

PITCHES CONDITION SURVEY & STRATEGY

Part 1: Audit of Existing Provision

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**Derry City
& Strabane
District
Council**

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1. Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1** Derry City & Strabane District Council has commissioned a ‘*Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy*’. The methodology for the commission is ‘Towards a Level Playing Field; Playing Pitch Model’ developed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation. The Playing Pitch Model requires focused research on supply, demand and quality to assess adequacy of provision for training requirements, however the consultants have addressed adequacy of provision for training given its importance in consideration of overall provision.
- 1.2** The research was carried out from January 2018 to April 2018, looking at association football, gaelic games, hockey, rugby and cricket.⁽¹⁾ The Council requires two main outputs, namely:-
- ❖ An audit of all playing pitches in the control of Derry City & Strabane District Council, including an inventory of other pitches, and;
 - ❖ A Playing Pitches Strategy that allows the Council to make informed planning decisions regarding pitch provision and assists with the targeting of financial investment and the planning of the delivery of sports development programmes.

The approach involved desk research, survey work, site inspections and liaison with key stakeholders. Supply of and demand for pitches was assessed for the Council area as a whole and where appropriate, for four defined geographical areas; (i) Derry City; (ii) Derry Rural; (iii) Strabane Town; (iv) Strabane Rural.

- 1.3** From the outset an emphasis was put on getting an accurate picture of each sport – this was achieved by obtaining a high response to the survey of sports clubs. The percentage of completed questionnaires for each sport is:-

Association football	–	77%
Gaelic Games	–	100%
Cricket	–	93%
Hockey	–	100%
Rugby	–	100%

⁽¹⁾ Cricket was added to the list at the Project Initiation Meeting.

Information on the clubs not returning a questionnaire was obtained from league representatives ensuring accurate analysis of results. Table 1.1 summarises clubs and teams by sport.

Sport	No of Clubs	Male		Female		Total	
		Teams	%	Teams	%	Teams	%
Association Football	60	316	54	25	16	341	46
Gaelic Games	20	173	30	108	67	281	38
Cricket	14	71	12	10	6	81	11
Hockey	3	0	0	13	8	13	2
Rugby	2	20	4	4	3	24	3
Totals		580	100%	160	100%	740	100%

1.4 A summary of players reveals there are 9,728 male participants and 2,958 female participants across the five sports. The breakdown is as follows:-

Sport	Male		Female		Totals	
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	Totals No	%
Association Football	3,638	1,661	351	63	5,713	45
Gaelic Games	1,991	864	1,376	550	4,781	38
Cricket	432	563	166	193	1,354	11
Hockey	61	18	120	70	269	2
Rugby	320	180	49	20	569	4
Totals	6,442	3,286	2,062	896	12,686	100%

1.5 At this point it's useful to compare the participation numbers for each sport with two other local authority areas⁽²⁾ having a similar population to the Derry City & Strabane area.

⁽²⁾ Otium Leisure Consultancy has conducted the same audit in several local authority areas. Participation numbers reflect involvement in clubs/teams.

Council	Population	Participation					Total
		Association Football	Gaelic Games	Cricket	Hockey	Rugby	
Derry City & Strabane	150,140	5,713	4,781	1,354	269	569	12,686
Lisburn & Castlereagh	134,841	4,216	1,317	202	365	305	6,405
Causeway Coast & Glens	140,877	4,096	6,470	364	754	856	12,540

In terms of participation *per head of total population* the Derry City & Strabane area has the highest participation rates for association football and for cricket, as shown here:-

Council Area	Association Football	Cricket
Derry City & Strabane	1:26	1:111
Lisburn & Castlereagh	1:32	1:668
Causeway Coast & Glens	1:34	1:387

Supply

- 1.6** It was considered important to prepare and present an inventory of all known pitches in all ownerships for the five sports in the Council area. The inventory and this study deals only with pitches suitable for competition at some level, therefore Multi Use Games Areas are outside the scope of this study. The summary shows there are 143 pitches suited to competition at some level across the five sports; training pitches of varying sizes are additional to this and are noted in each sport-specific section as appropriate.

Table 1.3: Summary of Full and Youth Match Pitches

Ownership	GRASS					ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES			TOTALS
	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Cricket	Hockey	Rugby	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Hockey (Astro)	
Council	42	3	0	n/a	1	5	1	1	53
Club/Community	9	21	18	n/a	5	0	0	0	53
Education Sector	14	3	6	n/a	7	5	0	2	37
Totals	65	27	24	n/a	13	10	1	3	143

Adequacy of Provision

- 1.7 Adequacy of provision for community use is assessed for each sport against three scenarios in accordance with the Sport England model:-

Reference	Description
Scenario 1	All pitches (in all ownerships)
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not with secured use (excludes pitches not available to community use).
Scenario 3	Council pitches only

- 1.8 Adequacy of provision across the Council area for each sport is summarised as follows, where a '+' result indicates supply of pitches exceeds current demand and a '-' result indicates a shortfall in supply of pitches for current demand. Scenario 1 and Scenario 3 are assessed in the sports-specific sections in this report; Scenario 1 is deemed to be unrealistic as it includes pitches in the education sector that are generally not available for community use. Similarly Scenario 3, assessed in the sports-specific sections is deemed to be unrealistic as it considers only Council-owned pitches. For these reasons Scenario 2 is summarised here as the most realistic Scenario. It is summarised for the whole Council area and, where appropriate, for each of four sub-areas:-

Table 1.4: Adequacy of Provision – Scenario 2

Sport/Category	Whole Council area	By Area			
		Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Town	Strabane Rural
<u>Association Football</u>					
Youth pitches (U12-U16)	+28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Adult pitches (U17, U18, older)	+3	+2	+1	+3	-3
<u>Gaelic Games</u>					
Go Games, Youth and Adult pitches for matches and training	-8	-3	evens	-0.5	-4
<u>Cricket</u>					
Youth, Junior and Adult pitches	+1	evens	evens	evens	+1

for matches and training					
Hockey					
Mini Hockey	+1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Youth Hockey	+1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Adult Hockey	evens	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rugby					
Mini Rugby	+2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Youth Rugby	evens	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Adult Rugby	-2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

1.9 The assessment demonstrates that the provision of pitches for community use, excepting youth pitches for association football barely meets demand and in the case of gaelic games falls well short of demand. A comparison of adequacy of provision between the Derry City & Strabane area and four other Council areas⁽³⁾ for association football presents a useful picture:-

Pitch Audit Year	Council	Adequacy of Provision in Scenario 2	Supply Total number of pitches in Scenario 2	Surplus/Supply (%)
2018	Derry City & Strabane District Council	+3	46	7%
2017	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	+20	49	41%
2015	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	+10	47	21%
2013	Belfast City Council	+33	124	27%
2012	Newtownabbey Borough Council (legacy)	+21	44	48%

It's clear that, for association football (as an example) there is not the same 'buffer' of pitches as found elsewhere. The buffer is the ratio of the number of unused pitches at peak demand to the number of pitches available for competitive matches at peak demand. Councils often require a pitch surplus for the following operational reasons:-

- ❖ allows for pitches to be taken out of circulation for maintenance and to be rested.
- ❖ allows for unexpected increase in games to be accommodated, for example National cup and league competitions that do not occur on a weekly basis.

⁽³⁾ Otium Leisure Consultancy used the same audit process for the four Council areas presented for comparison.

- ❖ allows for use for by schools and development squads.
- ❖ poorer quality pitches may not be playable in periods of wet weather – a pitch buffer allows matches to be moved to other better quality pitches at short notice.

Association Football – Summary

Quantity

Membership and Teams

- 1.10** There are 60 association football clubs in the District with the following breakdown of participants and teams:-

Table 1.5: Association Football Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams			
	Male	Female	Total Male & Female
Membership			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	1,999	220	2,219
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	1,639	131	1,770
Adult	1,661	63	1,724
Total Players	5,299	414	5,713
Teams			
Small Sided Games (U7 to U11)	142	11	153
Youth (U12 to U16)	86	8	94
Adult (Inc U17 and U18)	88	6	94
Total Teams	316	25	341

- 1.11** The 5,713 participants represents 45% of the total number of participants across the five sports.

Pitches

- 1.12** Looking at competitive match pitch provision within the Council area there is a total of 65 full size grass association football pitches suitable for adult, youth and Small Sided Games matches and 8 full size 3G facilities under all ownership. In addition, there are two youth 3G pitches (Leafair, Magee University). However not all of these full and youth grass pitches are available for community use – generally secondary school pitches are not available for competitive matches. This is further discussed under Adequacy of Provision.

1.13 A summary and breakdown of current match and training facilities provision by ownership is:-

Ownership	Full and Youth Match Pitches			Training Pitches – varying sizes			
	Grass Full	3G Full	Youth 3G	Grass	AstroTurf	3G Training	Shale/MUGA
Clubs/Community/Other Sport	9	0	0	4	0	12	0
Secondary School	13	4	0	0	2	0	0
University	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Council	42	4	1	6	0	4	8
Outside Council	-	-	-	0	0	2 ⁽⁴⁾	0
Total	65	8	2	10	2	19	8

1.14 Of the eight full size 3G pitches identified in the above table, three have been recently completed⁽⁵⁾: Brandywell Stadium (x1) and Melvin Sport Complex (x2). It is expected these will be available both for adult competitive matches, mid-week training and also for Small Sided Games. Use of 3G pitches for adult matches will help reduce the pressure on the Council’s grass pitch stock. The hire cost for an adult competitive match on a 3G pitch is set to be the same as that for a grass pitch to encourage use. The four 3G pitches under education ownership (Lisneal College, Holy Cross College, St Columb’s College and St Mary’s College) have some community use for training and SSG’s but are not currently available for competitive adult and youth matches.

Quality

1.15 A full report on the quality of Council-owned pitches and changing accommodation is included in an addendum to this audit report; the grass pitch quality scores are summarised below as these can be relevant for adequacy of provision modelling presented later in this section. As part of the online survey, clubs and schools were asked to rate their own club pitches as Good, Standard or Poor. A summary of the grass pitch quality ratings is:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Full Sized Grass Pitches in all Ownerships					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	3	2	1	3	9
Education	2	0	1	11	14
Council	37	2	3	0	42
Total	42	4	5	14	65

⁽⁴⁾ One of these is a full size pitch at the Vale Centre, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

⁽⁵⁾ Brandywell Stadium was opened on 20 March 2018 and Melvin Sports Complex 3G in April 2018.

- 1.16 Association football clubs were asked to self-assess the overall quality of their 'home' pitch.

Overall Quality of your 'home' pitch		
Answer Option	No of Responses	% of Clubs
Good	16	35
Standard	21	46
Poor	9	20
Total Teams	35	100%

- 1.17 For the 20 Council sites that have changing accommodation, quality ratings are summarised as follows:-

Good	4
Standard	16
Poor	0

Adequacy of Provision

Matches: District-wide

- 1.18 The Sport England Playing Pitch Model quantitatively assesses adequacy of provision by comparing pitch supply to demand. Three pitch scenarios are assessed, each with the following number of pitches available for matches:-

Reference	Description	No. of grass and 3G pitches available for adult matches	No. of grass and 3G pitches available for youth matches
Scenario 1	All pitches	64 x grass 8 x 3G ⁽⁶⁾	64 x grass 10 x 3G ⁽⁷⁾
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	43 x grass 4 x 3G	38 x grass 6 x 3G
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	35 x grass 4 x 3G	37 x grass 5 x 3G

⁽⁶⁾ Includes Brandywell Stadium and Melvin Sports Complex 3G pitches although they were not available in 2017/18 season, they will be available for the 2018 season and beyond, the other 3G pitches are: Bishop's Field (1), Holy Cross College (1), Lisneal College (1), St Columb's College(1), St Mary's College (1).

⁽⁷⁾ Leafair 3G pitch is slightly too small for adult games and is included in youth totals.

1.19 Whilst adequacy of provision for all three scenarios is assessed, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy.

Youth (U12 to U16)	+ 28 pitches
Adult (U17, U18, older)	+ 3 pitches

Scenario 2 excludes education pitches (generally not available for club matches), the 7 Council pitches currently not in use plus the 2 dedicated youth pitches, so reducing the combined number of full size grass and 3G pitches available for adult games to 46.

1.20 Given that Councils often require a pitch surplus for operational reasons (maintenance, closure of poor quality pitches due to inclement weather, spike in demand, etc) the over-supply of 3 pitches for adult matches (or 6% of total supply) is a comparatively small buffer; four other local authorities in Northern Ireland have a combined average 34% of a buffer in pitches supply for association football.

Matches: By Area

1.21 Four areas within the District are also assessed for adequacy of provision; here are the results:-

Area	Adequacy of Provision (Adult)
Derry City	+ 2 pitches
Derry Rural	+ 1 pitch
Strabane Town	+ 3 pitches
Strabane Rural	- 3 pitches

The analysis shows none of the areas exceeds the over-supply of 3 pitches for the District whilst Strabane Rural has a shortfall in supply.

Training: District-wide

1.22 An assessment of association football training needs/demand is presented in the table below. Here the total number and breakdown of association football teams in the District by age and training needs is assessed using information from the survey and employing the following observations:

- ❖ **4 x** U7 to U12 SSG teams have the same pitch size requirements as one adult team i.e. equivalent to 1 adult team
- ❖ **1 x** youth team (U12 to U16) training is equivalent to one adult team
- ❖ U7 to U11 SSG teams train once a week
- ❖ U11/U12 SSG and Youth teams train on average 1.5 times a week

- ❖ Adult teams require one full pitch for training and train on average 1.75 times a week.

1.23 Based on these observations, the total number of one-hour training slots required to satisfy association football training needs in the District is 344 x 1-hour slots as detailed in Table 1.6.

Table 1.6: Association Football Training Needs

	No. of Male Teams	No. of Female Teams	All teams	Adult team equivalents ⁽⁸⁾	Average No. of 1-hour training sessions per week per team	Total No. of 1-hour training slots needed (rounded up)
Small Sided Games (U7 to U11)	142	11	153	38.25	1	39
Youth (U12 to U16)	86	8	94	94	1.5	141
Adult (Inc U17 and U18)	88	6	94	94	1.75	165
Total Teams	316	25	341	226.25		344 x 1-hour slots

1.24 As calculated, the 316 association football teams in the District require at least 344 x 1-hour training slots. Currently there are an estimated 309 x 1-hour slots available, that is an undersupply of 35 x 1-hour slots. If the training on AstroTurf is discounted due to unsuitability for the modern game, this increases the short fall to 57 x 1-hour slots. Currently the following venues outside the Council are used for training: Vale Centre, Greysteel in Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council and Gortin OwenKillew 3G in Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

1.25 Whilst it is noted that some small MUGAs are used for training, these are not included in the above assessment as they are not considered suitable training facilities for the rigours of the modern game.

Small Sided Games (SSG)

1.26 Currently there are two providers of Small Sided Games in the Council area; the IFA's Foyle Games Development Centre and the Derry & District Youth League. Across five age groups there is a total of 130 teams, requiring 28 one-hour full size 3G pitch slots for matches and 39 one-hour slots for training. The following points are noted in relation to provision for SSG's in the Council area:-

- ❖ Both providers note difficulties in booking venues for this age group, both must use school and private providers

⁽⁸⁾ The following is assumed: 4 x U7 to U10 SSG teams require the same size training pitch as one adult team, 2 x U11, U12 SSG teams require the same size training pitch as one adult team, 1 x U13 to U18 teams requires the same size training pitch as one adult team.

- ❖ Fixtures on occasions vary from week to week as providers cannot always block book venues
- ❖ Both providers cater for the same age groups but on different days
- ❖ Venues are not easily accessible for parents to spectate
- ❖ The lack of suitable venues is constraining growth of SSG's compared to other Councils
- ❖ A number of clubs travel outside the Council to attend the Harry Gregg SSG's initiative held at Ulster University Coleraine – here one central hub provides games for all age groups on Saturday mornings from 9am to 1pm from September to April.
- ❖ Both providers are looking to use the new 3G pitch developments at Brandywell Stadium and Melvin Sports Complex.

Gaelic Games – Summary

Quantity

Membership and Teams

1.27 There are 20 gaelic games clubs in the District with the following breakdown of participants and teams:-

Table 1.7: Gaelic Games Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams			
	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
Membership			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	1055	680	1735
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	936	696	1632
Adult	864	550	1414
Total Players	2855	1926	4781
Teams			
Go Games (U7 to U11)	60	36	96
Youth (U12 to U18)	79	58	137
Adult	34	14	48
Total Teams	173	108	281

1.28 The 4,781 participants represents 38% of the total number of participants across the five sports.

Pitches

1.29 Gaelic games are traditionally played on a grass pitch which at full regulation size is 145m x 90m. With recent developments in artificial turf pitch (ATP) technology

synthetic pitches suited to gaelic games are beginning to appear although ATP's are more suited to gaelic football than to hurling or camogie. The majority of gaelic clubs own their pitch/pitches and premises, however due to the large numbers of teams per club they often make use of community and Council pitch facilities both for training and occasionally for competitive matches.

1.30 A summary and breakdown of current match and training facilities by ownership is:-

Gaelic Games Pitches used for matches and training					
Ownership	Full Grass	Full 3G	Training Grass	Training 3G	MUGA + Astro turf
Clubs/County Board	21	0	8	2	0
Education	3	0	0	1	1
Derry City & Strabane District Council	3	1	3	2	4
Total	27	1	11	5	5

Quality

1.31 As part of the online survey, clubs and schools were asked to rate their own club pitches whilst the Council's pitches were inspected by the consultants. A summary of grass pitch quality ratings is:-

Summary of Quality Ratings for Gaelic Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	18	5	6	2	31
Education	-	-	-	3	3
CC&G	6	0	1	0	7
Total	24	5	7	5	41

1.32 Just under 60% of the pitches are rated as 'Good' whilst seven pitches are rated as 'Poor' of which six are in club/community ownership including one at Clan na Gael GAC and one at Owen Roe O'Neill's GAC, both rated poor due to drainage problems and over-use.

Adequacy of Provision

District-wide

1.33 The Sport England Playing Pitch Model quantitatively assesses adequacy of provision by comparing pitch supply to demand. Three pitch scenarios are

assessed. Given the profile of gaelic games it is assumed that all adult, youth and Go Games are played on full size pitches – youth pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are generally not used in the delivery of competitive games.

Reference	Description	No. of Full Grass +3G	No. of Training Grass
Scenario 1	All pitches	28	10
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	23 x Grass	8
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	3 x Grass 1x 3G	1

1.34 Whilst adequacy of provision for all three scenarios is assessed, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy.

Go Games Youth and Adult matches and training - 8 pitches

It is important to note the following comments when considering the result for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Based on the club survey, Scenario 2 assumes that gaelic pitch capacity is 5 games per week PLUS 16 x 1-hour training slots, that is, total usage of approximately 30 hours per week – this is dependent on weather and pitch maintenance.
- ❖ Scenario 2 includes does not include the use of 3G facilities for matches and training.
- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is not meeting demand for training and match needs. This suggests that clubs are delivering matches and training ‘under pressure’ which is likely to impact on current participation rates and future growth. The pressure on current pitch supply may become more of an issue as the large number of youth (male and female) teams filter through to adult levels - present provision would struggle to support any projected growth.

By Area

- 1.35** Four areas within the District are also assessed for adequacy of provision, as follows:-

Area	Adequacy of Provision (Adult)
Derry City	- 3 pitches
Derry Rural	Evens
Strabane Town	- 0.5 pitches
Strabane Rural	- 4 pitches

Remembering that this analysis considers the provision of full size and training size grass pitches it's clear that a shortfall in provision is experienced in all areas but is most acute in Derry City and Strabane Rural. It's useful to reflect on the number of teams in each area and the number of pitches in each area:-

Gaelic Games – Distribution of Teams by Area		
Area	All Teams (adult & youth)	%
Derry City	38	40%
Derry Rural	17	18%
Strabane Town	10	10%
Strabane Rural	31	32%
Totals	96	100%

Supply of Grass Pitches per Area (Scenario 2)				
	Council		Club	
	Full	Training	Full	Training
Derry City	3	1	4	0
Derry Rural	0	0	5	2
Strabane Town	0	0	2	1
Strabane Rural	0	0	9	4

Commentary

- 1.36** All but three of the gaelic games clubs in the Council area operate their own pitches and changing accommodation. The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points.

1.37 Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only grass pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches and training for all age groups: -

Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Town	Strabane Rural
-3 pitches	+0 pitches	-0.5 pitches	-4 pitches
Supply not meeting demand	Supply meeting demand	Supply just meeting demand	Supply not meeting demand

1.38 An analysis of the adequacy of provision by area demonstrates the shortfall of pitches is most significant in Derry City & Strabane Rural. This analysis does include the use of the new multi-sports 3G pitch at Melvin Sports Complex – use of this pitch is likely to relieve training pressure on club pitches and matches in the early part of the season (February, March and early April).

1.39 Most gaelic games clubs have at least 2 grass pitches: one full size and one training size. Three clubs have 3G training pitches which accommodate the clubs’ winter and preseason training and are also available for use by other clubs/other sports. Three clubs do not have their own facilities; Culmore GAC is a new club in Derry City and currently makes use of Thornhill College, this is unlikely to be a long-term solution for the club. Strabane Hurling club draws on members from Strabane Town and the surrounding areas – the catchment for hurling clubs in this area is wider than gaelic football clubs. Strabane Hurling Club has agreed use of Sigerson GAC pitches but notes difficulty in securing training venues – the club aspires to develop their own pitch. Council facilities are used by some gaelic games clubs for training sessions, e.g., Sean Dolans GAC has bookings on the 3G pitch at Bishops Field, Derry City.

1.40 It is known there is currently funding earmarked from Ulster GAA and Central GAA Council for large scale promotion and development of gaelic games in both Derry City and Belfast City. Further development of gaelic games in Derry City can only be supported with pitch and changing accommodation investment.

1.41 With the 20 clubs fielding 281 teams each club has an average of 14 teams. Whilst gaelic games generally is thought of as operating during the summer months in practice the season commences with pre-season training from January to March with competitions running through to October. Each week during the competition season a total of 100 Go Game/youth/adult matches are played; with 23 full pitches available this points to 5 matches taking place on each pitch. Training needs add significantly to the use of pitches as the same stock of pitches is used for matches and training. Survey results show that the average weekly use (matches and training) of each clubs’ main pitch is 24 hours.

1.42 When asked about synthetic surfaces especially thinking of 3G and AstroTurf, the clubs responded as follows:-

	Training			Matches		
	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
AstroTurf	30	45	20	55	25	10
3G	0	50	45	45	20	30

The result shows 3G is generally accepted for training and much preferred to AstroTurf, whilst only 30% of respondents accept 3G for matches. It is also noted that the acceptance of 3G pitches for training may relate largely to the pre-season period (January to March) when clubs' grass pitches are less able to accommodate demand due to weather conditions and dark evenings.

Cricket – Summary

Quantity

Membership and Teams

1.43 There are 14 cricket clubs in the District with the following breakdown of participants and teams:-

Table 1.8: Cricket Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams			
	Male	Female	Total Male and Female / Teams
Membership			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	186	70	256
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	246	96	342
Adult	563	193	756
Total Players	995	359	1,354
Teams			
Youth (U7 to U10)	3	1	4
Junior (U11,U13,U15)	29	2	31
Adult	39	7	46
Total Teams	71	10	81

1.44 The 1,354 participants represents 11% of the total number of participants across the five sports.

Pitches/Cricket Squares

- 1.45 A summary and breakdown of current match and training facilities by ownership and quality is:-

Cricket Squares used for matches and training – quantity and quality					
Ownership	No of cricket squares	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown
Clubs	18	7	8	2	1
Education	6	-	-	-	6
Total	24	7	8	2	7

Adequacy of Provision

District-wide

- 1.46 Three pitch scenarios are assessed – the same stock of pitches is used both for matches and training, therefore training needs are incorporated in the assessment.

Reference	Description	No of full size grass pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	24
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	18
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	0

- 1.47 Whilst adequacy of provision for all three scenarios is assessed, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy.

**Youth, Junior and Adult
matches and training**

+ 1 pitch

- 1.48 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is just meeting demand for competitive games and training for all age groups with a small surplus of one pitch. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is only just meeting demand.

- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that cricket pitch capacity is 5 games on a weekly basis plus 10 hours of training. Most of the clubs play in the North West Cricket League in which up to 30% of teams are based outside the Council area. The demand for pitches for games on occasions will therefore be reduced for away matches as these will be based outside the Council area.
- ❖ Scenario 2 demonstrates cricket provision is being well used with little pitch capacity to encourage growth – some clubs with a large number of teams and just one pitch, note on occasions, difficulty with accommodating both matches and training effectively. The following was recorded by three clubs in the online club survey:-
 - “We don't have access to a 2nd pitch.”
 - “The pitch owner sometimes doesn't allow us to play.”
 - “Localised flooding has impacted on both pitches causing the pitch unplayable for much of last season and the beginning of this 2018 season.”
- ❖ Scheduling of more adult games mid-week would perhaps allow for an increased number of matches to be accommodated, however given that adult matches can last more than 4 hours this may not always be an option.

By Area

- 1.49** Four areas within the District are also assessed for adequacy of provision, as follows:-

Area	Adequacy of Provision (Adult)
Derry City	Evens
Derry Rural	Evens
Strabane Town	Evens
Strabane Rural	+ 1 pitch

Whilst this demonstrates only a small surplus, cricket does not require a ‘buffer’ of pitches in the same way as other field sports, although several clubs aspire to extending training areas and/or developing a second pitch.

Commentary

- 1.50** The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches and training: -

All teams + 1 Supply just meeting demand

- ❖ These results demonstrate a sport in general using pitch resources to the maximum for matches and training – there is little spare pitch capacity to sustain significant growth. Just four of the clubs have a second pitch: Ardmore CC, Bready CC, Donemana CC and Killyclooney CC.
- ❖ Participation in cricket is predominantly male at youth and junior levels, however seven clubs report having an adult female team. About half of the clubs expect female membership to grow in the next 5 years. Cricket Ireland, whilst having a clear female development pathway acknowledges there is a huge potential for more female participation.

Hockey – Summary

Quantity

Membership and Teams

- 1.51 There are 4 hockey clubs in the District with the following breakdown of participants and teams:-

Table 1.9 Hockey Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams			
	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	44	65	109
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	17	55	72
Adult	18	70	88
Total Players	79	190	269
<u>Teams</u>			
Mini (U9, U11, U13)	1	9	10
Youth (U15)	0	2	2
Adult	0	5	5
Total Teams	1	16	17

- 1.52 The 269 participants represent 2% of the total number of participants across the five sports.

Pitches

- 1.53 Club hockey is now played exclusively on artificial turf pitches (ATP's), either sand filled/dressed or water 'AstroTurf'; 3G surfaces are not suited to hockey. It is the case that school's hockey often uses the shale pitches still found on many school sites, however these are not recognised for competitive play by the Ulster Hockey Union. A summary and breakdown of current match and training facilities by ownership is:-

Hockey Pitches used for matches and training		
Ownership	Astroturf pitch	Shale
DC&SDC	1	2
Education	2	3
Total	3	5

The AstroTurf pitches are all sand filled/dressed; there are no water-based hockey pitches in the Derry and Strabane area. The two education site pitches are at Foyle College and at Castlederg High School.

Quality

- 1.54 Both of the school AstroTurf pitches are rated 'Good'. The Council's full-size AstroTurf pitch at Foyle Arena/St Columb's Park is rated 'Standard'. Priorsians Hockey Club rated the Council pitch as 'Poor', noting the surface is in need of a new carpe, dugouts are damaged and often there is excess sand and leaf litter on the pitch. The club also notes that the Ulster Hockey Union has had occasion to inspect the pitch recently over concerns about its suitability for adult competitive matches.

Adequacy of Provision

- 1.55 In accordance with the Sport England model for adequacy of provision the pitch supply for each of three scenarios for adult, youth and mini competitive hockey games is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	Astroturf	Astroturf	Astroturf
Council	1	1	1
Education	2	1	0
Totals	3	2	1

1.56 Based on the quantitative analysis, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy of provision for hockey as follows:-

Mini	+ 1 pitch
Youth	+ 1 pitch
Adult	evens

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is meeting demand for mini and youth and no surplus for adult.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that hockey pitch capacity is 3 games on a Saturday afternoon and 80% of games are played then. A lower pitch capacity i.e. a third game from 4.00pm to 6.00pm cannot be played will result in that supply cannot meet demand.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that U15 games are played both mid-week and on Sundays as per Ulster Hockey fixtures – given that there are just two U15 teams supply meets demand.
- ❖ It is known that both AstroTurf pitches in Scenario 2 are also used for other sports training e.g. CastleDerg High School pitch is used for association football, gaelic and rugby club training. This may reduce the availability for hockey training and matches if hockey is not given priority. St Columb’s AstroTurf pitch is also used extensively for association football training.

Community Impact

1.57 The following points summarise the impact of provision for hockey in the Derry and Strabane area:-

- ❖ It is noted there is only one Council owned synthetic AstroTurf hockey pitch; adequacy of provision therefore relies on the use of CastleDerg High School synthetic hockey pitch – Derg Valley Junior and Senior clubs are based here. Hockey is a minority sport in the Council area, however all four clubs aspire to grow their membership. Participation is mostly female but three of the clubs hope to grow male participation.
- ❖ The condition of the playing surface at the St Columb’s AstroTurf pitch at Foyle Arena is a concern to both Priorians HC and Foyle HC. Priorians HC note that Ulster Hockey has inspected the Foyle Arena pitch and advised

the club to seek an alternative home base due to the condition of the hockey facilities there.

- ❖ Schools hockey is an important factor in the development of club hockey. Each of the four clubs has a link with a local hockey playing post primary school from which it draws players. This school-club link in hockey is found elsewhere throughout the Province. This link alongside the unsuitability of shale pitches for hockey training or matches has led increasingly to hockey playing post primary schools looking to develop on-site AstroTurf pitches. Through consultation it's noted that the recently opened Foyle College has a full-size synthetic AstroTurf pitch – the college has a community use policy. In addition, Strabane Academy is currently undergoing redevelopment with a new school build under construction at the Derry Road site in Strabane town – an AstroTurf hockey pitch is included in Phase 1 of the build.
- ❖ As the Council thinks about future facility provision for hockey, the growth in the popularity of 3G pitches for large ball sports (mostly for training) needs to be considered. AstroTurf pitches came to be regarded as multi-sport, however the advent of 3G technology for ATP's has resulted in AstroTurf pitches being replaced by 3G pitches which are more suited to large ball sports. The development of Melvin 3G multi-sport pitch may free up extra slots for hockey training and matches at Castledearg High School.

Rugby – Summary

Quantity

Membership and Teams

- 1.58** There are two rugby clubs in the Council area with the following breakdown of participants and teams:-

Table 1.10 : Rugby Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams based in DC&SDC			
	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	190	40	230

Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	130	9	139
Adult	180	20	200
Total Players	500	69	569
<u>Teams</u>			
Mini (U7 to U12)	10	3	13
Youth (U13 to U18)	4	0	4
Adult	7	1	8
Total Teams	21	4	25

1.59 The 569 participants represent 4% of the total number of participants across the five sports.

Pitches

1.60 Rugby is played on a natural grass pitch which is typically 120m (including in-goal areas) by 70m. There are two rugby clubs in the Council area: Derry City Rugby Football Club (RFC) and Strabane RFC; a third club, YMCA RFC, folded a few years ago. Strabane RFC does not own pitch facilities; currently the club plays home senior matches at Strabane Academy school pitch and Finn Valley pitch in County Donegal. The club also uses Spamount Council pitches for underage tournaments. There are no full-size grass pitches dedicated to rugby under Council ownership. A summary and breakdown of current rugby pitches used for matches and training is:-

Summary of Rugby Pitches used for matches and training			
Ownership	Full Grass / 3G	Youth Grass	Training (AstroTurf, 3G)
Clubs	5	2	0
Education	7	4	1 x AstroTurf
DC&SDC	1	0	1 x 3G training
Total	13	6	2

The recently developed 3G multi-sports pitch at Melvin Sports Complex can accommodate rugby training and matches if it has been specified in accordance with IRFU guidelines for artificial turf pitches.

Quality

1.61 Of the 7 pitches in club ownership, the clubs themselves rate 2 as 'Good', 1 as 'Standard' and 3 as 'Poor' with the quality of the remaining pitch unknown. Whilst 6 of the 10 education sector pitches are rated as 'Good' they are generally not

made available for community use (Strabane RFC uses the pitch at Strabane Academy on occasion).

Adequacy of Provision

1.62 In accordance with the Sport England model for adequacy of provision the pitch supply for each of three scenarios for adult, youth and mini games is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Clubs	Full Grass	Full Grass	Full Grass
All	5	3	0
Education			
Secondary	7	0	0
Council			
DC&SDC	0	0	0
Totals	12	3	0

1.63 Based on the quantitative analysis, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy of provision for rugby as follows:-

Mini + 2 pitch
Youth evens
Adult - 2 pitches

The results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand for competitive games for mini and youth age groups but there is a shortfall of 2 pitches in supply for adult games. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is not meeting demand for adult male competitive games – currently Strabane RFC does not have a home pitch and play their matches at Strabane Academy and Finn Valley in County Donegal.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that rugby pitch capacity is two games on a Saturday, a youth match in the morning and an adult game in the afternoon. A lower pitch capacity will reduce the modelled surplus.

- ❖ Scenario 2 does not include use of 3G facilities for adult or youth matches as these were not recorded as used in the club survey. 3G pitches are not widely accepted yet for matches.
- ❖ Scenario 2 as presented does not account for training which also takes place on most rugby pitches in addition to matches. Derry City RFC report that the club growth is being constrained by the lack of training pitch facilities. Strabane RFC is homeless using a number of different venues to deliver training.

Community Impact

1.64 Both clubs highlight the need for additional rugby pitches. Strabane RFC's preference is for the Council to provide/lease a pitch to the club whilst City of Derry RFC has a vision to develop a major rugby/multi-sports complex at its Judges Road site. Key summary points for rugby are:-

- ❖ Rugby clubs tend to train and play matches on club pitches where changing accommodation and social facilities are also available. With just two clubs, rugby is a minority sport in the Council area, however a total of 25 teams are fielded across the two clubs involving 569 players from 6 years of age through to adult; only 69 players are female. City of Derry RFC has an adult female team. As with association football the under-representation of female players presents an opportunity for future sports development programmes. Both clubs embrace and view an increase in female participation as an area for growth.
- ❖ Strabane RFC does not have a home ground and delivers matches and training across a number of venues including: Strabane Academy, Finn Valley Grounds (Co. Donegal), Strabane Cricket Club, Spamount Playing Fields, Meadows Playing Field, Castlederg High School and others.
- ❖ There are no dedicated Council owned grass rugby pitches, however the recently developed 3G multi-sports pitch at Melvin Sports Complex is expected to be suitable for rugby training and matches.

2. Introduction

Introduction

- 2.1 Derry City & Strabane District Council has commissioned an audit of pitch provision in the Council area leading to the preparation of a Council Playing Pitches Strategy. The Council sets out its requirements and outcomes as follows:-

“a two part study into the current pitch provision and to create a strategy that will be used to further develop the pitch infrastructure in the District in a way that is affordable, sustainable, inclusive, high quality and consistent with current best practice in public pitch provision.”

- 2.2 The methodology for the audit is based on ‘Towards a Level Playing Field’, developed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation and published in July 2011. This methodology, known as the Playing Pitch Model (PPM) requires focused research on supply, demand and quality to assess adequacy of provision.

Commission

- 2.3 The Council’s brief for this commission is summarised as follows:-

- ❖ **Audit** the design, distribution, demand/supply information and condition of all sites hosting Council education and community/club owned outdoor ‘pitches’ and associated changing facilities in the District. This condition audit is to include all natural turf and synthetic pitches for association football, gaelic games, rugby and hockey. Cricket was added to the list given its prominence as a club sport in the District.
- ❖ **Strategy** – review the current provision data and previous strategy work available and evaluate against
 - Current best practice guidance on the scale and distribution of pitch provision (Fields in Trust etc).
 - Condition assessments.
 - Changing needs/expectations of many outdoor sports.
 - Demand/supply/poor condition closure information.
 - Existing information for relevant non-Council facilities.
 - An assessment of current changing provision.
 - Local consultation responses

to make recommendations for a prioritised pitch and associated changing provision investment strategy for the District and provide indicative cost estimates.

Background

- 2.4** The provision of playing fields is an emotive subject, often making national headlines when pitches/playing fields are sold off to make way for development. Across the UK the number of planning applications to carry out developments on existing playing fields doubled between 1999 and 2009, from 625 to 1,322 applications. The playing fields ‘watchdog’ is Fields in Trust⁽⁹⁾. Recommendations made by Fields in Trust have been incorporated in the recently published ‘National Planning Policy Framework’⁽¹⁰⁾; specific reference is made in the policy framework to the need to assess provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities when considering planning applications. It is also recommended that in applications where open space, sports and recreational facilities are due to be lost, the developer should replace them to at least an equivalent standard in the vicinity.
- 2.5** In Northern Ireland, the Department of Environment recognises the need for provision of outdoor recreation space in Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation. Section 5.15 in the policy statement states. *“In large developments there may be a need to provide more formal outdoor recreation facilities such as playing pitches to meet the needs generated by the development. In such cases the Department will consult closely with the recreation department of local district Councils.”* It is therefore appropriate for local authorities to audit the provision of pitches to inform discussion in relation to planning applications and in the strategic development of opportunities for participation in sport.
- 2.6** Four of Northern Ireland’s legacy Councils are known to have carried out similar pitch audits to inform playing pitch strategies; these are Strabane, Derry, Belfast and Newtownabbey. Since the Review of Public Administration local authority rationalisation in 2015 Otium Leisure Consultancy has carried out pitch audits and prepared strategies on behalf of Belfast City Council (an update from the pre-RPA work), Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, all having followed Sport England’s Playing Pitch Model. Whilst the pressure of urban development is a key factor in looking at pitches there are other important factors, not least:-

⁽⁹⁾ *Fields in Trust is the National Playing Fields Association rebranded in 2007.*

⁽¹⁰⁾ *Published in March 2012.*

- ❖ The need to ensure equality of opportunity in relation to age, ability, gender and different sports.
- ❖ The increasing interest in team sports, especially amongst children, largely the result of successful sports development initiatives by local authorities, Sport NI and sports governing bodies.
- ❖ The availability of artificial turf pitch technology in the form of ‘AstroTurf’ and ‘Third Generation’ surfaces⁽¹¹⁾. The more recent Third Generation or 3G surfaces provide an alternative to natural grass that have the potential to totally transform how local authorities look at playing pitches.
- ❖ The limited capacity of natural grass surfaces for winter use, usually two or at most, three games at the weekend with a three to four month rest period in the summer. The match capacity of any natural grass pitch is determined by a range of technical issues as well as the maintenance regime and the operator’s policy.
- ❖ Sport’s clubs limitations when it comes to developing facilities to accommodate and encourage growing demand.
- ❖ School’s attitudes in terms of facilitating community access to school-based pitches, both grass and ATP’s.
- ❖ The potential to develop shared facilities on school sites, ie, school and community. The AstroTurf pitch at Laurelhill College is a good example of this.
- ❖ Governing body influence, most notably in association football (eg, the Small-Sided Games initiative) and in all large ball sports accepting 3G ATP’s for competition.
- ❖ The development of pitches by local authorities in the Greater Belfast area.

2.7 The strategic context for reviewing pitches’ adequacy of provision is better quality facilities for a better quality experience, so encouraging more participation. Derry City & Strabane District Council is not alone in moving to provide adequate facilities that encourage more people to be more active. The particular challenge is to make

⁽¹¹⁾ For the purposes of this study ‘AstroTurf’ is the type of surface found at Laurelhill College that prioritises hockey whilst ‘Third Generation’ or ‘3G’ is the long pile artificial turf surface found at the 5-a-side/7-a-side courts at Lisburn Leisure Park. AstroTurf is sub-divided into sand-dressed and water-based AstroTurf.

best use of resources and to do so through partnerships that can deliver more than working in isolation.

Report Structure

2.8 The audit report is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Executive Summary
- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ The Approach
- ❖ Audit Findings
- ❖ Association Football
- ❖ Gaelic Games
- ❖ Cricket
- ❖ Hockey
- ❖ Rugby

3. The Approach

Introduction

3.1 The brief requires four main outputs for the project:-

1. A comprehensive audit process which clearly identifies the level of demand and supply for five team sports⁽¹²⁾.
2. A documented and recognised methodology which assesses the quantity and quality of and access to facilities.
3. An assessment of *adequacy of provision* with findings and recommendations.
4. A Playing Pitches Strategy

This document presents the audit process and findings.

3.2 In order to deliver these outputs the approach involves three main elements:-

❖ *Desk Research*

- The new Council boundary is necessarily considered given the implications for facilities and population
- Sport NI's 'Active Places Research Report; Bridging the Gap'.
- Strategy documents pertaining to the project.

❖ *Survey Work*

Survey work is at the very heart of this project. The system used here is 'Towards a Level Playing Field'⁽¹³⁾. First produced in 1991 and updated in 2011 this is Sport England's response to the increasing pressure on playing fields and the need to be strategic when considering development proposals. 'Towards a Level Playing Field' has been developed by Sport England in association with local authorities, planning, education, national governing bodies of sport and others. The methodology comprises two elements:-

1. A survey of pitch users
2. Site visits to assess quality

This approach informs supply, demand, quality and access.

⁽¹²⁾ Association football (association football) gaelic games (football, hurling and camogie), rugby, hockey, cricket.

⁽¹³⁾ 'Towards a Level Playing Field – A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies'; Sport England/Central Council for Physical Recreation – July 2011.

❖ *Liaison with Key Stakeholders*

Five main interest groups were consulted:-

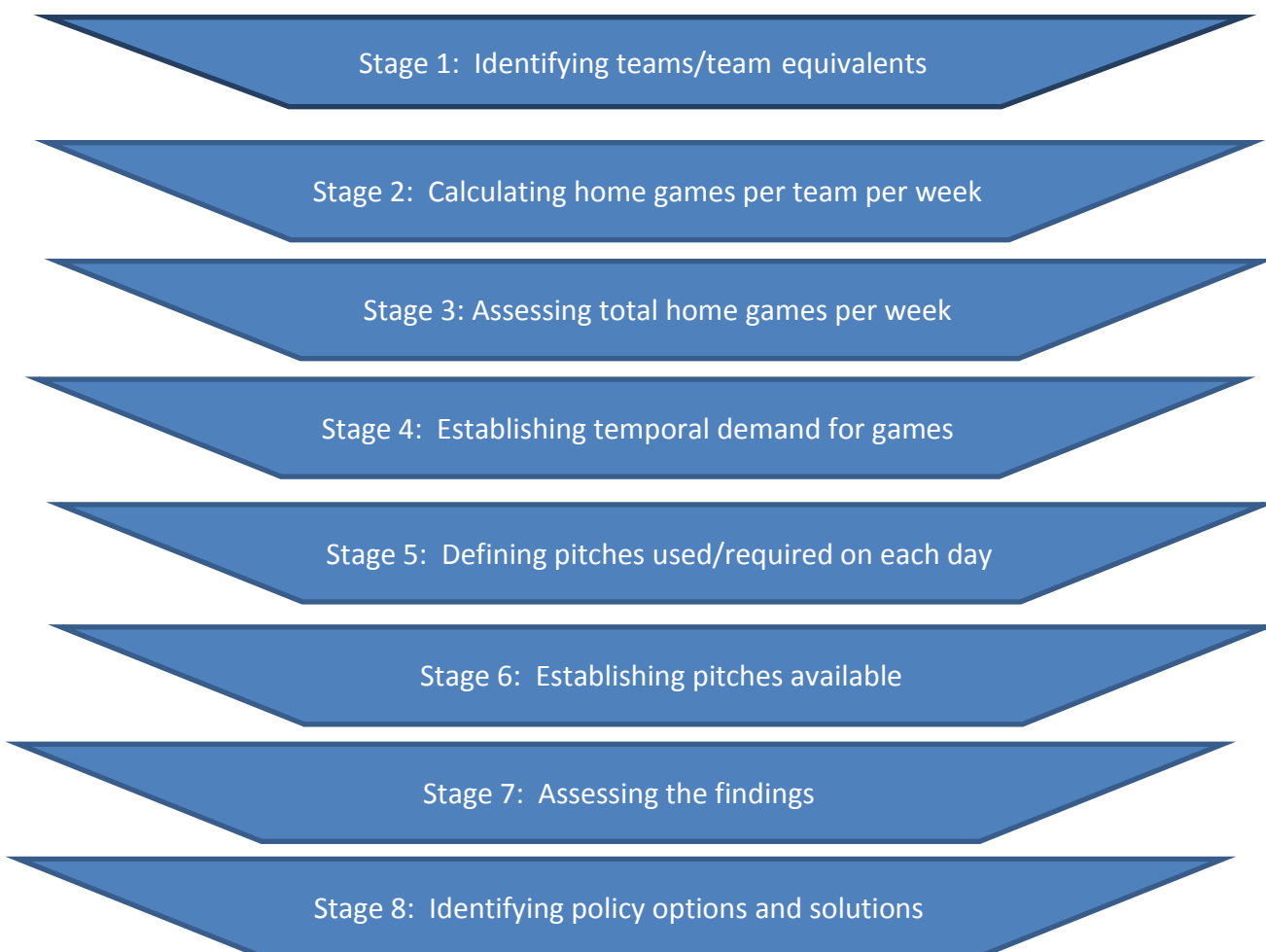
- **Sport NI.** As the main development agency for Northern Ireland sport, Sport NI's research document on the provision of sports pitches and facilities, 'Bridging the Gap' looks at the quantity of pitches in each local authority. The original document, published in 2009 did not include pitches in the education sector, however the 2014 update includes ATP's located in schools in recognition of the potential value of school sports facilities in addressing shortfalls in the provision of sports facilities across Northern Ireland.
- **Sports governing bodies.** Each governing body has a different view on the Council's provision of pitches, informed by considerations such as existing provision and the structure of clubs in the area – some sports operate their own pitches within clubs whilst others rely on Council pitches.
- **Leagues.** Association football leagues in particular, as they rely heavily on local authority pitches, are important stakeholders. In adult association football, teams have to name a 'home' pitch when registering with a league. If the team's home pitch is a Council pitch this can lead to a perception that a publicly-owned pitch 'belongs' to a team/club. Such teams/clubs associated with a particular Council pitch often tend to 'protect' the pitch from other users, leading to the possibility of pitches being under-utilised.
- **Derry City & Strabane District Council.** The Council is the biggest single provider of fully accessible sports pitches. It is this that prompts the Council to be fully aware of all aspects of provision.
- **Education sector.** Schools and colleges operate pitches for curricular and extra-curricular sport. Increasingly schools recognise the need to reach out to the community by enabling community use of school facilities, including pitches. This approach is fully endorsed by the Department of Education.⁽¹⁴⁾

Methodology ('Towards a Level Playing Field')

Playing Pitch Model

3.3 The methodology in Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM) involves 8 stages.

⁽¹⁴⁾ *Community Use of School Premises: A Guidance Toolkit for Schools.*



Stages 1 to 6 are addressed in this audit document; Stages 7 and 8 are addressed in the separate Playing Pitches Strategy document.

The Playing Pitch Model approach provides area-specific information and results by looking at each pitch, its usage and quality and the demand from local clubs. Results rely on the information that can be gathered; challenges faced in gathering information for this report included:-

- ❖ There is no single resource within the Council that provides comprehensive and complete information on pitches.
- ❖ The questionnaire used for the survey, based on Sport England's PPM was found to be cumbersome by some respondents, requiring a good deal of follow-up by telephone and other means to encourage returns.

On the positive side many clubs, schools and governing bodies welcomed the opportunity to participate in the survey and comment on playing pitch provision in the Derry City & Strabane District Council area.

Gathering Information on Supply

3.4 Information was gathered in a number of ways:-

- ❖ Survey of clubs, including clubs known to own/operate their own pitch.
- ❖ Council Officers advised on known pitches in several ownership categories – Council, education, private/commercial.
- ❖ A survey of post-primary schools.
- ❖ A review of existing material, previously noted.

Gathering Information on Demand

3.5 Research included the following in assessing demand:-

- ❖ A survey of clubs and secondary schools pulled together information on the number of teams and their competition and training requirements. The survey included questions on public access to help determine availability of pitches.
- ❖ Council's management information on bookings.

In accordance with the PPM, demand is partly assessed by using Team Generation Rates (TGR's). This indicates how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGR's are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in an area by the number of teams in that area in that age band. The TGR assists in modelling current adequacy of provision. About 160 playing pitch strategies have been carried out in England and 4 in Northern Ireland, many of which have calculated TGR's. This allows informal benchmarking between regions and local authorities.

Gathering Information on Quality

3.6 Research included the following in assessing quality:-

- ❖ Site visits to all Council-owned pitches were carried out, using the Sport England PPM pro-forma for quality⁽¹⁵⁾.
- ❖ A survey of clubs and schools included questions on aspects of the quality of pitches, capable of being answered by casual observation.

⁽¹⁵⁾ The PPM pro-forma is designed to be able to be used by a non-technical person – it is called the 'Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment'.

- ❖ Information on cancellations, where available.
- ❖ Anecdotal evidence of how pitches 'perform' in weather conditions.

Assessment criteria for quality included:-

- ❖ Grass cover and length
- ❖ Size and safety margins
- ❖ Slope and evenness of surface
- ❖ Evidence of damage, litter, dog fouling, etc
- ❖ On-site facilities, such as changing and parking

A full record of the quality of the Council's pitches is separately bound.

4. Audit Findings

Introduction

4.1 This section takes a look at supply and demand on a sport by sport basis for the Council area. Assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using the Sport England Playing Pitch Model for the sports of association football, gaelic games, cricket, hockey, rugby.

Number of Clubs and Teams

4.2 This is the number of clubs and teams known to operate in the Council area during the study period (early 2018). The figures come from information collected through the online survey, supplemented as necessary by information obtained from league and Council officials; only club and teams satisfying at least one of the following criteria are included:-

- ❖ Home match pitch is located within the Council area (includes clubs and own pitch).
- ❖ Use pitches/facilities within the Council area for training.
- ❖ Over half of team members live within the Council area.

Table 4.1: Clubs and Teams by Sport

Sport	No of Clubs	Male		Female		Total	
		Teams	%	Teams	%	Teams	%
Association Football	60	316	54	25	16	341	46
Gaelic Games	20	173	30	108	67	281	38
Cricket	14	71	12	10	6	81	11
Hockey	3	0	0	13	8	13	2
Rugby	2	20	4	4	3	24	3
Totals		580	100%	160	100%	740	100%

Team Generation Rates

4.3 The Team Generation Rates (TGR) for each sport and age group can now be calculated to assist in modelling adequacy and future demand. TGR's are explained and calculated as follows:-

TGR = population in age group ÷ number of teams relevant to that age group.

If an average TGR for a particular sport is 1:500 (ie, 500 people are needed to generate 1 team) then

- 1 team to 100 people (it takes 100 people in the age group to generate 1 team) is a high TGR, demonstrating a relatively low latent (unmet) demand, whilst
- 1 team to 1,000 people is low TGR (it takes 1,000 people in the age group to generate 1 team), demonstrating a relatively high latent (unmet) demand.

Sport	Age Group
<u>Association football</u>	
Small Sided Games – mixed	6-11 year olds
Junior Association football – boys or girls	12-18 year olds
Adult Association football – men or women	19-40 year olds
<u>Cricket</u>	
Junior Cricket – boys or girls	11-17 year olds
Adult Cricket – men or women	18-55 year olds
<u>Hockey</u>	
Junior Hockey – boys or girls	11-15 year olds
Adult Hockey – men or women	16-45 year olds
<u>Rugby</u>	
Mini Rugby – mixed	8-12 year olds
Junior Rugby – boys	13-17 year olds
Junior Rugby – girls	16-17 year olds
Adult Rugby – men or women	18-45 year olds

4.4 Gaelic games is not covered in the Sport England model. Otium Leisure Consultancy formulated the following age categories for earlier audits to achieve a complete picture:-

<u>Gaelic</u>	
Mini Gaelic (boys and girls)	8 – 12 year olds
Junior Gaelic – Boys	13 – 17 year olds
Junior Gaelic – Girls	13 – 17 year olds
Adult Gaelic – Men	18 – 45 year olds
Adult Gaelic – Women	18 – 45 year olds

- 4.5** Using the number of teams and population statistics TGR's for the Council area for each of the five sports are calculated and presented as follows; the table incorporates TGR's for Causeway Coast & Glens, Lisburn & Castlereagh; Belfast, Newtownabbey (legacy) and Strabane (legacy) Council areas as a means of benchmarking the results for the Derry City & Strabane area.⁽¹⁶⁾

⁽¹⁶⁾ *The comparator TGR's are taken from audit reports prepared by Otium Leisure Consultancy within the last five years.*

Table 4.2: Team Generation Rates

Sport/Category	No of Teams in Derry City & Strabane	Population in Age Group	Derry City & Strabane TGR (2018)	Causeway Coast & Glens TGR (2017)	Lisburn Castlereagh TGR (2015)	Newtownabbey (legacy) TGR	Strabane (legacy) TGR	Belfast TGR	
Association Football									
Mini game – Mixed (U7-U11)	153	10,105	1 team per 66 people	1 team per 85 people	1 team per 86 people	1 team per 319 people	1 team per 331 people	1 team per 84 people	
Junior – Boys (U12-16)	86	5,063	1 team per 59 people	1 team per 126 people	1 team per 85 people	1 team per 96 people	1 team per 106 people	1 team per 57 people	
Junior – Girls (U12-16)	8	4,725	1 team per 591 people	1 team per 547 people	1 team per 1,065 people	1 team per 474 people	0 teams	1 team per 644 people	
Adult – Men (19-40)	88	23,215	1 team per 264 people	1 team per 352 people	1 team per 283 people	1 team per 407 people	1 team per 296 people	1 team per 239 people	
Adult – Women (19-40)	6	24,061	1 team per 4,010 people	1 team per 6,083 people	1 team per 9,070 people	1 team per 4,385 people	1 team per 7,740 people	1 team per 5,957 people	
Gaelic Games									
Mini Gaelic – mixed (U7-U11)	96	10,105	1 team per 105 people	1 team per 43 people	1 team per 231 people	1 team per 469 people	n/a	1 team per 114 people	
Junior Gaelic – Boys (U12-U18)	79	6,182	1 team per 78 people	1 team per 68 people	1 team per 243 people	1 team per 468 people	1 team per 113 people	1 team per 101 people	
Junior Gaelic – Girls (U12-U18)	58	5,801	1 team per 100 people	1 team per 104 people	1 team per 457 people	1 team per 467 people	1 team per 137 people	1 team per 188 people	
Adult Gaelic – Men (18-45)	34	25,916	1 team per 762 people	1 team per 362 people	1 team per 3,462 people	1 team per 2,598 people	1 team per 167 people	1 team per 885 people	
Adult Gaelic – Women (18-45)	14	27,143	1 team per 1,939 people	1 team per 999 people	1 team per 6,332 people	1 team per 16,409 people	1 team per 484 people	1 team per 3,258 people	

Cricket								
Junior – Boys (U12-U18)	32	6,182	1 team per 193 people	1 team per 735 people	1 team per 757 people	1 team per 476 people	1 team per 126 people	1 team per 485 people
Junior – Girls (U12-U18)	3	5,801	1 team per 1,934 people	0 teams	0 teams	0 teams	0 teams	0 teams
Adult – Men (18-55)	39	36,624	1 team per 939 people	1 team per 3,814 people	1 team per 3,030 people	1 team per 1,566 people	1 team per 316 people	1 team per 2,638 people
Adult – Women (18-55)	7	38,379	1 team per 5,483 people	0 teams	0 teams	1 team per 39,597 people	1 team per 3,253 people	0 teams
Hockey								
Junior – Boys (11-15)	1	4,928	1 per 4,928 people	1 per 902 people	1 team per 213 people	1 team per 1,776 people	0 teams	1 team per 653 people
Junior – Girls (11-15)	11	4,681	1 per 426 people	1 per 264 people	1 team per 318 people	1 team per 795 people	1 team per 1,704 people	1 team per 326 people
Adult – Men (16-45)	0	29,161	0 teams	1 per 8,941 people	1 team per 1,736 people	1 team per 6,453 people	0 teams	1 team per 2,861 people
Adult – Women (16-45)	5	30,317	1 per 6,063 people	1 per 3,355 people	1 team per 3,023 people	1 team per 6,211 people	1 team per 3,870 people	1 team per 1,680 people
Rugby								
Junior – Boys (7-17)	14	11,360	1 per 811 people	1 per 110 people	1 team per 1,459 people	1 team per 200 people	0 teams	1 team per 672 people
Junior – Girls (7-17)	3	10,728	1 per 3,576 people	0 teams	0 teams	0 teams	0 teams	1 team per 1,204 people
Adult – Men (18-45)	7	26,955	1 per 3,851 people	1 per 3,555 people	1 team per 8,079 people	1 team per 1,268 people	1 team per 7,770 people	1 team per 1,603 people
Adult – Women (18-45)	1	28,284	1 per 28,284 people	0 teams	0 teams	1 team per 25,776 people	0 teams	1 team per 15,478 people

- 4.6 Team Generation Rates for the Derry City & Strabane area and the comparator Councils inform a number of key observations for each sport.

Association Football

- ❖ For the mini game (Small Sided Games) junior boys and junior girls the TGR's are mostly higher than the comparator Councils and substantially higher for the mini game and junior boys.
- ❖ At a TGR of 264 for adult men, Derry & Strabane's result is fairly much in line with the comparators, however the adult women's TGR of 4,010 is a good deal higher than all the comparators.

Gaelic Games

- ❖ For mini gaelic the Derry & Strabane TGR of 105 is higher than most of the comparators excepting Causeway Coast & Glens where the TGR of 43 reflects the strength of gaelic games across the Council area.
- ❖ Junior gaelic's TGR's (both boys and girls) at 78 and 100 respectively are a good deal higher than all the comparators, again excepting Causeway Coast & Glens.
- ❖ Adult gaelic's TGR's (men and women) at 762 and 1,939 respectively are similarly higher than the comparators excepting Causeway Coast & Glens. The results for Strabane (legacy) are also higher than Derry & Strabane.

Cricket

- ❖ The TGR results across the board for cricket are higher in Derry & Strabane than the comparators. Again the exception is Strabane (legacy) where the results most likely reflect the level of cricket activity in the Strabane area compared to the Derry area pro-rata the population; Strabane town area and rural area has 34 teams whilst Derry City and rural area has 47 teams.

Hockey

- ❖ The Junior boys hockey TGR of 4,928 is particularly low against the comparators whilst the junior girls hockey TGR of 426 is similar to comparators albeit lower than Belfast, Causeway Coast & Glens and Lisburn & Castlereagh.
- ❖ The TGR for adult women's hockey at 6,063 is lower than the comparators whilst there are no adult men's hockey teams.

Rugby

- ❖ The TGR's reveal that boys and men's participation rates compare favourably with most of the comparators despite having only 2 clubs in the District. Female participation is weak although it can be seen that most of the comparators have no female teams whilst Derry & Strabane has 3 junior girl's teams and 1 adult women's team.

Supply

- 4.7** Complete profiles of all known sports pitches in all ownership in the Council area are presented in later sections. Table 4.3 provides a summary of all grass and synthetic pitches informed by data provided by the Council, the education sector and survey work. Other sports pitch surfaces such as shale and polymeric are not included here as they are not suitable for competition.

Table 4.3: Summary of Full and Youth Match Pitches

Ownership	GRASS					ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES			TOTALS
	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Cricket	Hockey	Rugby	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Hockey (Astro)	
Council	42	3	0	n/a	1	5	1	1	53
Club/Community	9	21	18	n/a	5	0	0	0	53
Education Sector	14	3	6	n/a	7	5	0	2	37
Totals	65	27	24	n/a	13	10	1	3	143

Stakeholder Consultation

- 4.8** Each of the sports' governing bodies was contacted in relation to the project. Sport NI was also interviewed as was the Education Authority.

Sport NI

- 4.9** Sport NI is the lead agency for sports development in the Province, whose vision is 'a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport'. They seek to achieve this by encouraging and supporting the development of participation, performance and places for sport. Sport NI is due to publish a sports facilities strategy which will address the need in each of the eleven local authority areas as well as in Northern Ireland as a whole.

4.10 Key data sets on the provision of a range of sports facilities is presented for each local authority in Sport NI’s *Active Places Research Report ‘Bridging the Gap’ 2009*. The report presents information on the provision of grass and synthetic pitches based on an audit of the stock of facilities, the *Sport NI Facilities Database*.

4.11 The 2009 report on pitches revealed a shortfall in provision in both of the legacy Council areas as follows:-

	2011 Population Projection	Acres recommended by Fields in Trust	Existing Provision			Shortfalls	
			Grass Acres	Synthetic Acres	Total Acres	Perceived Acres Shortfall	Pitches Required
Derry	110,485	331	107.66	25.32	132.98	198	79
Strabane	40,107	120	94.70	5.72	100.42	20	8
Totals	150,592	451	202.36	31.04	233.40	218	87

Sport NI’s analysis suggests a shortfall of 87 pitches across the five sports District-wide. For the purposes of this report it is important to note:-

- ❖ Bridging the Gap uses Fields in Trust⁽¹⁷⁾ guidance in relation to the requirement for formal outdoor space for sport, play and recreation which proposes three acres (or 1.2 hectares) of playing pitches per 1,000 population. This audit report uses Fields in Trust guidance to highlight adequacy of provision, then uses Sport England’s ‘Towards a Level Playing Field: Playing Pitch Model’ to prioritise investment. The Playing Pitch Model looks at actual demand, matching it to supply to calculate whether there is an over-supply or under-supply in provision.
- ❖ The 2009 report reckoned on the value of a synthetic pitch as being four times that of a grass pitch. Sport NI recognises there are conflicting views on this figure. On the one hand, Field in Trust’s ‘Six Acre Standard’ reckons the value of a synthetic pitch to be twice that of a grass surface whilst other agencies use a factor of six. Sport NI’s 2014 update on Bridging the Gap used a factor of six. For the Derry and Strabane area this would reduce the shortfall to approximately 80 pitches.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Formerly the ‘National Playing Fields Association’.

Education Authority

- 4.12** The Education Authority (EA) is the operational arm of the Department of Education. Given that most schools have sports pitches the Education Authority is a key stakeholder in any audit of and strategy for pitches.
- 4.13** Strategically the Department of Education (DE) promotes use of schools by non-school groups to help build stronger links with parents and local communities. DE's policy for school improvement, 'Every School a Good School'⁽¹⁸⁾ states *"School premises are a valuable facility for community use and schools are actively encouraged to consider making their premises available as a community facility where possible."* DE sees schools as a hub for community activity, which can only be achieved through a pro-active stance by school Governors. To encourage more community use of schools and assist schools in setting up community use DE produced *'Community Use of School Premises: A Guidance Toolkit for Schools'* in 2014.
- 4.14** The EA's Regional Manager for Schools Development Service has the following points to make:-
- ❖ The document 'Community Use of School Premises: A Guidance Toolkit for Schools' places a responsibility on schools to consider how the schools estate can be used more broadly in the context of community use. Also, the 'Extended Schools Programme' provides a strategic context to encourage schools to consider community use.
 - ❖ The newly formed Education Directorate will have an Assistant Director tasked with strategic oversight of community use of schools. This move fits with the on-going Area Planning process within education and the Community Planning process being led by local authorities.
 - ❖ Quality indicators in school inspections now recognise community engagement and use of school facilities by local communities. This is a relatively recent development that will, through time, encourage schools to be pro-active in developing community links.
- 4.15** Several general observations relating to community use of school sports facilities, based on research for this and similar commissions, can be made as follows:-
- ❖ Primary schools mostly are not in a position to consider community use of their facilities as they tend not to have facilities that are suited to community use. This is especially the case with sports pitches. There are of course exceptions to this.

⁽¹⁸⁾ 'Every School a Good School'. Department of Education; June 2011

- ❖ Insurance is often put forward as a barrier to community use; DE makes clear that responsibility for on-site control and supervision of community activities rests with the user group so there is an expectation that user groups will hold public liability insurance. However, this is not always the case; a group of people wanting to come together to play recreational five-a-side in a school hall or on a pitch is not likely to have insurance and is unlikely to want to take out insurance just for a kick-about amongst friends. Requiring insurance of user groups may actually create a barrier to the very people who want to see using school facilities.
- ❖ Schools are not obliged to open their doors to community use; it's often down to individuals, either staff or Governors to champion community use. When this does happen the benefits often lead to an expansion of community use.
- ❖ Post primary schools that develop sports pitches with public funding from, say, Sport NI or a local authority are required to make the funded facilities available for community use. However, pricing structures for community use must be reasonable.
- ❖ Community use ideally should be a coming together of the local authority, the Education Authority and the school each bringing their particular skill and resource to the project.
- ❖ Area Planning in the education sector is on-going, leading to school amalgamations and possible closures.

Irish Football Association (IFA)

Introduction

- 4.16** The IFA acts in an advisory capacity for 'senior football' setting criteria for grounds in the Premiership, the Championship and the Intermediate Leagues. In the Derry City & Strabane area there are 60 association football clubs with 5,713 playing members, an average of 95 playing members per club. As the governing body the IFA is heavily involved in development of the game amongst young players; it does this through the Grassroots Development programme, involving a team of Grassroots Development Officers working at a local level across the Province. One of these officers has responsibility for the Derry City & Strabane District Council area.
- 4.17** In June 2017 the IFA launched its new five year strategy – '*Promoting Fostering and Developing Football for All: 2017-2022*'. Several elements have relevance to the Council's provision:-

- ❖ **Stadia Improvements** – the strategy looks to deliver ‘several major stadia improvements’ at Premiership grounds to improve the experience for supporters and improve the chances of hosting further UEFA tournaments. In addition the strategy looks to complete ‘up to 20 other smaller projects with clubs outside the Premiership’ including intermediate and junior clubs, incorporating stadia and training facilities (timeline 2018-2020).
- ❖ **Regional Hubs** – the aim is to deliver a football hub in each Council area, serving as a host venue for small-sided games and becoming the focus for all local IFA activity (timeline 2019).
- ❖ **Lending Strategy** – the IFA will act as a financial lender for clubs to ensure they can access the full range of government funds (timeline 2018-2020).
- ❖ **Pitch Strategy** – the IFA will provide subsidised training for club ground staff, hosting workshops and practical demonstrations (timeline 2019).
- ❖ **Tweak the Season** – the aim is to have clubs playing in May and June so that Premiership clubs qualifying for Europe are in peak form and fitness (timeline 2019).

As the Council considers future investment in association football it’s important to work alongside the IFA to maximise value for money and avoid duplication.

- 4.18** The IFA launched its current strategy for the development of youth football in 2015 – ‘*Let Them Play; Irish FA Youth Football Strategy 2015-2025*’ – which aims to increase youth football participation from around 50,000 currently to 75,000 by 2020 and 100,000 by 2025. The obvious implication of a 100% increase in participation for local authorities and other facility providers is increased pressure on facilities for training and competition for youth participation and for adult participation as players mature.

Futsal

- 4.19** The game of Futsal, popular in Asia and South America, is growing in popularity here in Northern Ireland – the Foyle Futsal Arena opened recently in Londonderry. Futsal is a form of five-a-side generally played indoors using court markings to define the area of play. A court typically measures anything from 25 metres to 42 metres in length and 16 metres to 25 metres in width. It improves techniques and is very popular with girls. Schools are encouraged to adopt Futsal with a Schools and Colleges Futsal League to be established by 2020.

4.20 Futsal is to take over from the ‘traditional’ five-a-side game in the coming years. From a starting point of around 150 participants in late 2015 the game has grown to around 8,000 participants today in Northern Ireland. More facilities are now lining Futsal courts in sports halls. Other points to note are:-

- ❖ Futsal is being developed in Northern Ireland in accordance with a five-year strategy, ‘Game Changer’. Northern Ireland now competes in a home nations championship, with the Ulster University set to be used for residential training camps.
- ❖ Unlike ‘five-a-side’, Futsal plays to the lines, therefore it is a more skilful game. The ball (size 4 for adults, size 3 for juniors) has a reduced bounce which is now preferred to the ‘oversize tennis ball’ used for five-a-side.
- ❖ A Futsal squad has 14 players of which 5 are on court. The game is played in two 20 minute halves, however the clock stops when the ball is out of play so games can last considerably longer than 40 minutes.
- ❖ Northern Ireland now has a domestic Futsal league, with both male and female sections. It is expected that children playing in Small Sided Games leagues will take up Futsal in the ‘close’ season. The IFA intends to employ a Futsal development officer.

4.21 The IFA advises that Futsal is one of several initiatives that will see more ‘small-sided’ alternatives to the competitive eleven player game with a view to encouraging more participation in the sport by people of all ages. It’s important to keep an eye to these developments and how they may affect the future provision of pitches by local authorities and others.

Small Sided Games

4.22 The phenomenon of Small Sided Games (SSG) continues to grow. Its success is attributed to the child-centred ethos which parents and clubs are embracing. There are four age groups:-

Age	Team Size	Squad	Pitch Size	Goals Size
Under 8’s	Five-a-side	8	35mx25m	3.65mx1.83m
Under 9’s	Seven-a-side	10	55mx35m	3.65mx1.83m
Under 10’s	Seven-a-side	10	55mx35m	3.63mx1.83m
Under 11’s	Nine-a-side	12	65mx45m	4.87mx2.13m

Matches are played on Saturday mornings usually in three time slots; 9.00am – 10.00am, 10.00am – 11.00am, 11.00am – 12noon. The duration and structure of matches is specified as follows:-

- Five-a-side – 3 periods of play, each 12 minutes
- Seven-a-side – 3 periods of play, each 15 minutes
- Nine-a-side – 2 periods of play, each 25 minutes

There are no referees; instead team coaches ‘referee’ from the side-lines. Changing facilities are not essential.

❖ Currently there are two providers of SSG’s in the Derry and Strabane area:-

- (i) The IFA’s Foyle Games Development Centre
- (ii) The Derry and District Youth League

❖ For the 2018 season the number of teams involved is:-

Age Group	IFA Foyle Games Development Centre	Derry & District Youth League	Total Teams
U7 (5x5)	10	12	22
U8 (7x7)	16	14	30
U9 (7x7)	16	15	31
U10 (9x9)	16	16	32
U11 (9x9)	10	16	26
Total Teams	68	73	141

❖ Both providers use a range of venues, playing on different days, as follows:-

IFA FGDC		D&D YL	
Monday	St Columb’s College 3G	Saturday U8s and U10s	Leafair 3G, Bishop Field
Monday	Castlederg High School, Holy Cross College	Sunday U7s, U9s, U11s	Bay Road, Magee 3G Bishop’s Field 3G
Wednesday	St Columb’s College 3G	Sunday	

4.23 Elsewhere in the Province SSG leagues are also very popular. In the Causeway Coast & Glens area there are around 16 clubs putting forward approximately 115 teams in the Harry Gregg Small Sided Games league – a number of clubs from Derry City & Strabane compete in this league which operates a single venue (Ulster University) on Saturday mornings. In the Lisburn Castlereagh area the SSG league has around 100 teams registered, however Saturday mornings see eight different venues in operation, a mix of 3G and natural grass. This league reports that

children moving on after their eleventh birthday are often disillusioned by the opportunities in youth football; this is a developmental issue. The league organisers also feel that indoor 3G must be the next step for SSG as inclement weather often results in cancellations even on synthetic surfaces.

Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association

- 4.24** Gaelic games in Ulster has around 5,700 teams and about 95,000 members (not including young people under 12 years of age). In the Derry City & Strabane area there are 20 gaelic games clubs with 4,781 playing members, an average of 239 playing members per club. The Ulster GAA Council reckons membership across all clubs in Ulster has increased by about 5% from 2000 to today.
- 4.25** The Ulster GAA Council regards 3G pitches as better value than grass pitches given their enhanced carrying capacity, reckoning a grass sand carpet pitch will take around 360 hours usage annually⁽¹⁹⁾ for gaelic games whereas a 3G pitch will take around 1,500 hours usage annually. The specification of a 3G pitch for rugby and gaelic games in terms of length of pile and impact/rebound tolerance is similar.
- 4.26** The Ulster GAA Council places great importance on its Fundamentals programme, promoting agility, balance and co-ordination (ABC) to Key Stage 1 children (4yrs – 8yrs). The programme engages children in generic skills rather than gaelic-specific skills, recognising that it's more beneficial to teach movement rather than sport to this age group. The Fundamentals programme incorporates health and wellness teaching and aspects of the education curriculum. Around 20,000 children across Ulster are engaged in the Fundamentals programme. The Ulster GAA Council is prepared to share facilities with other sports and notes the development of multi-sports 3G facilities at, for example, Crumlin, Newtownabbey and Limavady. As the sport's governing body, it recognises 3G surfaces for training and competition (the 3G pitch at Queen's University Playing Fields is cited as a good example of a multi-sports surface that is specified to the satisfaction of gaelic games and rugby).
- 4.27** The Ulster Council has identified a deficit in facilities for gaelic games on the north side of Derry city. It is in the early stages of developing an initiative to maximise the use of existing facilities, especially the University of Ulster as it looks to develop sports facilities in the city. The initiative will focus on engaging children of primary school age in gaelic games programmes. The Ulster Council expects to launch the initiative in early 2019.

⁽¹⁹⁾ The carrying capacity of a natural grass pitch is dependent on the operator's policy, specification, maintenance regime, recovery period, season of use and weather, ranging from as low as 100 hours up to 360 hours in a season.

Cricket Ireland

4.28 Cricket Ireland is the all-island governing body acting on behalf of 5 provincial/regional unions:-

- ❖ Northern Cricket Union
- ❖ North West Cricket Union
- ❖ Leinster Cricket Union
- ❖ Munster Cricket Union
- ❖ Connacht Cricket Union

4.29 There are 118 registered cricket clubs in Ireland. Northern Ireland/Ulster is covered by the Northern Cricket Union which takes in the eastern region up to Ballymena and the North West Cricket Union which covers the rest of the Province and some border regions. These two Unions are reportedly the strongest of the 5 provincial/regional Unions, having 64 of the 118 clubs. The North West Cricket Union's Centre of Excellence is at Bready Cricket Club in the village of Magheramason. As well as a cricket pitch, Bready has a sports hall, with 4 sets of practice nets, a fitness suite and a pavilion building.

4.30 In the Derry City & Strabane area there are 14 cricket clubs with 1,354 playing members, an average of 97 playing members per club. These 14 clubs account for nearly half of all the clubs in the North West Cricket Union.

Development of Irish Cricket

4.31 Irish Cricket continues to experience a surge in interest and participation since a win over Pakistan in the World Cup in 2007 and a win over England in 2011. The sport claims to be the fastest growing sport in Ireland presently with young players at registered clubs soaring from 11,900 in 2011 to 25,000 in 2013, while an ICC – commissioned survey revealed 40,414 total registered players in 2015 up from 25,170 in 2011. Cricket Ireland's *'Strategic Plan 2016-2020 – Making Cricket Mainstream'* recognises facilities as one of the key issues that constrains development, identifying an 'under-developed standard of facilities' and 'minimal investment in facilities due to constrained club budgets and the difficult economic environment'. One of the 4 strategic pillars is growing the game sustainably by strengthening grass roots participation in clubs and schools. Ireland played its first full Test match against Pakistan in Dublin in mid May 2018.

4.32 In June 2017 Cricket Ireland received the news that its application to the International Cricket Council (ICC) for Full Membership and Test status was successful. Both Ireland and Afghanistan were confirmed as the 11th and 12th Full Member countries in the top echelons of world cricket. Clearly this will bring

benefits to Irish cricket, not least in an anticipated doubling of funding from the ICC (currently \$3.3million) but also in a heightened awareness of and interest in the game and probable increased participation. The governing body is already talking about the need to invest in facilities and improve pitches.

North West Cricket Union (NWCU)

- 4.33** The NWCU jurisdiction covers counties Londonderry, Fermanagh and part of Tyrone and Donegal. In total the NWCU has 32 affiliated clubs for which it delivers six adult leagues, two at senior level and four at intermediate level. Its affiliated organisation, the Derry Midweek Cricket League organises cricket for adults, women and boys. Cricket Ireland now has a clear female development pathway, however it acknowledges there is still huge potential for more female participation.
- 4.34** Under-age cricket is played at U17's, U15's, U13's and U11's. Youth cricket has contributed significantly to growth in participation through initiatives delivered by the Council's sports development team and Cricket Ireland's development officers both in the NWCU and the Northern Cricket Union. Up to 11 years of age Kwik Cricket is the introductory game, capable of being played on any surface with a softer ball. The NWCU development officer reports the interest and uptake of an adapted Super 8s developmental game suitable for girls and school tournaments cricket as exciting. Here teams are 8 aside with a composite ball and limited overs – typically matches last 45 mins maximising player interest and skill development. Matches can be played on AstroTurf-type surfaces with 2 games to a pitch allowing for delivery of tournaments in the school setting. The NWCU is currently exploring provision of Super 8s matches/tournaments aimed at increasing retention rates of 16 to 24 years old players.

Facilities

- 4.35** Clubs that have their own cricket field generally have only one – four of the fourteen clubs in the Derry City & Strabane area have two. A cricket field requires an area about the size of 2 association football pitches although there is no dimension specified for a cricket field; the wicket is 20m with about 40m available beyond each end of the wicket. Ideally a club will have a number of natural grass wickets (side-by-side) and a synthetic wicket. Wickets are often marked between association football or rugby pitches given that cricket is a summer season sport when grass pitches for winter sports are normally 'rested'. The governing body sees a particular need for indoor accommodation for winter training both for club and regional squads.

Irish Rugby Football Union – Ulster Branch

- 4.36** The Ulster Branch focuses a good deal of its attention and efforts on domestic growth with a 3-5 year strategic plan in place to attract more players to the game in schools and clubs. Rugby is structured as mini (U12's), youth (U19's) and adult. Mini rugby is played across the Province in clubs and primary schools, mostly in the controlled sector but also in the maintained sector. Mini rugby is often compromised when there is a demand for pitches from youth rugby so there is a need for more availability of pitches through improved or additional facilities.
- 4.37** It's generally recognised that the '24/7' society has had a detrimental effect on rugby wherein the traditional Saturday afternoon club fixture is increasingly difficult to sustain. The Ulster Branch recognises the need to have more flexibility in match scheduling, looking to mid-week evening fixtures which, given that rugby has an autumn/winter season, requires floodlights.
- 4.38** The Ulster Branch deploys a team of development staff across the Province working in the top third of areas of deprivation. The intention is to establish community sections within existing clubs focusing on under-age participation. Community rugby could also be established within an existing community organisation, with parents encouraged to become administrators and coaches. The Ulster Branch also employs two development officers dedicated to the promotion of female participation and a disability inclusion officer with a focus on learning disability.
- 4.39** Adult participation has fallen in recent years, eg, a club with 7 teams twenty years ago might only have 3 teams today. However, participation in youth and mini rugby is growing due to the work of development officers. Mini rugby in particular has seen huge increases in participation, driven by the profile at regional and international levels. With more clubs developing mini-rugby there has been growth each year over the past eight years. Women's rugby tends to be either 'boom or bust' in most clubs. It's presently growing due to the high profile of rugby generally. Targets set for women's participation for 2015 were achieved very early on and numbers could double by 2023. However, facilities are an issue especially changing accommodation. If revenue funding for development staff is sustained the Ulster Branch anticipates a doubling of rugby participation over the next 10 years.
- 4.40** The Ulster Branch reports there is a good deal of pressure on pitches in some areas. Clubs have often looked to use schools' rugby pitches, however getting permission is often down to personalities – community use policies are rarely in place in schools. Location of 3G pitches is important to rugby. It's felt that clubs would travel to 3G pitches close to the club's ground. The point is made that rugby

clubs are operated as a business and they really need to have matches at club grounds.

Ulster Hockey

Participation and Growth

- 4.41** Ulster Hockey represents men's and women's hockey (from May 2009). In 2010 it was the first sports governing body to have its governance assessed by Sport NI, achieving the highest level – 'substantial'. Ulster Hockey is held up as a model of good practice in its governance. Participation is on the increase with around 16,000 players registered in Ulster with players in the greater Belfast area (clubs and post primary schools) accounting for approximately 20% of participation across Ulster. With an increase by four in the number of teams at the World Cup Finals in 2018, Ireland's women have qualified to compete. This could have a knock-on effect on participation.
- 4.42** It is estimated by the world governing body, the Federation Internationale Hockey that hockey has 44,000 participants throughout Ireland. Both the men's and women's teams are in the top twenty in the world, maintaining a steady position over a number of years. Ulster is well represented on national teams.
- 4.43** There are two main hockey clubs in the Derry City & Strabane Council area, Priors Hockey Club (playing at Foyle Arena pitch) and Derg Valley Hockey Club (playing at Castlederg High School pitch). Ulster Hockey promotes the relationship between clubs and schools and its 'Active Clubs' initiative encourages clubs to develop under-age participation; Foyle Hockey Club promotes children's participation in the sport.

Facilities

- 4.44** The artificial turf pitches (ATP's) which began to appear in the 1970's prioritised hockey activity – they are also known as 'AstroTurf'. They came to be regarded (incorrectly) as multi-sport in the absence of alternative ATP surfaces and were widely used. In the mid to late 1990's the introduction of the new 3G technology suited to large ball sports meant a gradual shift from AstroTurf (which was never designed to accommodate association football) to 3G by association football clubs/groups and an increasing demand for 3G, now popular with association football and gaelic games and increasingly, rugby. 3G has taken over from AstroTurf as the surface of choice for all but hockey. Given that hockey has fewer participants than any one of the 'big three', in recent years AstroTurf carpets have been replaced by 3G carpets in several locations across Ulster. It is also the case that new ATP's currently being developed outside of hockey clubs and hockey

playing schools are almost exclusively 3G as these provide the best potential for use and income.

- 4.45** Whilst some hockey clubs and schools have their own AstroTurf facilities (sand dressed or water based) many still rely on local authority facilities. With the loss of AstroTurf pitches in some areas coupled with the fact that fewer AstroTurf pitches are being constructed, the Ulster Hockey Union clearly faces a significant challenge as it seeks to continue to build on recent successes in grassroots participation.
- 4.46** The Ulster Hockey Union plans to deliver a participation initiative for primary school children in the Derry and Strabane area over the next 12 month period and beyond. The governing body has identified a gap in participation at primary school level and hopes to address this gap. Their concerns in relation to the provision of pitches in the Derry and Strabane area include the standard of the pitch at Foyle Arena/St Columb's Park and the overall adequacy of provision. Participation is constrained by not having enough pitches with teams having to travel some distance from their home area to access pitches for 'home' matches; this results in players leaving the sport.

5. Association Football

Introduction

5.1 This section presents an overview of the supply of and demand for association football pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM); the PPM is also used to assess the condition of facilities in the Council's ownership, using the 'Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment' tool. There are 60 association football clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and youth teams; a smaller number of these (Sion Swifts Ladies FC Derry City Ladies FC, Ardstraw FC and Killen FC) accommodate female teams. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision – Matches, Training
- ❖ Community Impact
- ❖ Operational Costs

Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

5.2 The majority of association football clubs don't own or operate premises, relying instead on Council provision. Of the sixty football clubs identified for this study nine own or lease their own grounds (Ardmore FC, Ardstraw FC, Churchill United FC, Derry City FC, Dergview FC, Institute FC, Killen Rangers FC, Newbuildings Utd FC, and Park FC); the remaining clubs make use of Council facilities for matches and training needs.

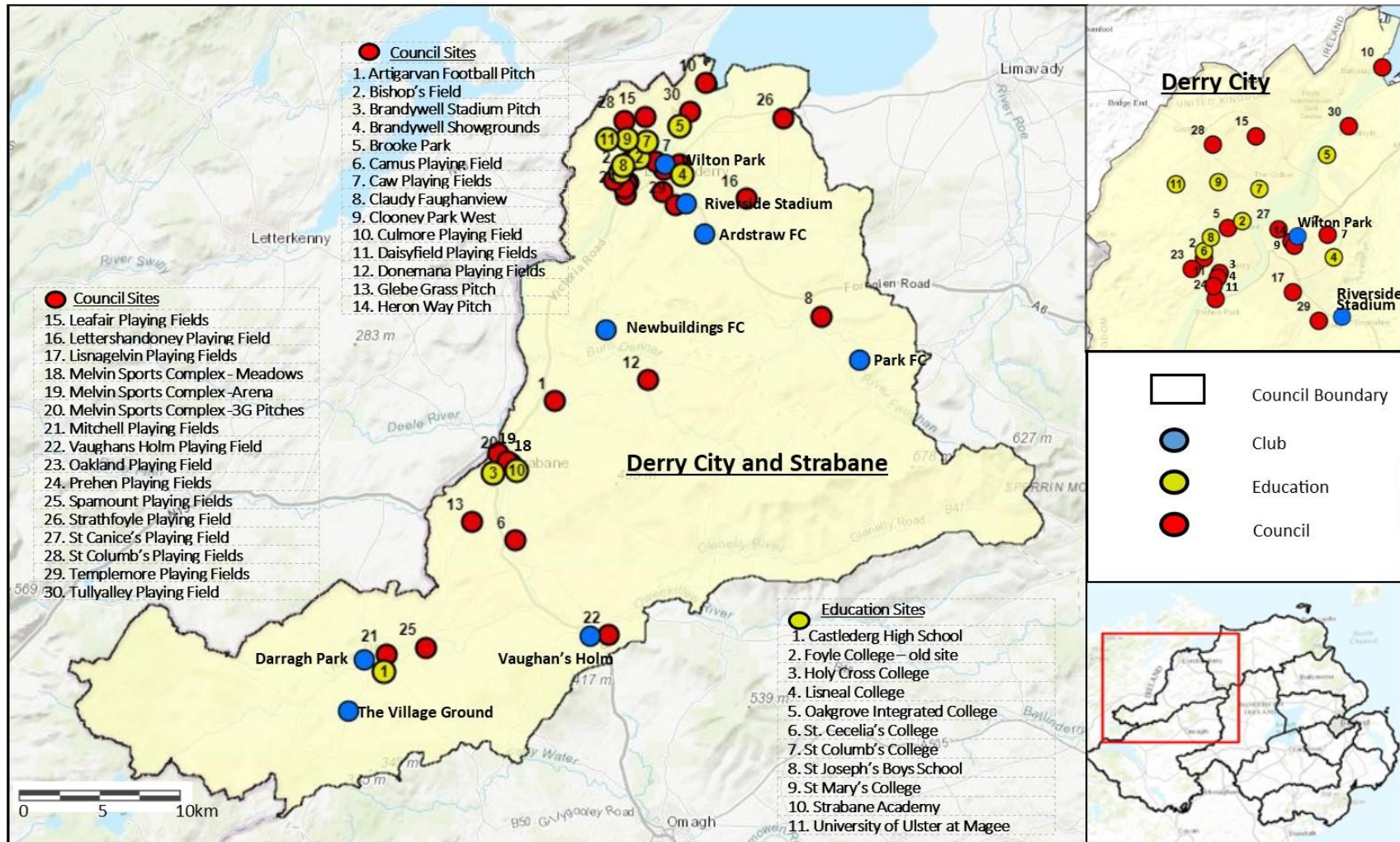
5.3 Two pitch types are considered:-

- ❖ **Full pitches** suitable for competitive adult, youth (U12 to U18) and Small Sided Games (U7 to U11) – includes both 3G and grass surfaces.
- ❖ **Training pitches** and **MUGA**– pitches identified by Council officers and from the club survey that are used for training – includes a mix of surfaces (AstroTurf, 3G, grass and shale) and sizes.

5.4 Table 5.1 presents a detailed inventory of full size pitches suitable for competitive matches. For each pitch site, *type*, *number*, *quality* and *additional remarks* are presented, see Map 5.1 for site location and ownership. Four different types of pitch 'Ownership' are recorded: -

- ❖ **Derry City & Strabane District Council-owned** – these pitches are maintained by, operated by and booked through the Council.
- ❖ **Derry City & Strabane District Council leased** – pitches leased from the Council for dedicated use by one association football club.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.
- ❖ **Club and Community (owned/leased)** – pitches owned or leased by an association football club.

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Map 5.1: Location of full size association football pitch sites under club, education and council ownership

Table 5.1: Association Football – Location, Quantity and Quality of Full and Match Pitches by Ownership

<u>Council</u>				
Location		No Pitches/Type	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Artigarvan Football Pitch	Rural	1 x Full Grass	1 x Poor	Pitch no longer in use for a number of years due to an effluent spill.
Bishop's Field	Derry City	1 x Full 3G	1 x Good	Pitch is floodlit and use extensively by clubs for training and youth matches?
Brandywell Stadium Pitch	Derry City	1 x Full 3G	1 x Unknown	Home venue to Derry City FC who play in League of Ireland Premier League. Pitch recently completed, stadium capacity is 3,700. Expected to take block bookings from 20 th March 2018.
Brandywell Showgrounds	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	To be available for use.
Brooke Park	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Allocated to Saturday Morning League(SML) and Derry & District Football Association who play mostly on Sundays – changing accommodation located in adjacent Brooke Leisure Centre. There is also a training size 3G pitch at the site.
Camus Playing Field	Strabane	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Used by Douglas Bridge FC and Sion Mills Men's FC.
Caw Playing Fields	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Out of use while a training 3G pitch being built as part of the Kilfennan Park redevelopment – home venue to Caw FC.
Claudy Faughanview	Derry Rural	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home pitch to Claudy Rovers FC and Claudy United FC, both with on adult team each, play in the North West Junior League.
Clooney Park West 1	Derry City	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Home pitch Lincoln Courts FC – one pitch allocated to North West Junior League and one to the Saturday Morning League.
Culmore Playing Field	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Home venue to Culmore FC, who have both youth and adult teams. Pitch uneven and exhibits a slope and has some drainage problems.
Daisyfield Playing Fields	Derry City	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Home grounds to Ballymore FC, allocated to SML and D&D Youths – users report drainage issues.

Donemana Playing Fields	Strabane	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home grounds to Donemana FC – pitch small but meets FA minimum size regulations – changing accommodation not available due to flood damage in August 2017.
Glebe Grass Pitch	Strabane	1 x Grass	1 x Good	Home grounds to Glebe FC, who have 2 adult teams.
Heron Way Pitch	Derry City	1 x Grass	1 x Poor	Adjacent to Clooney Park West Playing Fields – no changing accommodation, pitch used for a number of years – bonfire site to one corner.
Leafair Playing Fields 1	Derry City	1 x 3G	1 x Good	Allocated to SML and D&D Youths. There is also a 3G pitch slightly too small for adult competitive matches.
Lettershandoney Playing Field	Derry Rural	1 x Grass	1 x Good	Home venue to Tamnaherin Celtic FC who have one adult team, pitch has a pronounced slope and some areas of unevenness.
Lisnagelvin Playing Fields	Derry City	4 x Grass	3x Good 1 x Standard	Large site with 4 pitches – pitches 3 and 4 are overlaid with a GAA pitch. Large open site with some damage to one of the pitches due to unofficial use, dog walking and cycling. Some drainage issues.
Melvin Sports Complex - Meadows	Strabane	1 x Grass	1 x Poor	No changing at pitch, pitch uneven and slopes with evidence of unofficial use, damage and poor drainage.
Melvin Sports Complex -Arena	Strabane	1 x Grass	1 x Good	A well-appointed site with perimeter fencing. Doubles as an athletics facility – with a 6-lane synthetic running track around the pitch.
Melvin Sports Complex -3G Pitches	Strabane	2 x 3G	2 x Good	Multi-sport 3G pitch due for completion in April 2018 – comprises a full size gaelic games pitch marked for 1 x rugby pitch and 2 x association football pitches.
Mitchell Playing Fields	Strabane Rural	2 x Grass	2 x Good	Site located next to the River Derg – users report drainage issues – one pitch has had to be reduced in width but still meets FA minimum regulations. Home venue to St Patricks FC youth and adult teams. Also used by Dergview FC youth and adult teams.

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Vaghans Holm Playing Field	Strabane Rural	1 x Grass	1 x Good	Currently not in use due to flood damage in August 2017.
Oakland Playing Field	Derry	1 x Grass	1 x Good	Home venue to Trojans Youth & Community Group, a large club with youth and adult teams.
Prehen Playing Fields	Derry City	6 x Grass	6 x Good	Large site with 6 pitches, pitches 5 and 6 are overlaid with a GAA pitch. Pitches 4, 5 closer to the river show more drainage issues. Serviced with 2 changing blocks.
Spamount Playing Fields	Strabane Rural	2 x Grass	2 x Good	Used by Dergview FC and St Patricks FC – enclosed site with good quality pitches but the changing accommodation can only cater for 2 teams, although there are 2 pitches and thus 4 teams if both pitches are to be used at same time.
Strathfoyle Playing Field	Derry City	1 x Grass	1 x Good	Home venue to Lisahally FC, some improvements works have been carried out on the pitch – some drainage issues remaining.
St Canice's Playing Field	Derry Rural	1 x Grass	1 x Good	Home venue to Eglinton FC and Eglinton Eagles.
St Columb's Playing Fields	Derry City	3 x Grass	3 x Good	Large site in St Columb's Park, changing at Foyle Arena, some users note lack of changing at the Stadium pitch.
Templemore Central	Derry City	3 x Grass	2 x Good 1 x Standard	Large site at Templemore Sports Complex – whole site due to be redeveloped. Swilly pitch home venue to Oxford United Stars FC and Maiden City FC. All pitches meet FA minimum sizes, however Barra pitch is felt by users to be too small for adult games and is allocated for youth games only.
Tullyalley Playing Field	Derry City	1 x Grass	1 x Good	Home venue to Tullyalley Colts FC – pitch has a slight slope and is uneven in places and some drainage issues in wet weather.

Totals
42 x Full Grass Association Football
4 x Full 3G
1 x Youth 3G

Club and Community (owned/leased)

Pitch Site	Area	No Pitches/Type	Quality	Remarks
Mc Courts, Ardmore	Derry Rural	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The club has 2 adult teams, pitch is located adjacent to Ardmore GAC pitch.
Vaughan Holm, Newtownstewart	Strabane Rural	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Fenced pitch with clubhouse, home grounds to Ardstraw FC, club has a full youth section and girls teams at U7, U8 and U9 and 3 adult teams. There is also a training at the grounds.
Darragh Park	Strabane Rural	2 x Grass	2 x Unknown	Large club with 9, 3 of these adult – their first senior team plays in NIFL Championship League. The club is looking to improve changing accommodation.
Riverside Stadium, Drumahoe	Derry Rural	1 x Grass	Flood damage	Home grounds to Institute FC, pitch unplayable due catastrophic flood damage in August 2017. Home matches played at Churchill FC's home grounds and Limavady Showgrounds.
The Village Ground	Strabane Rural	1 x Grass	1 x Good	Killen Rangers FC, large club with boys and girls football and 3 adult teams, rely on Council facilities for training – also have a small training pitch at grounds.
Newbuildings Playing Field	Derry Rural	1 x Grass	1 x Good	Home grounds to Newbuildings FC, there is also a training size 3G pitch at the grounds – the club has 3 youth and 2 senior teams. They have plans to develop a club house.
Wilton Park	Derry City	1 x Grass	1 x Unknown	Home grounds to Churchill Utd FC who have one adult team. Grounds also being used by Institute FC for home matches.
Park FC	Derry Rural	1 x Grass	1 x Unknown	Home grounds to Park FC – club no longer in operation and pitch not in use.

Totals
9 x Full Grass Association Football

Education Sites				
Pitch Site				
Pitch Site	Area	No Pitches/Type	Quality	Remarks
Castledearg High School	Strabane Rural	1 x Grass	1 x Poor	Not available for community use
Foyle College – old site	Derry City	1 x Grass	1 x Unknown	Not available for community – College moved to new school site on Limavady Road – not known what pitches at old site will be used for.
Holy Cross College	Strabane	2 x Full Grass 1 x Full 3G	2 x Unknown 1 x Unknown	Some community use of the 3G pitch only
Lisneal College	Derry City	3 x Full Grass 1 x Full 3G	3 x Unknown 1 x Unknown	Limited community use of 3G pitch by Maiden City Academy
Oakgrove Integrated College	Derry City	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Available for community use but not used often by outside school hours. Pitches are reported to be in good condition all year round. School has a casual use agreement in place.
Cecelia's College	Derry City	Unknown	Unknown	
St Columb's College	Derry City	2 x Grass 1 x 3G	2 x Unknown 1 x Unknown	Extensive community use, D&D Youth League and IFA SSG
St Joseph's Boys School	Derry City	1 x Grass	1 x Unknown	The school plays in the Northern Ireland Schools Football Association - make use Brooke Park Playing Fields for training and matches
St Mary's College	Derry City	1 x Full 3G	1 x Unknown	Community use unknown
Strabane Academy	Strabane	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	New school site being developed –2021 completion
University of Ulster at Magee	Derry City	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth 3G	1 x unknown 1 x Unknown	Used by D&D Youth League and IFA SSG
Totals				
13 x Full Grass Association Football Pitches				
4 x Full 3G Association Football Pitches				
1 x Youth 3G Association Football Pitch				

5.5 Table 5.2 presents a detailed inventory of outdoor *training* facilities identified from both the club and school online survey and information provided by the Council. The outdoor training facilities include a variety of surfaces (3G, grass, shale and AstroTurf) and in a range of ownerships (Council, club, education, and community).

Table 5.2: Association Football – Inventory of training facilities

Pitch Site	Area	No pitches	Type	Remarks
<u>Council</u>				
Bishop's Field	Derry City	1	3G Full Size	Used by a large number of clubs for training: Tristar Boys FC, Bright Star YFC, Derry Colts FC, Trojans Youth FC, Oxford United Stars FC and others.
Brooke Park	Derry City	1	3G Training size	Used by a large number of football clubs for training: Newell Academy FC, Phoenix Athletic FC, Bright Stars FC, Rosemount FC and others.
Bull Park	Derry City	1	Synthetic Training size	Floodlit – surface in poor condition, number of areas displaying extensive wear and tear.
Clooney Park West	Derry City	3	Grass 5 - aside	Used on occasions for training by Lincoln Courts FC and others – not booked regularly.
St Columb's Astroturf	Derry City	1	Astroturf	Used extensively for association football training – surface in need of replacement. Also used for hockey training and matches.
St Columb's 3G	Derry City	1	3G 5 aside	Small floodlit 3G pitch suitable for primary school age training.
Irish Street MUGA	Derry City	1	MUGA	Used by Irish Street FC.
Leafair 3G Pitch	Derry City	1	3G Training size	Used extensively for training: Don Boscos FC, Foyle Harps FC, Culmore Youth FC, The Central FC.
Melvin Sports Complex – 3G Pitches	Strabane	2	3G Multi-sport	Recently completed – marked for: 1 x Gaelic pitch, 1 x rugby pitch and 2 x association football pitches.
Newtownstewart MUGA	Strabane Rural	1	MUGA	Used by Douglas Bridge FC and Ardstraw FC.
Plumbridge	Strabane Rural	1	Synthetic	Floodlit - Surface damaged in August 2017 floods.

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Creggan MUGA	Derry City	1	MUGA	Ballymoor FC.
Glebe 3G	Strabane Rural	1	3G Training size	Small 3G – used by Glebe United FC, Sion Mills Men’s and Ladies FC and others.
Shantallow MUGA	Derry City	1	MUGA	Used by Foyle Harps FC.
St Canice’s Playing Fields	Derry Rural	1	Grass Training	Mainly used by Eglinton Eagles in Spring and summer.
Templemore Sports Complex	Derry City	1	Shale Full Size	Floodlit and used for training.
Claudy Pinewood Playing Fields	Derry Rural	1	Grass Training	Grass pitch – not floodlit and not currently used for association football training.
Glenmorran 3G	Strabane Rural	1	3G Training	
Bull Park				
Vaughan’s Holm Playing Pitch	Derry Rural	1	Grass Multi-sport	Flood damaged in August 2017 – currently has gaelic posts erected – not currently used for association football training.
Plumbridge	Strabane Rural	1	Synthetic Training size	Damaged in August 2017 floods – not currently in use.
<u>Education</u>				
St Columb’s College	Derry City	1	3G Full Size	Used extensively for training and Small Side Games.
Castlederg High School	Strabane Rural	1	Astroturf Full size	Used by Dergview FC and Killen FC and Strabane RFC and St Eugene’s GAC.
Holy Cross College	Strabane	1	3G Full Size	Used by Strabane Athletic FC and Sion Swifts FC.
Lisneal College	Derry City	1	3G Full Size	Limited community use – used by Maiden City Soccer Academy.
Ulster University at Magee College	Derry City	1	3G Full Size	Used for training by Culmore Youth FC, Tristar Boys FC and others.
St Mary’s College	Derry City	1	3G Full size	Community use not known.

<u>Club/Community/Other Sport</u>				
Newbuildings Community Centre	Derry Rural	1	3G Training	Located next to Newbuilding's FC grass pitch – pitch is floodlit and measures 58m x 31m approximately, used by Newbuilding's Utd FC, Boys Brigade Old Boys FC, Tullyally Colts FC, Artigarvan Fc and others.
Ardstraw FC	Strabane Rural	1	Grass Training	Used by Ardstraw FC.
Aughabrack 3G	Strabane Rural	1	3G Training	Owned by Clann na nGael GAC, used by Donemana FC.
Bay Road Soccer	Derry City	9	3G 7 x 5 aside 2 x 7 aside	Privately owned outdoor 3G pitch complex used by Trojans Youth FC, Culmore Youth Fc, Lisahally FC, City Colts FC, Maiden City Soccer Academy, Institute FC and others. Also used for Derry & District Small Side Games.
Claudy GAC	Derry Rural	1	3G Training size	Used by Claudy Rovers FC, Kick start Colts FC, Claudy United FC.
Darragh Park	Strabane Rural	1	Grass Training size	Dergview FC.
The Village Grounds	Strabane Rural	1	Grass Training	Killen FC owned grounds – some training takes place on a small training pitch at the grounds.
McCourts Playing Field	Derry Rural	1	Grass Training	For use by Ardmore FC.
<u>Outside Council</u>				
Vale Centre, Greysteel	Causeway Coast and Glens Council	1	3G Full size	Used by: Eglinton Eagles FC, Lisahally FC, Derry Colts FC, Institute FC, Maiden City Soccer Academy, Tamnaherin Celtic FC.
Gortin OwenKillew 3G	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	1	3G Training	Used by Ardstraw FC.

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

5.6 Looking at competitive match pitch provision within the Council area there is a total of 65 full size grass association football pitches suitable for adult, youth and Small Sided Games matches and 8 full size 3G facilities under all ownerships. In addition, there are two youth 3G pitches (Leafair, Magee University). However not all of these full and youth grass pitches are available for community use – generally secondary school pitches are not available for competitive matches. This is further discussed under Adequacy of Provision.

5.7 A summary and breakdown of current match and training pitch provision by ownership is:-

Ownership	Full and Youth Match Pitches			Training Pitches – varying sizes			
	Grass Full	3G Full	Youth 3G	Grass	AstroTurf	3G Training	Shale/ MUGA
Clubs/Community/ Other Sport	9	0	0	4	0	12	0
Secondary School	13	4	0	0	2	0	0
University	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Council	42	4	1	6	0	4	8
Outside Council	-	-	-	0	0	2 ⁽²⁰⁾	0
Total	65	8	2	10	2	19	8

5.8 Of the eight full size 3G pitches identified in the above table, three have been recently completed⁽²¹⁾: Brandywell Stadium (x1) and Melvin Sport Complex (x2). It is expected these will be available both for adult competitive matches, mid-week training and also for Small Sided Games. Use of 3G pitches for adult matches will help reduce the pressure on the Council’s grass pitch stock. The hire cost for an adult competitive match on a 3G pitch is set to be the same as that for a grass pitch to encourage use. The four 3G pitches under education ownership (Lisneal College, Holy Cross College, St Columb’s College and St Mary’s College) have some community use for training and SSGs but are not currently available for competitive adult and youth matches.

⁽²⁰⁾ One of these is a full size pitch at the Vale Centre, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

⁽²¹⁾ Brandywell Stadium was opened on 20 March 2018 and Melvin Sports Complex 3G in April 2018.

Summary of Quality of Grass Pitches

5.9 As part of this audit, the quality of all Council-owned pitches was assessed using Sport England 'Towards a Level Playing Field' Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment. This assessment is based on:-

1. A visual inspection of the grass pitch including grass-cover, size, slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall), length of grass, evenness of pitch, problem areas: evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks/ unofficial use/damage to the surface and evidence of poor drainage.
2. Maintenance of the pitch including grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilisation and weed killing.
3. A visual inspection of artificial grass pitches including age of surface; evidence of moss/lichen, loose gravel (macadam surface), holes or rips in surface (macadam, artificial grass or polymeric), grip underfoot, line markings etc.

5.10 A full report on the quality of Council-owned pitches and changing accommodation is included in an addendum to this audit report, the grass pitch quality scores are summarised below as these can be relevant for adequacy of provision modelling presented later in this section. As part of the online survey, clubs and schools were asked to rate their own club pitches as Good, Standard or Poor. A summary of the grass pitch quality ratings is:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Full Sized Grass Pitches in all Ownerships					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	3	2	1	3	9
Education	2	0	1	11	14
Council	37	2	3	0	42
Total	42	4	5	14	65

Pitch Quality – Online Survey

5.11 In addition to the non-technical quality assessment of each pitch as presented above, in the online survey clubs were asked if their home match pitch quality had changed since last season and how they would rate maintenance of their home pitch. Results to both are:-

1. Has the quality of your home match pitch(es) got better or worse since last season?		
Answer Option	No of Reponses	% of clubs
Much better	3	7
Slightly better	5	11
No difference	16	35
Slightly poorer	9	20
Much poorer	13	28
Total	46	100%

Comments

- ❖ 35% of respondent clubs report 'No difference' in pitch quality this season compared to last season.
- ❖ A combined 18% report pitch quality is either 'Slightly better' or 'Much better'.
- ❖ Almost half of the respondents (48%) feel the pitch quality is either 'Slightly poorer' or 'Much poorer'.

Respondents were asked to record reasons for their response on pitch quality – the following comments were collected:-

No longer permitted to play on our usual pitch Prehen 2. (Artigarvan FC)

Number of matches being played on pitch. Weather conditions this year making it difficult for proper maintenance being carried out. (BBOB FC)

The lack of proper maintenance or upkeep from Council! (City Colts FC)

The pitch has been getting gradually worse the last 2 seasons after the children's play park was upgraded. The foundations for the surrounding fence of the park seem to have blocked drains from letting water away at the side of the pitch. So now when it rains the water backs up onto the playing surface now meaning we have more games called off throughout the season than we had before. As a result of this the pitch had been narrowed which affects our style of play as it reduces the space available to our players. We feel this would need to be addressed. (Claudy Rovers FC)

Just the weather. (Clifton Villa FC)

Bad weather, and not enough work done on pitch in summer.(Culmore Youth FC)

Bad drainage, blocked drains. (Donemana FC)

More sand in the summer time was installed. (Glebe FC)

Pitch is poorly drained and remedial work carried out by contractors appointed by Derry City & Strabane District Council have actually left the pitch and surrounding area in a much worse state. (Lisahally FC)

Pitch maintenance cuts probably. (Newell Academy FC)

No money been spent on drainage at Templemore, grounds men doing fantastic job with limited resources. (Oxford United Stars FC)

With the wonderful millionaire owner of our local pitch refusing us entry we now have to rely on Council pitches. Between the fact that there are so many mens teams in the NW and a very select few pitches available, (and awful fixture arranging from the league) we find we always have the last choice of pitch (The Meadows) which hasn't been used in years as our venue. Having to explain to an away team you have to change in Melvin then drive to the game is pretty embarrassing. (Sion Swifts FC)

Lack of investment in the playing surface to upgrade pitches to a minimum standard. (St Patricks FC)

Serious lack of maintenance in most cases. (The Central FC)

Pitch Maintenance has proved difficult. Not helped by the poor weather. (Trojans Youth & Community FC)

The survey results for home pitch quality/maintenance ratings are:-

2. How would the club rate the maintenance on its home match venue/ground?		
Answer Option	No of Reponses	% of clubs
Good	16	35
Standard	21	46
Poor	9	20
Total	35	100%

Comments

- ❖ The majority of respondents (81%) rate pitch maintenance as ‘Standard’ or ‘Good’.
- ❖ A significant 20% of clubs rated maintenance of their home pitch as ‘Poor’.

Built Facilities Quality

5.12 Built facilities are also scored and rated using the Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment. The assessment is based on:-

- ❖ Are changing rooms in place; exterior and interior quality, showers and toilets, officials changing, spectator toilets, dedicated medical room.
- ❖ Are DDA compliant facilities provided?
- ❖ Boundary fence and vehicle parking.

Built Facilities Score (%)	Rating
65 – 100	Good
35 – 64	Standard
0 – 34	Poor

Site Name	Changing? Yes = ✓ No = x	Quality Score %	Rating
1. Artigarvan Playing Field	x	-	-
2. Bishop’s Field	✓	55	S
3. Brandywell Stadium	✓	-	-
4. Brandywell Showgrounds	✓	-	-
5. Brooke Park	✓	69	G
6. Camus Playing Field	✓	49	S
7. Caw Playing Fields		-	-
8. Claudy Faughanview	✓	43	S
9. Clooney Park Playing Fields	✓	39	S
10. Culmore Playing Field	✓	35	S
11. Daisyfield Playing Fields	✓	39	S
12. Donemana Playing Fields		X	-
13. Glebe Grass Pitch	✓	62	S
14. Heron Way Pitch	x	X	-
15. Leafair Playing Fields	✓	58	S
16. Lettershandoney Playing Field	✓	48	S

Site Name	Changing? Yes = ✓ No = x	Quality Score %	Rating
17. Lisnagelvin Playing Fields	✓	54	S
18. Melvin Sports Complex - Meadows	x	X	-
19. Melvin Sports Complex -Arena	✓	62	S
20. Melvin Sports Complex -3G Multi Pitch	✓	-	-
21. Mitchell Playing Fields	✓	62	S
22. Vaughan Holm Playing Field	x	X	-
23. Oakland Playing Field	✓	-	-
24. Prehen Playing Fields	✓	43	S
25. Spamount Playing Fields	✓	69	G
26. Strathfoyle Playing Field	✓	48	S
27. St Canice's Playing Field	✓	45	S
28. St Columb's Playing Fields	✓	77	G
29. Templemore Playing Fields	✓	45	S
30. Tullyalley Playing Field	✓	85	G

Pitch Usage Profile

5.13 The starting point in looking at how grass pitches are used is to understand their carrying capacity. Whilst each pitch will have its own carrying capacity Sport England guidance shows *'the number of match equivalent sessions a week that a natural grass pitch is likely to be able to regularly accommodate, based on an agreed quality rating without adversely affecting its current quality'* to be as follows:-

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

5.14 Whilst a complete log of bookings for each pitch site was not available for this audit, an inspection of the Council's pitch allocations for the Derry legacy Council pitches is presented below (Strabane legacy Council pitches are allocated to the club not the leagues). Pitch allocations for the period 19 August 2017 to 16 December 2017 are matched to pitch rating (Good, Standard, Poor):

5.15

Pitch	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	No. of potential matches	Pitch rating
Brandywell Showground	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC		-
Brandywell Stadium	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC		-
Brooke Park grass pitch	SML	D&DFA/ OPEN	LOCAL USE	LOCAL USE	LOCAL USE	LOCAL USE	LOCAL USE	2	G
Caw/Kilfennan	NWFA	NWFA		NWFA			N/A	3	-
Clooney	LOCAL USE	LOCAL USE		LOCAL USE					
Clooney Park West No 1	NWFA	DCFC			DCFC			3	G
Clooney Park West No 2	SML	D&DFA				DCFC		3	G
CPW Mini-Soccer	OPEN	OPEN	D&D Youths	OPEN	OPEN		OPEN		
Daisyfield No 1	SML	D&D Youths					D&D Youths	3	G
Daisyfield No 2	D&D Youths	D&D Youths			D&D Youths			3	G
Faughanview, Claudy	NWFA	NWFA		NWFA			N/A	3	G
Leafair Senior	SML	D&D Youths			D&D Youths			3	G
Lettershandoney	SML	N/A	D&D Youths		SML		N/A	3	G
Lisnagelvin No 1	NWFA	D&DFA		NWFA		D&D Youths		4	S
Lisnagelvin No 2	SML	D&DFA			SML			3	G
Lisnagelvin No 3	NWFA	GAA			SML	INST	GAA	5	G
Lisnagelvin No 4	GAA/OP EN	GAA / OPEN		INSTIT	D&D Youths		GAA	5	G
Oakland	Trojans FC	OPEN			D&D Youths			2	G
Prehen No 1	SML	D&DFA		INST			NWFA	4	G
Prehen No 2	INST	D&D Youths		D&D Youths			D&D Youths	4	G
Prehen No 3	NWFA	D&DFA		NWFA		D&D Youths		4	G
Prehen No 4	SML			D&D			D&D	3	G

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				Youths			Youths		
Prehen No 5 (inc occ. GAA)	NWFA	GAA pm				INST		3	G
Prehen No 6 (inc occ. GAA)	SML	GAA pm		NWFA			D&D Youths	4	G
St Canices Jnr, Eglinton	D&D Yths / Yth Football	N/A				D&D Youths		2	-
St Canices Snr, Eglinton	NWFA	N/A		D&D Youths			N/A	2	G
St Columb's No 2	SML			D&D Youths		D&D Youths		3	G
St Columb's No 3	NWFA	D&DFA			NWFA		D&D Youths	4	G
St Columb's Stadium	SML	OPEN	D&D Youths		SML			3	G
Strathfoyle	NWFA / Open youth	NWFA / Open youth		NWFA			N/A	3	G
Templemore Barra	D&D Youths	D&D Youths		D&D Youths				3	S
Templemore Central	SML	D&DFA			SML			3	G
Templemore GAA	GAA	GAA		GAA			GAA	4	G
Templemore Swilly	Oxford/Maiden City	DCFC Youth/Ladies			DCFC ladies			3	G
Templemore Training	OPEN	OPEN		OPEN	OPEN		OPEN		-
Tullyally No 1	NWFA							1	G

Remarks

- ❖ As none of these pitches are floodlit, it is noted that mid-week use of pitches can only occur up to the end of September – after this the pitches can only be used at the weekend, so reducing the potential number of matches that can be played on each pitch.
- ❖ Most of pitches appear to be allocated on average 3 times a week; the majority of these are rated 'Good' and thus should be able to accommodate 3 matches.
- ❖ Three pitches are allocated 5 times a week – these are pitches overlaid to accommodate GAA matches – these matches will normally occur during the

summer months and therefore the capacity of the pitch is likely be increased when compared to the winter months.

- ❖ A high number of pitches are likely to accommodate a match on both Saturday and Sunday however only one match per day is played per pitch.
- ❖ It is known that pitches in other Council areas can accommodate 2 matches on a Saturday, normally a youth match in the morning followed by an adult match in the afternoon. This may be an option for the youth league which reports difficulties in securing Council pitches to accommodate all their games.

Clubs, Teams and Players

5.16 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. Association football has a total of 60 recognised clubs in Derry City & Strabane area. For the purposes of this audit it was deemed important to account for every club, obtaining completed questionnaires where possible to produce an accurate picture of association football membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations.

5.17 Information from the Council, association football league secretaries and desktop research identified a total of 60 clubs satisfying at least one of the following three criteria:-

- ❖ Home match pitch is located within the Council area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- ❖ Use pitches within the Council area for training.
- ❖ Over 50% of team members live within the Council area.

Every effort has been made to contact these clubs and secure a survey response. Where it has not been possible to get a response from identified clubs an estimate of team numbers was made using information from the league secretaries and desktop research; this was necessary for 14⁽²²⁾ of the clubs indicating that responses were obtained for 77% of all association football clubs.

Questionnaire

5.18 The comprehensive questionnaire (49 questions in total) distributed to the association football clubs (ie, satisfying the above criteria) collected information on

⁽²²⁾ The 14 clubs not making a return are: Brandywell FC, Brandywell Harps FC, Brewsters FC, Campbells FC, Churchill FC, Creggan Swifts FC, Derry City FC, Dupont FC, Foyle FC, Gold Swifts FC, Oakgrove FC, Park Bar FC, Sigma FC and Westbank FC– all of these clubs except Derry City have just one adult male team as reported by League secretaries.

the number of players (male/female/adult), number of teams, home venue, training venue, preferred home venue etc. This information is used to help inform an assessment of the adequacy of pitch provision in the Council area.

5.19 The questionnaire also collected information on issues related to club development, attitudes to 3G playing surfaces, pitch condition and quality, pitch maintenance and condition/quality of ancillary facilities.

5.20 All of the responses were collected via an online Survey Monkey link emailed to the club contact either by the consultant, Council officers or the league secretaries. A number of responses were obtained by telephone interviews (these were then entered online by the consultant to Survey Monkey). In order to encourage completion of a shortened version of the questionnaire was made available. The 60 clubs included in this audit are listed below in the following categories (those that did not make a survey response are marked *):-

- ❖ Clubs with only adult male teams
- ❖ Clubs with youth and adult teams

Table 5.3: Association Football Clubs with only Adult Male Teams (29)		
Club	No of teams	League
Ardmore FC	2	North West Junior
Artigarvan FC	1	North West Junior
Boys Brigade Old Boys FC	1	North West Junior
Brandywell FC*	1	Saturday Morning League
Brandywell Harps FC*	1	D&D Sunday Morning League
Brewsters FC*	1	Saturday Morning League
Campbells FC*	1	D&D Sunday Morning League
Caw FC	1	North West Junior League
Churchill Utd FC*	1	Saturday Morning League
City Colts FC	1	Saturday Morning League
Claudy Rovers FC	1	North West Junior League
Claudy United FC	1	North West Junior League
Clifton Villa FC	1	Saturday Morning League
Creggan Swifts FC*	1	Saturday Morning League
Donemana FC	2	North West Junior League
Douglas Bridge F C	1	North West Junior League
Dupont FC	1	Saturday Morning League
Foyle FC	1	Saturday Morning League
Glebe United FC	2	Fermanagh and Western League
Gold Swift FC*	1	D&D Sunday Morning League

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Irish Street FC	1	North West Junior League
Oakgrove FC*	1	Saturday Morning League
Park Bar FC*	1	D&D Sunday Morning League
Rosemount FC	1	Saturday Morning League
Sigma FC*	1	Saturday Morning League
Tamnaherin Celtic FC	1	Saturday Morning League
The Central FC	1	Saturday Morning League
Tullyally Colts FC	1	North West Junior League
Westbank FC	1	Saturday Morning League
Totals	32	

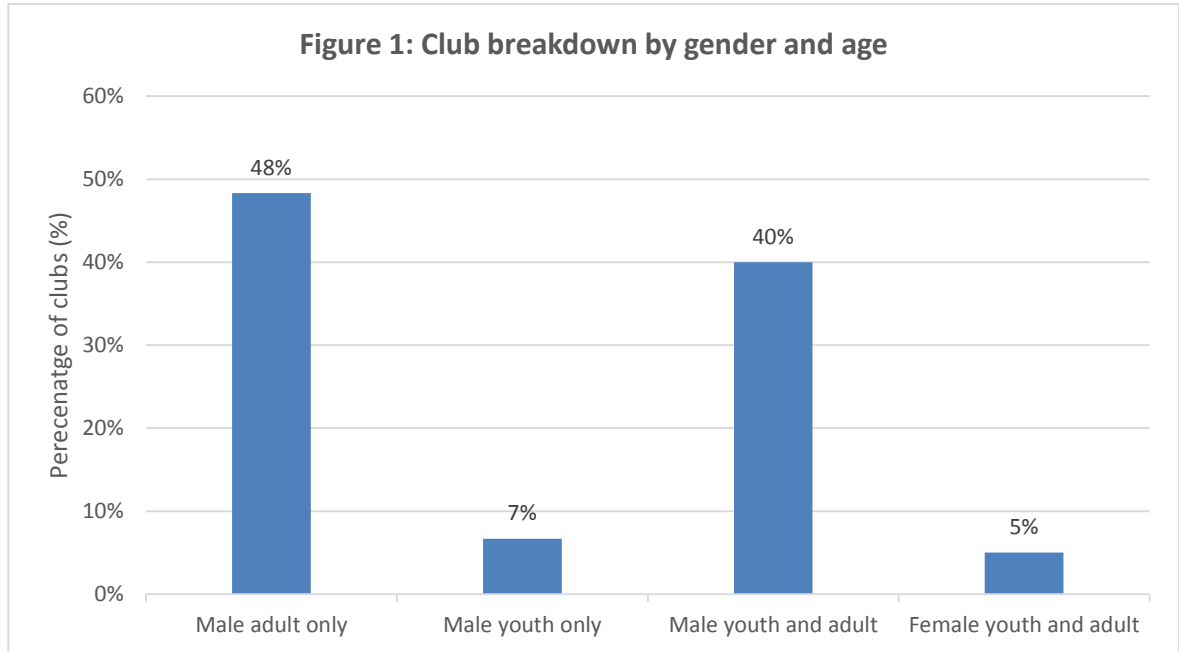
Table 5.4: Male Association Football Clubs with both Youth and Adult Teams

Club	No of Youth Teams	No of Adult Teams
Ardstraw FC	14	3
Ballymoor FC	8	1
Culmore FC	9	1
Dergview FC	6	3
Derry City FC*	2	2
Don Boscós FC	13	1
Eglinton FC	7	1
Foyle Harps Youth FC	14	2
Foyle Wanderers FC	3	2
Institute FC	12	2
Kick - Start Coaching/Colts FC	6	1
Killen Rangers FC	5	1
Lincoln Courts FC	3	2
Lisahally FC	2	1
Maiden City Soccer Academy	14	2
Newbuildings Utd Football Club	6	2
Oxford United Stars FC	12	1
Phoenix Athletic FC	5	2
Sion Swifts FC	18	3
St Patricks FC	4	1
Strabane Athletic FC	15	2
Top of the Hill Youth FC	11	1
Tristar Boys' FC	20	1
Trojans Youth & Community Group	11	2
Total	219	43

Table 5.5: Male Association Football Clubs with Youth Only Teams	
Club	No of Youth Teams
Bright Stars YFC	4 x male
Clooney Soccer School	8 x male
Derry Colts FC	7 x male
Newell Academy FC	4 x male
Total	23 x male

Table 5.6: Female Association Football Clubs with Youth and Adult Teams		
Club	No of Youth Teams	No of Adult Teams
Ardstraw FC	3	0
Derry City Ladies FC	2	3
Killen Rangers FC	3	1
Sion Swifts Ladies & Girls FC	11	2
Total	17	6

5.21 Figure 5.1 shows that of the 60 clubs included in this report, 48% have only adult male adult teams (mostly one team). A significant 40% of the clubs have youth and adult teams. Just 3 clubs have adult female teams, and just 4 clubs have youth female teams; with the increasing positive profile of women’s association football across the country, this is an expected area for growth. Clubs that operate with just one adult team may be less sustainable from year to year compared to those with a structure allowing players to feed through from youth to adult. The annual participation profile of association football across the Council area will therefore vary as players progress to other teams/clubs; this may have implications for pitch provision. Club playing members and team profiles presented in this audit are therefore a ‘snapshot’ of association football participation in the Council area for the 2017/2018 season.



5.22 The profile of teams and player numbers in the 60 identified clubs is as follows:-

Table 5.7: Association Football Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams			
	Male	Female	Total Male & Female
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	1,999	220	2,219
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	1,639	131	1,770
Adult	1,661	63	1,724
Total Players	5,299	414	5,713
<u>Teams</u>			
Small Sided Games (U7 to U11)	142	11	153
Youth (U12 to U16)	86	8	94
Adult (Inc U17 and U18)	88	6	94
Total Teams	316	25	341

5.23 It is important to note that the Small Sided Games (SSG) initiative has been adopted by the Irish Football Association (IFA) wherein children from Under 7 to Under 12 play matches in teams of 5-a-side, 7-a-side or 9-a-side according to age. This has been reflected in the reporting of team numbers. For this audit SSG teams are from U7 to U11 and include boys and girls teams.

An Overview of Association Football Leagues in the Council Area

5.24 Whilst not governing bodies, the association football leagues are substantial customers of Derry City & Strabane District Council, making a large number of pitch-bookings on Saturday mornings/afternoons and throughout the week in order to fulfil their league fixtures. The league secretaries were consulted as part of this audit and helped to distribute the online survey. In order to have a fuller picture of association football it is useful to give an overview of the main leagues operating in the Council area.

IFA Foyle Games Development Centre

5.25 The Small Sided Games (SSG) initiative has been adopted by the Irish Football Association (IFA) wherein children from Under 6 to Under 11 play matches in teams of 5-a-side, 7-a-side or 9-a-side according to age as follows:-

Age	Team Size	Squad	Pitch Size	Goals Size
Under 6's - 8's	Five-a-side	8	35mx25m	3.65mx1.83m
Under 9's	Seven-a-side	10	55mx35m	3.65mx1.83m
Under 10's	Seven-a-side	10	55mx35m	3.63mx1.83m
Under 11's	Nine-a-side	12	65mx45m	4.87mx2.13m

5.26 Currently SSG's in the Council area are provided for by both the IFA Foyle Games Development Centre (under the responsibility of the IFA-employed Games Development Manager) and the Derry & District Youth League. The IFA Foyle Games Development Centre ensures all competitions for this age group adheres to IFA guidelines and best practice procedures. Only clubs who sign up to these and have a service level agreement between the club and the IFA can take part in the Foyle Games Development Centre fixtures. The following clubs have signed up:-

- Ballymoor FC
- Eglinton Eagles
- Clooney Soccer School
- Culmore FC
- Tristar Boys FC
- Trojans FC
- Oxford Utd Stars FC
- Newbuildings FC
- Foyle Harps FC
- Don Boscós FC
- Maiden City FC,
- Kick Start Colts FC
- Bright Stars FC
- Top of the Hill Celtic FC
- Sion Swifts FC
- Dergview FC,
- Ardstraw FC
- Killen Rangers FC
- Sion Ladies FC
- Strabane Athletic FC,
- St Patricks FC.

5.27 The Foyle Games Development manager reports that Council facilities are not currently available for the IFA's SSG programme, instead they use the following facilities:-

- ❖ Castlederg High School, Castlederg
- ❖ Holy Cross College, Strabane
- ❖ St Columb's College, Derry City
- ❖ University of Ulster, Magee, Derry City

5.28 The Foyle Games Development Centre programme operates on a weekly basis on Monday and Wednesday evenings in Strabane/Castlederg and Derry City. The Foyle Games Development manager is keen to expand the programme and use the newly developed Council 3G facilities at Brandywell Stadium and Melvin Sports Complex.

5.29 The Foyle Games Development Centre note the following in relation to the provision of SSGs in the Council area:-

- ❖ *“Clubs who do not reach minimal operating standards and rival leagues and/or entrepreneurs can command use of Council pitches for games, training & football camps over and above Irish FA programmes. This is despite there being an annual ‘Service level Agreement’ between Council and the Irish FA which asks for help and assistance with costing etc to promote NGB programmes in the Council area”.*
- ❖ *Development of multiple changing rooms so different groups can be preparing to go onto a facility. Viewing areas for supporters and parents. The FGDC tries to promote a holistic approach to player development and encourages parents & coaches to adopt a joined up approach to player development. At the minute parents must stand outside the pitch facility looking at their kids through a steel fence. An opportunity for refreshments while their children train and play would be in line with good practice in other European countries.*
- ❖ *“Association Football clubs are playing catch up with the GAA in terms of pitch provision and in particular ownership and/or agreements of understanding. Local clubs (who meet NGB minimal operating standards) should be allowed access to local Council facilities and be accountable for the upkeep of same. Giving ownership to local clubs/community groups would allow them to access future funding and become self-sustainable in the same way the GAA clubs have”.*

Derry and District Youth League

- 5.30** First set up in 1972, the Derry and District Youth League caters for U7 to U16 teams. U7 to U11 games are in SSG format whilst U12 to U16 games are played on full size adult pitches on a league and cup basis. The D&D Youth League report the following number of teams at each age group:-

Age group	Number of teams in the D&D Youth League in 2017/18
Under 7	12 teams
Under 8	14 teams
Under 9	15 teams
Under 10	16 teams
Under 11	16 teams
Under 12	14 teams
Under 13	14 teams
Under 14	14 teams
Under 15	6 teams
Under 16	6 teams
Total	127 teams

- 5.31** The D&D Youth League season runs from April to September and is allocated on average four Council grass pitches per day of the week and also use Bishop's Field and Leafair 3G facilities. In addition to these Council-owned pitches, the league makes use of the following educational and private facilities: Thornhill College, St Columb's College, Vale Centre, University of Ulster Magee, Bay Road Soccer Centre.
- 5.32** The D&D Youth League runs the annual Foyle Cup youth competition, first started in 1992. This hugely successful competition runs over one week in July annually. It has grown steadily over the years with 334 teams taking part in 2017 from countries as far away as Canada and the United States of America and Europe.

North West Saturday Morning League

- 5.33** The North West Saturday Morning Football League oversees adult football fixtures for teams in the Council area. Currently there are two divisions; the Premier with 9 teams and Championship with 13 teams. All but one of the teams (Foreglen FC) are based in the Council area. Games are played at 11 o'clock on a Saturday morning predominantly on Council pitches: the league was allocated the following 12 Council pitches for the period August 2016 to December 2017: Templemore Central, Leafair Senior, Brooke Park grass pitch, Clooney Park West 2, St Columb's 2, St Columb's Stadium, Prehen 1, Prehen 4, Prehen 6, Lisnagelvin 2, Lettershandoney, and Daisyfield 1. The League representatives note the following:-

- ❖ The League has a good relationship with the Council.
- ❖ Reckon the pitches suffer from unofficial use in the summer by both association football and GAA teams.
- ❖ There is dog fouling and drainage problems with Daisyfield pitches.
- ❖ There is drainage concerns with Prehen pitches 4 and 6 and also Lisnagelvin pitches 2 and 4.
- ❖ Feel the league does not have access to the best Council pitches.
- ❖ Need for changing facilities at St Columb's Stadium pitch.
- ❖ In general, changing accommodation across the Council area is in need of upgrade especially at Prehen and Lisnagelvin sites.
- ❖ With the development of 3G facilities, the League is happy to consider scheduling games mid-week evenings to help reduce the pressure on grass pitches on Saturdays.

North West Junior Football League

- 5.34** The North West Junior League is affiliated to the IFA and oversees adult association football fixtures in the Council area. There are currently three divisions: Premier (10 teams), 1st Division (12 teams), 2nd Division (12 teams). Of the total 34 teams in the North West Junior League, 11 are based outside the Council area (approximately 32%). For the period August 2016 to December 2017 the league was allocated the following 10 pitches: Clooney Park 1, St Columb's 3, Prehen 3 and 5, Lisnagelvin 1 and 3, Tullyally 1, St Canices Pitch, Caw Pitch, Faughanview Pitch for Saturday fixtures.

Derry and District Football League

- 5.35** Established over 100 years ago, the Derry and District Football Association (D&DFA) administrates for adult games on Sunday mornings. Due to decreasing participation levels in recent years (the league currently has just 6 teams), the D&DFA League is trialling a Summer league with games scheduled on Tuesday evenings from May to September. Twelve Derry City based teams have entered the D&DFA summer league.

Other Leagues

- 5.36** A number of clubs have teams who compete in national leagues and cup competitions based outside the area. These competitions include: Northern Ireland Boys Football Association League, Northern Ireland Football League, Northern Ireland Women's Football League and Fermanagh and Western Football League.

Adequacy of Provision - Matches

5.37 The Sport England Playing Pitch Model quantitatively assesses adequacy of provision for competitive matches by comparing pitch supply⁽²³⁾ to demand⁽²⁴⁾; it identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches

Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.

Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.

Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.

Used by community but not secured

Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.

Not open for community use

Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

5.38 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision of association football pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario for adult and youth competitive games. An overview of provision for SSG's (U7 to U11) is presented separately as these games are played on smaller playing areas zoned within a full size pitch.

⁽²³⁾ The number of pitches available for matches

⁽²⁴⁾ The number of teams in an area requiring pitches for weekly matches

Reference	Description	No. of grass and 3G pitches available for adult matches	No. of grass and 3G pitches available for youth matches
Scenario 1	All pitches	64 x grass 8 x 3G ⁽²⁵⁾	64 x grass 10 x 3G ⁽²⁶⁾
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	43 x grass 4 x 3G	38 x grass 6 x 3G
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	35 x grass 4 x 3G	37 x grass 5 x 3G

5.39 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following full size grass Council pitches have been excluded for the reasons listed below:-

Pitch site	No of Pitches	Rationale
Artigarvan Football Pitch	1	Pitch no longer in use for a number of years due to an effluent spill.
Caw Playing Field	1	Pitch unavailable due to construction works on a new 3G pitch.
Heron Way Playing Field	1	Pitch unused for a number of years – no changing facilities available.
Vaughans Holm Playing Field	1	Pitch currently not in use – damaged in August 2017 floods.
Spamount 2	1	Whilst there are 2 pitches at Spamount Playing Fields, changing accommodation constraints mean only 1 can be used at a time.
Riverside Stadium	1	Institute FC's home grounds currently unplayable due extensive flood damage in August 2017.
Park FC Pitch	8	Pitch not currently in use.
Daisyfield 2	1	This pitch has been allocated for youth matches.
Templemore Barra	1	This pitch has been allocated for youth matches.
Total	9	

⁽²⁵⁾ Includes Brandywell Stadium and Melvin Sports Complex 3G pitches although they were not available in 2017/18 season, they will be available for the 2018 season and beyond, the other 3G pitches are: Bishop's Field (1), Holy Cross College (1), Lisneal College (1), St Columb's College(1), St Mary's College (1).

⁽²⁶⁾ Leafair 3G pitch is slightly too small for adult games and is included in youth totals.

5.40 It is noted that Derry & District Youth matches are scheduled across each day of the week depending on age group – a typical weekly fixture schedule for May 2018 is presented below. The D&D Youth League starts in May and runs through the summer months until the end of September/early October. The league notes they often do not get all their games played due to shorter evenings towards the end of the league. When compared to similar studies for other Council’s it is noted that generally youth games are played on Saturday mornings from September to April alongside the adult league. D&D Youth League does not run through the winter instead starts in late April/early May as the adult leagues are wrapping up – possibly this was due to historical difficulties in securing pitches for youth games on Saturday mornings.

Typical weekly fixture schedule for Derry & District Youth League – May to September		
Day	Age Group	Pitches
Monday	U12	Daisyfield 2, Central, Oakland, Wilton Park, Prehen 5, Melvin Park, Magee Grass 1
Tuesday	U11, U13, U16	Bishops Field, St Columb's College 3G, Culmore, Prehen 5, St Johnston, Brooke Park, Wilton Park
Wednesday	U14	Prehen 1, Newbuildings, Melvin Park
Thursday	U12, U14, U16	St Columb's Stadium, Melvin Park, Wilton park, Lisnagelvin
Friday	U11, U12	Magee 1, Lisnagelvin 1, St Canices, Melvin Park, Magee Grass 1, Strathfoyle
Saturday	U8, U10	Leafair 3G, Bishops Field
Sunday	U7, U9, U11, U3, U14	Bay Road, Magee 3G, Vale Centre

5.41 The pitch breakdown for each scenario for full and youth grass match pitches available for adult and youth⁽²⁷⁾ is:-

⁽²⁷⁾ University of Ulster Magee Grass pitch and Leafair 3G pitch is included in the pitch totals for Youth pitches available for matches.

Ownership	Scenario 1				Scenario 2				Scenario 3			
	Full		Youth		Full		Youth		Full		Youth	
	Grass	3G	Grass	3G	Grass	3G	Grass	3G	Grass	3G	Grass	3G
Clubs/Community	9	0	9	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Secondary schools	12	4	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CCG	42	4	42	5	35	4	37	5	35	4	37	5
Totals	64	8	64	10	42	4	38	6	35	4	37	5

Comments

- ❖ The above table records the number of full and youth pitches used in each scenario.
- ❖ Youth and adult matches are played on full size pitches with the exception of Leafair 3G pitch which can only accommodate youth games.
- ❖ It is noted that the capacity of each full size grass pitch is one match either on Saturday morning or afternoon but not both.
- ❖ For adult association football Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude thirteen education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ University of Ulster Magee grass pitch is used regularly by D&D Youth League thus is included in the pitch totals in each scenario.
- ❖ For adult and youth association football, Scenario 3 excludes both education and club pitches – here only Council provision is used for matches.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude five identified Council pitches (Artigarvan Pitch, Caw Playing Field, Heron Way Playing Field, Vaughan’s Holm Pitch and Spamount 2).
- ❖ Scenario 2 for adult football excludes Templemore Barra pitch and Daisyfield 2 pitch as these are allocated for youth games.
- ❖ Scenario 2 excludes Institute FC’s home pitch, Riverside Stadium as it is no longer available due to flood damage and Park FC pitch as it is no longer in use.
- ❖ Scenario 2 excludes club pitches for youth games as the majority of youth games are played on Council pitches.

5.42 The results of the Sport England Playing Pitch Model for each of the above 3 Scenarios are presented in Tables 6.5, 6.6, 6.7. It is important to note these scenarios model:-

- ❖ Adult football competitions played during the winter, there is therefore no mid-week evening games. This may change with the use of new floodlit 3G pitches (Melvin Sports Complex and Brandywell Stadium), however this is dependent on leagues being willing to schedule matches at times other than Saturday mornings and afternoons
- ❖ Youth football played during the spring/summer when games can be played weekday evenings as well as at the weekends.

Scenario 1

5.43 The picture for Scenario 1 for male and youth association football in accordance with the Sport England model is presented in Table 5.8 below. Women's association football teams are not modelled here as generally their fixtures are in the summer months and therefore do not compete for pitches with male teams.

Table 5.8: Association Football – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches for Youth and Adult

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Youth (U12 to U16)	86 teams	Complete picture from survey and leagues.
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	88 teams	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Youth (U12 to U16)	0.5	Based on a home game every other week for and Adult and Youth.
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Youth (U12 to U16)	43 games	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	44 games	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Youth (U12 to U16) – 35% of games played mid-week	0.35	This is the peak demand period and % of games played as assessed from club surveys and league fixtures.
	Adult (U17, U18, older) – 96% of games played either Saturday AM or PM	0.96	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Youth (U12 to U16)	16 pitches	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type. Capacity for each pitch is: 1 game per pitch on Saturday for adult
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	43 pitches	

			football and one game per day or evening for youth football
6. Establishing pitches available	Youth (U12 to U16)	74 pitches	64 grass and 10 x 3G pitches are available for youth games 64 grass pitches and 8 x 3G pitches are available for adult games;
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	72 pitches	
7. Adequacy of Provision	Youth (U12 to U16)	74-16 = +58 pitches	Good supply of pitches
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	72-43= +29 pitches	Good supply of pitches

5.44 The results for Scenario 1 shows there is a good level of supply of pitches for youth and adult matches with an over-supply of 29 pitches and 58 pitches for adult and youth respectively. Scenario 1 models pitch demand assuming all pitches are available for use; in reality this is not likely but is presented for completeness.

Scenario 2

5.45 The picture for Scenario 2 for association football in accordance with the Sport England model is presented in Table 5.9 secondary school pitches are not included as they are generally not available for club matches. Also excluded are the seven Council pitches currently not in use, plus the two dedicated youth pitches therefore reducing the combined number of full size grass and 3G pitches to 46 for adult games.

Table 5.9: Association Football – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 - All community available pitches for Youth and Adult

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Youth (U12 to U16)	86 teams	Complete picture from survey and leagues.
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	88 teams	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Youth (U12 to U16)	0.5	Based on a home game every other week for and Adult and Youth.
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Youth (U12 to U16)	43 matches	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	44 matches	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Youth (U12 to U16) – 35% of games played mid-week	0.35	This is the peak demand period and % of games played as

	Adult (U17, U18, older) – 96% of games played either Saturday AM or PM	0.96	assesses from club surveys and league fixtures, rounded up.
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity –	Youth (U12 to U16)	16 pitches	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type. Capacity for each pitch is: 1 game per pitch on Saturday for adult football and one game per day or evening for youth football
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	43 pitches	
6. Establishing pitches available	Youth (U12 to U16)	44 pitches	38 grass and 6 x 3G pitches are available for youth games. 42 grass pitches and 4 x 3G pitches are available for adult games;
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	46 pitches	
7. Adequacy of Provision	Youth (U12 to U16)	44-16 = +28 pitches	Good supply of pitches
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	46-43= +3pitches	Small surplus of pitches

5.46 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply can meet for youth matches with an oversupply of 28 pitches. For adult matches, supply is only just meeting demand with a small surplus of 3 pitches.

5.47 It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand.
- ❖ Although the supply of pitches for youth games shows an oversupply, in reality not all these pitches are available for youth games – Derry & District Youth League is allocated a number of pitches each season; the league secretary notes that this allocation is often inadequate and, in some cases, constrains the number of teams they can accommodate.
- ❖ The PPM models peak demand at a weekly and a seasonal level. The weekly peak demand for pitches is Saturdays for adult matches – 96% of games occur then. Peak seasonal demand occurs when all Council based teams have a home game on a Saturday. The SML league is wholly made up of teams based within the Council boundary and therefore will require a similar number of pitches each week to satisfy their fixtures. For the North West Junior League, 25% of their teams are based outside the area which

means some of their matches will be ‘away i.e. played on a pitch outside the Council area thus reducing the pitch requirements within the Council area that week.

- ❖ The capacity of 3G pitches included in Scenario 2 has been set to 1 game a week – should this be increased it would result in a larger calculated surplus. However, at this stage it is unclear how much availability there will be for matches on the 3G pitches after training and SSG’s are accommodated.
- ❖ The PPM analysis does not account for demand from national competitions such as the Northern Ireland Boy’s Football Association who book Council pitches on a less frequent basis. Therefore, the supply of pitches needs to be large enough to accommodate these.
- ❖ A comparison of Adequacy of Provision for Scenario 2 with similar studies conducted by Otium Leisure Consultancy in other Councils demonstrates a comparatively small ‘buffer’ of pitches in Derry City & Strabane District Council area. The buffer is the ratio of the number of unused pitches at peak demand to the number of pitches available for competitive matches at peak demand. For Derry City & Strabane District Council this Surplus to Supply buffer ratio is 7%, which is the lowest the five Councils as presented below:

Pitch Audit Year	Council	Adequacy of Provision in Scenario 2	Supply Total number of pitches in Scenario 2	Surplus/Supply (%)
2018	Derry City & Strabane District Council	+3	46	7%
2017	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	+20	49	41%
2015	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	+10	47	21%
2013	Belfast City Council	+33	124	27%
2012	Newtownabbey Borough Council (legacy)	+21	44	48%

- ❖ The following pitches are not counted in the pitch supply totals for adult games: Artigarvan Playing Field, Heron Way, Caw Playing Field, Vaughan’s Holm, Institute FC, Park FC pitch, Templemore Barra pitch, Spamount 1 and Daisyfield – inclusion of these in supply would increase the pitch buffer should they be brought back into supply.
- ❖ Councils often require a pitch surplus for the following operational reasons:

- allows for pitches to be taken out of circulation for maintenance and to be rested.
- allows for unexpected increase in games to be accommodated, for example National cup and league competitions that do not occur on a weekly basis.
- allows for use for by schools and development squads.
- poorer quality pitches may not be playable in periods of wet weather – a pitch buffer allows matches to be moved to other better quality pitches at short notice.

Scenario 3

5.48 A third scenario can be modelled where only Council pitches are used. A total of 39 full sized grass and 3G pitches are available for all adult matches and 42 for youth matches. The modelling results are:-

Table 5.10: Association Football – Demand and Supply Scenario 3 – Only Council pitches available Youth and Adult

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Youth (U12 to U16)	86 teams	Complete picture from survey and leagues.
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	88 teams	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Youth (U12 to U16)	0.5	Based on a home game every other week for and Adult and Youth.
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Youth (U12 to U16)	43 matches	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	44 matches	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Youth (U12 to U16) – 35% of games played mid-week	0.35	This is the peak demand period and % of games played as assesses from club surveys and league fixtures, rounded up.
	Adult (U17, U18, older) – 96% of games played either Saturday AM or PM	0.96	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity –	Youth (U12 to U16)	16 pitches	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type. Capacity for each pitch is: 1 game per pitch on Saturday for adult football and one game per day or evening for youth football
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	43 pitches	

6. Establishing pitches available	Youth (U12 to U16)	42 pitches	37 grass and 5 x 3G pitches are available for youth games. 35 grass pitches and 4 x 3G pitches are available for adult games;
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	39 pitches	
7. Adequacy of Provision	Youth (U12 to U16)	42-16 = +26 pitches	Good supply of pitches
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	39-43= -4 pitches	Supply cannot meet demand

5.49 The results for Scenario 3, for Council pitches only, demonstrates a shortfall in provision for adult games and a good supply for youth games. In reality the burden of meeting demand for association football matches is 'shared' with club owned pitches as shown in Scenario 2.

Adequacy of Match Provision by Area

5.50 The previous sections demonstrate an assessment of pitch provision across the Council area as a whole. In order to provide a more local picture it is of interest to look at adequacy of pitch provision in each of the following four designated areas:

- ❖ Derry City
- ❖ Derry Rural
- ❖ Strabane Town
- ❖ Strabane Rural

5.51 Few association football clubs own their own facilities and as such do not have a 'home'. However, most clubs will have a preferred home venue, used to generate match fixtures on a home and away basis and reflect the area where most of their players live. From the club survey the number and percentage of senior, youth and SSG teams who expressed a home venue preference in each of the four areas was assessed. Where a club failed to respond to the home venue preference question an assumption was made on the area of the Council they would prefer to have as their home venue using additional information from the survey (i.e. member catchment information) and Council staff knowledge.

5.52 An inventory of clubs per area is:-

Derry City	Derry City	Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Rural
Ballymoor FC	Derry Colts FC	Oxford Utd Stars FC	Ardmore FC	Ardstraw FC
BBOB FC	Don Boscros FC	Park Bar FC	Claudy Rovers FC	Artigarvan FC
Brandywell FC	Dupont FC	Phoenix Athletic FC	Claudy United FC	Dergview FC
Brandywell Harps FC	Foyle FC	Rosemount FC	Eglinton FC	Donemana FC

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Brewsters FC	Foyle Harps Youth FC	The Central FC	Newbuildings Utd FC	Douglas Bridge F C
Bright Stars YFC	Foyle Wanderers FC	Top of the Hill FC	Tamnaherin Celtic FC	Glebe United FC
Campbells FC	Gold Swifts FC	Tristar Boys' FC	Ardmore FC	Killen Rangers FC
Caw FC	Institute FC	Trojans FC		Sion Swifts FC
Churchill United FC	Irish Street FC	Tullyally Colts		St Patricks FC
City Colts FC	Kick – Start FC	Westbank FC		
Clifton Villa FC	Lincoln Courts FC			
Clooney Soccer School	Lisahally FC			Strabane Town
Creggan Swifts FC	Maiden City Academy			Strabane Athletic FC
Culmore FC	Newell Academy FC			
Derry City FC	Oakgrove FC			

The distribution of teams per area is:-

Table 5.11: Association Football – Distribution of Teams by Area						
Area	No. male adult teams per area	% male adult teams per area	No. male youth teams per area	% male youth teams per area	No. male SSG teams per area	% male SSG teams per area
Derry City	53	60	61	70	97	68
Derry Rural	8	9	3	4	10	7
Strabane Town	2	2	5	6	10	7
Strabane Rural	25	29	17	20	25	18
Totals	88	100	86	100	142	100

Comments

- ❖ Derry City area has the highest percentage of teams in all three categories; given that it has the highest population this is to be expected.
- ❖ Strabane Rural has a significant number of teams across all three categories
- ❖ There is just one association football club in Strabane town.

5.53 Adult pitch provision per area for Scenario 2 (pitches under Council and Club ownership) is:-

Supply of pitches per Area (Grass +3G) for Scenario 2

	Council	Club	Education	Pitches not included in Scenario 2 totals
Derry City	29	1	10	Heron Way, Caw Playing Field
Derry Rural	3	2	0	Institute, Park FC
Strabane Town	4	0	4	-
Strabane Rural	6	4	1	Vaughans Holm and Artigarvan, Spamount 2

5.54 An inventory of pitches sites per area for Scenario 2 (i.e. under Council and Club/community ownership):-

Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Town	Strabane Rural
Bishop's Field	Claudy Faughanview	Melvin - Meadows	<i>Artigarvan Football Pitch</i>
Brandywell Stadium Pitch	Lettershandoney Playing Field	Melvin - Arena	Camus Playing Field
Brandywell Showgrounds	St Canice's Playing Field	Melvin - 3G Pitches	Donemana Playing Fields
Brooke Park	Mc Courts, Ardmore		Glebe Grass Pitch
<i>Caw Playing Fields</i>	<i>Riverside Stadium</i>		Mitchell Playing Fields
Clooney Park West	Newbuildings Pitch		<i>Vaughans Holm Playing Field</i>
Culmore Playing Field	<i>Park FC Pitch</i>		Spamount Playing Field
Daisyfield 1 Playing Field			Vaughans Holm - Ardstraw
<i>Daisyfield 2 Playing Field</i>			Darragh Park
Heron Way Pitch			The Village Ground
Leafair Playing Fields			
Lisnagelvin Playing Fields			
Oakland Playing Field			
Prehen Playing Fields			
Strathfoyle Playing Field			
St Columb's Playing Fields			
Templemore Central+Swilly			
<i>Templemore Barra</i>			
Tullyalley Playing Field			
Wilton Park			

5.55 Table 5.12 presents the PPM Scenario 2 for all four areas for adult association football competitive games only.

Table 5.12: Association Football – Area based demand and supply for Scenario 2 for Adult football only

Model Stage	Whole Council	Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Town	Strabane Rural
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	88	53	8	2	25
2. Calculating home games per team per week	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
3. Assessing total home games per week	44 matches	27 matches	4 matches	1 match	13 matches
4. Establishing temporal demand for games ⁽²⁸⁾ -	0.96	0.96	1.0	1.0	1.0
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity –	43 pitches	26 pitches	4 pitches	1 pitch	13 pitches
6. Establishing pitches available	47 pitches	29 pitches	5 pitches	4 pitches	10 pitches
7. Adequacy of Provision	47 – 44 = +3 pitches	29 – 27 = +2 pitches	5 – 4 = +1 pitch	4 -1 = +3 pitches	10 -13 = -3 pitches

Comments

- ❖ There is a small surplus of 2 pitches for Derry City and 1 pitch for Derry Rural.
- ❖ There is a shortfall of 3 pitches for Strabane Rural, however it is likely this will be accommodated with the surplus of 3 pitches for Strabane Town. However, pitch stock in Strabane Town includes the Meadows pitch, rated Poor in the pitch quality assessment as part of this project.

⁽²⁸⁾ In Derry City 96% of games are played either Saturday AM or PM; for the remaining 3 areas 100% of games are played on Saturday AM/PM.

Adequacy of Provision – Training

5.56 The majority of association football training takes place on pitches that are different to those used for competitive matches on Saturdays and mid-week. From the online survey, training during the winter months takes place predominantly on AstroTurf and 3G surfaces. Whilst some club training takes place at club owned grass training pitches, this is during the summer months. In order to assess adequacy of provision of training facilities at peak demand (winter) the supply of ‘one-hour’ training slots in the Council area is matched to the demand from the number of teams operating. A summary of the supply of 1-hour training slots is:

Facility type and site	Number of 1-hour training slots midweek (i.e. Mon to Thurs) ⁽²⁹⁾
	<i>No. of available training hours per week</i>
Astroturf – Floodlit (2 sites)	
Foyle Arena (shared 25% with hockey teams) Here is assumed that the pitch is big enough to be split into two training areas therefore doubling the number of one-hour training slots to 24, this facility is shared with hockey reducing the number of 1-hour slots to 18.	18
Castledearg High School (limited community use)	4
Total	22 x 1-hour slots
3G outdoor – Floodlit (15 sites)	
Bishop’s Field Here is assumed that the pitch is big enough to be split into two training areas therefore doubling the number of one-hour training slots to 24.	24
Brandywell Stadium	24
Brooke Park It is assumed 75% of the 1-hour slots are available for football training – the remaining slots are for Bay Road own league and programmes.	24
Glebe 3G	12
Glenmorán	12
Leafair 3G Pitch It is assumed 75% of the 1-hour slots are available for football training – the remaining slots are for Bay Road own league and programmes.	24
Melvin 3G Pitch 1 (shared 25% with gaelic) Facility is shared with other sports (gaelic, rugby), reducing the available number of 1-hour slots to 18.	18

⁽²⁹⁾ Demand for association football training is predominantly Monday to Thursday evening 6pm to 9pm, i.e. a total of 12 hours per week.

Melvin 3G Pitch 2 (shared 25% with gaelic)	18
Holy Cross College Community bookings as noted from the online survey.	3
Lisneal College	3
Ulster University Magee College	8
St Columb's College	4
St Mary's College	-
Newbuidings 3G	12
Claudy GAC (shared 75% with Gaelic)	6
Bay Road Soccer 7 x 5 aside SSG + Youth It is assumed 75% of the 1-hour slots are available for football training – the remaining slots are for Bay Road own league and programmes.	63
Bay Road Soccer 2 x 7 aside Senior	18
	285 x 1-hour slots
Total Current Supply of 1-hour slots	309 x 1-hour slots

5.57 In summary, there are 309 x 1-hour training slots available at 18 synthetic floodlit sites across the Council area.

Training Facility Demand

5.58 An assessment of association football training needs/demand is presented in Table 5.13. Here the total number and breakdown of association football teams in the District by age and training needs is assessed using information from the survey and employing the following observations:

- ❖ 4 x U7 to U12 SSG teams have the same pitch size requirements as one adult team i.e. equivalent to 1 adult team
- ❖ 1 x youth team (U12 to U16) training is equivalent to one adult team
- ❖ U7 to U11 SSG teams train once a week
- ❖ U11/U12 SSG and Youth teams train on average 1.5 times a week
- ❖ Adult teams require one full pitch for training and train on average 1.75 times a week.

5.59 Based on these observations, the total number of one-hour training slots required to satisfy association football training needs in the Council is 344 x 1-hour slots as detailed in Table 5.13.

Table 5.13: Association Football Training Needs

	No. of Male Teams	No. of Female Teams	All teams	Adult team equivalents ⁽³⁰⁾	Average No. of 1-hour training sessions per week per team	Total No. of 1-hour training slots needed (rounded up)
Small Sided Games (U7 to U11)	142	11	153	38.25	1	39
Youth (U12 to U16)	86	8	94	94	1.5	141
Adult (Inc U17 and U18)	88	6	94	94	1.75	165
Total Teams	316	25	341	226.25		344 x 1-hour slots

5.60 As calculated, the 316 association football teams in the Council require at least 344 x 1-hour training slots. Currently there are an estimated 309 x 1-hour slots available, that is an undersupply of 35 x 1-hour slots. If the training on AstroTurf is discounted due to unsuitability for the modern game, this increases the short fall to 57 x 1-hour slots. Currently the following venues outside the Council are used for training: Vale Centre, Greysteel in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council & Gortin OwenKillew 3G in Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

5.61 Whilst it is noted that some small MUGA's are used for training, these are not included in the above assessment as they are not considered suitable training facilities for the rigours of the modern game.

Overview of Small Sided Games (SSG) Provision

5.62 Currently there are two providers of Small Sided Games in the Council area: IFA Foyle Games Development Centre (FGDC) and The Derry and District Youth League, the number of teams in each for the 2018 season is:-

	IFA Foyle Games Development Centre	Derry & District Youth League	Total number of teams	No. of 1-hour full size 3G pitch slots needed
Age group	Number of teams	Number of teams	Number of teams	
U7 (5 v 5)	10	12	22	3
U8 (7 v 7)	16	14	30	5
U9 (7 v 7)	16	15	31	5
U10 (9 v 9)	16	16	32	8
U11 (9 v 9)	10	16	26	7
Total	68	73	130	28

⁽³⁰⁾ The following is assumed: 4 x U7 to U10 SSG teams require the same size training pitch as one adult team, 2 x U11, U12 SSG teams require the same size training pitch as one adult team, 1 x U13 to U18 team requires the same size training pitch as one adult team.

5.63 Both SSG’s providers use a range of venues:

IFA FGDC		D&D YL	
Monday	St Columb’s College 3G	Saturday U8s and U10s	Leafair 3G, Bishop Field
Monday	Castleberg High School, Holy Cross College	Sunday U7s, U9s, U11s	Bay Road, Magee 3G Bishop’s Field 3G
Wednesday	St Columb’s College 3G	Sunday	

5.64 The following points are noted in relation to the provision of SSGs in the Council area:-

- ❖ Both providers note difficulties in booking venues for this age group, both must use school and private providers
- ❖ Fixtures on occasions vary from week to week as providers cannot always block book venues
- ❖ Both providers cater for the same age groups but on different days
- ❖ Venues are not easily accessible for parents to spectate
- ❖ The lack of suitable venues is constraining growth of SSG’s compared to other Councils
- ❖ A number of clubs travel outside the Council to attend the Harry Gregg SSGs initiative held at Ulster University Coleraine – here one central hub provides games for all age groups on Saturday mornings from 9am to 1pm from September to April.
- ❖ Both providers are looking to use the new 3G pitch developments at Brandywell Stadium and Melvin Sports Complex.

Community Impact

Club Needs – Current and Future

Match and Training Facility Barriers

5.65 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experience in accessing outdoor match and training facilities. Results are (clubs were able to select more than one response) as follows:-

Barrier type	Match Facilities % of clubs	Training Facilities % of clubs
Location too distant from club base	19%	17%
Hire cost too expensive for club	36%	49%
Finding venues of suitable condition	49%	55%
Availability of floodlit venues	N/A	51%
Can't get booking slot	38%	36%
None	32%	11%

Comments

- ❖ Almost half of the clubs record 'Finding Venues of Suitable Condition (49% of clubs) for matches a significant barrier; 38% record 'Can't get booking slot' also as a barrier.
- ❖ Approximately half of the clubs record 'Hire cost', 'finding venues of suitable condition' and 'availability of floodlit venues' as a significant barriers to accessing training facilities.

Playing Surface

5.66 Association football matches are increasingly being played on artificial surfaces. 3G surfaces are officially sanctioned by the IFA and over the last number of years the provision of 3G pitches has increased both in the Council area and across Northern Ireland. The survey respondents were asked to indicate their attitude to a range of artificial surfaces, including 3G surfaces, for matches and training. The results are:-

Surface	Training			Matches		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Polymeric	45	40	13	13	66	21
AstroTurf	66	28	23	60	23	13
3G	4	21	72	19	28	49

5.67 As presented in Table 5.14, 72% of respondents indicated a favourable response to the use of 3G surfaces for training but this falls to 49% in relation to matches⁽³¹⁾. Investment in 3G surfaces is an attractive option for local authorities as 3G pitches are reckoned to have the carrying capacity of at least 4 grass pitches⁽³²⁾. This would go some way to addressing any pitch deficit both for training and matches.

⁽³¹⁾ In the same survey in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area (48 clubs) 97% of respondents indicated willingness to use 3G surfaces for training and 75% for matches.

⁽³²⁾ Bridging the Gap Active Places Research Report 2009 – Sport NI.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

5.68 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Membership	No of Clubs
Increase over the next 5 years	34
Stay the same	3
Decrease over the next 5 years	12

Comments

- ❖ Overall, the majority of clubs expect their membership to increase.
- ❖ Clubs listed the following reasons as to why they expect their membership to increase:-
 - Very little for youths/young men in and around local villages so some coming to our Club to be active.
 - Relocation of club to the heart of the Waterside providing better facilities and an expanded catchment area. Focus on the development of female, veteran, and disability football promoted by the sports governing body.
 - Facilities were closed at Brooke park which affected our membership numbers.
 - Club has expanded in the past couple of years by introducing a youth set up.
 - New football team for players with a learning disability. We have achieved national league status in all youth football age groups. Strong preschool 'little dribblers' club catering for 4yrs +. due to start women's fitness and netball but they will be counted in the women's football return.
 - A better organised structure to our club with extra coaches, more teams in leagues, tournaments and a push in recruitment.
 - Our club has added new coaches and has become better organised.
 - Membership has increased. The club is very organised and this is well recognised in the community. We provide training at good facilities, but we find that we don't have enough access to good facilities.
 - New facilities being developed and hopefully Council giving proper support in relation to the pricing structure for facility hire.

5.69 Emerging from future plans/need responses in the club survey are three main strands: *match pitch needs*; *training facility needs*; and *maintenance needs* - see Table 5.15 for the clubs making comments under these three strands. The comments are presented in full in Table 5.16 together with remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 5.15: Summary of emerging strands in relation to future plans and needs

Club	Match Pitch	Training Facilities	Maintenance
Ardmore FC	✓		
Ballymoor FC	✓		
Boys Brigade Old Boys FC		✓	
Bright Stars YFC		✓	
Caw FC			
City Colts FC		✓	
Claudy Utd FC			✓
Clooney Soccer School	✓		
Culmore Youth FC		✓	
Dergview FC	✓	✓	✓
Don Boscos Football Club	✓	✓	
Donemana Football Club			✓
Douglas Bridge F C	✓		
Eglinton FC		✓	
Foyle Harps FC	✓		
Glebe Utd FC			✓
Institute FC	✓	✓	
Irish Street FC	✓	✓	
Kick - Start Colts FC			
Killen Rangers FC		✓	
Lincoln Courts FC	✓		
Lisahally FC			✓
Maiden City Soccer Academy	✓		
Newbuildings Utd FC			
Newell Academy FC	✓		✓
Oxford Utd Stars FC	✓		
Phoenix Athletic FC	✓		
Rosemount FC			
Sion Swifts Ladies & Girls FC	✓	✓	
Sion Swifts Men's FC			
Strabane Athletic FC	✓		
Tamnaherin Celtic FC	✓		

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The Central FC			✓
Top of The Hill Youth F.C	✓	✓	
Tristar Boys' FC	✓	✓	✓
Trojans Youth & Community Group	✓		✓
Tullyally Colts FC	✓	✓	
Total Number	21	14	9

Comments

- ❖ 21 clubs made comments on aspirations for match pitch development either through assistance with funding or a lease agreement with the Council. Overall there is a high level of desire from clubs to be responsible for their own facilities with Council assistance.
- ❖ 14 clubs made comments in relation to additional training facilities. The clubs with a high number of youth teams feel constrained by lack of appropriate floodlit training pitches.
- ❖ 9 clubs commented on pitch maintenance; the majority of these feel it could improve.

Table 5.16: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Ardmore FC	Need for a pitch in Artigarvan.	
Ballymoor FC	Our club has no home base where it can grow we have been promised this by the Council but as we are a small group we get pushed aside and ignored, we will get meetings etc but told a different story each time. We want to see progress and inclusion, so we can believe it will happen, ps we are also citizens who pay rates in the city!!!	The pitch standard in the DSSDC area it reasonably good. Weather conditions this year has not helped the maintenance team to carry out work on grass pitches. Lisnagelvin number 1 pitch is one of the best pitches in Derry City & Strabane District Council area.
Boys Brigade Old Boys FC	We have no immediate development plans for our club.	Pitch provision is poor and short for the amount of sports played we need better facilities within the city which would increase participation and enhance our sporting section of the city.

Bright Stars YFC	I believe that the biggest difficult we have is getting bookings back to back so coaches can attend a younger session and then stay on with older groups. Another problem is we may only get half a pitch, so a different age group needs to find a different venue.	
Caw FC	CAW is in the middle of getting new changing rooms 4G PITCH which is good because we are looking to get u8 u12 u16 teams up and running starting this summer to get more kids active.	
City Colts FC	None at present due to facility shortage hampering football in the city.	
Claudy Utd FC		Pitch closures occur too often, better drainage needs to be looked at, as we've only had 1 match played in 7 weeks (where there should have been a full 7 weeks matches) with most cancellations occurring on the towns pitches i.e., Lisnagelvin, Prehen.
Clooney Soccer School	Would like to own and look after our own outdoor venue but can't afford to buy anywhere.	More usage of green field sites owned by Council in the Waterside, allow Waterside clubs to own and manage.
Culmore Youth FC		Derry city area is badly lacking in soccer facilities, when you travel to other areas of Northern Ireland they are light years ahead.
Dergview FC	We have an application in for funding to build new changing rooms. The Castlederg area needs a 3G multi-sport pitch. This is essential to maintain participation and performance levels. We would love a play area at Darragh Park for children during matches and an outdoor training area to start a parent power event when their children are training.	The Council must do more to assist clubs to maintain and improve pitch conditions. We at Dergview simply do not have the funds to buy new machinery to cut and line pitches. A little help would go a long way.
Don Boscos Football Club	Allocation of land to local football Clubs for development, similar to what the local GAA clubs get. Our Club is now currently in a position to do this as the Club is soundly structure and has the capacity to develop. Don Bosco's are currently looking to participate in the National League and	The Gaelic pitch at the complex should be allowed for soccer. Looking for grass to coach on is nearly impossible and this grass area cannot be used for soccer after making recent inquiries to the manager at the Complex. Years ago, we did use it

	<p>one of the main issues will be allocation of a pitch for home games. Getting national league status is a key role in the development of our club and we need a pitch that we can call our home pitch. Every age group we have are coached twice a week and we are struggling to find a facility to use for our up and coming younger age groups.</p>	<p>but we were constantly moved off it and it force the club to take most of its age groups to other facilities. The up keep of the Skeoge pitch (at the complex) is very poorly maintained, over growing and no pitch markings.</p>
<p>Donemana Football Club</p>		<p>Our local pitch receives no summer maintenance we believe this is due to Foyle Cup, showers and changing rooms damaged and out of use since floods in August!! No changing facilities - or toilets players have to use hedges! The MUGA also damaged in floods - impacting on our training.</p>
<p>Douglas Bridge F C</p>	<p>We and our Cross Community association Are in the process of trying to get a 3G pitch in Douglas Bridge We once had a grass pitch in our village but unfortunately your Council decided to develop Camus park which has taken away the enthusiasm the village had as supporters young and old now have to travel to home fixtures (which means very few if money go to our games) I believe it was has been a poor decision on your Council s behalf as a small club in a village we need the support of all and that is something i believe you s have taken away.</p>	<p>The facilities in Camus park are fine Changing rooms are located at the far end of the grounds which I can't understand as there is ample room at the entrance also there is a housing estate alongside of the pitch which means football are extremely difficult our even impossible to being returned. On a positive note it is a fine pitch unfortunately it has taken away our home identity I hope you find this helpful.</p>
<p>Eglinton FC</p>	<p>Possibly introduce a second team.</p>	<p>We need a 3g pitch in this area of Eglinton - we have a decent pitch but Council generalise when closing pitches due to weather.</p>
<p>Foyle Harps FC</p>	<p>We have NO actual HOME pitch...we are based near Leafair pitch so we tend just to call it home....we struggle to cover all our teams etc adequately... our team was founded in 1916....102 years ago but one thing I think all the established teams in Derry should be given their OWN Council pitch on long-term lease... in the ROI ALL teams have their own pitches... Ideally as a club we would like to have our own pitch, training facilities and changing rooms however the costs, at this moment in time are prohibitive. Failing this we will like to enter such</p>	<p>Whilst the Council does its best in providing pitches there still aren't enough facilities for the amount of young people playing soccer, or sports in general. The gravel pitches at Templemore Sports Complex are totally underutilised due to the nature of the surface and there should be plans in place to change this surface (if not already) I think the Council try hard genuinely.... but the GAA tend to be favoured compared to soccer / football based</p>

	<p>type of partnership agreement with the Council whereby we could have club premises / room at a Council facility as well as the extended use of its playing facilities.</p>	<p>teams... pitch provision would be helped if we were given run of our own pitch...</p>
Glebe Utd FC	<p>We at Glebe Utd FC have a lot in place at our club, we have full grass pitch and changing rooms. We train on a 3G 8-side pitch in which the community got back in 2014. Only thing is we find the grass pitch is waterlogged a lot in the winter and a lot games called off.</p>	<p>We know that the weather it's great and Council have tried to fix drains on the pitch but with no successes.</p>
Institute FC	<p>Institute FC have played at the Riverside Stadium since 1980. Gradual development and investment had created a stadium which met IFA Championship Licence criteria with a spectator capacity of 3,000 people. We recently acquired planning permission to replace the grass pitch with a synthetic pitch so that we could use the stadium to accommodate training and match requirements for all (or at least most) of our teams. Unfortunately, the stadium buildings and pitch were severely damaged during the floods of 22nd August this year, leaving the club without a current home base. The current stadium is situated on a known flood plain and we have been told that we will not be able to get flood insurance in the future. In addition, the pitch is now infested with Japanese Knotweed which is notoriously difficult to eradicate. Consequently, we are actively exploring opportunities for relocating the club in order to ensure a stable and sustainable future.</p>	<p>I understand the logistical difficulties associated with catering for the large number of junior/intermediate football clubs and the maintenance issues associated with grass pitches and poor weather conditions. Consequently, we believe that the situation should be addressed by creating both outdoor and indoor synthetic training and playing surfaces. In addition, we feel that such facilities should have a user forum that could be involved in agreeing/negotiating the most effective and efficient use of those facilities based on user needs, equality, and other relevant criteria. We think it would be worthwhile for any interested parties to look at the Icelandic system for the provision of football facilities and the training/development of young players.</p>
Irish Street FC	<p>Each new season the club relies on financial income coming from residents of Irish Street and the community-based centre. Without this help from the estate, the club wouldn't be where it is at today, but Junior football clubs cannot rely on residents to keep the club running for costly things such as booking football pitches for Saturday games, training facilities or even having jerseys dry cleaned. We as a club feel that the money that it costs for such things like booking a pitch, paying referees etc is really taking its toll on clubs progressing because each week, money is coming from players pockets maybe 2/3 times</p>	

a week. The club is now in its 10th year since being formed in 2008 and there have been discussions with the possibility of providing young people within the estate to further themselves in sporting activities such as football. To do this, paying for facilities outside of the area isn't possible but this could be resolved very easily. There is currently a MUGA playing field in the middle of the estate, but the surface of that area is not suitable or even remotely safe enough for an adult to play on yet alone a kid at 8 years of age. I currently work as a youth worker in Irish Street as well as my role at the club and I have just been asking some young people about their views on the current pitch and what would they be interested in doing if things somehow managed to change. Their views matched what most people have been saying around the area that the surface is absolutely dangerous, and they feel as if they have nothing inside of the area, so they have to travel to places such as Foyle Arena. There is ongoing permission for a new state of the art playing facilities at the old high school which is now known as the Shared Space Village. This is excellent news for two communities beside each other but also for other communities who will be able to use the facilities that potentially is just around the corner although financially again, can clubs afford to book pitches for training or match day games, we don't know yet which is why having a pitch within our own area how further our chances of progressing as a club for years to come.

**Kick - Start
Colts FC**

Most of our players are from the County areas of Derry and Strabane Council. We use a local Gaelic Club 3G facility to train and our young teams play in Development Games held at St Columb's College 3G pitch, Midweek and at Coleraine University 3G and Grass on Saturday Mornings. Our U17s play in the Harry Gregg YFL and use pitches for our Home fixtures, owned and maintained by the Derry and Strabane Council...We've not faced any problems using or hiring facilities for our matches.

We only use Derry and Strabane Council facilities for our U17 home fixtures and we've never had a problem with pitch provision.

<p>Killen Rangers FC</p>	<p>We currently have to carry out pitch maintenance work over the summer, hence our pitch is unavailable for teams participating in the summer leagues (ladies & youth) & for preseason friendlies. Also, as we have 3 senior adult teams competing in the F&W league, we rely on another Council pitch for our third team games, as our other 2 senior teams play alternately on our home ground at the same time. The large numbers of training sessions for all our participants is putting a strain on our outdoor training area, we would benefit from a separate outdoor area with a suitable surface for all weather training, which in turn maybe could also be used for youth matches in the summer when we are unable to access our pitch.</p>	
<p>Lincoln Courts FC</p>	<p>Currently Lincoln Courts are looking for Home Pitch and have been the last 20 years, we have been done numerous avenues for this e.g., Council, local politicians, funding etc with no success. We are currently involved in the regeneration plan for the old Ebrington School. We have a promising youth set up plus 2 Adult sides and have been in the league for 30 seasons now. We are well established club and well run with a committee etc. To help us develop further as a club we really need a home pitch and training facility, we feel that this will also help in the local community.</p>	<p>For Sat afternoon matches more pitches made available, plus improved changing facilities</p>
<p>Lisahally FC</p>	<p>The present facilities supplied by the Council are substandard and poorly maintained. We would need to get the basics sorted before we could even think about expanding. We have been trying to do this for a number of years already but, as with all Councils, it always comes down to having no money left in the budget.</p>	<p>The overall provision of pitches in our local Council area is not good compared to some other areas throughout N.I. which we have visited and played in. To be open and honest we are very sceptical about monies being spent on surveys such as this. In our many meetings, over many years, with elected representatives and Council officials, they keep telling us that there is no money and that there is no land available locally to develop new pitches. We attended your recent presentation / meeting in Foyle Arena where I completed the handouts etc. (which gathered much the same information as this survey) We were told</p>

		<p>at this meeting that the deadline for survey completion may be extended and that you would contact everyone. We unfortunately missed the deadline of 5th Feb but we heard nothing back despite leaving all contact details as requested.</p>
<p>Maiden City Soccer Academy</p>	<p>Maiden City Soccer are in discussions with Lisneal College and the NI Education Authority to develop one existing grass outdoor pitch in to a full size indoor artificial environment.</p>	
<p>Newbuildings Utd FC</p>	<p>We are currently in the process of promoting our club, both recruitment of players and coaches. We are trying to put it out there that we are an inclusive, determined, ambitious and compassionate club who cares very much about the community and also about its members. We are in the process of planning for a new clubhouse. This clubhouse will not only bring great benefit to the local community but that of the city also as will be available for other clubs/communities to avail of also. We are currently an amateur club with 2 senior teams and 3 youth teams. We wish to raise our profile and get the message across the city that our club also caters for members/players/volunteers of all age/gender/religion/culture. We believe that building this club in this way will greatly benefit the community and city as a whole. It will ensure that the youth of today will become involved in some way with sport if not to play but being involved as a volunteer. We know there are more youth in the community who are currently involved in anti-social behaviour and we wish to target this and work on those youth and nurture them as we have done in the past.</p>	<p>So far we have really had no issue other than the Prehen pitches can become waterlogged at times and are not great for training or matches. We also feel that we can assist with some of the youth matches being held at our all-season pitch at Newbuildings. This pitch has availability on Friday evenings and various other times and days and I know that this pitch can come at £20 per hour.</p>
<p>Newell Academy FC</p>	<p>We would hope to have proper changing rooms adjacent to the grass pitch a fence around the grass pitch and a small cover terraced area for supporters.</p>	<p>Derry city Council seems to carryout survey after survey regarding pitch's, but nothing gets done it's all left to user groups and community workers to protest hence the facilities in Brooke park they wouldn't be there if we didn't protest for them.</p>

<p>Oxford Stars FC</p>	<p>Utd Oxford United Stars FC have been a key stakeholder at Templemore since the inaugural opening, we are aware of future developments but dismayed with lack of dialogue to enhance the development of Templemore. Floodlit 4G facilities should be a priority prior to full development of Templemore, this would be advantageous to DSDC as payback could start immediately during renovations/development. Oxford United Stars FC would like to speak in detail with respect to developments of facilities especially Templemore.</p>	<p>Dialogue would be much better than writing a few sentences in this survey. Kind regards Treasurer.</p>
<p>Phoenix Athletic FC</p>	<p>We would like to plan to eventually play at intermediate level however the current pitch in Brooke park would need a viewing fence to segregate players from spectators and would also need dug outs. Regarding the 3G pitch I would highly recommend a changing and toilet facility at the 3G pitch as I believe the current situation is not suitable in which children have to leave the area to go to the toilet, this hinders training drastically as a coach or coaches need to leave training for a while to ensure their safety.</p>	<p>I am very active in local football both at youth and adult level. I genuinely believe our facilities in the town are well behind the rest of Northern Ireland. Given the amount of participation that football offers the town I'm of the belief that we need more pitches and those that we currently do have the majority would need brought up in standard by better quality of pitch and better changing facilities.</p>
<p>Rosemount FC</p>	<p>We our building for future, ideally after few years we would like to start junior teams.</p>	
<p>Sion Ladies & Girls FC</p>	<p>Swifts We have no plans to develop infrastructure but since we play in the WNIFL we need access to a floodlit pitch - it's a requirement - we are speaking to the Council about this. The Women's football season is likely to be extended from March to November so will overlap with the men's there will more demand for pitches.</p>	<p>The needs of women's and girls football is hugely important given the rise in popularity of the game.</p>
<p>Sion Men's FC</p>		<p>The local Council and in particular Sean from Melvin does a fantastic job in trying to get everyone accommodated but the simple fact there is just not enough pitches in Strabane. Between that and ridiculous rules about who can play where makes it often stressful to sort a pitch.</p>

Strabane Athletic FC	We need suitable facilities to allow Senior Intermediate football, the standards required by the Northern Ireland Football Association.	
Tamnaherin Celtic FC	We are keen to put dug outs up at our pitch as the area where we play is very exposed to elements, we would also need them for the future as we are currently in talks about getting some under age teams up and running and would want somewhere for the kids not on the pitch to be sheltered! Anything that needed doing for this we would do or help...	Pitches in the area are generally well kept and maintained, the grounds keepers are all helpful and hard working! Only problem we have is Council calling off matches at the sight of rain which greatly affects teams as we schedule around GAA at times, our pitch is probably the best condition of any pitch in view of it can deal with the weather and we still get games called off without someone even looking at it...
The Central FC		We have had matches cancelled on a Saturday morning when there has been not even a puddle on the pitches. Seems to be happening more and more frequently, with the groundsmen seemingly not bothered to A) maintain the pitch, and B) let the match go ahead when conditions are perfectly suitable for an amateur football match, where the involved teams are insured.
Top of The Hill Youth F.C	Our club is part of the new shared village master plan for our community and Irish street. We hope that funding applied for helps us find a new home for training and matches at the old Clondermott school site in the next few years. This move would help us move back into our community where our club members can walk to and from training instead of needed transport to Foyle arena, this in turn will hopefully see an increase of players at all ages.	As a coach within the Derry City & Strabane Council area I feel to standard of grass pitches has decrease in recent years. There are also not enough pitches in the Council area. I feel more small-sided pitches with proper sized goals is much need for all teams under the age of 11 and several 3g or 4g pitches should be developed to help with the pitch allocation problem we face each season. The astro-turf pitch at Foyle arena we have been forced to used for most of our training is not suitable and can become very dangerous when wet or icy. We have had to call numerous sessions off due to these problems.

Tristar FC	<p>Boys' The club currently does not have its own training or match facilities. The club seeks to find its own ground, but there is no land available in our area. Currently the club struggles to find adequate training facilities, meaning the teams are only able to train for an hour instead of 1.5 or 2 hours at a time. The club is more than willing to go into partnerships with anyone for the benefit of the club.</p>	<p>Speaking for the club, we would state there is not the required provision of pitches in the Derry and Strabane area to accommodate the need. Our club struggles to find pitches for games and for training and not all teams are able to get the training time they need. Many of the pitches in Derry are not in a good condition, either poor drainage or uneven and not well grassed. There certainly is not enough 3G pitches.</p>
Trojans Youth & Community Group	<p>Youth Our club would like to have a short or long-term lease on Oakland Park to allow us to access funding to develop the ground e.g. pitch fence surround, small grandstand. This would help us to take our intermediate team to the next level.</p>	<p>I believe the quality of pitches, generally, in our Council area is below the standard across other parts of N. Ireland, particularly Belfast. Changing facilities at several locations could do with an upgrade e.g. Prehen, Lisnagelvin.</p>
Tullyally FC	<p>Colts Club would find the installation of a 3G pitch on the waste ground beside our home grass pitch at Tullyally very helpful. It is something that has been talked about for a while, but as yet nothing has materialised. Would make training, getting numbers for training easier and make easier getting the youth around the area interested in joining the club. Other areas such as Greysteel have one installed and find it very useful to the club. There is one also being built in Caw at the minute on their waste ground.</p>	<p>We normally have no problem, weather permitting, getting a pitch to play our matches as we use the one at Tullyally. Only problem we have is getting a suitable venue to train at, especially in the dark evenings, so a few more flood lit all weather venues would help a lot.</p>

Community Impact – Summary Points

5.70 Association football relies on the Council’s provision of pitches and changing accommodation for matches and training to a much greater extent than the other ‘large ball’ sports. The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* for the whole Council area, Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows there is a surplus of 3 pitches for adult matches across the district. The analysis by area shows:-

Area	Adequacy of Provision (Adult)
Derry City	+ 2 pitches
Derry Rural	+ 1 pitch
Strabane Town	+ 3 pitches
Strabane Rural	- 3 pitches

Strabane Rural has a shortfall in supply whilst the other areas have a very small buffer. The District surplus of 3 pitches is 6% of total supply; four other local authorities in Northern Ireland have a combined average 34% of a buffer in pitches supply for association football.

- ❖ It's noted the Council is working on the potential development of a sports hub at Clondermot including a multi-sports natural grass pitch (2 no. association football) and a 3G association football pitch. This development is not included in the adequacy of provision analysis.
- ❖ Some of the Council pitches have drainage issues which can exacerbate the supply situation. Changing accommodation is also a concern at some sites.
- ❖ There is a shortfall in training accommodation for association football. The 316 teams in the District require at least 344 x 1 hour training slots. There are an estimated 309 1 hour training slots available (including AstroTurf surfaces). Some teams travel outside the District to access training facilities.
- ❖ Participation rates in association football are higher in the Derry City & Strabane area than in similar sized local authorities yet the supply of pitches is a good deal less.
- ❖ Small Sided Games (SSG) has 130 teams across the District. Both of the SSG providers note difficulties in booking venues whilst the lack of suitable venues is perceived as constraining the growth of SSG's. A number of clubs choose to travel outside the District to participate in leagues.
- ❖ Grass pitches are often not able to be 'rested' in the summer months due to youth games, the Foyle Cup and other demands. This can contribute to issues with pitch quality during the playing season.

Operational Costs

- 5.71** Sports pitches are expensive to operate – surface and site maintenance, changing accommodation, maintenance, floodlighting and other utilities. Generally income does not cover expenditure for grass pitches whilst synthetic pitches can

potentially cover expenditure. Typical operational costs⁽³³⁾ for maintenance of grass, 3G and AstroTurf pitches are as follows:-

Grass Pitch

Item	Frequency per year	Cost per event £	Total £
Grass cutting	26	112	2,912
Line marking	30	56	1,680
Vertidrain	2	170	340
Top dress	1	700	700
Under seed	1	375	375
Weed spray	1	175	175
Re-turf goal mouths	1	600	600
			£6,782

By way of income a grass pitch in a neighbouring local authority had 28 bookings in the 2016/17 season, bringing in a gross income of £985, suggesting an operational subsidy of £5,797.

AstroTurf

Item	Frequency per year	Cost per event £	Total £
Brush / clean	26	112	2,912
			£2,912

In 2016/17 an AstroTurf pitch in a neighbouring local authority brought in a gross income of £19,124. Whilst this suggests a significant surplus, the cost of electricity (floodlighting) is estimated to be in the region of £8,000 - £12,000. Additional costs such as sand rejuvenation will also be incurred.

3G

Item	Frequency per year	Cost per event £	Total £
Brush / clean	52	112	5,824
Deep clean	2	600	1,200
Crumb rejuvenation	2	600	1,200
			£8,224

⁽³³⁾ Obtained from Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

By way of example a school floodlit 3G training pitch (70m x 40m) in a provincial town attracted a gross income from community use of nearly £20k in 2016/17.

5.72 As the Council considers the strategic development of its stock of pitches it's clear that synthetic surfaces are economically more advantageous given their income potential and that they can be used for training and matches. The opportunity is for the Council to encourage and facilitate the move towards the use of 3G surfaces to realise several key benefits:-

- ❖ 3G facilities introduce the potential for increased usage/bookings. Whilst increased usage will naturally increase income, it presents an opportunity to review the cost to the customer which in itself will encourage increased usage. Typically, 3G facilities have the potential to at least breakeven.
- ❖ In reducing the use/over-use of grass pitches the cost of maintaining the Council's stock will reduce and the quality of grass pitches is likely to improve. Linked to this is the fact that 3G surfaces provide a much more consistent quality of playing experience.

Whilst a small percentage of clubs (16%) are uncertain about using 3G facilities for matches, with a number of Premiership clubs (eg, Crusaders and Cliftonville) having embraced 3G, this uncertainty is likely to reduce further in time. It must be noted that the synthetic carpet on 3G pitches needs to be placed periodically, usually somewhere between 10 and 15 years depending on maintenance regimes, at a cost of around £100k - £150k.

6. Gaelic Games

Introduction

6.1 This section presents an overview of the supply of and demand for gaelic games pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM); the PPM is also used to assess the condition of facilities in the Council's ownership, using the 'Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment' tool. There are 20 gaelic games clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and youth teams. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

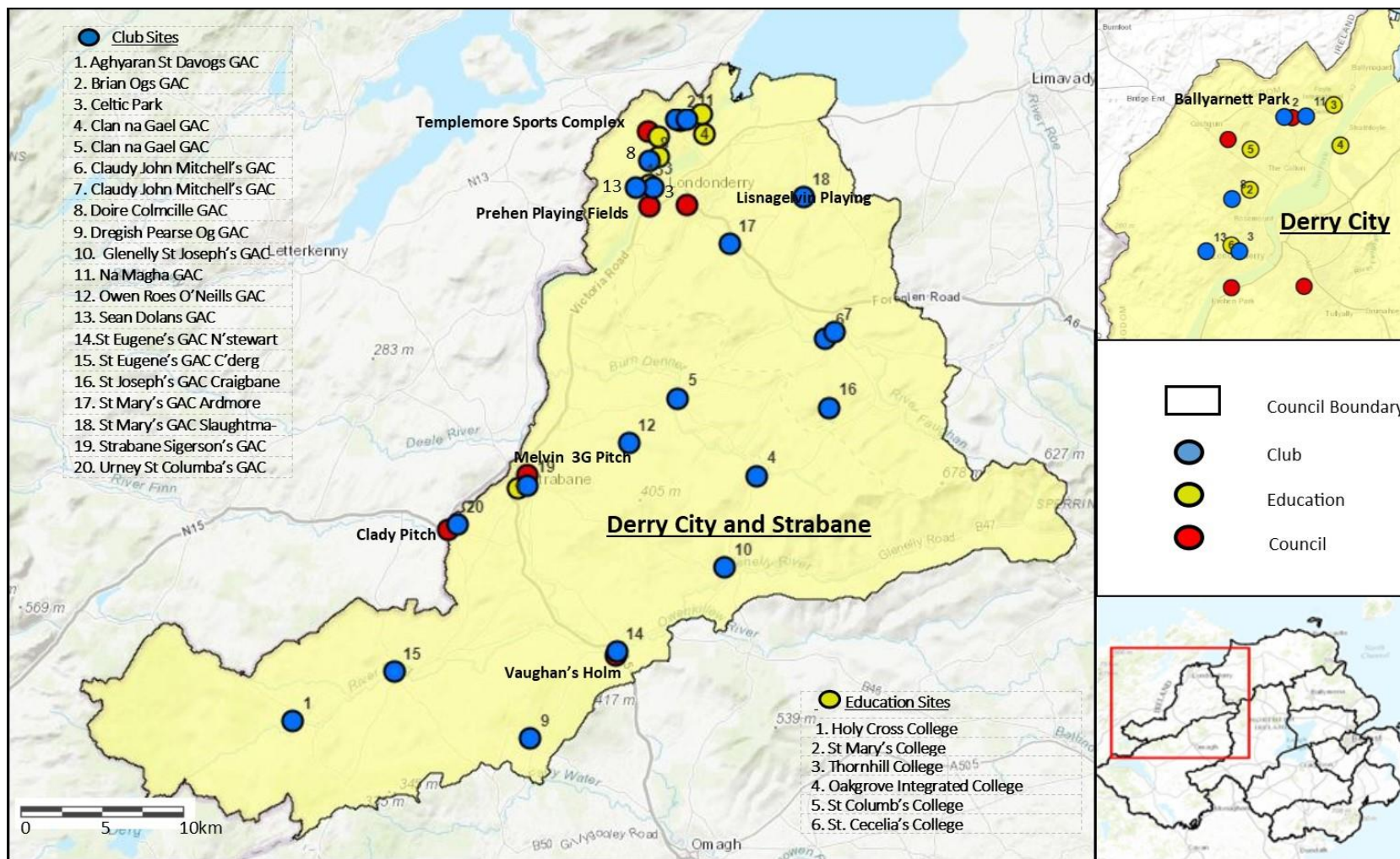
Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

6.2 Gaelic games are traditionally played on a grass pitch which at full regulation size is 145m x 90m. With recent developments in artificial turf pitch (ATP) technology synthetic pitches suited to gaelic games are beginning to appear although ATP's are more suited to gaelic football than to hurling or camogie. The majority of gaelic clubs own their pitch/pitches and premises, however due to the large numbers of teams per club they often make use of community and Council pitch facilities both for training and occasionally for competitive matches. The inventory of gaelic pitches in the Council area is presented in Table 7.1. Three different types of pitch 'ownership' for gaelic games is recorded:-

- ❖ **Derry City & Strabane District Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.
- ❖ **Club owned/leased**– pitches owned and maintained by a club.

6.3 Table 6.1 presents a detailed inventory of gaelic games pitches suitable for competitive matches. For each pitch site, *type, number, quality* and *additional remarks* are presented. Maps 6.1 accompanies the inventory showing pitch location, and ownership.

GAELIC GAMES



Map 6.1: Location of full size gaelic games pitch sites under club, education and council ownership

6.4 Two pitch categories are noted:-

- ❖ **Full** – pitches used for matches of all ages and training.
- ❖ **Training** – pitches that are used for training and on occasions Go Games (small sided matches for U10 and down).

Table 6.1: Gaelic Games – Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches by Ownership

<u>Clubs Owned Pitches and Derry Board</u>					
Location		Area	Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site					
Aghyaran Davogs GAC	Saint	Strabane Rural	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass 1 x Training 3G	1 x Good 1 x Poor 1 x Good	Both the youth and 3G pitch are floodlit. The club notes the need for a full-size floodlit training pitch suitable for winter and pre-season training.
Claudy, Mitchell's GAC	John	Derry Rural	2 x Full Grass 1 x Training 3G	2 x Standard 1 x Good	Split over two sites (Learmount Road and Cumber Road). All pitches are floodlit. The 3G pitch open to community use.
Celtic Park		Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Owned by Derry GAA Board and used mostly for County games.
Dregish GAC Father Pearse O'GAC McCrory Park	Og		1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Club notes lack of good outdoor winter training facilities in the area.
Glenelly St Joseph's - Dergbrough Road Plumbridge	Road		1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Pitch is leased from the Parish under a 100-year lease, 95 years remaining.
Na Magha GAC - Ballyarnett country Park	country	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The full-size pitch is floodlit. Club has aspirations to develop a 3G training pitch. The club also use Doire Colmcille GAC pitch for matches.
St Eugene's GAC Newtownstewart	GAC	Strabane Rural	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Good 1 x Poor	Club notes the need to improve their training pitch – the club has a joint Peace IV funding application with Dergview FC for a community 'trim trail'.
Sean Dolans GAC – Ballymagowan Park	GAC –	Derry City	1 x Full	1 x Good	Have aspirations to develop an indoor or outdoor 3G pitch.
St Marys GAC Slaughtmanus – Every	GAC	Derry Rural	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Unknown	The training pitch is floodlit.

GAELIC GAMES

Road				
Strabane Sigersons GAA - Páirc Mhic Sioghair	Strabane Town	2 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	3 x Good	One of the full pitches is floodlit. The club notes an upgrade to changing accommodation is a priority.
Urney St Columba's GAC - Bellspark Road, Clady	Strabane Rural	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Would like to expand club activities to include hurling, camogie and handball.
Brian Ogs GAC, Steelstown - Racecourse Road Ballyarnett	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Large club which also makes use of a Council-owned training pitch close to the club in Ballyarnett Park.
Clann na nGael GAC, Aughabrack	Strabane Rural	2 x Full Grass 1 x Training 3G	1 x Poor 1 x Standard 1 x Good	Pitches are split over 2 sites, one grass and 3G on Lisnaragh Rd both are floodlit, the second pitch is in Donemana.
Doire Colmcille GAC - Pairc Cholmcille	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Large club with just one pitch.
Owen Roe O'Neill's GAC - Glenmornan	Strabane Rural	1 x Full grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Poor 1 x Poor	Youth pitch is floodlit and used for training – the club in need of additional changing rooms to accommodate growing number of Ladies teams.
St Eugene's GAC – Pairc Naomh Eoghain - Newtownstewart	Strabane Rural	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Good 1 x Poor	Have difficulties accommodating all teams – pitch was flood damaged in 2017.
St Joseph's Craibbane GAC	Derry Rural	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Standard 1 x Standard	The full size pitch is floodlit – the club has aspiration to extend the training pitch and install permanent Go Games goal posts and catch nets. These pitches could also be used for recreational games.
St Mary's GAC Ardmore	Derry Rural	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Pitch is leased from the McCourt family with no fixed lease time.
Totals 21 x Full Grass Gaelic Pitches 7 x Training Grass Gaelic Pitches 3 x Training 3G Pitch				
<u>Council</u>				
Clady Pitch	Strabane Rural	1 x Training Grass	1 x Poor	Pitch flood damaged and not been in use for some years.

Gaelic Games

Lisnagelvin Fields	Playing	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Pitch is overlaid on two association football pitches – there are no catch nets.
Melvin Complex	Sports	Strabane Town	1 x 3G Multi-sport	1 x Good	Recently completed multi-sport pitch marked for gaelic games, rugby and association football.
Prehen Playing Fields		Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Pitch is overlaid on two association football pitches – there are no catch nets.
Steelstown Ballyarnett Park		Derry City	1 x Training	1 x Good	Training pitch – blocked booked by Brian Ogs GAC – there is no changing accommodation or catch nets.
Templemore Fields	Playing	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Pitch is overlaid on two association football pitches – there are no catch nets.
Vaughan’s Playing Pitch	Holm	Derry Rural	1 x Training Grass	1 x Good	Flood damage in 2017.

Totals
3 x Full Grass Gaelic Pitch
3 x Training Grass Gaelic Pitch
1 x Full 3G Multi-Sports Gaelic Pitch

Education

Pitch Site	Area	Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Holy Cross College	Strabane Town	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	Community use unknown.
St Mary’s College	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	Community use unknown.
Thornhill College	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	Some use by clubs – new club Culmore GAC play and train at the College.

Totals
3 x Full Grass Gaelic Pitches

6.5 The majority of gaelic training takes place at clubs’ own facilities – clubs with a large number of youth teams have to make use of other facilities for training. Training facilities in *addition* to those presented in Table 6.2 are:-

Table 6.2: Gaelic Games – Inventory of training facilities in addition to those in Table 6.1

Pitch Site	Area	No pitches	Remarks
Council			
Plumbridge MUGA	Strabane Rural	1 x MUGA	Glenelly St Joseph's GAC
Bishops Field	Derry City	1 x Ass F'ball 3G	Sean Dolans GAC
Drumrallagh MUGA	Strabane Rural	1 x MUGA	Strabane Shamrocks GAC
Foyle Arena	Derry City	1 x AstroTurf	St Mary's GAC Ardmore, Doire Trasna GAC
Glebe 3G	Strabane Rural	1 x Training	Strabane Shamrocks GAC
Newtownstewart MUGA	Strabane Rural	1 x MUGA	St Eugene's GAC youth teams
Education			
Christian Brothers School, Omagh	Another Council	1 x Full 3G	Urney GAC and Dregish GAC– pre-season training
Castledearg High School	Strabane Rural	1 x AstroTurf	St Eugene's GAC
St Columb's College	Derry City	1 x 3G	Doire Colmcille GAC underage teams
Other Sport			
City of Derry RFC	Derry City	1 x Grass rugby	St Mary's Armore GAC, Doire Colmcille GAC senior teams
Totals 2 x Full AstroTurf 2 x Full 3G 4 x MUGA 1 x Grass Rugby			

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

6.6 Unlike association football, gaelic clubs typically train and play matches on the same pitch; often a pitch is used every evening of the week and during the weekend. A summary and breakdown of current gaelic pitches used for matches and training by ownership is given below. Here all matches and the majority of training takes place on club owned sites.

Gaelic Games Pitches used for matches and training

Ownership	Full Grass	Full 3G	Training Grass	Training 3G	MUGA + Astro turf
Clubs/County Board	21	0	8	2	0
Education	3	0	0	1	1
Derry City & Strabane District Council	3	1	3	2	4
Total	27	1	11	5	5

Summary of Quality of Pitches

6.7 A summary and breakdown of current full and youth match pitch provision by quality is:-

Summary of Quality Ratings for Gaelic Pitches (Grass and 3G)

Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	18	5	6	2	31
Education	-	-	-	3	3
CC&G	6	0	1	0	7
Total	24	5	7	5	41

Comments

- ❖ Just under 60% of the pitches are rated as 'Good' i.e. 24 out of 41 pitches.
- ❖ Seven pitches are rated as 'Poor'; 6 of these are in club/community ownership, 2 of these are full size pitches at Clann na nGael GAC and Owen Roe O'Neill's GAC, both rate their pitches poor due to drainage problems and overuse.
- ❖ The quality of the three education pitches and two of the club pitches is 'unknown'.

Clubs, Teams and Players

6.8 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There is a total of 20 recognised gaelic games clubs in the Derry City & Strabane District Council area providing a mix of gaelic football (male), hurling (male), ladies football (female) and camogie (female). Although the four sports do not share the same governing body they do share pitch and club facilities either as a totally integrated club in terms of finance

and administration or have a working partnership in place between the sports. Seventeen of the clubs own their premises, two rely on Council and education pitches and a further one club is a hurling only club drawing members from local clubs providing only gaelic football. For the purposes of this audit it was deemed important to account for every club, obtaining completed questionnaires where possible to produce an accurate picture of membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations.

6.9 Information from the Council along with desktop research identified a total of 20 clubs satisfying at least one of the following three criteria:-

- i. Home match pitch is located within Causeway Coast and Glens area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- ii. Use pitches within Causeway Coast and Glens area for training.
- iii. Over 50% of team members live within Causeway Coast and Glens area.

All 20 gaelic games clubs completed the online questionnaire giving a completion rate of 100%.

6.10 The 20 clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing the number of male and female teams across three age categories.

Table 6.3: Gaelic Clubs Team Profile							
Club	Go Games (U7 to U11)		Youth (U12 to U18)		Adult		Total No of Teams
	Male	Female	Boys	Girls	Male	Female	All
Aghyaran St Davogs GAC	2	1	4	4	2	1	14
Brian ógs Baile Stíil GAC	6	6	7	5	4	1	29
Clann na nGael GAC	0	0	4	3	2	1	10
Claudy John Mitchels GAC	3	3	4	4	3	1	18
Culmore Cu Chulainns GAC	3	2	0	0	0	0	5
Doire Colmcille GAC	2	2	4	4	1	1	14
Doire Trasna Na Piarasigh GAC	6	0	5	3	1	0	15
Dregish Pearse Og GAC	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Glenelly St Joseph's GAC	2	2	5	4	2	2	17
Na magha GAC	4	4	4	3	1	1	17
Owen Roe O'Neill's GAC	4	0	4	4	2	1	15
Sean Dolans GAC	3	0	5	1	1	0	10
St Eugene's GAC - Newtown Stewart	3	3	5	4	2	1	18
St Eugene's GAC - Castlederg	2	2	4	4	2	1	15
St Joseph's Craighane GAC	3	3	4	4	2	1	17

Gaelic Games

St Mary's Ardmore GAC	2	0	3	1	1	0	7
St Marys GAC Slaughtmanus	3	0	5	2	2	0	12
Strabane Shamrocks Hurling Club	2	2	3	1	1	1	10
Strabane Sigersons GAC	4	2	5	4	2	1	18
Urney St Columba's GAC	4	4	4	3	2	0	17
	60	36	79	58	34	14	281

6.11 There is a total of 281 gaelic games teams across the Council area. Typically, clubs will cater for all age groups from U7 to adult, both male and female teams. Player movement between clubs is kept to a minimum as members tend to play for the same club throughout their lifetime, only moving club if they move place of residence. The average number of teams per club is 14. There is a high female participation rate in gaelic games compared to other field sports such as association football, rugby and cricket. In common with most other field sports gaelic games provides for Small Sided Games through the Go Games initiative. Here, matches are played on varying pitch sizes and with varying team numbers depending on age group (U6, U8 and U10). Small pitches are created on full-size pitches with the addition of portable goal posts and cones. Go Game 'Blitzes' (tournaments) rotate around host clubs – on average a club hosts one or two Go Game Blitzes each month.

6.12 The profile of teams and player numbers in the 20 identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 6.4: Gaelic Games Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams

	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
Membership			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	1055	680	1735
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	936	696	1632
Adult	864	550	1414
Total Players	2855	1926	4781
Teams			
Go Games (U7 to U11)	60	36	96
Youth (U12 to U18)	79	58	137
Adult	34	14	48
Total Teams	173	108	281

Adequacy of Provision

6.13 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management. Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public. Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.
Used by community but not secured	Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.
Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

6.14 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision for gaelic games pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of gaelic games it is assumed that all adult, youth and Go Games are played on full size pitches – youth pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are generally not used in the delivery of competitive games.

6.15 It is noted that the same stock of pitches is used for both matches and training. Training needs are accommodated in the model using ‘Team Equivalents’. Here information on the number of teams, age group of teams and number of training times a week is used to calculate as Team Equivalents. The following assumptions based on the club survey are made in regard to training:

- ❖ 8 Go Games teams can train on an adult pitch at the same time
- ❖ Go Games teams train once a week
- ❖ Two youth teams train at the same time and on average train twice a week
- ❖ Adult teams require one full pitch for training and train on average twice a week.

So, for example, from the club survey there is a total of 96 Go Games teams – on average one full size adult pitch could accommodate 8 Go Game teams per training session, therefore a total of 12 pitches is required.

Reference	Description	No. of Full Grass +3G	No. of Training Grass
Scenario 1	All pitches	28	10
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	23 x Grass	8
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	3 x Grass 1x 3G	1

6.16 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following full size grass pitches have been excluded for the reasons listed below:-

Pitch site	No of Pitches	Rationale
Education	3 x Full	Generally, not available for matches
Celtic Park	1 x Full	Not available for club games – reserved for County teams
3G Multi-sports pitch at Melvin Sports Complex	1 x Full	Gaelic games are almost wholly played on grass pitches – unclear if this 3G pitch will be available for matches
Clady Pitch	1 x Training	Unused for a number of years
Vaughan Holm’s pitch	1 x Training	Flood damaged in 2017
Total	4 x Full 2 x Training	

6.17 The pitch breakdown for each scenario for full and youth grass match pitches available for adult, youth and Small Sided Games is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3	
	Full Grass + 3G	Training Grass	Full Grass	Training Grass	Full Grass + 3G	Training Grass
Club and Community	21	7	20	7	0	0
Secondary School	3	0	0	0	0	0
Derry City & Strabane District Council	4	3	3	1	4	1
Totals	28	10	23	8	4	1

Comments

- ❖ Youth, Adult and Go Games matches are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ The Council's new multi-sports 3G at Melvin Sports Complex is not included in Scenario 2 as 3G pitches are generally not used for Gaelic games matches.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude three education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude one full grass pitch at Celtic Park on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ Scenario 2 and 3 exclude Clady pitch and Vaughan Holm's pitch in the Training totals as the pitches are currently not in use.

Scenario 1

6.18 The picture of *gaelic total demand and total supply for Scenario 1*, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:

Table 6.5: Gaelic Games – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches

Model Stage	Matches		Training	Comments
	Team categories	Results	Results	
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents (training)	Go Games (U6 to U10)	96	10 ⁽³⁴⁾	Complete picture of teams and team equivalents from survey
	Youth (U12 to U18)	137	137 ⁽³⁵⁾	
	Adult	48	72 ⁽³⁶⁾	
2. Calculating home games and training ratio per team per week	Go Games (U6 to U10)	1.0	1.0	Based on a home game every other week. Based on a blitz every week Based on training every week
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5	1.0	
	Adult	0.5	1.0	
3. Assessing total home games and 1-hour training slots per week	Go Games (U6 to U10)	96	10	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. NB – total youth and adult team equivalents for training is 129 + 68 = 197
	Youth (U13 to U16)	69	137	
	Adult	24	72	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games and training	Go Games (U6 to U10) – Sun AM	100%	NA	This is the demand given the % of matches ⁽³⁷⁾ and training each day of the week as assessed from club surveys for youth and adult. Typically, games and training takes place across the week – e.g. 23% of Youth games and 12% of adult games are played Monday PM e.g. 20% of all teams training takes place on Wednesday PM.
	Youth / Adult – Monday PM	19% / 10%	13%	
	Youth / Adult – Tuesday PM	16% / 0%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Wednesday PM	22% / 6%	20%	
	Youth / Adult – Thursday PM	22% / 0%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Friday PM	5% / 6%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Saturday AM	11% / 0%	6%	
	Youth / Adult – Saturday PM	3% / 6%	1%	
	Youth / Adult – Sunday AM	3% / 0%	12%	
Youth / Adult – Sunday AM	0%/72%	0%		

⁽³⁴⁾ 10 teams per pitch once a week

⁽³⁵⁾ 2 youth teams per pitch twice a week

⁽³⁶⁾ 1 adult team per pitch on average 1.5 times a week

⁽³⁷⁾ Matches are assumed to require a 2-hour slot, training is assumed to require a 1-hour slot

Gaelic Games

5. Defining pitches/1-hour training slots required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Go Games Sun AM (U6 to U10)	4	10	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up taking into match and training capacity. Capacity is 24 teams ⁽³⁸⁾ for Go Games per week Capacity for full size grass pitch is 5 games a week Training capacity is 16 x 1-hour training slots ⁽³⁹⁾ It is assumed there are 3 x 1-hour training slots each week day evening and weekend mornings and afternoons.
	Youth + Adult Total - Mon PM	14 + 3 = 17	31	
	Youth + Adult Total - Tues PM	12 + 0 = 12	38	
	Youth + Adult Total – Wed PM	15 + 1 = 16	47	
	Youth + Adult Total – Thurs PM	15 + 0 = 15	38	
	Youth + Adult Total - Fri PM	4 + 1 = 5	38	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat AM	8 + 0 = 8	14	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat PM	2 + 1 = 3	3	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sun AM	2 + 0 = 2	28	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sun PM	0 + 17 = 17	0	
	Total weekly pitches needed for adult and youth	76 + 24 = 100 99/5 = 20 pitches	247/16 = 15 pitches	
Number of total weekly full pitches needed accounting for capacity is	20 + 15 = 35			
6. Establishing pitches available	Go Games, Youth and Adult	28 adult + 10 training⁽⁴⁰⁾ = 33⁽⁴¹⁾ full equivalent pitches		All full and training grass pitches in all ownership.
7. Adequacy of Provision⁽⁴²⁾	Go Games, Youth and Adult matches and training	33-35 = -2 pitches		Supply is not meeting demand

6.19 The results for Scenario 1 where all pitches are available including those under education ownership, supply is not meeting demand with a shortfall of three pitches when considering go games, youth and adult match and training needs.

Scenario 2

6.20 The picture for Scenario 2 for gaelic games in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where secondary school education pitches are not included as

⁽³⁸⁾ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x Go Game pitches and therefore 24 teams for a 2-hour blitz on Saturday/Sunday morning i.e. capacity is 24 teams.

⁽³⁹⁾ Based on club survey returns on weekly pitch usage for games and training.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ Training pitch is deemed equivalent to half a full pitch – whilst it is not suitable for games – many are adequate for training.

⁽⁴¹⁾ Rounded up.

⁽⁴²⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

they are generally not available for club matches. Also excluded is Celtic Park pitch as it is generally not available to clubs so reducing the total available to 24 full and 9 training pitches:-

Model Stage	Matches		Training	Comments
	Team categories	Results	Results	
1. Identifying teams/ <i>team equivalents (training)</i>	Go Games (U6 to U10)	96	10 ⁽⁴³⁾	Complete picture of teams and team equivalents from survey
	Youth (U12 to U18)	137	137 ⁽⁴⁴⁾	
	Adult	48	72 ⁽⁴⁵⁾	
2. Calculating home games and training ratio per team per week	Go Games (U6 to U10)	0.5	1.0	Based on a home game every other week
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5	1.0	Based on a blitz every week Based on training every week
	Adult	0.5	1.0	
3. Assessing total home games and 1-hour training slots per week	Go Games (U6 to U10)	96	10	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. NB – total youth and adult team equivalents for training is 129 + 68 = 197
	Youth (U13 to U16)	69	137	
	Adult	24	72	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games and training	Go Games (U6 to U10) – Sun AM	100%	NA	This is the demand given the % of matches ⁽⁴⁶⁾ and training each day of the week as assessed from club surveys for youth and adult. Typically, games and training takes place across the week – e.g. 23% of Youth games and 12% of adult games are played Monday PM e.g. 20% of all teams training takes place
	Youth / Adult – Monday PM	19% / 10%	13%	
	Youth / Adult – Tuesday PM	16% / 0%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Wednesday PM	22% / 6%	20%	
	Youth / Adult – Thursday PM	22% / 0%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Friday PM	5% / 6%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Saturday AM	11% / 0%	6%	

⁽⁴³⁾ 10 teams per pitch once a week

⁽⁴⁴⁾ 2 youth teams per pitch twice a week

⁽⁴⁵⁾ 1 adult team per pitch on average 2 times a week

⁽⁴⁶⁾ Matches are assumed to require a 2-hour slot, training is assumed to require a 1-hour slot

	Youth / Adult – Saturday PM	3% / 6%	1%	on Wednesday PM.
	Youth / Adult – Sunday AM	3% / 0%	12%	
	Youth / Adult – Sunday AM	0%/72%	0%	
5. Defining pitches/1-hour training slots required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Go Games Sun AM (U6 to U10)	4	10	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up taking into match and training capacity. Capacity is 24 teams ⁽⁴⁷⁾ for Go Games per week1 Capacity for full size grass pitch is 5 games a week Training capacity is 16 x 1-hour training slots ⁽⁴⁸⁾ It is assumed there are 3 x 1-hour training slots each week day evening and weekend mornings and afternoons.
	Youth + Adult Total - Mon PM	14 + 3 = 17	31	
	Youth + Adult Total - Tues PM	12 + 0 = 12	38	
	Youth + Adult Total – Wed PM	15 + 1 = 16	47	
	Youth + Adult Total – Thurs PM	15 + 0 = 15	38	
	Youth + Adult Total - Fri PM	4 + 1 = 5	38	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat AM	8 + 0 = 8	14	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat PM	2 + 1 = 3	3	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sun AM	2 + 0 = 2	28	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sun PM	0 + 17 = 17	0	
		Total weekly pitches needed for adult and youth	76 + 24 = 100⁽⁴⁹⁾ 100/5 = 20 pitches	
	Number of total weekly full pitches needed accounting for capacity is	20 + 15 = 35		
6. Establishing pitches available	Go Games, Youth and Adult	23 adult + 8 training⁽⁵⁰⁾ = 28 full equivalent pitches		All full and youth grass pitches in all ownership.
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁵¹⁾	Go Games, Youth and Adult matches and training	27-35 = -8 pitches		Supply is not meeting demand.

⁽⁴⁷⁾ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x Go Game pitches and therefore 24 teams for a 2-hour blitz on Saturday/Sunday morning i.e. capacity is 24 teams.

⁽⁴⁸⁾ Based on club survey returns on weekly pitch usage for games and training.

⁽⁴⁹⁾ Answer is rounded up to full pitches.

⁽⁵⁰⁾ Training pitch is deemed equivalent to half a full pitch – whilst it is not suitable for games – many are adequate for training.

⁽⁵¹⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

- 6.21** Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 when demand is calculated on a weekly basis there is a short fall of eight pitches when considering go games, youth and adult matches and training needs.
- 6.22** It is important to note the following comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-
- ❖ Based on the club survey, Scenario 2 assumes that gaelic pitch capacity is 5 games per week PLUS 16 x 1-hour training slots, that is, total usage of approximately 30 hours per week – this is dependent on weather and pitch maintenance.
 - ❖ Scenario 2 includes does not include the use of 3G facilities for matches and training.
 - ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is not meeting demand for training and match needs. This suggests that clubs are delivering matches and training ‘under pressure’ which is likely to impact on current participation rates and future growth. The pressure on current pitch supply may become more of an issue as the large number of youth (male and female) teams filter through to adult levels - present provision would struggle to support any projected growth.
- 6.23** A third scenario could be modelled where only Council pitches are used. However as there is just three grass Council pitches suitable for gaelic games demand could clearly not be met, therefore this scenario is not modelled.

Adequacy of Provision Per Area

- 6.24** The previous sections demonstrate an assessment of pitch provision across the Council area as a whole. In order to provide a more local picture it is of interest to look at adequacy of pitch provision in each of the following four designated areas:
- ❖ Derry City
 - ❖ Derry Rural
 - ❖ Strabane Town
 - ❖ Strabane Rural
- 6.25** An inventory of clubs per area is:-

Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Rural	Strabane Town
Brian ógs Baile Stíle GAC	Claudy John Mitchels GAC	Clann na nGael GAC	Strabane Shamrocks Hurling Club
Culmore Cu Chulainns GAC		Dregish Pearse Og GAC	Strabane Sigersons GAC
Doire Colmcille GAC	St Joseph's Craighbane	Glenelly St Joseph's GAC	
Doire Trasna Na Piarasigh GAC		Owen Roe O'Neill's GAC	
Na magha GAC	St Mary's Ardmore GAC	St Eugene's GAC	
Sean Dolans GAC	Slaughtmanus GAC	Newtownstewart	
		St Eugene's GAC, Castleberg	
		Urney St Columba's GAC	
		Aghyaran St Davogs GAC	



Map of Council and club/community pitch site locations for 4 sub-areas: Derry City, Derry Rural, Strabane Town, Strabane Rural

6.26 An inventory of teams per area is:

Table 6.7: Gaelic Games – Distribution of Teams by Area

Area	No. all adult teams per area	% all adult teams per area	No. all youth teams per area	% all youth teams per area	No. all GG teams per area	% all GG teams per area
Derry City	11	23%	41	30%	38	40%
Derry Rural	10	21%	27	20%	17	18%
Strabane Town	5	10%	13	9%	10	10%
Strabane Rural	22	46%	56	41%	31	32%
Totals	48	100%	137	100%	96	100%

Comments

- ❖ Strabane Rural has the largest percentage of both adult (46%) and youth teams (41%) of the four areas
- ❖ Derry City has the largest percentage of Go Game (GG) teams reflecting the growth of Gaelic Games in the city in recent years.

6.27 An inventory of grass pitch sites per area for Scenario 2 (pitches under Council and Club ownership) is:-

Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Rural	Strabane Town
Celtic Park	Claudy, John Mitchell's GAC	Dregish Pearse Og GAC	Strabane Sigersons GAC
Na Magha GAC -	St Marys GAC Slaughtmanus	Glenelly St Joseph's	
Sean Dolans GAC	St Joseph's Craighbane GAC	Urney St Columba's GAC	
Brian Ogs GAC, -	St Mary's GAC Ardmore	Clann na nGael GAC,	
Doire Colmcille GAC	Vaughan Holms PF	Owen Roe O'Neill's GAC	
Lisnagelvin Playing Fields		St Eugene's GAC C'derg	
Prehen Playing Fields		St Eugene's GAC – N'stewart	
Steelstown Ballyarnett Park		Aghyaran St Davogs GAC	
Templemore Playing Fields		Clady Pitch	

6.28 The number of pitches available for training and matches for all age groups under both Council and club ownership is:-

Supply of Full and Training pitches per Area (Grass) for Scenario 2					
	Council		Club		Total full and training grass pitches in Scenario 2
	Full	Training	Full	Training	
Derry City	3	1	4	0	7 x Full, 1 x Training
Derry Rural	0	0	5	2	6 x Full, 2 x Training
Strabane Town	0	0	2	1	2 x Full, 1 x Training
Strabane Rural	0	0	9	4	9 x Full, 4 x Training

6.29 Table 6.8 presents the PPM Scenario 2 for all four areas for gaelic games' competitive games and training only.

Table 6.8: Gaelic Games – Area based demand and supply for Scenario 2 for Adult football only						
Model Stage	Whole Council	Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Town	Strabane Rural	
1. Defining pitches <u>required</u> each week for matches and training for all teams taking into account pitch capacity.	35 pitches	10 pitches	7 pitches	3 pitches	15 itches	
2. Establishing pitches <u>available</u> – training pitches are set to be 0.5 x Full pitch	23 x Full 10 x Training =28	7 x Full 1 x Training =7.5 pitches	5 x Full 4 x Training 7 pitches	2 x Full 1 x Training 2.5 pitches	9 x Full 4 x Training 11 itches	
3. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁵²⁾	28 – 35 = -8 pitches	7.5 – 10 = -3 pitches	7 – 7 = +0 pitches	2.5 - 3 = -0.5 pitches	11 - 15 = -4 pitches	

6.30 An analysis of the adequacy of provision of full and training grass pitches shows the shortfall in pitches is most acute in Derry City & Strabane Rural, with an undersupply of three and four pitches respectively.

⁽⁵²⁾ Rounded up to full pitches.

Pitch Use and Capacity – Online Survey

6.31 From the online survey the following clubs recorded the number of hours their pitches, on average, are used for training and matches each week:–

Club	Pitch 1			Pitch 2		
	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total match and training hours (hrs)	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total match and training hours (hrs)
Aghyaran Saint Davogs GAC	4	3	7	4	2	6
Brian ógs GAC	20	10	30	-	-	-
Clann na nGael GAC	6	3	9	14	12	26
Claudy John Mitchels GAC	6	8	14	14	6	20
Doire Colmcille GAC	18	12	30	-	-	-
Doire Trasna Na Piarasigh GAC	5	3	8	1	0	1
Dregish Pearse Og GAC	10	3	13	-	-	-
Na magha GAC	28	10	38	12	2	14
Owen Roe O'Neill's GAC	10	10	20	20	5	24
St Eugene's GAC Castleberg	28	14	42	-	-	-
St Eugene's GAC	9	12	21	-	-	-
St Joseph's Craighane GAC	15	10	25	20	5	25
St Mary's Ardmore GAC	8	4	12	-	-	-
Strabane Sigersons GAA	8	6	14	10	3	13
Urney St Columba's GAC	20	8	28	-	-	-
Averages	13 hours per week	8 hours per week	24 hours per week	12 hours per week	5 hours per week	17 hours per week

Comments

- ❖ Six clubs report using their pitches over 25 hours a week – one club with 42 hours per week combined for training and matches.
- ❖ The average weekly pitch use across all clubs is 24 hours per week for Pitch 1 and 17 hours per week for Pitch 2 (if a club has a second pitch).
- ❖ Given the carrying capacity of a grass pitch is 2 matches per week for 30 weeks of the year as recommended by Sport England, the majority of gaelic pitches are heavily overused. This may to some degree be mitigated through careful pitch maintenance and it is recognised that the season for gaelic games avoids the worst of the winter months. However, over-use of grass pitches continues to be a challenge for clubs; the use of 3G pitches would help to address the problem by reducing the use of clubs’ grass pitches for training especially pre-season and during periods of poor weather.
- ❖ Pitch scheduling must be well managed for clubs with large number of teams, see the below example for Brian Ogs GAC April 2018:

Steelstown Brian Ogs Schedule

Apr 2018 (London)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
17:00 - Minor Boys 18:15 - Senior 19:15 - U14/U16	18:30 - U12 Boys 18:30 - U16 Boys 19:30 - Senior Men	18:15 - Minor Girls/ 18:30 - U6/8/10/U12 19:15 - U14 Boys 19:30 - Senior	17:00 - Minor Boys 18:15 - U12 Boys 19:00 - U16 Boys V 19:15 - U16 Boys	18:15 - Minor 19:30 - Senior Men	09:45 - U12 Boys 10:00 - U6/8/10/U12 11:00 - U16 Boys 11:30 - Minor Boys	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17:00 - Minor Boys 18:15 - Senior 19:00 - U18 Boys V 19:15 - U14/U16	18:30 - U12 Boys 18:30 - U16 Boys 19:30 - Senior Men	18:15 - Senior 18:30 - Senior Men 18:30 - U6/8/10/U12 19:15 - U14 Boys 19:30 - Senior	17:00 - Minor Boys 18:15 - U12 Boys 19:15 - U16 Boys	18:15 - Senior 19:30 - Senior Men	09:45 - U12 Boys 10:00 - U6/8/10/U12 11:00 - U16 Boys 11:30 - Minor Boys 12:15 - U14 Boys	12:30 - Senior
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17:00 - Minor Boys 18:15 - Senior ladies 19:15 - U14/U16	18:30 - U12 Boys 18:30 - U16 Boys 19:30 - Senior Men	18:15 - Senior 18:30 - U6/8/10/U12 19:15 - U14 Boys 19:30 - Senior	17:00 - Minor Boys 18:15 - U12 Boys 19:15 - U16 Boys	18:15 - Senior 19:00 - Senior 19:30 - Senior Men	10:00 - U6/8/10/U12 11:00 - U12 Boys 11:00 - U16 Boys 11:30 - Minor Boys 12:15 - U14 Boys	11:00 - U14 Girls V 13:00 - Senior
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
18:15 - Senior ladies 19:00 - U18 Boys v 19:15 - U14/U16 19:30 - Senior	18:30 - U12 Boys 18:30 - U16 Boys 19:30 - Senior Men	18:15 - Senior 18:30 - U6/8/10/ 19:15 - U14 Boys 19:30 - Senior 19:30 - U16 Girls V	17:00 - Minor Boys 17:30 - U12 girls 18:15 - U12 Boys 19:15 - U16 Boys 19:15 - U16 Boys V	18:15 - Senior 19:00 - Senior 19:30 - Senior Men	09:45 - U12 Boys 10:00 - U6/8/10 11:00 - U12 Boys 11:00 - U16 Boys 11:30 - Minor Boys	10:00 - U10 go 14:30 - Senior Men
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
17:00 - Minor Boys 18:15 - Senior ladies 19:15 - U14/U16	18:30 - U12 Boys 18:30 - U16 Boys 19:30 - Senior Men	18:15 - Senior 18:30 - U6/8/10/ 19:15 - U14 Boys 19:30 - Senior 19:30 - U16 Girls V	17:00 - Minor Boys 17:30 - U12 girls 18:15 - U12 Boys 19:00 - U16 Boys v 19:15 - U16 Boys	18:15 - Senior 19:00 - Senior 19:15 - Senior ladies 19:30 - Senior Men 19:30 - Senior Men	09:45 - U12 Boys 10:00 - U6/8/10 11:00 - U16 Boys 11:30 - Minor Boys 12:15 - U14 Boys	19:00 - U16 boys v
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
17:00 - Minor Boys 18:15 - Senior ladies 19:15 - U14/U16 19:30 - Senior men	18:30 - U12 Boys 18:30 - U16 Boys 19:00 - U14 Boys V 19:30 - Senior Men	18:15 - Senior 18:30 - U6/8/10/ 19:15 - U14 Boys 19:30 - Senior Men	17:00 - Minor Boys 17:30 - U12 girls 18:15 - U12 Boys 19:15 - U16 Boys	19:00 - Senior 19:30 - Senior 19:30 - Senior Men	09:45 - U12 Boys 10:00 - U6/8/10 11:00 - U16 Boys 11:30 - Minor Boys	11:00 - U14 Girls V 13:00 - Senior

Community Impact

Club Needs – Current and Future

Match and Training Facility Barriers

6.32 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities; results are:-

Barrier type	Match Facilities % of clubs	Training Facilities % of clubs
Location too distant from club base	20%	20%
Hire cost too expensive for club	30%	45%
Finding venues of suitable condition	45%	50%
Availability of floodlit venues	N/A	55%
Can't get booking slot	40%	45%
Condition of pitches	45%	40%
None	10%	5%

Comments

- ❖ 45% of clubs find ‘Hire cost’ of training facilities a barrier.
- ❖ The most significant barrier as noted from the survey is the availability of floodlit venues for training (55% of clubs). Many clubs are looking to provide training during the winter months in preparation for the season.
- ❖ A significant 40% of respondents noted that ‘Condition of pitches’ for training is a barrier. The following the comments are also recorded:-
 - *An Cumann Lúthchleas Gael experiences active discrimination in attempting to book 3G pitches from the Council. We find it almost impossible to access suitable facilities. This Council has only 2 GAA pitches and no GAA 3G pitches*
 - *Need grass GAA with Hurling/Camogie catch nets*
 - *Find that all pitches booked by soccer and they don't have catch nets which training very very difficult and unsatisfactory*

Playing Surface

6.33 The survey respondents were asked to indicate their attitude to use artificial surfaces including 3G surfaces for matches and training. The results are:-

Table 6.9: Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces – Gaelic Games

Surface	Training			Matches		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Polymeric	45%	25%	20%	75%	5%	10%
AstroTurf	30%	45%	20%	55%	25%	10%
3G	0%	50%	45%	45%	20%	30%

6.34 As presented in Table 6.8, a combined 95% are either favourable or neutral to the use of 3G surfaces for training but significantly less at a combined 50% are favourable or neutral to using 3G for matches. Investment in 3G surfaces is an attractive option for local authorities as 3G pitches are reckoned to have the carrying capacity of at least 4 grass pitches⁽⁵³⁾. This would go some way to addressing any pitch deficit however anecdotal evidence would suggest that grass surfaces are strongly preferred for matches whilst 3G is acceptable only for winter pre-season training sessions.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

6.35 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Membership	No of Clubs
Increase over the next 5 years	16
Stay the same	4
Decrease over the next 5 years	0

Comments

- ❖ Overall, the majority of clubs expect their membership to increase (16 clubs) or remain the same (4 clubs).
- ❖ None of the clubs expect their membership to decrease.
- ❖ Examples of the reasons recorded by clubs for membership change:-
 - *New housing estates, recruitment and retention campaign*
 - *Adult members moving for work reasons, increase in births*

⁽⁵³⁾ Bridging the Gap Active Places Research Report 2009 – Sport NI.

- *We are a brand new club which began in September 2017 as a result of the need identified in the Culmore area by the Derry County Board and the Ulster GAA Council.*
- *New club grounds established in 2014 in Lowry's Lane when previously we were a nomad club.*
- *Increased focus on female games. Decrease in males is attributed to falling birth rates. In addition to more housing, the club communication and alignment with local schools has helped to increase the youth membership. In addition, recent successes by girls, boys and mens teams on the playing field have helped to promote the club.*
- *Drop in birth rate in junior male age bands*
- *A combination of new coaches and existing coaches completing training, the introduction of ladies teams and general improvements throughout the club.*

6.36 Emerging from future plans/need responses in the club survey are three main strands: *match pitch needs, training facility needs and ancillary needs* - see Table 6.10 for the number of clubs making comments under these three strands. The comments are presented in full in Table 6.11 together with remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 6.10: Summary of emerging strands in relation to future plans and needs

Club	Additional Match Pitch	Training Facilities	Ancillary facilities
Aghyaran St Davogs GAC		✓	
Brian ógs Baile Stíl GAC	✓	✓	✓
Clann na nGael GAC			✓
Claudy John Mitchels GAC			✓
Culmore Cu Chulainns GAC	✓	✓	✓
Doire Colmcille GAC		✓	✓
Doire Trasna Na Piarsaigh GAC	✓	✓	✓
Dregish Pearse Og GAC		✓	
Glenelly St Joseph's GAC		✓	
Na magha GAC		✓	
Owen Roe O'Neill's GAC			✓
Sean Dolans GAC		✓	
St Eugene's GAC - Newtownstewart		✓	✓
St Eugene's GAC - Castledearg		✓	✓
St Joseph's Craibbane GAC		✓	

Gaelic Games

St Mary's Ardmore GAC			✓
St Marys GAC Slaughtmanus			✓
Strabane Shamrocks Hurling Club	✓	✓	
Strabane Sigersons GAC			✓
Urney St Columba's GAC		✓	
Total Number	4	14	12

Comments

- ❖ 14 clubs made comments in relation to the need for additional, winter all-weather (3G) and grass training facilities.
- ❖ 4 clubs made comment on the need for match pitch development.
- ❖ 12 clubs noted the need for upgrade/improvement to ancillary facilities including changing accommodation and community trim trails.

Table 6.11: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

Future Plans		Any Other Comment
Aghyaran St Davogs GAC	We definitely need a full size properly lit training pitch to accommodate our club teams during poor winter pre-season months. Our senior teams and youth teams have difficulty juggling pitches especially in poor weather.	In our area we feel that Council provision especially towards GAA teams is currently non-existent. In this part of Tyrone we have 4 active clubs with no Council provision available, something we would feel needs addressed to deal with the amount of people participating in Gaelic games.
Brian Og's GAC	We have our own pitch and have rented a training pitch in the Ballyarnett park beside us and are in immediate need of a synthetic training surface for training over the winter and an additional third grass pitch. The tremendous rise in numbers of underage players will plateau if we cannot as a matter of urgency find playing space. Our number one priorities for development as of 2017 are pitches. 1 Consolidating our tenure on the "training pitch" and developing it to a full sized grass pitch. 2 Developing a full-sized flood lit 4G pitch 3 Obtaining a third full sized grass pitch.	

<p>Clann na nGael GAC</p>	<p>The club have plans to develop the changing facilities in Aughabrack. The club also have plans for some minor drainage works at Aughabrack.</p>	
<p>Claudy John Mitchel's GAC</p>	<p>Our main pitch needs new fencing to the perimeter - existing is old wooded fencing in poor condition. The main pitch needs overhauled with additional draining, goal mouth repair, verti draining and feeding. The Main pitch changing facilities need redecorated and some repairs. The 3G pitch is in reasonable condition, but we need equipment to maintain and level the surface, plus we need rubber topped up. The cumber pitch needs new fencing to the perimeter - existing is old wooded fencing in poor condition. The cumber pitch needs overhauled with additional draining, goal mouth repair, verti draining and feeding. The Cumber pitch changing facilities are very poor and need complete replacement.</p>	<p>Existing public pitch provision is not convenient to our club.</p>
<p>Culmore Chulainns GAC</p>	<p>We hope to acquire our own playing facilities at the Council-owned Culmore Country Park. We have seen a massive interest in our Club from our community and the numbers have increased weekly since we started in September 2017. We see the Country Park as an asset within our community which can be developed to create much needed sporting facilities for the Culmore population. Culmore has 30% of its residents under the age of 14, which is much higher than the national average of 22.36%. It is vital that sports provision is created to cater for the needs in Culmore. Our Club was set up initially to facilitate under 12s and to progress annually as the Club grows. We aim to field 6 teams at underage level for 2018. Whilst we are happy to avail of Thornhills College facilities we do require our own pitch as we cannot use Thornhill for the summer months when the school is closed.</p>	<p>We feel that sports provision has been a hot topic in all areas in recent times. We commend the Council on the great work they have done to increase facilities. For e.g. the new pitches created at the former school site at Trench Road Waterside. We hope a similar effort can be extended to the Culmore Country Park to meet the needs of Culmore. A recent door to door survey in Culmore achieved over 1200 residents signatures who wish to see GAA facilities for the new Culmore Club at the Culmore Country Park. We can provide a copy of this. Thank you.</p>

Doire Colmcille GAC	<p>Training pitch or area is required, and additional parking will be required to facilitate this as well. Also, would like to provide a safe walkway around the entire site for local community. Indoor facility to incorporate training area and allow communal groups to meet.</p>	
Doire Trasna Na Piarasigh GAC	<p>We are currently working with Derry City & Strabane District Council to develop a full size floodlit grass pitch at Corrody Road, we hope this will meet our current match and training needs for our teams. However, we will still be hiring a private facility (Glenaden Arena) for our U-6 boys and girls nursery programme.</p>	<p>Without the use of Councils pitch at Lisnagelvin our club would not exist. There are some issues regarding availability, use for training, sanding of pitch a month before Foyle Cup and still playing GAA matches causing H&S concerns. Changing rooms at the pitch are too small for 24 adults. Templemore pitch is in a terrible condition. A full size 3 or 4G GAA pitch would be a tremendous help for our club to be able to use somewhere locally.</p>
Dregish Pearse Og GAC	<p>The club playing membership has decreased over the last 10 years or so - we have a very low rural population and struggle to field - currently we have just a senior mens team and are rebuilding at U6 and U8 level - we have found that a lot of our players moved to live in Omagh and other bigger towns and play there.</p>	<p>We are always in need of good outdoor playing surfaces for pre-season.</p>
Glenelly St Joseph's GAC	<p>We have acquired some ground and are currently working a development plan regarding this.</p>	<p>More floodlit full size 3G/ match pitches would be a great help as it can be quite difficult to source lights of match quality.</p>
Na magha GAC	<p>Would like to develop our training pitch to a 3G surface - no funding yet - we approached Steelstown to develop it in partnership - they were not interested.</p>	<p>We reached the final of the Ulster Hurling Championship in 2017 - we were unable to find suitable floodlit training facilities in the city - we had to travel considerable distances to train - not ideal preparation and very expensive - we lost the final - we feel we could have possibly won had we floodlit winter training facilities in the city. There are no catch nets on any of the Council GAA pitches - we cannot train or play without catch nets - lose a lot of balls. Floodlit training facilities with catch nets is needed in</p>

		the city - GAA clubs start pre-season in January - nowhere to train - very frustrating. We sometimes have to cancel juvenile training due to matches - our match pitch is heavily used - every day of the week.
Owen Roe O'Neill's GAC	We require: - two additional changing rooms (growth in ladies football over the past few years). Frequently we have male / female games following in quick succession and no adequate changing facilities to accommodate them. We make use of community hall but it does not have showers. - covered spectator area for adult games. - walkway / running track to enable further health benefits for wider community.	The pitch we own is adequate for our current needs albeit that investment is badly needed to bring the standard up to meet current and future needs. We struggle constantly to raise funds to meet our day-to-day running costs which has a knock-on impact on the amount left to meet development needs.
Sean Dolans GAC	We're hoping to either have outdoor 4G or indoor hall for training depending on funding and fundraising	More GAA pitches grass and 4G are required for matches and training especially floodlit options. We would like to be able to help the schools more in allowing them to use our facilities for matches on more occasions especially in the winter months but can't as we run the risk of damaging our own facilities.
St Eugene's GAC Newtownstewart	Flood damage determined that this year the club will focus on re-developing the facilities to the standard that existed before the damage and where possible to improve facilities. The extent of this restoration work has hindered the club development plan presently, but it is hoped that as the club grows, the facilities will be available to accommodate the growth of the club. It is our aim to provide the necessary facilities for all teams to develop in the near future.	There are times throughout the year when our pitch is double booked and it would be necessary to have a similar facility within the area. Towards the end of 2017, our pitch was unavailable (flood damage) and neighbouring clubs kindly accommodated the club for training and matches to fulfil. This would not be a suitable long-term solution.
St Eugene's GAC Castledearg	We plan to improve our training pitch as a priority. We are also involved with Dergview soccer club and Strabane / Derry Council in pursuance of Peace II grant aid to construct a cross community walk/ run/ cycle pathway around the perimeter of our grounds. A	There is no GAA pitch provision in our area provided by the local Council. There was a GAA facility a number of years ago at Spamount but the GAA posts were removed and never replaced.

spectator stand would be the next priority after completion of the cross-community project.

**St Joseph's
 Craighane GAC**

We would have plans to develop the training pitch by making it longer, providing floodlights and creating go-games pitches across it with fixed goalposts. This would enable this pitch to facilitate underage games up to u-14 boys and girls, it would provide a safe pitch, 60m x 40m for u-8, and u-10 go-games for boys and girls. These small pitches would also be of used by 'mothers and others', females. for training and games as well as by veteran males for social games. The further development of our training pitch would create 3 additional pitches, all with fixed goal post and ball catchers and would facilitate our members from u-8 to adult for training, blitzes and official games. Being located in an area with extreme poor access to amenities this proposed pitch development would satisfy the existing need. This proposed pitch extension and upgrade will only happen provided we receive the appropriate funding.

Within the old Derry City Council there is only one dedicated GAA pitch at Templemore. The GAA pitch in Knockwellan is not permanent, an extremely poor provision overall. The Council should be providing finance to clubs to develop their playing pitches, by doing so the Council saves on the long term by providing pitch maintenance and also the need for adequate playing pitches for training and games will be satisfied within the Council areas. Finally, 3G and 4G pitches are not favoured by GAA players, they play games on grass and as such they want to train on grass.

**St Mary's
 Ardmore GAC**

As the club doesn't own the facilities we are hampered. The McCourt family would be willing to sign a longer-term lease that may entitle us to apply for grants, however any development of the facilities would have to be approved. We did carry out a major pitch redevelopment around 2010 and spent approx £80,000 of club money to make it playable. Changing facilities would need upgraded. We have two small changing rooms and two shower rooms that are totally inadequate for 2 gaelic teams after a match. Also ground maintenance would need improved vastly. Pitch would need moss killed, vertidraind and fertilised on a regular basis to keep it up to standard.

Difficult to get facilities in winter time when we cannot use our own pitch. We have had to accommodate our neighbours Doire Trasna on occasion when their home pitch is unavailable due to soccer games.

St Marys GAC Slaughtermanus	No comment	No comment
Strabane Shamrocks Hurling Club	Strabane Shamrocks currently don't own any grounds. We use Sigersons GAA Clubs pitches. Ideally in the future we would like to purchase our own grounds to give us a base and our own identity. We currently contribute £5000 per year for pitch usage. We currently can have difficulties get pitches booked for training and games as Sigersons have first preference on bookings as they are the ground owners. This can mean re-arranging our trainings and games which can lead to players being unavailable.	At present there is very poor provision of pitches for GAA clubs in the Strabane area. We would feel the Council should be providing at least 1 full size grass pitch that can local GAA clubs can use.
Strabane Sigersons GAC	We are working on an updated development plan at present. Changing room upgrades at our main building are a massive priority. A large indoor hall, surfacing the car park and a covered stand for spectators are all priorities.	The Strabane area is in urgent need of more pitches for all sports. Council do not provide any GAA facilities in this area which greatly needs such.
Urney St Columba's GAC	Would like to provide hurling, camogie and handball - will take time for this - club expects membership to grow over the next 5 years.	Not enough outdoor floodlit 3G pitches - the new 3G at Melvin will be good so long as we can get booking slots - there are a lot of football and gaelic clubs in the area.

Summary Points

6.37 All but three of the gaelic games clubs in the Council area operate their own pitches and changing accommodation. The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only grass pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches and training for all age groups: -

Whole Council	Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Town	Strabane Rural
-8 pitches	-3 pitches	+0 pitches	-0.5 pitches	-4 pitches
Supply not meeting demand	Supply not meeting demand	Supply meeting demand	Supply just meeting demand	Supply not meeting demand

- ❖ An analysis of the adequacy of provision by area demonstrates the shortfall of pitches is most significant in Derry City & Strabane Rural. This analysis does include the use of the new multi-sports 3G pitch at Melvin Sports Complex – use of this pitch is likely to relieve training pressure on club pitches and matches in the early part of the season (February, March and early April).
- ❖ Most gaelic games clubs have at least 2 grass pitches: one full size and one training size. Three clubs have 3G training pitches which accommodate the clubs’ winter and preseason training and are also available for use by other clubs/other sports. Three clubs do not have their own facilities, one is a new club in Derry City and currently makes use of Thornhill College, this is unlikely to be a long-term solution for the club. Strabane Hurling club draws on members from Strabane Town and the surrounding areas, the catchment for hurling clubs in this area is wider than gaelic football clubs. Strabane Hurling Club has agreed use of Sigerson GAC pitches but notes difficulty in securing training venues – the club aspires to develop their own pitch. Council facilities are used by some gaelic games clubs for training sessions, e.g., Sean Dolans GAC has bookings on the 3G pitch at Bishops Field, Derry City.
- ❖ It is known there is currently funding earmarked from Ulster GAA and Central GAA Council for large scale promotion and development of gaelic games in both Derry City and Belfast City. Further development of gaelic games in Derry City can only be supported with pitch and changing accommodation investment.
- ❖ With the 20 clubs fielding 281 teams each club has an average of 14 teams. Whilst gaelic games generally is thought of as operating during the summer months in practice the season commences with pre-season training from January to March with competitions running through to October. Each week during the competition season a total of 100 go game/youth/adult matches are played; with 23 full pitches available this points to 5 matches taking place on each pitch. Training needs add significantly to the use of pitches as the same stock of pitches is used for matches and training.

Survey results show that the average weekly use (matches and training) of each clubs' main pitch is 24 hours.

- ❖ When asked about synthetic surfaces especially thinking of 3G and AstroTurf, the clubs responded as follows:-

	Training			Matches		
	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
AstroTurf	30	45	20	55	25	10
3G	0	50	45	45	20	30

The result shows 3G is generally accepted for training and much preferred to AstroTurf, whilst only 30% of respondents accept 3G for matches. It is also noted that the acceptance of 3G pitches for training may relate largely to the pre-season period (January to March) when clubs' grass pitches are less able to accommodate demand due to weather conditions and dark evenings.

7. Cricket

Introduction

7.1 This section presents an overview of supply of and demand for cricket pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England’s ‘Playing Pitch Model’ (PPM). There are fourteen cricket clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and youth teams. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact
- ❖ Summary

Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

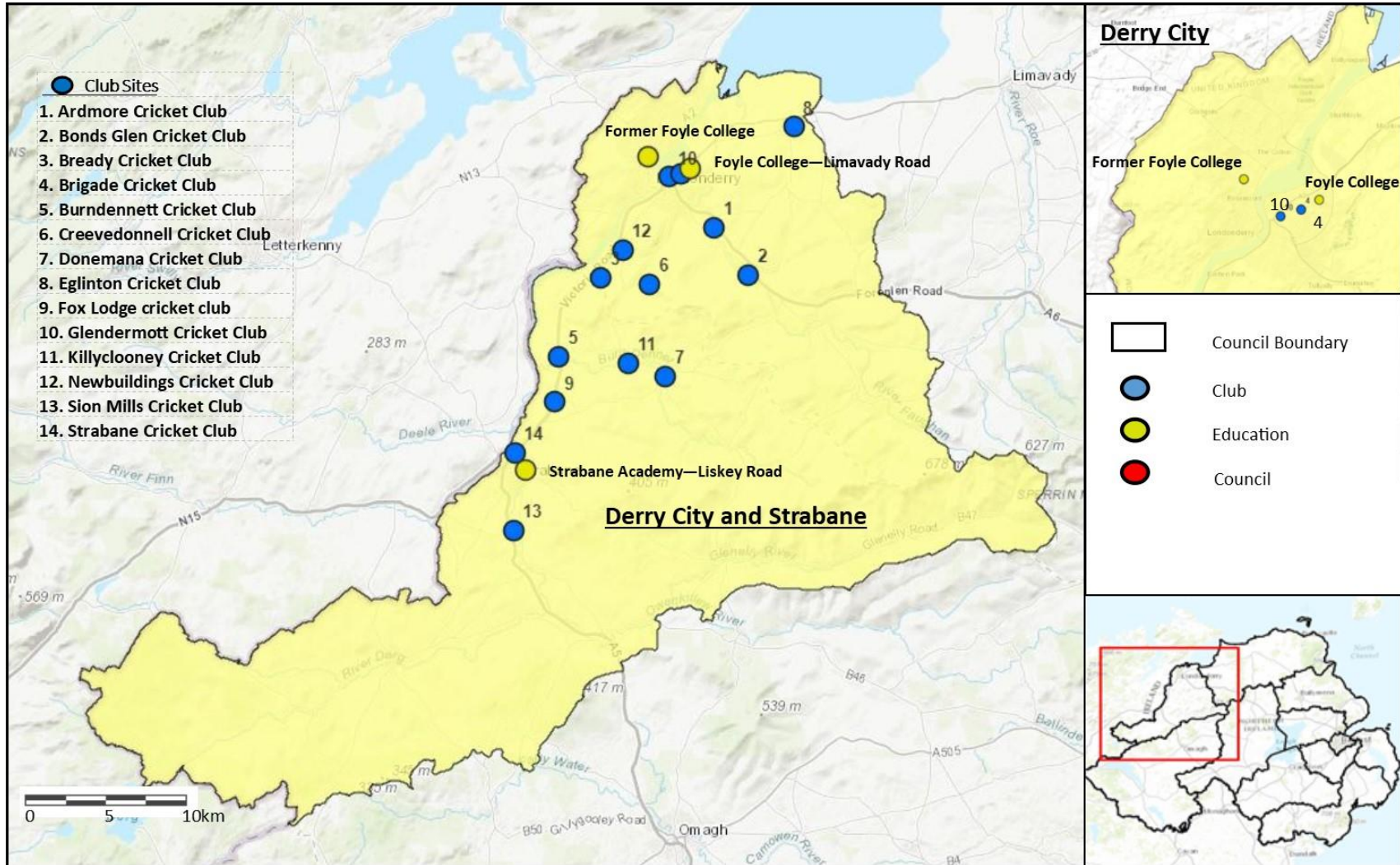
7.2 As it is a summer sport, cricket often shares facilities with rugby pitches. Cricket wickets can be either natural grass or synthetic. Training normally takes place in a purpose-built ‘nets’ facility, either indoor or outdoor. Secondary schools often place at least one cricket wicket between rugby pitches, however for cricket clubs the ideal number of wickets in a cricket ‘square’ is 8 to 10, including a synthetic wicket. There are fourteen cricket clubs across the Council, all come under the jurisdiction of the North West of Ireland Cricket Union⁽⁵⁴⁾. Of the 22 clubs in The North West of Ireland Cricket Union, over half (14) are in located in the Derry City & Strabane District Council area. All fourteen clubs own or lease their own playing facilities – there are no Council owned cricket facilities. The inventory of cricket pitches in the Council area as presented in Table 7.1. shows two different types of pitch ‘ownership’:-

- ❖ **Club owned/leased** – pitches owned and maintained by a cricket club.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.

7.3 The inventory shows cricket pitches suitable for matches and training. For each pitch site: *location, type, number, quality* and *additional remarks* are presented, pitch locations are shown on Map 7.1.

⁽⁵⁴⁾ The North West of Ireland Cricket Union covers the counties of Donegal, Fermanagh and Londonderry.

CRICKET



Map 7.1: Location of cricket pitch sites under club, education and council ownership

Table 7.1: Cricket – Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches by Ownership

Club Owned and Leased				
Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
1. Ardmore Cricket Club	Derry Rural	1 x cricket square with 7 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Standard	Club has four adult teams and four youth teams – recently providing women’s cricket. Club also has an all weather pitch used on occasions by Ardmore GAC. Club aspires to upgrading facilities to host teams from North West Cricket Union for second pitch – drainage poor for pitch. Currently improving changing accommodation.
		1 x cricket square (not regulation size) with 1 turf wicket	Standard	
2. Bonds Glen Cricket Club	Derry City	1 x cricket square with 6 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Good	Club would like to provide changing accommodation for match officials and females playing mixed teams.
3. Bready Cricket Club	Derry Rural	1 x cricket square with 8+ turf wickets	Good	Club’s main pitch is of required standard to host International matches. To continue to keep up with ICC requirements, the club would like to develop seating around the ground and also upgrade outdoor practice areas to international standard.
		1 x cricket square with 5 turf wickets and 1 synthetic	Good	
4. Brigade Cricket Club	Derry City	1 x cricket square with 8 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Good	Club is looking to develop a youth section and increasing the club school links with Ebrington PS and Foyle College.
5. Burndennett Cricket Club	Strabane Rural	1 x cricket square with 6 turf wickets and 1 artificial wicket	Standard	Club does not have a youth section. Club has 2 adult male teams and 1 adult female team.
6. Creevedonnell Cricket Club	Derry Rural	1 x cricket square with 7 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Poor	Club is looking to improve pitch drainage.
7. Donemana Cricket Club	Strabane Rural	1 x cricket square with 8 turf	Poor	Pitches damage in the August 2017 flood. Club has youth and

		wickets and 1 synthetic wicket – outfield not adequate 1 x cricket square with 8 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Standard	adult sections - also has an adult female team.
8. Eglinton Cricket Club	Derry Rural	1 x cricket square with 8 turf wickets	Unknown	The club has both youth and adult sections.
9. Fox Lodge cricket club	Strabane Rural	1 x cricket square with 7 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Standard	Club identifies the need for a second pitch to allow the club to grow. Club has both youth and adult sections and male and female teams in both.
10. Glendermott Cricket Club	Derry City	1 x cricket square with 6 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Good	Club has both youth and adults teams. The club is looking to acquire a 20m strip of land from Ebrington PS to allow for the provision of training whilst matches are underway. Currently they cannot train if there is a match in progress.
11. Killyclooney Cricket Club	Strabane Rural	1 x cricket square with 6 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wickets 1 x cricket square with 5 turf wickets	Good Standard	The grounds are under a 25 year leased with 12 years remaining. The clubs has both adult and youth sections and male and female adult teams. Both pitches prone to flooding. Club reports unable to play 50% of home games in 2017 due to poor drainage.
12. Newbuildings Cricket Club	Derry Rural	1 x cricket square with 5 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wickets – outfield not adequate	Good	The club shares changing facilities with Newbuildings FC and aspires to build their own dedicated changing area. The club has both youth and adult teams and male and female teams.

13. Sion Mills Cricket Club	Strabane Rural	1 x cricket square with 8 turf wickets	Standard	The club, in existence for 154 years, feels its future is uncertain as it has no rights to the current club grounds – they are allowed access by a local landowner – access is sometime denied at short notice. The grounds was a shared facility with Sion Swifts FC who now play elsewhere.
14. Strabane Cricket Club	Strabane Town	1 x cricket square with 6 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket – size of outfield not adequate	Standard	Club has youth and adult sections and an adult female team in addition to 2 adult male teams. Club currently carrying out remedial drainage works, require additional funding to complete to a high standard. The club aspires to purchase adjacent land to extend pitch to allow senior interprovincial games.
Totals 18 x Cricket squares				
Education				
15. Foyle College former site on Northland Road	Derry City	3 x cricket squares	Unknown	School moved to a new build opened in September 2017 on Limavady Road.
16. Foyle College – Limavady Road	Derry City	2 x cricket squares	2 x Good	School has a community use agreement – cricket pitches are open for use by local clubs.
17. Strabane Academy	Strabane Town	1 x cricket squares	Unknown	Community use unknown
Totals 6 x Cricket Squares				

Summary of Quantity and Quality of Pitches

- 7.4** A summary and breakdown of current cricket squares used for matches and training by ownership is given below. Four of the clubs carry out nets practice on club grounds with portable nets wheeled on and off the grass outfield area.

Cricket Squares used for matches and training – quantity and quality					
Ownership	No of cricket squares	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown
Clubs	18	7	8	2	1
Education	6	-	-	-	6
Total	24	7	8	2	7

Clubs, Teams and Players

7.5 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There are fourteen cricket clubs in the Derry City & Strabane area. Thirteen of the fourteen clubs completed an online questionnaire allowing for an accurate picture of cricket playing membership, pitch use, club development plans and needs. The fourteen clubs satisfy the following criteria:-

- Home match pitch is located within Derry City & Strabane District Council area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- Use pitches within Derry City & Strabane District Council area for training.
- Over 50% of team members live within Derry City & Strabane District Council area.

7.6 The five clubs are listed below detailing the number of adult, junior and youth teams.

Club	Youth		Junior		Adult		Total No. of Teams
	U7/U9 M/F	U11 Male	U13 Male	U15 Male	Male	Female	
Ardmore Cricket Club	0	2	1	1	4	0	8
Bonds Glen Cricket Club	0	1	1	1	3	1	7
Bready Cricket Club	0	1	1	1	5	1	9
Brigade Cricket Club	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Burndennett Cricket Club	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Creevedonnell Cricket Club	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Donemana Cricket Club	0	1	0	1	3	1	6
Eglinton Cricket Club	0	1	1	1	3	0	6
Fox Lodge cricket club	1 (+1 female)	0	0	1 (+1 female)	4	1	9

CRICKET

Glendermott Cricket Club	0	0	1	1	3	0	5
Killyclooney Cricket Club	0	1	1	1	4	1	8
Newbuildings Cricket Club	1	1 (+1 female)	1	1	2	0	7
Sion Mills Cricket Club	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Strabane Cricket Club	1	1	1	1	2	1	7
Totals	4	10	9	12	39	7	81

7.7 There is a total of 81 cricket teams across the fourteen clubs – from U7/U9 to adult. There are significantly fewer female teams at all age groups; whilst seven clubs have an adult female team just two clubs have a youth female team at any level. A number of clubs have female players at youth and junior who play on the male teams as allowed within the rules.

7.8 The profile of teams and player numbers in the fourteen identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 7.3: Cricket Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams			
	Male	Female	Total Male and Female / Teams
Membership			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	186	70	256
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	246	96	342
Adult	563	193	756
Total Players	995	359	1,354
Teams			
Youth (U7 to U10)	3	1	4
Junior (U11,U13,U15)	29	2	31
Adult	39	7	46
Total Teams	71	10	81

Adequacy of Provision

7.9 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches

Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.

Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.

Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.

Used by community but not secured Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.

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

7.10 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision of cricket pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of cricket it is assumed that all adult, youth and junior games are played on full size pitches for competitive games.

7.11 It is noted that the same stock of pitches is used for both matches and training. Training needs are accommodated in the model using ‘Team Equivalents’. Here information on the number of teams, age group of teams and number of training times a week is used to calculate as Team Equivalents. The following assumptions based on the club survey are made in regard to training:

- ❖ Youth teams U7 to U11 train together on a cricket pitch at the same time
- ❖ Junior teams train together on a cricket pitch once a week
- ❖ Adult teams require one full pitch for training and train on average twice a week.

Reference	Description	No of full size grass pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	24
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	18
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	0

7.12 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The

number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following cricket pitches have been excluded:-

Ownership	No of Pitches	Rationale
Education	6	Generally not available for matches

7.13 The breakdown for each scenario for cricket pitches available for all age groups is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	Full Grass	Full Grass	Full Grass
Clubs	18	18	0
Secondary	6	0	0
Totals	24	18	0

Comments

- ❖ Youth, adult and junior matches are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude 6 education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available.

Scenario 1

7.14 The picture of **cricket total demand and total supply for Scenario 1**, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 7.4: Cricket – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches

		Matches		Training 1 – hour	Comments
Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Results		
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents (training)	Youth (U8 to U10)	4	4		Cricket pitches are used for both training and matches Complete picture of teams and team equivalents from survey
	Junior (U11, U13, U15)	31	24 ⁽⁵⁵⁾		
	Adult	46	46 ⁽⁵⁶⁾		

⁽⁵⁵⁾ A number of youth teams share a cricket pitch and train once a week.

⁽⁵⁶⁾ 1 adult team per pitch on average twice times a week, a club with 3 adult teams has a total of 2 sessions a week i.e. all male adult teams train together at the same time. Male and female teams train separately.

2. Calculating home games and training ratio per team per week	Youth (U8 to U10)	0.5	1.0	Based on a home game every other week. Based on a blitz every week Based on training every week
	Junior (U11, U13, U15)	0.5	1.0	
	Adult	0.5	1.0	
3. Assessing total home games and 1-hour training slots per week	Youth (U8 to U10)	2	4	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Junior (U11, U13, U15)	16	24	
	Adult	23	46	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games and training	Youth (U8 to U10) - Midweek	100%	N/A	This is the demand given the % of matches and training each day of the week as assessed from club surveys for youth and adult. Typically, games and training take place across the week – e.g. 22% of Junior games and 10% of adult games are played Monday PM e.g. 53% of all teams training takes place on Tuesday PM.
	Junior / Adult – Monday PM	22% / 10%	9%	
	Junior / Adult – Tuesday PM	11% / 7%	53%	
	Junior / Adult – Wednesday PM	7% / 20%	0%	
	Junior / Adult – Thursday PM	41% / 7%	15%	
	Junior / Adult – Friday PM	19% / 0%	24%	
	Junior / Adult – Saturday AM	0% / 0%	0%	
	Junior / Adult – Saturday PM	0% / 49%	0%	
	Junior / Adult – Sunday AM	0% / 0%	0%	
	Junior / Adult – Sunday PM	0% / 7%	0%	
5. Defining pitches/1-hour training slots required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Youth (U8 to U10)	2	1	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up taking into match and training capacity. Capacity for full size grass pitch is 5 games a week Training capacity is 10 x 1-hour training slots ⁽⁵⁷⁾ - this average number of training hours per club from the club survey.
	Youth + Adult Total - Mon PM	4 + 3 = 7	7	
	Youth + Adult Total - Tues PM	2 + 2 = 4	37	
	Youth + Adult Total – Wed PM	2 + 5 = 7	0	
	Youth + Adult Total – Thurs PM	7 + 2 = 9	11	
	Youth + Adult Total - Fri PM	3 + 0 = 3	17	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat AM	0 + 0 = 0	14	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat PM	0 + 12 = 12	0	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sun AM	0 + 0 = 2	0	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sun PM	0 + 2 = 2	0	
	Total weekly pitches needed for adult and youth	19 + 26 = 45 45/5 = 9 pitches	73/10 = 8 pitches	
	Number of total weekly full pitches needed accounting for capacity is	9 + 8 = 17		

⁽⁵⁷⁾ Based on club survey returns on weekly pitch usage for games and training.

6. Establishing pitches available	Youth, Junior and Adult	24 pitches	All full and training grass pitches in all ownership.
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁵⁸⁾	Youth, Junior and Adult matches and training	24 - 17 = +5 pitches	Supply is meeting demand

7.15 The results show that for Scenario 1 the supply of cricket facilities meets demand with a good surplus of pitches for all age groups.

Scenario 2

7.16 The picture for Scenario 2 for cricket in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where secondary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for competitive matches or training:-

Table 7.5: Cricket – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 – Club pitches only

Model Stage	Matches		Training 1-hour	Comments
	Team categories	Results	Results	
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents (training)	Youth (U8 to U10)	4	4	Cricket pitches are used for both training and matches Complete picture of teams and team equivalents from survey
	Junior (U11, U13, U15)	31	24 ⁽⁵⁹⁾	
	Adult	46	46 ⁽⁶⁰⁾	
2. Calculating home games and training ratio per team per week	Youth (U8 to U10)	0.5	1.0	Based on a home game every other week. Based on a blitz every week Based on training every week.
	Junior (U11, U13, U15)	0.5	1.0	
	Adult	0.5	1.0	
3. Assessing total home games and 1-hour training slots per week	Youth (U8 to U10)	2	4	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Junior (U11, U13, U15)	16	24	
	Adult	23	46	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games and training	Youth (U8 to U10) - Midweek	100%	N/A	This is the demand given the % of matches and training each day of the week as assessed from club
	Junior / Adult – Monday PM	22% / 10%	9%	
	Junior / Adult – Tuesday PM	11% / 7%	53%	
	Junior / Adult – Wednesday	7% / 20%	0%	

⁽⁵⁸⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

⁽⁵⁹⁾ A number of youth teams share a cricket pitch and train once a week.

⁽⁶⁰⁾ 1 adult team per pitch on average twice times a week, but a club with 3 adult teams has a total of 2 sessions a week i.e. all male adult teams train together at the same time.

	PM			surveys for youth and adult. Typically, games and training take place across the week – e.g. 22% of Junior games and 10% of adult games are played Monday PM e.g. 53% of all teams training takes place on Tuesday PM.
	Junior / Adult – Thursday PM	41% / 7%	15%	
	Junior / Adult – Friday PM	19% / 0%	24%	
	Junior / Adult – Saturday AM	0% / 0%	0%	
	Junior / Adult – Saturday PM	0% / 49%	0%	
	Junior / Adult – Sunday AM	0% / 0%	0%	
	Junior / Adult – Sunday PM	0%/7%	0%	
5. Defining pitches/1-hour training slots required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Youth (U8 to U10)	2	1	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up taking into match and training capacity. Capacity for cricket pitch is 5 games a week Training capacity is 10 x 1-hour training slots ⁽⁶¹⁾ - this average number of training hours per club from the club survey.
	Junior + Adult Total - Mon PM	4 + 3 = 7	7	
	Junior + Adult Total - Tues PM	2 + 2 = 4	37	
	Junior + Adult Total – Wed PM	2 + 5 = 7	0	
	Junior + Adult Total – Thurs PM	7 + 2 = 9	11	
	Junior + Adult Total - Fri PM	3 + 0 = 3	17	
	Junior + Adult Total - Sat AM	0 + 0 = 0	14	
	Junior + Adult Total - Sat PM	0 + 12 = 12	0	
	Junior + Adult Total - Sun AM	0 + 0 = 2	0	
	Junior + Adult Total - Sun PM	0 + 2 = 2	0	
	Total weekly pitches needed for adult and youth	19 + 26 = 45 45/5 = 9 pitches	73/10 = 8 pitches	
Number of total weekly full pitches needed accounting for capacity is	9 + 8 = 17			
6. Establishing pitches available	Youth, Junior and Adult	18 pitches		All full and training grass pitches in all ownership.
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶²⁾	Youth, Junior and Adult matches and training	18- 17 = +1 pitches		Supply is just demand

7.17 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is just meeting demand for competitive games and training for all age groups with a small surplus of one pitch. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is only just meeting demand.

⁽⁶¹⁾ Based on club survey returns on weekly pitch usage for games and training.

⁽⁶²⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that cricket pitch capacity is 5 games on a weekly basis plus 10 hours of training. Most of the clubs play in the North West Cricket League in which up to 30% of teams are based outside the Council area. The demand for pitches for games on occasions will therefore be reduced for away matches as these will be based outside the Council area.
- ❖ Scenario 2 demonstrates cricket provision is being well used with little pitch capacity to encourage growth – some clubs with a large number of teams and just one pitch, note on occasions, difficulty with accommodating both matches and training effectively. The following was recorded by three clubs in the online club survey:
 - “We don't have access to a 2nd pitch.”
 - “The pitch owner sometimes doesn't allow us to play.”
 - “Localised flooding has impacted on both pitches causing the pitch unplayable for much of last season and the beginning of this 2018 season.”
- ❖ Scheduling of more adult games mid-week would perhaps allow for an increased number of matches to be accommodated, however given that adult matches can last more than 4 hours this may not always be an option.

7.18 A third scenario could be modelled where only Council pitches are used, however there are no Council owned cricket pitches.

Adequacy of Provision by Area

7.19 The previous sections demonstrate an assessment of pitch provision across the Council area as a whole. In order to provide a more local picture it is of interest to look at adequacy of pitch provision in each of the following four designated areas:-

- ❖ Derry City
- ❖ Derry Rural
- ❖ Strabane Town
- ❖ Strabane Rural

7.20 An inventory of clubs per area is:-

Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Rural	Strabane Town
Bonds Glen Cricket Club	Ardmore Cricket Club	Burndennett Cricket Club	Strabane Cricket Club
Brigade Cricket Club	Bready Cricket Club	Donemana Cricket Club	
Glendermott Cricket Club	Creevedonnell Cricket Club	Fox Lodge cricket club	
	Eglinton Cricket Club	Killyclooney Cricket Club	
	Newbuildings Cricket Club	Sion Mills Cricket Club	

7.21 The profile of teams per area is:

Area	No. All adult teams per area	% All adult teams per area	No. All Junior teams per area	% All Junior teams per area	No. All Youth teams per area	% all Youth teams per area
Derry City	9	20%	5	16%	0	0%
Derry Rural	16	35%	16	52%	1	25%
Strabane Town	3	7%	3	10%	1	25%
Strabane Rural	18	39%	7	23%	2	50%
Totals	46	100%	31	100%	4	100%

Comments

- ❖ Both rural areas have the highest percentages of membership across all age groups.
- ❖ Strabane Rural has the highest number of adult and youth teams, Derry Rural has the highest number of junior teams.
- ❖ Derry City currently has no youth teams

7.22 An inventory of cricket pitch sites per area for Scenario 2 (pitches under Club ownership) is:-

	Club
Derry City	3
Derry Rural	7
Strabane Town	1
Strabane Rural	7
Total	18

7.23 Table 7.7 presents the PPM Scenario 2 for all 4 areas for competitive games and training for all age groups.

Table 7.7: Cricket – Area based demand and supply for Scenario 2

Model Summary	Whole Council	Derry City	Derry Rural	Strabane Town	Strabane Rural
1. Defining pitches <u>required</u> each week for matches and training for all teams taking into account pitch capacity.	17 pitches	3 pitches	7 pitches	1 pitches	6 pitches
2. Establishing pitches <u>available</u>	18 pitches	3 pitches	7 pitches	1 pitch	7 pitches
3. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶²⁾	18 – 17 = +1 pitch	3 – 3 = +0 pitches	7 – 7 = +0 pitches	1 -1 = +0 pitches	7 - 6 = +1 pitch

7.24 An analysis of the adequacy of provision of cricket pitches shows supply is meeting demand for all areas except Strabane Rural which shows a slight surplus of 1 pitch.

Pitch Use and Capacity – Online Survey

7.25 From the online survey the following clubs recorded the number of hours their cricket pitches, on average, are used for training and matches each week –

Club	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Used (hrs)
Ardmore Cricket Club	10	25	35
Bonds Glen Cricket Club	10	25	25
Creevedonnell Cricket Club	6	14	20
Donemana Cricket Club	7	24	31
Fox Lodge cricket club	9	16	35
Glendermott Cricket Club	8	16	24
Killyclooney Cricket Club	15	15	30
Newbuildings Cricket Club	25	25	50
Sion Mills Cricket Club	4	7	11
Strabane Cricket Club	12	20	32
Average	11 hrs	19 hours	29 hrs

⁽⁶²⁾ Rounded up to full pitches.

Comments

- ❖ Cricket training pitch requirement ranges from 4 to 25 hours per week and is dependent on the number of club teams.
- ❖ Likewise, cricket match needs ranges from 7 to 25 hours per week and is dependent on the number of club teams.

Community Impact

Club Needs – Current and Future

Match and Training Facility Barriers

7.26 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities; results are:-

Barrier type	Match Facilities No of Clubs	Training Facilities No of Clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	0	1
Finding venues of suitable condition	2	3
Can't get booking slot	0	1
Condition of pitches	4	5
None	5	4

Comments

- ❖ The main barrier to accessing training and match facilities is ‘Condition of Pitches’ – cricket is an outdoor game played on grass and is therefore weather dependent. Most clubs have rain covers for the wicket however it takes considerable time and careful management to ensure the wicket is dry enough to allow games to go ahead.
- ❖ One club noted the lack of training nets

Membership Growth and Future Plans

7.27 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next five years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Age/Gender	No of Clubs Increase	No of Clubs Decrease	No of Clubs Stay the Same
Pre-Junior Male	9	1	3
Pre-Junior Female	7	1	5
Junior Male	8	2	3
Junior Female	7	0	6
Adult Male	4	3	6
Adult Female	5	0	8

Comments

- ❖ Half of the clubs expect their pre-junior and junior female membership to increase.
- ❖ Five clubs expect their adult female membership to increase whilst four expects their adult male membership to increase.
- ❖ Some of the reasons recorded by clubs for membership change are:
 - *Adult male decrease with more senior players retiring etc*
 - *Difficult to attract new/younger members in Urban areas with so many other attractions.*
 - *Rural clubs have found it increasingly difficult to attract new members due to our inaccessibility and increase in competition from clubs with better facilities. Cricket is a declining sport across the area. Our youth membership is expected to fall for the same reason. Current youth membership is almost entirely made up only of young people with family connections to the club.*
 - *Too many options for kids nowadays*
 - *Improving the facilities*
 - *I'm not sure if I can accurately gauge by how much our membership will increase over the next 5 years. We are committed to providing coaching to both Junior and Adult members. We hope to encourage more pre-junior members to the club and hold onto them as they progress through the different age groups. We have invested in equipment and hope to gain a bit of land from the Ebrington School site. By doing so we hope to have a designated practice bay that would be completely caged enabling coaching to progress whilst games are ongoing on the main pitch, something that can't be done at present.*
 - *In the current situation we find ourselves in, it is impossible to attract new interest into the club. We have no safe facilities to bring young children/under age children to and not the proper equipment to develop them. We are only able to survive as a club by our own fundraising, but this only amounts to cover the clubs affiliation fees,*

ground maintenance, playing equipment etc. We are unable to plan for the future in our current state as we have no security, ownership, lease or way of attracting substantial funding. Our numbers of kids and adult cricketers have fallen drastically in the past number of years and if the current status quo continues, one of Ireland's oldest sporting institutions will cease to exist in the next few years.

- *The Club's strategic plan has actions to help increase participation numbers. Increased resources dedicated to coaching. Increased focus on the female game.*

7.28 Table 7.8 presents the cricket clubs' future plans/needs and any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 7.8 – Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Ardmore Cricket Club	We wish to continue to develop our pitch to meet demand, and rising standards. We would like to extend the playing area to meet regulations allowing us to host representative teams from the NWCU (mens) team. We are currently in process of fitting brand new kitchen, showers require updating, better disabled access, improved toilets to allow for more player/supporter capacity, planning to seek funding for new and improved changing facilities, officials area, disabled changing and toilets. Continue to improve sight screens, drainage, and further develop 2nd pitch to include turf pitches. Improve training facilities to include upgraded artificial area, as well as providing dedicated turf practice pitches. Installation of family area on boundary edge.	We feel that in general pitch provision for cricket is probably acceptable (all grounds self leased or owned) Currently Council has no indoor cricket training facilities, and while plans are in place to develop an outdoor artificial training area it is likely to get little use. Recent developments within the game of cricket in Ireland means that it is likely that the provision of outdoor TURF practice areas is going to be a minimum requirement. Currently there are none within the NW area. This should be a priority.
Bonds Glen Cricket Club	Would like to provide changing accommodation for Officials & Females playing in mixed teams. Officials presently change in a store	Have had little or no help from Council over the years to improve our facilities, tried numerous times for grants but always turned down, so now we don't bother.

	and any females playing in under age teams have to either change in toilet or come dressed to play.	
Bready Cricket Club	Our main ground is passed to host International matches, so to keep up with ICC requirements, we would like to develop seating around the ground and also upgrade outdoor practice areas to international standard.	Since we have our own ground & facilities we don't have a need to use any of Council facilities.
Brigade Cricket Club	Over recent years the club have worked hard at trying to attract more young people in to the club/ sport we have visited primary & post schools in Waterside & surrounding area using club & North West coaches. We will continue to do this again this year. The opening of 2 new schools (Foyle & Ebrington) close to the school will hopefully help us.	No comment
Creevedonnell Cricket Club	We are planning to put in new drainage in the coming months.	No comment
Donemana Cricket Club	Need to get insurance to sort flooding damage.	No comment
Eglinton Cricket Club	No comment	No comment
Fox Lodge Cricket Club	No comment	We could do with a Council-maintained pitch for use as a second pitch and allow us to have more than 3 senior teams and only 1 ladies team. We can't accommodate any more.

<p>Glendermott Cricket Club</p>	<p>We hope to get approx. 20 metres from the Ebrington site running parallel to the current boundary. It is hoped to use that space to provide a dedicated practice bay area that would be completely closed off. As we are constricted by the size of our ground this would allow practice / coaching to continue, in a safe environment, as games can continue on the main pitch. With rain being an ever increasing problem with fixtures, more evenings are required to complete re-arranged fixtures. If the juniors are playing the adults could be practicing and vice versa. Both activities could run parallel in a safe environment. Something that we currently can't do.</p>	<p>We have our own ground and don't rely on the Council to provide us a pitch.</p>
<p>Killyclooney Cricket Club</p>	<p>The club plans to develop the two pitches from flooding by adding drains, the club as added drains to the first pitch on one side but more drains would need to be added to keep up with the amount of standing water on the pitch. the second pitch is still in a soggy mess from the floods where there was 4 feet of water over all the playing surface, drains would need to be put into place to prevent from this happening again. if both pitches were well drained more matches could be played, in the case of the underage cricket last year only 50% of all home games were played.</p>	<p>There are no Council Cricket pitches within this Council.</p>
<p>Newbuildings Cricket Club</p>	<p>Like to build a club house if Stormont would get up and running and support our development plan which we have shown them before they dissolved Club would like to have their own changing rooms, toilets and kitchen.</p>	<p>We have been very grateful that Derry and Strabane District Council have supported us with an artificial wicket to play cricket on. It was used constantly by all the teams in league and cup matches and the club could not have done without this during the past season.</p>

Sion Mills Cricket Club	<p>We cannot plan for the future as we have no lease or ownership and the current owner is volatile and often bars us from using the ground for no reason.</p>	<p>Everything is in place to put things back to the way they once were at this ground and take it to the next level. There is massive potential for children, boys, girls and disabled if the ownership of this area was put in the right hands. There is a strong nucleus and will within the club to safety and develop its future but in the current circumstances is impossible to plan and implement. I hope that Council can look at this situation as a matter of urgency. This facility was a shared facility with Sion Swifts Football Club but they have been banned from using the football pitches there and they are both now overgrown. I am sure they will complete their own survey. Please help us with this situation!!!</p>
Strabane Cricket Club	<p>We are currently investing in some outlined field drainage at present however more funding is required to develop some specific drainage. Our ground requires aeration as it's been 10 years since this has been carried out, however the costs are prohibitive and so anything we do is piecemeal and not overly effective. We are currently unable to attract Senior interprovincial games as the overall size of our venue has been shown to be slightly under the requirements, we could develop through a purchase some ground that currently lies vacant at the side of our facilities that would enhance our venue and bring it without the qualification criteria, but again the costs are currently prohibitive without some intervention.</p>	

Summary

7.29 The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches and training: -

All teams + 1 Supply just meeting demand

- ❖ These results demonstrate a sport in general using pitch resources to the maximum for matches and training – there is little spare pitch capacity to sustain significant growth. Just four of the clubs have a second pitch: Ardmore CC, Bready CC, Donemana CC and Killyclooney CC.
- ❖ Participation in cricket is predominantly male at youth and junior levels, however seven clubs report having an adult female team. About half of the clubs expect female membership to grow in the next 5 years. Cricket Ireland, whilst having a clear female development pathway acknowledges there is a huge potential for more female participation.

8. Hockey

Introduction

8.1 This section presents an overview of supply of and demand for hockey pitches; an assessment of adequacy of provision is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM); the PPM is also used to assess the condition of facilities in the Council's ownership using the 'Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment' tool. There are four hockey clubs in the Council area; three ladies clubs, one men's club. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact
- ❖ Summary

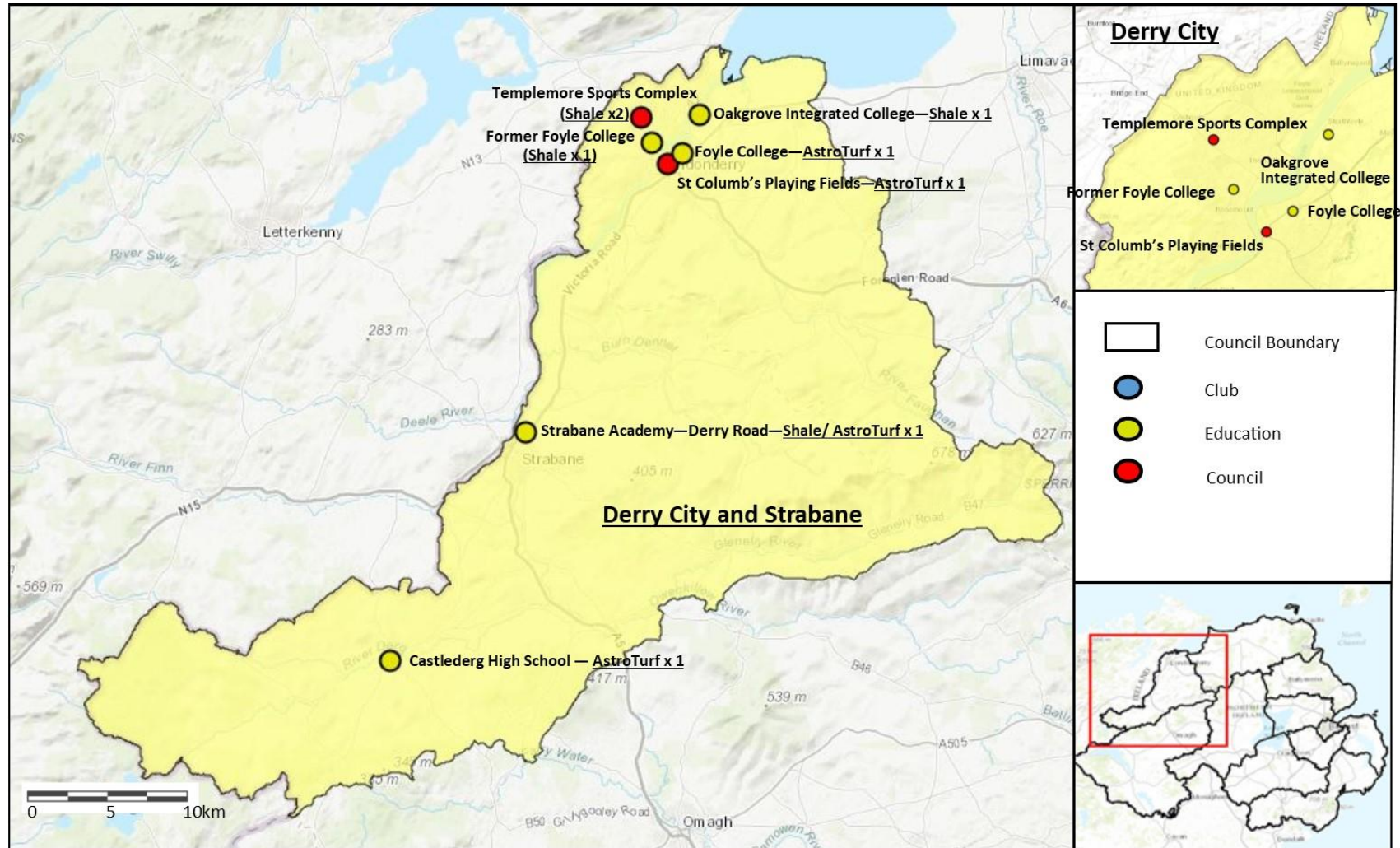
Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

8.2 Club hockey is now played exclusively on artificial turf pitches (ATP's), either sand or water 'AstroTurf' – 3G surfaces cannot accommodate hockey. It is the case that school's hockey often uses the shale pitches still found on many school sites. For the purposes of this study although the Ulster Hockey Union stipulates all games should be played on ATP's school shale pitches are noted as these may be upgraded to ATP surfaces. Two different types of pitch 'ownership' for hockey are recorded:-

- ❖ **Derry City and Strabane District Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments

8.3 Table 8.1 presents a detailed inventory of hockey pitches suitable for competitive matches for each pitch site, type, number, quality and additional remarks are presented. See Map 8.1 for location.

HOCKEY



Map 8.1: Location of hockey pitch sites under education and council ownership

Table 8.1 Hockey –Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches in Derry City and Strabane District Council under Council, Education and Club Ownership.

Council					
Location		Area	Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Playing Fields				
St Columb's	Playing Fields (Foyle Arena)	Derry City	1 x Sand AstroTurf	1 x Standard	Used by Priorian Hockey Club for home games and training for all age groups. The pitch is also used for training by association football teams. The pitch surface is approximately 8 years old and will need replaced soon.
Templemore Complex	Sports	Derry City	2 x shale	2 x Poor	Neither shale pitch is currently used for hockey activities. The shale pitch adjacent to the sports centre is floodlit and used on occasions for association football training. The whole site, including the pitches is at concept plan stage for redevelopment.
Totals 1 x Full AstroTurf Pitches 2 x Shale Pitches					
Education					
CastleDerg High School		Strabane Town	1 x Full AstroTurf	1 x Good	Pitch has floodlights and is home base for Derg Valley Junior and Senior Ladies hockey clubs for matches and training. The pitch is also used by local association football, rugby and gaelic teams for training.
Foyle College – Limavady Road		Derry City	1 x Full AstroTurf	1 x Good	New college site opened in September 2017 – the school has a community use policy – Priorians HC are reported to have shown an interest in using the AstroTurf pitch for matches and training.
Foyle College – Northland Road		Derry City	1 x shale	Unknown	College has moved to a new-build on Limavady Road – not determined yet what the future use of pitches at Foyle College former site might look like.
Oakgrove Integrated College Pitch		Derry City	1 x Shale	1 x Standard	Shale pitch. The school has some community use of their grass pitches.

Strabane Academy (Derry Road site)	Strabane Town	1 x Shale (to be upgraded to AstroTurf)	1 x Unknown	Strabane Academy is split over two sites (Derry Road and Liskey Road). A new school building is currently being developed at the Derry Road site – phase 1 includes development of an AstroTurf hockey pitch, possibly not full size. Build expected to be finished by Spring 2019.
Totals 2 x AstroTurf Pitches 3 x Full Shale Hockey Pitches				

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

- 8.4** A summary and breakdown of current hockey pitches used for matches and training by ownership is given below. Also include are shale pitches, however these are only used for schools hockey and not club hockey.

Hockey Pitches used for matches and training		
Ownership	Astroturf	Shale
DC&SDC	1	2
Education	2	3
Total	3	5

Summary of Quality of Pitches

- 8.5** A summary and breakdown of hockey pitch provision by quality is presented. Shale pitches are also included here for completeness, although they are only used reluctantly by schools.

Summary of Quality Rating for Hockey Pitches (Astroturf and Shale)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
DC&SDC	0	1	2	0	3
Education	2	0	0	3	5
Total	2	1	2	2	8

Comments

- ❖ Both school Astroturf pitches are rated ‘Good’.
- ❖ The Council’s only full-size Astroturf pitch at St Columb’s Playing Fields is rated ‘Standard’. Priors HC rated this pitch ‘Poor’ noting the surface is in need of being replaced, dugouts are damaged and is often there is too much surface sand and leaves on the pitch – the club record that Ulster Hockey Union has inspected the pitch twice over concerns of its suitability for adult competitive matches.

Clubs, Teams and Players

8.6 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There four hockey clubs in Derry City and Strabane District Council area. All four clubs completed questionnaires where possible to produce as accurate as possible picture of association membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations. The four clubs satisfied the following criteria:

- ❖ Home match pitch is located within Derry City and Strabane District Council (includes clubs with own pitch).
- ❖ Use pitches within Derry City and Strabane District Council for training.
- ❖ Over 50% of team members live within Derry City and Strabane District Council.

8.7 The four hockey clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing the number of adult, and youth teams.

Table 8.2: Hockey Club Team Profile				
Club	Mini (U9, U11, U13)	Youth (U15)	Adult	Total No. of Teams
Derg Valley Junior Hockey Club	3	1	0	4
Derg Valley Ladies Hockey Club	0	0	3	3
Foyle Hockey Club (male)	4	0	0	3
Priors Hockey Club	3	1	2	6
Totals	10	2	5	16

8.8 There is a total of seventeen hockey teams in the Council – from U9 to adult. Hockey participation is predominantly female with just one male club, Foyle Hockey Club. Both Priors HC and Derg Valley Junior clubs have some mini and youth male players and are looking to increase male membership.

8.9 The profile of teams and player numbers in the four identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 8.3 Hockey Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams			
	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	44	65	109
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	17	55	72
Adult	18	70	88
Total Players	79	190	269
<u>Teams</u>			
Mini (U9, U11, U13)	1	9	10
Youth (U15)	0	2	2
Adult	0	5	5
Total Teams	1	16	17

Adequacy of Provision

8.10 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches	<p>Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.</p> <p>Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.</p> <p>Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.</p>
Used by community but not secured	Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.
Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

8.11 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision hockey pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of hockey it is assumed that all, adult, youth and mini games are played on full size pitches – shale pitches are not considered in this modelling as there are not used for competitive club hockey games.

Reference	Description	No. of full size ATP pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	3
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	2
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	1

8.12 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following AstroTurf pitches have been excluded:

Pitch site	No. of Pitches	Rationale
Foyle College	1 AstroTurf pitch	Community availability not known at the time of this report

8.13 The pitch supply for each scenario for AstroTurf pitches available for adult, youth and mini competitive hockey games is:

<u>Pitch Site</u>	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	AstroTurf	AstroTurf	AstroTurf
Council	1	1	1
Education	2	1	0
Totals	3	2	1

Comments:-

- ❖ The above table records the number of full size AstroTurf pitches used in each scenario.
- ❖ Youth, adult and mini matches are played on full size pitches.

- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 excludes 1 education sector pitch on the basis that community use is not known.

Adequacy

8.14 The picture of *hockey total demand and total supply for Scenario 1*, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 8.4: Hockey – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches			
Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13)	10	Based on the club survey
	Youth (U15)	2	
	Adult	5	
2. Calculating home games	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13)	Tournament	From the club survey all adult and youth teams play in different leagues i.e. don't play each other, therefore in particular for adult teams scheduling may mean they all have a home game on a Saturday afternoon. Mini blitz/tournament are once every 8 weeks
	Youth (U15)	1.0	
	Adult	1.0	
3. Assessing total home games	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13)	Tournament	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams. U15 matches are played mid-week and on Sundays.
	Youth (U15)	2	
	Adult	5	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13) – Sun AM/PM	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey. Youth Hockey played mid-week. 80% Adult games played Sat PM and 20% some mid-week
	Youth (U15) – Mid-week	50%	
	Adult – Sat PM	80%	
5. Defining pitches required at peak demand taking into	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13) – Sun AM/PM	1	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up accounting for pitch capacity. Pitch capacity for Saturday PM is assumed to be 3 games per afternoon if facility has
	Youth (U15) – Mid-week	1	
	Adult – Sat PM	4 / 3 = 1.33 2 pitches	

account pitch capacity		(rounded up)	floodlights ⁽⁶³⁾ Capacity mid-week is set at 1 i.e. 1 match per evening.
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Hockey	3	All council and education owned pitches
	Youth	3	
	Adult	3	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶⁴⁾	Mini Hockey	3-1 = +2	Supply meeting demand
	Youth	3- 1 = +2	Supply meeting demand
	Adult	3 – 2=+1	Supply meeting demand

8.15 The results show that the supply of hockey facilities meets demand with 2 pitches surplus for both mini and youth hockey demand and just one in hand for senior. This is based on a quantitative analysis and assuming 1 hockey pitch can support 3 adult games on Saturday afternoon and 1 youth game on Sunday morning or a mid-week evening.

8.16 The picture for Scenario 2 for hockey in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where secondary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for competitive matches:-

Table 8.5: Hockey – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 – Pitches available for community use only

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13)	10	Based on the club survey
	Youth (U15)	2	
	Adult	5	
2. Calculating home games per team	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13)	Tournament	From the club survey all adult and youth teams play in different leagues i.e. don't play each other, therefore in particular for adult teams scheduling may mean they all have a home game on a
	Youth (U15)	1.0	
	Adult	1.0	

⁽⁶³⁾ With demand for games concentrated on Saturday afternoons the carrying capacity of an ATP pitch is assumed to be 3 games, 1.00pm-2.30pm; 2.30pm – 4.00pm; 4.00pm – 5.30pm, although the 4.00-5.30pm slot needs to have floodlight provision.

⁽⁶⁴⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

			Saturday afternoon. Mini blitz/tournament are once every 8 weeks
3. Assessing total home games	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13)	Tournament	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams. U15 matches are played mid-week and on Sundays.
	Youth (U15)	2	
	Adult	5	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13) – Sun AM/PM	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey. Youth Hockey played mid-week. Adult games played Sat PM and some mid-week
	Youth (U15) – Mid-week	50%	
	Adult – Sat PM	80%	
5. Defining pitches required at peak demand taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13) – Sun AM/PM	1	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up accounting for pitch capacity. Pitch capacity for Saturday PM is assumed to be 3 games per afternoon if facility has floodlights ⁽⁶⁵⁾ Capacity mid-week is set at 1 i.e. 1 match per evening.
	Youth (U15) – Mid-week	1/1=1	
	Adult – Sat PM	4 /3 = 1.33 2 pitches (rounded up)	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Hockey	2	All council and education owned pitches
	Youth	2	
	Adult	2	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶⁶⁾	Mini Hockey	2-1 = +1	Supply meeting demand
	Youth	2- 1 = +1	Supply meeting demand
	Adult	2 – 2= 0	Supply just meeting demand

8.17 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand for mini and youth hockey but only just meeting demand for senior hockey with no surplus. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:

⁽⁶⁵⁾ With demand for games concentrated on Saturday afternoons the carrying capacity of an ATP pitch is assumed to be 3 games, 1.00pm-2.30pm; 2.30pm – 4.00pm; 4.00pm – 5.30pm, although the 4.00-5.30pm slot needs to have floodlight provision.

⁽⁶⁶⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is meeting demand for mini and youth and no surplus for adult.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that hockey pitch capacity is 3 games on a Saturday afternoon and 80% of games are played then. A lower pitch capacity i.e. a third game from 4.00pm to 6.00pm cannot be played will result in that supply cannot meet demand.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that U15 games are played both mid-week and on Sundays as per Ulster Hockey fixtures – given that there are just two U15 teams supply meets demand.
- ❖ It is known that both AstroTurf pitches in Scenario 2 are also used for other sports training e.g. Castledearg High School pitch is used for association football, gaelic and rugby club training. This may reduce the availability for hockey training and matches if hockey is not given priority. St Columb’s AstroTurf pitch is also used extensively for association football training.

8.18 A third scenario can be modelled where only the Council’s AstroTurf pitch is used:-

Table 8.6: Hockey – Demand and Supply Scenario 3 – Council pitches only

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/ <i>team equivalents</i>	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13)	10	Based on the club survey
	Youth (U15)	2	
	Adult	5	
2. Calculating home games per team	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13)	Tournament	From the club survey all adult and youth teams play in different leagues i.e. don’t play each other, therefore in particular for adult teams scheduling may mean they all have a home game on a Saturday afternoon. Mini blitz/tournament are once every 8 weeks
	Youth (U15)	1.0	
	Adult	1.0	
3. Assessing total home games	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13)	Tournament	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams. U15 matches are played mid-week and on Sundays.
	Youth (U15)	2	
	Adult	5	
4. Establishing temporal demand	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13) – Sun AM/PM	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then

for games	Youth (U15) – Mid-week	50%	based on the survey. Youth Hockey played mid-week. Adult games played Sat PM and some mid-week
	Adult – Sat PM	80%	
5. Defining pitches required at peak demand taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Hockey (U9, U11, U13) – Sun AM/PM	1	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up accounting for pitch capacity. Pitch capacity for Saturday PM is assumed to be 3 games per afternoon if facility has floodlights ⁽⁶⁷⁾ Capacity mid-week is set at 1 i.e. 1 match per evening.
	Youth (U15) – Mid-week	1/1=1	
	Adult – Sat PM	4 /3 = 1.33 2 pitches (rounded up)	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Hockey	1	All council and education owned pitches
	Youth	1	
	Adult	1	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶⁸⁾	Mini Hockey	1-1 = 0	Supply just meeting demand
	Youth	1- 1 = 0	Supply just meeting demand
	Adult	1 – 2= -1	Supply not meeting demand

8.19 The results of scenario 3, where only the Council owned pitch is used, shows demand can be met for competitive matches for youth and mini but cannot meet demand for senior hockey games with an undersupply of 1 pitch calculated.

Community Impact

Match and Training Facility Barriers

8.20 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities, results are:-

⁽⁶⁷⁾ With demand for games concentrated on Saturday afternoons the carrying capacity of an ATP pitch is assumed to be 3 games, 1.00pm-2.30pm; 2.30pm – 4.00pm; 4.00pm – 5.30pm, although the 4.00-5.30pm slot needs to have floodlight provision.

⁽⁶⁸⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Barrier type	Match Facilities No. of clubs	Training Facilities No. of clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	2	3
Finding venues of suitable training surface	0	3
Availability of floodlit venues	-	2
Can't get booking slot	1	2
Condition of pitches	1	2
None	0	0

Comments

- ❖ Hire cost, finding suitable venues, booking slots and condition of pitches are barriers for three of the four hockey clubs.
- ❖ For example, Derg Valley Junior Hockey Club note the following in regard to match and training facilities:

“Due to pitch allocations we find that our training session can be crowded with around 45 children and 4 age groups – each group only has a quarter of a pitch – we would like to grow the boys section of the club but have difficulty in securing extra pitch time.”
- ❖ Priorians HC and Foyle HC both draw attention to the poor condition of the playing surface and ancillary facilities at St Columb’s AstroTurf pitch at the Foyle Arena.
- ❖ Foyle HC noted the failure to implement footwear rules for an AstroTurf pitch i.e. no footwear with studs (typically used for association football training and matches).

Playing Surface

8.21 As stipulated by the Ulster Hockey Union, all club competitive games are played on AstroTurf surfaces either water or sand based. As part of the online survey, clubs were asked to record their attitude to the AstroTurf - water based, AstroTurf -sand based and polymeric surfaces for training and for matches. The results are:-

Surface	Training - Number of clubs			Matches – Number of clubs		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
Polymeric	3	1	0	4	0	0
Astroturf- Sand Based	0	0	4	0	0	4
Astroturf- Water based	0	0	4	0	0	4

Comment

- ❖ All four clubs are not in favour of the use of polymeric surfaces for either training or matches
- ❖ All four clubs are in favour of using water based or sand-based AstroTurf pitches for matches and training. The clubs have noted equal preferences for both types of AstroTurf.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

8.22 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Membership	No of Clubs
Increase over the next 5 years	3
Stay the same	1
Decrease over the next 5 years	0

Comments

- ❖ Three clubs expect their membership to increase and one expects it stay the same.
 - ❖ Priorians HC note the following:-

We have seen a slight increase in pre-junior boys over the past 2/3 years and hope that it keeps up this would be due to boys bringing their friends along as they are enjoying hockey at our club. They may have enough boys in a few years to start a team. Our new coach is bringing new ideas to the club year in year or so we hope that this increases girls from ages 15 and up to come and join. If our facilities were better we would further increase our members as well. Our club is well organised now and with a bit more promotion we hope numbers increase across all boards as well.

Better links with post primary schools and success of junior sections.
 - ❖ Derg Valley Juniors has aspirations to increase boys hockey opportunities in the club but note there is no Council hockey pitch in the Strabane area and the club has difficulty booking extra training slots at Castlederg High School pitch.
 - ❖ Foyle HC note the following:

“With more TV coverage of the sport only during global events which feature Ireland at Olympics and World Cup for men &

women, I am hopeful that interest and demand will increase. The Foyle Arena itself has become a major draw for many other sports which it actively promotes and sells. However, council fails to have a marketing and promotional strategy and resources for numerous minority sports including hockey. Targeting schools with a sustainable coaching strategy would help. We doubt if there is any significant resource programme in place to include hockey in their development programme. Happy to facilitate if possible."

8.23 Table 8.8 presents the four hockey clubs' future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 8.8 – Full comments from the online survey and the public consultation in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Derg Valley Junior HC	There is the need for another AstroTurf pitch to be able to cater for older groups of children to enable them to train/play on full pitch allocations and also for matches against other clubs within the Western Junior Hockey League. It is difficult getting pitch allocations. We play Raphoe/Omagh/Enniskillen/Cavan/Cookstown/Priors/Foyle and it is really hard getting pitch allocations.	We feel there are not enough hockey facilities to allow for the sport to grow – we are keen to develop boys and mens hockey but cannot get pitch space.
Derg Valley Ladies HC		We are very lucky to be able to avail of the pitch at Castledearg High School Sports Pavilion. If it wasn't available, the club would have to travel further afield, where pitch location and availability is limited due to more clubs using the facilities. It would also mean travelling time to training and matches would increase, which could have a negative impact for members who already travel a considerable distance to these sessions, and at their own expense.
Foyle HC	We are looking to grow the club to one day have men's hockey again – we note that in order for hockey to grow across Derry City is the need for more hockey facilities in the city and in schools – most schools hockey is being played on tarmac and car parks. The AstroTurf at Foyle Arena is not well enough maintained and is being damaged by football footwear. There are no other suitable synthetic	DCSDC's current pitch strategy for the future appears evidently to be focused on 3G on top of existing natural grass pitches which the 'Big 3' sports aspire to play on competitively. This being the case would demonstrate a drive to supply need for demand for training facilities of the 'Big 3' Soccer, GAA &

	<p>hockey pitches in the whole of the Council area. In regard to the AstroTurf at Foyle Arena, issues regarding maintenance of the pitch, lines, goal equipment (including storage access to spares) persist. Slippage risks at autumn time with leaf and slime/ decay accumulations. Drainage problems leads to regular cancellations - blockages. Lighting outages leads to frequent cancellations / complaints. Familiarisation of council with risk assessments submitted by clubs for use of their facilities - meet with service users to progress issues and build relationships confidence. Staff specialist collective knowledge to deal with common problems and effectively resolve risks and concerns. Approachable management to facilitate their own staff achieve the above for equitable considerations.</p>	<p>Rugby and so preserve these natural facilities and costs of care and repair. Council appears evidently to have no-one to represent minority sports on DCSDC own internal 'Sports Council'. Big 3 have all the seats... hardly fair or transparent and equitable. We need more multi-sport surfaces within communities which allows for sports including minorities and ethnic groups and not solely soccer type sport which 3G curtails. Include wheelchair sports access and Bocce may be developed. Councils need to be reminded of their obligations to equitable facility provisions of acceptable ratios as per other councils.</p>
<p>Priorians HC</p>	<p>To further develop our club the pitch we now use would need to be cleaned up, patched up, new lines painted and maintained throughout the year. The leaves and branches should be cleared, and the pathways cleaned to stop any injuries occurring. Furthermore, the dugouts could be patched up and cleaned so that visiting teams do not sit in old/damaged, dirty dugouts. As far as the clubs development plan goes; we do not own or lease a pitch but only rent from the council so we are not in a position to undertake jobs to clean up the pitch ourselves. Therefore our development plan does not include pitch alterations. At the minute we have had complaints from umpires during senior 1 games of the state of the pitch. We have been told that if the pitch is not kept clean and regularly maintained then we will need to find a new home ground. This will cause many difficulties within the club, for instance people having to travel longer lengths for matches, booking certain time slots for training/matches etc. It may even lead to numbers dropping out of the club.</p> <p>We are a growing club and travel all round province playing against quality teams. Their facilities are in no comparison to ours in NW. ulster hockey have spoken to us all season about poor condition of our pitch and advised us to change facilities. This is a great location for our club, but we would need a place to play with easily seen lines, and a surface in</p>	<p>It would be terrible to see the last suitable hockey pitch in the Derry area go. Our club has been using the pitch at Foyle arena for many years now and visiting teams are used to our home ground being where it is. The new centre is fantastic it's just a shame that the pitch is not to the same standard. Furthermore, it would have been great to have a cafe/tea room on site to bring both the home teams and visiting teams to and maybe some shelter for supporters. However, we have had to out source these facilities as the centre is not suitable.</p>

	<p>much better condition. On an additional note staff who knew how to turn on flood lights when required to ensure safety of all participants would be preferable.</p>	
<p>Ulster Hockey Union</p>	<p>From a hockey sports development view, we are struggling to develop the sport due to poor facilities. The condition of the pitch at Foyle Arena may result in the 2 clubs folding (Priorians HC and Foyle HC). We struggle to find pitch time to allow for coach education, and development squad sessions.</p>	<p>Ulster Hockey would like to bring large scale events to Derry and Strabane but struggle due to poor facilities. We would like to provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach education • More blitzes/regional tournaments for young people • Talent Development Squads • Cross community programmes • Women and girls programmes • Summer camp • Improve club school links • Veteran hockey programme • And more!

Summary

8.24 The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work inform a number of key points at this audit stage:-

- ❖ *Adequacy of provision* shows the following result for Scenario 2 for matches at peak demand:

Mini-hockey	+1
Youth	+1
Adult	+0

- ❖ It is noted there is only one Council owned synthetic Astroturf hockey pitch; adequacy of provision therefore relies on the use of Castlederg High School synthetic hockey pitch – Derg Valley Junior and Senior clubs are based here.

- ❖ Hockey is a minority sport in the Council area, however all four clubs aspire to grow their membership. Participation is mostly female but three of the clubs hope to grow male participation.

- ❖ The condition of the playing surface at the St Columb's AstroTurf pitch at Foyle Arena is a concern to both Priorians HC and Foyle HC. Priorians HC note that Ulster Hockey has inspected the Foyle Arena pitch and advised the club to seek an alternative home base due to the condition of the hockey facilities there.

- ❖ Schools hockey is an important factor in the development of club hockey. Each of the four clubs has a link with a local hockey playing post primary school from which it draws players. This school-club link in hockey is found elsewhere throughout the Province. This link alongside the unsuitability of shale pitches for hockey training or matches has led increasingly to hockey playing post primary schools looking to develop on-site AstroTurf pitches. Through consultation it's noted that the recently opened Foyle College has a full-size synthetic AstroTurf pitch – the college has a community use policy. In addition, Strabane Academy is currently undergoing redevelopment with a new school build under construction at the Derry Road site in Strabane town – an AstroTurf hockey pitch is included in Phase 1 of the build.

- ❖ As the Council thinks about future facility provision for hockey, the growth in the popularity of 3G pitches for large ball sports (mostly for training) needs to be considered. AstroTurf pitches came to be regarded as multi-sport, however the advent of 3G technology for ATP's has resulted in AstroTurf pitches being replaced by 3G pitches which are more suited to large ball sports. The development of Melvin 3G multi-sport pitch may free up extra slots for hockey training and matches at Castlederg High School.

9. Rugby

Introduction

9.1 This section presents an overview of supply of and demand for rugby pitches; an assessment of adequacy of provision is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM). There are two rugby clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and junior rugby. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact
- ❖ Summary

Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

9.2 Rugby is played on a grass pitch where the field of play does not exceed 100 metres in length and the in-goal does not exceed 22 metres in length. Whilst there appears no minimum width, the maximum width must not exceed 70 metres. There are two rugby clubs in the Council area: Derry City Rugby Football Club (RFC) and Strabane RFC; a third club, YMCA RFC, folded a few years ago. Strabane RFC does not own pitch facilities; currently the club plays home senior matches at Strabane Academy school pitch and Finn Valley pitch in County Donegal. The club also uses Spamount Council pitches for underage tournaments. There are no full-size grass pitches dedicated to rugby under Council ownership. The recently developed 3G multi-sports pitch at Melvin Sports Complex can accommodate rugby training and matches if the specification is compliant with the Irish Rugby Football Union guidelines for artificial turf pitches. The inventory of rugby pitches in the Council area is presented in Table 9.1. under three different types of pitch 'ownership': -

- ❖ **Derry City & Strabane District Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.
- ❖ **Club owned/leased**– pitches owned and maintained by a rugby football club.

9.3 Table 9.1 presents a detailed inventory of rugby pitches suitable for competitive matches and training – see Map 9.1 for location. Two pitch categories are noted:-

- ❖ **Full** – pitches used for matches of all ages and training.
- ❖ **Youth** – pitches used for Youth only matches and training of all ages.

RUGBY

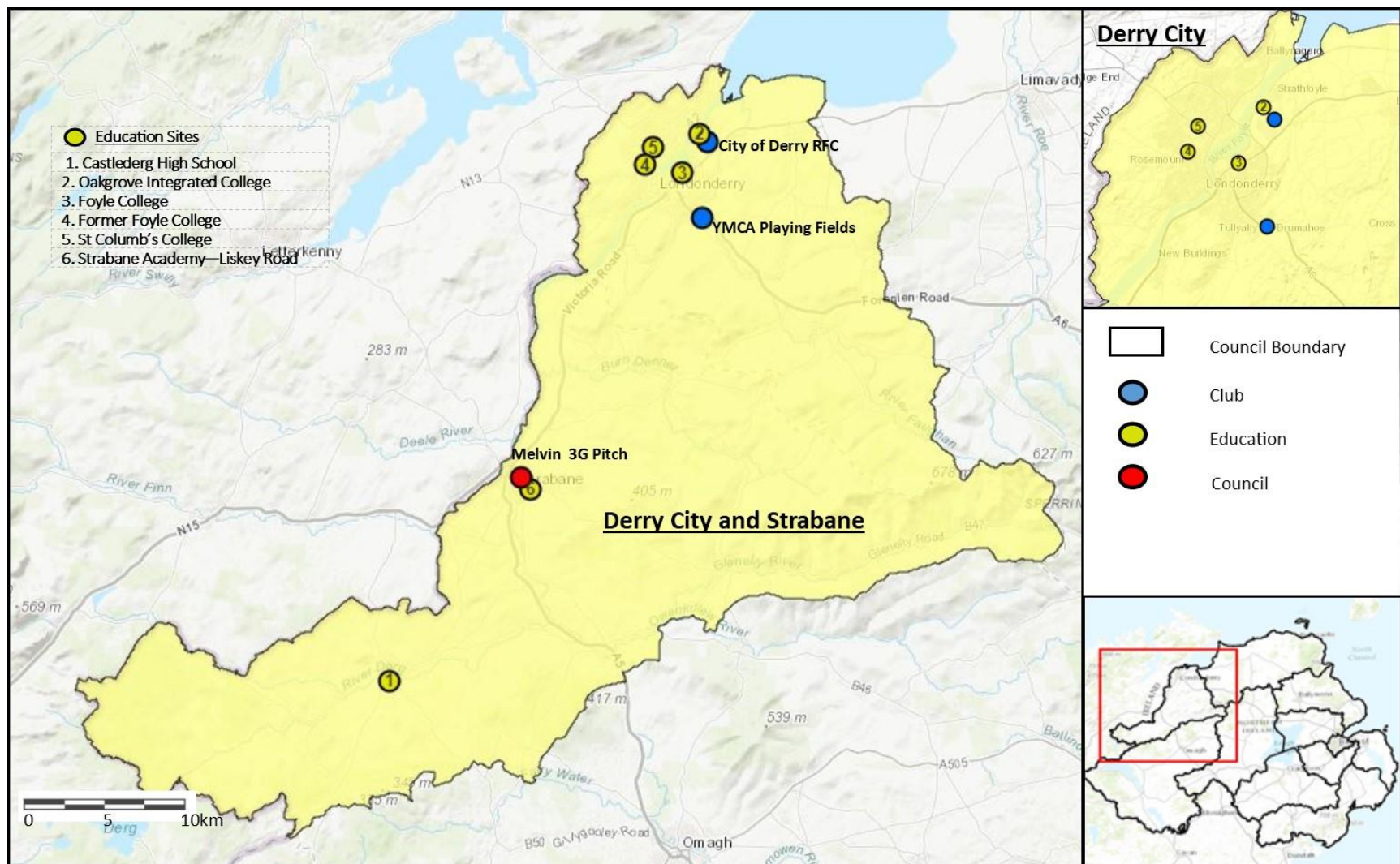


Table 9.1 Rugby –Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches in Derry City and Strabane District Council under Council, Education and Club Ownership.

Clubs				
Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
City of Derry RFC – The Craig Thompson Stadium	Derry City	3 x Full Grass 1 x Youth	2 x Good 1 x Standard 1 x Unknown	Large club located on the outskirts of Derry City – the club recently applied for Peace IV grant to further develop the site to 3G multi-sports pitch and an indoor hall. Two if the full grass pitches are floodlit.
YMCA	Derry Rural	2 x Full Grass 1 x Youth	3 x Poor	Club has folded – pitches not been used for a number of years and were flood damaged in August 2017.
Totals 5 x Full Grass Rugby Pitches 2 x Youth Rugby Pitch				
Council				
Melvin Sports Complex	Strabane Town	1 x Full 3G	1 x Unknown	Opened in April 2018 – pitch is marked for rugby, gaelic and association football
Total 1 x 3G Multi- sports pitch marked for rugby				
Education				
Castledearg High School	Strabane Rural	1 x Full grass	1 x Good	The school pitches are used by the community in particular the AstroTurf hockey pitch – the school has aspirations to develop a full size 3G pitch suitable for a range of sports.
Oakgrove Integrated College	Derry City	1 x Full grass	1 x Good	Community use of the rugby pitch not known – the school has a community hire agreement in place.
Foyle College – Limavady Road	Derry City	2 x Full grass 2 x Youth grass	4 x Good	New school facility opened September 2017 – the school is open to community use – agreement policy to be finalised
Former Foyle College – Northland Road	Derry City	1 x Full Grass 2 x Youth	Unknown	Foyle College has moved to a new build on Limavady Road – future use of the former school pitches not known.

St Columb's College	Derry City	1 x Full Grass	Unknown	School has community use of grass and 3G association football pitches – community use of the rugby pitch not known.
Strabane Academy – Liskey Road	Strabane Town	1 x Full Grass	Unknown	Strabane Rugby club play some of their adult homes matches here. The school is being relocated to a new build at Derry Road – not known what the future use of the school's pitches will look like.
Totals 7x Full Grass Rugby Pitches 5 x Youth Grass Rugby Pitches				

- 9.4 Derry City RFC reports that rugby training takes place at the club's own facility; Strabane RFC makes use of Newtownstewart 3G training pitch and Castlederg High School Astroturf pitch.

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

- 9.5 Typically, rugby clubs train and play matches on the same pitch. Given that this is a winter sport, careful pitch maintenance is required to ensure pitch quality throughout the season. A summary and breakdown of current rugby pitches used for matches and training by ownership is given below.

Summary of Rugby Pitches used for matches and training			
Ownership	Full Grass / 3G	Youth Grass	Training (AstroTurf, 3G)
Clubs	5	2	0
Education	7	4	1 x AstroTurf
DC&SDC	1	0	1 x 3G training
Total	13	6	2

Summary of Quality of Pitches

- 9.6 A summary and breakdown of current full and youth match pitch provision by quality is:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Grass Rugby Pitches (Full and Youth)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs	2	1	3	1	7
Education	7	0	0	4	11
Council	0	0	0	1	1
Total	9	1	3	6	19

Clubs, Teams and Players

9.7 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There are two rugby clubs in Derry City & Strabane District Council area. Both clubs completed questionnaires, producing an accurate picture of membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations. Both clubs satisfy the following criteria:-

- ❖ Home match pitch is located within Derry City & Strabane District Council area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- ❖ Use pitches within Derry City & Strabane District Council area for training.
- ❖ Over 50% of team members live within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

9.8 The two clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing the number of adult, and youth teams.

Table 9.2: Rugby Club Team Profile				
Club	Mini (U7 to U12)	Youth (U13 to U18)	Adult	Total No. of Teams
City of Derry RFC	6 x male	3 x male	4 x male, 1 x female	14
Strabane RFC	4 x male 3 x female	1 x male	3 x male	11
Totals	13	4	8	25

9.9 There is a total of 25 rugby teams in the Council area from U7 to adult; these are predominantly male teams. However, both clubs have girls attending their mini-sections (primary school age group) and City of Derry RFC has an adult female team. As in common with most other field sports rugby provides for small sided games through Rugby Mini. Here matches are played on varying pitch sizes and team numbers depending on age group. Small pitches are created on full-size pitches with the aid of cones.

9.10 The profile of teams and player numbers in the two identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 9.3 Rugby Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams based in DC&SDC			
	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	190	40	230
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	130	9	139
Adult	180	20	200
Total Players	500	69	569
<u>Teams</u>			
Mini (U7 to U12)	10	3	13
Youth (U13 to U18)	4	0	4
Adult	7	1	8
Total Teams	21	4	25

Adequacy of Provision

9.11 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches	<p>Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.</p> <p>Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.</p> <p>Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.</p>
Used by community but not secured	<p>Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.</p>
Not open for community use	<p>Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.</p>

9.12 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision of rugby pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of rugby it is assumed that all adult, youth and mini games are played on full size pitches – youth pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are generally not used for competitive games.

Reference	Description	No. of full size grass pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	12
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	3
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	0

9.13 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following full-size grass pitches have been excluded – all education pitches are excluded as they are generally not available for community use.

Pitch site	No. of Pitches	Rationale
Education	7	Generally, not available for matches
YMCA	2	Pitches unused for a number of years and currently flood damaged

9.14 The pitch breakdown for each scenario for full and youth grass match pitches available for adult, youth and mini games are:-

<u>Pitch Site</u>	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	Full Grass	Full Grass	Full Grass
Clubs			
All	5	3	0
Education			
Secondary	7	0	0
Council			
DC&SDC	0	0	0
Totals	12	3	0

Comments:-

- ❖ The above table records the number of full size grass pitches used in each scenario.
- ❖ Youth, adult and mini matches are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude 7 education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available. Although Strabane RFC uses Strabane Academy school pitch on occasions, it is reportedly not always available.
- ❖ Full size 3G pitches are not included in any of the scenarios as they appear not to be generally used for competitive matches – the preference is for grass surfaces.

Adequacy

9.15 The picture of *rugby total demand and total supply for Scenario 1*, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 9.4: Rugby – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches			
Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Mini (U7 to U12)	2*	Mini- games are played on adult pitches. It is estimated that eight mini teams are equivalent to 1 adult team. *The identified 13 mini-teams are equivalent to 2 adult teams.
	Youth (U13 to U18)	4	
	Adult	7 ⁽⁶⁹⁾	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Mini (U7 to U12)	0.5	Based on a home game/blitz every other week and accounting for teams playing in different leagues
	Youth (U13 to U18)	0.75	
	Adult	0.75	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Mini (U7 to U12)	1	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U13 to U18)	3	
	Adult	6	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat 12 - 2	80%	
	Adult – Sat PM	80%	
5. Defining pitches	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	1	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up –

⁽⁶⁹⁾ The one Ladies team is not included as Ladies matches are generally played on Sundays.

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required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat AM	3	it is assumed a pitch can take 2 games a youth game and an adult game on the same day.
	Adult – Sat PM	5	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini	12	All club and education owned pitches
	Youth	12	
	Adult	12	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁷⁰⁾	Mini	12-1 = +11	Good Level of Supply
	Youth	12-3 = +9	Good Level of Supply
	Adult	12-5 = +7	

9.16 The results show that the supply of rugby facilities meets demand with 18 pitches surplus for both junior and senior rugby demand. This is based on a quantitative analysis and assuming one rugby pitch can support mini rugby, a junior and senior match as calculated from the club survey.

9.17 The picture for Scenario 2 for rugby in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where secondary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for competitive matches:-

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Mini (U7 to U12)	2*	Mini- games are played on adult pitches. It is estimated that eight mini teams are equivalent to 1 adult team. *The identified 13 mini-teams are equivalent to 2 adult teams.
	Youth (U13 to U18)	4	
	Adult	7 ⁽⁷¹⁾	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Mini (U7 to U12)	0.5	Based on a home game/blitz every other week and accounting for teams playing in different leagues
	Youth (U13 to U18)	0.75	
	Adult	0.75	

⁽⁷⁰⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

⁽⁷¹⁾ The one Ladies team is not included as Ladies matches are generally played on Sundays.

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3. Assessing total home games per week	Mini (U7 to U12)	1	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U13 to U18)	3	
	Adult	6	
4. Establishing temporal peak demand for games	Mini (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat 12 - 2	80%	
	Adult – Sat PM	80%	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	1	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up – it is assumed a pitch can take 2 games a youth game and an adult game on the same day.
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat AM	3	
	Adult – Sat PM	5	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini	3	All club and education owned pitches
	Youth	3	
	Adult	3	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁷²⁾	Mini	3-1 = +2	Supply meeting demand
	Youth	3 - 3 = 0	Supply just meeting demand
	Adult	3 - 5 = -2	Supply not meeting demand

9.18 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand for competitive games for mini and youth age groups but there is a shortfall of 2 pitches in supply for adult games. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is not meeting demand for adult male competitive games – currently Strabane RFC does not have a home pitch and play their matches at Strabane Academy and Finn Valley in County Donegal.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that rugby pitch capacity is two games on a Saturday, a youth match in the morning and an adult game in the afternoon. A lower pitch capacity will reduce the modelled surplus.

⁽⁷²⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

- ❖ Scenario 2 does not include use of 3G facilities for adult or youth matches as these were not recorded as used in the club survey. 3G pitches are not widely accepted yet for matches.
- ❖ Scenario 2 as presented does not account for training which also takes place on most rugby pitches in addition to matches. Derry City RFC report that the club growth is being constrained by the lack of training pitch facilities. Strabane RFC is homeless using a number of different venues to deliver training.

9.19 A third scenario can be modelled where only Council pitches are used. As there is just one grass Council pitch suitable for rugby (a multi-sports pitch), demand can clearly not be met.

Pitch Use and Capacity – online survey

9.20 From the online survey one of the clubs recorded the number of hours their two main pitches, on average, are used for training and matches each week:-

Club	Pitch 1		Pitch 2		Pitch 3	
	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)
City of Derry RFC	6	5	8	5	6	5
Strabane RFC	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed

Comments

- ❖ Derry RFC report 20 hours training in total per week for all teams and 15 hours of matches across all three pitches – each pitch on average receives approximately 11 hours use per week.

Community Impact

Match and Training Facility Barriers

9.21 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities. Results are:-

Barrier type	Match Facilities No. of clubs	Training Facilities No. of clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	0	0
Finding venues of suitable condition	0	1
Availability of floodlit venues	-	1
Can't get booking slot	1	0
Condition of pitches	1	2
None	0	0

Comments

- ❖ Strabane RFC make the following comment with regard to match facilities:-

“We are trying to develop mini, youth, ladies and senior rugby in the Strabane area, however, the council simply have not been able to provide pitches or facilities. This has meant that we have had to cancel, rearrange and even play games in Donegal due to the desperate shortage of pitches. This is seriously affecting our ability to grow and develop the game. We would prefer to have a pitch leased/provided to us by the council. We also do not want to travel to Donegal to play home games.”

- ❖ Both rugby clubs note condition of pitches makes training difficult at times when the weather is poor.

Playing Surface

- 9.22** Competitive sport is increasingly being played on artificial surfaces. 3G surfaces are officially sanctioned by the IRFU. From the club survey both clubs indicated they are either favourable or neutral to using 3G surfaces for training and matches. One club notes that: -

“The council has no All Weather 3G surface Insurable under World Rugby Union Regulation 22 for rugby either partial or full size.”

Membership Growth and Future Plans

- 9.23** Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Both clubs expect to grow further particularly for the female section of the club.

9.24 Table 9.6 presents the two rugby clubs' future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 9.6 – Full comments from the online survey

Future Plans / Any Other Comment	
City of Derry RFC	<p>City of Derry Rugby Club at Judges Road, Londonderry is a shared space in the community that embraces all sports.</p> <p>The following Gaelic Clubs in the North West have used our facilities for training; Doire Colmcille, Steelstown, Ardmore, Slaughtmanus, Faughanvale and Muff.</p> <p>The Soccer teams that have used our facilities are; Institute, Newbuildings, Eglinton and Oxford. The American Football Team Derry and Donegal Vipers play their fixture at our Club. The local Archery Club also use our facilities.</p> <p>The game of rugby is expanding in the North West with every Secondary School Boys and Girls in the City having had the game coached in their schools. These schools are being serviced by a Community Rugby Officer who is employed by City of Derry RFC and Ulster Rugby. The CCRO is also running coaching sessions in the Local Primary Schools and this initiative will increase numbers in the Mini and Youth Boys and Teenage Girls Sections of the Club. The Numbers playing Rugby in the City are expected to increase by 35% over the next 5yrs. There is no provision of Rugby Pitches either synthetic or grass in this Council area and in the city in particular. Rugby football has been totally ignored by this Council and its Predecessor. The Derry City and Strabane District Council (DC&SDCC) Playing Pitch Strategies update report provided an update on progress against the two playing pitch strategies produced for the former Derry City & Strabane District Councils in 2012 & 2009 respectively. It treated the Sport of Rugby Football as if it did not exist. It deals with projects completed for various codes which City of Derry Rugby Club totally support but note the total absence of Rugby.</p> <p>The current provision is totally inadequate at Prehen and at Templemore. Claiming that Rugby can be played crossways over Two Soccer pitches is a way of claiming council is providing what it is not, ITS AN INSULT TO THE COMMUNITY.</p> <p>Grass pitches need to be rested and there is already a total under supply of soccer pitches in the City. A Minority but a rapidly Expanding Sport like Rugby played by a Totally Cross Community Club will never be comfortable competing for those pitches on a Saturday morning in non-neutral areas of the City What will happen in the interest of good community relationships is that we will stand aside.</p> <p>The locations at the Brandywell (Daisyfield) and Irish -Clodermott street are areas with a history of visiting vehicles being vandalised. They are not venues we can be comfortable going to if we are displacing other codes, The council has no All Weather 3G surface Insurable under World Rugby Union Regulation 22 for rugby either partial or full size. Nor has the council plans to meet this deficit.</p>

We note council has worked with other institutions to deliver pitches on land it does not own in the past. We have 32 acres at Judges Road which we own ourselves. We are however prepared to discuss entering into a sale and long-term lease back, or a lease to Council of land we own to achieve the above objectives. We also note that we have a long tradition of being good neighbours to the GAA, Soccer and other Sporting Community in the North West providing training facilities at Judges Road. Given that our season closes over the summer and that we seldom play on a Sunday we are open to discussing sharing some of the proposed facilities with the GAA. City of Derry Rugby Club believe that in conjunction with Derry and Strabane District Council City we can develop a 3G Full-size Floodlit Hurling Pitch that is World Rugby Section 22 Compliant with Changing Facilities. That facility will service all Sports and enable Council to be Section 75 Compliant.

Strabane RFC We are out-growing ourselves as we do not have adequate provision of pitches. We are growing and have lots of interest from new boys, girls and senior members, however we simply do not have enough pitches to play on to cater for all our age groups.

We would prefer to have a pitch leased/provided to us by the council. We also do not want to travel to Donegal to play home games.

We are trying to develop mini, youth, ladies and senior rugby in the Strabane area, however, the council simply have not been able to provide pitches or facilities. This has meant that we have had to cancel, rearrange and even play games in Donegal due to the desperate shortage of pitches. This is seriously affecting our ability to grow and develop the game

Summary

9.25 The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Rugby clubs tend to train and play matches on club pitches where changing accommodation and social facilities are also available. With just two clubs, rugby is a minority sport in the Council area, however a total of 25 teams are fielded across the two clubs involving 569 players from 6 years of age through to adult; only 69 players are female. City of Derry RFC has an adult female team. As with association football the under-representation of female players presents an opportunity for future sports development programmes. Both clubs embrace and view an increase in female participation as an area for growth.

- ❖ Looking at adequacy of provision Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches:-

Mini's	+2 pitches	Supply meeting demand
Youth	+0 pitches	Supply just meeting demand
Adult	-2 pitches	Supply not meeting demand

- ❖ Strabane RFC does not have a home ground and delivers matches and training across a number of venues including: Strabane Academy, Finn Valley Grounds (Co. Donegal), Strabane Cricket Club, Spamount Playing Fields, Meadows Playing Field, Castlederg High School and others.
- ❖ There are no dedicated Council owned grass rugby pitches, however the recently developed 3G multi-sports pitch at Melvin Sports Complex is expected to be suitable for rugby training and matches.