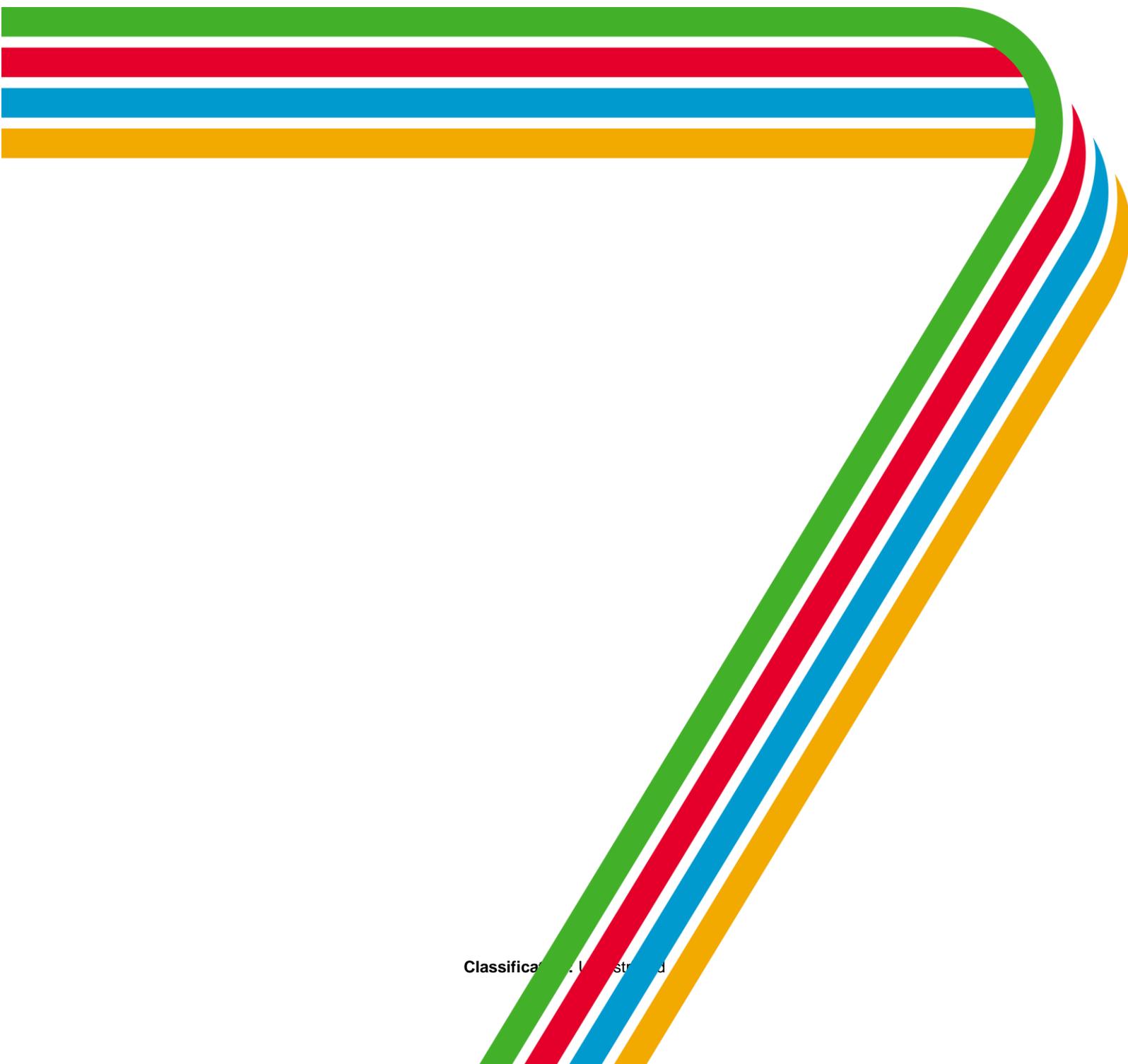




**Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy  
and Built Facilities Strategy – Executive Summary**

January 2020



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SPORT



#### **4global Consulting Terms of Reference**

*Estimates and forecasts contained within this report are based on the data and information obtained at that time and the accuracy of resultant findings and recommendations is dependent on the quality of that data.*

*The author(s) will not be held liable for any data provided by third party organisations as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) delivery process. The data and recommendations have been conscientiously reviewed through the PPS governance process, with all data and information subject to a thorough check and challenge process via the Project Steering Group. Notwithstanding this, it has not been possible for the author to independently review every element of data provided by third parties.*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY: SUMMARY OF OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>FACILITY-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY: SUMMARY OF OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: SUMMARY OF SPORT-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: SUMMARY OF WIDER SPORTS SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>SITE-BY-SITE ACTION PLAN</b>	<b>23</b>

# 1 Introduction and Strategic Context

## 1.1 Project scope and objectives

1.1.1 Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, hereby referred to as WHBC, commissioned 4global Consulting and Strategic Leisure Limited (SLL) to prepare a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and a Built Facilities Strategy (BFS), to provide the Council with a clear evidence base and guide future provision and management of new sports pitches, outdoor and indoor sports facilities in the Welwyn Hatfield area in the context of national policy and local sports development criteria.

1.1.2 A PPS is a strategic assessment that provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) and outdoor sports facilities in the local authority. The strategy and the evidence base upon which it is based is delivered using national guidance and facility insight from specific Governing Bodies of Sport and the council. The assessment focuses on facilities used by the following sports:

- Football
- Rugby Union
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Netball
- Lacrosse
- Golf
- Cycling
- Bowls
- Athletics

1.1.3 Within these sports, the strategy seeks, as far as is practical, to include consideration of all forms of play to:

- Ensure that the borough has an up-to-date framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports facilities across the public, private and independent sectors.
- Support the implementation of the Council's submitted local plan policies relating to the protection, enhancement and provision of community sport and physical activity facilities and provide an evidence based framework to support negotiations with developers who may provide funding or other assistance to improve local provision
- Identify deficiencies and opportunities for improvement that will set the context for decisions about the priority and delivery of local sports/physical activity facilities in the borough.
- Provide a robust evidence base to support funding bids from National Sports bodies like Sport England and National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of sport.
- Ensure that a planned approach to sport and physical activity facilities takes place in Welwyn Hatfield now and up to 2032, ensuring that the borough community has

access to high quality facilities, helping communities to increase their levels of physical activity, improve their health and remain cohesive

- 1.1.4 The Built Facilities Study (BFS) provides an assessment of the needs for Built Sports Facilities in Welwyn Hatfield. It complements and links to the PPS and will guide future provision of built sports facilities to serve existing and new communities in the Borough.
- 1.1.5 The scope of the BFS study includes analysis of provision for the following facility types across Welwyn Hatfield Borough, in line with the geographical area covered by the Local Plan:
- Swimming
  - Sports Halls
  - Health and Fitness (fitness suites and dance studios)
  - Bowls
  - Tennis
  - Gymnastics/trampoline
  - Table Tennis
  - Martial Arts
  - Boxing
  - Athletics and Tracks
  - Velodrome
  - Ski Slopes
  - Golf
- 1.1.6 The PPS and BFS provide a holistic analysis of sports facilities across the Study Area, leading to a comprehensive set of recommendations for the future development of facilities, in line with the needs of local residents.

## 1.2 Strategic Context

- 1.2.1 Welwyn Hatfield covers an area of 130 square kilometres across the centre of Hertfordshire. Welwyn Hatfield has two main towns, Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield alongside a number of large and small villages providing a mix of urban, suburban and rural settlements. The borough is bordered by Hertsmere and Enfield to the south, St Albans to the west, North Hertfordshire to the north, and East Herts and Broxbourne to the east. At its closest point, Central London is approximately 11 miles south of the borough.
- 1.2.2 Welwyn Hatfield has an estimated 122,472 residents in 2017 (**Source: ONS 2016 sub national population projections**). There has been an increase of 11% since the 2011 Census, and the borough is continuing to grow. The ONS 2016 census projections estimate that the borough will have 140,642 residents by 2032, a growth of 18,170 persons (**Source: ONS 2016 sub national population projections**).
- 1.2.3 A number of current strategic policies, strategies and factors influence current and future supply and demand for sport and recreation facilities in the Borough. As well as providing the context for future facility provision, e.g. health improvement, improving accessibility and increasing participation, these strategies also provide opportunities to link priority areas and

needs, and ensure that outcomes are aligned with identified local objectives. The relevant strategies and policies include:

- Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan 2016-2032
- Understanding the Implications of the Draft Local Plan Housing Target
- Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
- April 2017 Welwyn Hatfield Alliance Community Partnership
- Welwyn Hatfield Community Strategy 2015-2020 – “Towards 2020”;
- Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Business Plan 2015-2018
- Business Action Plan 2017-18
- Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Public Health and Wellbeing Strategic Framework 2015-2018
- Hertfordshire’s Joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) 2016
- Welwyn and Hatfield Sports Facility Strategy (WHSFS) 2012
- Welwyn Hatfield Sport Facility Study (WHSFS) 2011
- Welwyn Hatfield Community Facilities Study October 2012
- Herts County Sports Partnership (CSP) -Strategic Plan 2017-2021; and

1.3 Summary of key demographic factors and their implications

- 1.3.1 Table 1.1 summarises the demographic profile of Welwyn Hatfield’s localities, reflecting the overall demographic analysis and factors for the Borough as discussed above.
- 1.3.2 For further information and relevant maps on the below data, please refer to the main PPS document.

**Table 1.1: Summary of Welwyn Hatfield’s Localities – Demographic Profile**

Summary of Welwyn Hatfield’s localities – Demographic profile	
<b>LOCAL DESCRIPTION</b>	- Welwyn Hatfield consists of seventeen wards. - Welwyn Hatfield has 122,472 residents. - The Borough is a combination of rural and urban areas.
<b>POPULATION PROFILE</b>	- 2017 population of 122,472 (2016 ONS SNPP 2016) with 65.4% of the population aged 16-64 years and 18.7% classed as 65+ - The 2032 projected population is expected to be 140,642. - Population will grow by 14.8% by 2032 -The borough has a significant number of older people and this trend will continue to rise. There will be a reduction in the number of under 15 year olds by 2032.
<b>ETHNICITY</b>	- 76.5% White British, 23.5% BME
<b>HOUSING</b>	- 12,000 (potentially 16,000) new homes projected by 2032, the end of the Local Plan period. - Key development areas include: North West Hatfield, North East Welwyn Garden City, South East Welwyn Garden City and a new settlement at Symondshyde, which lies between Hatfield and Wheathampstead.

Summary of Welwyn Hatfield's localities – Demographic profile	
<b>DEPRIVATION</b>	- Pockets of deprivation alongside very affluent areas of the Borough. - Areas of highest deprivation are Hatfield Central Ward and Peartree Ward - Educational attainment above the Hertfordshire average at GCSE level.
<b>CAR OWNERSHIP</b>	- 79.7% of the population has access to at least one car; 20.3% has no access to a car.
<b>HEALTH</b>	- Overall health better than the national average - Welwyn Hatfield Physical Activity and Health statistics are slightly below than the regional and national averages. - 61.1% of adults are categorised as overweight this is in line with the regional average (63.3%) but lower than the national (64.8%) average. - 15% of children are classed as obese, lower than the regional (17.9%) and the national (19.1%) average - Total health costs due to physical activity are estimated at £1.7m per annum

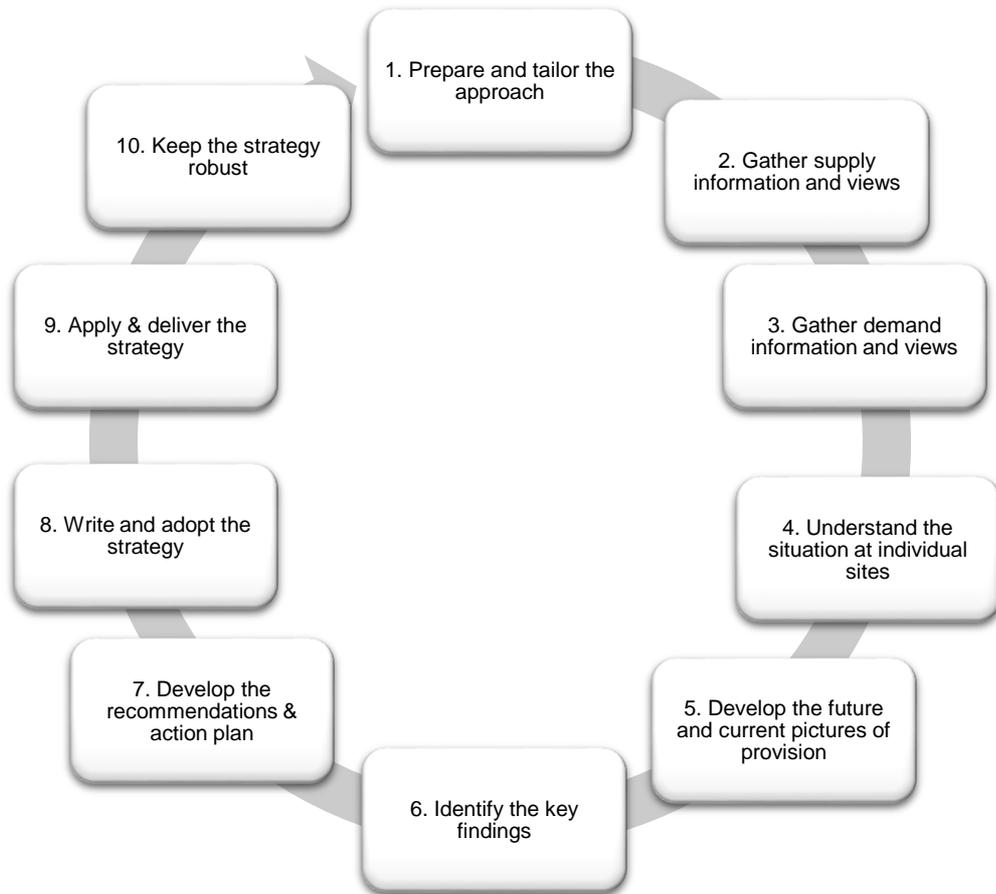
1.3.3 The Sport England Active People Survey (APS) shows that participation levels in Welwyn Hatfield are marginally above those at national level:

- 57.4% of adults (16+) report undertaking 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity compared to the national average of 57.0%;
- 45.2% adults (14+) take part in sport at least once a week compared to the national average of 37.0%: that's 52.6% of men and 38.0% of women in the Welwyn Hatfield community;
- 24.1% adults (16+) take part in sport and active recreation three times a week compared to the National average of 23.7%: that's 28.3% of men and 19.9% of women in the Welwyn Hatfield community; and
- 53.7% of adults who are inactive, want to take part in sport, demonstrating there is an opportunity to increase participation
- 19.4% of the Borough's population is inactive – i.e. they had undertaken less than 30 minutes physical activity or sport in the last 28 days

## 2 Methodology

2.1.1 The assessment methodology adopted for the PPS follows the published guidance from Sport England. The guidance used is the 2013 version, Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy<sup>1</sup>. Figure 1 summarises the approach proposed in this guidance and is broken down into 10 steps.

**Figure 1.1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach (Sport England, 2013)**



2.1.2 The findings in this report are based on data collected from several credible sources, including but not limited to;

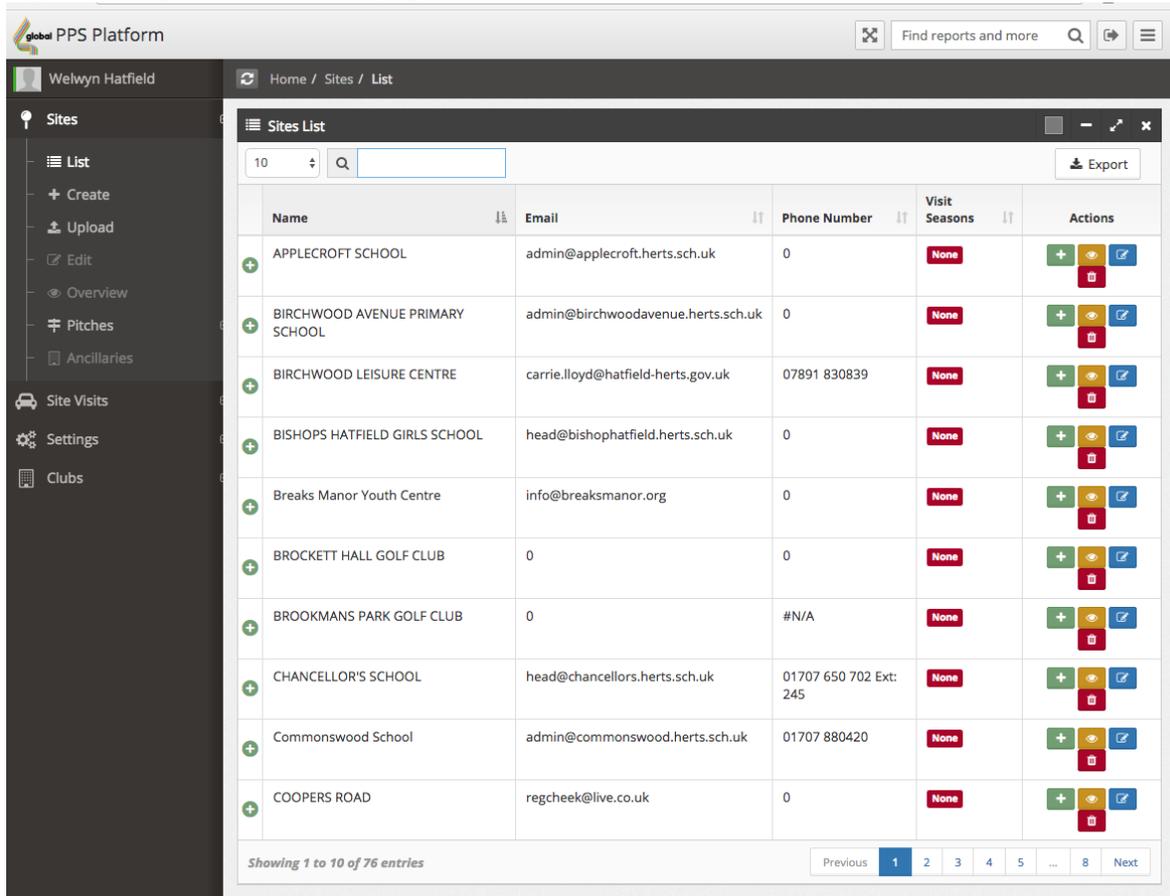
- Local authority and public policy strategic documentation;
- Sport England tools, including Active Places Power, the Active Lives Survey and the New Development Playing Pitch Calculator;
- Stakeholder consultation, including WHBC Officers and Members, Sport England, , relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport, key user clubs; and

1 <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3522/pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf>

- Site visits, undertaken at all sites across the Study Area.

2.1.3 To facilitate information gathering and help ensure PPS reports are based on a robust evidence base, 4global has developed an online data entry and assessment platform (see example below), which contains all site and club information. This will enable the council and PPS Steering Group to keep supply and demand information and the strategy up to date throughout the delivery of the strategy.

Figure 1.2 - 4global's Online Playing Pitch Platform



The screenshot shows the '4global PPS Platform' interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options like 'Sites', 'List', 'Create', 'Upload', 'Edit', 'Overview', 'Pitches', 'Ancillaries', 'Site Visits', 'Settings', and 'Clubs'. The main area displays a 'Sites List' table with the following data:

Name	Email	Phone Number	Visit Seasons	Actions
APPLECROFT SCHOOL	admin@applecroft.herts.sch.uk	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BIRCHWOOD AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL	admin@birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE	carrie.lloyd@hatfield-herts.gov.uk	07891 830839	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BISHOPS HATFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL	head@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
Breaks Manor Youth Centre	info@breaksmanor.org	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BROCKETT HALL GOLF CLUB	0	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
BROOKMANS PARK GOLF CLUB	0	#N/A	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
CHANCELLOR'S SCHOOL	head@chancellors.herts.sch.uk	01707 650 702 Ext: 245	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
Commonswood School	admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk	01707 880420	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]
COOPERS ROAD	regcheek@live.co.uk	0	None	[+], [eye], [edit], [trash]

At the bottom of the table, it says 'Showing 1 to 10 of 76 entries' and includes a pagination control with 'Previous', '1', '2', '3', '4', '5', '...', '8', and 'Next'.

2.1.4 A Project Steering Group comprising representation from the Council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) has guided the study from its commencement. At critical milestones, the Steering Group members have reviewed and verified the data and information collected to allow the work to proceed efficiently through each stage.

2.1.5 The PPS Steering Group will continue to help guide preparation of the PPS through to its adoption and subsequent delivery and implementation.

## 2.2 Methodology for the assessment of non-pitch sports facilities – ANOG

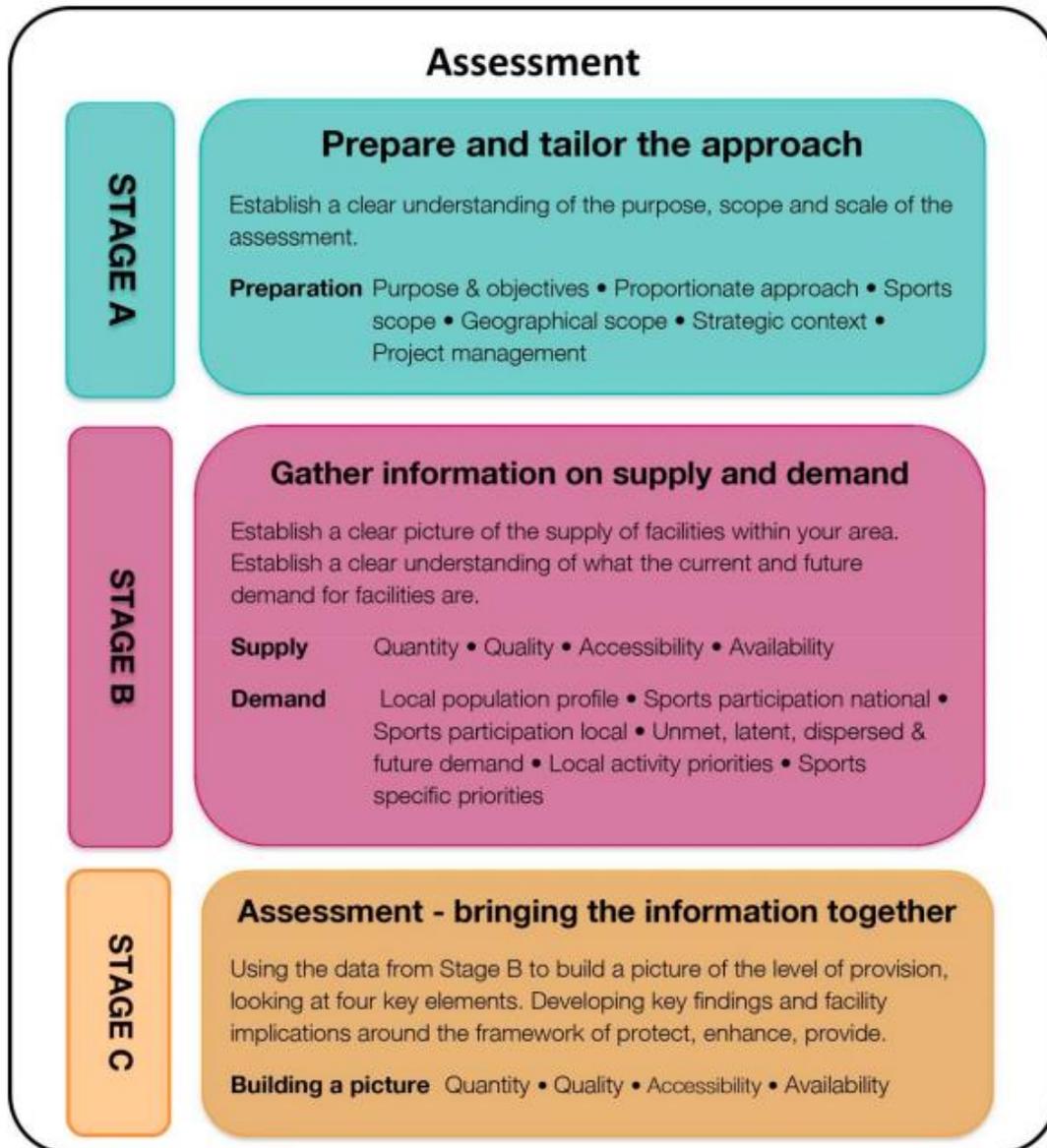
2.2.1 As highlighted above, the 2013 PPS methodology features in depth guidance and instruction regarding the undertaking of research, and presentation of the data for five pitch sports:

Association Football; Cricket; Hockey; Rugby Union, and; Rugby. All other sports covered in the strategy are not covered by any formal PPS guidance.

2.2.2 The aim of the ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for indoor and outdoor sports) guidance is stated as follows: "This guide provides a recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. The guide has primarily been produced to help (LAs) meet the requirements of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework".

2.2.3 The ANOG guidance recommends utilising the following methodology:

Figure 1.3: ANOG methodology



2.2.4 Whilst this methodology is not as specific as that laid out in the 2013 PPS guidance for PPS sports, it does provide a recognised, repeatable and robust framework on which to base out assessment of need

### 3 Built Facilities Strategy: summary of overarching recommendations

#### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Recommendation 1 (Protect):** The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in the Borough are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present.

Welwyn Hatfield Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis.
- **Recommendation 2 (Provide):** Consideration of investment into additional swimming pool provision in Welwyn Hatfield, in the long term is considered, based on identified future need. Investment should be through partnership given the health benefits of such a facility and the ageing demographics of Welwyn Garden City and surrounding villages.
- **Recommendation 2A (Provide):** Welwyn Hatfield Council considers the opportunity to develop a replacement leisure centre in Hatfield, co-locating Hatfield Leisure Centre and Hatfield Swim Centre; the current and potential role of Birchwood Leisure Centre (operated by Hatfield Town Council) should also be taken into account when developing any new provision in Hatfield.
- **Recommendation 3 (Enhance and Provide):** A more detailed feasibility study and masterplan study into the provision options on the Gosling Sports Park, in the context of the built facility needs assessment and the PPS is undertaken. This should consider the options for addressing identified need for additional swimming provision in the Borough.
- **Recommendation 3A (Enhance and Provide):** Review the future of the Birchwood Leisure Centre especially as this is one of the only two community sports halls that has daytime access and will need refurbishment/replacement.
- **Recommendation 4 (Provide and Protect):** Existing levels of community accessible and affordable fitness suite provision in the Borough should be retained as a minimum, and where appropriate, opportunities for investment in additional health and fitness provision where there is an identified need/business case justification should be considered by all providers.
- **Recommendation 5 (Provide and Enhance):** Working in partnership, Welwyn Hatfield Council seek to ensure that any new education provision involving new or enhanced sports facilities has a CUA as part of the planning consent so as to secure pay and play opportunities for clubs and groups, or as an alternative to securing a CUA on new

school sites, an alternative particularly for new secondary schools in major residential developments, that should be at least be explored, is for a community managed sports hall/fitness facility to be provided adjoining the school site which could be hired by the school during the day and managed by a community body for community use at other times.

- **Recommendation 6 (Provide and Enhance):** Consider the opportunity for increased community access to existing education sports facilities where community access is currently provided, and where it is not; where possible, seek enhanced provision through a CUA.
- **Recommendation 7 (Protect and Enhance):** Public and voluntary sector partners facilitate, where possible, increased access to pay and play community centres/halls to maintain and grow participation in physical activity.
- **Recommendation 8 (Provide):** The opportunity provided by a new athletics track at Oaklands College should be considered in relation to the existing club use at the Gosling Sports Park, given that an improved velodrome could be provided if the athletics track was on an alternative site.
- **Recommendation 9 (Protect and Enhance):** Consider the opportunity to develop an improved velodrome on the Gosling Park site in the context of Recommendation 8, and the support of British Cycling for the facility.
- **Recommendation 10 (Enhance and Re-provide):** Consideration should be given to closure of the driving range at the Gosling Sports Park with provision of a relocated driving range be explored at Panshanger Golf Centre as this is controlled by WHC, may generate an income for the golf centre and there would be more long term security over entry level golf tuition on this site.
- **Recommendation 11 (Enhance):** Consideration should be given to whether long term provision of the existing regional ski slopes which require significant investment, and no longer attract the regular level of use they once did, is needed The operational cost of the ski facility outweighs its income.
- **Recommendation 12 (Provide and Protect):** Where appropriate, Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners seek to develop an approach to secure developer contributions that contribute towards the development and delivery of formal physical activity and sports facilities, additional and safe walking, running and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.
- **Recommendation 13 (Provide and Enhance):** Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high quality community sports

facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to reduced health inequalities, increased participation better community cohesion.

- **Recommendation 14 (Protect):** There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.

## 4 Built facility-specific recommendations

4.1.1 Although Welwyn Hatfield has good sports facilities there are some ageing facilities, which will require replacement / refurbishment in the medium-long term. In the short term, it is the quality of provision that needs to be addressed.

4.1.2 The section below details the priorities for future investment in facility provision that were identified (per facility type) as part of the Built Facilities Strategy.

### 4.2 Sports Halls

4.2.1 The following priorities were identified for Sport Halls in Welwyn Hatfield:

- Long term replacement / refurbishment of ageing facilities at Hatfield Leisure Centre, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Gosling Sports Park and education facilities across the borough.
- Securing additional CUAs for sports halls on education sites, particularly with schools identifying a desire to provide community access.
- Retention of existing level of sports hall provision in the borough as a minimum.

### 4.3 Swimming Pools

4.3.1 The following priorities were identified for Swimming Pools in Welwyn Hatfield:

- Increased pay and play accessible water space, equivalent to 187.50sq by 2032 (circa 4 lanes x 25m pool) during the period up to 2032.
- Replacement/refurbishment of ageing facilities
- Retention of existing levels of swimming pool provision in the borough as a minimum

### 4.4 Health and Fitness

4.4.1 The following priorities were identified for Health and Fitness facilities in Welwyn Hatfield:

- Retain provision of existing levels of community accessible and affordable fitness facilities as a minimum.
- Potentially increase the number of fitness stations at Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities

### 4.5 Indoor Bowls

4.5.1 The following priorities were identified for Indoor Bowls facilities in Welwyn Hatfield:

- Potential opportunity to consider long-term additional club-led provision of indoor bowls facilities at existing sites (increased demand for additional 2 rinks by 2032)

### 4.6 Athletics

4.6.1 The following priorities were identified for Athletics facilities in Welwyn Hatfield:

- Need to address the quality of the facility at Gosling Sports Park, as well as the access

issues, to realise its operating potential.

- Potential to facilitate access to a new track provided at Oaklands College, just outside the borough boundary.

## 4.7 Cycling

4.7.1 The following priorities were identified for Cycling facilities in Welwyn Hatfield:

- Need to address the quality of the facility and access issues at Gosling Sports Park to address realise its operating potential.

## 4.8 Skiing

4.8.1 The following priorities were identified for Skiing facilities in Welwyn Hatfield:

- Gosling Sports Park: consider long term need given condition, changes in types of artificial ski facilities and usage.

## 4.9 Driving Range

4.9.1 The following priorities were identified for Driving Range facilities in Welwyn Hatfield:

- Consider long term need of the driving range facility at Gosling Sports Park, given existing levels of provision in the borough.

## 5 Playing Pitch Strategy: summary of overarching recommendations

- 5.1.1 This section brings together the complete evidence base and analysis that has been developed as part of the PPS and provides a clear strategy for the future delivery of pitch sports provision in Welwyn Hatfield.
- 5.1.2 At a strategic level, the following key recommendations have been identified:
- **Recommendation G0:** It is recommended that Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council local planning policy protects all playing field sites as identified in this document, in order to reduce the risk of loss and subsequent impact on sport and physical activity provision. Where a site is to be lost, the future development plan for the site should meet one of the five policy exceptions identified in Sport England's March 2018 issue of the Playing Fields Guidance. In addition, it is key that local authority planning policy supports the development of new, high quality sports provision required to meet the needs generated by major housing development and population growth. This policy and associated strategic planning is particularly key when existing provision cannot meet the growing need generated by a large numbers of new residents living in a single area. It is recommended that the tools and guidance in this strategy are used to identify the typology and quantity of provision, as well as the overall strategic direction of sport facility development in the study area.
  - **Recommendation G1:** Work with well-run sports clubs to utilise the existing volunteer network across Welwyn Hatfield and providing more autonomy for clubs, allowing those organisations that have adequate governance and financial stability to develop facilities and participation.
  - **Recommendation G2:** Address the issue of poor ancillary and changing pavilion quality through the refurbishment and replacement of existing ancillary facilities, prioritising those on multi-pitch sites that are currently well used. Utilise the action plan to identify specific sites for development.
  - **Recommendation G3:** Enhance the drainage and maintenance of pitches that are currently operating over-capacity, to increase the pitch capacity to accommodate demand of current user clubs, especially on council-maintained pitches. Utilise the action plan to identify specific sites for development.
  - **Recommendation G4:** Work with clubs based at council owned sites, to establish long-term security use agreements, ensuring that clubs and participants have security of tenure and are able to grow and develop through grant funding wider investment.
  - **Recommendation G5:** For all sports and physical activity, look to increase and secure community use at education sites across the study area. There is currently some level of

dependence on unsecured facilities to meet the needs of residents across the Borough, which represents a risk to participation and physical activity in Welwyn Hatfield Borough. A strategic approach is recommended to address this, as opposed to being dealt with on a school by school basis, identifying priority schools to focus on, as well as opportunities to work with multi-academy trusts and identifying possible strategic solutions that can apply to multiple schools. Consideration should also be given to the role of independent schools, given the quality of the facilities that they usually offer.

- **Recommendation G6:** it is recommended for a master planning exercise to be undertaken on the Gosling Sports Park site to consider how it could effectively accommodate the needs, priorities and recommendations for indoor and outdoor sports facilities as outlined in this PPS and the emerging Built Facilities Strategy

## 6 Playing Pitch Strategy: summary of sport-specific recommendations

6.1.1 The following section details the key recommendations that have been identified as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy for each of the pitch sport typologies:

### 6.2 Football

- **Recommendation F1:** Protect all grass pitches for future football use and develop further capacity through improved maintenance and the development of 3G AGP provision, to ensure there is spare capacity for football over the lifetime of the strategy
- **Recommendation F2:** Ensure sites that have community use available also have security of tenure to protect the future provision of football, allowing clubs based on council sites to apply for grants and investments from various governing bodies.
- **Recommendation F3:** Provide sites where there is significant use of adult pitches to meet Youth Football and Mini Soccer pitch demand with mobile goal posts to ensure the appropriate sized goals and pitches are being used for these age-groups.
- **Recommendation F4:** FA calculations estimate that there is a current deficit of three full sized 3G AGPs in Welwyn Hatfield, which is expected to increase to five by the end of the strategy. Identify at least 3 sites to develop full sized 3G AGP provision, to meet the growing demand for this pitch type and meet the needs of local clubs and residents. The following sites should be considered, as identified as part of this study, and in conjunction with any priorities identified in the emerging Local Football Facilities Plan for Welwyn Hatfield:
  - Birchwood Leisure Centre
  - Chancellor's School
  - King George V Playing Fields
  - Moneyhole Lane Playing Field
  - Monks Walk School
  - Ridgeway Academy
- **Recommendation F5:** Increase the level of maintenance at sites identified as being close to the poor rating, in order to mitigate the risk of pitches falling into disuse and lowering the carrying capacity of pitch provision in the Borough
- **Recommendation F6:** Focus on the development of ancillary facilities located at local authority sites in terms of changing room provision. This should be in conjunction with the Football Foundation, and in line with any priorities for investment identified as part of the emerging Local Football Facilities Plan for Welwyn Hatfield

### 6.3 Cricket

- **Recommendation C1:** Protect all sites designated as cricket playing fields in this PPS in line with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. Cricket should not only be protected from loss but also from developments that would prejudice their use, particularly ball strike, unless it can be properly mitigated (this has become an increasing issue with developments around cricket grounds and, if not given appropriate weight, it could prejudice cricket activity on the sites).
- **Recommendation C2:** Work with clubs that are currently using sites that are over-capacity, such as Hatfield Crusaders CC, North Mymms CC and Welwyn Garden City CC, to provide additional provision, through non-turf (artificial) wickets, in order to accommodate junior team demand.
- **Recommendation C3:** Utilise the funding opportunities and strategic direction provided by the ECB's Cricket Unleashed strategy, to provide fit for purpose facilities and programmes across the Borough. Work with the ECB to continue to develop community programmes such as All Stars Cricket, Women's Softball Festivals, Get the Game On and Chance to Shine and increase participation in the programme across the Borough.
- **Recommendation C4:** Invest in ancillary facilities and the use of better security systems in order to decrease the amount of anti-social behaviour. Utilise the action plan to identify the specific sites where this should be a priority

### 6.4 Rugby

- **Recommendation R1:** Protect all sites designated as rugby playing fields in this PPS, in line with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.
- 
- **Recommendation R2:** Improve the pitch drainage and maintenance regime across all key rugby sites, to increase the capacity of grass rugby pitches, especially those at Roe Hill and Welwyn RFC.
- **Recommendation R3:** Support Welwyn RFC to develop additional pitch provision to accommodate their growing demand, and Hatfield QE RFC in their aspirations to develop their own facility for relocation.
- **Recommendation R4:** Monitor the growth of women's and girls' rugby to ensure there is sufficient capacity to allow clubs to develop these sections.
- **Recommendation R5:** Work with clubs to upgrade facilities to ensure they are appropriate for hosting matches for both genders at the same time.

- **Recommendation R6:** Install permanent or demountable floodlighting to increase training capacity

## 6.5 Hockey

- **Recommendation H1:** Protect all sites designated as rugby playing fields in this PPS, in line with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.
- **Recommendation H2:** Ensure long-term community use agreements are in place, especially at educational sites such as Hertfordshire Sports Village and Queenswood School, to further develop hockey within the area. This will allow for great club growth and facility development.
- **Recommendation H3:** Safeguard sand based AGP provision for future use and do not allow the conversion from sand based to 3G AGP's to occur unless offset with new development.
- **Recommendation H4:** Work with Queenswood School to improve pitch quality on site, which will increase Hockey capacity in the Borough and attract further club use

## 7 Summary of wider sports specific recommendations

### 7.1 Tennis

- **Recommendation T1:** Work with the LTA to invest in further local authority facilities, focussing on those of poorer quality, to increase tennis capacity across the Borough and address the current deficit of provision.
- **Recommendation T2:** Work in conjunction with the FA and Football Foundation when applying for new 3G surfaces and sites as Tennis courts can be added onto such applications and better serve a wider aspect of the community.
- **Recommendation T3:** Ensure that the loss of the Ponsbourne Park Tennis Club site is mitigated with the provision of equivalent facilities elsewhere in the Borough; and protect tennis provision at Brookmans Park Golf Club, which has been identified as a potential site for housing developments.

### 7.2 Golf

- **Recommendation G1:** Protect all sites designated as Golf provision and establish long-term community use agreements, as well as continued maintenance improvements to golf courses and driving ranges.  
A golf facility needs assessment will need to be prepared to support any golf facility that is progressed for development as golf sites are increasingly coming under pressure for development and a more detailed analysis of needs will be required than that included in this PPS, to inform whether facilities are surplus to requirements

### 7.3 Cycling

- **Recommendation CY1:** Protect provision at Gosling Sports Park, which is considered of key importance for the development of cycling in the region. If the ancillary facilities on site are to be lost, explore alternative options for their replacement
- **Recommendation CY2:** Continue to monitor the quality of provision at Gosling Sports Park, and invest in improving the quality of the velodrome track on site as identified in the needs assessment of this PPS (it must be highlighted that the surface has recently been replaced).
- **Recommendation CY3:** work in conjunction with England Athletics to explore the displacement of athletics demand to Oakland College, in order to address the current programming issues – subject to further feasibility work

### 7.4 Athletics

- **Recommendation A1:** Work with England Athletics and the resident clubs to explore

the relocation of existing demand at Gosling Sports Park to one of the potential relocation sites (in alignment with CY3), protect this facility until further feasibility studies are completed to determine the most suitable solution. If the track at Gosling Sports Park was to be lost, it must be replaced with equivalent facilities elsewhere in the area

## 7.5 Netball

- **Recommendation N1:** Protect all sites designated as netball provision and establish long-term community use agreements with educational sites and netball clubs, as well as continued maintenance improvements to surfaces

## 7.6 Lacrosse

- **Recommendation L1:** Protect the existing 3G facilities in Welwyn Hatfield, with a view to increase pitch availability for Lacrosse (particularly Welwyn Warriors) and support local clubs securing suitable training and match pitch space, which has been identified as a major issue as part of this study

## 7.7 Bowls

- **Recommendation B1:** Protect all sites designated as bowls facilities in this PPS.
- **Recommendation B2:** Continue to support the work of volunteers and, where appropriate, to empower members to have control over management of their own facility. The Council, Bowls England and Sport England should continue to support projects that help clubs attract more players and grow the game further in Welwyn Hatfield.

## 8 Site-by-site Action Plan

- 8.1.1 Through a detailed supply and demand analysis of the sports included in the scope of the strategy, as well as stakeholder consultations across the study area, an action plan has been created, which will guide the steering group in their delivery of sports provision and facility decisions over the next 10 years. The action plan is broken down by site with clear owners, timescales and expected resources. This is shown tables 8.1 and 8.2.
- 8.1.2 The tables identify potential sources of external funding. It should be noted that funding for the actions below could come from one, or a combination, of funding sources shown below. This is not an exhaustive list and could be extended to other sources, depending on availability.
- CIL monies
  - Section 106 funding
  - Community Grant Schemes
- 8.1.3 The Action Plan does not identify all those clubs that may be partners or provide resources in relation to its delivery. It is assumed that where clubs have a long-standing interest in a specific site that they will be a partner in delivering the actions and contribute financially or in-kind where appropriate.
- 8.1.4 The Action Plan has been developed in partnership by WHBC and a range of stakeholders, including Sport England and several sports' national governing bodies, and therefore its delivery is a partnership between all these bodies and not WHBC only.
- 8.1.5 The Action Plan does not identify Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council as a key resource either in terms of officer time or finance, except for those sites owned and/or managed by the Council. However, the Council has an interest in all those projects delivered within the local authority area and may contribute towards them either financially or in-kind, as appropriate and subject to available resources. It should be noted that not all sites have actions allocated to them, as it is unrealistic to expect funding partners to contribute to improvements at all facilities across a local authority. Sites where no actions have been identified have not been included in the Action Plan.

### ACTION PLAN TERMINOLOGY

- Issue/ opportunity: The issue or opportunity that can be addressed
- Actions ID: Numbering indicates order of preference
- Partners: Top listed partner is identified as lead partner
- Resources: Key resource implications (time and money)
- Timescale: Short: 1–5 yrs. Medium: 5-10 yrs. Long 10+ yrs.
- Priority: Low, Medium and High, depending on overall impact for sports participation
- Acronyms: WHBC (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council), FA (Football Association), FF (Football Foundation), ECB (England & Wales Cricket Board), Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), EH (England Hockey), RFU (Rugby Football Union), CC (cricket club), HC (hockey club), FC (football club).

- 8.1.6 It is important to highlight that all generic and site specific recommendations and actions listed in this section have been assigned with lead partners and key resources for their delivery. However, this does not commit any of the partners, including WHBC, to the delivery of the actions as this will be determined by financial and staffing resources, corporate priorities, co-operation by other stakeholders, etc
- 8.1.7 There is not unlimited funding to invest in sports facilities, for any of the identified partners. As a result, actions have been prioritised on sites that are currently either not fit-for-purpose, showing a deficit of provision, or those that represent a viable investment opportunity that will significantly increase the quality, quantity or accessibility of sports provision in Welwyn Hatfield.
- 8.1.8 To provide the Council and Steering Group with a clear identification of 'strategic' investment priorities across the study area, high profile strategic investment projects have been identified overleaf in bold. These projects are likely to be limited in number due to their size but will deliver a significant level of benefit for grass-roots sport and physical activity. These projects are likely to cost approximately £250,000 or more and will include a number of different stakeholders and funding partners.

**Table 8.1: Welwyn Hatfield's PPS Action Plan (2018-2033 )**

Site Name	Subarea	Action ID/Ref	Issue / opportunity	Key Action(s)	Partners	Resources	Timing	Priority
BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE	Hatfield	Football 1 - Enhance	The grass pitches were deemed Standard as part of the site inspection, however it was revealed that they could sometimes be unsafe with a hard surface due to using inappropriate maintenance equipment	Provide support acquiring the required equipment to put in place an improved and more robust maintenance regime.	WHBC, Hatfield Town Council, FF	FF funding	Short	Medium
		Football 2 - Enhance	Youth 11v11 pitches on site are at capacity during peak times, with significant spare capacity on the adult pitches	Explore a potential re-configuration of the site in order to address the current deficit for Youth 11v11 provision across the Borough	Hatfield Town Council, WHBC, Site users	Council officer time	Short	Medium
		<b>Football 3 - Provide</b>	An opportunity to replace one of the existing adult grass pitches on site with a full-sized 3G AGP has been identified. The site has also been identified by Hatfield Town FC as a potential site for relocation.	Explore the site's potential to accommodate demand from Hatfield Town FC and for 3G development, in conjunction with the FA and FF, and in line with any priorities identified as part of the emerging LFFP.	WHBC, FA, FF, Sport England	Council, FA and Sport England officer time, FA funding for new 3G AGP	Short	<b>High</b>
BISHOPS HATFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL	Hatfield	Rugby 1 - Provide	The school are looking to access RFU funding that they will put into new grass pitch provision at the site	Support the school and work together with relevant NGBs to determine a new site configuration that will be beneficial for all sports on site	Bishop's Hatfield Girls School, RFU, FA, ECB	RFU funding, School funds	Short	Medium
BROOKMANS PARK GOLF CLUB	Southern Villages	<b>Tennis 1 - Protect</b>	LTA consultation revealed that the site has been put forward for potential housing development, which could result in a displacement/loss of tennis playing members in the Borough	Protect the tennis provision and support the club in securing a long-term usage agreement	WHBC, Sport England, LTA, Brookmans Park Golf Club	WHBC, Sport England and LTA officer time	Short	<b>High</b>

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOOL	Southern Villages	Football 4 - Provide	The school have expressed their aspirations to establish AGP provision on site, to act as a central community hub for sports in the area, which would also demand further parking capacity	Explore the site's potential for 3G development, in conjunction with the FA and FF, and in line with any priorities identified as part of the emerging LFFP.	WHBC, Chancellor's School, FA, RFU	WHBC, FA and RFU officer time	Medium	Medium
		Rugby 2 – Enhance	The drainage problems and poor condition of the pitch is restricting community use of the pitch	Improve quality of maintenance on site with a view to improving drainage on site	Chancellor's School RFU WHBC	RFU funding School funds	Short	Medium
COMMONSWOOD SCHOOL	Welwyn Garden City	Football 5 - Enhance	The Mini 7v7 pitch on site is not available to the community due to its poor condition. Improving its quality and making it available to the wider community would help address the deficit for 7v7 provision in the area	Support the school in improving pitch maintenance	WHBC, Commonswood School	WHBC funding, FF funding	Medium	Medium
COOPERS ROAD	Southern Villages	Football 6 - Protect	Due to its poor location and pitch quality, no demand has been recorded on the Adult pitch on site	Re-designate the site as open space for alternative sports and physical activity	WHBC	WHBC funding	Short	Low
CRESWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL	Welwyn Garden City	Football 7 - Provide	The site is known to have had community use in the past, however no formal pitch provision was identified at time of assessment	Work with the school and the FA to explore the possibility to utilise the site to develop further pitch provision and better accommodate local football demand	WHBC FA Creswick Primary School	WHBC and FA officer time	Short	Medium
CUFFLEY SCHOOL	Southern Villages	Football 8 – Enhance	The Mini 7v7 pitch on site was identified as poor as part of the assessment	Improved maintenance of pitches on this site	WHBC, Cuffley School	WHBC funding	Short	Low
DE HAVILLAND GRANGE (a.k.a. Cornflower Way, Hatfield)	Southern Villages	<b>Football 9 – Enhance</b>	Funding has been secured from a nearby housing development to invest in a full redevelopment of the site, including new changing provision, storage depot and the reconfiguration of the	Council to support the delivery of this project	WHBC, FF	Developer contribution, WHBC officer time	Long	<b>High</b>

			grass provision to 1x Youth 9v9 and 2x Mini Soccer 7v7 pitches					
ESSENDON PLAYING FIELDS	Southern Villages	Cricket 1 – Enhance	Evidence of informal use of the pitches and dog fouling/rubbish	Install additional waste bins and improve signage	Essendon PF Association, Essendon CC, ECB	Essendon CC ECB	Short	Low
		Cricket 2 - Provide	There is a disused net facility to the North of the site	Work with the site and club to reinstate the disused facilities to help address the lack of suitable training facilities identified by local clubs	Essendon PF Association, Essendon CC, ECB	Essendon CC ECB	Medium	Medium
GOSLING SPORTS PARK	Welwyn Garden City	Football 10 – Enhance	The site has unsecured security of tenure and it is currently used by Hatfield Town FC. There is an opportunity for the club to move to a site adjacent to Birchwood Leisure Centre in the future.	Work with the club and site managers to put in place a community use agreement and secure long-term access, and/or support the club with their relocation to Birchwood Leisure Centre	WHBC, Site managers (GLL, Play Football), Hatfield Town FC FF	WHBC officer time	Short	Medium
		Cycling 1 – Enhance/Provide	1.The sports hall on site could be at risk of closure if this happens, there will not be any ancillary facilities within the immediate vicinity of the velodrome, which was stated to be a major concern for British Cycling during consultation. 2.The velodrome currently remains dependent on lightfall from neighbouring floodlit pitches; the installation of floodlights would allow a greater use of the facility.	1.Support the club for an extended lease being negotiated with GLL, guaranteeing access to the velodrome and ancillary facilities. If the existing facility is to be lost, explore potential options for replacement. 2.Invest in floodlighting for the velodrome in order to allow increased usage	GLL Welwyn Wheelers British Cycling	British Cycling and WHBC funding	1.Short 2.Short	1.High 2.Medium
		Athletics 1 – Enhance	The running track is in a bowl and has six lanes, and Herts Phoenix AC have revealed that, due to the limited space,	Undertake feasibility study to determine whether a new track at Oakland's College could	England Athletics Herts Phoenix AC WHBC	England Athletics and WHBC officer time	Medium-Long	Medium

			<p>the club is being prevented from expanding.                  The potential development of a running track at Oaklands College would allow the club to offset some demand to the site and continue to grow</p>	<p>fully accommodate the needs for Athletics in the Welwyn Hatfield and St.Albans area and whether the track at Gosling Sports Park would have to be retained or replaced if lost.</p> <p>If the Oaklands College track was to be completed, support the club in securing long-term access to the site</p>				
		<b>Tennis 2 - Protect</b>	The site is of key strategic importance in the area.	Protect and maintain the site as tennis provision	WHBC LTA	Officer time	Short	<b>High</b>
		<b>Golf 1 - Protect</b>	The driving range on site was identified as at risk of being lost. Consultation also revealed that if the facility was to be lost, it could be potentially relocated to the Panshanger area (subject to further feasibility work)	Undertake a feasibility study to determine the impact of the potential loss of this facility and where existing demand could be accommodated at other Pay & Play facilities in the area.	WHBC England Golf	Officer time	Short	<b>High</b>
HATFIELD COMMUNITY FREE SCHOOL	Hatfield	Football 11 - Provide	The site is known to have had community use in the past, however no formal pitch provision was identified at time of assessment	Work with the school and the FA to explore the possibility to utilise the site to develop further pitch provision and better accommodate local football demand	WHBC FA Hatfield Community Free School	WHBC and FA officer time	Short	Medium
HATFIELD CRUSADERS CRICKET CLUB	Welwyn Garden City	Football 12 – Protect and Provide	No football demand was recorded at the site; however the Cricket Club are looking to relocate to a nearby site. If this move is completed, there is an opportunity to reconfigure the site for football use in order to address the shortage of	Explore the possibility of reconfiguring the site for football use only	FF WHBC ECB Hatfield Crusaders CC	FF funding	Medium	Medium

			Youth provision in the area					
		Cricket 3 – Enhance	The site has recently suffered some anti-social behaviour and vandalism incidents that have caused damage to the facility	Increase security of the site to avoid unauthorized access	WHBC Hatfield Crusaders CC ECB	WHBC and ECB funding	Short	Low
		<b>Cricket 4 - Provide</b>	The Hatfield House site, located across the road, has current plans to install 2 cricket pitches and the club have plans to relocate to this site once completed	Support the club with their relocation and provide support and information on funding opportunities	ECB Hatfield Crusaders CC WHBC	ECB officer time and funding, Hatfield Crusaders CC	Medium	<b>High</b>
HATFIELD FOOTBALL ACADEMY	Hatfield	Football 13 – Enhance	The two small sided AGPs on site are aging and likely to require surfacing	Resurfacing of the sand-based AGPs on site within the next 5 years	Hatfield Football Academy	Private capital, FF funding	Medium	Low
HATFIELD HYDE CRICKET CLUB	Welwyn Garden City	Cricket 5 – Enhance	1.Issues of unofficial use, vandalism and surface damage have been identified on the cricket pitches 2.Site users have raised problems with the unevenness of the pitch	1.Increase security of the site and improve signage to avoid unauthorized access 2.Work with the club to put in place a more robust maintenance regime	WHBC ECB Hatfield Hyde CC	WHBC and ECB funding	1.Short 2.Medium	1.Low 2.Medium
		Cricket 6 - Provide	The club has identified a need for additional training facilities to allow their further growth	Support the club with their aspirations to install a two-lane non-turf practice net and provide information on potential funding opportunities	Hatfield Hyde CC ECB WHBC	WHBC and ECB funding	Medium	Medium
HATFIELD LAWN TENNIS & BOWLING CLUB LTD	Hatfield	Bowls 1- Protect	The site has been promoted for development in recent consultation on potential residential sites.	Protect the facility as sports provision. If the site was to be lost, this should be mitigated by the provision of replacement facilities elsewhere in the Borough.	WHBC Sport England FA Bowls England	WHBC officer time	Short	Medium
HATFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	Southern Villages	Football 14 – Enhance	The two small sided 3G AGPs on site are well utilised by football clubs for training and the netting and walls	Replace nets and refurbish AGP walls	WHBC FF	WHBC and FF funding	Short	Low

			surrounding the pitch are deteriorating.					
HERTFORDSHIRE SPORTS VILLAGE	Hatfield	Football 15 – Enhance	Consultation with Arsenal Women FC revealed a need to upgrade the dugout provision and establish a covered stand	Support the site and the club to proceed with the development of dugout and stands provision	Arsenal Women FC, FF	Arsenal Women's FC	Medium	Low
		<b>Hockey 1 - Protect</b>	The site is home to Welwyn Garden City HC and other teams imported from neighbouring local authorities. However, it has been identified as unsecured for long-term use	Due to the site being of key importance for sports in the area, community access should be secured through a community use agreement.	University of Hertfordshire Welwyn Garden City HC WHBC	EH officer time	Short	<b>High</b>
		<b>Hockey 2 - Provide</b>	The site is currently reaching capacity during peak times of demand and it is not possible to develop further pitches on site	Work with users of the site and explore the possibility of displacing some demand to alternative hockey facilities in the Borough	EH Welwyn Garden City HC	EH officer time	Short	<b>High</b>
KING GEORGE PLAYING FIELD	Southern Villages	Football 16 – Protect	1. Club consultation revealed severe drainage problems due to the site being built on London Clay. 2. The clubhouse on site is of poor quality and requires upgrading	1.Improve quality of maintenance on site with a view to improving drainage on site 2. Assess the ancillary with a view to refurbishing the existing facilities	WHBC, FA, Football Foundation	WHBC and FF funding	1.Short 2.Medium	1.Medium 2.Medium
KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS	Welwyn Garden City	<b>Football 17 – Enhance</b>	The site is heavily used by several local clubs and the analysis shows spare capacity on the adult pitches, with some level of overplay on the Youth 11v11 pitch (suggesting that youth teams are currently utilising adult pitches)	Assess the potential reconfiguration of the site to better address current level of youth football demand	WHBC, FF, Site users	WHBC and FF officer time	Short	<b>High</b>
		<b>Football 18 – Provide</b>	The site has been identified as a potential location for the development of 3G AGP	Explore the site's potential for 3G development, in	WHBC, FF	WHBC and FF officer time for	Short	<b>High</b>

			provision	conjunction with the FA and FF, and in line with any priorities identified as part of the emerging LFFP.		feasibility study, FF funding for 3G AGP		
LEMSFORD VILLAGE HALL	Hatfield	Football 19 – Enhance	The site has suffered from anti-social behaviour in the past	Increase security of the site and improve signage	WHBC	WHBC funding	Short	Low
MONEYHOLE LANE PLAYING FIELD	Welwyn Garden City	Football 20 – Enhance	The site accommodates a large amount of demand from Panshanger FC, which results in some overuse of the pitches	Improve maintenance on site in order to keep the playing surface to an adequate standard	FF, Panshanger FC, WHBC	WHBC and FF funding	Medium	Medium
		<b>Football 21 – Provide</b>	Due to the club's fast paced growth in recent years and the proposed nearby housing developments, a reconfiguration of the site is likely to be required in order to meet new requirements, including the potential development of a small sized AGP to accommodate training demand	Explore the site's potential for reconfiguration and 3G development, in conjunction with the FA and FF, and in line with any priorities identified as part of the emerging LFFP. Provide the club with support and information on funding options	WHBC, FF	WHBC and FF officer time for feasibility study, FF funding for 3G AGP	Medium	<b>High</b>
MONKS WALK SCHOOL	Welwyn Garden City	Football 22 – Enhance	The pitches on site are heavily used by Welwyn Pegasus' 38 teams and suffer from gravel and stones rising from the surface, with hard ground and poor line marking as well.	Work with the FA and the club to put in place a more robust maintenance regime with adequate equipment	Monks Walk School, FF, Welwyn Pegasus FC	FF officer time, School and FF funding for additional equipment	Short	Medium
		<b>Football 23 – Enhance</b>	Large amount of Youth and Mini Soccer demand potentially taking place on Adult pitches	Asses the possibility of a reconfiguration of the site to better address current levels of demand	Monks Walk School, Welwyn Pegasus FC, FF	Monks Walk School	Medium	<b>High</b>
		<b>Football 24 – Provide</b>	Club consultation revealed that the existing 3G AGP is currently reaching capacity due to the high levels of demand in the area and the	Explore the site's potential for 3G development, in conjunction with the FA and FF, and in line with	Monks Walk School, FF, WHBC	FF officer time and funding	Short	<b>High</b>

			site has been identified as a potential location for an additional 3G pitch	any priorities identified as part of the emerging LFFP. Provide the club information on funding opportunities				
NORTH MYMMS CRICKET CLUB	Southern Villages	Cricket 7 – Enhance	The club are currently seeking funding for a water container or an alternative solution to address the lack of available water for maintenance of the square	Provide support and information on potential funding opportunities for this development	ECB North Mymms CC WHBC	ECB officer time and funding	Short	Medium
		<b>Cricket 8 - Provide</b>	The site is currently over capacity for grass wickets	Asses the possibility of installing an NTP on site to help off-set demand on the fine turf wickets	ECB North Mymms CC WHBC	ECB funding	Medium	<b>High</b>
OLD OWENS SPORTS CLUB	Southern Villages	Football 25 – Enhance	There is a significant amount of youth football accommodated at the site, however no Youth 11v11 or 9v9 provision, which indicates that it is likely that this demand is currently taking place on the adult pitches	Assess a potential reconfiguration of the site or add mobile Youth and Mini goal posts to the site	Old Owens Sports Club	Club officer time	Short	Medium
		<b>Cricket 9 - Provide</b>	There is a two-lane practice net on site that is currently disused due to the a lack of maintenance	Support the club in obtaining funding to reinstate the practice nets, in order to address the lack of training facilities identified by local clubs across the borough.	Old Owens Sports Club, ECB, WHBC	ECB funding	Medium	<b>High</b>
PANSHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL	Welwyn Garden City	Football 26 – Enhance	The site no longer accommodates demand from the wider community due to poor pitch quality. An improved playing surface would help address the current deficit for Mini 7v7 provision in the area	Relay and resurface the pitch, as well as putting in place an adequate maintenance regime	Panshanger School, FF	WHBC and FF funding	Medium	Medium

PONSBOURNE PARK TE CLUB	Southern Villages	<b>Tennis 3 - Provide</b>	The land has now been sold for the development of a hotel on site. A number of the tennis courts will be retained but will not be available for community use.	Ensure that the loss of the tennis courts is mitigated with investment in similar facilities elsewhere in the borough	WHBC Sport England LTA Ponsbourne Park Tennis Club	Developer contribution, LTA funding Sport England Funding	Medium	<b>High</b>
QUEENSWOOD SCHOOL	Southern Villages	Hockey 2 - Protect	The pitch is occasionally used by Harpenden HC (imported demand) and could potentially act as an overflow pitch for local clubs. However, it has been identified as unsecured for long term use	Work with the club to put in place a long-term agreement to allow community access during peak demand times	WHBC EH Queenswood School	WHBC and EH officer time	Short	Medium
		<b>Hockey 3 – Enhance</b>	Users of the site have raised the issue of a slippery surface. The site has also been identified as a potential home ground for Royal Veterinary College HC if they were to relocate from their current pitch in Hertsmere	Undertake resurfacing of the pitch to increase capacity for community bookings	WHBC EH Queenswood School	EH funding	Medium	<b>High</b>
RIDGEWAY ACADEMY	Welwyn Garden City	Football 27 – Enhance	Pitches on site were identified as Standard, however the high level of demand from Welwyn Garden City is likely to cause issues in relation to pitch quality and overplay in the near future	Work with the FA and the club to put in place a more robust pitch maintenance regime	FA FF	FF funding	Short	Medium
		<b>Football 28 – Provide</b>	The site has been identified as a potential location for the development of a full-sized 3G AGP to accommodate the large amount of match and training demand in the area. The existing sand-based AGP on site should not be converted to 3G unless existing hockey demand is satisfactory relocated.	Explore the site's potential for reconfiguration and 3G development, in conjunction with the FA and FF, and in line with any priorities identified as part of the emerging LFFP.	FA, FF, WHBC	FA, FF and WHBC officer time	Short	<b>High</b>

		Hockey 4 – Enhance	The AGP is 5-10 years old and it is starting to show some evidence of damage	Work with the school to resurface the sand based pitch within the next 5 years	Ridgeway Academy EH WHBC	EH funding	Medium	Medium
ROE HILL	Hatfield	<b>Cricket 10 - Protect</b>	There is the potential for Rugby and Football to be displaced from the site and therefore it should be protected for Cricket use. Consultation has also revealed that the site is being considered as a potential location for the Herts CCB to be based in the future	Protect the site as Cricket provision	WHBC ECB Herts CCB	WHBC and ECB officer time	Short	<b>High</b>
		<b>Cricket 11 – Enhance</b>	The ancillary facilities, as the well as the two-lane practice nets on site, were identified as very poor and in need of refurbishment/replacement	1.Work with relevant NGBs to upgrade the changing rooms, toilet and clubhouse facilities in order to better address demand at this multi-sport site 2.Refurbish/replace the existing practice nets to address the current need for additional training facilities across the borough	WHBC ECB RFU FA Sport England	1.WHBC and NGB officer time and funding 2.ECB funding	1.Medium 2.Medium	1.Medium <b>2.High</b>
		<b>Rugby 3 - Protect</b>	Hatfield QE RFC has been refused a lease of the site, therefore it is unsecured for long term use	Work with the club to put in place an agreement to allow long-term access of the site	WHBC RFU Hatfield QE RFC	WHBC and RFU officer time	Short	<b>High</b>
		Rugby 4 – Enhance	Pitch quality was identified as poor and therefore carrying capacity is not sufficient to meet current demand	Improve pitch maintenance to allow additional capacity	WHBC RFU Hatfield QE RFC	WHBC and RFU funding	Short	Medium
		<b>Rugby 5 - Provide</b>	Hatfield QE RFC have expressed their desire to develop their own facility, with 2 adult pitches and club house, which they have received a 200k grant for	Work with the club and support them in finding a suitable site for their relocation	WHBC RFU Hatfield QE RFC	WHBC and RFU officer time	Medium	<b>High</b>

STANBOROUGH SCHOOL	Welwyn Garden City	<b>Netball 1 - Protect</b>	The site is a nationally recognised netball facility that is of key strategic importance for netball in Hertfordshire.	Protect and maintain netball facilities on site	England Netball WHBC	Officer time	Short	<b>High</b>
STANBOROUGH SCHOOL GRASS PITCHES	Welwyn Garden City	Football 29 – Enhance	There are two Youth 9v9 pitches on site but no demand for this pitch typology. However, there are Mini Soccer teams from Hatfield Youth and Hatfield Town Youth playing from the site.	Reconfigure the Youth pitches into Mini Soccer in order to better accommodate current demand	Stanborough School, FF	Stanborough School	Short	Low
SOUTHFIELDS SCHOOL	Hatfield	Football 30 - Provide	The school has completed community use agreements on two sites (Woods Avenue and Travellers Lane), however no sports provision was present at time of assessment	Work with the school and the FA to explore the possibility of developing pitch provision on site to better accommodate local demand	WHBC FA Southfields School	WHBC and FA officer time	Short	Medium
SWALLOW DELL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL	Welwyn Garden City	Football 31 – Protect	The site has two Mini 7v7 pitches that are not available to the community, however there is a significant deficit for this pitch typology within the sub-area	Work with the school to explore the possibility of opening the site to the community during peak times of demand	WHBC Swallow Dell School	WHBC officer time	Short	Medium
THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	Welwyn Garden City	Football 32 – Protect	The site has two Mini 7v7 pitches that are not available to the community, however there is a significant deficit for this pitch typology within the sub-area	Work with the school to explore the possibility of opening the site to the community during peak times of demand	WHBC The Holy Family School	WHBC officer time	Short	Medium
WELHAM GREEN RECREATION GROUND	Southern Villages	Football 33 – Enhance	Drainage problems were identified on the grass pitches	Improve quality of maintenance on site with a view to improving drainage on site	WHBC, FF	WHBC and FF funding	Short	Medium
		Football 34 – Provide	There are intentions to establish a 9v9 pitch on site through a potential reconfiguration	Provide support and advice for a site reconfiguration	FF, WHBC	FF and WHBC officer time	Short	Medium
WELWYN AND DISTRICT CLUB	Northern Villages	Bowls 2 – Enhance	The club have applied for Bowls England funding to address drainage issues on	Continue to support the club in their efforts to undertake drainage	Bowls England Welwyn Garden City Bowls Club	Bowls England funding	Medium	Low

			site	works on site				
WELWYN GARDEN CITY BOWLS CLUB	Welwyn Garden City	Cricket 12 – Enhance	1.Practice nets on site were deemed old and in need of relaying 2.The club have aspirations to undertake significant development works to the ancillary facility to make it suitable for female and disabled cricketers	1.Refurbish practice nets 2.Undertake feasibility study to determine the scale of work required and costs implied for the ancillary facility development.	ECB Welwyn Garden City CC Sport England	1.ECB funding 2. ECB and WHBC officer time	1.Short 2.Short	1.Medium 2.Medium
		Cricket 13 - Provide	The site is currently over capacity for grass wickets and has no spare capacity in the peak period	1.Undertake feasibility study to explore the option of installing a non-turf pitch to the existing square 2. If the above is not possible, support the club in displacing some demand to nearby sites	ECB WHBC Welwyn Garden City CC	ECB and WHBC officer time and funding	1.Short 2.Short	<b>1.High</b> <b>2.High</b>
		Bowls 3 – Enhance	The club have expressed their intentions to increase and improve green provision to meet an expected growth in demand in coming years, as well as installing floodlights	Support the club with their development plans, providing guidance and information on potential funding opportunities	Bowls England Welwyn and District Bowls Club WHBC	Bowls England funding	Short	Low
WELWYN GARDEN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB	Welwyn Garden City	Football 35 – Enhance	The pitch scored in the lower end of the Standard rating and the club revealed that this has restricted the growth and development of the club and teams	Improved maintenance of pitches on this site	FF, Welwyn Garden City Football Club	FF funding	Short	Medium
		Football 36 – Provide	The club have identified a potential site for the development of additional provision in order to allow the introduction of a ladies and a youth section	Explore the site's potential for reconfiguration and 3G development, in conjunction with the FA and FF, and in line with any priorities identified as part of the emerging LFFP.	WHBC, FA, FF	WHBC and FF officer time and funding	1.Short 2.Medium	<b>1.High</b> <b>2.High</b>

				<p>1. Explore the potential development of Avery Field, located adjacent to the existing site, in conjunction with the FA and FF, and in line with any priorities identified in the emerging LFFP.</p> <p>2.Support the club in obtaining permission for this development and accessing funding opportunities.</p>				
WELWYN PLAYING FIELDS	Northern Villages	Cricket 14 – Enhance	<p>1.Some evidence of flooding was identified at the site</p> <p>2.The ancillary facility scored in the lower end of the Standard rating and may need refurbishment in the near future</p> <p>3.The club have expressed their aspirations to establish a score board on site</p>	<p>1.Undertake drainage works and improve maintenance</p> <p>2.Provide support and information on potential funding opportunities for an upgrading of the pavilion</p> <p>3.Support the club in accessing funding for a new score board</p>	WHBC ECB Welwyn Garden City CC	WHBC and ECB funding for drainage works, ancillary works and new score board	<p>1.Short</p> <p>2.Long</p> <p>3.Short</p>	<p>1.Medium</p> <p>2.Medium</p> <p>3.Low</p>
WELWYN RFC	Welwyn Garden City	Rugby 6 – Enhance	<p>1.The three senior pitches on site are heavily overused, which causes the deterioration of the surface</p> <p>2.The site is of public access and suffers with occasional vandalism and dog fouling,</p>	<p>1.Support the club in putting in place a more robust maintenance regime and allow additional carrying capacity</p> <p>2.Increase security of the site and improve signage</p>	RFU WHBC Welwyn RFC	WHBC and RFU officer time and funding	<p>1.Short</p> <p>2.Short</p>	<p>1.Medium</p> <p>2.Low</p>
		<b>Rugby 7 - Provide</b>	<p>1.The club urgently requires additional land to develop additional provision to address the issue of overplay</p> <p>2.They have also expressed their intentions to renovate the ancillary facilities on site to make them suitable for all ages and genders</p>	<p>1.Work with the club and assist them with finding suitable land for development</p> <p>2.Support the club with their facility development plans and provide information on potential funding opportunities</p>	RFU Welwyn RFC WHBC Sport England	WHBC, RFU, and Sport England officer time and funding	<p>1.Medium-Long</p> <p>2.Medium-Long</p>	<p><b>1.High</b></p> <p><b>2.High</b></p>

**Table 8.2: Welwyn Hatfield’s BFS Action Plan (2018-2033)**

Recommendation	Action	Partner/s	Resources	Timescale
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 1 (R1)</b></p> <p>The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in the Borough are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present.</p> <p>Welwyn Hatfield Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis.</p> <p><b>(PROTECT)</b></p>	<p>Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play sports hall, swimming pools and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers</p>	<p>Officer time</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
	<p>Ensure identified facility needs are reflected in the funding requirements for the Borough.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers;</p>	<p>External funding organisation; Developer Contributions</p>	<p>Medium – Long Term</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 2 (R2)</b></p> <p>Consideration of investment into additional swimming pool provision in Welwyn Hatfield, in the long term is considered, based on identified future need. Investment should be through partnership given the health benefits of such a facility and the ageing demographics of specifically of Welwyn Garden City residents.</p> <p><b>(PROVIDE)</b></p>	<p>Ensure the need for additional pay and play swimming pool provision is reflected in the Local Plan and beyond the Local Plan period with a view to providing additional water space as part of the longer-term replacement of Hatfield Swim Centre, providing an 8 lane x 25m pool and a learner pool with a moveable floor.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council; operator partner; Active Partnership, local aquatic clubs</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Officer time; External funding organisations; Developer Contributions e.g. Welbourne development contributions towards off site facility development.</p> <p>Capital costs for a replacement leisure centre comprising a larger pool are likely to be in the region of £15m-£20m based on 2018 costs.</p> <p>If the existing swimming pool is simply extended capital costs will be significantly lower, but a refurbishment would not necessarily be the most effective way to provide a larger pool in the longer term. Extending pool tanks bring specific challenges.</p> <p>A refurbishment of the existing leisure centre is still likely to be in the region of several million pounds, depending on its extent.</p> <p>Separate feasibility and costing studies will be required at the appropriate time (indicative feasibility study cost £12k)</p>	<p>Long Term</p>

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 2A (R2A)</b></p> <p>Welwyn Hatfield Council considers the opportunity to develop one new leisure centre in Hatfield, co-locating Hatfield Leisure Centre and Hatfield Swim Centre</p> <p><b>(PROVIDE)</b></p>	<p>Approve the concept of developing one new leisure centre for Hatfield, purpose-built, as part of the town centre regeneration. Explore impact on contract with GLL.</p> <p>Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and Hatfield Town Council to work together on any future plans on the provision of indoor leisure in Hatfield due to the importance of Birchwood Leisure Centre.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council</p> <p>Hatfield Town Council</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers</p> <p>Hatfield Town Council Officers</p>	<p>Short –Term</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 3 (R3)</b></p> <p>A more detailed feasibility study and masterplan study into the provision options on the Gosling Sports Park, in the context of the built facility needs assessment and the PPS is undertaken. This should consider the options for the possibility of addressing the identified need for additional swimming provision in the Borough.</p> <p><b>(ENHANCE AND PROVIDE)</b></p>	<p>Undertake more detailed feasibility study on the Gosling Sports Park, and specifically explore the operational impact of potentially providing a community swimming pool as part of re-developed sports facilities.</p>	<p>GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council; Sport England (Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance)</p>	<p>GLL, External funders; S106; Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>
	<p>Explore potential funding opportunities with Sport England, GLL and others.</p>	<p>GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council; Sport England (Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance)</p>	<p>GLL, External funders; S106; Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers</p>	<p>Short –Medium Term</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 4(R4)</b></p> <p>Existing levels of community accessible and affordable fitness suite provision in the Borough should be retained as a minimum, and where appropriate, opportunities for investment in additional health and fitness provision where there is an identified need/business case justification should be considered by all providers.</p> <p><b>(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)</b></p>	<p>Ensure the need for additional pay and play health and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
	<p>Ensure identified facility needs are reflected in the funding requirements for the Borough.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers; external funding organisations; Developer Contributions.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>
	<p>Consult with existing providers to determine how best to meet identified demand for additional fitness facilities where there is an identified need and a business case. Preferably additional provision provided as part of longer- term facility replacement.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers; Local Providers; External funding organisations.</p> <p>Capital costs for a replacement leisure centre including larger fitness facilities are likely to be in the region of £15m-£20m based on 2018 costs.</p> <p>Separate feasibility and costing studies will be required at</p>	<p>Long Term</p>

			the appropriate time (indicative feasibility study cost £6k)	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 5 (R5)</b></p> <p>Working in partnership, Welwyn Hatfield Council seek to ensure that any new education provision involving new or enhanced sports facilities has a CUA as part of the planning consent so as to secure pay and play opportunities for clubs and groups.</p> <p><b>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</b></p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners work with local schools, and Sport England to develop formal community use agreements in:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Any new/expanded schools as part of Planning Conditions.</p> <p>The aim should be to develop Community Use Agreements and to find ways of increasing usage capacity, to enable provision of better balanced accessibility and to include community pay and play use.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure and Planning Officers; Sport England.</p> <p>Time costs for developing Community Use Agreements.</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 6 (R6)</b></p> <p>Consider the opportunity for increased community access to existing education sports facilities where community access is currently provided, and where it is not; where possible, seek enhanced provision through a CUA.</p> <p><b>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</b></p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners work with relevant educational organisations to review, revise and or implement Community Use Agreements, which provide a better balance of pay and play and club use.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council and existing relevant education establishments, Sport England.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure and Planning Officers; Sport England.</p> <p>Time costs for developing Community Use Agreements.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 7 (R7)</b></p> <p>Public and voluntary sector partners facilitate, where possible, increased access to pay and play community centres/halls to maintain and grow participation in physical activity.</p> <p><b>(PROTECT AND ENHANCE)</b></p>	<p>Ensure identified facility needs are reflected in the funding requirements which would help to facilitate increased pay and play in community centres/halls in the Borough.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council; the voluntary sector</p>	<p>Officer Time – Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers</p>	<p>Short Term- Longer term</p>

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 8 (R8)</b></p> <p>The opportunity provided by a new athletics track at Oaklands College should be considered in relation to the existing club use at the Gosling Sports Park, given that an improved velodrome could be provided if the athletics track was on an alternative site.</p>	<p>Use the strategy evidence base to inform investment opportunities.</p>	<p>GLL, Sport England, Athletics Club, Oaklands College, England Athletics</p>	<p>GLL, Sport England, Athletics Club, Oaklands College, Welwyn Hatfield Council Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers</p>	<p>Short – Long Term</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 9 (R9)</b></p> <p>Consider the opportunity to develop an improved velodrome on the Gosling Park site in the context of Recommendation 8, and the support of British Cycling for the facility.</p> <p><b>(PROTECT AND ENAHNCE)</b></p>	<p>Undertake more detailed feasibility study on the Gosling Sports Park, and specifically explore the operational impact of only providing the velodrome. Greater use of the site would be possible with investment into lighting for the velodrome as cycling currently remains dependent on light fall from neighbouring floodlit pitches.</p>	<p>GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time</p>
	<p>Support for an extended lease being negotiated with GLL for velodrome + ancillary facilities.</p>	<p>GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time</p>
	<p>Invest in poor ancillary facilities which are at risk should the sports hall / indoor facilities strategy not account for cycling usage.</p>	<p>GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Short –Medium Term</p>	<p>GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time</p>

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 10 (R10)</b></p> <p>Consideration should be given to closure of the driving range at the Gosling Sports Park with transfer of the lessons service to one of the three other driving ranges in the Borough to ensure entry level teaching remains available.</p> <p><b>(ENHANCE and RE-PROVIDE)</b></p>	<p>Approve closure of driving range, and transfer memberships and all teaching to an existing Welwyn Hatfield Council driving range in the Borough.</p>	<p>GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time</p>	<p>Short –Term</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 11 (R11)</b></p> <p>Consideration should be given to whether long term provision of the existing regional ski slopes which require significant investment, and no longer attract the regular level of use they once did, is needed The operational cost of the ski facility outweighs its income.</p> <p>An alternative could be development of a new facility on a different site (assuming funding could be identified), or a revenue partnership at a neighbouring facility to ensure those residents who are unable to travel by their own means are still able to access skiing as a physical activity.</p> <p><b>(ENHANCE)</b></p>	<p>Undertake more detailed feasibility study on the Gosling Sports Park. Consult further with partners on the options to re-locate/close.</p>	<p>GLL, Sport England, Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>GLL, Sport England, Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time</p>	<p>Short –Term</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 12 (R12)</b></p> <p>Where appropriate, Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners seek to develop an approach to secure developer contributions that contribute towards the development and delivery of formal physical activity and sports facilities, additional and safe walking, running and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure and Planning Officers to identify potential levels of capital funding from residential development.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure and Planning Officers.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>

places and spaces where people can be active.  <b>(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)</b>				
<b>RECOMMENDATION 13 (R13)</b>  Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to reduced health inequalities, increased participation better community cohesion.  <b>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</b>	Welwyn Hatfield Council to work with its local partner providers and relevant identified community partners to ensure provision of, and access to, appropriate community sports facilities and opportunities to provide physical activity in the local community.	Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure Officers; Public Health and Local Providers and Community Partners	Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure Officer time; Welwyn Hatfield Council Community Partners; Public Health and Welwyn Hatfield Council Partner providers.	Short – Long Term
<b>RECOMMENDATION 174(R14)</b>  There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.  <b>(PROTECT)</b>	Ensure a monitoring process is in place to refresh the strategy and action plan every 5 years.  Ensure ongoing dialogue with neighbouring authorities to be aware of facility changes and developments that may impact on Welwyn Hatfield residents and facility plans for the future.	Welwyn Hatfield Council and all partners	Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure Officer time; partner time; external consultants	Ongoing

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**End**