

# TORBAY PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## SHORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**This document is a summary. Please see the full Strategy Document and the Action Plans for full details.**

### 1 SCOPE AND RATIONALE

The Torbay Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) will play a vital role in encouraging increased sporting activity, encouraging people to become more active and promoting health and wellbeing in Torbay by helping to ensure that there is a good supply of high-quality playing pitch facilities to meet the current and future needs of the area's residents and visitors. Torbay Council, as a major sports facility landowner, motivator and manager will play a key role in the delivery of the Strategy and a Delivery Group (comprising Torbay Council, the TDA, sports governing bodies, Sport England, local clubs, providers, schools and managers of pitches) will be established to meet on a six-monthly basis to monitor, action and help deliver change. A wider strategy review should take place every three years.

Torbay Council is in the early stages of consulting on an update to its current Local Plan. Thus the PPS has a forward-looking scenario to 2040 to ensure facilities and land are safeguarded if likely to be required. It has been developed following Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' (October 2013) and focuses on the 'main' playing pitch sports of football, cricket, rugby union and hockey, together with outdoor tennis, bowls, netball, athletics and archery. The guiding principles which underpin the action plans and recommendations for monitoring and delivery are:

#### **Overarching Principle: Protect, Enhance, Provide**

*To protect existing provision and proactively plan for and provide sufficient and appropriate high-quality pitches, facilities and opportunities (enhanced and new) to meet demand to 2040, wherever possible making the best use of facilities already available.*

#### **Guiding Principle 1: A Framework for Management and Delivery**

*To create an ongoing management and delivery framework for people and organisations to work together to share skills, expertise, resources and facilities in implementing the Strategy.*

#### **Guiding Principle 2: Health and Well-being**

*To recognise and emphasise the value of the pitch sports in contributing to enhanced mental and physical health and well-being, particularly for those still underrepresented in the pitch sports, and in helping to address socio-economic deprivation.*

#### **Guiding Principle 3: The Environment, Decarbonisation and Climate Change**

*To provide, manage and maintain facilities in such a way as to address issues of environmental sustainability and climate benefit.*

#### **Guiding Principle 4: Education at the Heart of the Community**

*To encourage and support FE establishments and secondary and primary schools in Torbay to embrace and develop community use of their pitch sport facilities by engaging directly with them and creating a forum for discussion around access, desired improvements, management and maintenance.*

## 2 SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

In general, the strategy supports the following across all sports:

- Enhancing the quality of grass pitches for football, cricket and rugby, through improvements to drainage and/or maintenance.
- Enhancing ancillary facilities, such as changing facilities, clubhouses, toilets and car parking.
- Easing pressure on shared sites by providing additional capacity on alternative sites

And for individual sports in addition:

### A FOOTBALL

- Providing additional grass pitches for youth football.
- Developing a hub site for youth and mini football at Clennon Valley.
- Providing suitable sites and facilities to allow progression through the leagues.
- Providing access to the equivalent of one new floodlit full size 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP) to 2040. Potential sites are referred to within the Strategy.

### B CRICKET

- Reinstating non turf wickets (NTWs) or grass squares for community use on school sites.
- Easing pressure on shared sites by providing additional capacity on alternative sites.
- Providing another cricket ground in the Bay for future demand to 2040.

### C RUGBY

- Providing additional pitches to meet training and matchplay needs.
- Overcoming the lack of available floodlit training pitches (either grass or artificial).
- Enhancement/upgrading of floodlights.
- Supporting, in principle, a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

### D HOCKEY

- Protecting existing sand based artificial grass pitches (AGPs) and community access to them, keeping under review, particularly in light of potential loss of community use of Torquay Girls Grammar School pitch (leaving Torbay Leisure Centre as the only surface suitable for hockey).
- Securing improved/greater access to training slots on weekday evenings on AGPs.
- Providing additional 3G FTP space to aid transference of football usage from AGPs, thus freeing up capacity for hockey.

### E ATHLETICS

- Protecting access to the existing range and variety of athletics facilities within the Bay.
- Exploring options for 'compact athletics' facilities, to encourage increased entry level participation and provide training opportunities.

### F TENNIS

- Retaining and enhancing courts in parks through improving community courts.
- Implementing an online booking and payment system (SmartAccess gate technology) to enable growth in casual tennis play.

### G OTHER SPORTS INCLUDING NETBALL, BOWLS AND ARCHERY

- Promoting and protecting individual sites for netball and bowls and finding new and replacement sites for archery in Brixham and Torquay
- Supporting existing American Football and rounders teams, and potential sports such as baseball and lacrosse to maintain the viability and sustainability of sites all year round

- Providing ancillary facilities such as toilets, shelters and cafes where possible to encourage participation in outdoor activities.

### 3 SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIONS

The following table sets out key actions by site by Neighbourhood Plan Area (NPA), based on the Strategy analysis. It does not present the full list of sites, or the full list of actions (or constraints) and is not prioritised in any specific order.

*For further detail of actions for ALL sites, please see the full Strategy documents.*

SITE	SPORT	Pitch/Facility	Ancillary Facilities	Other
<b>TORQUAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA (NPA)</b>				
Armada Park	Football		Upgrade of changing	
Barton Downs	Football	Pitch improvements	Access to changing	Multi use games area upgrade
Cricketfield Road	Football/Cricket	Pitch improvements	Upgrade of changing	Development as well being hub
Windmill Hill	Football		Upgrade of changing	
Torquay Recreation Ground	Rugby/Cricket	Pitch improvements Enhance floodlighting (rugby)	Rugby stands no longer fit for purpose Joint provision of new clubhouse/pavilion	Potential flooding issues
Torre Valley North	Cricket	Major upgrade of pitch	Rebuilding of clubhouse	Consider relocation to alternative site
	Rugby	Pitch improvements Enhance floodlighting		
	Athletics	Consider compact athletics facility		
Torre Valley South	Rugby	Pitch improvements Enhance floodlighting		Feasibility of moving rugby activity to (enhanced) TVN & Recreation Ground
	Athletics	Consider compact athletics facility		
Torquay Girls Grammar School	Hockey (& other sports)	Sand based AGP		Protect community use
Abbey Park	Tennis	Upgrade courts		SmartAccess gate technology
Torquay	Archery	New facilities		
<b>PAIGNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA (NPA)</b>				
Clennon Valley	Football	Pitch improvements Development as mini/youth hub site	Provision of toilets & and other services	Improve parking
	Cricket	Consider feasibility of cricket pitch		
	Rugby	Replacement rugby pitch		
	Athletics	Consider compact athletics facility		
Whiterock	Football		Enlarge & upgrade	
Queen's Park	Cricket			

SITE	SPORT	Pitch/Facility	Ancillary Facilities	Other
	Rugby	Pitch improvements Enhance floodlighting	Major upgrade of joint clubhouse/pavilion	Increase capacity of sites elsewhere to ease pressure on site
<b>Torbay Leisure Centre</b>	Hockey (& other sports)	Sand based AGP		Protect community use for hockey and increase daytime use. Keep under review in light of potential loss of community use at Torquay Girls Grammar School.
<b>Oldway and Victoria Park</b>	Tennis	Upgrade courts		SmartAccess gate technology
<b>BRIXHAM NPA and BROADSANDS, GALMPTON &amp; CHURSTON NPA</b>				
<b>John Charles Park</b>	Football		Access to changing	
<b>St Mary's Park</b>	Football	Reinstate youth pitches if required		
	Tennis	Upgrade courts		SmartAccess gate technology
<b>Churston Ferrers Grammar School</b>	Cricket	Consider feasibility of cricket pitch		
<b>Brixham area</b>	Archery	Replacement facilities		

## C DELIVERY OF STRATEGIC SITES - OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The strategy identifies three key strategic priority sites/areas in the Bay: **Clennon Valley**, **Torquay Valley of Sport** (Torre Valley North, Torre Valley South and Torquay Recreation Ground) and **Barton Downs**. While there are numerous other important sites where action is required (for example, to improve pitch quality or changing facilities – *please see Action Plans which refer to all sites*), these strategic sites present options and opportunities for projects which can significantly improve access to good quality sports pitches and facilities.

As large multi-sport sites, the proposals for which also inter-relate, proposals for both Clennon Valley and Torquay Valley of Sport will need site detailed feasibility, phasing and masterplanning work to be done as a priority first stage to understand the exact size, specification and layout of pitches. Some of the options for the existing and proposed facilities are summarised in the table above.

## D ASSESSING PRIORITIES

There are a number of considerations which will need to be considered in determining the priority of the actions for sites identified which can be used as a checklist:

- *Supply and demand*: whether sufficient demand; ability to address issues of deprivation; spatial gaps and proximity to existing similar pitch provision.
- *Funding and viability*: Torbay Council/National Governing Body investment priorities; long term viability and availability of ongoing revenue funding for e.g. maintenance

- *Site conditions:* Understanding scope of works required; security of tenure; suitability for ability to upgrade and intensification of use
- *Decision factors:* 'Easy/quick win' improvements; political/corporate priorities; planning and other on-site and setting constraints.

If facilities have little or no prospect of being delivered or community access cannot be secured, then new or alternative sites will need to be identified.