Playing Pitch Strategy & Sports Facilities Update Paper

Test Valley Borough Council

February 2022









1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Test Valley Borough Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) were approved in 2020. In order to ensure these strategies remain up to date, they are kept under review.
- 1.2 This update paper brings together the relevant information to ensure the PPS and SFS are kept up to date.
- **1.3** This document provides an update up to and including December 2021.

2. Background

- 2.1 The PPS & SFS were produced to provide an assessment of sport and recreation facility needs across the Borough and understand how this may change in the future. The PPS looked specifically at the pitch based sports of cricket, football, hockey and rugby. The SFS generally focus on those sports and activities that may include a need for built sports facilities such as sports halls and swimming pools. However, the two strategies need to be considered together.
- 2.2 In preparing the strategies, input was sought from local clubs, parish councils, schools and a range of other organisations. The work was co-ordinated by a steering group including the Council, Sport England, Energise Me, and the

- Governing Bodies for Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby.
- 2.3 An action plan was prepared for each strategy, based on the understanding of current and future needs for the sports and activities. The actions involve a range of partner organisations, with some focusing on specific sites, whilst others are relevant across the Borough.
- 2.4 Sport England's PPS guidance¹ highlights the importance of keeping the strategies up to date and robust, including through regular reviews. Such reviews should be undertaken with the input of the partner organisations that formed part of the steering group for the preparation of the strategy. It is recommended that the following matters are considered as part of the review:
 - How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others);
 - Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues;

- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport;
- How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt; and
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.
- 2.5 This update paper seeks to bring information together to cover all of the above points. It focuses on providing an update on progress in delivering the action plans, as well as identifying emerging issues and opportunities. It has been prepared with input from the Council, Sport England, Energise Me, and the Governing Bodies for Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby.
- 2.6 As part of this update, the assessment of the quality of pitches has not been reviewed; nor has the supply and demand been recalculated. But the document does include a section which provides information on supply changes since the last PPS, and an anecdotal update from National Governing Bodies on demand in 2021 which looks at how teams have changed during their first season return post Covid restriction.
- 2.7 It is recognised that the Covid-19 pandemic will have had an effect on sport, leisure and recreation activities. It would therefore be appropriate to defer any review of the baseline until circumstances become more settled as we move past recovery.

Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy, Sport England, 2013.

3. Drivers for Sport and Recreation

The Local Plan

- 3.1 The adopted Local Plan remains the same as when the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy were prepared, namely the Revised Local Plan Development Plan Document 2011 2029.
- 3.2 Within the Local Plan, chapter 8 considers the theme of leisure, health and wellbeing. The Council is continuing to prepare the next Local Plan for the Borough, with a refined Issues and Options consultation having taken place in 2020.
- 3.3 As set out within the objectives of the two strategies, they will provide an evidence base for the next Local Plan in relation to playing pitches and sports facilities including protecting and enhancing the existing provisions and informing the approach to improving and enhancing facilities to include accounting for changes in population and demographics. The timescales for preparing the next Local Plan were updated in September 2021.

3.4 More information on the next Local Plan is available at: www.testvalley.gov.uk/ planning-and-building/planningpolicy/ local-development-framework

Covid - 19

- 3.5 It would be remiss not to note the significant impact that Covid-19 has had on sport and participation since the documents were released in 2020. Therefore this initial update will not deal with a recalculation of supply and demand but will focus on significant changes to the Borough's sporting infrastructure and review progress made to date on the documents' action plans.
- 3.6 Coronavirus is likely to be one of the most disruptive events for sport and recreation for at least a generation. Although there is some information available which looks to capture this disruption, the full impact is still emerging.
- 3.7 The UK Active 2021 paper "A decade of change" provides an insight into how people's habits and attitudes to activity has changed already since Coronavirus first took hold. This research, alongside the data that emerges in the years to come sets out a key evidence point which should be considered when looking at how activity is delivered. The Council and other stakeholders will continue to follow the research as it emerges.

- 3.8 In 2020 and 2021, we have seen formal and informal sport being forced to operate under heavy restriction and for most sports, there have been times where its play has been banned altogether by law.
- 3.9 At the time of starting to prepare this update, restrictions were still in place which impacted participation, play, and spectate sport and active recreation. And although sport now returns to "normal" rules, the long term impact and behaviour change is here to stay.
- 3.10 That said there have been packages of support created to help the sport and activity sector through these unprecedented times, which have supported clubs and organisations across the Borough, these include;
 - Sport England's Return to Play Fund
 - Sport England's National Leisure Recovery Fund
 - RFU: Rugby Union Winter Survival Fund
 - RFU: Immediate Support Fund
 - Test Valley Borough Council: Councillor Grant
 - ECB: Return to Cricket Fund
 - ECB: Inspired to Play Fund
 - UK Government's Small Business Grant.

Strategy Development

- 3.11 New strategies have emerged in 2021 which will support the delivery of the action plans in addition to those already mentioned in the original documents, these are;
 - Sport England's 10 year strategy "Uniting the Movement".
 - Energise Me's "We can be active" strategy which replaces their current physical activity strategy later in the year.
 - The FA's "Local Football Facilities Plan for Test Valley" (LFFP) which closely aligns with the PPS action plan.
 - The RFU 2021 England Rugby Strategy.
 - ECB Strategy Inspiring Generations 2020-24.
 - ECB Facilities Strategy 2021.
 - UK Actives' 2021 report The Decade of Change for public sector Leisure.
- 3.12 In addition to these, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Community Asset Fund (CAF) have both had a significant impact in the Council's ability to progress projects in the actions plans, specific CIL and CAF support will be identified in latter sections of this update report

4. Supply and Demand overview

4.1 In 2019 a full supply and demand assessment was completed as part of the strategy development works. The assessment concluded that there was adequate provision of grass pitches for all sports, although work could be done to improve the quality of some of the pitch stock in Test Valley.

4.2 The table below details the secured use pitch supply for 2019, 2020 and 2021/22. The increase in pitch supply is attributed to the opening of Abbotswood in 2020 and the anticipated opening of Ganger Farm and Picket Piece in 2022 which brings an additional 5 football pitches (adult / junior), and increases the AGP supply for both 3G and sand dressed pitches in Test Valley by one each.

Table 1: Secured community use pitch supply

Sports pitches	2019	2020	2022
Cricket	26	26	26
Football	107	109*	114**/***
Hockey	5	5	6**
Rugby	11	11	11**
AGP (full size sand)	5	5	6**
AGP (3G full size)	3	3	4**

^{*} Abbotswood

^{**} Ganger Farm

^{***} Picket Piece

Hockey

4.3 Hockey has seen an increase in the number of players across Test Valley in 2021 with a big increase of 50+ players at Romsey which might be attributed to the anticipated new facility there. Trojans Hockey Club have been invited to join the first cohort of clubs in the country to work towards Talent Centre (37 clubs nationally). This progression will further enhance the need for investment in the facilities and a second pitch at the club as there is a predicted further junior growth as centre of excellence within the Borough. Andover Hockey Club remains stable in terms of numbers and is looking at the NGB initiative Hockey Heroes to target 5-8 year olds in the local schools further boosting their junior numbers. This information shows steady growth and development pathways for Hockey in Test Valley, where clubs can be supported though access to high quality facilities.

Football

significant increase in teams across the Borough with some teams having to be displaced outside of the Borough for match play. In October 2021 there were around 300 teams registered in Test Valley, this is an increase of approximately 100 teams since the PPS and LFFP data was released in 2019/2020. This information shows the demand for football seems to be un impacted to Covid 19 and that demand for high quality football pitches continues to grow in Test Valley.



Rugby

With Rugby, uptake has remained stable 4.5 across all sections since the last PPS was released. With Trojans fielding 5 senior teams (3 male / 2 female), Andover Rugby Club fielding 4 senior teams (3 male / 1 female) and Romsey Rugby Club fielding 2 senior teams (2 male) this season. Youth take up has also remained resilient against Covid 19. But with the increase in planned facilities in the south of the Borough in 2022 it is anticipated that rugby participation should increase as the southern clubs development pathways have more opportunities to expand into new facilities. Alongside this development of participation opportunities in the south of Test Valley it is important to consider

the need for balanced opportunity for rugby participation in the north of Test Valley

Cricket

4.6 Cricket is arguably the grass pitch sport which has been impacted the least by Covid-19. Its summer season, and the abundance of space on a cricket pitch has meant the perceived risk of transmission is much lower. Clubs have adapted to restricted access to pavilions for match teas, but it is hoped that the 2022 season will see a full return to normal.

5. Updates on the Action Plans

5.1 Appendix 1 and 2 of this update report give detailed updates for each of the 50 short, medium and long term action published as part of the 2020 strategies. However the information below gives an overview of the most significant progress points from both strategies and sets out key achievements in 2020 and 2021.

Rugby Action Plan Update

- All three of the Borough Rugby clubs have made significant steps to improve their club infrastructure in the past few years, in addition to this the RFU have partnered with the GMA (grounds maintenance association) on a project to work with clubs across the region to assess and improve their pitch quality / capacity.
- 5.3 Trojans has secured additional land adjacent to their site on a 35 year lease to increase pitch capacity. The club have also received significant contributions towards the redevelopment of their club house which is currently in the pre application phase of works. TVBC support for this project was facilitated by the strong evidence of need supplied in the 2020 strategies which formed part of the club's funding applications to the Council's CAF (Community Asset Fund) and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy).

- 5.4 Romsey Rugby Club are in the process of securing a new home at Ganger Farm, final arrangements are being made prior to the Council's adoption of the site. But it is anticipated that the club will transfer to the new site at some point in the 2022 ready to start their 22/23 season. The club's lease on their current clubhouse at Romsey Sports Centre will stay in place until the club relocates.
- Andover Rugby Club has completed the delivery of their project to floodlight the two pitches at their home ground, The Goodship Ground at Foxcotte Park. The project was funded from the RFU's Capital Investment programme, the Council's CAF programme and the club themselves.
- that floodlight pitches are now in situ and therefore work to further increase capacity for the club should focus on improving drainage, the acquisition of land or the provision of a rugby AGP [artificial grass pitch] as a medium term action. The club retain their lead for this.

Football Action Plan Update

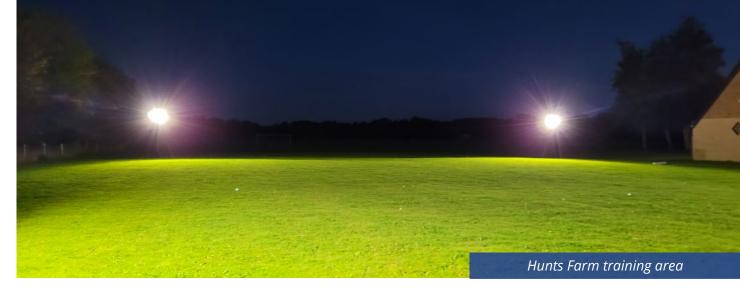
- 5.7 Since the strategy was released, the Borough Council has adopted and opened Abbotswood Sports Ground, a two pitch football site in Romsey. Which is shown in the table 1 above.
- 5.8 The Council have also carried out specialist drainage works to the junior pitches at Hunts Farm in Timsbury, further works to combine the two drainage systems are still required to close out the action in full.

- 5.9 Preparations continue for the adoption and opening of Ganger Farm, Romsey, which will see a 3G pitch, adult football pitch and multiple mini pitches open for use by the local football clubs in 2022. Despite best endeavours the adoption of the site has not been achieved, and the site remains in the ownership of the developers Barratt Homes. In the meantime TVBC have opened a temporary floodlit training area at Hunts Farm to help accommodate the additional training demand created by the anticipated opening of Ganger Farm.
- 5.10 Broughton Football Club has successfully received a significant amount of funding towards their plans to upgrade their onsite pavilion. As with the Trojans project this funding came from the TVBC CIL funding stream, and its success was attributed to the evidence of need as demonstrated in the 2020 PPS strategy. The club continue to fund raise for the remaining funds.
- 5.11 North Baddeley Parish Council has received funding from the Council's Councillor grant scheme and have recently had FA funding approved from the grass pitch maintenance fund to support improvements to the pitches onsite.
- 5.12 The FA's Local Football Facilities Plan was launched in 2020 and continues to identify priority projects for FA/FF investment, including the North Baddesley project mentioned above.

5.13 The FA's new digital process "pitch power" for site assessments is being used to support clubs / sites pitch maintenance projects for clubs identified within the LFFP.

Cricket Action Plan Update

- 5.14 The ECB report that following on from the successful All Stars Cricket programme (ages 5-8) a new national programme has launched for the next age range up to further widen access to the sport (Dynamos Cricket).
- 5.15 A new competition The Hundred has also been launched which was well received nationally over the summer months. There is also a drive nationally to improve Safeguarding, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in cricket. An interest in indoor cricket provision in Test Valley is also a new opportunity the ECB are keen to explore.
- 5.16 The ECB have a launched a range of funds recently to support clubs, including the County Grants fund, which provides up to £10,000 of support to clubs for capital projects.
- 5.17 The Council owned sites have completed most of the actions in the Hampshire Cricket Board's advisory reports for cricket pitches and Knightwood's cricket table has returned to play this season for the first time since the drainage improvement works on the outfield were finished in 2019/20.



- in the PPS action plan there has been limited interest and use of the non turf pitches already installed in Test Valley. Therefore the supply and demand for this type of pitch should be investigated before any additional stock is considered. Actions which include the installation of additional non turf pitches on sites should be monitored over the next 2 years.
- 5.19 Andover Cricket Club has received some funding from the Council's CAF fund in 2020/21 to support renovation for their nets and works to the pavilion windows onsite. However the replacement of the club's pavilion remains an immediate priority for Andover Cricket Club as the site continues to age.
- 5.20 Andover Cricket Club have also been developing their junior cricket programme over the past 2 years with support from the TVBC Councillor Grant scheme and ECB approved funding stream funds4runs.

- 5.21 Ampfield Parish Council received a significant CAF grant in 2019/20 for works to their pavilion and parking infrastructure which will benefit Ampfield Cricket Club, this project was identified in the 2020 PPS strategy development work and contributed towards the evidence base of the funding application.
- 5.22 The replacement of OT and Romsey's Cricket pavilion has been emphasised in the Romsey Rapids Sports complex action plan point, as it had not been explicitly clear in the original action plan. The cricket club are the lead party for this action.
- 5.23 As per the action plan an assessment of the Romsey Rapids Sports complex cricket pitch is currently underway with a detailed report anticipated in early 2022. This assessment work will look at all formal pitch provision currently onsite.

Hockey Action Plan Update

- 5.24 The artificial pitch at Romsey School which was identified as in urgent need of resurfacing in Stage A of the 2020 PPS has been completed by the school. These works began while the original strategy was being completed and therefore did not feature in the action plan. However now complete the Hockey Club and other clubs now benefit from the new surface.
- 5.25 Romsey Hockey Club will be one of the key clubs using the new sand dressed hockey pitch at Ganger Farm once the site has been adopted in 2022. The club will run between Romsey School and Ganger Farm as a split site club as per their request at when the site's planning permission was granted.
- 5.26 Trojans Hockey Club, will benefit from the pavilion works on the Trojans Sports Ground, which has already been mentioned in the football update above along with the funding support given to the project by TVBC.

SFS Action Plan Update: Leisure Centres

5.27 A short term action of the SFS was to review the ancillary facilities, customer experience and accessibility at Andover Leisure Centre. Covid-19 has severely inhibited the ability to address this point due the site's closure periods and the strict Covid safe guidance that leisure settings currently have had to operate

- under. However now all restrictions have been lifted this can be revisited
- 5.28 All leisure settings have been impacted by Covid-19 but it is assumed that now restrictions have been lifted (19th July 2021) and the sites begin to work through an unrestricted recovery period from the pandemic that we will be able to review this action.
- 5.29 During the pandemic, the operator Places Leisure received financial support from the government Job Retention Scheme, Local Restrictions Support Grants and Additional Restrictions Grant schemes, the Council and Sport England to ensure that the settings are able to reopen to the public and recover. Ensuring that the Council's main leisure settings are able to remain open to the public for many years to come.

SFS Action Plan Update: Swimming Update

- 5.30 Section two of the SFS detailed that in 2019 the Borough had an unmet demand for 112sqm of pool space, which is the equivalent of half a 4 lane 25m pool. This deficit was projected to increase by a further 10% by 2036 if supply remained the same.
- 5.31 National trends are showing that swimming is showing a faster rate of recovery post lockdown than many other sports. In Test Valley by May 2021 swimming lesson uptake at the sites run by Places Leisure had recovered back to pre-pandemic levels. The sites are looking

- at how they can fill their existing spaces and increase capacity for swimming lessons onsite.
- 5.32 We continue to work with schools to explore options to increase community access to swimming pools. This includes exploring options to improve current facilities, working with Hampshire County Council and swim England to establish the best approach to development. Currently this includes Test Valley School and Rookwood School.
- 5.33 The SFS actions plan seeks to consider options to create additional pool space. Initially TVBC will explore the above options for improving to existing school pools which are not currently providing community use but have potential to do so, and therefore improving the supply deficit for Test Valley.

SFS Action Plan Update: Athletics

- 5.34 As identified in the 2020 SFS action plan the athletics track at Charlton was due to be resurfaced as a long term action. This action has been brought forward due to an updated condition report, and was completed in September 2021.
- 5.35 This is a £250,000 investment from the Council which will see the site protected for long term use by Andover Athletics Club, Andover Triathlon Club, local schools and the wider community.

SFS Action Plan Update: Sports Halls

- 5.36 The Council are currently working with the developer, Taylor Wimpey on the delivery of the new indoor sports centre on Augusta Park (East Anton). The scheme has been delayed on account of proposed changes to the local centre. A planning application is anticipated in early 2022.
- 5.37 In the South of the borough work is underway to investigate the potential future use of Crosfield hall as well as the future plans for the Romsey Rapids and Sport Centre campus. Both of these items will consider the venues potential use for sporting activities and the potential for sport hall improvements in the area

SFS Action Plan Update : BMX track sites

in developing a project to install floodlighting at the Andover BMX track to increase the usability of the site. This project will cost £75,500 to deliver and is subject to planning permission. Invested partners in the project include British Cycling, Andover BMX Club and the Council. Work continues to facilitate the delivery of this project.



SFS Action Plan Update: Bowls

- 5.39 The enhancement of existing bowls facilities in Test Valley continues to be a long term priority. The Council has sought to allocate developer contribution funding towards facility enhancements, however there is no certainty that these developer schemes will come forward swiftly if at all.
- 5.40 Meanwhile Andover Bowls Club has received a small Councillor grant in 2019/20 to improve disability access to the green while undertaking significant renovation work on their pavilion in house.

5.41 Chilbolton Parish Council have received a Council CAF grant to purchase a short mat bowls carpet for the village as the parish identified some unmet demand in the area.

SFS Action Plan Update: School Provision and Use

- **5.42** Sport England created a fund to support the opening of school community facilities, which will be delivered through our active partnership (Energise Me).
- 5.43 Reengagement with schools to enhance community use should form a priority for the PPS/SFS steering group in 2022.

Other Actions / Updates

- 5.44 An action which overarched the PPS was to explore the idea of a maintenance hub. The delivery of this actions will be ongoing for the life of the strategy but to begin this work, the Council have invested in its own vertidrainer which is now being used on Council pitches and can be used on non-Council owned pitches that the Council maintain.
- 5.45 The Council has started to opt for moveable goal posts on grass pitch sites to increase the playability of the pitches and allow for pitches to be moved slightly as wear occurs. This approach will continue to be rolled out where appropriate.

Non listed projects

- 5.46 The following actions were not listed in the original action plans but do have a positive impact on the landscape of sport in Test Valley so it is worth mentioning them.
- 5.47 Enham Trust near Andover has received a significant Council CAF grant in 2019/20 to support the development of an accessible sports hall. The physical build has been completed but the ceiling height constrains its use for many formal sports. Currently the Enham residents are using the space for activities such as Boccia and indoor curling while the Trust look at marketing the site for community use.



- **5.48** Longparish Cricket Club received a significant Council CAF grant in 2020/21 for new cricket nets, which were completed in 2021.
- **5.49** Wellow Parish Council received a Council CAF grant in 2019/20 for improvements to the car park at Hatches Barn sports ground.
- 5.50 The Council are working with Picket Piece Community Association to add in netball lines onto an existing tennis court to meet a new demand for netball in the area, the works should be completed in 2022 once the site is fully adopted.

5.51 Andover Parkrun, has been located on the Charlton Sports Centre site for many years, and we have worked to relocate the Romsey Parkrun which will transfer to the Ganger Farm Sports complex when the site opens. The Council are committed to supporting these groups to become further embedded into Test Valley.

6. Application of the PPS/SFS – Section 106 / CIL

- 6.1 All previous versions of the PPS and SFS (or similar) have been used historically to support local planning applications and to secure financial contributions for formal sport. They have also been used as evidence bases for many of the successful funding applications for sport in Test Valley, including the CIL and CAF projects discussed in this report.
- 6.2 Table 2 details the formal sport balances (correct for June 2021) in Test Valley by Parish / Town, these balances are made up of Section 106 contributions which have been collected by the Council over many years.
- 6.3 A large percentage of these balances have been allocated and/or spent to specific projects, however the Council are committed to working with clubs and parishes to support the appropriate application of unallocated sums for capital works. Each Parish are written to on a regular basis to ensure they are kept up to date with available funds for projects in their area.

Table 2: Sports Ground / Formal Recreation balances by Parish / Town June 2021.

Ward	Total amount
Abbotts Ann	£22,730
Ampfield	£9,190
Amport	£44,763
Andover	£912,049
Awbridge	£2,199
Broughton	£6,035
Charlton	£20,054
Chilbolton	£2,684
Chilworth	£5,011
East Dean	£3,309
Fyfield	£1,699
Grateley	£9,063
Houghton	£821
Hurstbourne Tarrant	£6,964
Kimpton	£3,049

Ward	Total amount
King's Somborne	£2,584
Little Somborne	£10,975
Lockerley	£7,799
Longparish	£867
Monxton	£6,274
North Baddesley	£211,068
Nursling and Rownhams	£10,368
Over Wallop	£75,000
Penton Grafton	£29,586
Romsey	£191,026
Romsey Extra	£31,221
Smannell	£4,341
Stockbridge	£2,348
Tangley	£4,187

7. Lessons Learnt

- 7.1 Unfortunately not all sports facilities in Test Valley have been progressed in line with council and public expectation. Currently we have two formal sport facilities that have been delivered through housing development, which despite best intentions are not ready for adoption from the housing developers. Common themes arising from these sites are that the site infrastructure and physical buildings are being completed and made ready for a compliant handover at different times.
- 7.2 In order to ensure standards are maintained, we have historically adopted sections of sites once they are completed. This however leads to part adopted sites where we may have a pitch adopted, but not the pavilion for example so the site is may look complete to the public, but the legal position of ownership is somewhat different. This disjointed approach causes friction for the developers, site residents, potential site users and the Council. Therefore in the future it is important we focus more on adopting complete sites which can serve the community need in a timely fashion once under council ownership. This could be achieved for example, by agreeing more stringent phasing at the point of planning consent.
- the loss of formal sports space as a result of phased development applications, where the end application has coming forward in a different way to that originally set out within an illustrative site masterplan. As there is a long process between establishing the requirements for strategic sites and their actual delivery. The Council needs to review and monitor these requirements and put in place measures that both secure the land and facilities from inception, whilst ensuring they are delivered at the right time.
- 7.4 We have also found on some occasions that sites built to a developer specification, do not always meet specific sport specification requirements. For example pitches which are approved as "adult" or "junior" in size or definition do not meet with the formal Sport England standardisation. To combat this, we are mindful to signpost to standard specification documents at the point of planning application consultation, and now look to ensure that the delivery for formal sport space aligns with these standards.

8. New Issues and opportunities

- 8.1 As mentioned already in the document, Covid-19 has created an unprecedented issue which has impacted every corner of the globe. Sport England and the National Governing Bodies have reacted to create a means of support for many clubs and organisations where they have had the financial support to do so.
- 8.2 In Test Valley, the Council have accessed the Sport England support for the Leisure operator and the Rugby clubs have accessed the RFU support packages.
- 8.3 Multiple Cricket clubs in Test Valley have accessed financial support in the last year from Sport England and ECB funding streams, these include; Ampfield, Andover, Broughton, Longparish, Mottisfont, Wellow and Wherwell Cricket Clubs.
- **8.4** Work will continue to support clubs and organisations as they recover from the impact of Covid-19.
- 8.5 As mentioned above Sport England's opening school facilities fund creates the ideal opportunity for us to reengage with schools and look at how we can support Test Valley schools to enable or enhance a community offer. This fund can be used as a catalyst for this work.

9. Conclusions and Next Steps

- 9.1 This update report concludes that in what has been a difficult 2 years globally since the 2020 PPS and SFS reports were published, the Council and steering group have made progress in delivering the strategies action plans.
- 9.2 Although inevitable delays have occurred, the landscape for sport and activity is still very strong in Test Valley, and as a steering group a clear plan has been developed to allow the action plan and the true impact of Covid-19 on sport and activity demand to be assessed at a more appropriate time than while we are still living in a period of restriction and recovery.
- 9.3 Over the next 12 months, the Council will continue to work to seek developer contributions for sport where possible, using the strategies as an evidence base.
- 9.4 The steering group will continue to deliver the 2020 action plans listed below with a particular focus on the following actions.

Playing Pitch Strategy

 The Council will adopt and open Ganger Farm Sports Complex to the local community, supporting local clubs to make best use of the site.

- The Council will adopt and open Picket Piece Sports Ground and pavilion, supporting local clubs to make the best use of the site.
- The Council will commission a feasibility study / site options appraisal for the provision of additional AGP pitch stock in Andover.
- As a steering group we will re-engage with core clubs such as Andover Rugby Club, Andover New Street, Andover Archers, Andover Cricket Club, Andover Bowls Club and Romsey Town FC to understand and review their long term plans.
- As a steering group we will re-engage with Parishes who have actions listed within the PPS to support the delivery of their projects. This includes North Baddesley, Broughton, Upper Clatford, Abbotts Ann, Barton Stacey, Nursling and Rownhams.

Sports Facilities Strategy

- The Council, together with British Cycling will work with Andover BMX club to further support the delivery of their floodlighting project.
- The Council will engage with local schools to explore opportunities to enhance and enable community use provision.

- The steering group will support clubs and groups to deliver capital investment projects to improve / enhance or replace facilities where possible, whilst ensuing the projects have strong links to the action plans and have the support of their National Governing Body.
- The steering group will continue to support the recovery of clubs, organisations and groups from Covid 19 by promoting National Governing Body and Council funding opportunities more widely as a steering group.
- 9.5 All of the above actions will support the delivery of these strategies' action plans whilst contributing towards a Sports Masterplan for the Borough which will emerge as actions from these document are completed.
- 9.6 The steering group will review actions regularly and will meet again in 12 months from the publication of this update report to assess if it will then be an appropriate time to formally reassess supply and demand for formal sport and recreation in Test Valley.
- 9.7 Test Valley would like to thank all steering group members for their support in drawing this update together.

Appendix 1: Update on PPS Action Plan

Key: **Green**: Action completed in either 2020 or 2021 **Amber**: Action progressed in either 2020 or 2021

Red: Action not progressed in either 2020 or 2021

Abbreviations:

FA (Football Association), FF (Football Foundation), TVBC (Test Valley Borough Council), EH (England Hockey), RFU (Rugby Football Union), AGP (artificial grass pitch), ECB (England Cricket Board), HCB (Hampshire Cricket Board), NTP (non turf pitch), FC (football club), OT&RCC (Old Tauntonians and Romsey Crickey Club), NGB (National Governing Body), LFFP (Local Football Facilities Plan),

Short Term Actions

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
Action Reference	North Sub Area	a				
1	Andover (Site to be determined)	Football (Possibly rugby)Hockey	 Commission a feasibility study / site options appraisal for provision of a second 3G AGP in Andover in the medium term. 	o TVBC	 FA / FF Site owners Key clubs RFU (if at Foxcotte and rugby compliant) 	With input from the FA/EH/RFU/TVBC it has been decided that this action should take priority in the coming year to assess artificial pitch provision. A task group will be created to progress this work.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
2	Foxcotte Sports Park	o Football / Rugby / Archery	Review the ancillary facility needs of all three sports clubs (archery, rugby, football) and potential for shared provision to improve quality, inclusivity of access and financial sustainability of all three community sports clubs.	o Clubs (3)	TVBCFARFU	This work should form part of a strategic review / conversation with all clubs as sports start to recover from the impact of Covid-19 and a new baseline emerges. TVBC to initiate conversations which may feed in to the short term action above and contribute towards a long term sports masterplan for the borough.

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
	nd,	Assess the feasibility of reconfiguring the current pitch provision to provide additional playing pitch capacity (rugby compliant).	o Andover RFC	o TVBC o RFU	Now that floodlight provision has been improved at the site, reconfiguration is no longer possible. The group consider that in taking forwards this action, it would be more appropriate to take the following approach; Assess the feasibility of providing additional playing pitch capacity through the following methods - Improved drainage - Acquisition of land - a WR Reg 22 compliant AGP. Although this action is likely to feed into the artificial surface demand work above, is it unlikely any physical change would actioned until sport has re-stabilised post Covid-19 therefore this should be regarded as a medium term action.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
4	Andover Cricket Ground	o Cricket	Replace club pavilion (2 team)	o Andover CC		Work continues to keep the current site safe and fit for purpose. The club has recently received funding from TVBC for works to the pavilion windows and practice nets. However there has been little progress in securing funding for the replacement of the pavilion and this should form a
						high priority for the club. A strategic conversation should be revisited with the club as it starts to recover from the impact of Covid-19 and a new baseline emerges.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
		Sport(s)				·
5	London Road Playing Field	o Cricket	 Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) 	TVBC /Andover CC	○ ECB	TVBC completed the recommended HCB actions.
						The site has had limited use since 2020 due to Covid-19 and reduced demand, but it is anticipated the site will return to use in 2022.
						The site has not been used by Andover Cricket Club in 2021.
6	Picket Twenty Recreation Ground	o Cricket	 Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) Promote use of sites Non- Turf Pitch (NTP) 	o TVBC	○ ECB	TVBC has implemented the majority of actions recommended in the HCB report.
						The site is being used for the 21/22 season, users include Andover Cricket Club.
						TVBC and ECB to work together to promote and assess the use of the NTP onsite.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
7	Picket Piece Recreation Ground	o Football	 Finalise handover of pavilion and pitch Consider long term management arrangement 	o TVBC	Club usersFA - support as required	TVBC lost a planning appeal to secure land reserved for a junior football pitch.
						As a result planning application for housing has been submitted for the mini pitch site.
						The whole sites handover is still not completed, but TVBC is hopeful this will be completed in 2022.
						TVBC will work with the FA as required.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
8	Harroway School	o Football	o Re-establish community use of pitches and ancillary facilities and consider potential for community programming links with Portway Junior School field.	o Harrow Way School	 TVBC Portway Junior School Andover New Street FC Andover YFC 	Harroway has expressed an interesting in having a 3G ATP onsite to the FA. Feasibility for this will feed into the ATP review for Andover. There have been no conversations to re-establish community use to date, but this can be reviewed as part of the feasibility work which may draw in the Sport England "Opening Schools facilities fund".
9	Upper Clatford Sports Field	o Football	 Improvements to pavilion. FA Pitch Adviser to assess options and costs to improve pitch quality. 	Parish CouncilFA		The FA has highlighted this site as a LFFP priority. The FA will approach the Parish to progress this action. TVBC could also approach to highlight possible internal grant funding streams to support the capital investment.
10	Bulbery Sports Fields, Abbotts Ann	o Football	 FA Pitch Adviser to assess options and costs to improve pitch quality. 	o FA	o Parish Council	The FA to approach regarding the new digital process called pitch power for site assessments.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
	South Sub Are	a				
11	Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	CricketFootball	 HCB Pitch Adviser to assess options to improve outfield In the long term, programme and mark the current rugby training area for youth football training, following the opening of Ganger Farm. OT and Romsey Cricket club pavilion to be replaced. 	o TVBC	OT&RCC ECB Romsey Youth	As Romsey Rugby Club transition to Ganger Farm the need for rugby pitches to be retained onsite will be assessed. The site's training pitch will be opened up to the community clubs for use whilst the a long term plan for the site is established Formal site reconfiguration will be picked up once supply and demand are formally reassessed when a new national baseline has emerged. The long term future of the site will be picked up in the Romsey Future Workstream and will form part of a Sports masterplan for Test Valley. The requirement for OT and Romsey's pavilion to be replaced should be added to this action as a short term priority with the club being the lead party.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
12	Bypass (Romsey) Stadium	o Football	 Upgrade changing, showers (utilities etc.) 	o Romsey Town FC	FA/FF (FSIF grant)Site ownerTVBC	Club to be made aware of FSIF by the FA. TVBC awarded the club a small grant in 19/20 for CCTV. This site is considered as part of the Romsey Future work stream.
13	Kings Chase/ Ganger Farm Playing Fields	HockeyRugbyFootball	 Complete new pitches and pavilion Finalise management arrangements, core programme and facility hire charges 	o TVBC	 Facility Operator NGBs - support as required 	The site will be run and managed by TVBC once adopted from the developer. A fees and charges structure is in place and the site will open to the public once adopted by TVBC.
14	Abbotswood Playing Field	o Football	 Finalise handover of pavilion & pitches Finalise management arrangements, core programme and facility hire charges 	o TVBC	Club usersFA - support as required	The site was adopted by TVBC in 2020, and was used by local football clubs for part of the 20/21 season. The site is managed and run by TVBC under the standard fee structure.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
15	Trojans Sports Club	RugbyHockeyCricket	 Upgrade pavilion changing areas Commission a feasibility study for a 2nd hockey AGP and conversion of a rugby pitch to a rugby 	o Trojans Sports Club	Eastleigh BCTVBCEH	Trojans has received significant funding from TVBC for the pavilion upgrade through CIL and CAF grants in 2020/21.
			AGP.			NGBs have had early engagement with club on a potential pavilion design.
						An update on the feasibility study is not known at this time.
						The Club has acquired the adjacent Hardmoor sports grounds in a 35 year lease to increase pitch capacity.
						The RFU continue to support the club to increase rugby capacity onsite through drainage / maintenance improvements.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
16	Hunts Farm Playing Fields	FootballCricket	 FA to assess options and costs to improve drainage to football pitches Improve levels of cricket squares by implementing actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) Install a Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) 	o TVBC	o FA o ECB	The sites drainage has been improved by TVBC with a major investment in 2020. Actions from HCB the report have been completed, pitches are back in use for the current season. Demand for a NTP to be assessed once a new baseline emerges to ensure this action is appropriate.
17	Knightwood Leisure Centre	o Cricket	 Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) 	o TVBC	o ECB	TVBC continue to implement the actions in the HCB report. The site has returned to use for cricket in 2021.
18	Broughton Sports Field	CricketFootball	o Replace pavilion (2 team)	o Broughton PC	 ECB FA / FF TVBC Broughton clubs 	Significant TVBC CIL grant awarded in 2021 towards a new pavilion. The FA to make club aware that FA/ FF small grants could support the project.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
19	North Baddesley Recreation Ground	o Football	 Implement actions recommended in FA pitch improvement report 	o Parish Council	o FA	TVBC Councillor grant in 2019/20 for goal mouth hardstanding.
		o Cricket	 ECB report that cricket pitch is in a poor state of maintenance and is not used. ECB wish to explore reopening the pitch. 			The FA has approved funding from the grass pitch maintenance fund to support this project.
						Fine turf cricket square unused and does not appear to be maintained
						Initial contact from ECB pre- COVID with Ampfield & North Baddesley Cricket Club and North Baddesley Cricket Club to explore potential usage. ECB to action.
20	Sherfield English Sports Field	o Football	 Complete new pavilion fit out 	o SERP Trust		No update but TVBC can look to make contact to share TVBC funding stream options.
21	Mottisfont Sports Pitch	o Football	 FA to assess options and costs to improve pitch subject to confirmation by Sports Trust and Club of continued demand for affiliated play 	o Sports Trust	FAParish CouncilMottisfont FC	This site is not an FA priority investment site.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
22	Ampfield Recreation Ground	CricketFootball	 Improve car park, remove former pavilion building and relocate play area further from cricket boundary. 	o Parish Council	rareners	Major TVBC CAF in 18/19 for pavilion and car park improvements Car park has been completed.
	Borough wide					
23	-	Football, Rugby & Cricket	o Establish the extent of the need for, and the costs of providing, a maintenance hub resource with specialist equipment for hire to clubs, sports associations, parish councils in order to improve quality and capacity of club and parish pitches.	o NGBs	NGB Pitch AdvisorsTVBC	TVBC has invested in its own vertidrainer to improve pitch maintenance and continue to promote this with local clubs, parishes and sports associations where maintenance contracts are in place. RFU have started a 3 year partnership project with the GMA to assess and improve pitch quality / capacity in the region. This could impact the rugby pitches in Test Valley. ECB comment onsite maintenance equipment remains best practice for this body.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
24	-	Football, Rugby & Cricket	 Organise and promote sports turf maintenance training update sessions annually for grounds staff working on playing pitches in the borough. 	o NGBs	TVBCSparsholt College	Grounds maintenance staff are encourage to attend CPD events where possible to improve knowledge and skill sets now that face to face events are returning post Covid-19 restrictions. ECB recommend Grounds Management Association as a partner for CPD for cricket pitch maintenance.
25	-	Football	 Replace fixed goalposts with moveable systems at all sites used for affiliated football. 	o TVBC	FAParish Councils	TVBC has replaced goals at the following sites; Charlton, East Anton, Knightwood. Abbotswood, which was adopted last year uses moveable goals and the Council's stock will be replaced as and when required to a portable system if appropriate.

Longer Term Actions

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
	North Sub Area	a				
26	Foxcotte Sports Park	o Football / Rugby / Archery	 Review the progress of the short term recommenda- tions 	o Clubs (3)	TVBCFARFU	Action (2) is: "review the ancillary facility needs of all three sports clubs (archery, rugby, football) and potential for shared provision to improve quality, inclusivity of access and financial sustainability of all three community sports clubs".
27	Andover (Site to be deter- mined)	o Hockey	 Review a needs case for a second hockey AGP to serve demand in Andover and the site and funding options. 	o TVBC	EHAndover Hock- ey Club	This will form part of the AGP review for Andover.
28	Barton Stacey Recreation Ground	o Football	o Replace pavilion (2 team)	o Barton Stacey PC	 FA / FF TVBC Barton Stacey FC & Youth FC 	TVBC CAF was received in 2018/19 to improve the sites MUGA. The FA suggest that as this is not a site in the LFFP the parish explore the FA/FF's small grants application. TVBC to contact about further TVBC funding streams.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
29	Anton Junior School	o Football	Resurface 2 No. small sided 3G pitches	o Anton Junior School	 Andover Town YFC Andover New Street FC FA - advisory support only (not a funding priority) 	No progress has been reported to date. TVBC to contact about further funding streams. Support from the FA will be limited as the pitches are not a compliant size.
30	Andover Sports Acad- emy	o Football	 Establish feasibility/ busi- ness case of converting disused single tennis court to a small sided 3G AGP. 	o Andover Community Services	 TVBC FA - advisory support only (not a funding priority) 	No progress has been made on this to date. Support from the FA will be limited as the pitches are not a compliant size.

	Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
	South Sub Area	a				
31	Romsey Rapids Sports Complex Bypass (Romsey) Ground	CricketFootball	o Commission a feasibility study / master plan to review all provision on the two sites (including the indoor sports and leisure facilities) and establish a preferred option, costs and funding strategy for enhancing this key sports hub, to include replacement of the existing inadequate pavilion facilities of Old Tauntonian & Romsey Cricket Club and Romsey Football Club.	o TVBC	 FA / FF ECB OT&R CC Romsey Town FC Bypass Ground landowner Romsey Future Romsey Extra Parish Council 	This action is likely to form part of the Romsey Future work steam where a masterplan for Romsey emerges. More information will come forwards in 2022
32	Trojans Sports Club	RugbyHockeyCricket	 Subject to findings of feasibility study, provide a second hockey AGP and change of surface of a rug- by pitch to 3G AGP. 	 Trojans Sports Club 	Eastleigh BCTVBCNGBs	England Hockey to contact Trojans
33	Nursling & Rownhams Recreation Ground	o Football	o Pavilion provision (4 team)	o Nursling & Rownhams PC	FA / FFTVBCNewton HeathNursling Vets	This site is not owned by TVBC or a priority LFFP investment for the FA. TVBC to contact about funding streams (including FA small grants).

Appendix 2: Update on SFS Action Plan

Key: **Green**: Action completed in either 2020 or 2021

Amber: Action progressed in either 2020 or 2021

Red: Action not progressed in either 2020 or 2021

Short Term Actions

Action Reference	Project Site	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
1	Andover Leisure Centre	 Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre. 	o Places Leisure	o TVBC	This action is ongoing. Covid-19 has had major implications on the way services are delivered at the centre.
2	St Edwards School and Farleigh School	 Assess the opportunity for community access/ availability at St Edwards School and Farleigh School (subject to Community Use Agreements being implemented). 	School governing bodies	o TVBC	No action to date.
3	Trojans Sports Club	o Upgrade changing facilities	o Trojans Sports Club	o NGBs	TVBC CIL funding received in 2021 for this project. NGB engagement at the pre application phase is underway.
4	Foxcotte Sports Park	 Review the ancillary facility needs of all three sports clubs (archery, rugby, football) and potential for shared provision to improve quality, inclusivity of access and financial sustainability of all three community sports clubs. 	o Clubs (3)	o TVBC o FA o RFU	To be picked up as part of the 3G options appraisal works and reengagement with key clubs to review their long term plans as part of a wider sports masterplan.

Action Reference	Project Site	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
5	Charlton Sports Centre	 Review options to reconfigure the current facility with the potential for the introduction of Foot Golf to widen appeal. Also, consideration should be given to other alternative sports / recreation uses of potential land released from the reconfiguration (e.g. informal recreation / cycling and/or site for 3G AGP). 	o TVBC	o Places Leisure	Closure of golf courses for periods of 2020 and 2021 as a result of Covid-19 has impacted use. Full recovery of the sport is required before this action is considered further.
6	Romsey School	o Upgrade tennis / netball courts and lights.	o Romsey School	LTARomsey& AbbeyLTCTVBC	TVBC to contact Romsey School.
7	BMX Track sites	 Assess opportunities for the clubs to enhance their sites, including the improvement of power supply, lighting, CCTV and water supply at the BMX track. 	 British Cycling Andover BMX Knightwood BMX 	o TVBC	British Cycling grant for floodlights at Andover BMX track has been granted. TVBC will support the club where possible to deliver their project.
					TVBC's car park upgrade at Charlton is planned for 2021/22 which will improve the site.
					Further proposals at Knightwood BMX track should be considered where a link to this action plan can be demonstrated.

Longer Term Actions

Action Reference	Project Site	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
8	Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	 Commission a feasibility study to establish a design brief, capital cost estimates and a funding strategy as part of a wider master plan to review all sports facility provision (including the indoor sports and leisure facilities and playing pitch provision) on the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. 	o TVBC	 Places Leisure FA / FF ECB OT&R CC Romsey Town FC Bypass Ground landowner Romsey Future Romsey Extra Parish Council 	This work will be done as part of the Romsey Future work stream or as part of the development of a sports masterplan for Test Valley. More information will come forwards in 2022.
9	Foxcotte Sports Park	 Review the progress of the short-term actions (see Figure 47). 	o Clubs (3)	o TVBC	Action addressed above.
10	Charlton Sports Centre	Resurface the athletics track	o TVBC	Andover Athletics Club	Completed Summer 2021.
11	Romsey School	o Replacement sports hall	o Romsey School	o TVBC	No update.
12	Mountbatten School	o Replacement sports hall	Mountbatten School	o TVBC	No update.
13	Winton School	o Upgrade tennis/netball courts and lights	Winton School	o LTA o TVBC	No update.
14	North Baddesley Recreation Ground	 Upgrade existing 2 tennis courts or replace in better location. 	Parish Council	o LTA	No update.

Action Reference	Project Site	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
15	Andover Sports Academy	 Review the Andover Sports Academy future prior to the lease ending in 2027. 	o TVBC		No progress, action to be reviewed in 2022 once the 5 years to expiry milestone is met.
16	Bowls Sites	 Review of all bowls facilities in the Borough (both north and south) to ensure they best meet the needs of the population. 	 TVBC Andover Bowls Andover Vision Romsey Bowls Romsey Future Banister Park Bowling Club 		Andover Bowls Club Cllr Grant for disability access to green. Developer contributions being sought in principle for bowls provision.
17	East Anton (Site to be determined)	 Work with housing developers to ensure appropriate facilities and physical activity provision is developed to meet the needs of the community based on a review of the delivery of the priorities within this strategy at the time of any site development. 	o TVBC	 Housing Developers 	Site to come forward in 2022. TVBC are re engaged with developers and looking to progress the delivery and adoption of this site. (Southern Local Centre).

