	Accommodates two or more good quality grass pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site.
Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.
Maintenance regime aligns with SGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with SGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in-house maintenance contract.	Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Hub sites are of District wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi sport. These are identified on the basis of high impact on addressing the issues identified in the assessment. The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of hub sites are significant, especially where a number of user clubs are part of a Community Sports Hub based onsite.

Where development of hub sites includes provision of 3G pitches for football it is recommended that further modelling/feasibility work is carried out to ensure sustainability of new 3G pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures. However, as a priority consultation should be carried out with leagues/clubs to gauge acceptance/buy in of moving competitive play to 3G pitches in the future.

Key sites although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or combination thereof). However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key centres to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those which are generally one and two pitch based and may be Council owned hired to clubs for a season or have been leased on a long-term basis. However, they are also likely to be private club sites serving one particular sport.

It is possible for sites included in this tier to not be currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. SGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that a club can maintain. In the longer term, a club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

Reserve sites could be used as overspill for neighbouring sites and/or for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They are most likely to be single-pitch sites with no ancillary facilities or school sites where there is no current demand for community use.

Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Business plan/master-plan; including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Availability of funding for hub site development.
- ◀ Impact on all sports that use a site regardless of the sport that is the subject of enhancements.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Action plan columns

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisation with which the Council will liaise to deliver the actions. The next stage in development of the action plan will be to agree a lead partner to help deliver the actions.

Site hierarchy tier and priority level

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority level as they have District wide importance, high priority sites are identified on the basis of the impact that they have on addressing key issues identified in the assessment. As a consequence, some key centres are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

It is recommended that as the Steering Group reviews and updates the action plan and that medium and low priority sites are then identified as the next level of sites for attention. As a guide, it is recommended that:

Key centres are a **medium** priority, have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that they have addressing issues identified in the assessment.

Low priority sites generally have local specific importance and have been identified on a site by site basis as issues appertaining to individual sites but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment

Priority level is shown as follows:

Priority Level		
Low	Medium	High

Costs

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on approximate cost. The brackets in which these sit are:

- ◀ Low (L)- less than £50k
- ◀ Medium (M) - £50k-£250k
- ◀ High (H) - £250k and above.

Timescales

The action plan should be delivered over a ten-year period. Information in the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan requires updating as developments occur. Timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based – they fall within three categories:

- ◀ Short (S) – 1 to 2 years
- ◀ Medium (M) - 3 to 5 years
- ◀ Long (L) - 6+ years

Aim

Each action meets at least one of the three Strategy aims; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

BARRHEAD & NEILSTON ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2027) ⁶
Football (grass pitches)	Barrhead & Neilston	Adult pitch demand can be met with some spare capacity. Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches is balanced, with no spare capacity available	Adult pitch demand can be met with some spare capacity Shortfall of 2.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions per week, though this could also be accommodated on 3G pitches as is the preferred surface for mini soccer in the District
Football (3G pitches) ⁷	East Renfrewshire	Football training demand can be met by existing provision, though there may be scope for additional 3G pitch provision if viable and sustainable, or for example based on school need.	
Rugby union	Barrhead & Neilston	No club demand	No club demand
Cricket	East Renfrewshire	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square
Hockey (Sand/water STPs)	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply and access	Demand can be met by existing level of supply and access
Tennis	Barrhead & Neilston	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply
Outdoor bowling	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply	Demand can be met by existing level of supply
Athletics	East Renfrewshire	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision
Golf	East Renfrewshire	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply

⁶ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

⁷ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
1	Arthurlie Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	Two good quality bowling greens which are owned, maintained, managed and used by Arthurlie BC. It is considered that there is sufficient capacity on the greens to accommodate increased demand. Ancillary facilities on the site are deemed standard quality, with poor changing and storage having been subject to arson offsetting the good quality of the clubhouse.	Sustain current green quality by continuing with the maintenance regime. Seek to improve the changing and storage facilities, whilst also increasing security of the site to reduce inappropriate use and improve site quality.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Enhance & Protect
3	Barrhead Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One good quality bowling green which is owned, maintained, managed and used by Barrhead BC. The green has capacity for additional demand.	Sustain green quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
11	Cowan Park (with Barrhead High School)	ERC	Football	Ten mini 7v7 pitches and four adult pitches. All of the adult pitches and four of the mini 7v7 pitches are standard quality, due in part to being located on a floodplain and suffering from some drainage issues. The remaining six mini 7v7 are all good quality. The site has actual spare capacity totalling two match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain the maintenance programme for all pitches to retain pitch quality. Consider installing a formal drainage system for pitches suffering from drainage issues. Continue to make the pitches available for community use, allowing sufficient spare capacity to allow the pitches to recover from periods of high levels of use.	ERC	Hub	Medium	Low	Short	Protect Enhance Provide
			Tennis	Three poor quality blaise and three good quality macadam tennis courts which have capacity for additional demand. The courts are owned and maintained by ERC and are used by Barrhead Community Tennis. None of the courts are floodlit. ERLC has aspirations for further investment to develop facilities as a community tennis hub.	Seek to resurface the poor quality courts and to add floodlighting to some or all of the six courts, with installation of digital access system. Ringfence revenue generated through the digital bookings to form a sinking fund for future repair and eventual resurfacing of the courts. Sustain the current quality of the macadam courts by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ERC LTA		Low	Medium	Short/ Medium	

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
11	Cowan Park (with Barrhead High School)	ERC	3G	Plans to create a new 3G pitch as part of new sports facilities for use by the School and community.	Secure access for community users and maximise community use for training and match play, particularly to facilitate the growth of mini soccer and girls football through ERSDA. ERCL to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release capacity indoors to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports.	ERLC ERC	Hub	Medium	High	Short	Protect Enhance Provide
			Athletics	Plans to develop a new synthetic track as part of new sports facilities for use by the School and community.	Secure community use of the facility and seek to develop a satellite club to act as a feeder to Giffnock Amateur AC, in order to increase athletics opportunity in presently unserved areas of the District.	ERC ERCL UKA		Medium	Medium/ High		

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
11	Cowan Park (with Barrhead High School)	Sports Club	3G	Full sized, medium pile 3G pitch built in 2014 of good quality. The pitch is floodlit and is available for 34 hours during the peak period. Leased to Barrhead Youth FC which manages the pitch. The pitch is at capacity during the peak period.	<p>Maximise use of capacity available on Sundays to facilitate the establishment and growth of girls' divisions with ERSDA.</p> <p>Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.</p> <p>Ensure that a mechanism is in place for future resurfacing or refurbishment work.</p> <p>ERCL to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release capacity indoors to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports.</p>	ERCL ERC	Hub	Low	Low	Long	Protect Enhance Provide
25	Kingston Playing Field	ERC	Football	Two good quality adult pitches which have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site has poor quality changing facilities which require modernisation and refurbishment, as well as an increase in the number of showers available.	<p>Explore options to improve changing provision either through replacement or refurbishment, with funding potential accessible through other local partners.</p> <p>Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.</p>	ERC	Local	Medium	Medium	Short/ Medium	Enhance Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
32	Neilston Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One poor quality bowling green which is owned, maintained, managed and used by Neilston BC. The site is the only bowling venue which has issues relating to access for disabled participants.	Seek to improve the green quality through an increased maintenance programme. Improve facilities to enable disabled access to both the green and the ancillary facilities.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Short	Protect Enhance
40	St. Luke's High School	ERC	3G	A full size (90x45m) good quality, medium pile 3G pitch which is floodlit and was installed in 2013. The pitch is at capacity from football demand throughout the 22 hours it is available during the peak period. Indoor hall facilities onsite are particularly heavily used for indoor football (100% usage), limiting capacity available for access by other indoor sports clubs/groups.	ERCL to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release capacity indoors to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports. Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Explore whether demand exists to increase the number of hours that the pitch is available for use during the peak period.	ERCL ERC	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
			Blaise	A blaise pitch which was formerly marked with an athletics track. The surface is not used for formal sport and has no demand for use.	Consider development options for blaise pitch either through removal or redevelopment as an STP/3G pitch.	ERC	Local	Low	Low	Long	Enhance Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
65	Shanks Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One good quality bowling green which has capacity for additional demand.	Sustain current green quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
68	Arthurlie FC	Sports Club	Football	One standard quality adult pitch which has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site is owned and maintained by Arthurlie Academy FC which compete in the West of Scotland Super League Premier Division.	Seek to improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance regime. Continue to train off-site to prevent the pitch from being overplayed.	SFA	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect Enhance
70	Brig O'Lea Stadium (Neilston Juniors)	Sports Club	Football	One standard quality adult pitch which has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site is owned and maintained by Neilston Juniors FC which compete in the SJFA West Region Central Division 1.	Seek to improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance regime. Continue to train off-site to prevent the pitch from being overplayed.	SFA	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect Enhance

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

EAGLESHAM ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2027) ⁸
Football (grass pitches)	Eaglesham	Supply and demand is balanced, with no spare capacity available	Supply and demand is balanced, with no spare capacity available
Football (3G pitches) ⁹	East Renfrewshire	Football training demand can be met by existing provision, <i>though there may be scope for additional 3G pitch provision if viable and sustainable, or for example based on school need.</i>	
Rugby union	Eaglesham	No club demand	No club demand
Cricket	East Renfrewshire	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square
Hockey (Sand/water STPs)	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply and access	Demand can be met by existing level of supply and access
Tennis	Eaglesham	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply
Outdoor bowling	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply	Demand can be met by existing level of supply
Athletics	East Renfrewshire	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision
Golf	East Renfrewshire	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply

⁸ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

⁹ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
16	Eaglesham Playing Fields	ERC	Football	One good quality adult pitch which has 1.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity but no actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	ERC	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

NEWTON MEARNS ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2027) ¹⁰
Football (grass pitches)	Newton Mearns	Adult pitch demand can be met with some spare capacity. Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches is balanced, with no spare capacity available	Adult pitch demand can be met with some spare capacity. Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches is balanced, with no spare capacity available
Football (3G pitches) ¹¹	East Renfrewshire	Football training demand can be met by existing provision, <i>though there may be scope for additional 3G pitch provision if viable and sustainable, or for example based on school need.</i>	
Rugby union	Newton Mearns	No club demand	No club demand
Cricket	East Renfrewshire	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square
Hockey (Sand/water STPs)	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply and access	Demand can be met by existing level of supply and access
Tennis	Newton Mearns	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply
Outdoor bowling	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply	Demand can be met by existing level of supply
Athletics	East Renfrewshire	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision
Golf	East Renfrewshire	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply

¹⁰ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

¹¹ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
13	Crookfur Playing Fields	ERC	Football	Two good quality adult pitches which have one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The lower of the two pitches does have some drainage issues following sustained periods of precipitation.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Seek to improve the drainage of the lower pitch to reduce occurrences of matches having to be cancelled due to inadequate drainage.	ERC	Local	Low	Medium	Long	Enhance Protect
18	Eastwood High School	ERC	Athletics	A four lane, synthetic, good quality athletics track which was built in 2013. The track does not meet competition criteria and has issues with a lack of ancillary and field event facilities. The site is one of the home venues of Giffnock Amateur AC.	Seek to establish access to toilet and bag storage facilities for participants as a minimum. Sustain track quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ERLC SA	Hub	Low	Medium	Medium	Protect Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
18	Eastwood High School	ERC	3G	A full size, medium pile 3G pitch which was installed in 2013 and good quality. The pitch is subject to both curricular and community demand. It is floodlit and available for 34 hours of community use during the peak period. Of this 34 hours there is no spare capacity for additional demand with all usage from football.	ERLC to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release capacity indoor capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports. Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.	ERLC ERC	Hub	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
18	Eastwood High School	ERC	STP	<p>A full size, sand dressed STP which is floodlit and available for community use. The pitch was installed in 2013 and is good quality. The goals on the site require renewal.</p> <p>The site is the home venue of Giffnock HC, although the Club's clubhouse facility is off-site. The Club access the pitch for match demand on Saturdays and two hours for training on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The remainder of the capacity is utilised by local football teams.</p>	<p>Protect the pitch for hockey use and maintain current level of access for hockey.</p> <p>Seek to provide new hockey goals due to poor condition of existing goals.</p> <p>ERLC to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release capacity indoor capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports.</p> <p>Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.</p> <p>Ensure that a mechanism for sustainability is in place for resurfacing and refurbishment.</p>	ERC ERLC SH	Hub	Low	Low	Short	Protect Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
28	Mearns Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One good quality bowling green which is owned, managed, maintained and used by Mearns BC. The green has capacity for additional demand. Ancillary facilities on site are deemed poor despite recent funding which enable refurbishment of toilets and ladies changing facilities. It is felt that further funds are required to improve the remainder of the facilities.	Sustain current green quality by continuing with the existing maintenance regime. Seek to improve the ancillary facilities by refurbishing the remaining changing rooms and clubhouse area.	BS	Local	Low	Medium	Long	Enhance Protect
29	Mearns Castle High School	ERC	3G	A full size, medium pile 3G pitch which is good quality having been installed in 2016. The pitch is available for 33 hours of the 34 within the recommended peak period; 85% of this is already used for football demand. There is 15% of this time currently available for additional demand Indoor hall facilities onsite are particularly heavily used for indoor football (81% usage), limiting capacity available for access by other indoor sports clubs/groups.	ERLC to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release capacity indoor capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports. Sustain pitch quality through sustained level of maintenance. Retain availability for community use. Ensure that a mechanism for sustainability is in place for resurfacing and refurbishment.	ERLC ERC	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
62	Whitecraigs Golf Club	Sports Club	Golf	An 18 hole golf course which is owned and managed by the Golf Club. The course is available to both members and for pay-and-play.	Maintain the course to its current standard. Continue to make the course available for pay and play.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
71	Broomburn	ERC	Blaise	A large blaise pitch which formerly had an adult football pitch marked out. The surface has no sporting value and is not used for formal sport.	Consider options for redevelopment of the pitch as a more suitable, modern sports facility.	ERC	Reserve	Low	Low	Long	Enhance Provide
NEW	St Claire's Primary School	ERC	3G	Small 60x40m sized 3G pitch recently built at the new primary school which forms part of the Faith Campus.	Maximise use to accommodate football team training and junior match play. Ensure that a mechanism for sustainability is in place for resurfacing and refurbishment.	ERC	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
-	New Maidenhill Primary School	ERC	TBC	Plans for the creation of a further primary school. This will require additional outdoor sports provision, whilst community sports facilities are also likely to be provided as part of the area-wide development.	Consider opportunities to facilitate community use through design and to secure external use for the local community.	ERC	Local	Medium	High	Short/ Medium	Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

RURAL ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2027) ¹²
Football (grass pitches)	Rural	Supply and demand is balanced, with no spare capacity available	Supply and demand is balanced, with no spare capacity available
Football (3G pitches) ¹³	East Renfrewshire	Football training demand can be met by existing provision, <i>though there may be scope for additional 3G pitch provision if viable and sustainable, or for example based on school need.</i>	
Rugby union	Rural	Shortfall of 21.5 match equivalent sessions per week	Shortfall of 22.5 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	East Renfrewshire	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square
Hockey (Sand/water STPs)	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply and access	Demand can be met by existing level of supply and access
Tennis	Rural	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply
Outdoor bowling	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply	Demand can be met by existing level of supply
Athletics	East Renfrewshire	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision
Golf	East Renfrewshire	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply

¹² Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

¹³ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
6	Busby Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One good quality bowling green which is owned, managed, maintained and used by Busby BC. The Club has 105 playing members with the green deemed able to accommodate increased demand.	Sustain the current green quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
12	Crofthead Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	A standard quality bowling green which is owned, maintained, managed and used by Crofthead BC. The green has capacity for additional demand. Standard quality ancillary facilities due to a lack of parking offsetting the good quality of the clubhouse.	Sustain the current green quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Explore options to provide parking locally as onsite provision is not possible.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect Provide
15	Eaglesham Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One good quality bowling green which is owned, maintained, managed and used by Eaglesham BC. The Club has 110 playing members with the green deemed able to accommodate increased demand.	Sustain the current green quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
30	Mearns Primary School	ERC	STP	<p>A full size, sand dressed STP which is poor quality and requires resurfacing having been installed in 2001.</p> <p>The pitch is beyond its recommended lifespan and suffers from drainage issues.</p> <p>The pitch is available for community use and floodlit, however, the poor quality and drainage issue means that use of the pitch is minimal with usage solely coming from football teams requiring midweek training.</p>	<p>Resurface the pitch to improve quality and suitability for use and rectify issues with drainage.</p> <p>Consider optimal STP surface for school and community requirements and viability of resurfacing the pitch with a 3G surface to appropriately accommodate current users if able to meet education requirements.</p> <p>Upon resurfacing, ERLC to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release indoor capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports.</p> <p>Ensure that a mechanism for sustainability is in place for resurfacing and refurbishment.</p>	ERC ERLC SFA SH	Local	Medium	High	Medium	Enhance Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
47	Uplawmoor Playing Fields	Sports Club	Tennis	<p>Three good quality macadam tennis courts which are available for community use but are not floodlit. The site is leased by Uplawmoor TC which is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the courts.</p> <p>The courts have capacity for additional demand whilst the Club aspires to increase both senior and junior memberships.</p>	<p>Continue to maintain the courts to the current quality.</p> <p>Explore potentially providing floodlighting for the courts to allow use throughout the year.</p> <p>When the long-term lease agreement is nearing conclusion, ensure that this agreement is renewed to the benefit of both ERC and the Club.</p>	LTA	Local	Low	Medium	Medium	Enhance Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
50	Whitecraigs Rugby Club	Sports Club	Rugby Union	<p>Three senior pitches, two of which are poor quality (both floodlit) with poor drainage whilst the third pitch is standard quality (partially floodlit) with pipe and slit drainage. Also used by Glasgow Alphas RUFC.</p> <p>Site overplay amounts to 22.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The Club is in the process of installing floodlighting on the partially lit pitch so that some training demand can be relocated to make use of spare capacity it has. It has future aspirations to grow participation amongst women and girls. The site is also utilised by local secondary schools for both matches and training as none of the local schools have rugby union provision. Pitches are also used by a Giffnock Archers during the summer.</p>	<p>Improve quality and frequency of maintenance and remedial work to increase pitch quality and in turn capacity to reduce levels of overplay onsite.</p> <p>In the longer term, seek to access additional capacity to sustain levels of club and school demand, either through creation of additional natural turf pitches as a satellite venue, or through World Rugby compliance of 3G pitches to accommodate at least a proportion of training.</p> <p>Improve quality and compliance of ancillary facilities to facilitate the growth of female participation, in order to meet SRU safeguarding recommendations.</p>	SRU	Key	Medium	Low/ Medium	Short/ Medium	Protect Enhance

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
52	Williamwood High School	ERC	Athletics	A six lane synthetic athletics track which is rated as good quality. The track was installed in 2005 and meets minimum standards for competition in terms of lanes. However, the track does not meet licensing criteria for competition due to the presence of a fenced 3G pitch restricting view across the track. The track is one of the home venues of Giffnock Amateur AC and lacks adequate ancillary facilities for changing and storage.	Sustain track quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Seek to provide appropriate ancillary provision on site, including changing rooms, storage and shelter/seating for non-competitors. Explore potential to create a field event practice facility on neighbouring land.	ERC SA	Hub	Low	Medium	Medium	Protect Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
52	Williamwood High School	ERC	3G	A full size, medium pile 3G pitch which is good quality having been installed in 2017. The pitch is available for 31 hours of the 34 within the recommended peak period; 87% of this is already used for football demand. There is 13% of this time currently available for additional demand. Indoor hall facilities onsite are particularly heavily used for indoor football (71% usage), limiting capacity available for access by other indoor sports clubs/groups.	ERLC to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release capacity indoor capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports. Sustain current maintenance regime to ensure continued quality for use. Ensure that a mechanism for sustainability is in place for resurfacing and refurbishment.	ERLC ERC	Hub	Low	Low	Long	Protect
			STP	A full size, sand dressed STP, which is floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is good quality having been refurbished in 2016. The pitch is available for 34 hours during the peak period, none of this is used by hockey teams. Use of the surface is by football teams only, which use the pitch midweek for training demand.	ERLC to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release capacity indoor capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports. Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Ensure that a mechanism is in place for future resurfacing and refurbishment.	ERLC ERC		Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
54	Bonnyton Golf Club	Sports Club	Golf	An 18 hole golf course which is owned and managed by the Golf Club. The course is available to both members and for pay-and-play.	Maintain the course to its current standard. Continue to make the course available for pay and play.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
55	Caldwell Golf Club	Sports Club	Golf	An 18 hole golf course which is owned and managed by the Golf Club. The course is available to both members and for pay-and-play.	Maintain the course to its current standard. Continue to make the course available for pay and play.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
57	East Renfrewshire Golf Club	Sports Club	Golf	An 18 hole golf course which is owned and managed by the Golf Club. The course is available to both members and for pay-and-play.	Maintain the course to its current standard. Continue to make the course available for pay and play.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
58	Eastwood Golf Club	Sports Club	Golf	An 18 hole golf course which is owned and managed by the Golf Club. The course is available to both members and for pay-and-play.	Maintain the course to its current standard. Continue to make the course available for pay and play.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
59	Ferezeze Golf Club	Sports Club	Golf	An 18 hole golf course which is owned and managed by the Golf Club. The course is available to both members and for pay-and-play.	Maintain the course to its current standard. Continue to make the course available for pay and play.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
60	Mearns Castle Golf Club	Sports Club	Golf	A nine hole golf course which is owned and managed by the Golf Club. The course is available to both members and for pay-and-play. There is also a floodlit driving range on site which members of the public can pay to use.	Maintain the course to its current standard. Continue to make the course available for pay and play.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
61	Rouken Glen Golf Centre	Sports Club	Golf	An 18 hole golf course located adjacent to David Lloyd Rouken Glen. The site is owned by ERC and leased to David Lloyd Sports Centre which operates the course as part of its accessible health and fitness club membership package. There is also a floodlit driving range on site which members of the public can pay to use.	Continue to maintain the course to the current quality. Ensure that the course remains available for use.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
67	David Lloyd Rouken Glen	Private	Tennis	Two good quality macadam tennis courts which are floodlit but are not available for community use. The courts are only available to members of the health club.	Sustain current maintenance programme to ensure that court quality does not decline.	LTA	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Time-scale	Aim
NEW	Rouken Glen Park	ERC	Tennis	Aspirations to develop new tennis provision as a parks tennis offer, to include two new courts without floodlighting.	Create new tennis courts with free to play provision. Option for Community Coaching sessions.	ERC LTA ERLC	Local	High	Medium/ High	Short/ Medium	Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

THORNLIEBANK, GIFFNOCK & CLARKSTON ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2027) ¹⁴
Football (grass pitches)	Thornliebank, Giffnock & Clarkston	Demand can be met with some spare capacity	Demand can be met with some spare capacity
Football (3G pitches) ¹⁵	East Renfrewshire	Football training demand can be met by existing provision, <i>though there may be scope for additional 3G pitch provision if viable and sustainable, or for example based on school need.</i>	
Rugby union	Thornliebank, Giffnock & Clarkston	Shortfall of 11.75 match equivalent sessions per week	Shortfall of 11.75 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	East Renfrewshire	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square	Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season, with demand for a natural turf cricket square
Hockey (Sand/water STPs)	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply and access	Demand can be met by existing level of supply and access
Tennis	East Renfrewshire	Demand for access to addition court capacity in the Thornliebank, Giffnock & Clarkston area to service demand from Giffnock TC	
Outdoor bowling	East Renfrewshire	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply	Demand can be met by existing level of supply
Athletics	East Renfrewshire	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision	Demand for track training can be catered for, however there is requirement for field practice facilities and access to ancillary provision
Golf	East Renfrewshire	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply

¹⁴ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

¹⁵ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
7	Busby Tennis Club	Sports Club	Tennis	Three good quality artificial grass tennis courts which are all floodlit. The site is owned, managed, maintained and used by Busby TC. The courts have capacity for the additional demand that the Club aspires to have.	Sustain current court quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.	LTA	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
10	Clarkston Tennis & Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One bowling green of standard quality. The site is the home venue of Clarkston BC and has capacity for additional demand.	Seek to improve green quality by increasing the current level of maintenance.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect Enhance
			Tennis	Three macadam and three artificial grass courts; all of which are good quality and floodlit. The site is owned, managed, maintained and used by Clarkston TC and has capacity for additional demand.	Sustain current court quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.	LTA	Local	Low	Low	Long	

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
20	Giffnock Tennis, Squash and Hockey	Sports Club	Tennis	<p>Nine artificial grass courts, three of which are junior size and standard quality. The remaining six are all good quality and floodlit.</p> <p>The site is owned, managed, maintained and used by Giffnock TC.</p> <p>The Club plans to convert the three junior courts to two full size indoor courts which would then enable year-round use. It is deemed that there is no spare capacity on site for additional demand. The proposed development will reduce overplay but the Club requires access to a secondary venue.</p>	<p>Sustain the good quality courts by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensuring that current levels of overplay do not adversely affect quality.</p> <p>Ensure that the proposed courts are of a good quality and available for community use.</p> <p>Seek a secondary venue to eliminate overplay at the Club's primary venue, preventing court quality being adversely affected.</p>	LTA	Key	Low	High	Long	Protect Provide
21	Glasgow Hutchesons' Aloysians (GHA) RFC	Sports Club	Rugby Union	<p>Three standard quality senior pitches, two of which are fully floodlit with the third partially floodlit. The pitches are subject to match play</p>	<p>Seek to increase pitch capacity and quality by improving the current maintenance programme.</p> <p>Consider installing a</p>	SRU	Key	Medium	High	Long	Protect Enhance Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
				<p>and training demand resulting in all pitches being overplayed by an accumulative 11.75 match equivalent sessions.</p> <p>Drainage of the pitches can be an issue following periods of sustained precipitation.</p> <p>The site is owned by Glasgow Hutchesons' Aloysians RFC which hopes to develop a WR 22 compliant 3G pitch onsite.</p>	<p>formal drainage system on all pitches to increase capacity and improve pitch quality.</p> <p>Examine the viability of a WR compliant 3G pitch on site provided that the pitch is available for community use and that the business plan for the pitch is suitable.</p>						

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
23	Huntly Playing Fields	ERC	Football	Three adult pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch. All pitches are good quality, except on adult pitch which is standard quality due to drainage issues. The site suffers from drainage issues and dog fouling. Both pitch types have potential spare capacity, however, only the adult pitches have actual spare capacity during the peak period amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Continue with the current maintenance programme to sustain pitch quality. Seek to improve the drainage of the standard quality pitch, potentially by installing a formal drainage system. Encourage dog walkers to clean up after dogs by increasing the number of bins provided on site.	ERC	Local	Low	Low	Long	Enhance Protect
31	Muirend Playing Fields	ERC	Football	Two adult and seven mini 7v7 pitches, all of which are good quality and available for community use. Both pitch types have actual spare capacity during the peak period totalling one and 5.5 match equivalent sessions respectively.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.	ERC	Key	Medium	Low	Short	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
31	Muirend Playing Fields	ERC	3G	Four poor quality, medium pile, small sized 3G pitches which are floodlit and available for community use.	<p>Seek to resurface the pitches to improve quality and to ensure a robust and regular maintenance regime is in place.</p> <p>Upon resurfacing, ERLC to seek to transfer a proportion football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release indoor capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports.</p> <p>Ensure that a mechanism for sustainability is in place for resurfacing and refurbishment.</p>	ERC ERLC	Key	Medium	Medium	Short	Protect Enhance
34	Netherlee Playing Fields	ERC	Football	Two good quality mini 7v7 pitches which have two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site does have issues with damage to the surface from unofficial use and moles.	<p>Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime and seek to reduce impact of damage by moles.</p> <p>Seek to reduce unofficial use of the pitches through routine checks.</p>	ERC	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
35	Overlee Playing Fields	ERC	Blaise	A small blaise pitch which does not have any markings. The surface has no sporting value and is not used for formal sport.	Consider development options for blaise pitch either through removal or resurfacing as an STP.	ERC	Key	Low	Low	Long	Provide
			Football	Two good quality adult pitches; four good quality mini 7v7 pitches; and one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch. All available for community use but only adult pitches have actual spare capacity during the peak period totalling one match equivalent session. Standard quality mini pitch is located on the most northern part of the site, suffering from drainage issues following periods of sustained precipitation.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Consider installing a formal drainage system on the standard quality pitch to minimise the adverse effects of sustained rainfall.	ERC		Low	Medium	Long	Enhance Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
36	Pro-Soccer Glasgow	Private	3G	Five small size, medium pile 3G pitches which are floodlit and available for community use. The pitches are managed as a commercial site with pitches available for pay and play. All pitches are standard quality.	Seek to improve pitch quality by increasing pitch maintenance. Ensure that a mechanism for sustainability is in place for future resurfacing and refurbishment. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	SFA	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect Enhance
42	St. Ninian's High School	Sports Club	3G	A full size, good quality, medium pile 3G pitch leased to Giffnock Soccer Centre by the Council. The pitch is within its recommended lifespan having been installed in 2012. The pitch is available for the full 34 hours of the peak period but has no spare capacity as all hours are used to accommodate football demand. Adjoining ancillary facilities are owned by the Club, which hopes to develop them to provide a formal clubhouse for members.	ERLC to seek to transfer a proportion of football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release indoor capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports. Sustain pitch quality by retaining current standard of maintenance. Ensure that a mechanism for future sustainability is in place	ERLC ERC Giffnock Soccer Centre	Hub	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
42	St. Ninian's High School	ERC	STP	<p>A full size, sand dressed STP which is not floodlit but is good quality. The pitch was installed in 2014 and is available for community use. Due to the pitch not being floodlit there is no usage of the pitch during the week. No present community hockey use of this pitch.</p> <p>Access to the site is reportedly difficult. The site is the preferred home venue of Giffnock HC due to its proximity to the Club's clubhouse, however a lack of floodlighting means that this is not a viable option.</p>	<p>Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to increase potential hours available for community use in the evenings, including temporary or mobile floodlighting solutions which allow use of some pitch space without considerable light spillage affecting nearby housing.</p> <p>Ensure that a mechanism for sustainability is in place for future resurfacing and refurbishment.</p>	ERC SH	Hub	Low	Medium	Long	Protect Enhance
44	Stamperland Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	<p>Good quality bowling green owned, maintained, managed and used by Stamperland BC. Green is deemed able to accommodate increased demand.</p>	<p>Sustain current maintenance programme to ensure that green quality does not decline.</p>	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
45	Thornliebank Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One good quality bowling green which is owned, maintained, managed and used by Thornliebank BC. The green is deemed able to accommodate increased demand.	Sustain current maintenance programme to ensure that green quality does not decline.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
49	Whitecraigs Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	Poor quality bowling green which is owned by Whitecraigs BC. Planning permission has been sought to develop the site. Designated conservation area.	Should the green be lost to residential development, ensure mitigation is secured towards reinvestment into bowling facilities in the area to service increase in population from the development and ensure current club members can be accommodated at greens elsewhere.	BS ERC	Local	High	Medium	Short	Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
51	Whitecraigs Tennis Club	Sports Club	Tennis	<p>Six good quality artificial clay courts, all of which are floodlit; two standard quality artificial grass courts which are not floodlit; and one poor quality macadam court which is junior sized and not floodlit.</p> <p>The site is owned, managed, maintained and used by Whitecraigs TC. The courts are overplayed despite having recently been resurfaced. The Club aspires to increase club membership, increasing overplay, which means that the Club should utilise a secondary venue or consider installing floodlighting on all available courts.</p>	<p>Continue with the maintenance regime of the good quality courts.</p> <p>Seek to improve quality of all remaining courts through improved maintenance or potential resurfacing.</p> <p>To reduce overplay explore the option of floodlighting all courts.</p> <p>Consider whether utilisation of a secondary venue would benefit the Club in the longer term.</p>	LTA	Local	Low	Medium	Medium	Protect Enhance Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
53	Woodfarm Playing Fields	Sports Club	Cricket	<p>Poor quality NTP which is the home venue for East Renfrewshire CC. The pitch is overplayed by 42 match equivalent sessions per season due to accommodating both match and training demand for all teams and community groups. 28 years remaining on the lease agreement with the Club maintaining the pitch and outfield. Demand for a natural turf square to meet league facility requirements. Ancillary building is multi-use and rented by the Club from the Council, due to the need to continue to host other activities within.</p> <p>The site will receive additional use by Woodfarm High School which is to become a School of Cricket.</p>	<p>Replace the existing poor NTP and seek to secure mobile net and onsite storage to improve facilities available for training and coaching, Seek to develop to develop a natural turf square on the basis that it can be sustainably managed and prepared by the Club, with covers to protect it. Some qualitative improvements to drainage onsite may be required to support this.</p>	CS ERLC	Hub	High	Low/ Medium	Short	Protect Enhance Provide

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
53	Woodfarm Playing Fields	ERC	3G	One full sized 3G, floodlit and good quality having been built in 2017. 90% used for football demand with 10% spare capacity. Also onsite are three good quality, small sized 3G pitches which are also floodlit. Used for both training and match play, with some primary school use.	ERLC to seek to transfer a proportion of football activity from indoor halls to synthetic turf provision where appropriate to release indoor capacity to facilitate the growth of predominantly indoor sports. Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Ensure that a mechanism is in place for future resurfacing or refurbishment.	ERLC ERC	Hub	Low	Low	Long	Protect Enhance Provide
56	Cathcart Castle Golf Club	Sports Club	Golf	An 18 hole golf course which is owned and managed by the Golf Club. The course is available to both members and for pay-and-play.	Maintain the course to its current standard. Continue to make the course available for pay and play.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect
63	Williamwood Golf Club	Sports Club	Golf	An 18 hole golf course which is owned and managed by the Golf Club. The course is available to both members and for pay-and play.	Maintain the course to its current standard. Continue to make the course available for pay and play.	SGU	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect

EAST RENFREWSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
64	Giffnock Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	Two standard quality bowling greens which are owned by Giffnock BC.	Seek to improve green quality through an increased maintenance programme.	BS	Local	Low	Low	Long	Protect Enhance
69	Northholm (Giffnock North AFC)	Sports Club	Football	One standard quality adult pitch which has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site is owned by Giffnock North AFC but is reportedly being sold for housing development (subject to planning permission).	Seek to improve pitch quality by increasing pitch maintenance. Ensure that if the site is developed on then the pitch is re-supplied locally of equal or better quality.	SFA	Local	High	Low	Short	Enhance Provide
-	Eastwood Park Leisure Centre	ERC	TBC	Proposals to develop a replacement leisure centre, potentially to include outdoor provision in the form of small 3G football cages.	If delivered, seek to maximise access for team training, casual use and by schools where appropriate.	ERC	Key	High	High	Medium	Provide

PART 6: DELIVER & UPDATE THE STRATEGY***Delivery***

The Playing Pitch Strategy provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across East Renfrewshire in the years up to 2026. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of East Renfrewshire can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies potential ways to address this the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life; one which contributes to the achievement of Council priorities.

Strategy production is the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the SPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the steering group should not end with completion of the SPS document

To ensure the SPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people to which people regularly turn for information on whether and how current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the Steering Group need to have a clear understanding of how the SPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of developing the SPS should already have resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership work across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the SPS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review of actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the SPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should be an on-going role for the Steering Group.

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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Ideally the SPS will be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that would have been built up when developing the SPS. Taking into account the time to develop the SPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How delivery of recommendations and the action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others)
- ◀ How the SPS has been applied and the lessons learnt
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Once the SPS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the SPS and playing pitch provision in the area
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the SPS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ◀ Ensures the SPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Maintains links between all relevant parties with an interest in playing pitch provision in the area;
- ◀ Reviews the need to update the SPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
 - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
 - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
 - ◀ Lead a full review and update of the SPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside regular Steering Group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships may be to hold annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport SGBs and other relevant parties. These could look to update key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the SGBs which would help to capture changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could also be fed in. The SGBs will be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area. Discussion with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which are useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

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The Steering Group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental working, including for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

The steering group should continue to represent both the Council's role as lead for the administration of assets including sports facilities and their management and upkeep, as well the role ERLC and the SGBs play in the development of sport and participation which is inherently linked to facilities. Consequently, there should be consistent and aligned communication and direction linking them. It is also important that the planning authority continues to be represented within the steering group and should play an active role in helping to shape the future of the District with sports facilities in mind. Furthermore, **sportscotland** should support and contribute to the future progression of the SPS process and is able to advise on evidence of best practice with regards to the mechanism and format the retention and actions of the steering group should take.

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APPENDIX ONE: GLOSSARY

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

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

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

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

Casual use or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or STPs and include:

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

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

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

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

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