

Torbay Playing Pitch Strategy

Draft for Consultation

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*Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9AH*

*A limited company, registered in
England and Wales no. 6165280*



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Introduction

- 1.1 - Torbay Council commissioned Neil Allen Associates to produce a Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy for Torbay in August 2013. This Playing Pitch Strategy replaces the existing document (2009), and sets out the strategic direction and site specific priorities for the future delivery of playing pitches across Torbay until 2021.
- 1.2 - It has been produced in line with the recently published Playing Pitch Strategy guidance by Sport England, and follows a prescriptive methodology, with a clearly identified approach to assessing both the demand and supply of playing pitches (see para. 1.28 and following below).
- 1.3 - This strategy also links closely with the overarching Sports Facilities Strategy for Torbay, currently also available as a Consultation Draft. It is important that playing fields and artificial grass pitches, are not viewed as standalone sports resources; they are frequently sited alongside, and benefit from, co-location and links with indoor sports facilities and other recreational infrastructure such as cycleways. In addition, pitch sports often use indoor facilities for training and variants of the traditional sports – indoor cricket, small sided soccer and futsal, for example – use sports halls for training and matches.
- 1.4 - This Draft Strategy is based upon the issues identified within the accompanying Playing Pitch Needs Assessment report, which examines in detail the facilities available, the use that is made of them and evaluates the adequacy of provision for football, cricket, rugby and hockey and the other pitch sports. The current document summarises the data, key findings and issues contained within the full Needs Assessment report and presents a draft strategy for consultation and comment.
- 1.5 - To ensure that the strategy is tailored to the needs of Torbay and reflective of the aspirations of the local sporting community, a comprehensive programme of consultation and engagement has been undertaken. The Steering Group was widely reflective of the local Council and different departments within it involved with playing pitch provision, the Local Sports Council, the national governing bodies of sport (the FA, ECB, RFU, England Hockey), Sport England, Active Devon and key local pitch sport clubs. As set out below, the following were also consulted: pitch sports clubs, local league secretaries, schools and colleges and key playing pitch providers, including Torbay Council.
- 1.6 - The views of these groups have been used to shape this draft strategy and to help draft the action and implementation plan. The consultation process continues here – to ensure that any recommended actions and priorities are reflective of the needs and aspirations of current pitch users and others involved in the management and delivery of the pitch sports in Torbay.

Strategic Vision

- 1.7 - Sport and physical activity in Torbay is thriving, although there are changes in the pattern of behavior in some pitch sports, notably the increasing popularity of small sided soccer which takes place on artificial grass pitches. Torbay Council and its partners, including the National Governing Bodies of Sport, Active Devon, Sport England and Torbay Local Sports Council, wish to ensure that there is a network of sustainable facilities in place that will promote and support participation and growth in the pitch sports. The key drivers for the production of the strategy can be related to the three tenets of Sport England to protect, enhance and provide playing pitches, as follows:

- **Protect:** To provide evidence to inform policy in the emerging Torbay Local Plan, and specifically to support Site Allocations and Development Management Policies which will protect playing fields and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership
- **Enhance:** To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that best uses are made of existing resources - whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets
- **Provide:** To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements through grant aid and also through CIL and Section 106 agreements

1.8 - The strategy seeks to support Torbay Council and its partners in attaining its Vision for Sport, which is that Torbay will be an area where:

- Accessible, affordable and high quality opportunities are provided for all ages and abilities to develop a sporting habit for life;
- sport is recognised and makes its contribution to addressing health inequalities;
- sport contributes positively to the economy of the area, raising the profile of the area as a destination for sport; and
- sports facilities are well maintained and managed and are viable and sustainable.

1.9 - To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives:

- to ensure that the amount of pitches is sufficient to meet current and projected future need
- to provide facilities of appropriate quality
- to support increasing participation in the pitch sports and sustainable club development.

1.10 - The end goal of this strategy is to deliver the overarching vision and achieve the specific aims and objectives as set out above. To do this, it is essential that provision for each sport continues to evolve and improve to meet with changing needs and aspirations. The timeframe of the Strategy is for the next ten years, with regular full reviews to accord with Sport England guidance and the local development plan.

National policy context

1.11 - At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy, as follows:

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

1.12 - The NPPF clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation, is set out in paragraphs 73 and 74 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application.

- 1.13 - Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England's National Strategy – (2012 – 2017) and Youth and Community Strategy (2012 – 2017) both underpin this playing pitch assessment.
- 1.14 - National Governing Body Facility Strategies: The Football Association (FA), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Rugby Football Union (RFU), Rugby Football League (RFL) and England Hockey all set out strategies guiding the provision of facilities for their specific sport as follows.

Local policy context

- 1.15 - Within Torbay, the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key documents.
- 1.16 - Torbay Council has recently published its proposed submission Local Plan. Its draft policy 'Policy SC2 - Sport, leisure and recreation' emphasises the importance of sport in sustaining healthy communities and maintains a presumption against the loss of existing recreational and leisure facilities, unless they are surplus to requirements and there is a compelling case made for wider social and economic benefits arising from such a proposal, and where replacement or improved facilities in lieu of existing provision, or the enhancement of provision, is able to address any new deficiencies that arise. Policy SC2 requires new development to provide access to sport leisure and recreation according to the additional demand it generates and the capacity, condition and location of existing facilities.
- 1.17 - The Policy also states that major new leisure facilities should be located on accessible and well located sites, wherever possible, using available town centre sites as first preference, then edge of town centre sites, then district centre locations and existing concentrations of facilities. It identifies a number of proposals which involve or affect the provision of playing pitches including: sports facilities at The Willows, Torquay (area of search); a closed road cycle circuit at Clennon Valley, Paignton; enhanced sports facilities at Torbay Leisure Centre, Clennon Valley, Paignton and sports facilities at Churston, Brixham (area of search). All new facilities should be co-located with existing facilities, accessible by a range of transport and compliant with other policies, particularly in relation to residential amenity. In order to deliver the new sites identified, Policy SS7 (use of s106 contributions) and Sport England cost guidance will be employed.
- 1.18 - Torbay is noteworthy for currently being the only unitary authority England with neighbourhood plans covering its entire district. Neighbourhood plans for Torquay, Paignton and the Brixham Peninsula are currently at varying stages of preparation and the partnership areas have been consulted during the preparation of this playing pitch strategy.
- 1.19 - Torbay's current Community Plan 2011- 2031 '*Working for a Healthy, Prosperous and Happy Bay*' was developed and prepared by the Torbay Strategic Partnership on behalf of all the residents of Torbay, building on the previous Community Plan '*Turning the Tide for Torbay*'. It outlines the Partnership's ambition for Torbay over the next 20 years with one key challenge of providing services for an ageing population and another to improve the quality of life for the least well off in the Bay's community. Torbay's Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan, published in April 2011 also provides an important context for playing fields which are an integral part of a healthy green infrastructure network in the Bay.

Population and Participation in Sport

- 1.20 - An understanding of population trends and overall participation in sport underpins the evaluation of the adequacy of facilities for football, cricket, rugby, and hockey in later sections. It provides an understanding of potential participation and latent demand as well as current levels of participation in sport and physical activity. As such, it provides an important context for playing pitch provision.
- 1.21 - This summary of key issues and trends draws on the findings from the Sport England Active People surveys and Sport England's Market Segmentation tool.
- **Population trends:** What are the population trends in Torbay and what does this mean for pitch sports participation?
 - **Sports Participation trends for adults in Torbay:** what are the overall trends in participation, how are these changing and what does this mean for pitch sports participation?
 - **What is the sporting profile of participants in Torbay and where do they live:** Using the Sport England market segmentation data to set out a sports and spatial profile of the most dominant population groups in Torbay. How do pitch sports rank in the importance and the amount of sports played by these groups?
- 1.22 - The theoretical information summarised in this section has been used to inform the sport specific assessments.
- 1.23 - Overall, evidence suggests that pitch sports can and do play an important role in promoting participation in Torbay. The generally 'ageing' population profile of the area, coupled with the dominance of some market segments that are not interested in playing pitch sports, does however serve to highlight the importance of balancing the provision of playing pitches with the provision of a range of other sporting opportunities.
- 1.24 - **Population projections** suggest that, whilst the total population of Torbay is likely to increase by about 5.8% (or +7,638 people) in the period 2011-2021, the proportion of residents most likely to play pitch sports is likely to increase by only 1.7% (or +583). Within this overall increase in the 'pitch sport' age group, the 'Junior Sport' (10 -19 age group) will see a fall in numbers of about -771, and the 'Adult Pitch Sport' (20-34 age group) will see an increase in numbers of about +1,354 over the same period. These population trends will have implications for future provision for pitch sports.
- 1.25 - The **Active People Survey** suggests that the overall level of 'once a week' sports participation in Torbay is lower than regional and national figures. However, the generally upward trend in participation in Torbay since 2005, alongside the recent increases in participation rates between 2011 and 2013, suggest that there are strong foundations for building participation in sport and active recreation in Torbay.
- 1.26 - The **Sports Market Segmentation** analysis provides a broad indication of the number of existing residents who currently participate in the different pitch sports, and from which market segments the majority of participants are from. It suggests that a significant number of residents (about 2,600) would like to play pitch sports (or play more). Whilst it is unlikely that all 'latent demand' would become actual demand, if fully realised this would represent a significant increase in demand for playing pitches in Torbay.
- 1.27 - The remainder of this section sets out the methodology that has been used to develop this strategy, before moving on to Section 2 which summarises the key issues arising through the detailed assessment provision.

The Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance

- 1.28 - The strategy has been developed in line with guidance by Sport England (Playing Pitch Guidance, An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy) 2013.
- 1.29 - The priorities set out in this strategy were established through the preparation of a full evidence base assessment including extensive consultation and analysis. Reflecting the geographical nature of Torbay and the three main towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham, the adequacy of facilities is largely presented on a neighbourhood planning level.
- 1.30 - The first stage – Stage A (Step 1) – of the methodology is to prepare and tailor the approach. Following this, the key phases of the methodology and the consultation and engagement with key partners is summarized below:

Stage B: Steps 2 & 3 - Gather supply and demand information and views

- 1.31 - Information was gathered on both the supply of pitches and the demand for these pitches, specifically:
- Supply – site details, accessibility and overall quality of current provision, including the use of Sport England's Active Places database, existing records of pitch provision, Sport England's non-technical visual quality assessment template, views of Torbay Council and other providers, NGBs, league secretaries, schools and user clubs
 - Demand - teams and their match and training requirements, casual and educational demand as well as displaced and latent demand, through consultation with Torbay Council, NGBs, league secretaries, schools and user clubs
 - Details of potential changes to the future pitch stock, as well as projected and aspirational increases in participation

Stage C: Steps 4, 5 & 6 – Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 1.32 - The supply and demand information collated has been used to:
- understand the situation at individual sites
 - develop the current and projected future pictures of provision
 - identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.

Stage D: Steps 7 & 8 – Developing the recommendations and action plan and writing and adopting the strategy

- 1.33 - The strategy document has been developed drawing upon the key issues identified to set out a strategic framework for the provision of pitches across Torbay. The final stage – Stage E (Steps 9 & 10) will involve delivering the strategy and keeping it up to date in order to ensure its robustness.

Structure

- 1.34 - The remainder of this strategy is set out as follows:

Section 2 – Key Findings and Issues to address for each sport; for ease of presentation, artificial grass pitches are dealt with in a separate section at the end.

2: KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES FOR THE STRATEGY -

2.1 - This section summarises the context for each of the pitch sports in Torbay and outlines the key issues to address. Reflecting the specific nature of each sport, the type of facilities required and the different issues arising, sports are considered in turn as follows;

- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby
- Hockey
- Other Pitch Sports
- AGPs for football, rugby and hockey

2.2 - Overall, in Torbay, the strategy is concerned with the following as the existing level of provision:

- 24 adult football pitches; 13 junior pitches (5 large and 8 (eight) 9v9 size) and 16 mini pitches. Of these 1 junior pitch and 10 mini pitches are on school sites and not generally available for community use.
- 11 cricket pitches, 8 with non-turf wickets
- 9 adult rugby pitches; 5 junior rugby pitches and 2 mini pitches, although additional mini pitches are often marked out on larger pitches or training areas
- Four full size artificial grass pitches – 2 sand based or filled; 2 rubber crumb (3g)
- Multi use games areas; these are considered in greater detail in the Sports Facilities Strategy, but those of particular relevance for football training are reconsidered here.
- In total, there are 40 sites where there are football pitches (including Torquay United FC's ground at Plainmoor & primary school sites); 10 sites for cricket, 13 sites for rugby and 2 sites for hockey. American football, baseball and rounders are played at Clennon Valley, and other pitch sports, such as rugby league, occasionally take place in Torbay.
- Out of 40 pitch sport sites: 26 are on education (school/college) sites, 10 are local authority sites and 4 are club sites.

FOOTBALL: KEY FINDINGS -

Overview of Pitch Supply -

Quantity

2.3 - There are 53 grass football pitches currently marked out in Torbay across 40 sites (including all schools) – 24 adult football, 5 junior football, 8 (eight) 9v9 junior pitches, and 16 mini pitches. Half the 9v9 pitches and the majority of the mini pitches are on primary schools sites, which are currently only available for use by their schools.

- 2.4 - Torbay Council owns the majority of adult pitches. A number of local authority sites are the home grounds of clubs which are currently in the process of negotiating leasehold arrangements with the Council (see 'Sustainability of Sites' below). There are three club owned sites: Galmpton Memorial Ground (Galmpton FC), Wall Park, Brixham (Brixham AFC) and Torquay United FC's ground at Plainmoor. Belfield Road (Foxhole Utd FC) is leased from Torbay Council. The remainder of the pitches are in educational ownership, each managed by individual schools. A full list of ownership of pitches, together with other supporting information, is contained within the Needs Assessment report, which accompanies this strategy. Table 2 at the end of Section 4 in this document lists all the pitch sport sites.
- 2.5 - There are also a number of sites where there have been pitches in the recent past but which are now no longer used for this purpose. These comprise:
- Ilsham Valley, Torquay – previously 2 junior pitches but not used for many years
 - Stoodley Knowle, Torquay – previously 2 adult football pitches (and a cricket pitch); now deemed unfit for use due to problems with culverts
 - Several schools no longer have pitches, either because they have been built on or use of land has changed e.g. Torre Primary School, Torquay and Hayes School, Paignton
 - Junior pitch no longer available at Torre Valley North (to be replaced by mini pitch)
 - 2 junior/mini pitches have been marked out previously at Victoria Park, Paignton
 - Easterfield Lane: previously marked out with 2 adult football pitches; not used for football for many years . Used for a few rugby league matches last summer.
- 2.6 - A number of sites have room to accommodate more pitches, should demand arise:
- King George V Playing Fields, Torquay – can accommodate another adult pitch
 - Clennon Valley: only 2 adult pitches marked at moment, but site has room for additional five adult and 2 mini pitches (or other configurations as appropriate)
 - St Mary's Park, Brixham – has room for an additional junior/mini pitch
- 2.7 - These sites may provide opportunities to increase the stock of facilities should a lack of capacity be identified in the current facility stock. However, they are not used at present for a reason – either actual lack of demand, poor quality pitches and/or lack of ancillary facilities.
- 2.8 - Areas of search for the provision of additional pitches have also been identified within the Torbay Local Plan, as follows:
- The Willows, Torquay (area of search)
 - Churston (area of search – includes Brokenbury Quarry and/or North Boundary Road)

Quality

- 2.9 - Under the Visual Quality Assessment for pitch quality in the new playing pitch methodology, two football pitches in Torbay were assessed as 'good' (scoring above 80%)– these were Churston Grammar School's two new pitches. Wall Park, Brixham

AFC's ground, was the highest scoring 'standard' pitch (at 77.3%), closely followed by White Rock in Paignton and Armada Park in Torquay. Both Churston Ferrers school pitches and Wall Park have received considerable, recent pitch maintenance investment. The majority of pitches scored between 69.3% and 74.7% in the 'standard' category. Clennon Valley's score – 66.7% as a low 'standard' rating – reflects its poor drainage and resultant damage to the pitch surface. No pitches were scored as poor (less than 50%). The lowest score for a pitch was at Steps Cross (65.3% - standard) which is a severely sloping site with a below average playing surface.

- 2.10 - Principal problems identified by users are drainage at key sites e.g. Clennon Valley, scope for improved maintenance of the pitches at certain sites and sloping pitches in Torquay. Comments were received that matches are sometimes called off too early (particularly at White Rock and Clennon Valley, Paignton).
- 2.11 - Quality of changing and ancillary facilities varies across the Bay. The highest scoring changing facilities were those that have recently been refurbished or constructed: Churston Ferrers Grammar School pitches, Foxhole Utd's ground at Belfield Road, Paignton and Galmpton FC's ground (Galmpton Memorial). Lower scoring changing facilities were those with inadequate capacity and facilities to cater for women and juniors/minis e.g. at White Rock, Paignton and Barton Down, Torquay.
- 2.12 - Lack of ancillary facilities (e.g. clubhouse, officials' changing, car parking, DDA compliancy) particularly affected scoring at Brixham St Mary's Park, Armada Park, Torquay and King George V, Torquay. Furzeham Recreation Ground in Brixham scored highly on changing facilities but other aspects of the site downgraded its score (lack of clubhouse, no dedicated parking). There is a lack of appropriate facilities at certain grounds to enable entry to higher leagues.
- 2.13 - These assessments were supported by comments from users. The generally tired appearance of many changing rooms and the distance of the changing rooms at Clennon Valley from the pitches were commented on by many teams. Parking fees at Clennon Valley were raised many times as an issue and a deterrent to use.

Overview of demand

- 2.14 - There are 94 football teams playing in Torbay in the 2013/14 season in total – 36 adult men, 2 adult ladies, 31 junior boys, 5 junior girls and 20 minis teams (boys – 2 mixed). In Torquay, there are 45 teams; in Paignton – 30, and in Brixham – 19.
- 2.15 - The number of Saturday league teams is declining year on year; however, this may not always represent an absolute decline in player numbers, and some footballers are transferring to small sided soccer and futsal, where growth is high. Some latent demand has been identified by Active People.
- 2.16 - Sunday adult football is not being played in Torbay this season (2013/2014); the Sunday League has been put 'on hold' for this season, although there are aspirations to reinstate it next season. The FA also has plans for setting up a less competitive, friendly Sunday playing network.
- 2.17 - A steady increase in junior and mini football is recorded, this will continue with the FA Youth review now offering appropriate opportunities for younger players with team playing numbers reduced for the younger age groups. Some teams are lost as players reach their late teens, and some clubs report they cannot accommodate junior growth because of (a) lack of availability of match time on 3g Football Turf pitches, (b) lack of age appropriate sized grass junior pitches and (c) lack of volunteer coaches. There is anecdotal evidence that the cost of participation can also be a constraint.

- 2.18 - The majority of players come from Torbay – the only clubs to record significant numbers of players from outside Torbay are Galmpton Utd FC, Kingskerswell and Chelston FC and Plainmoor Ladies. Torquay United FC teams (other than the 1st XI) play all their matches and train outside Torbay, in Newton Abbot.
- 2.19 - There are increasing opportunities in Torbay for disabled people to take part in sport. There are at least two disability football teams in the Bay, run by Torbay Inspirations through Torquay Utd. They are understood to be trying to set up monthly fixtures at TVN. Disabled training opportunities are run at AGPs in Torbay and several clubs have aspirations to set up disabled teams. The main Devon FA Ability Counts (Disability football) League is run on a central Venue basis in the county, Torbay would not be a regular venue due to the distance for teams travelling from the North of the County – one off events could be an exciting possibility if a suitable facility is found.

Pattern of Play and Capacity

- 2.20 - The peak time for senior football is Saturday afternoons, when 86% (31 out of 36) of adult teams play (the remainder being Ladies' teams or U18s). Peak time for junior football is Sunday morning when 87% (27 out of 31) teams play. Peak time for mini soccer is Sunday morning when 80% (16 out of 20) teams play.
- 2.21 - The Playing Pitch Strategy capacity analysis (which relates the capacity of a pitch to accommodate match play throughout the week to its quality), demonstrates that there are in total 26.5 'spare' match equivalent slots throughout the week across all pitches in Torbay. (This is not the same as 'spare' pitches; a spare slot may arise, for example, when a pitch is used by a team on a Saturday, but not on a Sunday).
- 2.22 - Although there are match equivalent slots which are not being filled, every pitch is used by at least two teams (i.e. the home ground) on a regular basis with the exception of:
- Furzeham Recreation Ground, Brixham – no regular team at present, although it has been used on several occasions to host matches scheduled for Cricketfield Road Torquay, Clennon Valley and White Rock in Paignton when those grounds are out of play due to weather conditions
 - Steps Cross – which is not currently hosting any teams, but could be used for mini or 9v9
- 2.23 - Clennon Valley No. 6, Belfield Road Paignton (Foxhole FC), King George V top pitch and Quinta football pitch are each the home ground of one team only this season i.e. they are used once a fortnight.
- 2.24 - Two pitches in Torbay have been assessed as being used to capacity at present: Brixham Wall Park (as its juniors play all their Sunday morning fixtures on the pitch, as well as the senior teams on Saturdays), and White Rock No.2 in Paignton.
- 2.25 - The peak time for adult football play is Saturday afternoons, when there are 6 'match equivalent' spare slots across Torbay. As football teams traditionally play 'home' and then 'away', this means that there is room for an additional 12 teams to play on Saturdays in Torbay: 2 in Brixham, 2 in Galmpton, 2 in Paignton and 6 in Torquay.
- 2.26 - The assessment also shows that there is room to accommodate more adult football across most sites in Torbay on Sundays (the Sunday League is not operating this season.)

- 2.27 - In contrast, there is little spare capacity across the few dedicated junior and mini pitches in Torbay and all such pitches are virtually at capacity at peak times (Sunday mornings). All junior play in Brixham at present takes place on Brixham AFC's main ground on Sunday mornings (resulting in the pitch being overplayed). In Brixham, the junior/mini pitch at St Mary's Park has not been marked out this year; and the two junior pitches at Brixham Community College, although used for football training on Saturday mornings, are not used for matches.
- 2.28 - There is no dedicated junior/mini pitches marked out in Paignton at present and junior teams either play on the 3g football turf pitch at Paignton Community & Sports Academy or on an adult pitch at White Rock. In Torquay, the stock comprises one junior pitch (which can be marked as 9v9 or mini) at Barton Downs, a junior 9v9 pitch at Windmill Hill and two mini pitches at Windmill Hill. There is currently room for another junior team to play at Barton Downs on a Sunday morning and another mini team at Windmill Hill on a Sunday morning.
- 2.29 - It can be noted from the above, however, that several junior teams are not playing on age appropriate sized pitches.
- 2.30 - Most teams train, the great majority on local full size both sand dressed and 3g football turf pitches (either in training sessions or as part of small sided leagues), and the remainder in local sports halls. There is little training on pitches during the season – although some recorded use of Clennon valley pitches and King George V. There is evidence of unmet demand for training sessions on AGPs. The cost of training on AGPs is a consideration for some teams.

FOOTBALL: KEY ISSUES TO ADDRESS

Future Demand for pitches

- 2.31 - Looking to the immediate future, a key factor in the capacity of the pitches in Torbay to continue to meet demand is whether Sunday football will return to any great extent. At present, some adult pitches are now available for youth matches on Sundays.
- 2.32 - In the longer term, to 2021, projected populations shows a decrease in the number of people aged between 16 and 45, the age groups that typically play adult football, so, the number of teams is likely to remain in line with current levels. The number of children aged between 10 and 15 will stay about the same and will not increase the number of teams. The highest growth will occur in mini soccer, with up to an additional 6 teams created through population growth (3 match equivalent sessions per week).
- 2.33 - It should be noted that these figures differ from those presented in the 2012/13 Football Participation Report, which compares similar sized local authorities. This report indicates a large growth potential across all age ranges, although it is recognised that there may still be a transference of demand from 11v11 to small sided soccer. . Also if the current facility stock is improved to provide an inspiring environment this will impact on peoples desire to participate.
- 2.34 - As regards junior teams, the two main issues are (a) more age appropriate pitches are required in Brixham and (b) across Torbay, around 10 x U13/U14 teams are playing on an inappropriately sized pitch and should be playing on smaller more appropriately sized 11v11 pitches in-line with The FA guidelines. This shows that if junior teams are to play on the correct size pitches, more appropriately sized pitches will be required: at least 3 youth 11v11 sized pitches in Torquay, 2 in Paignton and 1 in Brixham, plus 1x 9v9 pitch and 2 mini pitches.

- 2.35 - The FA predicts that the growth in junior football will continue, following developments as part of its youth review and the changes to sizing of pitches. In this event, the currently insufficient stock of age appropriate junior football pitches would become more constrained, and mini soccer pitches, which cater for 7v7 (and 5v5) games would also become insufficient. If issues relating to the drop-off in the transition between junior and senior football were addressed, the spare capacity currently seen in adult football pitches may also become constrained.
- 2.36 - Across Torbay, club aspirations for running more teams are equivalent to around 24 teams, more specifically: 4 adult men's teams, possibly 2 Ladies teams, 8-12 junior teams requiring junior pitches and up to 8 teams requiring mini soccer pitches.
- 2.37 - When adding this to additional teams arising from projected population growth, by 2021 the total increased future demand will be: 6 adult teams (3 match equivalents per week); 12 junior teams (6 match equivalents per week); 14 mini soccer teams (7 match equivalents per week).
- 2.38 - This would have the following impact upon the existing situation:
- Spare availability on adult pitches would be reduced; critically, availability at peak time (Saturday) would be reduced from 6 to 2 match equivalents; in other words, there would only be room for an additional 4 adult teams to play, which represents a limited amount of spare capacity and does not allow for rest and rotation of pitches.
 - The stock of junior pitches and mini pitches would be insufficient to accommodate the required level of demand. There would be spare capacity at other times of the week, but not at peak times on Sunday mornings.
- 2.39 - It is also difficult to predict how many junior (and senior) teams will play on AGPs in the future (if the supply is increased); a significant number of junior teams are (already playing on AGPs (see section below). Demand for 5v5 mini football could more appropriately be met on football turf pitches.
- 2.40 - The above analysis purely considers the quantity of pitches and takes no account of their quality. Pitches within Torbay are of mixed quality; some could be improved through better drainage and higher quality/larger changing rooms so that they are able to sustain higher levels of use (e.g. Clennon Valley and White Rock).
- 2.41 - However, a major consideration is the slope of pitches and there are sites within Torbay where this severely impacts on the quality of play, particularly at Steps Cross and King George V. The pitches at Barton Downs are also on a slope, although this site is important in the range of sports it caters for and should continue in playing pitch use.

Enhancement of sites

- 2.42 - The main message with regard to football pitches in Torbay is to improve the quality of the pitches to sustain more play and provide a better experience for adult and junior players. Football is heavily reliant on public pitches and subsidies for their maintenance and improvement are increasingly targets for cost saving measures. Particular sites where quality of the pitches is affecting capacity and use are Clennon Valley in Paignton and King George V and Steps Cross in Torquay.
- 2.43 - The drainage of some pitches is poor and results in cancellations and postponements of matches and detracts from the playing experience (and therefore demand for these pitches). This is particularly an issue at Clennon Valley.

- 2.44 - However, for the sloping pitches at King George V and Steps Cross, levelling is not a feasible option, and these pitches should be replaced on flat, level land at a new site.
- 2.45 - There is a similar requirement to maintain an acceptable quality of changing facilities and to meet the needs of junior and female players and people with disabilities. The provision of toilet facilities is a minimum requirement for youth football. The quality and capacity of changing facilities is particularly an issue at White Rock and Clennon Valley in Paignton and at Barton Downs (The Acorn Centre), Armada Park and Cricketfield Road in Torquay.
- 2.46 - The enhancement/provision of pitch sites which will allow football clubs (adult) to progress through the football pyramid in the Bay; currently there are limited opportunities for aspirational clubs to progress, as facilities (e.g. dug outs; fenced off areas; referees' changing;) spectator facilities; pavillion do not reach the requisite criteria.

Provision of new pitches

- 2.47 - Taking all the above into consideration i.e. sloping pitches which are uneconomic to level, the fact that junior teams are playing on inappropriately sized pitches, the fact that demand is being stifled by a lack of good quality pitches, the anticipated growth in mini and junior football and the need for sufficient space to allow rest and recovery of pitches and appropriate rotation and realignment to improve quality, the Strategy recommends the following:

Brixham

- New provision to accommodate youth teams. The pitch at Wall Park is overused due to all junior teams playing there. Although there is capacity at St Mary's Park to accommodate some of this, the strategy recommends that at least 2 new junior pitches (at least one of which should be 9v9) and 2 mini pitches (7v7) are required in Brixham, preferably on the same or at sites in close proximity, to assist the development of junior football.

Paignton

- Clennon Valley – retain 3 full size adult pitches, plus 1 youth 11v11 pitch (for U13/U14s), 2 junior pitches (at least one of which should be 9v9) and 4 mini pitches (7v7).

Torquay

- Replace 3 adult pitches from King George V and 1 9v9 junior pitch from Steps Cross on a new flat, level site at The Willows (area of search).
- In addition, provide 1 youth 11v11 pitch (for U13s/U14s), another junior pitch and 4 mini pitches; if possible at The Willows or on alternative sites in Torquay.

- 2.48 - Given the pattern of play and travel in Torbay and the location of home grounds and teams that play there, it is not possible to rationalise provision further at this time, especially with uncertainty surrounding Sunday football and the future demand for this.
- 2.49 - It is important to note that some of the shortfall – particularly for junior and mini pitches – could be met from school pitches which are not currently available for community use.

Shared use of grounds

- 2.50 - Some issues are raised through the joint use of sites for winter and summer sports (see cricket and rugby especially). Typically, this shared use with winter pitches on cricket outfields does not leave sufficient time for reinstatement before the start of the cricket season.

Dual functions of playing pitches as public open space

- 2.51 - Many pitches are located on public recreation grounds and are used for informal recreation as well as competitive play, which impacts on the wear and tear of the pitches. The issue of fouling of pitches by dogs is a major problem for many teams.

Sustainability of sites – security of tenure and aspirations for self management

- 2.52 - Arising from the consultation, a number of clubs have indicated that they aspire to leasing arrangement at their grounds including: Kingskerswell & Chelston FC (Armada Park), Hookhills FC (White Rock), Waldon Athletic (Windmill Hill); Watcombe Wanderers (King George V); Upton Athletic FC (Cricketfield Road); Paignton Saints FC (Clennon Valley). It is important that all clubs using a site should be equal partners in management arrangements and that full community access should be maintained at leased grounds.
- 2.53 - Such arrangements must also be sustainable, as the cost of maintenance can be prohibitive and there is a need for capital investment to improve pitch quality now as well as ongoing investment into the facilities and an improved maintenance schedule.

Partnerships and support

- 2.54 - The desire for the voluntary sector to have greater support and training in the management and operation of their facilities was raised throughout the strategy consultation. This is very important if clubs are going to take on the leases of their grounds. Access to education pitches needs to be secured in some cases and integrated with other nearby sites.

Clennon Valley

- 2.55 - Clennon Valley is the largest and a very accessible pitch site in the Bay and its use and the combination of pitches there requires reappraising in the light of this strategy. What role should it play in football (and other sports') development within the Bay? Options include the possible realignment of the site to accommodate age appropriate sized junior pitches (U13/U14; 9v9) as well as mini pitches. It also accommodates a range of other uses including other pitch sports such as rugby and American football, soccer and rugby festivals and tournaments, summer sports such as baseball and rounders, and is used by language schools for sporting sessions in the summer and for school sports days. It has huge potential as the premier pitch sport site in Torbay and the challenges of the development here of the off-road cycle circuit and the redevelopment of Torbay Leisure Centre offer some timely opportunities to realise this.

Torquay United FC

- 2.56 - All Torquay United FC adult and youth teams train outside the Bay (currently at Seale Hayne in Teignbridge, near Newton Abbot where the club have invested in the facilities) and all matches, other than those for the first team at Plainmoor, take place outside the Bay also. According to consultation with the club, they would have preferred to be based within Torbay but have not been able to find an appropriate

site, for many years. Whilst it seems unlikely that club training would move back in to Torbay, this situation should be borne in mind if new pitches are provided within Torbay.

Future developments within the game

- 2.57 - As well as a transference of demand from grass to artificial surfaces (see below) there are initiatives to increase football play during the summer months.
- 2.58 - Increasingly, football is being played on artificial turf pitches or in sports halls. In the analysis undertaken of sports halls for the Torbay Sports Facilities Strategy, almost all (12) 4-badminton court size sports halls stated that they were heavily used for football for small sided games (e.g. 5v5), football training and for Centres of Excellence, mostly through block bookings. At least two sports halls could not accommodate all requests. Whilst futsal is a growing indoor football activity (and 'turn up and play' formats for football such as 'Just Play' may work better indoors as this is what the participants want), much of the small sided and football training would take place outside if there was space on the artificial turf pitches.

CRICKET – KEY FINDINGS

Overview of pitches

Quantity

- 2.59 - There are currently 11 cricket grounds in Torbay. There are 7 grass squares and 7 non-turf wickets. 3 grounds have both – Torquay Wall's Hill, Paignton Queen's Park and Torquay Cricketfield Road. There are 3 cricket pitches in Brixham, 1 in Paignton and 7 in Torquay. 6 sites are local authority owned, four are on education land and one is owned by a club – the North Boundary Road Ground (Brixham CC)
- 2.60 - 3 of the main clubs in the Bay and a smaller club share their grounds with rugby (3 sites) and football (1 site) and athletics (1 site). The pitches at Torre Valley North, Cockington Court, Torquay, Walls Hill Babbacombe and Cricketfield Road, Babbacombe are public open space.
- 2.61 - The number of grass wickets recorded at each ground is as follows: North Boundary Road, Brixham (12); Queen's Park, Paignton (12 + non-turf); Walls Hill, Babbacombe (8 + non-turf); Cockington Court, Torquay (6); Torquay Recreation Ground (12); Torre Valley North (5) and Torquay Cricketfield Road (?)
- 2.62 - Since 2000, a number of cricket pitches throughout Torbay either no longer exist or have fallen into disuse and cannot now be played upon. These include pitches at Windmill Hill, Stoodley Knowle and King George V in Torquay, Galmpton Memorial Field and Paignton Community & Sports Academy.

Quality

- 2.63 - All grounds where club cricket is played scored as good (80%+) on the non-technical quality assessment. The highest score of 95% was at Paignton Queens Park, with Brixham Cricket Club, Torquay Cricketfield Road, Torquay Recreation Ground, Cockington Court, Torre Valley North and Walls Hill all close behind. The school cricket sites at Quinta Road, Churston Grammar, Torquay Boys' Grammar and Brixham Community College all recorded standard scores of between 76-80%; this was due to the variable conditions of the artificial wickets. None of the school sites have dedicated cut cricket squares.

2.64 - This study has triangulated the evidence on pitch quality obtained from the non-technical site assessments, the views of the clubs, the views of the Devon Cricket Board and the ECB Pitch and Outfield Quality Ratings provided by umpires through the ECB (Table 5.11). Taking all information into account, the study suggests the following as a basis for categorizing the pitches:

- North Boundary Road, Brixham good
- Paignton Queen's Park good
- Cricketfield Road, Torquay standard
- Torquay Recreation Ground standard
- Cockington Court, Torquay standard
- Torre Valley North Playing Fields poor
- Torquay Walls Hill - poor
- Churston Ferrers Grammar School poor
- Brixham Community College poor
- Torquay Quinta Road Playing Fields poor
- Torquay Boys Grammar School poor

2.65 - Some changing facilities are regarded as tired (Torquay Recreation Ground and Paignton Queen's Park). It must be noted that Brixham CC's new ground at North Boundary Road has excellent changing and net practice facilities. The quality of its square and outfield is expected to improve with time.

Overview of demand

2.66 - There were 48 cricket teams playing in Torbay in the 2013 season: 23 adult men's teams, 4 colts, 17 junior teams, 3 girls' teams and 1 Vets' team. There is one club in Brixham, fielding 10 teams; one club in Paignton, fielding 13 teams; and 6 clubs in Torquay – three of which have junior sections or Colts (Torquay CC, Barton CC and Chelston CC). The other Torquay clubs are Cockington Corinthians, Babbacombe CC and Cavaliers C. Cricket in Torbay is very club based and all teams playing, with the possible exception of Cavaliers, are part of well-established clubs. There is very little midweek casual play and no midweek senior league.

2.67 - There are good signs of flourishing cricket activity in Torbay. Although the number of adult teams may be declining, several clubs have grown with many of them now running junior sections which they have not done in the past, often as a result of the 'Chance to Shine' programme which has been running the Bay. The youth league in South Devon has grown substantially recently. The view of the ECB is that habits of players may be changing but that there is a relatively static cricket population in the area at present. However, there have been some comments in respect of a dwindling adult player pool in Torbay with players migrating around different clubs.

Pattern of Play and Capacity

2.68 - The peak time for adult play in cricket in Torbay is Saturday, when 14 teams play; 7 play on Sundays (all league fixtures apart from Cavaliers CC friendlies on Sundays). Colts and the South Devon Youth league play midweek.

2.69 - From the analysis so far, it appears that there is potential to sustain more play at Wall's Hill (Babbacombe CC), Cricketfield Road (Barton CC), Cockington Court (Cockington CC) and Brixham CC. Torre Valley North is operating close to capacity because it has just 5 wickets and no non-turf wicket. Despite having 12 grass wickets each, Paignton Queen's Park and Torquay Recreation Ground are operating close to capacity and at capacity respectively. In Paignton Queen's Park case, this is because despite having a non-turf wicket, it hosts a large number of matches and also has the constraint of the 123 day season (1st May to 31st August on shared sites). Torquay Recreation Ground is

operating at capacity because of the level of activity it sustains, the lack of a non-turf wicket and the constraint on the 123 day season.

CRICKET – KEY ISSUES TO ADDRESS

The Future demand for cricket

- 2.70 - Increases in demand through population growth of up to two junior teams and possibly a Ladies team could be met from existing pitch stock from across the Bay as a whole, but not if site specific on those sites which are currently reaching capacity.
- 2.71 - Most of the clubs would like to run more teams, especially: youth teams (boys and girls) (Babbacombe CC, Brixham CC, Chelston CC); girls and/or ladies teams (Barton CC and Paignton CC); a team for Sunday friendlies and touring sides (Cockington CC), and a 3rdXI or Colts XI (Babbacombe CC).
- 2.72 - There are various constraining factors, including lack of coaches, but for 3 clubs at least (Paignton, Torquay and Chelston) inadequate facilities (either pitches or changing) are a major factor, and borne out by the capacity analysis in the needs assessment.

Protection of sites

- 2.73 - All cricket wickets/sites to be protected to meet existing and future demand. The ECB is keen to promote school club links and maintain current cricketing activity at schools and because there is little spare capacity to absorb any increases in demand, the non-turf wickets at four schools in Torbay – Churston Ferrers Grammar School, Brixham Community College, Quinta Playing Fields in Torquay and Torquay Boys Grammar School should also be protected and improved.

Provision of new pitches and enhancement of sites

- 2.74 - Issues with regard to each site:
- 2.75 - Walls Hill, Torquay (Babbacombe CC): slope means club cannot progress through leagues. Ground has potential to accommodate projected increases in play
- 2.76 - North Boundary Road, Brixham (Brixham CC): square needs more time to bed in and can accommodate increased use.
- 2.77 - Paignton Queen's Park (Paignton CC): shared site with rugby restricts season and involves considerable maintenance to prepare outfield. Need for another pitch led club to invest in non-turf wicket at Torquay Boys Grammar School, but problems with drainage mean very little used, and would be beneficial to have alternative wicket nearer to main ground. Existing facilities at Queen's Park cannot accommodate any increases in activity and changing facilities require substantial upgrading.
- 2.78 - Cricketfield Road, Torquay (Barton CC): Ground itself has capacity to accommodate some increase in play. Potential here for development of shared site with Upton Athletic FC to provide sports hub for football and cricket with classroom space and indoor cricket facilities, with improved changing facilities. The site is public open space where dog fouling is an issue; also lack of car parking.
- 2.79 - Cockington Court (Cockington Corinthians CC): damage to surface caused by public access. Club now has 7 year licence on square and lease on pavilion and can promote usage from other clubs. Existing facilities expected to be adequate for further

team development; Ipplepen 3rds looking for a pitch – could be accommodated here?

- 2.80 - Torquay Recreation Ground (Torquay CC): ground is overused and existing facilities cannot accommodate any desired increases in activity. Ideally requires access to non- turf wicket for junior play and use of another grass square for its 3rd XI. Could use be made of Torre Valley North or non-turf wicket at TBGS? General upgrading of ground required – upgraded clubhouse to cater for juniors, ladies and people with disabilities, and net facilities.
- 2.81 - Torre Valley North, Torquay (Chelston CC): the grass pitch is nearing capacity for Chelston CC and casual use. Need for a casual pitch for touring sides and expansion in junior game in Torquay – possibilities of additional wickets at this site or a non-turf wicket at other sites in Torquay.
- 2.82 - From the Needs Assessment, it is clear that there is not the capacity to accommodate growth aspirations at all grounds. This, together with further growth, as calculated through the application of team generation rates to the future population will mean that increased demand cannot be accommodated – notably at Torquay Recreation Ground, Paignton Queen's Park and potentially Torre Valley North.
- 2.83 - In summary, there is a need for the capacity of additional grass wickets/grounds to meet demand in Paignton (particularly to relieve pressure on the square at Queen's Park) and in Torquay. There is a need for a non-turf wicket to accommodate anticipated growth in junior play and demand from midweek adult play in Torquay. The non-turf wicket at Brixham Community College could assist in providing opportunities for juniors in Brixham, if improved.

Training Facilities

- 2.84 - Most teams who wish to train either at ground or seem to find slots in sports halls. There is a need to adequately ensure nets in sports halls in line with the Devon Cricket Board objective to increase the standard of indoor practice facilities across Devon. Upgraded nets are required at Torquay Recreation Ground.

Shared use of grounds

- 2.85 - Ground sharing and the impact other sports have on the quality of the cricket outfield affects (in order of severity) Paignton Queens Park, Torquay Recreation Ground, Torquay Cricketfield Road and Torre Valley North. Queens Park, as an example, has rugby played on all sides of the cricket square throughout the winter. To prepare the outfield for play from the start of the cricket season is both time consuming and costly, especially after a wet winter. For each of the cricket clubs involved this brings issues in terms of managing fixtures lists and maintaining their outfields, and protecting the wickets.
- 2.86 - However, there can be great advantages of shared grounds in terms of sustainability, maintaining activity at the site (and revenue) throughout the year; growth in membership etc, more attractive for funding bids etc. The leasing arrangements being proposed between the Council and clubs will need to ensure that all ground users are equal partners.

Partnership and support

- 2.87 - As with football, there are opportunities for more co-ordination and working together in the management and use of grounds. For example, in Brixham, there may be opportunities to improve the non-turf wicket as an overflow facility for Brixham CC. There has been a decline in cricket played in schools but there are some encouraging

signs in Torbay, if the facilities are able to cater for the demand. Paignton Community & Sports Academy and South Devon College use Paignton Queen's Park cricket ground and there are opportunities here for developing school/club links, as there are at Torquay Boys Grammar School.

- 2.88 - Supporting clubs to become more sustainable and to retain existing membership is a key priority of the Devon Cricket Board. For example, Brixham Cricket Club wishes to ensure use of its ground throughout the year. Better use of the pavilion and clubhouse, as well as diversification of the site (for example the provision of football pitches on the cricket outfield) have been identified.
- 2.89 - As with football, there is need to look strategically at sites. There may be opportunities for example for better co-ordination and sharing of pitches between Torquay CC and Chelston CC (Torre Valley North).

Future developments in the game

- 2.90 - The ECB currently has an overall focus on player retention and is highlighting potential to grow more informal formats of the game such as T20 and Last Man standing. This may result in the growth of more casual play and midweek leagues and this could put additional pressure on some grounds within Torbay. A central, accessible venue would be ideal. LMS – possibly TVN
- 2.91 - Minor Counties: There is no longer a pitch suitable for Minor County level cricket in Torbay. It is suggested that this should remain an aspiration.

RUGBY – KEY FINDINGS

Overview of pitch supply

Quantity

- 2.92 - There are 16 individual grass rugby pitches at 13 sites in Torbay. There are 9 senior pitches, 5 junior pitches (i.e. less than full adult size) and 2 mini pitches recorded, although additional mini pitches are often marked out on other pitches (e.g. at Brixham Community College by Brixham RFC) or on training areas (at Queen's Park Paignton by Paignton RFC). . All apart from one are in secured community use; this is a pitch which is marked for rugby during the spring term at Churston Ferrers Grammar School but is used for football in the autumn, and therefore could not sustain regular community use. 5 sites are owned by Torbay Council, 6 sites are on school grounds and 1 site is owned by a club (Brixham RFC)
- 2.93 - In Brixham there are 3 sites for rugby – Brixham RFC's ground at Astley Park, Astley Park top field owned by Torbay Council (1 adult and 1 junior rugby) and a large junior pitch at Brixham Community College.
- 2.94 - In Paignton, there are 1 adult, 1 junior and 2 mini pitches at Queen's Park (Paignton RFC), an adult pitch at Clennon Valley and a small adult pitch at Paignton Community & Sports Academy which alternates as use for a football pitch when required (therefore not included in totals).
- 2.95 - In Torquay, 3 sites near the seafront are used by Torquay RFC: an adult pitch at its home ground – Torquay Recreation Ground, another full size pitch at Torre Valley North and a junior pitch at Torre Valley South. There are also two adult rugby pitches and a junior pitch on school sites – at Torquay Boys Grammar School and Quinta Road playing fields (Westlands School)

2.96 - The grounds where the impact of sharing facilities is most apparent are at Paignton Queen's Park (Paignton RFC sharing with Paignton CC) and Torre Valley North (Torquay RFC sharing with Chelston CC and athletics club). Torquay Recreation Ground is also shared between Torquay RFC and Torquay CC – the main pitches are well spaced, but the training area for rugby impinges upon the cricket outfield.

Quality

2.97 - In taking on board the findings of the consultation with the clubs and the RFU, and the visual quality assessment, the following summary pertains:

- Due to intensity of use, all main adult pitches – particularly Queen's Park and Torquay Recreation Ground - deteriorate as the season progresses.
- The best pitch is at Brixham RFC (Astley Park), due to the quality of the maintenance and the fact that the main pitch is restricted for match play.
- The Astley Park top field (public recreation ground) is of lower quality and this affects capacity of pitches to accommodate play.
- The impact of the poor drainage at Clennon Valley becomes more apparent as the season progresses.
- Fouling by dogs is a problem on pitches with public access, especially Astley Park top field, Brixham
- Changing rooms at Torquay Recreation Ground and Paignton Queen's Park are inadequate to accommodate junior and mini teams and ladies and girls.
- Paignton RFC record poor quality of changing room facilities at Clennon Valley.
- Out of three rugby pitches in Torquay, the highest quality pitch is Torre Valley North, due to its drainage system

Overview of Demand

2.98 - There are 3 rugby clubs in the Bay. Each club runs the full complement of minis and juniors up to U16s. Each club also runs a Colts and Vets side. Torquay and Brixham run 3 adult men's teams each; Paignton runs 2 adult men's teams and a Ladies team. Paignton is the only club to run female teams at the moment. In total, there are 8 adult men's teams in Torbay, 3 Colts XV, 1 Ladies XV, 3 Vets XV, 12 juniors and 18 minis/midis (45 teams in total)

Pattern of Play and Capacity

2.99 - Rugby's pattern of play is fairly straightforward: Colts and Adult Men (11 teams in total) all play on Saturday afternoons; all juniors, midis and minis play on Sunday mornings (30 teams) and Vets and Ladies play on Sunday afternoons (4 teams). All three club's teams train on their main pitches, alongside the pitch and on floodlit training areas at their home grounds, at least twice a week; this use has been taken into account when assessing capacity of the grounds.

2.100 All-clubs stated that they experience difficulties in obtaining pitches for both home matches and training, Paignton RFC referred to poor drainage and land fill intrusions on the Clennon Valley pitch and both Torquay and Paignton highlighted the need for training areas in wet weather, preferably floodlit.

Brixham:

- In Brixham, the rugby club's main pitch operates very close to capacity; play is carefully managed to maintain the quality of the pitch. The quality of the Astley Park top pitches is poor and this affects their capacity, and because of the number of matches they have to accommodate, the pitches are overplayed. These pitches are at capacity on Sunday mornings
- The junior rugby pitch at Brixham Community College (not quite full size but acceptable for up to U15s) is regularly used. In a recent weekend (mid January) the rugby club used all 3 pitches at the site (including the 2 junior football) as it had 5 matches at home and put cones out for the mini games.

Paignton

- In Paignton, the adult pitch at Queen's Park has a theoretical high capacity. The junior pitch is part of the floodlit training area and consequently accommodates a lot of use. This and the mini pitches are not rated as highly for capacity and cannot easily accommodate the amount of use required of them, hence the pitches are overplayed. The site is at capacity on Sunday mornings.
- The Clennon Valley rugby pitch scores poorly on quality; it is almost at capacity at peak time on Saturday afternoons. The pitch at Paignton Community & Sports Academy is occasional use as an overflow facility. In the past, Paignton RFC has requested the use of another pitch at Clennon Valley. This rugby pitch is used quite often in the winter by Paignton Community & Sports Academy, Churston Ferrers Grammar School, Tower House School and South Devon College and there are occasional requests from other schools.

Torquay

- In Torquay, the main adult pitch at the Recreation Ground scores highly on capacity, but is operating at capacity at peak time on Sunday mornings (which also impacts on its ability to cater for adult play on Saturday afternoons).
- The Torre Valley North pitch is also at capacity on Sundays, as is the lower quality junior pitch at Torre Valley South. Occasionally, a rugby pitch at Torquay Boys Grammar school is used if the Recreation Ground pitch is unplayable, as this drains well.

RUGBY - KEY ISSUES TO ADDRESS

The Future demand for rugby

2.101 In terms of rugby pitch requirements, changes to the population growth and profile over the next ten years would result in demand for pitches from senior teams remaining stable; demand for pitches from youth teams increasing (1 match equivalent session – 2 teams) and demand for additional mini/midi pitches (2 match equivalent sessions – 2 teams).

2.102 Within Torbay, all three rugby clubs have stated that they wish to develop Ladies and Girls' rugby, although there are various constraining factors, notably suitability/availability of pitches and changing rooms. It will be difficult to accommodate these on existing pitches; moreover at Paignton and Torquay, improvement will be required to changing facilities.

2.103 Given these aspirations and the current pitch supply, the shortage of good quality grass pitches would restrict development. The lack of pitches for junior mini and midi teams has already been highlighted and additional provision will need to be provided to meet demand in the future.

Protection of sites

2.104 All existing rugby sites and pitches to be protected including those on school sites.

Provision and enhancement of sites and pitches

2.105 Findings lead to the following:

Brixham:

- Need for additional grass pitch capacity in Brixham – minimum of one adult pitch

Paignton

- Need to improve the quality of the pitch at Clennon Valley to sustain more play for rugby (pitch now being moved and drainage improved as part of cycle park development).
- Provision of additional junior/mini pitches at Clennon Valley to meet demand and address problems of overuse at Paignton Queen's Park (less pressure on rugby pitches will also improve cricket outfield).
- Improvements to changing facilities at Clennon Valley to meet needs of ladies, juniors and people with disabilities.
- Improved floodlighting for training and for matchplay (one pitch to accommodate mid week play)
- Reduced activity at Queen's Park to improve quality of surfaces is advised..

Torquay

- Improvement of ancillary changing facilities at Torquay Recreation Ground to meet needs of ladies, juniors and people with disabilities.
- Access to off site training facilities required for wet weather
- In Torquay, the rugby pitches at Torre Valley North and South are vital to the ongoing success of the club. Torquay Rugby Club to have continued full access to these pitches.

Future developments in the game

2.106 Whilst focusing on maintaining its core market of 15v15 senior teams, the RFU is actively promoting its variants of the game for younger players – touch and tag rugby and '7s' and also looking to develop more recreational and social rugby during the summer. This is likely to increase the numbers of junior teams and possibly summer activity for adults, which may cascade down to increase participation during the winter months. Promoting Torbay as a venue rugby tours would be in keeping with Torbay's long-standing tradition as a holiday venue for touring sides and festivals and this activity has traditionally been accommodated at Clennon Valley.

2.107 See below for AGPs for rugby.

HOCKEY – KEY FINDINGS

Overview of pitch supply

2.108 - Hockey is almost exclusively played on Artificial Grass Pitches and grass pitches are largely obsolete for competitive forms of the game. Guidance on AGPs (Sport England 2010) indicates the following surfaces to be suitable for hockey:

- EH Category 1: Water Based surfaces approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters for all levels of competition including international training and matches and Olympic & World Championship tournaments
- EH category 2: Sand Dressed surfaces (preferred surface for hockey) within the FIH National Parameter for all levels of competition, including international training and matches
- EH Category 3: Sand Based (filled) surfaces within the FIH National Parameter for all levels of competition, excluding international training and matches
- EH Category 4: 40mm pile 3g (certified by FIH as satisfying parameter for local and regional competition) - acceptable surface for hockey, although these are not used by hockey clubs in South Devon.

2.109 Based upon the above criteria, there are 2 full sized pitches with approved surfaces for hockey in Torbay – Torbay Leisure Centre (sand filled) and Torquay Girls Grammar School – sand dressed (see Section on AGPs at end of Football section).

2.110 The nearest sand filled floodlit AGPs appropriate for hockey usage to Torbay are as follows:

- King Edward VI Community College AGP in Totnes (20 minutes from Paignton). This pitch is in very poor condition and under threat of closure. The pitch requires upgrading and is home to Dart Hockey Club, which runs 3 ladies and 2 men's teams with a large junior contingent. There are excellent links with KEVICS at Totnes, but the club may need to find a new pitch.
- Teignmouth Community College (30 minutes from Paignton)- sand (dated and in need of refurbishment). Limited hockey usage, mainly junior training for Teign Hockey Club
- Dawlish Leisure Centre – sand dressed, refurbished in 2013. There are 2 clubs at this site – Teign Hockey Club (3 ladies, 2 mens and 4 junior teams) and Dawlish Ladies Hockey Club (one ladies team).

Quality - Pitches

2.111 - The pitch quality scores recorded by the site audits equated to a 'standard' rating for Torbay Leisure Centre (looking its age and in need of refurbishment) and 'good' rating for Torquay Girls Grammar school (an excellent facility; score not as might as it might be, due to its age). . The two clubs responding to the survey who use the TGGS AGP (Torbay Men's and Torquay Ladies Hockey Club) rated the pitch as adequate to good. They rated the pitch at Clennon Valley as poor.

Overview of Demand

2.112 - There are currently two EHB affiliated hockey clubs in Torbay, both of whom play at Torquay Girls Grammar School. Newton Abbot Ladies HC also play and train at TGGS as there is currently no suitable AGP for hockey in their area. Torbay Men's Hockey Club runs 2 teams and has just started up a junior section; it has 75 registered members at present, of whom 45 are under 18 years,. . . Almost all its members live in Torbay.

2.113 In 2013/14 there were 41 recorded participants in Torquay Ladies Hockey Club, a slight decline from preceding years. There are two teams, playing in Petroc Divisions 1 and 2. Three quarters of its members live within Torbay. Newton Abbot Ladies HC runs one team, with 16 registered players this season (20 registered in 2012/13)

Pattern of Play and Capacity

2.114 All 3 clubs play their matches at the TGGs pitch, as the pitch at Torbay Leisure Centre is no longer appropriate for match play. Matches are played on Saturdays and the TGGs pitch is approaching capacity for matchplay at this time.

2.115 The TGGs pitch also hosts all training for Torbay Men's and juniors, Torquay Ladies Hockey Club and Newton Abbot Ladies Hockey, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

2.116 Torbay Men's Hockey Club also use Torbay Leisure Centre pitch when required but the main hockey activity taking place here now is the Torbay Hockey Festival.

2.117 TGGs is a Single System Junior Development Centre site for Devon Hockey Association

HOCKEY – KEY ISSUES TO ADDRESS (see below under Artificial Grass Pitches) -

OTHER SPORTS – KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES TO ADDRESS

2.118 - The Strategy proposes that playing field sites in Torbay should be considered as accommodating as wide a range of sports and activities as possible. Some pitch sports are not currently practiced in the Bay – for example, lacrosse – and others, such as American Football and Baseball, are beginning to develop. Currently the latter two sports are based at Clennon Valley, as is a summers Rounders league, whilst rugby league has been played at Easterfield Lane,

2.119 - There is considerable scope to develop further the sharing of pitch sport grounds to accommodate additional sports, particularly if by attracting both winter and summer pitch sports they can enhance the viability and sustainability of the sites

2.120 - For the sports using Clennon Valley, drainage of pitch and pitch maintenance are considerations, as are the provision of dedicated storage and appropriate changing facilities, Baseball ideally requires a pitcher's mound and backstop fence.

2.121 These sports also require training facilities and American Football, for example, can train on IRB22 specification 3g artificial grass pitch..

ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES – KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES TO ADDRESS

2.122 - There are 4 full size floodlit artificial grass pitches in Torbay as follows:

- Torquay Grammar for School for Girls- floodlit full sized sand dressed pitch
- Torbay Leisure Centre – floodlit full sized – sand filled
- Paignton Community & Sports Academy – floodlit full sized – rubber crumb (3g)
- Torquay Academy – floodlit full size rubber crumb (3g)

- 2.123 - In addition to provision within Torbay, there are the following full size floodlit AGPs within adjoining local authorities within a 30 minute drive of the centre of Torbay: Totnes King George V (sand filled); Teignmouth Community College (sand filled), Ashmoor Recreation Centre (rubber crumb 3g) and Dawlish Leisure Centre (sand dressed, refurbished in 2013). Until recently, there was also a pitch at Britannia RMC Naval College, Dartmouth. The pitch at KEVICs in Totnes is under threat of closure on health and safety grounds. There are proposals to relay the pitch at Teignmouth Community College to a 3g.
- 2.124 - There are also a number of smaller MUGAs throughout Torbay e.g. Westlands School, the Acorn Centre, Brixham Community College and a half sized sand-filled surface (not floodlit) at Torquay Boys Grammar school.
- 2.125 - Torbay Leisure Centre AGP, which rates as a standard AGP is the oldest AGP in Torbay (built in 1989, refurbished 2003) and is showing signs of wear commensurate with its age. The remaining 3 AGPs are all rated as good, with good quality maintenance and ancillary facilities facilities.

Facilities Planning Model

- 2.126 - The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) assessment of AGPs relates to both football and hockey. It is important to note that the full size 3g AGP at Torquay Academy is not included in this assessment. However, the FPM assessment still provides an indication of the overall demand/supply situation, which is assessed as:
- Torbay has a relatively low level of satisfied demand for AGPs when compared to regional figures and those of both Exeter and Plymouth
 - A relatively high percentage of Torbay residents who use AGPs (22%) travel to facilities in other districts. This 'exported' demand figure is high when compared to figures for Exeter (3%) and Plymouth (18%)
 - There are no specific areas where levels of unmet demand are sufficient to justify new AGP provision, However, there are notable levels of unmet demand in both Torquay and Brixham.
 - All 3 existing full size AGPs in Torbay are operating at 100% of their estimated capacity. There is no spare capacity at existing sites to meet any potential future increased in demand(3g)
- 2.127 - These conclusions point to a need to consider further the likely implications of any future increase in demand for AGPs and how these might best be met.

Summary

- 2.128 - The issues outlined in the main Needs Assessment Report can be summarised as follows:
- The majority of activity on AGPs at peak times is football (approx. 90%), with the remaining 10% hockey,
 - Looking at usage levels of individual sites, the FPM suggests that all 3 AGPs are operating at 100% of their estimated capacity. The data runs from the model estimates that there is no spare capacity at existing sites at peak times to meet any potential future increases in demand.
 - From analysis of usage of all 4 AGPs in Torbay now, Paignton Community & Sports Academy 3g and Torquay Academy 3g are operating at capacity. Torquay Girls Grammar School is operating at capacity during the weekday and on Saturdays,

with some spare capacity on Sundays. Torbay Leisure Centre is understood to be full at peak times with limited spare capacity at weekend. There is therefore limited capacity for further football training activity on full size pitches during the week and the Sport England FPM modelling confirms that pitches are running at capacity at peak times.

- While there is some limited spare capacity at weekends, opening hours for some pitches are restricted at weekends, in particular Torquay Academy, which closes at 1pm. The scope to accommodate activity and competitive activity in particular is therefore reduced. Restrictions on use of floodlighting mean that all AGPs close at either 9pm or 9.30 pm during the week, whereas there is sufficient demand for them to continue to operate until 10pm.

Demand from hockey for AGPs

2.129 - There is currently sufficient AGP provision for hockey in Torbay. However:

- England Hockey guidance suggests that no AGP should be considered able to sustain more than 4 games on any one day. With the TGGs pitch currently accommodating up to 3 matches on a Saturday, the formation of any additional teams would mean that the pitch was operating at capacity.
- There is limited sand AGP provision in the surrounding Teignbridge District and the AGP facility in Totnes is under threat. In future, more hockey clubs – in addition to Newton Abbot Ladies which already travels in to Torbay for a suitable pitch – may be forced to look for alternative provision, which could be within Torbay.
- As well as little spare capacity for additional matches at weekends at the TGGs pitch, capacity during the week for training is severely restricted and any increase in training time for hockey would impact on the availability of pitches for football training and small sided games.
- Population changes to 2021 show no changes in numbers of teams. However, initiatives such as 'Back to Hockey' and 'Rush Hockey' may encourage new participants, particularly among the dominant market segments in Torbay (over 50s)
- Both clubs have the capacity to expand their senior and/or junior sections. In particular, Torbay Men's Hockey Club is expanding its junior section and now has around 65 juniors taking part regularly in its training sessions. With the development of this junior training and the emerging programme for hockey development associated with the TGGs pitch through its school management, there are strong foundations for the sport and potential to increase club membership through Club School Links. This growth and development will be restricted if there is only one appropriate hockey surface in Torbay.

Demand from football for AGPs

2.130 - 2 out of the 4 full sized pitches in Torbay are 3g football turf pitches, the preferred surface for football. This means that while football training can take place on the two sand AGPs, they cannot be used to support competitive activity. They also do not offer the same opportunity for skill development as 3g pitches.

2.131 - Whilst competitive football is still primarily played on grass pitches, artificial pitches are frequently used for football training and are becoming more commonplace for competitive play (and are now approved surfaces by FIFA and the FA through the Standard Code of Rules for Leagues). Surfaces acceptable for football matches are: Long pile 3g (60mm) with shock pad to meet IRB22 – which is suitable for both rugby

and football training and matches and Long pile 3g (60mm) (Paignton Community & Sports Academy and Torquay Academy). 3gs with a 40mm or 50mm pile will need a shock-pad to meet the FIFA 1 rating which is needed for affiliated match play.

- 2.132 - Football teams playing matches on 3g pitches at Paignton Community & Sports Academy and Torquay Academy rated the pitches as excellent on all indices. Generally football players prefer to play their matches on grass, although increasing numbers of junior teams and senior sides either are or aspire to play their matches on 3g surfaces.
- 2.133 - Currently 3 adult teams, 9 junior boys' teams, 1 girls' team and 13 mini teams play matches on 3gs in Torbay (23 out of 47 junior/mini teams). Around 90% of football clubs train (or their members play small sided soccer) on 3g surfaces. Matchplay may be 5v5 7v7 9v9 as well as 11v11 – this can be cross field for 7v7 and 9v9 (x 2 pitches) increasing the number of matches that can be played!
- 2.134 - The FA has recently changed the standard code of rules regarding the use of 3g football turf pitches, to become effective from 2014/15 season, Provided a football turf pitch has been tested and appears on the FA Register it will be allowed to be used for match play in all competitions outside the National League System (NLS) i.e. Step 7 and below including womens and youth football. The test is based on the British Standard for synthetic turf sports surfaces – BS EN 15330-1 and must be carried out by a recognized test house accredited by FIFA and/or having ISO 17025 accreditation by UKAS . -The facility operator should commission and pay for the cost of this.
- 2.135 - If participation was to increase significantly therefore, the capacity of existing AGPs may become constrained (if assumed that all teams would want to train). Increased requirement for time for hockey training and matches at Torquay Girls Grammar School would mean that some football use may be diverted elsewhere. The study has also identified latent demand throughout Torbay for AGPs for football training (for 11v11 teams). The lack of 3g pitches inhibits the quality of the training that takes place for football and means that there are limited opportunities to use AGPs for match play, especially at weekends.
- 2.136 - There is also evidence of demand for more matchplay facilities on AGPs for 11v11 league football teams if suitable kick-off times become available (from at least 2 clubs). and from junior football sides for matchplay. The continuing growth in small sided soccer, Soccer Sixes, commercial leagues etc, all require sand or 3g surfaces.
- 2.137 - The strategy finds that there is demand for more floodlit 3g artificial turf pitch provision in Torbay to meet existing, suppressed and future demand for football. Once football can be transferred to outdoor provision, capacity will be released to meet demand from more traditional indoor sports - badminton, basketball and netball, for example.
- 2.138 - All sports halls are/could be linked to outdoor provision:
- Acorn Centre – upgrade outdoor MUGA to floodlit 3g football turf pitch (half size)
 - Brixham College Sports Centre – provision of IRB22 compliant full size AGP in Brixham Sports Hub
 - Churston Ferrers Grammar School – support for floodlit half-size/small 3g football turf pitch at Galmpton Memorial Ground
 - Paignton Community & Sports Academy sports halls x 3 – all used for football training and 5v5, despite having full size floodlit football turf pitch at Waterleat Road,
 - Parkfield – has been used for girls' football. No MUGA/AGP nearby
 - South Devon College Sports Centre – support for floodlit half size/small football turf pitch

- St Cuthbert Mayne School – nearest outdoor provision is at Torquay Academy. Would benefit from floodlit MUGA on site
- Torbay Leisure Centre – most football training and small sided soccer takes place on sand AGP
- Torquay Grammar Schools – football takes place on sand AGP
- Torquay Academy – well used for 5v5 and football training, despite having floodlit 3g AGP on site
- Westlands School – would benefit from upgrade of MUGA to a small floodlit 3g football turf pitch (or whatever size is appropriate given the constraints of the site).

Demand from rugby for AGPs

- 2.1 - AGPs are becoming recognized surfaces for both matchplay and training for rugby. They need to be IRB22 compliant, and can be used by football as well, although the dimensions are slightly bigger than a football compliant 3g football turf pitch. The cost of a rugby compliant 3g is also higher as the posts are larger, so that they can cost between £100-£150k more than a football compliant 3g. However, they can accommodate both sports for matchplay and training, and can also meet demand for training from American football, subject to a g-max test (Filton College, Bristol has this facility).
- 2.2 - At present Brixham RFC is exploring the possibility of a 3g rugby pitch on its main site with its members and Paignton and Torquay rugby clubs have both expressed the need for rugby wet weather training facilities, which cannot currently be met. Neither of the current two 3g AGPs in Torbay are IRB22 compliant and whilst there is also demand for 3g facilities from football, there is a need in the Bay for additional off-site artificial grass surfaces to meet the need for training - and possibly competition - in rugby. IRB22 compliant 3g surfaces can serve both rugby and football for matchplay and training (and also American Football).
- 2.3 - There are a number of considerations around the siting of such facilities, including:
- The pattern of use; ideally an IRB22 AGP would require a balance of use between football and rugby to ensure the greatest community use. Ideally it would be delivered in a partnership between the RFC, the FA, the local authority and, where appropriate, an education provider.
 - Management of the site and linkages to existing community use and networks to ensure the site is sustainable
 - The need to raise revenue for sinking fund (£20,000 - £25,000 p.a.) capable of replacing the AGP within 10-15 years
 - Each proposed development needs to be accompanied by a sustainable business plan and usage plan

Demand from other sectors

- 2.4 - There are still secondary schools and colleges in Torbay without access to AGPs – Brixham Community College, Westlands School, Churston Ferrers Grammar School, St Cuthbert Mayne in Torquay and South Devon College in Paignton. Torquay United FC does not have access to one regular pitch for its training.
- 2.5 - The provision of additional 3g AGPs could help to reduce pressures on grass pitches by also providing opportunities for match play. There is however a requirement to maintain a balance with the amount of sand based facilities required for hockey.

Additional 3g pitches could also reduce the pressure on sports halls to accommodate 5-a-side football.

Other Issues

- 2.6 - Smaller size AGPs are often appropriate in areas where a full size AGP is not warranted. The preferred size of these from an FA perspective is 80 x 50 yds, as this provides the option of catering for 9v9 football (up to age U12) which is the main area of predicted football growth. Smaller sized AGPs (60x40yds – 7v7) may also be appropriate in certain locations.
- 2.7 - All artificial grass pitches should be floodlit for full community use, preferably with floodlighting hours at the maximum and extending to 10pm at night. This significantly improves the effectiveness and capacity of the site, and therefore its long term viability and sustainability. There are issues surrounding floodlighting at Torquay Academy's 3g pitch, which constrains use.

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3: FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF - PLAYING PITCH PROVISION ACROSS TORBAY -

- 3.1 - This section sets out a strategy for the future delivery of facilities for football, cricket, rugby, hockey and other pitch sports in Torbay
- 3.2 - It seeks to deliver on the aspirations of the local sporting community and to respond to the issues identified through the assessment of local playing pitch provision. As such, it is focused around the following principles;
- **Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision** – the strategy seeks to ensure that Torbay contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and in the right place. It promotes the protection of existing provision, but also recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the impact that qualitative improvements can have on capacity.
 - **Pitch provision will be delivered in partnership.** The strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community. Strategic sites and areas of search will be identified in the new Torbay Local plan and Neighbourhood Plans.
 - **Investment will focus upon interventions that will have the greatest impact** – the strategy seeks to prioritise investment into sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit. It will seek to increase participation in sport and activity in terms of both numbers and standards.
 - **The strategy will seek to maximise sustainability** – it will seek to build relationships between sports, promote good practice and deliver sustainable solutions for sport and recreation across Torbay.
- 3.3 - This framework for future delivery is summarized in a number of Strategic Objectives – as set out below. These can be principally categorized under the following headings of 'Protect', 'Enhance' and 'Provide', as recommended by Sport England, although these categories are not mutually exclusive and some Strategic Objectives will sit comfortably both within 'Enhance' and 'Provide' for example, However, between them, they encompass the tenets to underpin the development of a sustainable framework. The Action Guide (Section 4) presents recommendations by sport, identifying sites and specific actions where appropriate.

Summary of Strategic Objectives (SO)

- 3.4 - The following strategic objectives will be applied to playing pitch provision across Torbay.

Protect

- SO1:** Protection of existing playing field sites
- SO2:** Protection of access to playing field sites
- SO3:** Ensuring the sustainability of playing field sites
- SO4:** Ensuring the sustainability of pitch sport clubs
- SO6:** Developing and securing community use of school pitch sport facilities

Enhance

- SO5:** - Identification of sporting hub sites
- SO7:** - Ensuring that pitch sports' facility needs are met by the provision of appropriate, high quality pitches and ancillary facilities
- SO9:** - Ensuring playing field land is used effectively
- SP10:** - Effective management and programming of sites and booking procedures
- SO11:** - Partnership working to enable greater use of existing playing field sites and the sharing of skills, expertise, resources and facilities.
- SO12:** - Improving accessibility to pitch sport sites, in order to encourage greater participation by all sectors of the community
- SO13:** - Supporting economic regeneration and income generation through the development of sports tournaments and festivals
- SO16:** - To increase interest and participation in the pitch sports and usage of playing field facilities to improve the health, fitness and well-being of residents in and visitors to Torbay

Provide

- SO8:** - The provision of facilities for both competition and training which enable pitch sport participants to improve and progress
- SO14:** - Ensuring that new facilities are provided to meet projected demand from increases in population and participation
- SO15:** - Ensuring information is reviewed and updated on a regular basis
- SO17:** - Addressing the need for artificial grass pitches to meeting increasing and changing demand for AGP surfaces for both training and competition in football, hockey and rugby and other pitch sports.

3.5 In detail, the strategic objectives are as follows:

Protect/SO1: - Protection of existing playing field sites

Justification: - There is a need to protect playing pitch provision irrespective of ownership and the degree of community access and use, along with unused sites and land allocated as a playing field in the forthcoming Torbay Local Plan, in order to meet existing, latent and future demand. This is a key evidence case issue for the new Torbay Local plan, Emerging Neighbourhood Plans and s106 contributions.

To be addressed generally through:

- Ensuring that the Torbay Local Plan contains policies protecting sites containing playing pitches, building upon the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 74) and Sport England's statutory consultee role on planning applications affecting playing field land

- Designating sites with a particular special significance for sport through the Development Plan process (see NPPF paragraphs 76 and 77).
- (A full list of all playing field sites identified for protection will be presented in an appendix to this document.)

Protect/SO2: - Protection of access to playing field sites

Justification: - There is a requirement to provide long term security on playing pitch sites to maintain the pitch supply, to ensure that investment in new facilities and improvements can be obtained and be effective and support the development of sustainable clubs.

To be addressed generally through:

- Supporting clubs with aspirations to manage and maintain their own facilities by negotiating and ensuring long term security of tenure at specific sites
- The adoption of a clearly set out policy for asset transfer including details of the criteria that will be used for decision making and steps that should be taken to secure the use of a site. This should focus upon transfer of assets to clubs that are able to demonstrate long term development plans and have achieved appropriate accreditations.
- Protecting the provision of playing pitches for community use by agreements with clubs that lease facilities
- Securing and agreeing access to facilities on school sites (see SO6 also)

Protect/SO3: - Ensuring the sustainability of playing field sites

Justification: - In a time of severe financial constraints and reduction in subsidies to the voluntary sector, sustainability has emerged as a key issue in the provision of facilities. It is important to ensure that all new provision and enhancements are carried out in a sustainable manner and that sites have the capacity and ability to be developed to become as effective, well used and viable as possible.

To be addressed generally as follows:

Sustainable sites are likely to be those which offer some, preferably all, of the following characteristics:

- Good access to, or which are in close proximity to, existing sports facilities, have good changing facilities, and allow for the further development of complementary indoor and outdoor facilities.
- The capacity for the upgrading or renewal of existing facilities that does not result in the loss of opportunities for any sport.
- Capable of accommodating a range of pitch sports or a variety of pitch sizes and facilities for one sport

- For the winter pitch sports – a minimum of at least 2 pitches – any new site should include at least one pitch and a training pitch (preferably two pitches to allow for development)
- The capacity to accommodate multiple pitches rather than single pitch facilities, and from a mixture of summer and winter sports. If sharing of space can be effectively arranged, such sites are usually more cost effective to manage and maintain, can be used (and provide a revenue) throughout the year and can benefit from the sharing of expertise and facilities and joint funding of new and improved facilities
- Capable of accommodating intensification of use, including the introduction of artificial grass surfaces and floodlighting.
- Easily accessible by foot, cycle and public transport (including park and ride schemes), energy efficient and thus able to contribute to a healthy quality of life

Protect/SO4: - Ensuring the sustainability of pitch sport clubs

Justification: - In a time of severe financial constraints and reduction in subsidies to the voluntary sector, sustainability has emerged as a key issue in the provision of facilities. There are considerable cost and time implications in running voluntary pitch and court sport clubs, and these are impacting on demand and growth in participation. Support for the voluntary sector in relation to the management and maintenance of both facilities and membership activity is important to ensure a thriving club sector and good quality facilities. This may include providing opportunities for self management and maintenance.

To be addressed generally through:

- Promoting partnership working and sharing of knowledge, expertise and skills in the management and maintenance of pitches across Torbay. This may include partnerships between public, voluntary and private providers in close proximity
- Encouraging clubs to achieve relevant accreditations and to work towards long term robust development plans
- Providing advice and information,
- The adoption of a clearly set out policy for asset transfer including details of the criteria that will be used for decision making and steps that should be taken to secure the use of a site. This should focus upon transfer of assets to clubs that are able to demonstrate long term development plans and have achieved appropriate accreditations.

Enhance/SO5: - Identification of sporting hub sites

Justification: - In order to make the most effective use of existing facilities (including grass pitches, artificial grass pitches, courts, multi use games areas and indoor sports facilities) and to benefit from the sharing of facilities, resources and finance, a number of hub sites to be identified, which will be prioritized in terms of further development.

To be addressed generally through:

- Working with clubs, schools and other providers and users to establish their requirements and identify appropriate venues as hub sites and associated satellite facilities.

Protect/SO6: - Developing and securing community use of school pitch sport facilities

Justification: - A high proportion of playing pitches are on school sites and form an integral and essential part of the stock. It is essential to maintaining a sustainable pitch stock in Torbay and providing opportunities for increased participation that all pitches on school sites should be protected and opportunities for their community use fully explored and secured wherever possible.

To be addressed generally through:

- Securing community use agreements at education sites
- Supporting improvements which will improve access to existing school pitches and enhance their viability and suitability for community use
- Ensuring that facilities on school sites are, from the outset, designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use.

Enhance/SO7: - Ensuring that pitch sports' facility needs are met by the provision of appropriate, high quality pitches and ancillary facilities.

Justification: - In order to maintain and increase participation rates, a high standard of facilities is required. Priority should be given to improving and enhancing existing facilities to meet these standards wherever possible. This applies to both the pitch surface itself - in order to maintain and improve capacity of the pitches – and to ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and car parking.

To be addressed generally through:

- Ensuring that all pitches are maintained using maintenance regimes appropriate for the level of use that they sustain and the activities that are undertaken. This should include both regular maintenance and out of season reinstatement and capital investment
- Undertaking and supporting improvements and enhancement at sites that do not meet required quality standards
- Ensuring that pitches are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. sports lighting and changing provision)
- Improving the maintenance arrangements at a site or across a number of sites, especially those that are well used but of poor quality
- Supporting clubs that require improved facilities in order to play at a higher standard
- Ensuring that usage is in line with site capacity and that play is evenly spread across pitches
- Implementing a programme of rest and recovery where appropriate.

Provide/SO8: - The provision of facilities for both competition and training which enable pitch sport participants to improve and progress

Justification: - In order to improve and progress within their sports, pitch sportsmen and women require a range of competitive and training opportunities. At present, for example, there is no facility which meets the standards for the Peninsula league in the area.

To be addressed generally through:

- Developing a hierarchy of facility provision within different sports, to enable progression in training and competition with Torbay
- Ensuring that clubs have access to sufficient facilities for training as well as for matches

Enhance/SO9: - Ensuring playing field land is used most effectively

Justification: - Some pitch sites are currently underutilized and have the capacity to accommodate more pitches to meet different age requirements or different sports. Others accommodate both winter and summer sports. Many sites also fulfil an open space function and must meet the needs of both casual users and pitch sport participants.

To be addressed generally through:

- Considering other management options to meet demand during peak periods such as extending the playing season, encouraging leagues to allow the staggering of kick off times and directing casual use to other areas of the site to help reduce wear and tear (e.g. removing / repositioning goal posts, protecting the cricket square).
- Provision of delineated 'dog walking' areas to address the problem of fouling of pitches by dogs
- Realignment of existing pitches and changes in marking to accommodate a range of pitch sizes.
- Considering the introduction of different pitch sports on an existing site (e.g. junior football pitches on cricket outfield)
- Effective management of shared sites between winter and summer pitches
- Considering the introduction of fitness equipment on playing field sites
- Maintaining an appropriate balance between recreation and formal playing pitch requirements

Enhance/SO10: - Effective management and programming of sites and booking procedures

Justification: - The capacity of existing playing field sites may be improved through better management, programming and booking

procedures. For example, some are busy at peak times with spare capacity at other times of the week.

To be addressed generally through:

- Reviewing pitch booking regulations to ensure that use of pitches is rotated, and set a maximum allowance (suggestion of two games per pitch?) to promote consistent use of all pitches??.
- Ensuring that booking procedures encourage casual bookings and address the problem of unauthorised use
- Encouraging leagues to introduce alternative and staggered kick-off times, to make use of off-peak periods
- Reviewing pricing policies e.g. considering introducing reduced pricing of pitches for less popular days and times
- Considering the joint management of sites in close proximity to one another (e.g. club and school sites)
- Improving opportunities for curricular use by schools (pricing)

Enhance/SO11: - Partnership working to enable greater use of existing playing field sites and the sharing of skills, expertise, resources and facilities.

Justification: - Many organizations within Torbay have similar objectives to encourage more people to participate in the pitch sports. This can be aided by these organizations working together more closely to avoid duplication of effort and cost.

To be addressed generally through:

- Developing pitch sports facilities in association with health agencies/agendas to create environments which provide opportunities for sport and fitness activities to take place easily within people's daily lives.
- Developing partnerships between Torbay Council departments, clubs, commercial providers and schools, to expand the range of affordable and accessible opportunities for both residents and visitors to Torbay and to avoid duplication of facilities.

Enhance/SO12: - Improving accessibility to pitch sport sites, in order to encourage greater participation by all sectors of the community

Justification: - The rising cost of taking part in sport, particularly for youth teams, is becoming a serious barrier to, and brake on, growing participation. As well as physical access to sites, the concept of accessibility embraces affordability.

To be addressed generally through:

- Pricing policy e.g. consideration to be given to the introduction of concessionary rates for eg Charter Standard Clubs and more concessionary rates for schools.

- Consider partnerships with other providers to provide a 'one stop' information centre in Torbay on facilities, availability, hire costs etc
- Reviewing car parking charges at local authority operated sites
- Supporting improvements and developments which enhance opportunities for participation by people with disabilities, young people and women.
- Ensuring all changing facilities are DDA compliant and there are disability car parking spaces
- Ensuring that all main playing field sites are on bus routes
- Ensuring all playing field sites linked by cycleways, with adequate, safe and secure bike storage options

Enhance/SO13: - Supporting economic regeneration and income generation through the development of sports tournaments and festivals

Justification: - Torbay has a long tradition of accommodating sporting festivals and tournaments, particularly in the pitch sports. Facility improvements and developments should enable these activities to expand, to both inspire residents and attract sporting tourists and visitors to the Bay.

Provide/SO14: - Ensuring that facilities are provided to meet projected demand from increases in population and participation and changes in participation patterns

Justification: - Even with more effective use of existing facilities, new pitches and ancillary facilities will be required to address inadequacies in the current level of provision, meet changing participation trends and patterns and to meet demand from rising population. These should reach high quality standards and be fully available for community use.

To be addressed generally through:

- Ensuring that all facilities are fully available for community use (including those on education sites)
- Addressing deficiencies in junior and mini football by designating adult football pitches to junior and mini sites to ensure that all teams are playing on pitches of the right size. Ensure that all pitches are appropriately marked to meet with new FA guidelines (adult and junior).
- Ensuring that the standard of facilities and ancillary provision is high, to meet increasingly high aspirations and expectations from players.

Provide/SO15: - Ensuring information is reviewed and updated on a regular basis

Justification: - In order for this strategy to be a live, working document and to fulfil its function in providing a robust evidence base to underpin local planning policy, CIL and developer contributions, it is important that it is regularly maintained and updated. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This assessment will support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches across Torbay.

To be addressed generally through:

- Undertaking annual updating of this playing fields strategy, including, at appropriate times, the maintenance and completion of the main database.
- This would include regularly: (a) updating the supply of pitches (recording when new pitches are provided, pitches undergo a change of use, or a different configuration) and (b) updating the SportSpoidemand for pitches by checking number of teams (ideally in September), through new handbooks and club/league websites.

Enhance/SO16: - To increase interest and participation in the pitch sports and usage of playing field facilities to improve the health, fitness and well-being of residents in and visitors to Torbay

Justification: - Improvements in facilities and new provision are dedicated to increasing the opportunities for participation in the pitch sports. Research for the strategy has highlighted some other measures to encourage more people to take part.

To be addressed generally through:

- Establishing targets for development and participation increases
- Addressing through appropriate management including:
 - marketing of opportunities
 - proactive sports development work
 - on-site management etc

Provide/SO17: Addressing the need for artificial grass pitches to meeting increasing and changing demand fro AGP surfaces for both training and competition in football, hockey and rugby and other pitch sports.

Justification: Patterns of participation in the pitch sports are changing. Hockey has used artificial grass for many years; and AGP surfaces are also used heavily for training by football and hockey clubs. However, there is rising demand for AGPs for matchplay in hockey, football and rugby and a combination of different surfaces and sizes are required.

- 4.1 - The Action Guide presented in this Section builds on the Framework for Delivery – Strategic Priorities set out in Section 3. While to date and for clarity, each sport has been considered separately within this strategy, recommendations should be implemented strategically, considering opportunities for partnerships between sports. Sustainable clubs and multi sport partnerships provide the foundations for a successful future delivery model and it will be essential to ensure that good practice and knowledge is spread across Torbay through sharing of expertise and effective training and guidance.
- 4.2 - Table 1: Draft Action Plan by Strategic Objectives sets out action points for all pitches and then for each of the sports in turn, identifying specific sites where appropriate. At a later stage an indication of the timeframe and the lead responsibility and implementation partners will be added.
- 4.3 - Table 2: Draft Action Plan by Site sets out action points in relation to individual sites in Torbay.

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Table 1: TORBAY PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: DRAFT ACTION PLAN BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

SO1: Protection of existing playing field sites

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Ensure that Torbay Local Plan contains policies protecting sites containing grass playing pitches for football, cricket, rugby and other sports and full size and smaller artificial grass pitches for football, rugby and hockey to meet existing, latent and future need	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sites as listed in Table 2, irrespective of ownership or whether currently in use or current configuration of site Emerging new Local Plan Policy SC2 	
b	Designate sites with a particular special significance for sport through the Development Plan process.	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch sport hub sites and other priority sites (e.g. The Willows and Churston/Brixham Area of Search) to be agreed through strategy consultation Emerging new Local Plan Policy SC2 	
c	Identify sites to address medium – long term shortfalls	General	Possible sites include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clennon Valley, Paignton New site at The Willows Churston/Brixham Area of Search (incl. Brokenbury Quarry) 	
d	Ensure that full consultation is carried out with providers, users and other stakeholders, including Sport England, prior to the change of any existing surfaces, both grass and artificial	General	All sites	
e	Continue to monitor the adequacy of both grass and artificial grass pitches to meet the existing, latent and future needs of all pitch sports	General	All sites	

SO2: Protection of access to playing field sites -

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Protect existing security of tenure for clubs with current leases through the timely renegotiation of new leases	General	Sites with existing leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen's Park (existing lease) • Barton Downs 	
b	Asset transfer: Consider further the optimum way to involve individual clubs in the management and maintenance of key pitch sport sites. All user clubs to have equal involvement, responsibility and influence in management of sites. Introduce such management agreements to groups of clubs who can demonstrate that they and the pitch site would benefit from such an arrangement, where clubs are able to demonstrate long term development plans and where they have achieved appropriate accreditations (see SO4) Ensure that any leases protect / have written in that facilities should still be available to the public ..	General	Possible delivery options include deeds of dedication, covenants and/or charitable trusts, overarching committees etc. Possible sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torquay Cricketfield Road • Torquay Recreation Ground/Torre Valley North/Torre Valley South • Armada Park, Torquay • Windmill Hill, Torquay • White Rock, Paignton • Clennon Valley, Paignton 	
c	Protect community access to education sites (see SO6)			

SO3: Ensuring the sustainability of playing field sites -

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	<p>Promote the advantages of sharing of sites between winter and summer pitch sports in terms of sustainability, maintaining activity at the site (and therefore revenue) throughout the year, providing opportunities for growth in membership and more attractive options for funding bids.</p> <p>Investigate the potential of introducing additional/new/a range of pitch sports to existing sites. Development of summer football leagues</p>	General	<p>Priority sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windmill Hill – football (summer and winter), cricket, rugby league • Clennon Valley – football (summer and winter), rugby, cricket, American football, rounders, baseball • White Rock – football (summer and winter) and cricket • Barton Downs (rounders) • e.g. North Boundary Road, Brixham junior football pitches on cricket outfield • St Mary's Park, Brixham – summer football, rounders, other sports • Introduce American football and baseball to sites in Torquay (Windmill Hill/Barton Downs) 	
b	Prepare a Code of Conduct for sites shared between winter and summer sports in association with pitch providers, managers and users	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites involved: Paignton Queens Park, Clennon Valley, Torquay Recreation Ground, Torquay Cricketfield Road and Torre Valley North. 	
c	Reappraise the potential of playing field land to accommodate sports other than pitch sports such as archery, athletics (field events), running, keep fit activities, petanque, volleyball, badminton	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sites 	
d	Convene a special group within Torbay Local Sports Council and partners to investigate potential for use of playing fields in a range of sports by people with disabilities	General		

e	Ensure that any new sites identified are able to accommodate intensification of use i.e. provision and/or upgrading to artificial grass surfaces, provision of floodlighting, car parking and requisite changing and pavilion facilities	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new sites, including sites for schools 	
f	Review the alignment of pitches at key sites to ensure that optimum use is being made of space available, through possible re-orientation of pitches and use of goal sockets etc so that pitches can be realigned for rest and recovery	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clennon Valley Windmill Hill King George V 	
g	Further work to establish how sites can be accessed by public transport	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority: proposed sports hub sites 	

SO4: Ensuring the sustainability of pitch sport clubs -

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Provide central hub or base for information – preferably web-based - about club management, funding, maintenance and opportunities within Torbay	General		
b	Educate clubs on the prerequisites to be considered for asset transfer through club forums and knowledge transfer. Suitability of clubs to be assessed against an established set of criteria and this should be shared with potential interested clubs. Ongoing support to be provided to the partner clubs/organizations.	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, Torre Valley North Sports Association 	
c	Establish Pitch Development Groups in each town, based around sports hub sites and including Torbay Council departments, Torbay Local Sports Council, principal pitch sport clubs, secondary and primary schools, NGBs and key providers. To address issues of training in grounds maintenance and facility upkeep, management of shared sites and provide support and guidance in relation to the submission of external funding bids.	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torquay Pitch Development Group Paignton Pitch Development Group Brixham Pitch Development Group 	

d	<p>And/or: Further support the sustainable growth of the pitch sports by promoting communication between all of those involved through Development Forums for Football, Cricket, Rugby, Hockey and other pitch sports. Clubs should be encouraged to join and share good practice between fellow pitch sport clubs and the forum should support accurate forward planning for all clubs. Set targets for the development forums to achieve and monitor progress and challenges arising. <i>(Do we need both this and one above?)</i></p>	General		
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SO5: Identification of sporting hub sites -

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
	<p>Identify and agree sporting hub sites. In order to make the most effective use of existing facilities (including indoor sports facilities and outdoor facilities, including courts, greens, grass pitches and artificial grass pitches), improve sustainability of sites, increase participation, benefit from the sharing of facilities, resources and finance and support bids for funding.</p> <p>A number of hub sites to be identified, which will be prioritized in terms of further development. School sports facilities to be included where appropriate and multi sports and agency partnerships formed to manage facilities collectively.</p> <p>Satellite pitch sport facilities also identified, where appropriate.</p>			
a	<p>Galmpton Sports Hub</p>	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galmpton Recreation Ground and Churston Ferrers Grammar School: football & cricket pitches, proposed half size AGP at Galmpton, Churston Ferrers School sports centre • Satellite Facilities: Brokenbury Quarry 	

b	Brixham Sports Hub	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astley Park (Brixham RFC), Astley Top Pitch & Brixham Community College: cricket, football, rugby & possible site for IRB22 rugby and football artificial pitch. Link to sports centre at Brixham CC & Admiral Pool • Satellite Facilities: St Mary's Park, Furzeham Recreation Ground and North Boundary Road 	
c	Clennon Valley Sports Hub	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley & Torbay Leisure Centre: various pitch sports and sand and proposed 3g AGP • Satellite facilities: Queen's Park, Paignton (cricket, rugby) 	
d	Paignton Community and Sports Academy Sports Hub	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paignton Community & Sports Academy: sports halls and 3g AGP: football, rugby, indoor cricket • Satellite facilities: Belfield Road, Paignton (football) and South Devon College (football, proposed half size/smaller AGP) 	
e	Torquay Academy/Cricketfield Road Sports Hub	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricketfield Road/Torquay Academy: football, cricket & 3g AGP and indoor sports hall • Satellite facilities: St Cuthbert Mayne School 	
f	Torquay Grammar Schools Sports Hub	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torquay Boys and Torquay Girls Grammar Schools: rugby, cricket, football, sand AGP, indoor sports halls 	
g	Torre Valley Sports Hub	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torre Valley North, Torre Valley South & Torquay Recreation Ground: rugby, cricket, athletics, football 	

h	Windmill Hill Sports Hub	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windmill Hill: football, possibly cricket, rugby league, summer pitch sports 	
i	Acorn Centre Sports Hub	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acorn Centre/Barton Downs : football, upgraded half-size or larger AGP, other pitch sports, indoor sports centre 	
j	Plainmoor Sports Hub	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torquay United FC, Westlands School, linked to Plainmoor Community Pool, Indoor Bowls Club: football, upgraded floodlit half-size AGP • Satellite facilities: St Cuthbert Mayne School, Quinta Road playing fields 	

SO6: Community use of school pitch sport facilities -

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Protect and secure all playing pitches on school sites by identifying them as playing field land in the Torbay Local Plan. The challenges in achieving this are recognised, however guidance provided by Sport England will help to maximise opportunities.	General		
b	Prepare presentation/pitch on benefits of community use of school facilities and present to all secondary schools in Torbay at specially convened meetings. (Sport England (http://www.sportengland.org/support_advice/accessing_schools.aspx)	General		
c	Secure community use agreements at all primary and secondary school sites using model templates provided by Sport England	General	All school sites as listed in Table 2	

d	Explore further possible access to primary school pitches which do not currently have community use.	General	As listed in Table 2	
e	Identify specific works required at schools sites to enable/improve community access e.g. changing accommodation, community entrances,	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example: Torquay Grammar School for Girls 	
f	Investigate setting up a co-ordinated booking system between all schools, Council run facilities and other providers.	General		
g	Maintain access to non-turf cricket wickets on school sites, as so few in the Bay and required to support cricket development	Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brixham Community College Torquay Boys Grammar School, Churston Ferrers Grammar School, Quinta Playing Fields (Westlands School) 	

SO7: Ensure that pitch sports' facility needs are met by the provision of appropriate, high quality facilities (for AGPs see SO17)

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Ensure that pitch sport sites reach the standards of pitch maintenance and facility provision fit for 21 st century. To support improvements to pitches where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or support for clubs to gain external grants. Seek to ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality by addressing existing quality issues at key pitch sites	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As listed in Table 2 	
b	Revisit and if necessary revise/upgrade maintenance schedules and arrange closer co-ordination between pitch management at Torbay Council and maintenance contractors,	General		

c	Improve the maintenance regimes at key sites, especially those that are well used but of poorer quality, to increase capacity and minimize longer term deterioration of the pitches	General	Priority sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley • Cricketfield Road, Torquay 	
d	Address identified drainage issues at existing pitches focusing firstly on sites where improvements will have maximum impact and where cancellations occur due to drainage issues.	General	Priority sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley, Paignton • White Rock, Paignton 	
e	Upgrade changing accommodation to better meet needs of women and girls, juniors and people with disabilities and improve capacity of the site	Football	Priority sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Rock Paignton • Acorn Centre (as part of centre redevelopment) • Queen's Park Paignton • Torquay Recreation Ground • Clennon Valley 	
f	Adopt a minimum standard of toilets and wash facilities at sites for junior and mini football.	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant sites 	
g	Improve pitch quality to improve capacity and player experience	Football	Priority sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley, Paignton • St Mary's Park, Brixham 	
h	Improve pitch quality to improve capacity and player experience	Rugby	Priority sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astley Park top field • Torquay Recreation Ground • Clennon Valley • Cricketfield Road, Torquay 	
i	Recognising the high levels of demand that are evident and the need for pitches to sustain high levels of use, work in partnership with the Devon Cricket Board to support clubs and schools in improving the quality of pitches, and in accessing funding through the ECB Grant Aid and Pitch Advisory Scheme. Any improvements undertaken should seek to ensure that facilities are in line with ECB standards as well as meeting specifications for the Devon Cricket League	Cricket	Priority sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torre Valley North • Wall's Hill Torquay • Torquay Boys Grammar School • Quinta Road Playing Fields (Westlands School) • Brixham Community College 	
j	Support the provision of appropriate machinery and equipment at cricket grounds	Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cricket grounds 	
k	Support the provision of dedicated storage facilities	Other Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e.g. Baseball at Clennon Valley 	

SO8: The provision of facilities for both competition and training which enable pitch sport participants to improve and progress -

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Improve access to and opportunities for training facilities across Torbay for football and rugby clubs through provision of artificial grass pitches (see SO17)	Football & rugby		
b	Support provision of training floodlights at pitch sites where training grids can be marked out, thus avoiding use of match pitches for training	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As appropriate 	
c	Enhancement/provision of facilities at football pitch sites which will meet requirements for progression to higher leagues within the FA pyramid	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windmill Hill, Torquay Armada Park, Torquay Galmpton Memorial Ground Other options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricketfield Road, Torquay White Rock, Paignton Clennon Valley or alternative site in Paignton (e.g. new site in new White Rock development) 	
d	Support cricket clubs in the development of training nets to enhance sustainability & improve overall performance.	Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torquay Recreation Ground 	
e	Ensure that there are sufficient facilities for indoor training for cricket at sports halls throughout Torbay	Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure at least two sports halls have nets in each of main towns. 	
f	Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate training facilities. This should include a minimum of one floodlit pitch for training at each club site.	Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All rugby grounds 	
g	Ensure that each of the three rugby clubs have access to wet weather rugby training facilities – see AGPs (SO17)	Rugby		

SO9: Ensuring playing field land is used effectively (this could be combined with SO3) -

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	At sites which also function as open space, direct casual use to other areas of the site to help reduce wear and tear (e.g. removing / repositioning goal posts, protecting the cricket square).	General	Priority sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley • Windmill Hill • Barton Downs • Torre Valley North 	
b	Provide improved signage and bins and delineated 'dog walking' areas to address the problem of fouling of pitches by dogs	General	Priority sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mary's Park, Brixham • Astley Park top pitches, Brixham • Furzeham Recreation Ground, Brixham • Clennon Valley • Cricketfield Road, Torquay • Torquay Recreation Ground 	
c	Where necessary, realign existing pitches and where appropriate, remark pitches to meet with FA guidelines ensuring that juniors play on suitable pitches	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley, Paignton 	
d	Where possible, mark out more pitches to ensure improved rotation for rest and recovery	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley • Windmill Hill 	
e	Increase the capacity of existing wickets/ provide more wickets (also relevant to SO14)	Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torquay Recreation Ground • Queen's Park, Paignton • Torre Valley North, Torquay 	
f	Promote better co-ordination between sites	Cricket	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at proposed Torre Valley Hub Site: so that e.g. cricket overflow activity from Torquay Recreation Ground can be accommodated at Torre Valley North • Paignton: rugby activity to be accommodated at Clennon Valley to reduce pressure on cricket square at Queen's Park and possible additional cricket pitch at Clennon Valley 	

g	Consider how to progress provision of pitches at The Willows as identified in Local Plan, if necessary through reorganization and rationalization within existing pitch stock, especially pitches on sloping land and single pitch sites.			
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SO10: Effective management and programming of sites and booking procedures -

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Review pitch booking regulations to ensure that use of pitches is rotated	General		
b	(Continue to) operate flexible, on-site booking procedures wherever possible, to encourage casual bookings and address problem of unauthorised use	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main sites – Clennon Valley 	
c	Encourage leagues to introduce alternative and staggered kick-off times, to make use of off-peak periods	Football		
d	To consider introducing reduced pricing of pitches for less popular days and times ??	General		
e	Establish clear routes of communication with pitch users ensuring that all decisions are taken with a full understanding of needs and aspirations. Maximise channels of communication by using proposed Pitch Development Forums and/or pitch sport development groups.	General		

SO11: To develop partnership working to enable greater use of existing playing field sites and the sharing of skills, expertise, resources and facilities*(could be combined with SO4)*

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Develop pitch sports facilities in association with health agencies/agendas to create environments which provide opportunities for sport and fitness activities to take place easily within people's daily lives	General		
b	Develop partnerships between Torbay Council departments, clubs, commercial providers and schools, to expand the range of affordable and accessible opportunities for both residents and visitors to Torbay and to avoid duplication of facilities.	General		

SO12: Improving accessibility to pitch sport sites, in order to encourage greater participation by all sectors of the community
(again, this duplicates some of SO3, SO4 and SO10, but important to have as separate Strategic Objective?)

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Consider introduction of concessionary rates for eg Charter Standard Clubs.	General		
b	Consider partnerships with other providers to provide a 'one stop' information centre in Torbay on facilities, availability, hire costs etc	General		
c	Address the issue of pricing of schools' use, to see if any more concessionary rates can be applied	General		
d	Encourage car sharing. Review car parking charges at local authority operated sites	General		

e	Support improvements and developments which enhance opportunities for participation by people with disabilities, young people and women.	General		
f	Ensure all changing facilities are DDA compliant and there are disability car parking spaces	General		
g	Ensure all main playing field sites are easily accessible by public transport	General		
h	Ensure all playing field sites linked and served by cycleways, with adequate, safe and secure bike storage options	General		

SO13: Supporting economic regeneration and income generation through effective use of playing fields

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Further development of tournaments and festivals – summer rugby and football etc ; hockey festival, centre for American football, rugby league, baseball and rounders activity in the South West	General	At appropriate sites e.g. Clennon Valley	
b	Work towards the improvement of one ground in Torbay capable of accommodating Minor Counties cricket	Cricket		
c	Consider whether now feasible to provide a hub site with use of artificial grass pitch and grass training pitches for Torquay United FC within Torbay	Football		

SO14: Ensuring that new facilities are provided to meet projected demand from increases in population and participation, and changes in participation patterns to 2021 and that these reach high quality standards and are available for full community use. (see also SO17 – artificial turf pitches)

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Any new winter pitch site should include at least one pitch and a training pitch (preferably two pitches to allow for development) and match with RFU and FA model venues as set out in the national strategy. Targets should be set for the development of participation in football and rugby following new provision,	Winter pitch sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New pitch sport sites 	
b	New junior pitches and mini pitches in Brixham	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 new junior pitches and 2 mini pitches Possible sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Boundary Road on cricket outfield – Brokenbury Quarry St Mary's Park (part) 	
c	At least 4 new pitches in Torquay on a flat level site with floodlit artificial grass training area adjacent	Football	Preferred site: The Willows area of search <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of 3 adult pitches from King George V 	
d	Additional youth, 9v9 and mini pitches in Torquay	Football	Preferred site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Willows, adjacent to adult pitches Replacement of 9v9 pitch from Steps Cross Addition of small adult pitch, another junior pitch and 4 mini pitches – either at The Willows, through opening up of school grounds or other dedicated youth football centre 	

e	Additional adult pitches in Paignton	Football	Preferred site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley: retain 3 full size adult pitches 	
f	Additional youth, 9v9 and mini pitches in Paignton	Football	Preferred site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley: 1 youth 11v11 pitch, 2 junior pitches (at least one 9v9) and 4 mini pitches 	
h	Torquay United FC facilities (to keep under review)	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of hub site for Torquay Utd – pitches and training AGP 	
g	Requirement for a non-turf wicket to accommodate growth in midweek adult play and junior play in Torquay, accessible to Torquay Cricket Club	Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible sites: • In Torquay –or additional cricket square possibly at Windmill Hill 	
h	Access to wickets/pitch for additional play and junior development by Torquay Cricket Club		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly through provision of more grass wickets at Torre Valley North or use of other non-turf wickets 	
i	The provision of a new satellite ground to Queen's Park in Paignton to address issues of capacity at that site and accommodate growing demand	Cricket	Preferred site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clennon Valley – cricket Other options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Rock, Paignton • New site? 	
j	Ensure that all rugby union clubs have secured access to sufficient pitches and ancillary facilities to meet current and projected requirements.	Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional pitch in Brixham • Adult pitch (replacement) and junior/mini pitches at Clennon Valley • Full security of tenure and partnership in management at Torre Valley North – Torquay Rugby club to be given full parity with other users of the site. There are not enough pitches to accommodate demand in Torquay without Torre Valley North 	
k	Ensure that rugby clubs have access to suitable floodlit training facilities, off-pitch		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torquay – access to off-site training facilities (artificial grass pitch?) • Floodlit training area at Clennon Valley • Brixham – see SO16 below 	
l	Provide facilities for new and additional pitch sports when appropriate and demand identified (e.g. Baseball, American football, rounders, lacrosse, rugby league)			

m	To ensure that recommendations can be appropriately translated into supplementary planning guidance to underpin contributions through S106 agreements and CIL. Pooling restrictions on S106 come into force in April 2015. After that date, pitch development contributions would need to be 'phased' to pay for Land acquisition/Layout/Fencing/Carparking/Lighting etc.			
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SO15: Review and updating of PPS Information on regular basis. -

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Undertake regular updating of this playing fields strategy, including, at appropriate times, the maintenance and completion of the main database. This would include regularly: (a) updating the supply of pitches (recording when new pitches are provided, pitches undergo a change of use, or a different configuration) and (b) updating the demand for pitches by checking number of teams (ideally in September), through new handbooks and club/league websites	General		
b	To encourage Pitch Development Forums or development groups to continually monitor and record changes	General		

SO16: To increase interest and participation in the pitch sports and usage of playing field facilities to improve the health, fitness and well-being of residents in and visitors to Torbay

	Action required; for example:		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Provide support to existing and new leagues and initiatives	General		
b	Support clubs in providing a range of activities to encourage new players to the game as well as to retain existing members e.g. as follows:	General		
c	Support clubs in Increasing number of coaches – major issue for many smaller clubs – <i>should this go under pitch club sustainability (SO4)?</i>	General		
d	Continue to work with clubs to produce development plans in order to ensure ongoing understanding of current and potential future requirements	General		
e	Further develop school club links and the establishment of a relationship between schools and cricket clubs. Facilities at school sites can then be used by the cricket club as the club expands. Note improvements to the quality of facilities are likely to also be required	Cricket	All cricket clubs. In particular, target increases in participation at smaller clubs in order to ensure that clubs remain sustainable – (This can be applied to other sports)	
f	Consider how best to increase midweek casual play and the establishment of a midweek senior league. Introduce new forms of the game such as Last Man Standing and T20	Cricket	Council cricket venue potentially required for introduction of an informal cricket league (longer term). Windmill Hill may be an appropriate venue for this purpose or Improvements at Torre Valley North	
g	Develop further opportunities for Touch and tag rugby and '7s', summer rugby	Rugby		
h	Support increases in participation in hockey through the existing club structure through both the introduction of new forms of the game (Rush Hockey and Back to Hockey) and improvement of links with potential participants to address latent demand.	Hockey		
i	Work with Torbay Hockey Clubs to increase developmental hockey activity during the week and outside peak times.	Hockey		

SO17: Addressing the need for artificial grass pitches to meet increasing and changing demand for AGP surfaces for both training and competition in football, hockey and rugby and other pitch sports.

	Action required		Priority Sites/Areas/Clubs	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
a	Retain all existing AGPs	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Torbay Leisure Centre and TGS as sand AGPs and Torquay Academy and Paignton Community & Sports Academy as 3g football turf pitches 	
b	Resurface/upgrade Torbay Leisure Centre sand AGP	Hockey & football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torbay Leisure Centre 	
c	Support provision of IRB22 compliant rugby and football AGP in Brixham, subject to full community use and appropriate business and usage plans	Football & rugby	Possible sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brixham Sports Hub Site: Brixham Community College, Astley Park, Astley top pitches 	
d	Consider additional provision of IRB22 compliant rugby and football AGP in Paignton, subject to full community use and appropriate business and usage plans	Football & rugby	Preferred site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torbay Leisure Centre Possible alternative site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paignton Community & Sports Academy 	
e	Consider additional provision of IRB22 compliant rugby and football AGP in Torquay, subject to full community use and appropriate business and usage plans	Football & rugby	Possible site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Willows area of search 	
d	Support provision of network of smaller floodlit half size/9v9 size football turf pitches to complement full size delivery, subject to full community use and appropriate business and usage plans	Football & rugby	Priority sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acorn Centre, Torquay Westlands School, Torquay (upgrade existing MUGA which is already used by the community) Other possible sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Devon College (subject to Torbay Leisure Centre proposals) Galmpton Menorial Ground (subject to Brixham sports hub proposals) 	

h	Ensure that the quality of AGPs is sufficient to sustain the required level of use by working with providers to ensure timely refurbishment of facilities, installation of clubhouses and that a sinking fund is in place for the refurbishment of existing facilities	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All AGPs 	
i	Ensure new sites can accommodate floodlights, requisite ancillary facilities including changing, toilets, car parking and shelters	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All AGPs 	
j	Work with residents, planning officers and Torquay Academy to consider extending hours of use and floodlighting of Torquay Academy on Saturdays and Sundays	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torquay Academy 	
k	Consider extension of floodlighting at Torquay Grammar School for Girls AGP	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
l	Wherever possible, provide floodlit artificial grass surfaces in close proximity to playing pitch sites to enable training without wear and tear on the pitches	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As set out above 	

DRAFT

Table 2 : TORBAY PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY : DRAFT ACTION PLAN BY SITE -

BRIXHAM -

	Site	Sports	Proposed/required action	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
PROPOSED GALMPTON SPORTS HUB				
B1	Churston Ferrers Grammar School New pitches	Football	Potential for increased use	
B2	Churston Ferrers Grammar School	Football		
B2	Churston Ferrers Grammar School	Cricket	Maintain non-turf wicket	
B3	Galmpton Memorial Playing Fields	Football	Support improvements and upgrading of ground	
B3	Galmpton Memorial Playing Fields	Football	Support provision of half-size/9v9 3g football turf pitch	
PROPOSED BRIXHAM SPORTS HUB				
B5	Brixham Astley Park (Brixham RFC)			
B6	Brixham Astley Top Field	General	Measures to prevent fouling by dogs	
B6	Brixham Astley Top Field	Rugby	Drainage improvements and improvements to pitch surface	
B7	Brixham Community College	Cricket	Maintain and improve non turf cricket wicket	
B7	Brixham Community College	Rugby	Maintain access to pitch	
B14	Proposed Brixham Sports Hub Site	Football & rugby	Priority location for full size IRB22 artificial grass pitch for rugby and football training and matches	
OTHER SITES IN BRIXHAM				
B8	Brixham Wall Park	Football	Consider improvements to meet requirements of Peninsula League (and other leagues as appropriate)	
B8	Brixham Wall Park	Football	Address issue of overuse by junior teams; provision of additional pitches for use by youth teams in Brixham at site nearby (Centry Road?) or North Boundary Road	
B9	Brixham St Mary's Park	Football	Reinstatement of junior/mini pitch	
B9	Brixham St Mary's Park	Football	Improvements to pitch surface	
B9	Brixham St Mary's Park	General	Potential site for summer football and other summer sports – rounders etc and develop use by other sports	
B9	Brixham St Mary's Park	General	Measures to prevent fouling by dogs	

B10	Brixham Furzeham Recreation Ground	General	Measures to prevent fouling by dogs	
B10	Brixham Furzeham Recreation Ground	Football	Important role for accommodating cancellations. Investigate further why not currently used by senior side	
B4	Brixham North Boundary Ground	Cricket	Potential to increase use for cricket	
B4	Brixham North Boundary Ground	Football	Improve sustainability of site: Possible site for provision of junior & mini football pitches (as alternative to Brokenbury Quarry)	
B11	Brixham St Margaret's Clitherow Primary School	Football	Secure community use of pitch	
B12	Churston – Brokenbury Quarry (Policy SC2.6 in Local Plan)	General	Protect site for playing field/sports use	
B13	Churston/Brixham Area of Search (Policy SC2.6 in Local Plan)	Rugby	Identify site for additional grass rugby pitch (Centry Road?)	

PAIGNTON -

				Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
Site	Sports	Proposed/required action		
PROPOSED CLENNON VALLEY SPORTS HUB				
P1	Paignton Clennon Valley	General	Improvement /upgrading to changing facilities for all sections of community and possible relocation to better serve all pitches	
P1	Paignton Clennon Valley	General	Potential for increased use	
P1	Paignton Clennon Valley	General	Potential to improve site sustainability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase summer football • Provide dedicated facilities for American football • Provide dedicated facilities for baseball • Increase use for rounders • Increase use for other non-pitch sport activities e.g. athletics, volleyball, archery • Maintain and expand use for tournaments and festivals 	
P1	Paignton Clennon Valley	General	Measures to prevent fouling by dogs	
P1	Paignton Clennon Valley	General	Shared site code of conduct	

				Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
	Site	Sports	Proposed/required action	
P1	Paignton Clennon Valley	Football	Various pitch enhancements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider improvements to meet requirements of Peninsula League (and other leagues as appropriate) if sufficient room (or at other site within Paignton – possibly new White Rock development?) Improvements to drainage Improvements to pitch surface Maintain sufficient pitches and spare capacity to meet existing & future demand and for rest and recovery of pitches. In total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 adult pitches 1 x youth 11v11 pitch 2 junior (incl. one 9v9) pitches 4 x mini pitches 	
P1	Paignton Clennon Valley	Cricket	Possible site for identified additional cricket pitch in Paignton.	
P1	Paignton Clennon Valley	Rugby	Various enhancements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage improvements (replacement rugby pitch now being laid) Additional rugby pitches – 1 junior, 2 mini and floodlit training area 	
P7	Torbay Leisure Centre/Clennon Valley	Hockey & other sports	Maintain and upgrade of existing sand AGP for hockey	
P7	Torbay Leisure Centre/Clennon Valley	Football & rugby	Support for 3g artificial turf pitch (preferably full size, IRB 22 compliant)	
PROPOSED PAIGNTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS ACADEMY SPORTS HUB				
P5	Paignton Community & Sports Academy	Rugby	Maintain provision for training and occasional matches – community use	
P8	Paignton Community & Sports Academy	Football & rugby	Possible alternative site for additional 3g IRB22 artificial turf pitch (see Torbay Leisure Centre)	
OTHER SITES IN PAIGNTON				
P2	Paignton White Rock	General	Improvement of changing facilities to cater for two pitches and better cater for women and juniors and disabled	
P2	Paignton White Rock	General	Improve sustainability of site – summer football; cricket	
P2	Paignton White Rock	Football	Possible asset transfer site ? (Hookhills FC)	
P2	Paignton White Rock	Cricket	Possible site for identified additional cricket pitch in Paignton.	
P3	Paignton Belfield Road	Football	Potential for increased use, particularly youth teams	
P4	Paignton Queen's Park	General	Protect existing security of tenure for clubs with current leases	

	Site	Sports	Proposed/required action	Timescale/ Implementing Partners to be added
P4	Paignton Queen's Park	Cricket	Improve condition of outfield by moving rugby activity to alternative pitches at Clennon Valley	
P4	Paignton Queen's Park	Rugby & cricket	Shared site code of conduct	
P4	Paignton Queen's Park	Rugby & cricket	Upgrade/improve changing facilities	
P6	South Devon College	Football	Maintain pitch for community use	
P6	South Devon College	AGP	Support proposal for 9v9 size 3g football turf pitch (or other appropriate size)	
P9	Collaton St Mary CoE Primary School	Football	Junior football pitch – secure community use	
P10	Kings Ash Academy (primary school)	Football	Junior football pitch – secure community use	
P11	Oldway Primary School	Football	Junior football pitch – secure community use	
P12	Preston Primary School	Football	Junior football pitch – secure community use	
P13	Roselands Primary School	Football	Junior football pitch – secure community use	
P14	White Rock Primary School	Football	2 x Junior football pitches – secure community use	
P15	Paignton Victoria Park	Football	2 x Junior no longer marked out; protect site as playing field and encourage use	

TORQUAY -

	Site	Sports	Proposed/required action	Timescale & Implementing Partners to be added
PROPOSED BARTON DOWNS/ACORN CENTRE SPORTS HUB				
T2	Torquay Acorn Centre		Improvement/upgrade of changing facilities to cater for two pitches and better cater for women and juniors and disabled	
T2	Torquay Barton Downs/Acorn Centre	Football & rugby	Support upgrade of existing MUGA to half size/9v9 3g football turf pitch	
T2	Torquay Barton Downs/Acorn Centre	General	Improve sustainability of site - increase/introduce summer football, baseball, rounders, American football	
PROPOSED TORQUAY ACADEMY/CRICKETFIELD ROAD SPORTS HUB				

	Site	Sports	Proposed/required action	Timescale & Implementing Partners to be added
T3	Torquay Cricketfield Road	General	Enhancement to site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvements to changing facilities; • ground leveling • development of clubhouse • development of class rooms • indoor cricket facility etc 	
T3	Torquay Cricketfield Road	General	Shared site code of conduct	
T3	Torquay Cricketfield Road	General	Possible asset transfer site (Upton Athletic FC and Barton CC)	
T3	Torquay Cricketfield Road	General	Measures to prevent fouling by dogs	
T3	Torquay Cricketfield Road	Cricket	Potential to increase use	
T3	Torquay Cricketfield Road	Cricket	Enhance quality of pitch	
T3	Torquay Cricketfield Road	Football	Improve maintenance regime and pitch quality	
T3	Torquay Cricketfield Road	Football	Consider improvements to meet requirements of Peninsula League (and other leagues as appropriate)	
T14	Torquay Academy grass pitches	Football	Maintain community use	
T19	Torquay Academy	3g football turf pitch	Consider how to increase opening & floodlighting hours at weekends	
PROPOSED TORRE VALLEY SPORTS HUB				
T6	Torquay Torre Valley North	General	Shared site code of conduct	
T6	Torquay Torre Valley North	General	Possible asset transfer site (with T7 & T8): Chelston CC, Torquay RFC, Torquay Athletics Club	
T6	Torquay Torre Valley North	Football	Replacement of mini football pitch	
T6	Torquay Torre Valley North	Cricket	Increase capacity of site: improvements to quality of square and more wickets?	
T6	Torquay Torre Valley North	Rugby	Maintain quality of pitch	
T7	Torquay Torre Valley South	General	Possible asset transfer site (with T6 & T8)	
T8	Torquay Recreation Ground	General	Possible asset transfer site (with T6 & T7)	
T8	Torquay Recreation Ground	General	Improve changing facilities for both rugby club and cricket club (ideally joint clubhouse for sustainability and attracting funding)	
T8	Torquay Recreation Ground	General	Shared site code of conduct	
T8	Torquay Recreation Ground	Cricket	Enhancement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support better maintenance of square • Increase capacity of site 	

				Timescale & Implementing Partners to be added
Site	Sports	Proposed/required action		
		Cricket	Work towards raising quality of pitch to minor county level/standard again	
		Cricket	Support provision of new nets at ground	
T8	Torquay Recreation Ground	Rugby	Enhancement of pitch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage and pitch quality improvements 	
			Access to off site training facilities required for wet weather	
PROPOSED WINDMILL HILL SPORTS HUB SITE				
T9	Torquay Windmill Hill Playing Field	General	Improve sustainability of site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase/introduce summer football, baseball, rounders. • Possible site for rugby league • Consider realignment of pitches to improve rest & recovery etc 	
T9	Torquay Windmill Hill Playing Field	General	Possible asset transfer site (Waldon Athletic FC)	
T9	Torquay Windmill Hill Playing Field	Football	Consider improvements to meet requirements of Peninsula League (and other leagues as appropriate)	
T9	Torquay Windmill Hill Playing Field	Cricket	Install cricket pitch for mid week league; junior growth, Last Man Standing etc to meet demand for additional pitch in Torquay	
PROPOSED PLAINMOOR SPORTS HUB				
T10	Torquay Quinta Road (Westlands School)	General	Encourage greater community use	
T10	Torquay Quinta Road (Westlands School)	Cricket	Maintain and improve non-turf wicket	
T35	Westlands School, Torquay	General	Upgrade multi use games area to floodlit 3g football turf pitch of suitable size, given restricted dimensions of site	
T15	Torquay Plainmoor	Football		
PROPOSED TORQUAY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS SPORTS HUB				
T11	Torquay Boys Grammar School	Rugby	Maintain community use	
T11	Torquay Boys Grammar School	Football	Maintain community use	
T12	Torquay Grammar schools lower field	Rugby	Maintain community use	
T12	Torquay Grammar schools lower field	Cricket	Maintain and improve non-turf wicket (drainage)	•
T18	Torquay Girls Grammar School AGP	Hockey & other sports	Maintain community use; extension of floodlighting hours	
OTHER SITES IN TORQUAY				
T1	Torquay Armada Park	Football	Consider improvements to meet requirements of Peninsula League (and other leagues as appropriate)	

	Site	Sports	Proposed/required action	Timescale & Implementing Partners to be added
T1	Torquay Armada Park	Football	Possible asset transfer site (Kingskerswell & Chelston)	
T13	Torquay St Cuthbert Mayne School	Football	Support improvements to drainage to enable use for school and community	
T16	Torquay Walls Hill	Cricket	Spare capacity to increase use	
T17	Torquay Cockington Court	Cricket	Spare capacity to increase use	
T4	Torquay King George V Playing Fields	Football	Rationalisation of pitches; work towards replacement of 3 adult pitches on flat site in Torquay (The Willows). Rehoming of Watcombe Wanderers	
T5	Torquay Steps Cross Playing Field	Football	Rationalisation of pitches; work towards replacement of 9v9 pitch on flat site in Torquay (The Willows).	
T20	Easterfield Lane	Rugby league occas.	Poor site – no changing facilities – relinquish from playing pitch use?	
T21	All Saints Babbacombe CoE Primary School	Football	Small junior football pitch – secure community use	
T22	Coombe Pafford Business & Enterprise School	Football	junior football pitch – secure community use	
T23	Homelands Primary School	Football	junior football pitch – secure community use	
T24	Priority RC Primary School	Football	junior football pitch – secure community use	
T25	Queensway Catholic Primary School	Football	junior football pitch – as above	
T26	Sherwell Valley Primary School	Football	junior football pitch – as above	
T27	Shiphay School & Orchard Nursery	Football	junior football pitch – as above	
T28	St Margarets Academy Primary School	Football	junior football pitch – as above	
T29	St Marychurch CoE Primary School	Football	junior football pitch – as above	
T30	Warberry CoE Primary School	Football	junior football pitch – as above	
T31	Watcombe Primary School	Football	junior football pitches – as above	
T32	Stoodley Knowle	General	Maintain as playing field site, pending finance to resolve problem with culverts	
T33	The Willows – area of search	General	Area of search for additional grass and artificial turf pitches	
T33	The Willows – area of search	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards replacement of 3 adult and one 9v9 youth pitch here (1x adult pitch to meet requirements of Peninsula League (and other leagues as appropriate)) In addition – 1 x youth 11v11 pitch (for U13s/U14s), another junior pitch and 4 mini pitches – either at The Willows or at alternative sites in Torquay, possibly school pitches. 	
T33	The Willows – area of search	AGPs	Area of search for additional IRB22 artificial grass pitch In association with new grass pitch provision	

5: IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW -

- 5.1 - The principles and findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy can be applied to support a variety of different outcomes, including;
- Sports development planning
 - Informing planning policy and planning applications
 - Supporting funding bids
 - Facilitating decision making relating to facility and asset management
 - Informing capital programmes and related investment
 - Informing the role of playing pitch provision and participation in pitch sports on public health and contributing towards the achievement of wider aims and objectives
- 5.2 - The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust to fulfil the above roles.
- 5.3 - Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).
- 5.4 - The steering group will therefore be committed to keeping the strategy alive through;
- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action
 - Recording changes to the pitch stock in Torbay and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information
 - Assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game.
- 5.5 The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led by Torbay Council and it is anticipated that it will constitute;
- Support for the creation of sport specific forums to discuss issues arising and to lead the delivery of the strategy in conjunction with key partners
 - Establishment of a Torbay Council working group that meets twice annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising
 - Production of an annual progress summary on the delivery of the PPS. This will include;
 - a review of participation with support from National Governing Bodies, to identify any key changes to participation trends in Torbay, and the likely implications of these changes for the strategy;
 - an assessment of changes to the pitch stock (including a full review of Active Places Power)

- progress on the strategy delivery
 - a full annual steering group meeting, or individual annual meetings with National Governing Bodies of Sport to inform and discuss the annual progress summary and agree next steps
 - the amount of funding for pitches or provision of additional pitches delivered in association with new development is monitored through the Planning Department
- 5.6 - The steering group will also be responsible for the requirement for a full update of this playing pitch assessment, at regular intervals as agreed following consultation.

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