



STOCKTON-ON-TEES

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY UPDATE PAPER

JULY 2016

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) update paper for Stockton-On-Tees Council. The paper has been prepared to demonstrate the impact of playing pitch developments that have taken place in the Borough since the completion of the PPS in July 2015.

The paper highlights the areas in which the developments have taken place and the impact on the supply and demand analysis. In particular, it considers the impact on lapsed or disused pitches as a result of new or improved pitches, either through creation of new pitches or established pitches being made available. The focus for the update is Central & Western Analysis Area as this is where most change has occurred.

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PART 2: PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY UPDATES

A number of updates have been made to the supply model in Stockton-On-Tees and this section considers the impact of these changes on a sport-by-sport basis. It should be noted that it is assumed that demand for pitches has not changed.

2.1: Football

Current picture – PPS July 2015

The PPS highlighted that there were a number of shortfalls for football. In part, this was due to quality and the low carrying capacity of pitches. The table below indicates the shortfalls/spare capacity for each format of the game in match equivalent sessions:

Table 2.1: Adult provision

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Central & Western	6.5	1	1	1.5	3	1.5	1.5
Stockton-on-Tees	18	1	3.5	2	11.5	6	5.5

Table 2.2: Youth provision

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Central & Western	0.5	-	-	2	-1.5	11	-12.5
Stockton-on-Tees	4	0.5	0.5	8.5	-5.5	22.5	-28

Table 2.3: Mini provision

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Central & Western	1	-	-	10.5	-9.5	11	-20.5
Stockton-on-Tees	2	-	-	17	-15	20.5	-35.5

Table 2.4: 3G AGP provision

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Central & Western	88	1.6 (2)	1	1
Stockton-on-Tees	199	5	3	2

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Supply update – July 2016

The changes to the grass football pitch stock is detailed below.

Table 2.4: Changes to grass pitch supply

Site	Analysis Area	Comments	Potential capacity (match sessions at peak time)
Ian Ramsey Secondary School	Central & Western	Following the redevelopment of the school there are now four good quality youth football pitches which are securely available with a community use agreement in place.	4 youth sessions
Grangefield Acadmey	Central & Western	Following the redevelopment of the school there is now one good quality youth football pitch and one adult pitch which are securely available with a community use agreement in place.	1 adult session 1 youth session
Norton Sports Complex	Central & Western	Stockton Rugby Club was previously using the site but has relocated to Grangefield Academy. Although specifics are unknown it is likely that the two rugby pitches on site will now be re-configured to two adult football pitches (standard quality).	2 adult session

Table 2.5: Changes to the 3G pitch stock

Site	Analysis Area	Comments
Our Lady & St Bedes School/ Stockton Town FC	Central & Western	A new full size 3G pitch is in operation at the site and can accommodate competitive matches. Using FA programming principles for matches the pitch could easily accommodate up to 12 mini match equivalent sessions at peak time.

Impact on supply and demand analysis

Table 2.6: Adult provision

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Central & Western	9.5	1	1	1.5	6	1.5	4.5
Stockton-on-Tees	21	1	3.5	2	14.5	6	8.5

Given that access to an additional adult grass pitch is now available, spare capacity on adult pitches has increased by three.

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Table 2.7: Youth provision

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Central & Western	5.5	-	-	2	3.5	11	-7.5
Stockton-on-Tees	9	0.5	0.5	8.5	-0.5	22.5	-23

The table above indicates that current demand for youth football is now being met in the Central & Western Analysis Area. It also shows that across Stockton as a whole there is now only a minimum shortfall. Future demand still shows some shortfalls but this is driven by the large amount of future growth that is predicted.

Table 2.8: Mini provision

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Central & Western	13	-	-	10.5	2.5	11	-8.5
Stockton-on-Tees	14	-	-	17	-3	20.5	-23.5

The table above indicates that by being able to accommodate match play on 3G the current demand for mini football is now being met in the Central & Western Analysis Area. It also shows that across Stockton as a whole there is now only a minimum shortfall. Future demand still shows some shortfalls but again this is driven by the large amount of future growth that is predicted.

Table 2.9: 3G AGP provision

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Central & Western	88	1.6 (2)	2	-
Stockton-on-Tees	199	5	4	1

The development of a 3G pitch at Our Lady & St Bedes School/ Stockton Town FC means that there is no current shortfall of 3G pitches in the Central & Western Analysis Area and the shortfall across Stockton as a whole has been reduced to one. Further developments of 3G pitches will not only support training but can also offer additional capacity for match play, particularly for minis, as indicated in Table 2.3.

The Council is committed to working towards the FA aspiration of “over 50% of all mini soccer and youth football matches being played on AGPs by 2020.” Following this commitment, it is likely that all future demand for these formats of the game can be accommodated.

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Summary

The tables above identify that the shortfalls for football have been significantly reduced, not just in the Central & Western Analysis Area but therefore overall across Stockton as well. There are no current shortfalls of any format in the Central & Western Analysis Area. Furthermore, if adult pitches could be re-configured to accommodate mini and/or youth play, and going forward more mini and youth play is transferred to 3G pitches, it is likely that future demand can be accommodated.

2.2: Cricket

Overall for cricket in Stockton the PPS identified a slight surplus. In the Central & Western Analysis Area overplay amounted to the need to access one additional pitch. Following the developments at Ian Ramsay Secondary School there is now one artificial wicket available for community use. This could help to reduce overplay, particularly for junior matches and demand can therefore be met.

2.3: Rugby union

Current picture – PPS July 2015

The PPS highlighted that there were some shortfalls identified for rugby. In part, this was due to training being accommodated on match pitches. The table below indicates the shortfalls/spare capacity in match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.10: Capacity in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current demand	Future demand	Total
Central & Western	-	3	-	3	-	3
Stockton-on-Tees	0.5	7.5	0	7	4	11

Table 2.11: Changes to grass pitch supply

Site	Analysis Area	Comments	Potential capacity (match sessions)
Grangefield Academy	Central & Western	Following the redevelopment of the school there are now two full size rugby pitches and a separate training area with a community use agreement in place. Stockton RFC has therefore moved from Norton Sports Complex to the Academy to gain access to additional pitches.	at least 3 sessions

¹ In match equivalent sessions

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Table 2.12: Capacity in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current demand	Future demand	Total
Central & Western	-	3	-	-	-	3
Stockton-on-Tees	0.5	7.5	0	4	4	8

The additional match equivalent sessions that can be accommodated on the training pitch will mean that all current and future demand will be met for rugby in the Central & Western Analysis Area.

2.4: Hockey

There are no changes to the supply and demand analysis for hockey. The PPS identified that current and future demand for hockey is being met, however, qualitative improvements are required for the pitch located within the Central & Western Analysis Area.

2.5: Impact on lapsed and disused pitches

The table below identifies lapsed/disused pitches in the Central & Western Analysis Area and the recommended action from the PPS July 2015.

Table 2.13: Lapsed/disused sites in Central & Western Analysis Area

Site	Management	Current status	Recommended actions
(Former) Blakeston School Site	Education/ Local Authority	Disused/lapsed site. Previous football provision on site.	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches
Bluehall Recreation Ground	Local Authority	Disused/lapsed site. Previous football provision on site.	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches
(Former) Norton School Site	Education/ Local Authority	Disused/lapsed site. Previous football provision on site.	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches

From a football point of view, the evidence outlined in Section 2.1 identifies that in the Central & Western Analysis Area the improvements and additional pitches/availability have addressed current shortfalls that were identified in the PPS.

There are still future shortfalls but it is likely that the current pitch stock, coupled with additional transfer of mini and youth play to 3G pitches will result in future demand being accommodated in the area. Over time, it is likely to result in at least some, if not all, of the lapsed/disused pitches being surplus to requirements for football.

In order to identify that pitches are surplus to requirements, evidence that there is no unmet demand for any grass pitch sports must be shown. As the previous section highlighted,

² In match equivalent sessions

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notwithstanding some qualitative improvements, demand from the other pitch sports is being met in Central & Western Analysis Area.

In some cases lapsed and disused sites may have fallen out of use because they are not fit for purpose, either because they are too small to provide enough pitches to be sustainable or that there is no infrastructure such as changing facilities in place. Alternatively, quality of the sites may remain poor regardless of investment, due to such factors as soil quality and drainage. Where this is the case, it may be better to re-provide the pitches elsewhere if necessary.

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PART 3: CONCLUSIONS

The analysis above shows that there have been a number of changes to the supply of pitches in Stockton in the previous 12 months, all of which have added capacity to the stock.

In the Central & Western Analysis Area, the changes show that there are now no current shortfalls across the pitch sports. Future shortfalls have been reduced but remain for football, however, it is likely that the current pitch stock, coupled with the continued transfer of mini and youth play to 3G pitches will result in future demand being accommodated in the area. Notwithstanding qualitative improvements, future demand for the other pitch sports is now being met.