

# Notice of Meeting

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# Executive

**Thursday 21 May 2026 at 6.00 pm**

**in the Council Chamber, Council Offices,  
Market Street, Newbury**

**Note:** This meeting can be streamed live here: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/executivelive>

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday 13 May 2026

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Sadie Owen (Principal Democratic Services Officer) on 01635 519052, e-mail: [sadie.owen1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:sadie.owen1@westberks.gov.uk)

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)



## Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday 21 May 2026 (continued)

<b>To:</b>	Councillors Jeff Brooks (Chairman), Patrick Clark, Heather Codling (Vice-Chairman), Iain Cottingham, Nigel Foot, Denise Gaines, Stuart Gourley, Tom McCann, Justin Pemberton and Vicky Poole
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# Agenda

## Part I

	<b>Pages</b>
1. <b>Apologies for Absence</b> To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any).	5 - 6
2. <b>Portfolio Holder Announcements</b>	7 - 8
3. <b>Minutes</b> To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 19 March 2026.	9 - 12
4. <b>Declarations of Interest</b> To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any personal, disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interests in items on the agenda, in accordance with the Members' <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a> .	13 - 14
5. <b>Public Questions</b> Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.	15 - 16
6. <b>Petitions</b> Councillors or Members of the public may present any petition which they have received. These will normally be referred to the appropriate Committee without discussion.	17 - 18

## Items as timetabled in the Forward Plan

	<b>Pages</b>
7. <b>Extended Pedestrianisation Hours in Newbury</b> Purpose: the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan was created collaboratively with local residents and stakeholders, resulting in broad support for the pedestrianisation of the Town Centre. In order to facilitate this objective, an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) was implemented to extend the pedestrianised timings between 10am and 11pm. The report presents the outcomes of the public consultation conducted during the first six months following the introduction of the ETRO, summarising the feedback received and recommends a way forward.	19 - 50



## Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday 21 May 2026 (continued)

- |     |  |           |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 8.  | <b>Adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy</b><br>Purpose: to propose the adoption of the final Playing Pitch Strategy 2026-2041.   | 51 - 212  |
| 9.  | <b>Review of Ethical Investment Policy Relating to the Council and Berkshire Pension Fund</b><br>Purpose: to inform Executive of the outcome of a review that has taken place in response to the Motion submitted to Council on the 16 October, and the Petition submitted on the 27 November relating to investments.   | 213 - 222 |
| 10. | <b>Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report 2024/2025</b><br>Purpose: to present the Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report. The Annual Progress Report covers the period from July 2024 through to July 2025. It is, however, part of the continuous story of how the council is addressing climate change, biodiversity enhancements and promoting environmental sustainability in West Berkshire.                           | 223 - 268 |
| 11. | <b>Disposal of Ramsbury Drive Play Area to Hungerford Town Council</b><br>Purpose: to consider Hungerford Town Council request for the leasehold transfer, and all future maintenance responsibility, of Ramsbury Drive Play Park not including the open space.  | 269 - 282 |
| 12. | <b>Adult Social Care Self-assessment</b><br>Purpose: to share the self-assessment document developed in line with the requirements of the Care Quality Commission's programme of Local Authority Assurance.  | 283 - 330 |
| 13. | <b>Response to Emotional Wellbeing Task Group</b><br>Purpose: to provide a formal response to the working group recommendations relating to children and young people's emotional and mental health support, highlighting the significant changes in the operational landscape and identifying where recommendations cannot currently be delivered due to resource constraints or responsibilities resting with other system partners. | 331 - 340 |
| 14. | <b>Bond Riverside 13B, C &amp; D</b><br>Purpose: to inform the Executive that the marketing exercise for the potential disposal of the Council's freehold interest on 13B, C & D Bond Riverside has been completed. Following an independent formal valuation in order to satisfy Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, the report proposes to progress disposal of the freehold.  | 341 - 346 |

### Items not timetabled in the Forward Plan

- |   | Pages     |
|---|-----------|
| 15. <b>Scrutiny Review of Called-In Decision: Response to Council Motion: decisions following public consultation</b> | 347 - 348 |
| 16. <b>Members' Questions</b>   | 349 - 350 |



## Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday 21 May 2026 (continued)

Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.

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17. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RECOMMENDATION: That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description contained in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 specified in brackets in the heading of each item. [Section 10 of Part 10 of the Constitution refers.](#)

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## Part II

18. **Bond Riverside 13B, C & D**

351 - 462

*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)*

*(Paragraph 5 – information relating to legal privilege)*

Purpose: to inform the Executive that the marketing exercise for the potential disposal of the Council's freehold interest on 13B, C & D Bond Riverside has been completed. Following an independent formal valuation in order to satisfy Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, the report proposes to progress disposal of the freehold.



Sarah Clarke

Executive Director: -Resources

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Sadie Owen on telephone (01635) 519052.



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## **Item 1 – Apologies for absence**

Verbal Item

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## **Item 2 – Portfolio Holder Announcements**

Verbal Item

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## DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

## EXECUTIVE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026

**Councillors Present:** Jeff Brooks (Chairman), Patrick Clark, Heather Codling (Vice-Chairman), Nigel Foot, Denise Gaines, Stuart Gourley, Tom McCann, Justin Pemberton and Vicky Poole

**Also Present:** Councillors Ross Mackinnon, Howard Woollaston, Richard Somner and David Marsh

**Officers Present:** Stephen Chard (Democratic Services Manager), Sarah Clarke (Executive Director – Resources), Paul Coe (Executive Director – Adult Social Care), Shannon Coleman-Slaughter (Service Lead – Financial, Reporting and Property), Joseph Holmes (Chief Executive), Clare Lawrence (Executive Director – Place), Sadie Owen (Principal Democratic Services Officer), Martyn Sargeant (Service Director – Strategy and Governance), Nicola Thomas (Service Lead – Legal and Democratic)

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor Iain Cottingham, Dominic Boeck and Jo Stewart, and AnnMarie Dodds

#### PART I

##### 1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2026 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Leader.

##### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

##### 3. Public Questions

A full transcription of the public and Member question and answer sessions is available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As.](#)

##### 4. Petitions

There were no petitions presented to the Executive.

##### 5. Motion to Council: decisions following public consultation (EX4761)

Councillor Vicky Poole introduced and proposed a report (Agenda Item 7), which provided a response to a Motion submitted to Council on 16 October 2025, which proposed ‘that where a decision is made contrary to the majority of residents’ opinions via a public consultation, then an explanatory statement should be made explaining the reasons for doing so’.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon suggested that the specific information requested by the Motion, ‘where a decision had been made in contravention of a consultation’ was not currently published on the website by the Council.

Martyn Sargeant, Service Director for Strategy and Governance cautioned against referring to decisions being made ‘in contravention’ to a consultation and explained that consultations were undertaken in order to inform decisions and reported that where decisions had been modified further to consultation the website would now summarise that information accordingly. It was explained that a new page had been added to the

## EXECUTIVE - 19 MARCH 2026 - MINUTES

website which provided a high-level summary detailing how the Council had proceeded with the decisions it had taken in the light of the consultation responses received. Each individual consultation page would include a more detailed explanation of what was originally proposed, what residents had said, and the ensuing outcome.

Councillor Mackinnon noted that the Executive's response to the Motion did not include an individual category for decisions that had been made 'not in accordance' with the public's wishes.

Councillor Jeff Brooks seconded the recommendations within the report and commented that each consultation page would contain narrative for the reason of each decision, and that was as far as the Executive was prepared to agree to the proposals set out in the Motion.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- That the Executive is informed that The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require local authorities to provide a record of relevant decisions, the reasons for decisions and any options considered but rejected.
- That the Executive resolves to strengthen how the outcomes of consultations are reported through the Council's consultation database.

### **6. 2025/26 Performance Report Q3 (EX4712)**

Councillor Vicky Poole introduced a report (Agenda Item 8), which provided assurance that the priority areas in the Council Strategy 2023-2027 were being managed effectively as at the end of the third quarter (December 2025), and where performance had fallen below the expected level, presented information on the remedial action taken and the impact of that action.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon noted that there were a number of red high priority measures and queried which Councillor Poole found most concerning. Councillor Poole responded that she would like all measures to be green but was particularly concerned with those relating to children (HP2 and HP4), and noted that of the two-year-olds accessing free childcare, most parents who had two-year-olds that were not accessing free childcare were typically stay-at-home parents.

Councillor Heather Codling commented that work was being undertaken through Family Hubs to encourage the uptake of nursery entitlement for 2-year-olds, and that providers were being assisted to increase capacity.

Councillor Mackinnon requested an update on the Grazeley Solar Farm project. Councillor Stuart Gourley commented that it was an important investment for the Council and consequently there was a need to ensure that the business case was robust.

Councillor Howard Woollaston referred to recent reporting by a local newspaper which indicated that the Council had abandoned the project and queried whether the assertion was true. Councillor Jeff Brooks categorically denied the statement and Councillor Gourley noted that the project remained within the budget and that due diligence was being undertaken to review the business case.

Councillor Brooks requested assurance relating to the Playing Pitch Strategy. Councillor Nigel Foot commented that the Strategy was scheduled on the forward plan with a report due at May's meeting of Executive.

Councillor Jeff Brooks stressed to the Chief Executive and Executive Directors that red measures needed to be reduced.

**RESOLVED that:** Executive

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- Note the progress made in delivering the Council Strategy Delivery Plan 2023-2027 priorities scheduled for this financial year.
- Review those areas where performance is below target i.e., reporting as 'Red' or 'Amber, and note that the appropriate remedial action is in place.
- Note an error in the previously reported target date for the High Priority measure HP18 Undertake a strategic asset review with associated disposal plan, which should read 31/03/26 not 31/01/26.

### 7. **Oral Health Needs Assessment Recommendation (EX4773)**

Councillor Patrick Clark introduced and proposed a report (Agenda Item 9), which provided a response to Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee recommendations related to oral public health

Councillor Ross Mackinnon commended the report.

Councillor Nigel Foot seconded the recommendation within the report and noted it should be viewed against the backdrop of the national picture. He noted that there was widespread difficulty in accessing affordable treatment on the National Health Service, and as Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board it was a topic that arose regularly on the work programme, and that he would monitor accordingly in order to deliver a good oral health programme for West Berkshire.

**RESOLVED that:** the Executive accepts the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee recommendation and commits to undertaking a rapid oral health needs assessment.

### 8. **Children's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing - Management Response to Task & Finish Group Recommendations (EX4740)**

The report was withdrawn from the agenda prior to the meeting.

Councillor Heather Codling commented that there she had requested withdrawal of the report due to several forthcoming government reforms which would affect the recommendations. In response to a query from Councillor Ross Mackinnon, Councillor Codling suggested that the report would be bought back hopefully, to the next meeting of Executive.

### 9. **Proposed development of a Resource Base at Victoria Park Nursery School, Newbury**

Councillor Heather Codling introduced and proposed a report (Agenda Item 10), which sought approval to develop an existing space at Victoria Park Nursery School into a SEND Resource Base, following the formal public consultation period, which ended on 25 February 2026.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon noted that the proposal had been under consideration for some time and queried why it had been brought to the meeting as an urgent item. Councillor Codling responded that the proposal had been subject to public consultation, and in order to meet the dates of the meeting calendar and the requirement to approve the decision within 60 days of the end of the consultation the report had required submission as an urgent item.

Councillor Justin Pemberton seconded the recommendations within the report.

**RESOLVED that:** Executive

- Approves the proposal to repurpose an existing space (Family Hub) at the Victoria Park Nursery School site to establish a Resource Base that will support nursery-aged children in West Berkshire with additional needs.

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- Notes that the proposal supports the Council’s SEND Sufficiency and Inclusion Strategy, delivering cost avoidance through reduced reliance on independent and out-of-area placements.
- Delegates authority to the Head of SEND, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education, to oversee the implementation and ongoing monitoring of the expanded provision.

**10. Members' Questions**

A full transcription of the public and Member question and answer sessions is available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As.](#)

*(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 7.20 pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature** .....

Executive – 21 May 2026

## **Item 4 – Declarations of Interest**

Verbal Item

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## **Item 5 – Public Questions**

To follow

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Executive – 21 May 2026

## **Item 6 – Petitions**

Verbal Item

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## Extended Pedestrianisation Hours in Newbury

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	21 May 2026
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillors Stuart Gourley and Justin Pemberton.
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	24 April 2026
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jon Winstanley

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### 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Newbury Town Centre Masterplan was created collaboratively with local residents and stakeholders, resulting in broad support for the pedestrianisation of the Town Centre. In order to facilitate this objective, an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) was implemented to extend the pedestrianised timings between 10am and 11pm. This report presents the outcomes of the public consultation conducted during the first six months following the introduction of the ETRO, summarising the feedback received and recommends a way forward.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Executive approves:
- (a) Removal of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order and reverting the pedestrianised timings to 10am – 5pm from September 2026.
  - (b) That future proposals for pedestrianisation be taken forward through a review of the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan ensuring that pedestrianisation is considered in the context of a more holistic vision for the town centre.
  - (c) That the Council Motion submitted by Cllr Adrian Abbs on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025 which can be seen in Appendix C be considered in the context of the Newbury Town Council Masterplan and through any future engagement with residents and stakeholders.

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
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**Extended Pedestrianisation Hours in Newbury**

<p><b>Financial:</b></p>	<p>Review of the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan will be undertaken using existing budgets and resources. The refresh and implementation of the masterplan will require additional funding and be subject of a separate budget approval process.</p>
<p><b>Human Resource:</b></p>	<p>None resulting from this report.</p>
<p><b>Legal:</b></p>	<p>None resulting from this report</p>
<p><b>Risk Management:</b></p>	<p>Risks will be managed in accordance with the Council’s Risk Management Policy.</p>
<p><b>Property:</b></p>	<p>No property related issues.</p>
<p><b>Policy:</b></p>	<p>The extension of the pedestrianised hours in Newbury Town Council as planned in the <a href="#">Council Strategy 2023-27</a> and supported by the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan:</p> <p>Principle 3: A more ‘walkable’ town centre- The masterplan seeks to make the town centre more ‘walkable’ and aims to increase the appeal of the town’s spaces, buildings and key assets by enhancing north-south and east-west permeability by foot</p> <p>Principle 6: A more ‘sociable’ town centre - The masterplan proposes additional open space at The Wharf and enhanced leisure and recreation facilities at Victoria Park and along the Canal. The masterplan will also support opportunities for increased spill-out space, particularly for the existing cafés and restaurants on Northbrook Street and in Market Place, as well as behind the Corn Exchange and Museum</p> <p>Principle 7: A more ‘cultural’ town centre - The masterplan seeks to improve existing and create additional indoor and outdoor space for arts and cultural activities catered for all ages, particularly by reinforcing the cultural importance of</p>

**Extended Pedestrianisation Hours in Newbury**

	<p>Market Place and creating a cultural and leisure destination at The Wharf</p> <p>This will be taken forward as part of the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan review.</p>
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	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		✓		No change from the original arrangement prior to the trial.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		✓		No change from the original arrangement prior to the trial.
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		✓		
<b>Health Impact:</b>		✓		
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		✓		
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		✓		

<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>	✓			This report supports the Council Strategy focus area of a prosperous and resilient West Berkshire.
<b>Core Business:</b>		✓		
<b>Data Impact:</b>		✓		

<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	The consultation responses associated with the original proposals have been taken into consideration and discussions with the Newbury BID have helped guide the proposals.			
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## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The Newbury Town Centre Masterplan was developed in partnership with local residents and stakeholders to promote pedestrianisation and enhance the vibrancy of the Town Centre. To advance the aims of the Masterplan, an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) was introduced to extend the pedestrianised hours from 10am to 11pm, aiming to improve safety, air quality, and create additional space for community activities. The trial of extended pedestrianisation enabled local residents, businesses, visitors and stakeholders to make representations over a six-month public consultation period to inform the Council’s next steps. This report sets out the outcome of the consultation held after the ETRO’s introduction, capturing diverse perspectives and summarising key feedback, including support for increased walkability and sociability, as well as concerns regarding accessibility and impacts on surrounding traffic. A consultation summary document can be seen in Appendix B.
- 4.2 The consultation findings indicate that the ETRO has led to notable improvements in pedestrian safety and the overall environment of the Town Centre, particularly in areas with increased outdoor dining and cultural events. However, feedback also highlighted challenges, such as increased congestion on adjacent roads, difficulties faced by a number of businesses, and accessibility issues for disabled and elderly visitors. This feedback is important and mitigation will be developed as part of a more involved engagement process. It should also be noted that whilst congestion is cited as an issue, the A339 operated within its designed limits and limited actual congestion was observed.
- 4.3 In light of the issues raised through the consultation process, it is recommended that the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is removed to revert the pedestrianised timings to 10am – 5pm from September 2026. Future proposals for pedestrianisation and the rejuvenation of the Town Centre will be taken forward through a review of the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan. This ensures pedestrianisation is considered in the context of a more holistic vision for the town centre, and through a more comprehensive and participatory engagement process involving residents, local businesses, the

Disability Access Forum, night-time economy representatives and other relevant stakeholders.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.1 Between 2021 and 2022, the Council developed a Masterplan in partnership with local people, key stakeholders, local businesses, landowners, Newbury Town Council and Newbury BID. Over 4,000 people responded to the first online survey in early 2021 and this led to the development of a draft Vision and Spatial Framework for the town centre which was subject to a second round of public consultation in July 2021. Over 1,000 responses were received and this led to the final masterplan being produced in 2022.
- 5.2 The masterplan set out a number of principles including extending the hours during which traffic is removed from the core area of Northbrook Street, Bartholomew Street and the Market Place. This was intended to create more space for pedestrians, areas for seating and planting, 'spill-out' space for cafés and restaurants and flexibility for larger events. This was supported by 3 key principles set out in the masterplan:
- **Principle 3:** A more 'walkable' town centre - The masterplan seeks to make the town centre more 'walkable' and aims to increase the appeal of the town's spaces, buildings and key assets by enhancing north-south and east-west permeability by foot
  - **Principle 6:** A more 'sociable' town centre - The masterplan proposes additional open space at The Wharf and enhanced leisure and recreation facilities at Victoria Park and along the Canal. The masterplan will also support opportunities for increased spill-out space, particularly for the existing cafés and restaurants on Northbrook Street and in Market Place, as well as behind the Corn Exchange and Museum
  - **Principle 7:** A more 'cultural' town centre The masterplan seeks to improve existing and create additional indoor and outdoor space for arts and cultural activities catered for all ages, particularly by reinforcing the cultural importance of Market Place and creating a cultural and leisure destination at The Wharf.
- 5.3 In line with the masterplan developed with local people and stakeholders, the extension of the pedestrianised hours (10am to 11pm) in Newbury Town Council was included in the [Council Strategy 2023-27](#). This was implemented as a trial using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) in May 2025.

### Background

- 5.4 The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) was made on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 and came into operation on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The extended hours have continued since the consultation ended in November 2025. The experimental nature enabled consultation with local residents, businesses, visitors and other stakeholders for a period was open for 6 months whilst they could experience the trial in operation.
- 5.5 There was a significant response to the consultation with 3120 responses submitted for consideration. Whilst 76.8% objected to the proposal as implemented, as evidenced in the Appendix B, a substantial proportion of respondents (42%) expressed positive

## Extended Pedestrianisation Hours in Newbury

sentiment, highlighting tangible benefits arising from the extended pedestrianisation hours. This included improved pedestrian safety and comfort, reduced noise and air pollution, enhanced town centre ambience, and greater potential for outdoor dining and social activity were consistently highlighted. Many respondents expressed strong support for a more people-focused town centre environment, particularly during evenings and warmer months.

- 5.6 Stakeholders who supported the extended pedestrianisation hours highlighted a noticeably improved town-centre environment, describing streets as safer and more pleasant for walking and crossing, particularly in the evenings, with cleaner air and reduced traffic noise improving residents' quality of life. Positive feedback also focused on the stronger ambience and "café culture", with better conditions for outdoor seating and alfresco dining and opportunities to expand this alongside community events such as live music, night markets and seasonal activities. Some respondents noted easier and safer access to venues like the Corn Exchange for evening performances, and others felt the traffic-free setting was especially beneficial for families, children and people with limited mobility, while a small number welcomed the space as supportive of active travel.
- 5.7 Negative comments received in respect of the consultation largely focused on the transport and access impacts of the extended pedestrianisation hours, with many respondents reporting increased traffic on the A339, and concerns that diverted traffic worsened pollution. A substantial theme was perceived economic harm, particularly to hospitality businesses, with reduced trade and practical disruption to deliveries, collections and takeaways. Respondents also raised accessibility issues for disabled and elderly visitors due to the loss of Blue Badge access and safe drop-off points. Finally, there were repeated worries about safety after dark, including the town centre feeling deserted or intimidating, antisocial behaviour, and risks posed by speeding bikes and e-scooters, with some suggesting the extended hours should be seasonal or otherwise limited and supported by measures such as cheaper evening parking and stronger enforcement.
- 5.8 It should be noted that whilst there were concerns raised regarding increased congestion and traffic flow on the A339, technical observations confirm that the A339 junctions operated within their capacity. A capacity check undertaken during peak hours observed flows remained well below the design limits for a dual carriageway of this type. Although certain junctions may approach tighter thresholds at specific times, overall, the corridor was not found to be overloaded.
- 5.9 Regarding economic activity concerns, an independent study by experts Beauclair provides a detailed, data-led assessment of the economic performance of Newbury town centre following the extension of pedestrianisation hours in May 2025. While it is acknowledged that some elements of town centre retail performance have softened, the evidence clearly demonstrates that this experience is consistent with wider national retail trends rather than being unique to Newbury. Importantly, overall sales in Newbury during 2025 were higher than in 2024, which directly contrasts with the prevailing national picture of declining retail sales. Year-on-year sales performance in the post-expansion period was around 3.5% lower than would have been expected based on earlier trends; however, this change was not found to be statistically significant, and the report concludes that there is no definitive evidence linking this variation directly to the pedestrianisation scheme. The analysis also shows that weekly sales in 2025 exceeded

## Extended Pedestrianisation Hours in Newbury

those in 2024 in the majority of weeks assessed, suggesting a level of resilience in Newbury's retail economy. Taken together, the findings indicate that while Newbury town centre retail has not been immune to challenging conditions affecting high streets nationally, it appears to have performed broadly in line with, and in some respects better than, national trends during the same period.

- 5.10 In light of the number of responses and the issues raised through the consultation, it is recommended that any permanent plans for pedestrianisation should be considered through a more comprehensive and participatory engagement process involving residents, local businesses, the Disability Access Forum, night-time economy representatives and other relevant stakeholders. This should be undertaken through the review of the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan. Whilst this is undertaken, the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) will be removed following the summer period and the pedestrianised timings will revert to 10:00 to 17:00.
- 5.11 The refresh of the Town Centre Masterplan and further engagement will also consider the objectives of the motion presented by Cllr Adrian Abbs on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025 which can be seen in Appendix C.

## 6 Conclusion

- 6.1 In summary, the ETRO extending pedestrianisation of Newbury Town Centre was implemented to deliver the aspirations of the adopted Newbury Town Centre Masterplan which was developed in partnership with local residents and stakeholders. The experimental nature of the order was to enable the Council to trail the pedestrianisation in consultation with local residents, business and stakeholder to understand their views. The consultation generated a substantial level of response and revealed a complex balance of benefits and challenges. Many respondents recognised improvements in pedestrian safety, local ambience, air quality, and opportunities for outdoor social activity. However, concerns were also raised regarding increased traffic on the A339, perceived economic impacts on hospitality and retail, and accessibility for vulnerable groups. While independent economic analysis confirm that Newbury's retail performance has broadly mirrored national trends and technical evidence shows that traffic flows have remained within capacity, given the diverse views and impacts, the Council will remove the ETRO after the summer and pedestrianised hours will return to 10:00–17:00 from September 2026. Any future plans for the town centre will be considered as part of a holistic town centre vision through reviewing the Newbury Masterplan and through a comprehensive engagement process ensuring the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders are considered.

## 7 Appendices

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment.

Appendix B – Consultation Summary.

Appendix C – Cllr Adrian Abbs Motion to Council.

**Background Papers:**

N/A

**Subject to Call-In:**

Yes:  No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position:
- Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

**Officer details:**

Name: Andy Alty  
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# West Berkshire Council Equity Impact Assessment

TEMPLATE

March 2023

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Section 1: Summary details

<p><b>Directorate and Service Area</b></p>	<p>Place Directorate – Highways &amp; Transport (Network Management)</p>
<p><b>What is being assessed</b> (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).</p>	<p>Extended Pedestrianisation Hours in Newbury – removal of ETRO and reversion to the original pedestrianisation restrictions (10:00–17:00), with a refresh of the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan to consider any future permanent arrangements.</p>
<p><b>Is this a new or existing function or policy?</b></p>	<p>Existing. The recommended decision restores the pre-trial pedestrianisation restrictions that were in place in Newbury town centre prior to the ETRO (10:00–17:00). The Masterplan refresh will consider any future changes through a separate, comprehensive engagement process.</p>
<p><b>Summary of assessment</b></p> <p>Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).</p>	<p>This EQiA considers the recommended decision within the accompanying report on the extended pedestrianisation trial (ETRO) in Newbury town centre. The recommendation is to remove the ETRO and revert the pedestrianisation restrictions to the original hours (10:00–17:00) from September 2026, alongside a refresh of the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan to develop any future permanent arrangements through comprehensive engagement.</p> <p>Because the recommendation returns to the pre-trial restrictions (i.e. no change from the original arrangements that previously operated), the decision itself is not expected to introduce new or additional adverse impacts for people with protected characteristics compared with the baseline position. Any equality-related issues identified during the ETRO trial (notably access for some disabled and older people during extended hours) are not being progressed as part of the recommended decision. The Masterplan refresh provides an opportunity to work with stakeholders (including accessibility groups) to shape any future proposals and associated mitigations.</p>

## Equity Impact Assessment

<b>Completed By</b>	Andy Alty, Network Manager, Highways and Transport.
<b>Authorised By</b>	Jon Winstanley, Service Director, Environment (West Berkshire Council)
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	24/04/2026

## Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p><b>Context / Background</b></p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>Extended pedestrianisation hours in Newbury town centre were introduced as a trial using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) made on 6 May 2025 and effective from 19 May 2025. The trial extended the pedestrianised period to 10:00–23:00 to improve safety, encourage active travel and support the evening economy, aligned with the Council Strategy 2023–27. A 6-month statutory consultation ran until November 2025 and generated 3,120 responses, with 76.8% objecting, 19.3% in favour and the remainder neutral.</p> <p>Feedback highlighted positives (improved environment/ambience, perceived safety benefits for walking, families and some people with limited mobility) and concerns (diverted traffic on the A339, business impacts, servicing/deliveries, and accessibility for disabled and older people including Blue Badge access and safe drop-off). The current proposals aim to retain benefits while mitigating the issues raised during consultation.</p>
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**Proposals**

Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.

**Proposed decision:**

- Remove the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) for extended pedestrianisation hours.
- Revert the pedestrianised timings in Newbury town centre to 10:00–17:00 from September 2026 (reflecting the original restrictions that operated prior to the trial).
- Take forward consideration of any future permanent pedestrianisation arrangements through a refresh of the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan, supported by a comprehensive engagement process with residents, businesses and representative groups (including the Disability Access Forum and night-time economy stakeholders).

This is considered the best course of action because it reflects the balance of evidence and feedback set out in the report, while ensuring that the interim operational position returns to the original restrictions (i.e. no change from the pre-trial baseline), and allowing any future changes to be developed transparently with appropriate equality considerations and mitigations.

**Evidence / Intelligence**

List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.

Evidence and intelligence considered includes:

- Statutory ETRO consultation feedback (3,120 responses), including themed analysis of comments on access, safety, the public realm and the evening economy.
- Stakeholder engagement, including discussions with Newbury BID and identification of issues raised by accessibility stakeholders.
- Transport capacity checks referenced in the report indicating the A339 corridor operated within capacity overall.
- Independent economic analysis referenced in the report (Beauclair), indicating Newbury’s town centre performance broadly mirrored national trends, with no definitive evidence linking observed variation directly to the pedestrianisation trial.

**Alternatives considered / rejected**

Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.

Options considered in developing the recommendation included:

- **Retain the extended ETRO hours (10:00–23:00):** not recommended due to the balance of consultation feedback, including concerns about access and servicing during extended restrictions.
- **Introduce an alternative permanent restriction pattern immediately (e.g. different hours/seasonal operation/exemptions):** not recommended at this stage because it would represent a new restriction model and should be developed through a holistic Masterplan refresh with comprehensive engagement and equality considerations.
- **Do nothing (allow the ETRO arrangements to continue):** not recommended because it would perpetuate a trial arrangement that was introduced experimentally and which has generated significant objection.

The recommended approach removes the ETRO and returns to the original restrictions (10:00–17:00) as an interim baseline, while a Masterplan refresh considers any future change.

**Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics**

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
<b>Age</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The recommended decision returns to the original pedestrianisation restrictions that operated prior to the ETRO trial (10:00–17:00). As such, no new age-related impacts are anticipated compared with the pre-trial baseline.</p> <p>Consultation feedback on the ETRO trial identified that some older people experienced difficulties with access and convenient set-down/collection when restrictions were extended into the evening; those extended restrictions are not being progressed.</p>	<p>Ensure the reversion to original restrictions is clearly communicated (including access/parking information). Use the Masterplan refresh engagement to understand older people's access needs and to inform any future proposals and mitigations if changes are brought forward.</p>	<p>Network Manager (Highways), West Berkshire Council</p>	<p>Reversion implemented from September 2026. Engagement and monitoring through the Masterplan refresh programme.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The recommended decision removes the ETRO and returns to the</p>	<p>Communicate the reversion to the original restrictions clearly</p>	<p>Network Manager (Highways)</p>	<p>Reversion implemented from September</p>

Equity Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
				<p>original pedestrianisation restrictions (10:00–17:00) that were in place prior to the trial. Accordingly, the decision is not expected to create new or additional disability-related impacts compared with the pre-trial baseline.</p> <p>The ETRO consultation identified that some disabled people experienced difficulties during the extended restricted hours (including Blue Badge access and safe set-down/pick-up in the evening). Those extended-hour restrictions are not being progressed as part of this recommendation.</p>	(including access/parking information) in accessible formats. Use the Masterplan refresh engagement (including with the Disability Access Forum and other accessibility stakeholders) to identify and address access needs and to develop appropriate mitigations should any future changes be proposed.	with Masterplan lead officers, West Berkshire Council	2026. Engagement and monitoring through the Masterplan refresh programme; review if future proposals are developed.
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impacts identified. The proposals relate to highway access arrangements and are not	Continue to ensure communications and engagement are inclusive and accessible.	Network Manager (Highways), West	Ongoing through consultation

Equity Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
				expected to affect this characteristic differently from the general population.		Berkshire Council	and implementation.
<b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impacts identified.	Not applicable beyond standard inclusive communications.	Network Manager (Highways), West Berkshire Council	N/A
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on parents/carers with pushchairs if access to convenient drop-off and safe crossing points is reduced during restrictions; the improved pedestrian environment may be beneficial for families.	Maintain safe, step-free pedestrian routes and crossings; ensure clear information on access and nearby parking/set-down. Monitor feedback during consultation and early implementation.	Network Manager (Highways), West Berkshire Council	Ongoing through consultation.

Equity Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
<b>Race</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impacts identified.	Not applicable beyond standard inclusive communications.	Network Manager (Highways), West Berkshire Council	N/A
<b>Sex</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impacts identified.	Not applicable beyond standard inclusive communications.	Network Manager (Highways), West Berkshire Council	N/A
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impacts identified.	Not applicable beyond standard inclusive communications.	Network Manager (Highways), West Berkshire Council	N/A
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impacts identified.	Not applicable beyond standard inclusive communications.	Network Manager (Highways), West	N/A

**Equity Impact Assessment**

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
						Berkshire Council	

**Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts**

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
<b>Rural communities</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impacts identified for rural communities beyond general changes to traffic routing when travelling to/through Newbury town centre.	Monitor any displacement/traffic routing issues through TRO consultation feedback and post-implementation monitoring.	Network Manager (Highways), West Berkshire Council	During and after TRO implementation (6–12 months).
<b>Areas of deprivation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impacts identified. General	Ensure consultation materials are	Network Manager	During TRO consultation

**Equity Impact Assessment**

<b>Additional community impacts</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Description of impact</b>	<b>Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts</b>	<b>Action owner</b> (*Job Title, Organisation)	<b>Timescale and monitoring arrangements</b>
				impacts may relate to travel time and cost of accessing the town centre (e.g., parking, public transport and walking routes).	accessible and widely promoted; consider any issues raised relating to affordability/transport access when finalising TRO arrangements.	(Highways), West Berkshire Council	and for 6 months post-implementation.
<b>Displaced communities</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable / no specific impacts identified.	N/A	Network Manager (Highways), West Berkshire Council	N/A
<b>Care experienced people</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impacts identified.			

**Equity Impact Assessment**

<b>Additional community impacts</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Description of impact</b>	<b>Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts</b>	<b>Action owner</b> (*Job Title, Organisation)	<b>Timescale and monitoring arrangements</b>
<b>The Armed Forces Community</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**Section 4: Review**

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

<b>Review Date</b>	<b>24/04/26</b>
<b>Person Responsible for Review</b>	<b>Andy Alty, Highways Network Manager</b>
<b>Authorised By</b>	<b>Jon Winstanley, Service Director Environment</b>

EDI employee related EQiA's should now be sent to Human Resources [hrenquiries@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:hrenquiries@westberks.gov.uk).

## Appendix B – Pedestrianisation Trial Consultation Summary

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Extension of Pedestrianisation Hours

The trial extending pedestrianisation hours in Newbury Town Centre began on May 19, 2025, and is set to run until November 2026, under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). The hours have been lengthened from the previous schedule of 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM to the new hours of 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM. This report provides an overview of the first six months of the consultation period, covering the affected areas: Bartholomew Street (north), Bridge Street, Northbrook Street, Mansion House Street, Wharf Street, and Market Place in Newbury.

#### 1.2 Rationale for the Trial

The proposal enabled the Council to trial the extension of pedestrianisation in Newbury Town Centre to deliver the aspirations set out in the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan developed by Hemmingway Design and with significant input from local residents and stakeholders. This outlines a strategic vision for the area's future. Specifically, the trial advances Principle 3 (Prioritizing pedestrians and active travel modes), Principle 6 (Creating vibrant and flexible public spaces for community use and events), and Principle 7 (Supporting local businesses and enhancing the evening economy). By extending pedestrianisation hours, the initiative fosters a welcoming, accessible town center that encourages sustainable travel, facilitates community activities, and strengthens local hospitality and retail businesses. These objectives reflect the Masterplan's commitment to making Newbury Town Centre more lively, inclusive, and economically resilient.

The trial reduced conflicts between motorized and non-motorized traffic during the hours of 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM. By limiting vehicle access during these times, the initiative aims to provide a safer, traffic-free environment for town center users in the late afternoon and evening. The trial is also intended to encourage sustainable and active travel options. Additionally, the extended pedestrianisation is expected to create safer and more pleasant outdoor spaces for customers of local hospitality businesses, facilitate outdoor community events, enhance the visitor experience, and support the local economy.

#### 1.3 Public Consultation Process

As part of the decision-making process, members of the public were invited to provide feedback to the Council regarding the potential permanent adoption of the changes. Respondents could express their support, register a neutral position, or object to the proposed changes. The consultation period concluded on November 20, 2025.

### 2 Results of the Public Consultation

2.1 Whilst the majority of respondents objected to the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, a significant number of responses acknowledged the positive aspects of the scheme. Many respondents highlighted benefits such as improved safety for

pedestrians, a more vibrant evening atmosphere, and enhanced opportunities for local hospitality businesses and community events. Some noted that the extended pedestrianisation hours would encourage sustainable travel and provide a more welcoming environment for visitors, ultimately supporting the local economy and making the town centre a more pleasant place to spend time.

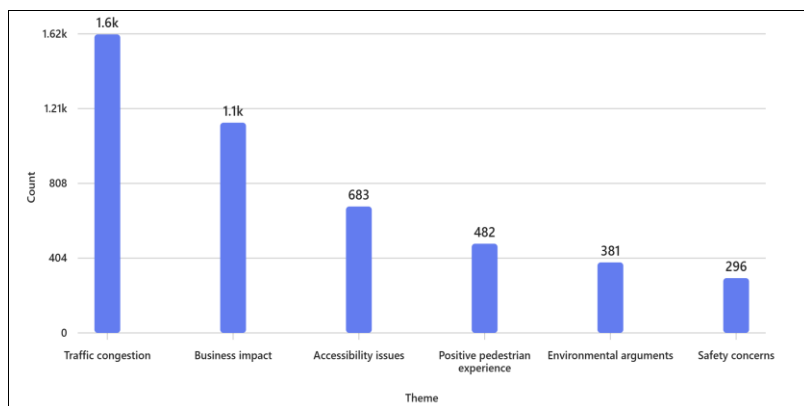
## Summary of Results

### 2.2 Responses

<b>Responses:</b>		<b>%</b>
Object	2,396	76.79
Support	603	19.33
Neutral	127	4.07
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,120</b>	

### 2.3 Themes

<b>Themes:</b>		<b>%</b>
Traffic congestion	1,613	35.13
Business impact	1,136	24.74
Accessibility issues	683	14.88
Positive pedestrian experience	482	10.50
Environmental arguments	381	8.30
Safety concerns	296	6.45
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,591</b>	

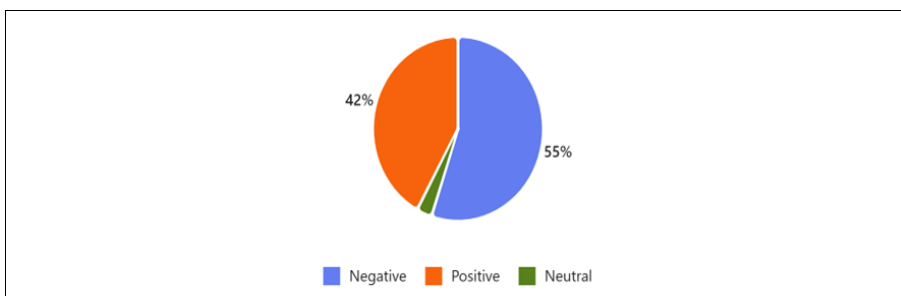


2.4 Whilst there were concerns raised regarding increased congestion and traffic flow on the A339, technical observations confirm that the A339 junctions operated within their designated capacity. As shown in the capacity check, even during peak hours, the observed flows remained well below the theoretical limits for a dual carriageway of this type. Although certain junctions may approach tighter thresholds at specific times, overall, the corridor was not found to be overloaded, and further signal analysis would be required to assess any critical movements in detail.

## Sentiment

2.5 Despite a majority of objections, a substantial proportion of respondents expressed positive sentiment, highlighting tangible benefits arising from the extended pedestrianisation hours. Improved pedestrian safety and comfort, reduced noise and air pollution, enhanced town centre ambience, and greater potential for outdoor dining and social activity were consistently highlighted. Many respondents expressed strong support for a more people-focused town centre environment, particularly during evenings and warmer months.

Sentiment:		%
Negative	1,724	55.26
Positive	1,314	42.12
Neutral	82	2.63
Total:	3,120	



2.6 Of those who submitted objections, 16.7% (399) raised concerns relating to disabled access (including references to mobility needs and/or Blue Badge access), 4.3% (103) expressed concern about taxi access, and 8.4% (201) referenced potential impacts on access for deliveries. The Council recognises the importance of maintaining safe and suitable access arrangements for all users and operational requirements. As the proposals are progressed, the Council will consider and, where appropriate, implement mitigation measures to address these issues, which may include refinements to layout and signage, provision of appropriate loading/servicing arrangements, and operational controls to ensure access is effectively maintained.

2.7 Key insights:

- (a) Most objections focus on traffic congestion on A339 through the town and the effect on surrounding roads. Others say that economic harm is being caused to local businesses through loss of trade and cite delivery and collection issues. There were accessibility concerns for disabled and elderly visitors, with Blue Badge access and safe drop-off points being recurring issues. Safety fears were expressed, especially after dark when, it was said, the town feels deserted and incidents of antisocial behaviour are more likely to occur.
- (b) Supportive comments described an improved pedestrian experience, cleaner air, reduced noise and a safer environment for families and children.
- (c) However, seasonality matters with many suggesting that consideration be given to only extending the pedestrianisation hours in the summer months.

**Positive Feedback on Extended Pedestrianisation Hours**

## 2.8 The most mentioned locations in the positive feedback were:

- (a) **Northbrook Street** – was described as safer and more pleasant without cars, making it easier for pedestrians to cross from one side to another. Residents reported quieter evenings and an improved quality of life. Suggestions were made for more greenery and improved seating. However, there were concerns about cyclists and e-scooters still using the space.
- (b) **Market Place** – was highlighted as a prime area for outdoor seating and events. There was positive feedback on the current café culture and potential for its expansion. Suggestions were made to enhance the experience with live music, night markets and seasonal events.
- (c) **Corn Exchange** – Attendees at evening shows found it easier and safer to access the building. It also provided visitors with an improved dining experience before performances.
- (d) **Bartholomew Street** - Residents noted reduced noise and an improved living environment.
- (e) **Kennet Centre** – extended pedestrianisation is seen as key to this future development and supports the approved plans for development.
- (f) **Specific Venues** – These venues were mentioned by respondents: *Cobrizo Lounge, Cote, Lusso, Hatchet Inn, Elephant at the Market, Games Café, and Ezzo Café*. Respondents enjoy outdoor seating and want more from other establishments.

## 2.9 Personal examples:

*“Since the trial, the high street has felt much safer. We walk through town daily, and with fewer cars in the evenings, it’s cleaner, quieter, and more pleasant.”*

**Safer Evening Walks**

*“It makes a lot of difference to walk on Northbrook Street after work without dodging cars and breathing fumes. The benefit to residents outweighs losing a shortcut for drivers.”*

**Improved Quality of Life for Residents**

*“I have sat outside the Corn Exchange on a summer afternoon with family. Before, the noise and fumes from cars made it unpleasant. Now it’s peaceful and enjoyable.”*

**Enhanced Social Experience**

*“I noticed people with limited mobility and wheelchair users seemed more relaxed without cars rushing through the centre.”*

**Support for Vulnerable Groups**



- (b) **Business Impact** - Restaurants and pubs are losing trade due to lack of convenient access. Takeaway collections are disrupted, with delivery drivers facing delays and unsafe parking.
- (c) **Accessibility** - Disabled and elderly visitors are unable to access restaurants, the Corn Exchange, and shops. Blue Badge holders consider themselves excluded, raising concerns about the Council's obligations under the Equality Act.
- (d) **Safety** – The town centre is described as “unsafe” and “intimidating” after dark. There are reports of antisocial behaviour and speeding e-scooters in pedestrian zones, coupled with a perceived lack of policing.
- (e) **Seasonal Relevance** – The extended hours are seen as unnecessary in winter, with few people venturing outdoors after 6pm. Suggestions are made for a seasonal approach to be taken, i.e. April–September only.

## 2.12 Personal examples:

*“I finish work at 5.30pm and am responsible for collecting my daughter from her after-school club, which ends at 6.00pm. Prior to the change, I could reach her school in 15 minutes. Now it often takes 30+ minutes, causing late fees and leaving my daughter upset. This daily stress is taking a toll on my family life and mental wellbeing.”*

**Working Parent Struggling with School Pick-Up**

*“When visiting restaurants/pubs in Newbury, I ask my husband to pick me up around 8.30–9pm. Previously, I could be picked up safely in the Market Place, but now I have to walk to other parts of Newbury that aren't as well-lit or safe.”*

**Safety Concerns for Evening Pick-Ups**

*“As a young woman living within the pedestrianisation zone, I can no longer get taxis or lifts home before 11pm. I now must walk much further in empty streets, which does not feel safe.”*

**Impact on Resident Living in Pedestrian Zone**

*“As the owner of The Rectory Clinic, staff commuting is significantly affected. Several team members now face long delays, and patients find it harder to access the clinic.”*

**Business Owner Facing Operational Challenges**

*“As a plumber working on the high street, I can't park near properties after 5pm. I often need multiple trips for tools, and walking five minutes each time makes jobs unviable.”*

**Tradesperson Losing Work**

*“Half of our sales depend on takeaways and deliveries. If customers can't access the restaurant easily, they won't bother, and small independent restaurants will suffer.”*

**Head Chef Concerned About Takeaway Sales**



## Parking Concerns Expressed in the Consultation on the Extension of Pedestrianisation Hours

2.14 This section summarises responses related to parking issues raised in the consultation:

- (a) **High Parking Charges** - Strong criticism that expensive parking discourages visits and harms businesses.

*“The high parking charges will reduce the footfall to the town and consequently more businesses will close.”*

- (b) **Accessibility and Convenience** - Complaints about difficulty accessing car parks for quick visits or takeaways.

*“Delivery drivers cannot park outside the shop except for first thing in the morning... I now have to use a trolley from Kennet Centre car park.”*

- (c) **Impact on Evening Economy** - Calls for free or reduced evening parking to encourage dining and shopping.

*“Combine pedestrian high street with free after 4pm and weekends parking. And the high street might have a chance.”*

- (d) **Disabled Access** - Concerns that removal of drop-off points and reliance on distant car parks disadvantages Blue Badge holders.

## 3 Implications and Impact

### Impact on Businesses of Extended Pedestrianisation Hours

#### 3.1 Responses

Responses:		%
Responses Analysed	2,650	
Responses Mentioning Business Impact	1,440	54.34

3.2 This section summarises specific examples of how businesses have been affected, grouped by theme. Named businesses are highlighted where mentioned.

- (a) **Positive Impacts on Footfall or Outdoor Seating** – were noted, with seeing eateries moving in such as Lusso, taking advantage of the extended hours. Both the additional *Lusso* location and *Poppins* are mentioned as prime examples of businesses benefiting from outdoor seating. One respondent said that sitting outside at *Cobrizo Lounge* without the noise and fumes of traffic has been wonderful.
- (b) **General Business Concern** – included sentiments such that extended pedestrianisation was damaging the hospitality business in Newbury; that Newbury was once a bustling town, but since there are no vehicles in the evening, all that seems to have stopped. Also, it was noted that there are not a great number of

hospitality venues in the pedestrianisation route that would fully utilise the availability of extended hours.

- (c) **Safety concerns** – reported by businesses that many visitors expressed concern about safety in the evenings due to the lack of vehicles.
- (d) **Increased Costs or Inefficiencies** – with delivery drivers now having to park illegally or far away, making collections harder and reducing income and restaurants losing takeaway trade because customers cannot access easily.

### Motorist Bias in Negative and Neutral Responses

Responses:		%
Responses Analysed	2,155	
Responses Showing Motorist Bias	924	42.9

3.3 The purpose of this section is to highlight patterns of motorist-centric views expressed in opposition to extended pedestrianisation and to assess the implications for policy and engagement. Motorist-bias is defined as responses prioritising car convenience (e.g., quicker routes, drop-offs) while ignoring pedestrian, cyclist, disabled, or community needs. 42.9% of negative / neutral responses exhibit motorist bias. Common keywords include drive, traffic, shortcut, commute, drop-off and parking. Very few of these responses mention safety, accessibility or environmental benefits.

3.4 Key characteristics of motorist bias exhibited in the consultation responses include:

- (a) **Town Centre Framed as a Traffic Corridor** - Many respondents describe the ‘High Street’ primarily as a route for through-traffic rather than a shared public space.

*“Trying to drive from one side of the town to the other is very awkward and time consuming when Northbrook St is closed.”*

- (b) **Dismissal of Pedestrian and Social Benefits** - Frequent rejection of alfresco dining, evening economy, and safety improvements.

*“The idea that Newbury will be alfresco is absolute rubbish. Have the road open at 5pm makes the town a lot safer.”*

- (c) **Focus on Journey Times and Convenience** - Emphasis on delays, congestion, and perceived inefficiency of alternative routes.

*“Hurts traffic flow and general access for little benefit. Cuts one end of the town off from another.”*

- (d) **Minimal Reference to Accessibility or Vulnerable Users** - Responses rarely acknowledge the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, or disabled people.

*“Your proposal just serves to clog up the A339 without any real benefit to the town centre.”*

- 3.5 It is important to recognise motorist bias because there are implications for taking the policy forward.
- (a) **Risk of Perceived Imbalance** - Vocal opposition may reflect car-centric priorities rather than broader community needs.
  - (b) **Communication Challenge** – There is a need to reframe debate on the issue around shared benefits (safety, air quality, evening economy).
  - (c) **Engagement Strategy** - Target messaging to explain why pedestrianisation supports inclusive access and long-term vitality.

## Item 12: Notice of Motions

### Motions submitted for debate at the Council meeting on the 16 October 2025

- (a) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Adrian Abbs:

Modify the Experimental Traffic Order for Newbury Town Centre - Amendment and trial of alternative traffic flow model for Newbury Northbrook Street, Park Way and Wharf Road

This Council notes the ongoing experimental traffic order restricting vehicle access to Newbury High Street from 10:00am to 11:00pm. While intended to foster pedestrian safety, economic support of business and environmental benefits, the current closure may inadvertently limit accessibility for key demographics and constrain local trade, particularly during evening hours.

This motion proposes an alternative trial scheme that:

1. **Permits One-Way Vehicular Flow:**

Allow traffic to enter Newbury Bartholomew St in a single south-to-north direction via Northbrook Street, with return access facilitated through Park Way. This flow maintains a controlled environment while improving connectivity and reducing congestion on feeder roads.

2. **Alternative of traffic return via A339**

If for some reason it is not possible to use Park Way and Warf Road as the North to south route then the A339 can be designated as the route from North to south in the town.

3. **Introduces Short-Stay Parking Incentives:**

Establish free short-stay parking bays—limited to 15-30 minutes—along designated sections of the Bartholomew Street and Northbrook Street. These locations would be monitored via time-discs or possibly digital enforcement mechanisms to ensure turnover.

#### **Rationale and Community Benefit:**

• **Economic Revitalisation:**

Offering limited-time free parking encourages brief shopping visits and supports “in-and-out” transactions critical to retailers.

• **Cultural and Nightlife Engagement:**

Enhanced evening access and short-stay flexibility promote casual dining, entertainment, and spontaneous engagement with nightlife—key to nurturing a vibrant town centre.

- **Inclusion and Accessibility:**  
Facilitates visits by older residents, families with young children, and individuals with limited mobility, who may be disadvantaged under the current arrangement.
- **Better correlation with Time of Year**  
As winter comes pedestrian traffic is likely to fall and easier access to shops, restaurants and event locations gains greater value.
- **Environmental Monitoring:**  
The trial should run concurrently with environmental and traffic flow assessments to ensure impacts remain within sustainable thresholds.

This Council urges officers to explore feasibility, consult stakeholders including residents and local businesses, and prepare a report outlining implementation logistics, costs, and KPIs for review within three months.

# Adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	21 May 2026
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Nigel Foot
<b>Report Author:</b>	Drew McHenry
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	EX4737

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To propose the adoption of the final Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) 2026-2041, including the Executive Summary and Appendices.
- 1.2 The draft strategy was publicly consulted on at the end of 2025 and consultation feedback was gathered and used to produce the final strategy. This final strategy is supported by the PPS Steering Group, consisting of Sport England, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and officers. The delivery of the PPS actions will be undertaken through the collaboration of the steering group.
- 1.3 The full PPS pack recommended for publication includes a range of documents to accompany the main strategy, that provide additional detail, and guidance.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To adopt the final Playing Pitch Strategy 2026-2041.

## 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary				
<b>Financial:</b>	The available PPS capital budget (85199) is detailed below.				
		25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
	85199 (PPS)	£193,510	£300,000	£500,000	£500,000
	Total	£193,510	£300,000	£500,000	£500,000

## Adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy

<b>Human Resource:</b>	The delivery of the strategy will be undertaken within existing resources
<b>Legal:</b>	None
<b>Risk Management:</b>	None
<b>Property:</b>	None
<b>Policy:</b>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the requirement of Local Authorities to establish and provide adequate and proper leisure facilities to meet local needs. The Playing Pitch Strategy forms part of the requirement.</p> <p>The Playing Pitch Strategy has been developed with reference to the West Berkshire Local Plan, Football Foundation's Local Football Facility Plan and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.</p>

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		

## Adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy

<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Health Impact:</b>	X			If the strategy is adopted, and actions are undertaken as part of the live delivery plan, there will be increased availability of pitches and courts for residents to exercise.
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>	X			<p>Thriving communities with a strong local voice.</p> <p>This priority will be supported by the adoption of the new PPS, as the data will be accurate and robust and therefore provide an up-to-date evidence base to support actions in improving leisure availability and quality.</p> <p>Provision under the PPS will improve the local sports infrastructure and, thereby, contribute to supporting the health and wellbeing of the population of West Berkshire.</p> <p><u>Leisure strategy</u></p> <p>1.3. Work across the Council to improve use and accessibility of leisure activities, facilities and greenspace;</p>
<b>Core Business:</b>		X		
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public consultation undertaken from 19 November 2025 to 04 January 2026</li> </ul>			

## Adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PPS Steering Group (WBC officers including Leisure, Countryside and Planning, Sport England, NGB's for all named sports)</li><li>• Consultation with pitch and court users and holders</li></ul>
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## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 West Berkshire has an ageing population, and it is crucial that health is maintained throughout residents' lifetimes. Increasing uptake in physical activity supports this as a preventative measure. A Playing Pitch Strategy gives the Council a clear approach to the provision of additional and improved pitches and courts to enable residents more access to active leisure spaces. Evidence suggests that West Berkshire adult residents are less inactive than CIPFA neighbours and require spaces to exercise. Equally, improved availability of pitches and courts will support children and young people in reducing inactivity levels. This is vital for physical, social and mental wellbeing.
- 4.2 The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been commissioned by West Berkshire Council to understand the existing and future demand on pitches and courts in the district.
- 4.3 The PPS relates to football, rugby union, hockey, cricket, tennis, netball and lacrosse provision and is the result of detailed investigation and analysis supported by a Steering Group which has included the National Governing Bodies for Sport (NGBs) and Sport England, as well as pitch and court holders and users. The Portfolio Holder will attend the PPS Steering Group meetings going forward.
- 4.4 The strategy provides evidence and recommendations for the Council to strategically plan the provision of pitches and courts for current and future demand, until 2041.
- 4.5 The Draft PPS was subject to public consultation undertaken from 19 November 2025 – 04 January 2026. Over three hundred responses were received and the strategy has been amended to provide additional clarification on the recommendations. However, the final strategy has not changed materially compared to the consultation draft. The final strategy has been supported by the PPS Steering Group.
- 4.6 It is proposed that the final strategy is adopted from 2026-2041. A PPS live delivery plan is being developed which will be managed by officers and members of the PPS Steering Group through PPS Stage E (delivery, monitoring and review). The PPS live delivery plan will be created using the detailed recommendations and data derived from the PPS process.
- 4.7 This delivery plan will be available for viewing on the council website and will be updated by officers following steering group meetings, or when actions are completed. The full PPS steering group will work towards completing the actions during the PPS lifespan (2026-2041), as opportunities arise.
- 4.8 The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide recommendations to allow officers and members of the PPS Steering Group to implement actions based on a robust evidence base. The

## Adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy

PPS lists recommendations against three sub-groups; Protect, Enhance and Provide, to suggest actions to increase the availability and quality of pitch and court leisure facilities in the district.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

5.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been prepared to understand the existing and future demand of pitches and courts in the district in accordance with the PPS framework. Further to public consultation, the final strategy is now recommended for adoption.

### Background

5.2 The previous PPS was adopted in February 2020, and a Stage E Review (update of data) was undertaken in January 2022.

5.3 A Playing Pitch Strategy is recommended as part of the National Planning Policy and follows guidelines set out by Sport England. The process involves data analysis of pitches, courts and ancillary facilities and feedback from users to produce recommendations on facility provision within the district.

5.4 The strategy relates to football, rugby union, hockey, cricket, tennis, netball and lacrosse provision and is the result of detailed investigation and analysis supported by a Steering Group of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Sport England, as well as pitch and court holders and users. The strategy outlines the views of these groups across the district and is supported by data including usage figures to give an accurate, detailed overview of sport in West Berkshire. The strategy provides evidence and recommendations to enable the Council to strategically plan the provision of pitches and courts for current and future demand, until 2041 although this will be subject to a refresh of the data when required.

5.5 The Playing Pitch Strategy provides the Council with an evidence-based live delivery plan, to provide the best opportunities for leisure and sport within the district, with regard to pitches and court spaces.

5.6 The live delivery plan will be monitored by the Steering Group with each party being responsible for completing assigned actions and updating the group. The actions are directed from the full recommendations of the PPS, as a non-ordered list.

5.7 The strategy is divided into the categories of Protect, Enhance and Provide, each with their own focussed strategies, to protect the sites currently available for use, enhance where improvements can be made and provide new facilities.

5.8 The Playing Pitch Strategy provides a 'direction of travel' for the Council, rather than an exact blueprint, to allow for adaptations to be made where appropriate, due to the dynamic nature of planning.

**Key strategy headlines** (please refer to Appendix 2 – Glossary, if required)

## **Adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy**

- 5.9 Detailed recommendations are included in background document 1, which offers a more extensive review of the Strategy and details specific sites for improvement, following the PPS structure of 'Protect, Enhance, Provide'.
- (a) Protect - A key theme, across all sports, is to protect sites that are already used as pitches and courts. Recommendations include securing tenure of existing sites and protecting headroom on surplus pitches for future use, when demand arises. Recommendations are also focussed on opening up facilities for community use and ensuring booking is accessible and straightforward for users.
  - (b) Enhance - The strategy also focusses on enhancing existing sites across the sports, with recommendations to improve poor quality pitches and ancillary facilities that are not up to standard. The latter is vital in increasing accessibility to sport for the rising number of girls' and women's teams.
  - (c) Provide – Additionally, the strategy proposes new facilities including grass and artificial grass pitches (AGPs), new ancillary facilities and floodlighting to increase the availability of training hours during the week.
- 5.10 Data demonstrates that there is currently a deficit of 7.4 3G football pitches across the district, rising to 9.7 by 2041. The placement of these is recommended to be spread evenly throughout the three sub-areas (detailed in the strategy), with key new sites being named but not ordered, as Henwick Worthy, Faraday Road, St. Bartholomew's School, Trinity School, Kennet School, The Downs School and Theale Green School.
- 5.11 It is also recommended that the availability of grass football pitches across the various age ranges and sizes is increased, though some of this demand would be met through any introduction of 3G pitches.
- 5.12 The strategy recommends that rugby union will need to see an increase of 2.51 grass pitches across the district by 2041.
- 5.13 Additionally, it is recommended that hockey will require two additional lit AGPs across Newbury and Thatcham, one to be built at Henwick Worthy, the other to be met through improvement to an existing pitch through sports lighting.
- 5.14 It is also recommended that cricket will require an additional 107 grass wickets, or 9 artificial wickets.
- 5.15 Netball recommendations are to work with providers in offering ease of booking and ensuring facilities, including ancillary buildings, are up to standard.
- 5.16 Specific tennis recommendations are to make courts more accessible to the public, which recent works to Henwick Worthy courts and Kennet School courts contribute to, and to also provide padel facilities.
- 5.17 Recommendations for Lacrosse are to work with St Bartholomew's school to increase accessibility for the sport as this is the only location offering lacrosse facilities.

## **Key changes following consultation**

## Adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy

5.18 Public Consultation on the PPS draft was helpful in highlighting the demand from residents for spaces to participate in sport throughout the district, further supporting the need for the PPS. Many comments reflected the recommendations of the PPS draft, in demonstrating the requirement for additional pitches at specific sites and improvements to be made throughout the district. A summary of the public consultation responses is attached as Appendix 7.9. The strategy is unchanged materially from the draft strategy, with only minor updates and changes resulting from the consultation. This was expected, due to the extensive data gathering at the start of the PPS process.

5.19 The key changes following consultation are:

- (a) Minor wording changes to widen the interpretation of the meaning of 'ancillary' to cover 'supporting infrastructure'.
- (b) A reference in the strategy document to the importance of clubhouses playing a key role in helping to sustain the viability of clubs.
- (c) An additional recommendation under 'Provide - All sports', to the effect that clubs and pitch provision should be supported by the relevant and necessary type, size and composition of supporting infrastructure such as changing facilities to meet the needs of the teams and players using the sites / grounds.
- (d) An additional sentence in the football recommendations around the requirement for new 3G pitches to be on the FA pitch register, which was previously deemed as understood.

## Proposals

5.20 This report seeks to outline the process that has led to the final PPS being created, including public consultation, and seeks approval to adopt the final strategy.

## 6 Other options considered

6.1 No other options were considered as the Playing Pitch Strategy must be updated following the Sport England guidelines. The current PPS is outdated, and the new strategy has been produced supported by evidence.

## 7 Appendices and Background Documents

7.1 Strategy Document

7.2 Executive Summary

7.3 Appendix 1 – FAQs

7.4 Appendix 2 – Glossary

7.5 Appendix 3 – Exploring Decarbonisation, Sustainable Travel and Climate Change

7.6 Background Document 1 – Detailed Recommendations

7.7 Background Document 2 – Guidance for LA Officers

## Adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy

7.8 Background Document 3 – Maps Informing the Assessment

7.9 Consultation Summary

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### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position:

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

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# West Berkshire Council

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### 2024 - 2041

Produced by:  **Stuart Todd Associates**  
planning | policy | strategy | partnership

Produced for:  **West Berkshire**  
COUNCIL

**Version record**

1 <sup>st</sup> draft (Steering Group)	August 2025
Final draft (Steering Group)	October 2025
Consultation draft	October 2025
Final	January 2026

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

This Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for West Berkshire covers the period to 2041 and is compliant with the most up-to-date Sport England guidance<sup>1</sup>. At its heart has been close liaison between the consultants commissioned to develop the strategy (Stuart Todd Associates), West Berkshire Council, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Sport England, while consultation with clubs, operators, owners and providers of pitches and courts has been critical to understanding the needs of sports.

The strategy covers grass and artificial pitches used for football, rugby union, hockey, cricket and lacrosse and outdoor courts used for tennis and netball.

A PPS serves multiple functions across sport, leisure, planning and public health. It supports not only formal club-based sport but also social, casual and informal sport, encouraging broader participation and increased physical activity. It provides an audit of the quality, quantity and accessibility of playing pitches, establishes the current levels of demand (and therefore whether pitches are being over or under used) and identifies future levels of demand to the end of the strategy period. In doing so, it seeks to ensure that the appropriate level of pitch provision is aligned with both current needs and anticipated growth, enabling effective long-term planning.

The Playing Pitch Strategy plays the following roles:



## 1. Evidence base

- Provides robust evidence to protect existing provision in the planning system, helping to defend against inappropriate loss of pitches and courts.



## 2. Quality

- Helps identify improvements to quality and condition of pitches, courts and ancillary facilities (including infrastructure such as clubhouses, changing facilities, pavilions, sports-lighting, dugouts, etc.).



## 3. Future Provision

- Provides a strategic view and options for the provision of pitches during the strategy period.



## 4. Investment

- Informs the investment to be made into club sites.
- Can be used to support funding applications for improvements to quality, quantity and accessibility.



## 5. Development

- Informs the planning of new developments and on/off-site contributions for pitches and courts, ensuring they are consistent with national and local policy.



## 6. Planning Policy

- Informs planning policy development.



## 7. Health and Wellbeing

- Forms an important part of the “package” of strategies, evidence and actions which can contribute towards improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of those who live and work in the area.

<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=assessing\\_needs\\_and\\_playing\\_pitch\\_strategy\\_guidance](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=assessing_needs_and_playing_pitch_strategy_guidance)

What the strategy does not and cannot do is provide a blueprint for change to 2041. The strategy can present options based on evidence and assessment of it (and indeed recommendations), but cannot do the work necessary (for example, logistical, feasibility and viability work) required to confirm actions with 100% certainty and make things happen “on the ground”, which is the task of the many stakeholders (such as clubs, providers, owners and managers of pitches) and organisations (such as the Council, sports governing bodies and Sport England) responsible for delivery of pitches and ancillary facilities (including infrastructure such as clubhouses, changing facilities, pavilions, sports-lighting, dugouts, etc.).

Without regular monitoring and review of its recommendations during stage E (the delivery stage), the strategy could be considered out-of-date in around 5 years time.

The strategy’s Vision is as follows.

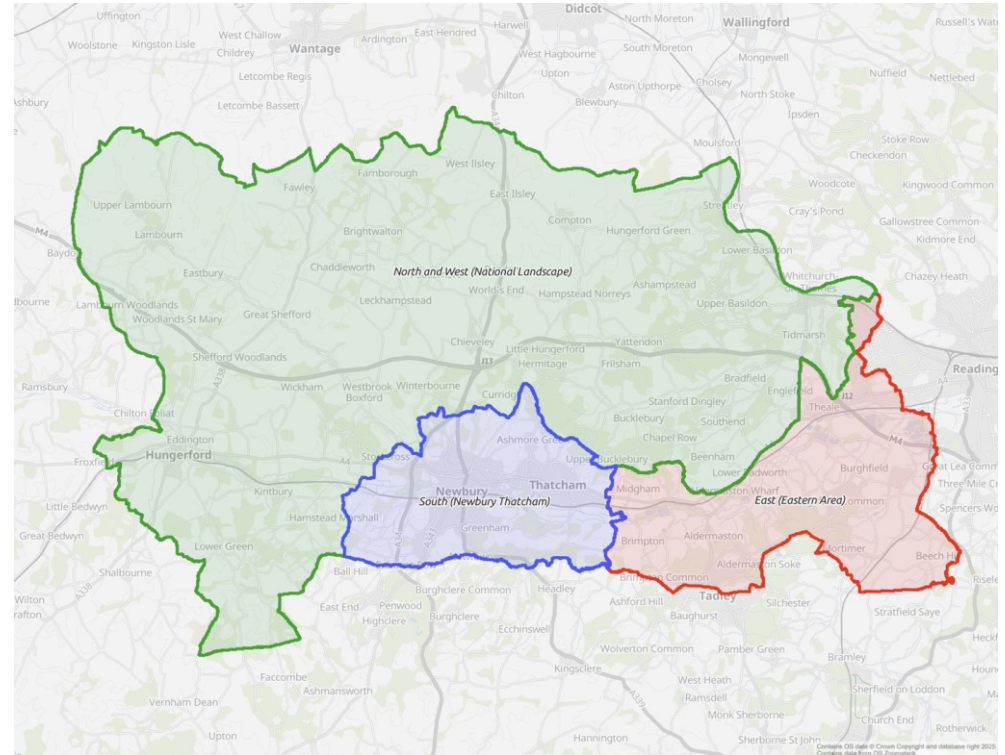
**Vision**

*“The PPS seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities which supports increased sports participation by all residents, at all levels of play, from grassroots to elite.”*

The study area for the PPS is the whole of the West Berkshire Council (WBC) area, as shown below (Figure 1). The map also shows the sub-areas used for analysis and presentation of the strategy’s

recommendations and actions. These sub-areas align with the areas used for planning policy purposes.

Figure 1: The Study Area and Sub-Areas



This PPS is a strategy for pitch sports. While the development of the strategy was commissioned by West Berkshire Council (and therefore “ownership” of the strategy rests principally with the local authority), this does not mean that all recommendations must be delivered solely by the Council. Delivery is the responsibility of all members of the steering group, and also of other key stakeholders such as (but not limited to) clubs, providers, operators and land owners.

This strategy document is intentionally brief, structured as follows:



### **Assessment Summary**

- Baseline data: the position now
- Looking forward: identifying key issues from the assessment



### **Strategic Priorities**

- Headline priorities providing the main focus of the strategy's direction.



### **Delivering the strategy**

- Strategic recommendations and Action Plan Priorities



### **Appendices and Background Documents**

- Appendix 1 sets out further details about the process which has been followed to develop this PPS in a “Frequently Asked Questions” format.
- Appendix 2 is the PPS Glossary.
- Appendix 3 explores decarbonisation and climate change issues.
- Background Document 1 sets out the strategy's detailed “Protect”, “Enhance” and “Provide” recommendations for the local authority area, sub-areas and specific sites for each sport.
- Background Document 2 sets our guidance for local authority officers on use of the PPS.
- Background Document 3 sets-out maps which have informed the PPS.

## 2. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

### 2.1 Setting the Scene: Key Basic Data

The summary of current supply and demand data for each main pitch sport follows and sets the position for pitch sports in West Berkshire now. “Headline data” only are provided to give brief context. Maps showing the locations of pitches and courts are set-out in Background Document 3.

Baseline data was collected in the 2024/25 season. It is recognised that basic data changes from season to season. The Steering Group overseeing delivery of the strategy will monitor change and its impact over time.

#### Football

In the WBC area, based on Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Football Association (BBFA) affiliation data and updated with club survey responses in the 2024/25 season suggests that there were a total of 392 teams, of which 65 are adult teams. Of these adult teams, 8 are ladies teams 53 are men’s teams (1 of which is a veterans’ side) and 4 are walking football sides. There are 327 youth and junior / mini teams (U7-U18), of which 53 are girls’ teams). Within this figure, U7-U10 teams account for 121 teams. There are 6 disability teams across all age groups.

In West Berkshire, the largest clubs (with around 20 teams or more), based on data provided for the 2024/25 season, are:

- Barton Rovers FC (32 teams)
- Hungerford Town Juniors (23)
- Burghfield (51)
- Thatcham Tornados (48)
- Cold Ash Boys and Girls (26)
- Westwood Wanderers (35)

- CSA 07 Youth (20)

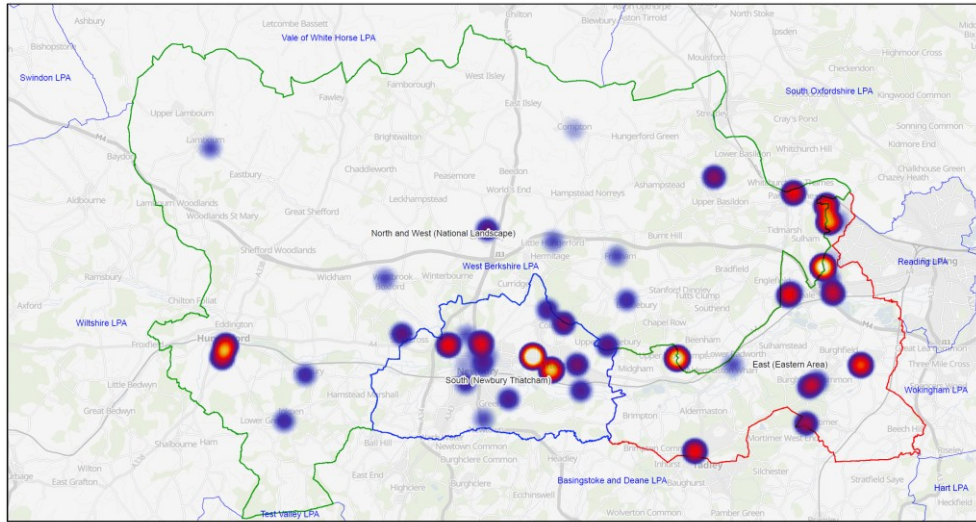
The breakdown of team numbers data by affiliation age group and sub-area is as follows.

Sub-area	Number of Teams					
	Team Age Group and Format					
	U7/U8*	U9/U10	U11/U12	U13/U18	Adult^	Total
North and West	20	18	27	43	13	121
South	24	29	15	44	19	131
East	12	18	26	51	33	140
<b>West Berkshire</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>392</b>
<i>Outside of WBC area**</i>	14	16	16	5	5	56

Notes: does not include Tadley Cavella FC teams given that, although they play within the WBC area, they relate more closely to Tadley in the Basingstoke and Dean local authority area. \* does not include U5/U6 development teams, of which there are 3 in East, 1 in North and West and 2 in South. There is 1 exported / displaced outside of WBC. \*\* exported / displaced demand. ^ Including U19s and Veterans’ teams, but not including walking football teams.

Figure 2 shows a heat map for team numbers and locations of home grounds in the WBC area, suggesting that the highest demand is focused around main centres of population.

Figure 2: Heat Map showing Numbers of Teams by Home Ground Location



18/06/2025  
 Football teams all home grounds  
 Sparse  
 Dense  
 West Berkshire PPS Sub Areas  
 East (Eastern Area)  
 North and West (National Landscape)  
 South (Newbury Thatcham)  
 Local Planning Authorities (April 2022) Boundaries UK BFE

1:128,708  
 0 1.5 3 6 mi  
 0 2.5 5 10 km  
 Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025  
 Contains data from OS Zoomstack

The number of pitches by size and security of community use, not including overmarked pitches, is as follows.

Sub-area	Number of Grass Pitches				
	Pitch Size (pitches currently in use)				
	5v5	7v7	9v9	11v11 (youth)	11v11 (adult)
North and West	3	4	9	8	8
South	7	7	7	8	10
East	2	4	5	5	21
<b>West Berkshire</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39</b>

Sub-area	Number of Grass Pitches					
	Total pitch numbers currently in use	Of which are		Avail. for use but not used	Not available *	Dis-used
Secure		Unsecure				
North and West	32	2	30	19	23	0
South	39	18	21	19	12	1
East	37	7	30	24	24	0
<b>West Berkshire</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1</b>

Notes: \* for community use (i.e. accessible for clubs to use)

Considering the current picture of supply and demand on grass pitches currently used by clubs, figures suggest that 9v9 and youth 11v11 pitches in particular see overplay across the district, suggesting a need to make-up that deficit.

The following table sets out the number of 3G AGP by sub-area and size and sand based AGPs which are used for informal football use as well as for hockey (i.e. have community use). It should be noted that the FA sanctions matches and prefers training for clubs on 3G pitches. 2 x 3Gs are on the FA 3G Register, formally sanctioned for competitive football matches (affiliated for FA and FIFA football). Of these numbers, there are 4 AGPs with secure community use 2 of which are 3Gs) and 6 which have unsecure community use.

Sub-area	Type	Size*				Of which are	
		11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	Sports-lit	FA Register <sup>2</sup>
North and West	3G	1	0	0	0	1	1
	Sand	0	0	0	0	0	-
South	3G	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Sand	4	0	1	0	5	-
East	3G	1	0	0	0	1	1
	Sand	1	0	1	0	1	-
<b>West Berkshire</b>	<b>3G</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Sand</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>

\* pitches slightly smaller than recommended dimensions are included. E.g. a pitch measuring slightly smaller than a 7v7 is included in figures for 7v7 pitches.

## Rugby union

In West Berkshire (in the WBC area) in the 2024/25 season there were 5 Rugby Football Union (RFU) voting (affiliated) clubs, as follows:

- Aldermaston RFC
- Hungerford RFC
- Newbury RFC
- Tadley RFC
- Thatcham RFC

Between them the make-up of teams across the sub-areas, based on RFU affiliation data, are as follows.

Rugby	North and West	South	East	Totals
Adult Ladies	0	1	0	1
Adult Men	2	6	3	11
Age Grade (Girls U13-U18)	0	1	0	1
Age Grade (Boys U13-U18)	4	9	5	18
Age Grade Mixed (U7-U12)	6	10	6	22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>53</b>

At club home grounds, there are the following numbers of senior pitches (based on pitches with posts installed, but not including informal training grids).

Club	Sub-area	Sports-lit Pitches (fixed lighting)	Full-size Pitches (total, including sports-lit)
Aldermaston RFC	East	0	2
Tadley RFC		1	3
Hungerford RFC	North and West	1	4
Newbury RFC	South	2	4
Thatcham RFC		0	2
<b>West Berkshire</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>

There are no (0) World Rugby 22 compliant 3G pitches in the WBC area.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>

## Hockey

In the 2024/25 season, there were 2 hockey clubs (HC) which have a home ground within the WBC area, as follows.

Club Name	Site Name (Home Ground)	Sub Area
Newbury and Thatcham HC	Henwick Worthy, Thatcham	South
Scarlet Runners Ladies HC	Elstree School (matches) / Willink Leisure Centre (training)	East

Clubs have the following numbers of teams, based on 2024/25 data.

Category	East (Scarlett Runners HC)	South (Newbury and Thatcham HC)	Totals
Adult Ladies	1	5	6
Adult Men	0	6	6
Vets Ladies	0	1	1
Vets Men	0	0	0
Informal / friendly only	0	1	1
Back to Hockey	0	1	1
Flyerz (disability)	0	1	1
Walking Hockey	0	0	0
Boys 14-16	0	0	0
Girls 14-16	0	3	3
Boys 11-13	0	2	2
Girls 11-13	0	1	1
Mixed 5-10	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>

## Cricket

There are 23 clubs that played and have a home ground in the WBC area.

East	North and West	South
AWE Tadley CC	Bradfield CC	Cold Ash & Ashmore Green CC
Bucklebury CC	Chaddleworth CC	Donnington CC
Mortimer & West End CC	Chieveley CC	Falkland CC
Sulhamstead & Ufton CC	Englefield CC	Newbury CC
Theale & Tilehurst CC	Hampstead Norreys CC	Thatcham Town CC
	Hungerford CC	
	Inkpen CC	
	Purley on Thames CC	
	Swindon Titans CC	
	The Bell Inn Aldworth CC	
	Welford Park CC	
	West Isley CC	
	Yattendon & Frilsham CC	

Clubs have the following numbers of teams that play cricket in the WBC area, based on 2024 data.

Cricket	East	North & West	South	Totals
Adult Men (Open)	27	46	23	96
Adult Women	2	6	5	9
Junior Boys (open) - (7-18)	14	24	27	65
Junior Girls (open) - (7-18)	7	5	10	22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>196</b>

There are 26 cricket grounds that use grass pitches with community usage in West Berkshire (WBC area). Within these there are 5 artificial pitches. There are a further 4 standalone artificial pitches which are grounds without any grass pitches and are available for community use. There are only 14 sites that don't have secure community usage.

A breakdown of all the pitches across the sub areas are:

Sub-area	Number of Cricket Grounds and Pitches			
	Grass Grounds		Non-Turf Pitches	
	Adult	Junior	Stand-alone	On Grass Pitch
East	8	0	1	0
North & West	12	0	2	4
SouthClick or tap here to enter text.	6	0	1	1
<b>West Berkshire</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

## Tennis

In the WBC area, based on Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) affiliation data and updated with club survey responses, there are a total of 2,471 members. The largest clubs are located in Pangbourne (311 members), Cold Ash (300), Bucklebury (299) and Bradfield (256).

Sub Area	Club Name	No. of members
East	Douai Park Tennis Club	104
North and West	Boxford Tennis Club	112
	Bradfield Tennis Centre	256
	Bucklebury Tennis Club	299
	Chieveley Tennis Club	165
	Kintbury Tennis Club	127
	Purley (Berks) Tennis Club	120
	Hungerford Tennis Club	165
	Pangbourne Tennis Club	311
	Basildon Tennis Club	137
Yattendon and Frilsham TC	105	
South	Newbury Tennis Club	150
	Thatcham Tennis Club	120
	Cold Ash Tennis Club	300

There are two LTA-registered public park venues (five courts) and 14 LTA-registered club venues (42 courts) within the WBC area. The remaining, LTA non-registered/non-club sites, are venues that either lack LTA affiliation or hold LTA registration but do not operate as clubs.

A breakdown of all the tennis courts across the sub areas are:

Sub Area	LTA-reg. park/club		LTA non-reg./non-club		Totals
	Lit courts	Non-lit courts	Lit courts	Non-lit courts	
East	0	8	12	16	36
North and West	19	11	6	25	61
South	7	4	14	28	53
<b>West Berkshire</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>150</b>

## Netball

The EN-affiliated club member numbers and venues in the WBC area are:

Sub Area	Venue Name	No. of Members (2024-25)
East	Theale Green School	Thunderbirds NC: 110
	Willink School (Willink LC)	Bowmore NC: 14
South	Kennet School (Kennet LC)	NetballStars: 10
	St Bartholomew's School	Academy NC: 65
	St Gabriel's School	Newbury Junior NC: 110

Theale Green School serves as the competition venue for EN member leagues during the 2024–25 season:

- Reading & District Netball League – Saturday: 25 teams (3 divisions)
- Reading & District Netball League – Wednesday: 36 teams (4 divisions)
- Reading & District Netball League – Thursday Social: 8 teams (1 division)

- Theale Green School is also a central venue for Reading Junior Netball Club: (6 teams, 1 division) and Reading Social League.

There are four EN-member club venues and one EN central league venue in the WBC area, totalling 22 courts. The remaining venues, EN non-member venues including commercial, 32 sites totalling 72 courts.

A breakdown of all the netball courts across the sub areas are:

Sub Area	EN member club / central league		EN non-member inc. commercial leagues		Totals
	Lit courts	Non-lit courts	Lit courts	Non-lit courts	
East	4	4	4	10	22
North and West	0	0	6	22	28
South	12	2	4	26	44
<b>West Berkshire</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>94</b>

## Lacrosse

There is one club playing in West Berkshire, playing on a school site, as follows.

Sport	Club	Site Name	Sub Area
Lacrosse	Phoenix Lacrosse Club (Newbury)	St Bartholomew's School	South

## 2.2 Looking Forward: Identifying Key Issues

Considering all data and information gathered during the PPS process during the 2024/25 season and projecting demand for each sport forwards to 2041 leads to the following key issues arising for each sport. These provide the basis for action which needs to take place to implement the strategy. A detailed site-by-site and place-by-place action plan will be used by the PPS steering group to aid delivery and monitor change.

### Football

#### *General*

- Making improvements to both grass pitch capacity and ancillary facilities (including infrastructure such as clubhouses, changing facilities, sports-lighting, dugouts, etc.) will be key to sustaining and growing the game. Sometimes, even small amounts of funding for a club can make a big difference in improving quality and retaining and attracting players. The presence of social areas / clubhouses at grounds can be important to help sustain the viability of a club(s) or ground.
- Quality and accessibility of provision of both existing and future provision of pitches and facilities must recognise the needs of people with disabilities, girls and women, given continued likely growth in the game for these sectors / formats.
- Pitches with unsecure community use for clubs should be brought into secure community use where possible.
- The network of pitches and ancillary facilities should support clubs to progress up the FA pyramid if they secure promotion.
- Larger housing development sites present an opportunity to deliver multi-pitch / hub sites, particularly grass pitches. Named host, home or operating clubs can be “allocated” to the site to facilitate use and absorb demand from new residents and if there is a shortage of pitch provision and / or pitch capacity in the area. It is important to be aware that additional playing pitches provided on housing allocation sites, or elsewhere, are also likely to require ancillary facilities. For many smaller scale housing developments, off-site financial contributions can help enhance existing pitch and facility provision, for example, improvements to ancillary facilities and the quality of pitches, rather than provision of additional, perhaps single pitch space on-site.
- “Headroom” capacity, where referenced, should not be considered as “surplus” to need or demand or “spare” for disposal. It is simply the result of a calculation comparing supply and demand and does not factor in “reality” issues such as suitability or availability of capacity at appropriate times.
- Data on its own can mask the picture “on the ground” and it could be the case that for both grass and 3G provision, further consideration is needed during stage E of the appropriate locations for improving capacity in relation to clubs which may be currently based in the North and West sub-area but which better relate to the centres of population in the South and East sub-areas. Recommendations with regard to future pitch provision will need to reflect the flexibility needed to apportion additional capacity from one sub-area to another to best reflect clubs’ demands for preferred locations of pitches.

### Grass pitches

- Projecting demand forward for grass pitches, across WBC as a whole, with no intervention to improve the quality of the existing supply of pitches which are “poor” and “standard” quality and not maximising use of existing pitches with headroom capacity, demand to 2041 is projected as being for an additional 6.36 (7) x adult / 11v11 pitches, an additional 18 x youth 9v9 or 11v11 pitches and 13 x 5v5 or 7v7 pitches.
- However, making the most of existing supply, for example by maximising use of headroom capacity, using pitches which are available but currently unused and by improving the quality of pitches which are either poor or standard quality to good quality (and thus increasing their carrying capacity to host matches), changes the amount of additional new pitches required, with most pitch sizes having varying degrees of headroom capacity across the local authority area as a whole by 2041. Figures change again when a cap is placed on mini and youth pitches based on kick-off times at weekends and if current exported demand is brought back into the district. The variability of measures open to address current deficit / overplay of provision and accommodate future and exported demand means that a range of pitches is the best lens through which to see how much provision is likely to be necessary by 2041. This range of demand is as follows.

<b>Football Supply / Demand Grass Pitches Snapshot if Quality Solutions can be Maximised</b>		
<b>Sub-area</b>	<b>Pitch Type</b>	<b>Range of demand to 2041 (no. of pitches required / headroom, of “good” quality)</b>
North and West	11v11 adult	3-7 pitches headroom capacity
	11v11 youth and 9v9	6 pitches required – 1 pitch headroom capacity
	7v7 and 5v5	4-5 pitch headroom capacity
South	11v11 adult	3-6 pitches headroom capacity
	11v11 youth and 9v9	7 pitches required – 1 pitch headroom capacity
	7v7 and 5v5	3-7 pitches headroom capacity
East	11v11 adult	1-8 pitches headroom capacity
	11v11 youth and 9v9	5-10 pitches required
	7v7 and 5v5	5-6 pitches headroom capacity

It is important to stress that these figures “do not tell the whole story” with regard to provision. Planning for pitch provision should be done based on additional pitches required as a basis and not be reliant on other factors, for example, improving all less than good quality pitches or assuming that quality improvements automatically means that the additional capacity provided can feasibly or practically be used by teams at the times they need to play matches.

- However, while it is unlikely that all pitches which are poor or standard quality will all be improved and not all pitches with headroom capacity will have availability for use at the time that teams need them, it is clear that the approach to make better use of existing supply should feature as a focus for the strategy. Alongside this, bringing currently unused pitches which are available for community use, into use can also provide a role in

introducing additional supply. Notwithstanding these measures, it is likely that there will be a need for some new additional grass pitches in locations where quality improvements cannot be made, existing headroom capacity cannot be maximised and larger clubs are outgrowing their pitch supply. The detailed site-by-site and place-by-place action plan will be used by the PPS steering group to understand the reality of types of provision needed.

- Changing pitches from one size to another for a season or two could also help to rebalance any deficits in supply and overplay. This will help to maximise existing pitch assets without needing to find land for additional pitches. For example, headroom capacity provided by 11v11 adult, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches available for community use but unused could be reconfigured to help address the deficit in supply to 2041 of 11v11 youth and 9v9 pitches.
- Figures are numerical only. They do not provide the specificity with regards to the “on the ground” availability of pitches and so maximising the use of pitches which have some headroom capacity might not be feasible in reality. This would then mean that there could be a higher number of pitches required in addition to current supply or less capacity available for actual use the figures suggest.

### 3G pitches

- There is a current deficit of 3G pitches in the district amounting to around 7-8 full-size 11v11 sports-lit pitches. With only 3 full-size sports-lit 3G pitches in supply, there is plenty of football use, including training, taking place on sand-based AGPs and there are indications of significant levels of unmet demand for 3G use.
- Projecting demand forward, just over 2 additional full-size 11v11 sports-lit 3Gs are needed to satisfy additional demand to 2041. This figure include building in anticipated demand arising from the small sided / casual / informal game.

- There is currently around 2.3 pitch’s worth of demand being accommodated on sand-based AGPs. Providing the number of 3G pitches identified in the deficit figure will accommodate this number.

Summary of proposed additional capacity:

<b>3G additional demand to 2041 (WBC area)</b>	<b>Number of 11v11 full-size sports-lit 3G pitches</b>
Existing deficit in supply	<b>7.4</b>
Projected future additional demand including informal / small-sided play “buffer”	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Total required (rounded range)</b>	<b>9-10</b>

- The total number of 9-10 pitches being required is likely to round up to 10 rather than down if, for example, some rugby training needs to be accommodated on weekday evenings for training during the peak of the wet winter months and if on a WR22 compliant 3G pitch.
- The total number of 3G pitches required across the district (rounded) is comprised of the following:
  - 3 in the North and West
  - 3 in the South
  - 4 in the East

These figures are an approximate split between sub-areas, particularly in relation to provision on the edge of the North and West and East sub-areas, where some of the indicated demand is likely to arise in close proximity to Newbury and Thatcham, along the A4 corridor and on the edge of Reading.

- Moving forward, the provision of 3G pitches may continue to need to be supplemented by sand based pitch use, particularly for the casual / informal / small-sided leagues game, while the inter-relationship between sports and multi-sport aspect of both sand

based pitches (with hockey) and 3G (with rugby where WR22 compliant) must be recognised as a strand of the strategy in some locations. A preferred strategy for 3Gs which benefits sport as a whole and residents' access to provision will need co-ordinating with the RFU and EH, as will delivery of additional capacity.

- The sequence of provision of additional 3G capacity is important. For example, provision of 3G capacity in the Thatcham area will help to free-up additional time for Newbury and Thatcham HC to use for weekday evening training at the existing sand AGP if football play can be migrated away from the pitch to a new 3G.

## Rugby Union

- Priority issues from the assessment can be summarised as:
  - improving quality of existing pitches as a priority to support existing demand and reduce overplay;
  - ensuring that sports lighting can be provided to enable additional evening use for training in co-ordination with pitch quality improvements;
  - supporting club aspirations to improve the quality and capacity of changing facilities and clubhouses to cater for existing and future demand and to help support growth in the game;
  - exploration of the role that WR22 compliant 3G pitches could play for some clubs to support growth and negate the need for additional grass pitches to be provided; and,
  - if 3G capacity proves not to be an option, how and where best to find additional grass pitch capacity close to existing grounds to cater for demand which ensure club use away from the home ground.
- Pitches which have unsecure community use (Aldermaston RFC and Hungerford RFC) pose a risk to sustaining, improving and

growing the club on the sites, and securing tenure will be an immediate priority for those grounds;

- If measures are taken to improve both the quality of standard quality rated grass pitches and additional sports-lighting is introduced, both measures which can improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate play, on all clubs sites, apart from one (at Newbury RFC), existing deficits in capacity / overplay can be accommodated. This is before factoring additional demand on pitches from club growth to 2041.
- If projected growth comes to fruition, by 2041, an equivalent of an additional 2.51 full-size grass pitches will need to be provided across the WBC area if capacity cannot be accommodated on existing club pitches following improvements to quality and additional sports lighting. Existing grounds at Hungerford RFC and Aldermaston RFC should have sufficient capacity on-site to accommodate future demand if quality and capacity improvements are made. Tadley RFC, Newbury and Thatcham RFCs may need additional grass pitch capacity or access to a WR22 3G for training should future projected growth come forward.
- WR22 compliant 3G pitches are likely to be able to play a role in supporting clubs' demand in some locations, particularly in relation to satisfying training needs in the wettest winter months, if new additional 3Gs in the right locations can be provided to meet the WR22 standard. The RFU's priority is to retain as much play as possible at club home grounds by making improvements to maximise capacity, prior to clubs having to rely on 3G capacity. Therefore, while it is important to recognise the potential role of and need for 3G access for some clubs, 3G provision is not factored into the assessment as a definite solution to accommodate demand which is not yet demonstrable on the ground in most cases.
- The presence of social areas / clubhouses at grounds can be important to help sustain the viability of a club or ground.

## Hockey

- There are 2 clubs playing in the WBC area, with a total of 23 teams between them. 22 of these teams are at Newbury and Thatcham HC in the South sub-area), with the other team at Scarlet Runners HC (East sub-area).
- Spatially, most of the district is within a 20 minute drive-time catchment of a full size and or sports-lit sand AGP. Newbury and Thatcham HC uses 3 pitches, with its main home ground at Henwick Worthy, supplemented by Trinity School (matches) (for 2025/26 at least) and a small amount of training at the Downe House School.
- There are no clubs playing in the North and West sub-area, although players living in this area are likely to play either at one of the clubs in WBC or travel to other clubs, for example, based in Swindon or Wallingford. Some players in the eastern part of the District may travel to Reading to play.
- There are opportunities to build on already established Flyerz (disability) and Back to Hockey (informal play) at Newbury and Thatcham HC.
- 3 of the 5 pitches currently used by clubs are considered to have unsecure community use, putting varying degrees of risk for clubs' future certainty of use. A priority for the strategy is likely to be the need to gain greater security of tenure in the long-term for clubs if they continue to have to use these pitches or others with unsecure community use.
- For the future long-term sustainability of hockey clubs (with regard to financial viability and maximising the availability of volunteer / coaches' time) a "one site model" is preferred by England Hockey, focusing club activity on one central site where possible. At the current time, the split of larger clubs playing on more than one site makes this difficult to achieve.

- When comparing current supply and demand on club used pitches, there is notionally headroom capacity to accommodate additional hockey on most pitches, but this not available at the times needed by clubs.
- Key issues for Newbury and Thatcham HC include: the spread of play across 3 pitches, with a preference to consolidate on one 2-pitch site; their lack of time slots at the right times is starting to constrain the ability of the club to sustain and grow; there is shared use of the AGP at Henwick Worthy with football and so this pushes some training to an alternative site; the changing and clubhouse facilities at Henwick Worthy are in need of improvement; and, adding current existing and unmet demand to future demand sees the club needing 2 x full-size sports-lit pitches to accommodate this demand, for matches and training, if it has sole use of these pitches. If a second hockey AGP is delivered at Henwick Worthy, the pitch must demonstrate viability in the long-term from either hockey only use or dual use with football, with hockey needs having priority and should 3G capacity be increased to cater for football.
- Scarlet Runners HC will need additional time slots moving forward, with a total need by 2041 for 2.5 hours at the weekend for matches and 3.5 hours for training on weekday evenings, preferably Monday and Thursday. Their current situation sees them needing additional training time, but this is difficult with much of the rest of the peak time slots during the week used for football. The club plays across 2 sites, with one pitch being full-sized but having no lighting to enable training to take place, and the other pitch having lighting but only being half size and so unable to host matches. 1 full-size sports-lit pitch will have sufficient capacity to accommodate the club's demand to 2040, if the current arrangement across 2 pitches is not sustainable for any reason.
- Financial, off-site, contributions from strategic housing allocations should be channelled into the closest club or clubs or their home

grounds within the sub-area, focused on priority actions which can help to sustain and grow clubs, as identified in the PPS.

## Cricket

- There is an under supply of cricket pitches to cater for current demand. This undersupply is located close to the more densely populated areas of Newbury, Thatcham, Reading fringe and the A4 corridor between Thatcham and Reading.
- Clubs in the study area are growing, and this growth is coming from junior and the women market where there has been significant growth in recent years. This growth is predicted to continue and is generally concentrated at clubs with existing junior sections. These clubs are generally already at or close to capacity so there is minimal room for further growth without access to more pitches.
- Projections for growth suggest that the junior game and Women & Girls cricket would see most growth.
- Clubs with junior sections are continuing to grow and have / will outgrow their existing facilities. These clubs are looking for additional grounds to continue to service their membership and growth.
- Many ancillary facilities (including infrastructure such as changing facilities, toilets and pavilions) are not fit for purpose for Women & Girls, and this market is likely to grow very fast over the period of the strategy.
- More artificial pitches and practice facilities will be required to help protect the grass pitches by providing additional capacity to host junior matches and provide training facilities for both juniors and seniors.

- Securing community use at club home grounds where there is currently unsecure community use is important to give clubs certainty.
- There is very limited use of school sites as venues for community cricket clubs. Opening up these facilities in areas that have an undersupply of pitches could help to alleviate some of this overplay while creating partnerships with the schools. This is already being explored by some clubs.
- Many clubs use volunteers to prepare their pitches and are over reliant upon this resource. It is generally an ageing workforce and the demands of the role have increased due to the growth of junior cricket and many sites being in use 6 or 7 days a week.
- If projected growth comes to fruition, by 2041, then the shortfall in cricket provision will get worse. Where possible strategic allocation sites should be explored to provide additional capacity for cricket, through providing new sites and pitches, and through off site contributions to existing sites.

## Tennis

- West Berkshire's tennis court capacity is unevenly distributed. Some club venues are operating well over capacity, while other venues run significantly below their limits.
- Most LTA-registered clubs are within a 10-minute drive for car users, but underserved areas and non-car users experience noticeable coverage gaps.
- No padel courts currently exist despite an estimated 2,461 local players, indicating the need for at least 12 dedicated courts.
- Facility quality varies widely: many courts suffer from worn surfaces, absent sports-lighting and minimal ancillary services.

Upgrading non-registered community and educational sites could strategically fill geographic shortfalls.

- Encouraging pay-and-play access at club sites and optimising public parks would broaden casual and non-member participation. Booking and access systems are inconsistent; wider adoption of automated, smart-access technology would maximise availability.
- A coordinated investment plan is required to rebalance capacity, modernise courts, introduce padel facilities, standardise access models and ensure consistent quality.

## Netball

- All netball courts are shared surfaces which limits dedicated netball capacity and causes scheduling conflicts. Clubs report unsecured access to venues, reducing reliable court time despite apparent overall supply.
- Facility quality is largely “Standard,” with some school courts rated “Poor” or “Unplayable” due to moss, wear and outdated infrastructure. Ancillary amenities (changing rooms, lighting, signage) require targeted upgrades to meet safety, competitive and community expectations.
- Immediate refurbishment of poor or unplayable courts and ancillary improvements are essential to ensure consistency across all sites.
- Most courts lie within a 30-minute drive for car owners, but community access is often restricted at school-managed sites, creating geographic gaps.
- Secured community-access protocols and dependable booking systems or dedicated time slots are needed at schools and outsourced facilities.

- Leveraging EN non-registered sites owned by local authorities or educational institutions would relieve pressure on existing venues and offer flexible, community-focused options.

## Lacrosse

- Phoenix Lacrosse Club (Newbury) struggle to access pitches with Lacrosse markings to cater for both training and matches. This is in terms of all year round and during peak periods of weekends for matches.
- The club are not able to grow anymore due to the lack of facilities. There is women’s team that has formed but can’t play matches due to no lacrosse pitch being available on Sundays.
- Lacrosse coaches are hard to find so this can be a challenge with a growing membership.
- Competition from other traditional larger sports mean that the club often gets overlooked and not prioritised for AGP bookings.
- The club has no where they can call ‘home’ so struggle with a disrupted and disjointed offering for its members.

### 3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

From the assessment undertaken, strategic priorities can be identified. These set the core “thrust” of the strategy in broad terms, providing the overarching context for the detailed and site-specific “Protect”, “Enhance” and “Provide” recommendations (set out in full in Background Document 1) and delivery of priority actions set out in the next section. The strategic priorities, across sports, are as follows.



#### 1. PROTECT

- i. **Protect existing supply** of grass playing pitches and AGPs, both those in use which currently host known demand and those not currently in use (including those available but unused, those not available for community use and disused sites) on the basis of the need to address lack of capacity for some sports in the WBC area, the need to introduce a “reservoir” of grass pitch supply to provide additional capacity during the winter months, the lack of any “new” greenfield sites to introduce additional supply and the potential for future demand also requiring their use. Any proposals for change of use or development of pitches must pass the Sport England Playing Fields Policy tests and relevant National Planning Policy Framework requirements.



#### 2. ENHANCE

- i. **Improve existing pitches, courts and ancillary facilities**, where possible, to make better and maximise use of supply:
  - a) to grass pitch quality to increase carrying capacity, reduce overplay / deficit of capacity and improve reliability of use during wet winters for football and rugby union, prioritising improvements where

increased usage is demonstrably practical and feasible;

- b) to increase provision of lighting on grass rugby pitches where this is in sync with quality improvements and improved maintenance;
  - c) to substandard surfaces and lighting on identified AGPs;
  - d) to outdoor tennis and netball courts in poor or sub-standard condition; and,
  - e) to the accessibility to, safety of and quality of changing facilities, clubhouses and pavilions (including provision of facilities where there are currently none, where there is known or likely demand from clubs), particularly given the desired growth across sports in the girls’ and women’s game and in disability sport.
- ii. There is a need for continuing partnership working with the operators / owners of pitches and clubs which use sites with unsecure community use (or clubs with no certainty of tenure in the long-term) to **secure tenure**, thereby minimising the risk to clubs of loss of use of their pitches.



#### 3. PROVIDE

- i. Develop and implement the masterplan for the strategic **Henwick Worthy** site, Thatcham, aiming to:
  - a. create a hockey hub site;
  - b. maintain and improve capacity for rugby and football;
  - c. maintain capacity for cricket; and,
  - d. make various environmental and leisure / recreation enhancements.
- ii. Support improvements to the **Faraday Road** football pitch site, Newbury, including provision of a full-size (11v11) sports-lit 3G pitch.

- iii. Alongside other measures, consider the role and location of a new **strategic hub site** for sport(s) in the Newbury / Thatcham area to help cater for existing deficits / overplay and future demand.
- iv. Identify and deliver additional sites which can accommodate **new grass pitches** to meet demand not satisfied through pitch quality improvements or bringing back into use unused pitches.
- v. Co-ordinate the **phasing of delivery** within and across sports, particularly in relation to sports which currently (or could in the future) share pitches, sites, facilities and / or surface types.
- vi. Address the current deficit in the supply and availability of **3G pitches** across sub-areas.
- vii. There is an under supply of **cricket pitches** in the more densely populated areas of Newbury, Thatcham, Reading fringe and the A4 corridor and these to be addressed via a variety of options including:
  - a. create new cricket pitches opportunities on existing playing fields and open spaces.
  - b. enhance the quality of the existing facilities to maximise the capacity of the current pitches.
  - c. ensure sites are supported by off field practice net facilities where feasible.
- viii. Provide additional **netball and tennis court capacity** for community use at existing outdoor netball and tennis club and education sites where demand requires it, with additional sports lighting provided at sites which see or could see evening use during the sports' seasons.
- ix. Support the development of new **padel** courts across parks, clubs, leisure centres and private-sector venues to meet identified unmet demand, permitting conversion of existing tennis courts only where an LTA-approved capacity assessment confirms that tennis demand will continue to be met.
- x. Accommodate **exported football demand** wishing to return to West Berkshire, particularly teams using grass pitches in neighbouring authority areas. Clarifying aspirations of clubs with displaced demand wishing to return to West Berkshire area will form an important part of this process.
- xi. Opportunities should be taken to consider the relationship between (and potential impacts of) existing and future pitch use and the contribution of their location and use to the reduction of carbon emissions, as well as wider sustainability issues. Solutions, within and outside of sport, should be considered to help **decarbonise sport** and, in turn, improve viability, financial security and sustainability of pitches, courts and clubs.

## 4. DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

The strategy provides an objectively, evidence based “direction of travel”, with the aim of achieving positive outcomes for people who play or would like to play sport and cannot be a “blueprint” for change. In doing so it must be recognised that:

- i. Data, projections and demand gathered principally in 2024/25 will change over time. Therefore, the strategy’s delivery (and therefore the impact on existing and future supply and demand challenges) must be monitored, and the timing, amount and location of delivery will vary during the strategy period.
- ii. In the majority of cases, the PPS provides flexibility and a range of options to deliver additional supply. This is necessary to give flexibility of plans of what to deliver and when with regard to new pitch capacity. It is not the role of the PPS to “straight-jacket” options over a 15 year period and stage E monitoring and delivery meetings (1 to 4 per year) are key to successful delivery responding to demand “on the ground”.
- iii. The PPS informs future NGB investment plans and programmes (across both pitch and facility support for clubs and wider support for operational requirements).

### 4.1 Monitoring and Review

It is important that baseline data such as team numbers and supply / demand balance, the strategy itself and the impact of its actions are monitored to ensure that supply matches both projected demand set out in this strategy and demand “on the ground”.

This is particularly important later during the strategy period given that the timing of when future demand will emerge “on the ground” in the longer-term is less accurate given that it is based on projections.

As actions are implemented, a “plan, deliver, monitor, manage” approach should be employed. It is recommended that a “Stage E” action plan review meeting of the Steering Group should take place at 3, 6 or 12 monthly intervals, but more frequently if issues suggest a need. These meetings must not be a replacement for important delivery work which should take place on a continuous basis between delivery partners.

Additional guidance for use of this strategy by local authority officers has been set out in Background Document 2.

## 4.2 Recommendations and Action Plan

### Priorities by Sport

The strategy's detailed recommendations encapsulated within "Protect", "Enhance" and "Provide" headings are set-out in full in Background Document 1. These set out the individual and issue specific actions which need to take place during the period to 2041.

Following consultation on the draft strategy and any changes made as a result, confirmed recommendations and actions should be set out and monitored in a "live" action plan framework which members of the steering group will have a responsibility to update and implement. Implementation will depend on steering group members co-ordinating and working closely with clubs, teams, leagues, operators and owners of current pitches and owners of potential sites for additional pitches.

The action plan framework will, in time, be updated and delivery informed by other priorities such as (but not limited to) response to the climate emergency, economic recovery and levels of deprivation. The delivery stage will also confirm options for change on a site-by-site basis as further work during implementation is done on feasibility, viability and implications of other actions.

PPS guidance recommends that an action plan is consulted upon as part of the strategy and therefore, the following priority actions, are presented for each sport. The priority actions are those which need to commence in the first 3 years of the strategy period (and preferably as soon as the strategy has been approved and adopted). Other projects identified in the detailed recommendations may also need to be delivered, but those listed below form the focus for action in the first part of the strategy period.

### Football (Grass)



#### 1. MAKE BETTER USE OF EXISTING SUPPLY (ENHANCE)

- i. Secure community use of unsecure pitches.
- ii. Prioritise additional supply near to areas of highest demand and near to and / or on overplayed pitches.
- iii. Identify unused and underused pitches which can realistically be used to introduce additional capacity.
- iv. Make ready a supply of unused pitches across pitch sizes, particularly on the A4 corridor (Hungerford-Newbury-Thatcham-Theale / Calcot) which can serve as a reserve supply in winter.



#### 2. IMPROVE QUALITY AND CAPACITY (ENHANCE)

- i. Prioritise secure community use pitches over unsecure pitches.
- ii. Improve quality of existing pitches to increase carrying capacity / usage where pitches are:
  - a. Overplayed and poor quality;
  - b. Overplayed and standard quality.
- iii. Improve quality of ancillary facilities (including infrastructure such as clubhouses, changing facilities, pavilions, sports-lighting, dugouts, etc.) to better support and sustain all formats of the game.



#### 3. UTILISE WEEKEND 3G CAPACITY (ENHANCE)

- i. Supplement (but do not replace) grass pitch use for matches with available capacity on FA Register 3Gs.



#### 4. INTRODUCE NEW SUPPLY / CAPACITY (PROVIDE)

- i. Alongside the above measures, identify additional sites which can accommodate new grass pitches to meet demand not satisfied through 1. and 2. in:
  - a. Urban areas and along the A4 corridor in the South and East sub-areas (Hungerford-Newbury-Thatcham-Theale / Calcot) and the southern edge of North and West sub-area where demand is greatest, there is a deficit in capacity / remaining overplay; and,
  - b. Rural North and West sub-area.

### Football (3G)



#### 1. INTRODUCE NEW SUPPLY / CAPACITY (PROVIDE)

- i. Deliver additional 3G capacity at priority locations / sites such as:
  - a) Faraday Road, Newbury;
  - b) Henwick Worthy, Thatcham; and,
  - c) In the East / North and West sub-area boundary areas with Newbury and Thatcham, the edge of Reading (for example, in the Calcot / Tilehurst area) and A4 corridor.
- ii. Identify a programme of phased delivery of other additional 3G capacity needed, steered by the options identified in the recommendations.

### Hockey



#### 1. INTRODUCE NEW SUPPLY / CAPACITY (PROVIDE)

- i. Deliver an additional full-size sports-lit sand dressed AGP at Henwick Worthy to support Newbury and Thatcham HC's demand and create a hockey hub.

### Rugby Union



#### 1. MAKE BETTER USE OF EXISTING SUPPLY (ENHANCE)

- i. Secure community use of unsecure pitches.



#### 2. IMPROVE QUALITY AND CAPACITY (ENHANCE)

- i. Prioritise secure community use pitches over unsecure pitches.
- ii. Improve quality of existing pitches to increase carrying capacity / usage where pitches are:
  - a. Overplayed and poor quality;
  - b. Overplayed and standard quality.
- iii. Introduce additional sports-lighting with accompanying improved maintenance to maintain quality to increase capacity for evening weekday training.
- iv. Improve quality of ancillary facilities (including infrastructure such as clubhouses, changing facilities, sports-lighting, etc.) to better support and sustain all formats of the game.

### Cricket



#### 1. INTRODUCE NEW SUPPLY / CAPACITY (PROVIDE)

- i. Provide additional capacity for cricket in the Newbury, Thatcham, Reading fringe and A4 corridor areas, addressing this through a variety of options including:
  - a. enhancing the quality of the existing facilities to maximise the capacity of the current pitches;
  - b. creating new cricket pitches opportunities on existing playing fields and open spaces; and,

- c. ensuring sites are supported by off field practice net facilities where feasible.

## Tennis



### 1. MAKE BETTER USE OF EXISTING SUPPLY (ENHANCE)

- i. Support clubs to be more accessible to non-members, offering Pay & Play opportunities with good customer journey to court to fill gaps in provision.
- ii. Improve access to outdoor courts within the education sector for community use out of school hours with easy online journey to court.

### ☆☆☆ 2. IMPROVE QUALITY AND CAPACITY (ENHANCE)

- i. Improve quality of courts and ancillary provision to meet consumer expectations, and increase court capacity by installing sports-lighting where demand has been identified.



### 3. INTRODUCE NEW SUPPLY / CAPACITY (PROVIDE)

- i. Support the development of new tennis and padel tennis facilities across multiple contexts. Consider parks, clubs, leisure centres and private-sector venues equally when identifying sites for new courts.
- ii. Only permit conversion of existing tennis courts to padel where an LTA-approved capacity assessment confirms that traditional tennis demand will continue to be met.
- iii. Insist on clear commitments to community use and accessible pricing models. A community use agreement should be recommended as a condition for planning permission.

## Netball



### 1. MAKE BETTER USE OF EXISTING SUPPLY (ENHANCE)

- i. Increasing the number of dedicated netball courts to reduce conflicts from multi-use applications.
- ii. Implementing secure community access protocols and guaranteed scheduling to enhance the reliability of facility use.



### 2. IMPROVE QUALITY AND CAPACITY (ENHANCE)

- i. Prioritising refurbishment and updating poor-quality or unplayable courts, including improving ancillary facilities like changing rooms and sports-lighting.



### 3. INTRODUCE NEW SUPPLY / CAPACITY (PROVIDE)

- i. Monitor bookings and participation annually; when demand exceeds supply, allocate funds to plan a new netball hub.

## Lacrosse



### 1. INTRODUCE NEW SUPPLY / CAPACITY (PROVIDE)

- i. Provide Phoenix Lacrosse Club (Newbury) club with a 'home' venue with three Lacrosse pitches to service their current membership and facilitate the growth of the club. Location to be close to Newbury and could be a shared site. Options to be agreed with the club.

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# West Berkshire Council

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2024 - 2041

Produced by:  **Stuart Todd Associates**  
planning | policy | strategy | partnership

Produced for:  **West Berkshire**  
COUNCIL

**Version record**

1 <sup>st</sup> draft (Steering Group)	August 2025
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

This document is an executive summary of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for West Berkshire. It is brief and is not the full strategy or list of actions; it should not be read as such. The PPS covers the period to 2041 and is compliant with the most up-to-date Sport England guidance<sup>1</sup>. At its heart has been close liaison between the consultants commissioned to develop the strategy (Stuart Todd Associates), West Berkshire Council, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Sport England, while consultation with clubs, operators, owners and providers of pitches and courts has been critical to understanding the needs of sports.

The strategy covers grass and artificial pitches used for football, rugby union, hockey, cricket and lacrosse and outdoor courts used for tennis and netball.

A PPS serves multiple functions across sport, leisure, planning and public health. It supports not only formal club-based sport but also social, casual and informal sport, encouraging broader participation and increased physical activity. It provides an audit of the quality, quantity and accessibility of playing pitches, establishes the current levels of demand (and therefore whether pitches are being over or under used) and identifies future levels of demand to the end of the strategy period. In doing so, it seeks to ensure that the appropriate level of pitch provision is aligned with both current needs and anticipated growth, enabling effective long-term planning.

The Playing Pitch Strategy plays the following roles:



## 1. Evidence base

- Provides robust evidence to protect existing provision in the planning system, helping to defend against inappropriate loss of pitches and courts.



## 2. Quality

- Helps identify improvements to quality and condition of pitches, courts and ancillary facilities (including infrastructure such as clubhouses, changing facilities, pavilions, sports-lighting, dugouts, etc.).



## 3. Future Provision

- Provides a strategic view and options for the provision of pitches during the strategy period.



## 4. Investment

- Informs the investment to be made into club sites.
- Can be used to support funding applications for improvements to quality, quantity and accessibility.



## 5. Development

- Informs the planning of new developments and on/off-site contributions for pitches and courts, ensuring they are consistent with national and local policy.



## 6. Planning Policy

- Informs planning policy development.



## 7. Health and Wellbeing

- Forms an important part of the “package” of strategies, evidence and actions which can contribute towards improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of those who live and work in the area.

<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=assessing\\_needs\\_and\\_playing\\_pitch\\_strategy\\_guidance](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=assessing_needs_and_playing_pitch_strategy_guidance)

What the strategy does not and cannot do is provide a blueprint for change to 2041. The strategy can present options based on evidence and assessment of it (and indeed recommendations), but cannot do the work necessary (for example, logistical, feasibility and viability work) required to confirm actions with 100% certainty and make things happen “on the ground”, which is the task of the many stakeholders (such as clubs, providers, owners and managers of pitches) and organisations (such as the Council, sports governing bodies and Sport England) responsible for delivery of pitches and ancillary facilities (including infrastructure such as clubhouses, changing facilities, pavilions, sports-lighting, dugouts, etc.).

Without regular monitoring and review of its recommendations during stage E (the delivery stage), the strategy could be considered out-of-date in around 5 years time.

The strategy’s Vision is as follows.

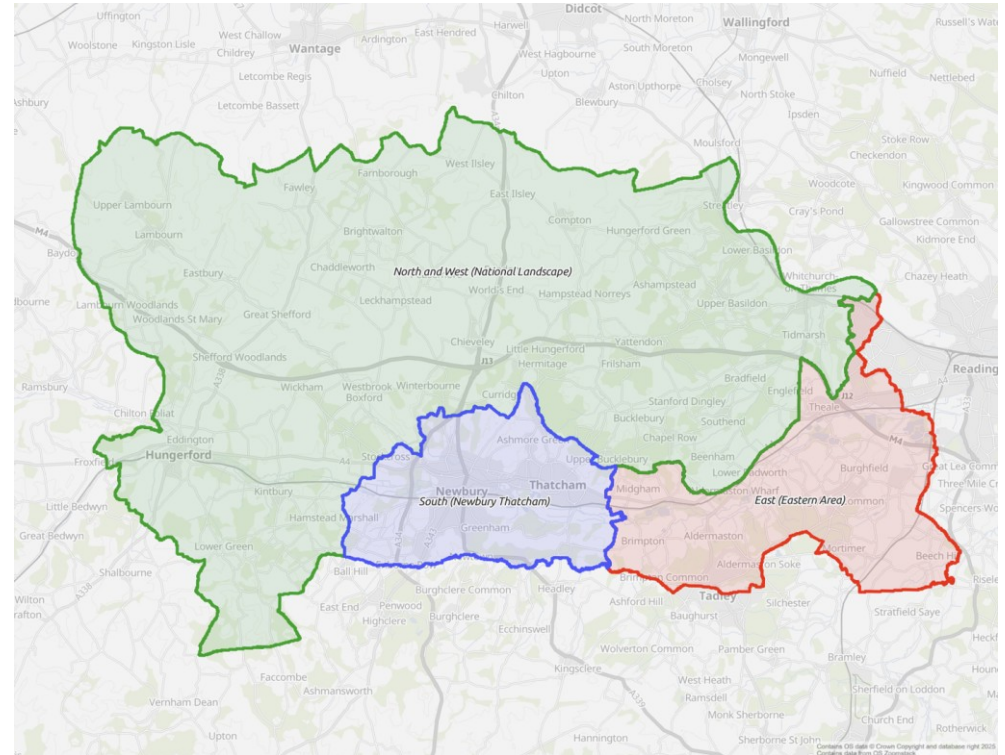
### Vision

*“The PPS seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities which supports increased sports participation by all residents, at all levels of play, from grassroots to elite.”*

The study area for the PPS is the whole of the West Berkshire Council (WBC) area, as shown below (Figure 1). The map also shows the sub-areas used for analysis and presentation of the strategy’s

recommendations and actions. These sub-areas align with the areas used for planning policy purposes.

Figure 1: The Study Area and Sub-Areas



This PPS is a strategy for pitch sports. While the development of the strategy was commissioned by West Berkshire Council (and therefore “ownership” of the strategy rests principally with the local authority), this does not mean that all recommendations must be delivered solely by the Council. Delivery is the responsibility of all members of the steering group, and also of other key stakeholders such as (but not limited to) clubs, providers, operators and land owners.

## 2. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

From the assessment undertaken, strategic priorities can be identified. These set the core “thrust” of the strategy in broad terms, providing the overarching context for the detailed and site-specific “Protect”, “Enhance” and “Provide” recommendations (set out in full in Background Document 1) and delivery of priority actions set out in the main strategy document. The strategic priorities, across sports, are as follows.



### 1. PROTECT

- i. **Protect existing supply** of grass playing pitches and AGPs, both those in use which currently host known demand and those not currently in use (including those available but unused, those not available for community use and disused sites) on the basis of the need to address lack of capacity for some sports in the WBC area, the need to introduce a “reservoir” of grass pitch supply to provide additional capacity during the winter months, the lack of any “new” greenfield sites to introduce additional supply and the potential for future demand also requiring their use. Any proposals for change of use or development of pitches must pass the Sport England Playing Fields Policy tests and relevant National Planning Policy Framework requirements.



### 2. ENHANCE

- i. **Improve existing pitches, courts and ancillary facilities**, where possible, to make better and maximise use of supply:
  - a) to grass pitch quality to increase carrying capacity, reduce overplay / deficit of capacity and improve reliability of use during wet winters for football and

rugby union, prioritising improvements where increased usage is demonstrably practical and feasible;

- b) to increase provision of lighting on grass rugby pitches where this is in sync with quality improvements and improved maintenance;
  - c) to substandard surfaces and lighting on identified AGPs;
  - d) to outdoor tennis and netball courts in poor or sub-standard condition; and,
  - e) to the accessibility to, safety of and quality of changing facilities, clubhouses and pavilions (including provision of facilities where there are currently none, where there is known or likely demand from clubs), particularly given the desired growth across sports in the girls’ and women’s game and in disability sport.
- ii. There is a need for continuing partnership working with the operators / owners of pitches and clubs which use sites with unsecure community use (or clubs with no certainty of tenure in the long-term) to **secure tenure**, thereby minimising the risk to clubs of loss of use of their pitches.



### 3. PROVIDE

- i. Develop and implement the masterplan for the strategic **Henwick Worthy** site, Thatcham, aiming to:
  - a. create a hockey hub site;
  - b. maintain and improve capacity for rugby and football;
  - c. maintain capacity for cricket; and,
  - d. make various environmental and leisure / recreation enhancements.

- ii. Support improvements to the **Faraday Road** football pitch site, Newbury, including provision of a full-size (11v11) sports-lit 3G pitch.
- iii. Alongside other measures, consider the role and location of a new **strategic hub site** for sport(s) in the Newbury / Thatcham area to help cater for existing deficits / overplay and future demand.
- iv. Identify and deliver additional sites which can accommodate **new grass pitches** to meet demand not satisfied through pitch quality improvements or bringing back into use unused pitches.
- v. Co-ordinate the **phasing of delivery** within and across sports, particularly in relation to sports which currently (or could in the future) share pitches, sites, facilities and / or surface types.
- vi. Address the current deficit in the supply and availability of **3G pitches** across sub-areas.
- vii. There is an under supply of **cricket pitches** in the more densely populated areas of Newbury, Thatcham, Reading fringe and the A4 corridor and these to be addressed via a variety of options including:
  - a. create new cricket pitches opportunities on existing playing fields and open spaces.
  - b. enhance the quality of the existing facilities to maximise the capacity of the current pitches.
  - c. ensure sites are supported by off field practice net facilities where feasible.
- viii. Provide additional **netball and tennis court capacity** for community use at existing outdoor netball and tennis club and education sites where demand requires it, with additional sports lighting provided at sites which see or could see evening use during the sports' seasons.
- ix. Support the development of new padel courts across parks, clubs, leisure centres and private-sector venues to meet identified unmet demand, permitting conversion of existing tennis courts only where an LTA-approved capacity assessment confirms that tennis demand will continue to be met.
- x. Accommodate **exported football demand** wishing to return to West Berkshire, particularly teams using grass pitches in neighbouring authority areas. Clarifying aspirations of clubs with displaced demand wishing to return to West Berkshire area will form an important part of this process.
- xi. Opportunities should be taken to consider the relationship between (and potential impacts of) existing and future pitch use and the contribution of their location and use to the reduction of carbon emissions, as well as wider sustainability issues. Solutions, within and outside of sport, should be considered to help **decarbonise sport** and, in turn, improve viability, financial security and sustainability of pitches, courts and clubs.

### 3. DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

The strategy provides an objectively, evidence based “direction of travel”, with the aim of achieving positive outcomes for people who play or would like to play sport and cannot be a “blueprint” for change. In doing so it must be recognised that:

- i. Data, projections and demand gathered principally in 2024/25 will change over time. Therefore, the strategy’s delivery (and therefore the impact on existing and future supply and demand

challenges) must be monitored, and the timing, amount and location of delivery will vary during the strategy period.

- ii. In the majority of cases, the PPS provides flexibility and a range of options to deliver additional supply. This is necessary to give flexibility of plans of what to deliver and when with regard to new pitch capacity. It is not the role of the PPS to “straight-jacket” options over a 15 year period and stage E monitoring and delivery meetings (1 to 4 per year) are key to successful delivery responding to demand “on the ground”.
- iii. The PPS informs future NGB investment plans and programmes (across both pitch and facility support for clubs and wider support for operational requirements).

### 3.1 Monitoring and Review

It is important that baseline data such as team numbers and supply / demand balance, the strategy itself and the impact of its actions are monitored to ensure that supply matches both projected demand set out in this strategy and demand “on the ground”.

This is particularly important later during the strategy period given that the timing of when future demand will emerge “on the ground” in the longer-term is less accurate given that it is based on projections.

As actions are implemented, a “plan, deliver, monitor, manage” approach should be employed. It is recommended that a “Stage E” action plan review meeting of the Steering Group should take place at 3, 6 or 12 monthly intervals, but more frequently if issues suggest a need. These meetings must not be a replacement for important delivery work which should take place on a continuous basis between delivery partners.

Additional guidance for use of this strategy by local authority officers has been set out in Background Document 2.

### 3.2 Recommendations and Action Plan Priorities by Sport

The strategy’s detailed recommendations encapsulated within “Protect”, “Enhance” and “Provide” headings are set-out in full in Background Document 1. These set out the individual and issue specific actions which need to take place during the period to 2041.

Following consultation on the draft strategy and any changes made as a result, confirmed recommendations and actions should be set out and monitored in a “live” action plan framework which members of the steering group will have a responsibility to update and implement.

As noted earlier this implementation will also depend on steering group members co-ordinating and working closely with clubs, teams, league organisers, providers / operators, owners of current pitches and owners of pitches and potential sites for additional pitches.

The action plan framework will, in time, be updated and delivery informed by other priorities such as (but not limited to) response to the climate emergency, economic recovery and levels of deprivation. The delivery stage will also confirm options for change on a site-by-site basis as further work during implementation is done on feasibility, viability and implications of other actions.

PPS guidance recommends that an action plan is consulted upon as part of the strategy and therefore priority actions are presented for each sport in the main strategy document.

# West Berkshire Council

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

2024 - 2041

# APPENDIX 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Produced by:  **Stuart Todd Associates**  
planning | policy | strategy | partnership

Produced for:  **WestBerkshire**  
COUNCIL

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is a Playing Pitch Strategy and why do we need one?

This Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) covers the period between 2024 (as the date from which baseline data has been taken) and 2041 and is compliant with the most up-to-date Sport England guidance<sup>1</sup>.

A PPS plays a number of important roles in sport, leisure and planning terms, and also has a direct link into the health and wellbeing agenda both in relation to formal club-based sport but also social, casual and informal sport aimed at getting people more active (with positive outcomes for mental as well as physical health). At its basic level, the PPS provides an audit of the quality, quantity and accessibility of playing pitches, establishes the current levels of demand (and therefore whether pitches are being over or under used) and projects forward demand likely to arise by the end of the strategy period so that the appropriate level of pitch provision can be planned for the future.

The PPS:

- Can be used as robust evidence to protect existing playing pitches and playing fields;
- Can and should be used in the planning of new developments to include playing pitches' on-site or contribution to off-site consistent with national and/or local policy;

- Can help to improve the quality of offer and provision by identifying and quantifying issues relating to the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities;
- Can be used by clubs and teams and pitch operators / providers to support applications for funding for the improvement of the quality, quantity and accessibility of provision;
- Helps to defend against inappropriate development or loss of pitches;
- Informs planning policy development; and,
- Provides a strategic view and options for the provision of pitches during the strategy period;
- Forms an important part of the “package” of strategies, evidence and actions which can contribute towards improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of those who live and work in the area.

What the strategy does not and cannot do is provide a blueprint for change to 2041. The strategy can present options based on evidence and assessment of it (and indeed recommendations) but cannot do the work necessary (for example, logistical, feasibility and viability work) required to confirm actions with 100% certainty and make things happen “on the ground”, which is the task of the many stakeholders (such as clubs, providers, owners and managers of pitches) and bodies (such as the Council, sports governing bodies and Sport England) responsible for delivery of pitches and ancillary facilities following the strategy’s adoption. The delivery stage of the PPS (known as “Stage E” in the Sport England guidance) should include 3, 6 or 12 monthly

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=assessing\\_needs\\_and\\_playing\\_pitch\\_strategy\\_guidance](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=assessing_needs_and_playing_pitch_strategy_guidance)

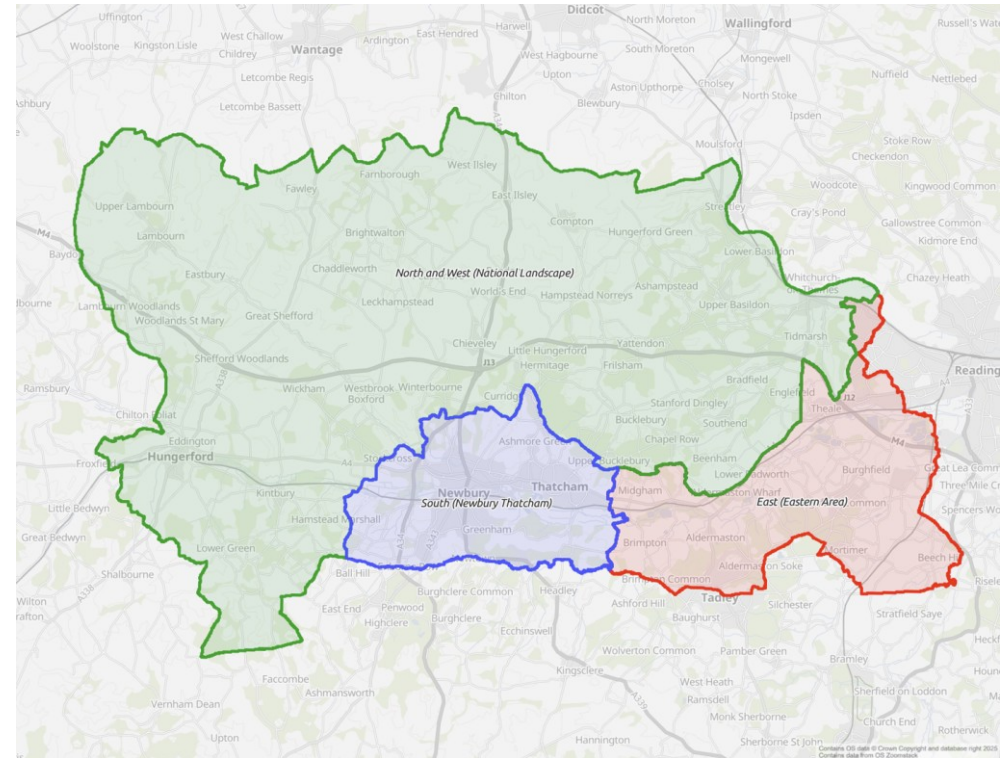
meetings of the steering group to monitor, action and help deliver change. A wider strategy review should take place every 3 years.

## What area does the Strategy cover?

The study area for the PPS is the whole of the West Berkshire Council (WBC) area, as shown below (Figure 1). The map also shows the sub-areas used for analysis and presentation of the strategy's recommendations and actions. The locations of all pitches identified in the study are shown in Background Document 3 and details of each pitch and site are set out in the Assessment Reports which support and evidence this strategy document and are used by members of the Steering Group during delivery.

The strategy has also considered exported and imported demand for pitch sports, so that the relationship between areas and impact of provision outside the WBC area can be understood and recommendations made to reflect these relationships.

Figure 1: Study Area and Sub-Areas



## What sports and pitch types does the Strategy include?

The typology for the playing pitch assessment is as follows:

- Outdoor grass pitches used for football, rugby union, lacrosse and cricket;
- Outdoor full-size artificial grass pitches (AGPs) which can be used, depending on the type of surface, for hockey, football and rugby (which can be partitioned to make a number of smaller pitches for smaller sided games or training), and non-turf cricket pitches;
- Outdoor tennis and netball courts; and,
- Outdoor smaller, dedicated or “formal” AGPs (where booking is required, i.e. not open MUGAs - multi-use games areas) used predominantly for small-sided football (games e.g. 5, 6 or 7-a-side).

The PPS does not consider use of indoor sports halls, “kick-about” areas or, as indicated above, most “open” MUGAs, for example those in parks, although it is recognised that these play important roles in the provision of space for informal / casual play and many different sports.

While all pitches meeting the above criteria are identified for the purposes of establishing the quantity of pitches available, the focus of assessment is on those pitches with “community use” during the “peak period”<sup>2</sup> or those with potential to host community use. This is because the PPS is concerned with understanding and planning for

public or wider use (for example, by one or more clubs or teams), rather than that provided for a single user without allowing public access. Pitches without “community use” will tend to be used only by one group of users and will typically include mainly school sites. These are important to school pupils and students but will often not be available for wider community use to protect the quality of provision, for reasons of security and child safeguarding, or for logistical reasons such as not being able to open a school site up at a weekend or evening. However, an understanding of pitches not currently available for community use or access are noted to be able to understand the role they could potentially play in supporting provision in the future.

“Community use” does extend to those sites which are provided on a commercial basis and those which require a membership fee for use (where those fees are not exorbitant and where membership is not unduly restrictive).

Analysis of the supply of and demand for community use pitches is also split into those pitches which have “security of community use” (for example, a long-term lease, covenant and / or community use agreement) and those which have “insecure community use” (for example, where such agreements are absent and reliance is on a verbal or other form of informal arrangement). This distinction is important, as those pitches which are used by the community or clubs on insecure sites are at greater risk of being taken away from supply (for example, if the provider decides that they no longer wish to host clubs or other

afternoon for adult ladies. For cricket the peak period is Saturday afternoon for adult men, is variable for adult ladies across weekend afternoons and evenings depending on the format and league and is mostly Sunday mornings or afternoons for juniors. For hockey, peak period is typically Saturdays for adult matches and Sunday afternoons for junior matches, with training taking place preferably on Tuesday to Thursday evenings.

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<sup>2</sup> The peak period for AGPs is Monday – Thursday 5pm – 10pm, Friday 5pm – 7pm and Saturday and Sundays 9am – 5pm. It is recognised, however, that in some cases for some pitches, this can vary a little. For competitive football the peak period varies between age groups but for adult men it is Saturday afternoon, adult ladies Sunday afternoon and juniors Sunday morning. For rugby union the peak period is Sunday mornings for youth, mini and midi, Saturday afternoon for adult men and Sunday

community use), sometimes at short notice, placing additional pressure on those sites with secure community use. During the assessment, consideration has been given to the degree of risk that reliance on use of unsecure sites is placing on supply overall.

## Who has contributed to the Strategy’s content?

Development of the strategy necessitates a lengthy process to gather and analyse data across different sports’ seasons, consult with key stakeholders and ensure agreement of the strategy’s content by sports governing bodies and Sport England.

PPS guidance requires the development of the strategy to be steered and managed by a “steering group”. The involvement of a steering group is particularly important given the importance of its members in the provision of baseline data, and “grounding” and delivery of the strategy. The steering group plays a significant role by:

- considering (through “check and challenge”) information and data during the process;
- verifying and helping to localise data;
- providing a connection with local providers, clubs and teams;
- helping to put locally gathered information into a strategic context; and,
- commenting on and shaping the outputs of the study at each stage in the process and giving approval required by the PPS guidance prior to the process moving to the next stage.

Communication with the steering group has not simply been through meetings at key stages of the process. There has been an ongoing dialogue with members of the steering group throughout the process.

The steering group members are as follows.

Organisation	
West Berkshire	England and Wales Cricket Board
Rugby Football Union	Berkshire Cricket Foundation
Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Football Association	England Hockey
Football Foundation	England Lacrosse
Lawn Tennis Association	England Netball
Sport England	Stuart Todd Associates Ltd.

NGBs have played a key role, in particular, and their role and commitment to the process is set out in the PPS guidance.

Consultation is an integral and important part of the PPS’ development, as set out above. Consultation has been undertaken, prior to the strategy being produced, in the following ways:

- online surveys early in the process sent to relevant clubs, pitch owners, pitch managers, pitch providers / operators and the education sector to ascertain up-to-date baseline information about quality, accessibility, demand for pitches and ancillary facilities being reviewed and other important issues of concern;
- 1-2-1 online meetings with various key stakeholders identified by the Steering Group; and,
- face-to-face on-site meetings with some of those providers and operators managing and maintaining sites during playing pitch quality audits.

This strategy is subject to wider consultation and views will help to inform and confirm the strategy’s content. Any changes in data identified through consultation will only be updated further at this stage if it would be likely to require a fundamental change to the conclusions overall for that sport or pitch type. The use of pitches and issues of

concern can change from season to season and so some flexibility in the interpretation of results at the pitch specific level will be required, something which will need to be acknowledged as the strategy is delivered and as solutions are identified. This is one of the reasons why, as noted above, the strategy cannot provide a blueprint for change but instead focuses on key actions and options for change to improve the quality of provision and respond appropriately to changes in demand now and in the future.

Within this context, the actions which arise from the process are considered to be “live” and the strategy itself provides “strategic direction” to plan for accommodating demand to 2041.

## What is the Strategy trying to achieve?

At the start of the PPS process, the Steering Group overseeing the strategy’s development agreed a Vision for the strategy. The Vision, set out below, sets the tone for the treatment of playing pitches during the strategy period to the year 2041.

### *Vision*

“The PPS seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities which supports increased sports participation by all residents, at all levels of play, from grassroots to elite.”

## How was the Playing Pitch Strategy developed?

It has been important that the development of the PPS has followed the guidance published by Sport England and which has been agreed by the national governing bodies (NGBs) for the sports considered by the strategy. Use of the guidance, and data verification and checks on the quality of the various outputs during the strategy’s development by these bodies ensures that the final strategy is robust, fits with and informs their priorities, programmes and strategies and benefits from those bodies’ support as its options are explored and actions delivered.

Sport England’s PPS guidance sets out a ten-step process to be followed to ensure that the PPS is robust. The ten-steps are set out below. Analysis of the data established in stage B is presented in reports setting out summary tables of key data and issues and stage C assessment report itself (the “Assessment Reports”). Those reports sit alongside this strategy as the evidence for its overall “direction of travel” and specific actions for sports and pitches.

- Stage A (led by WBC)
  1. Prepare and tailor approach
- Stage B (led by consultants, Stuart Todd Associates)
  - 2 & 3. Gather supply and demand information and views.
- Stage C (led by consultants, Stuart Todd Associates)
  4. Understand situation at sites.
  5. Develop current & future pitches of provision.
  6. Identify key findings and issues
- Stage D (led by consultants, Stuart Todd Associates)
  7. Develop the recommendations and action plan.
  8. Write and adopt the strategy.
- Stage E (to be led by WBC and members of the Steering Group)

9. Apply and deliver the strategy.
10. Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date.

For each of the sports (football, cricket, hockey and rugby union) and pitch types (grass and artificial) in the typology the report assesses current supply, demand, accessibility, availability, quality, quantity and issues with provision, to set out the position now; and then projects likely future need and demand forward to understand requirements for each sport and pitch type in the future and the changes necessary to ensure provision is adequate to meet these future needs.

For other or lesser played pitch sports, sports governing bodies were contacted to understand key issues, constraints and opportunities in relation to each, where they indicated that there is demand for their sport, and clubs were contacted where further detail was needed to understand key issues.

The supply and demand information and data used in the assessment was collected over several months during 2024/25 and was verified and agreed by the project's Steering Group (see below) prior to the assessment stage.

## **Who has ownership of the strategy and who will deliver its actions?**

This PPS is a strategy for pitch sports. While the development of the strategy was commissioned by West Berkshire Council (and therefore "ownership" of the strategy rests principally with the local authority), this does not mean that all recommendations must be delivered solely

by the Council. Delivery is the responsibility of all members of the steering group, and also of other key stakeholders such as (but not limited to) clubs, providers, operators and land owners.

There is no implication through this strategy that it is the sole responsibility of the local authority to deliver and maintain all pitches and facilities for sport. The nature of sports facility and pitch provision has been changing over the last decade or so nationally with the role of local authorities now moving away from being the main provider, maintainer and operator of pitches to, while still playing this role to an extent now also being a facilitator and enabler.

However, the strategy has an important role in informing the current and future reviews of the Council's Local Plan, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and approach to CIL and s106 planning obligations<sup>3</sup>. It will also play an important role informing the decision-making process as the Council considers planning applications (as the local planning authority) which relate to the protection, enhancement and provision of pitches and facilities.

New pitches and facilities are most likely to be provided in partnership by the local authority, sports organisations, national sports governing bodies, the education sector / establishments, clubs, businesses and operators, or more commonly by a combination of one or more of these. The local authority is likely to play a key enabling and co-ordination role in planning for and the delivery of new pitches and facilities. The same applies to the improvement of existing pitches and facilities, where management and / or ownership of existing facilities is no longer (or never has been) solely the responsibility of the Council. The current landscape of pitch provision therefore requires the steering

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<sup>3</sup> Subject to any changes being brought about to the s106 and CIL regime by Government changes to the planning system during the strategy period.

group members each to (continue to) play an important role in helping to deliver the strategy's recommendations and action framework.

## What key strategies, plans and funding opportunities are relevant to the PPS?

There are a number of important strategies and plans which are relevant and link to the PPS strategy, both on the sport and planning side which are briefly summarised below. It is important to note the context that they provide, both for the strategy to be produced and also for the recommendations and actions it presents. There are other strategies and plans with which this strategy has a connection.

However, these cannot all be summarised here.

Important links should continue to be made by appropriate bodies between this strategy for pitches and sport and those produced for issues such as health & wellbeing (including leisure and active lives), green infrastructure, transport, economic development and wider planning programmes (in addition to those strategies summarised below).

- Adopted planning policies (for example, in the Local Plan)
- Neighbourhood Plans
- National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance
- Sport England: "Uniting the Movement" 2021-2031
- Sport England: "Every Move" Strategy
- Sport England Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance
- Football Association Strategy 2024-28 and Local Football Facility Plans

- Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Football Association's Strategies
- England Hockey "Facilities Strategy" 2017-2033
- England Hockey "Creating A Future For Our Game Together" 2023-2028
- England and Wales Cricket Board "Inspiring Generations" 2025-28
- Berkshire Cricket Facilities Strategy
- Rugby Football Union "England Rugby Strategy – A Successful and Thriving Game Across England" (2021-2026) National Facilities Strategy
- Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Active Design (Sport England, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and Active Travel England)

The nature of funding for sports pitches and facilities is constantly changing and evolving. This strategy, therefore, given that it covers an extensive period of time, does not seek to define what current funding opportunities are in detail due to changes which will undoubtedly occur over time.

However, the list below provides a brief (but not exhaustive) summary of potential funding / resource opportunities across sports at the current time. Readers should not rely on this list being either comprehensive or up-to-date and those with an interest in funding pitch maintenance, improvement or additional new provision should discuss funding opportunities available to them at the time of interest with the local authority, Sport England, Sports Governing Bodies and other relevant

organisations such as the Football Foundation, Rugby Football Foundation and National Hockey Foundation.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Across-sports*

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106 planning obligations<sup>5</sup>
- Sport England Movement Fund<sup>6</sup>
- Big Lottery Fund<sup>7</sup>
- Public Work Loans Board (PWLB)<sup>8</sup>
- Multi-sport Funding<sup>9</sup>

#### *Rugby Union*

- For Investment support and Guidance, clubs should contact the RFU

#### *Cricket*

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<sup>4</sup> At the time of writing this strategy, the following webpages provide gateway information to understanding more about funding opportunities: <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/facilities> , <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/> , <https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/financial-management/funding/> , <http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/> , <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2388&sectionTitle=Sinking+Fund> s , <http://www.54408.mrsite.com/page11.htm> , <https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding>

<sup>5</sup> CIL is a charge on new developments applied by the local authority to developments which meet certain criteria and is most often collected for housing schemes on a charge per square metre. Contact WBC for further information on CIL. Section 106 planning obligations deliver infrastructure and site specific requirements related to a development that cannot be delivered through CIL but are necessary in order for planning permission to be granted. Contact WBC for further information on the application of section 106 to sports facilities and pitches outside of CIL.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/our-funding/>

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>

<sup>8</sup> See <https://www.pwlb.gov.uk/responsibilities/local-authority-lending-pwlb/>

<sup>9</sup> See <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/multi-sport>

- County Grants Fund<sup>10</sup>
- Interest Free Loan Scheme<sup>11</sup>
- Grass Pitch Improvement Fund<sup>12</sup>

#### *Hockey*

- See England Hockey's website for the most up-to-date funding options.<sup>13</sup>

#### *Football*

- Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund<sup>14</sup>
- LED Floodlight Fund<sup>15</sup>
- PlayZones Programme<sup>16</sup>
- Home Advantage Programme<sup>17</sup>
- Energy Support Programme<sup>18</sup>
- The FA and FF Available Funding<sup>19</sup>
- Small Grants Scheme (under £25k)<sup>20</sup>

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding/county-grant-fund>

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding/interest-free-loan-scheme>

<sup>12</sup> See [www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding/grass-pitch-improvement-fund](https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding/grass-pitch-improvement-fund)

<sup>13</sup> See <https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/deliver/facilities/funding-for-facilities>

<sup>14</sup> See <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

<sup>15</sup> See <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/led-floodlight-fund>

<sup>16</sup> See <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/playzones-programme>

<sup>17</sup> See [https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/home-advantage-programme?gclid=CjwKCAjw1t2pBhAFEiwA\\_-A-NF0owM4uvClHUUFHdnKzUadJpDUBg7jSgy pbCHGOW\\_R6r\\_pZFJy7YBoCAycQAvD\\_BwE](https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/home-advantage-programme?gclid=CjwKCAjw1t2pBhAFEiwA_-A-NF0owM4uvClHUUFHdnKzUadJpDUBg7jSgy pbCHGOW_R6r_pZFJy7YBoCAycQAvD_BwE)

<sup>18</sup> See [https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/energy-support-programme?gclid=CjwKCAjw1t2pBhAFEiwA\\_-A-NNulqozJi5-wFpFTiXBeG911fdQGsjaAffsQPiak3YRT3eCRgn6C8xBoCf0gQAvD\\_BwE](https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/energy-support-programme?gclid=CjwKCAjw1t2pBhAFEiwA_-A-NNulqozJi5-wFpFTiXBeG911fdQGsjaAffsQPiak3YRT3eCRgn6C8xBoCf0gQAvD_BwE)

<sup>19</sup> See <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

<sup>20</sup> See <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

- Delegated Funding (£25k-£250k)<sup>21</sup>
- Large Grants (£250k+)<sup>22</sup>
- Premier League Stadium Fund<sup>23</sup>

In addition to accessing capital funding opportunities, those providing additional pitches and facilities must take into account the long-term revenue implications of running, managing, maintaining and replacing facilities and pitches as they plan for the future. Many funders providing capital grants and loans will likely require a sustainable viability test and / or business plan to be in place (particularly where large sums of money are involved).

## What are the key issues for sports in relation to the changing climate?

When considering the decarbonisation, sustainable travel and climate change agendas, there are several issues of relevance which need to be considered moving forward. There are also opportunities that pitch sports can present to help mitigate the impact of and adapt to a changing climate. Appendix 3 elaborates on these issues and opportunities, but they are summarised below.

While many of the issues and opportunities are not within the gift of a PPS to deliver or “make happen”, with many being cross-cutting across sectors and organisation responsibilities or being part of site management and investment plans, the PPS recommendations seek to provide a positive and constructive response to them.

<sup>21</sup> See <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

With regard to renewable and low carbon energy supply and energy costs, there will be opportunities for clubs to retrofit existing facilities with energy efficient, low carbon and renewable energy generation solutions.

Active travel must be part of the solution to not only contribute to improving health, but also reduce reliance on the private car, especially for local journeys. However, the contribution of pitch sports to this has to be seen within the context of practicalities of the need to transport kit by foot or bike, weather conditions, darkness in winter months, players’ time, safe routes on foot and bike, the need to travel distances to away matches, and rurality, with some clubs drawing from a reasonably wide catchment. Cultural shift will be challenging to embed in many sports, but through a package of measures, largely outside of sport or planning, a gradual change can be given an opportunity to occur.

This is not to say that this is a challenge not worth addressing, but the Playing Pitch Strategy cannot provide full answers and proposals to resolve such issues, particularly as they go beyond the remit of the strategy and will require cross-discipline, cross-department and cross-sector working within and with organisations and other stakeholders outside of sport and planning. For example, it will be the role of other strategies and plans such as Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans and active travel strategies and action plans to help ensure that key sports hubs, in particular, which see a substantial amount of demand, are well connected by safe cycling and walking networks, while it is the role of public transport providers and local authorities to

<sup>22</sup> See <https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

<sup>23</sup> See <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/>

ensure that public transport also serves such facilities at the right times, right frequencies and to the most likely destinations of sports users and players.

Opportunities for small scale, but important, measures such as provision of secure and covered cycle stands at home grounds, to support behaviour change as a small part of a much wider package of measures wider than that which sport and planning can provide.

There are clear health benefits to providing sports-lit AGPs, with greater accessibility, particularly during winter months and reliability and durability of the surface, compared to grass. While there are some environmental concerns about the use of artificial pitch surfaces for sport with concerns focusing around use of a synthetic pitch which is predominantly plastic and use of rubber crumb on 3G pitches with consequential loss of rubber particles off-site and into the environment<sup>24</sup>, the industry and planning system continues to work to find solutions to these issues. Guidance already exists, for example, about the use of infill materials on AGPs<sup>25</sup> and design and operational arrangements can be implemented which help in managing and mitigating elements of environmental concerns. For example, the Football Foundation has highlighted that independent studies<sup>26</sup> have shown that through good field design, operation and maintenance, infill migration from an artificial grass pitch can be reduced by up to 98%

<sup>24</sup> Also, the EU has recently banned use of micro-plastics from 2031, with the UK not yet following suit, but which could have an impact on the availability of rubber crumb. Other infill materials are being trialled at the current time. It should be noted that, at time of writing, there are no such alternatives available which meet FIFA Quality requirements, and as such, they cannot yet provide a solution to support affiliated football requirements/match play aligned to the demand identified within this strategy.

<sup>25</sup> See <https://sapca.org.uk/guide/codes-of-practice/>

from typical worst-case situations. Containment is the current policy direction and new AGPs should apply this approach, which will be requested by Sport England when it is consulted on such proposals.

Clearly, for the environment, sport and health to benefit, and for solutions to be financially viable, a balance needs to be struck, as is the case throughout the planning system, between provision of AGPs and resolution of adverse impact and satisfactory mitigation of these. For example, the Government has been exploring whether carbon assessments for developments could be brought in (which seem likely to be introduced anyway by many local authorities) and impact assessments for health, travel / transport and the environment already exist. Net gain biodiversity for development has been introduced through the Environment Act, a legislated requirement giving it more “weight” than a policy only based approach.

WBC can already seek conditions on permissions including the design of schemes, including multiple measures to prevent loss of rubber crumb from 3G pitches and end of surface life recycling for AGPs.

When planning for sports pitch provision, it is important to be cognisant of Sport England’s Every Move Strategy in relation to the application of carbon reduction measures in sport<sup>27</sup> and to take into account Sport England’s Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance<sup>28</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> See <https://www.estc.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Ecoloop-Report-Effectiveness-RMMs.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> See <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/sustainability>

<sup>28</sup> See [https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-07/Biodiversity%20Report-v6-15.pdf?VersionId=OgRci4g9qEzvzemqN4FgOMGkd8\\_ySgr](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-07/Biodiversity%20Report-v6-15.pdf?VersionId=OgRci4g9qEzvzemqN4FgOMGkd8_ySgr)

## What lines of enquiry and scenarios have been explored?

The approach taken to the PPS assessment follows Sport England’s PPS Guidance. It builds on the guidance by including analysis of various “lines of inquiry” as part of the STA “standard approach” to assessment to help understand fully the main risks for pitch sports, and the impact of and potential opportunity for change in provision for sport. It is worth noting the lines of inquiry which feature as part of the main assessment. These are:

- A. If current pitches with unsecure community use are lost to supply.
- B. Future demand arising from housing/population trajectory.
- C. If current i) “Poor” and ii) “Standard” quality grass pitches were improved to “Good” quality, the additional match equivalent capacity which could be secured in supply.
- D. If those grass and 3G pitches on education sites not currently available for community use were to be opened up to supply.
- E. If current education sector provision is removed from supply i) with existing community use and ii) not currently in community use.
- F. The relationship between the areas with the highest levels of deprivation (10% and 20% IMD decile) and supply of pitches, focusing on: i) if supply was lost from these areas and ii) identification of areas with no existing and unused / closed / lapsed supply.
- G. Factoring disability teams into future projections of demand and commenting, based on any data or other information provided by NGBs, on potential future demand for this particular group of players / teams.

- H. Factoring in participation rate changes and growth in demand in specific age groups and sexes into future projections of demand.
- I. Identifying i) the impact of bringing disused grass pitches which had community use back into use (i.e. former pitches no longer used) and ii) bringing disused grass pitches with community use back into use, with regard to the then subsequent change in additional future demand (pitch capacity / number of pitches).
- J. The impact of those clubs with exported / displaced demand wishing to return to play within the West Berkshire Council (WBC) area, if any.
- K. Identify the impact on existing and future grass pitch demand at rugby club home grounds if existing poor quality grass pitches are improved on club sites / grounds and if additional sports lighting can be introduced to at least one club pitch, where relevant.

As part of the assessment process, several scenarios of particular relevance to the WBC area will be tested. The scenarios are designed to highlight situations which could take place or where there is a need to understand the potential implications of the scenario in order to help ensure that delivery of the preferred strategy approach takes place. The final approach in the strategy may allow or accept one or more of these scenarios as a component of priority action, but each stands alone in its own right to inform the strategy and delivery.

### Potential scenarios:

- S1. If all football was to leave sand-based pitches, with all demand migrating to 3G, the possible implications for those sites and for hockey clubs which use them.
- S2. If all mini soccer (5v5 and 7v7) matches moved to 3G, for e.g. to one or more central hub venues.

- S3. Understanding the demand from urban extensions / strategic developments not yet started and which are in the adopted Local Plan.
- S4. If village cricket clubs fold, testing implications for other clubs and grounds.
- S5. Options for accommodating current demand and future growth of all pitch sports using Henwick Worthy (to be explored as part of the masterplanning process for the site).
- S6. If existing 3G pitches that are not on the FA 3G Pitch Register, could be used for matches.
- S7. Consider the impact of reinstating and floodlighting tennis courts at Thatcham Memorial and Henwick Worthy.
- S8. Consider the impact of providing Padel tennis courts at Henwick Worthy.
- S9. If the Faraday Road grass pitch was converted to 3G, what are the implications.
- S10. If grass pitch capacity for matches is limited, for mini soccer and youth football, to 9am to 1pm on a Saturday, what are the implications. Assumes a maximum of 4 matches being played for mini soccer (5v5 and 7v7) and 3 for youth football (9v9 and 11v11 youth).
- S11. Participation rate changes for football: youth male: 15%; Adult Male: 2.5% (decline); Female Youth: 45%; Adult Female: 20%.

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# West Berkshire Council

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

2024 - 2041

### APPENDIX 2: GLOSSARY

Produced by:  **Stuart Todd Associates**  
planning | policy | strategy | partnership

Produced for:  **West Berkshire**  
COUNCIL

**Version record**

1 <sup>st</sup> draft (Steering Group)	August 2025
Final draft (Steering Group)	October 2025
Consultation draft	October 2025
Final	January 2026

# GLOSSARY

(Explanation of technical terms and abbreviations)

Term	Description
3G	Third generation AGP usually dressed with rubber crumb. The surface is commonly used for football but can also be used for rugby where sufficiently sprung to reduce / absorb impact.
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch, sometimes referred to as an ATP (Artificial Turf Pitch) or NTP (Non-Turf Pitch). The term covers all types of artificial pitch including, sand based, sand dressed, water based and 3G.
Carrying capacity	Knowing the quality of a grass pitch allows us to make an assumption of how many matches each size and type of pitch should be able to accommodate without leading to deterioration of the pitch's quality. This is called its carrying capacity. The figures are provided as "match equivalent sessions per season" for cricket pitches and "match equivalent sessions per week" for rugby union and football. Any use of a pitch, when demand is considered is converted to this unit of measurement for ease of comparison. The assumption of match equivalent sessions for quality ratings is based on guidelines provided by sports governing bodies. The carrying capacity of AGPs is

Term	Description
	measured in the amount of time in hours available for community use in the peak period.
Demand:	
Current demand	Demand demonstrated as existing "on the ground" during the season when data is collected for the PPS.
Latent demand	"Whereas unmet demand is known to exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision. Details of the potential amount and type of any latent demand in the study area should be sought."  (Paragraph B37, Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, 2013, Sport England)
Unmet demand	"Current unmet demand could be in the form of a team that has currently got access to a pitch for its matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. It could also be from an educational establishment that is currently using an indoor facility because of the lack of access to outdoor pitch provision. Along with a lack of pitches of a particular type being available to the community unmet demand may be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and

Term	Description
	<p>ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have refused applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. As it is known to exist any unmet demand recorded should be easily quantifiable e.g. a training session for one team on a weekday evening.”</p> <p>(Paragraph B36, Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, 2013, Sport England)</p>
Aspirational future demand	Demand that a club might identify as likely or desirable to come forward during the strategy period.
Displaced demand	<p>“Displaced demand generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside the area. It is important to know whether this displaced demand is due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the LA/study area. It is therefore important to establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What displaced demand exists and why including the amount and type of demand (e.g. a</li> </ul>

Term	Description
	<p>senior match on a natural grass pitch, a junior training session on an AGP);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether those generating the displaced demand would prefer to play within the study area and where.”</li> </ul> <p>(Paragraph B34, Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, 2013, Sport England)</p>
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board, the NGB for cricket.
EH	England Hockey, the NGB for hockey.
FA	Football Association, the NGB for football.
FF	Football Foundation
Headroom capacity	<p>Throughout the assessment reports and in the strategy, the term “headroom” capacity is used. Experience in recent years has suggested that conflation of the terms “surplus” and “spare”, both referenced in the PPS guidance, is taking place (especially within the planning system), suggesting that it means that it is pitch capacity not needed any more. With regard to the term “spare” this is not the meaning intended. While the definition is clear in the PPS guidance, to move away from this incorrect association, this assessment report uses the term “headroom”, as, in our view, it better describes the gap between the carrying capacity (supply) of a pitch and the demand placed upon it by play / teams (in match equivalents) and in no way suggests that it is not needed any more. In terms of the use of the</p>

Term	Description
	term, it is simply the difference in the carrying capacity of the pitch and the demand placed upon it. No inference is given to the term equating to the proportion of that capacity being available for actual use or not. Such determination can be made in some cases in the assessment process, but on most pitches where there is headroom capacity, it is difficult to say, with certainty, that any headroom capacity can practically be used by a team or teams, simply due to the variables which have to be considered to be able to come to such a conclusion. For example, the time and / or day that a pitch is available, whether a team can or wishes to play at a time when the pitch is available and whether a pitch is the correct size for the format and age group of demand which needs pitch capacity, may all indicate that headroom capacity on a pitch cannot practically be used. At no point does the term indicate “surplus” capacity or that it is in any way “spare” to requirements. It simply is a term to say that some capacity is available on the pitch at the current time which may be able to be used to help satisfy demand now or in the future subject to the practicalities of use being met.
LP	Local Plan
Match equivalents	See “carrying capacity”
NGB	National Governing Body (for sport)

Term	Description
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
Peak period	The period of time used to compare community use on AGPs. The peak period is typically Mon-Thurs 5pm-10pm, Fri 5pm-7pm and Sat and Sun 9am-5pm, a total of 38 hours per week.
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFU	Rugby Football Union, the NGB for rugby union.
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team Generation Rate, a calculation used to estimate future numbers of teams for the main pitch sports based on population projections set against the existing number of teams within the current population.

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# **West Berkshire Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report Conclusions**

## **Appendix 3 – Exploring Decarbonisation, Sustainable Travel and Climate Change**

January, 2026

1. When considering the decarbonisation, sustainable travel and climate change agendas, there are several ways that the sport can help to minimise impact and contribute positively towards mitigating and adapting to the changing climate.
2. For example, clubs in control of their ground and providers / owners of grounds and facilities, measures such as solar pv and heat pumps can help to secure a local supply of energy and contribute towards lowering energy costs, as can retrofitting insulation to buildings<sup>1</sup>. This places an emphasis on enabling clubs to have control of their sites (security of tenure at least) in order to secure funding support.
3. Considering cycling and walking, most pitches across sports will be within an easy cycling distance for most residents within urban areas. Accessibility by bicycle and foot will be more limited in rural areas. However, this does not mean that those areas which have little or no provision must see additional pitches provided – this will simply be unviable in most rural places with no teams.
4. Within the local authority area, in addition to improving safe cycling options, accessibility via public transport could play a role in helping to make sports provision more accessible from a sustainability perspective. Infrastructure, such as safe and secure cycle stands, can also be provided at pitch locations to help encourage cycling. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) and their successors, should consider walking and cycling networks and routes through to pitches in the area.
5. However, this type of infrastructure provision can only be part of the answer. Sports facility, pitch and ground providers, nor NGBs or the local authority alone cannot be expected to provide all solutions to deliver this type of change “on the ground”. Cultural shift is also required across sport with many players using cars to get to matches and training, and a continuing challenge is likely to be that there are not and cannot be a sufficient number of facilities, grounds and pitches provided in all locations to enable a 20 minute cycle or walk to them – it seems unlikely to be viable to provide that number for each sport. Cultural shift will be difficult to embed in many sports, also because many players will simply not have the time in their day to factor in a longer journey time to play and many will not be prepared to cycle or walk significant distances to play matches or train after playing their sport for anywhere between one and several hours

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<sup>1</sup> Advice is available for clubs, for example, <https://susfootball.com/net-zero-football-club/>

(and particularly if the weather is poor and they play outside). This is not to say that this is a challenge not worth addressing, but the Playing Pitch Strategy cannot provide full answers and proposals to resolve such issues, particularly as they go beyond the remit of the strategy and will require cross-discipline, cross-department and cross-sector working within and with organisations and other stakeholders outside of sport and planning.

6. There are some environmental concerns about the use of artificial pitch surfaces for sport. This is a greater concern perhaps for football and hockey than for cricket, while rugby will use WR22 compliant 3G pitches for training and matches where demand suggests a need and play cannot be accommodated at club ground grass pitches. Concerns seem to focus around use of a synthetic pitch which is predominantly plastic, and for 3G pitches used by football and rugby, the use of rubber crumb to manage the movement of the ball and consequential loss of rubber particles off-site and into the environment and watercourses. Guidance already exists, however, about the use of infill materials on AGPs<sup>2</sup>. Containment is the current policy direction and new AGPs will be asked for this when Sport England is consulted on such proposals.
7. At the current time, competitive play of hockey on grass (natural turf) or 3G is not supported by England Hockey. Therefore, no other scenarios for hockey play with use of AGPs removed from future supply have been developed. If no sand or Gen2 surfaces are permitted in the future, either new additional or replacement surfaces, or an alternative surface other than grass does not come forward, at the current time, this will mean an end to club-based competitive hockey.
8. When considering benefits and perceived disbenefits of the use of AGPs, the following presents a summary.
9. Benefits / arguments for provision:
  - Health and wellbeing – greater access to an all-weather surface for a greater number of users.
  - “Outdoor classrooms” for schools.
  - Matches can still be played during very wet winters when grass pitches are flooded.
  - Rubber crumb on 3G pitches is typically made from recycled material (e.g. vehicle tyres) and the surface (carpet) is recyclable at the end of its life..
  - There are other infills for use on 3G pitches, for example cork olive pips.

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://sapca.org.uk/guide/codes-of-practice/>

- Economies of scale<sup>3</sup> – while there is a significant cost to building an AGP, for football, for example, a single full-size sports-lit 3G pitch could provide playing capacity for matches and training equivalent to around 8-10 full size grass good quality pitches (5-6 of which would need to be sports-lit and fenced to protect quality and ensure that bookings can be honoured, with consequent costs and impact of powering more lighting and potential impact on dark skies). Good quality grass pitches would require proper management and maintenance to ensure that they remain good quality and able to accommodate the wear. If the pitches are only provided to “standard” quality, additional grass pitches would be necessary, with perhaps 15 pitches equating to the provision available from a single full-size 3G pitch. For rugby, a WR22 compliant 3G sports-lit pitch could provide capacity equivalent to around 6 grass pitches. (These numerical assumptions are set out to demonstrate the potential implications of not providing 3G pitches and do not suggest that it is acceptable to replace grass playing pitches with fewer 3G pitches as a strategy approach. Provision for pitch sports needs to recognise the need to have a mixed balance of both grass and AGP surfaces to respond appropriately to the type and form of demand in any given area.
- Hockey can be played on a high-quality reliable, all-weather surface, minimising risk of injury. Competitive hockey cannot be played on a grass pitch, at the current time.
- Other sports, for example, rugby and lacrosse are played on AGPs.
- The potential impact of rubber crumb being lost and finding its way into watercourses, compared to erosion of micro-plastics and rubber from footwear, car and bike tyres, etc seems likely to be significantly small. There are measures which can be put in place through a scheme’s design and location to minimise loss. However, it is also the responsibility of users to ensure that they make use of some measures to reduce loss from the site.
- A decision not to support all artificial “carpets” for sport would also have an impact on non-turf wickets for cricket and could also impact some indoor sports such as indoor bowls, if the principle is adopted equitably.
- Full-size AGPs can serve a wide catchment of population. While travel to AGPs is typically by private car by most users (unless they live within a comfortable walking or cycling distance) it is the responsibility of other, not just sports clubs or pitch providers to help ensure modal shift to lower carbon forms of travel. This will be a practical challenge to many sports players

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<sup>3</sup> At the current time, a new full-size sports-lit AGP costs around £1m to develop. A single full-size 11v11 grass pitch, without sports-lighting, costs around £200k. Equivalent capacity on grass pitches is likely to therefore be around double the cost of a single AGP. Maintenance of this number of grass pitches and cost of lighting is also likely to be significantly more per annum than for an AGP if the grass pitches are to be maintained to a level which can cope with likely use. Costs estimates do not include the cost of land, likely to be higher for grass equivalent pitches due to the footprint / area required.

given time constraints, the need to take kit and equipment with them and desire to avoid poor weather (a disincentive to cycle). Improved travel solutions (both in terms of lower carbon and frequency of public transport) is necessary to change behaviour.

10. Disbenefits / arguments made against provision include:

- Environmental impact at the end of the life of the carpet (surface).
- Environmental impact (in the case of 3G pitches) of infill.
- Building an AGP usually takes place on a grass pitch or greenfield site (although mitigation of loss of a playing field is usually required).
- AGPs tend to provide “strategic” provision due to the amount of use they can accommodate, their cost and catchment of users they need to be viable in the long-term. AGPs cannot usually be provided in a greater number of locations, meaning that travel to them, typically by private car, can be inevitable. Therefore, even if at much higher capital and maintenance cost, a greater number of high quality grass pitches in more locations will encourage users to cycle and walk to play sport and reduce the need to travel.

11. Work is ongoing (for example, by the AGP provider industry, Sport England and NGBs) to identify alternative materials to supplement rubber crumb use on 3G pitches, for example, using cork. Other studies are underway looking at the impact of rubber crumb and measures to mitigate its impact.

12. Clearly, for the environment, sport and health to benefit, and for solutions to be financially viable, a balance needs to be struck, as is the case throughout the planning system between provision of AGPs and resolution of adverse impact and satisfactory mitigation of these. For example, the Government has been looking at carbon assessments for developments to be brought in (which seem likely to be introduced anyway by many local authorities) and impact assessments for travel / transport and the environment already exist. Biodiversity net gain for development has been introduced through the Environment Act and many Local Plans already introduced such requirements through policy. There is no reason why proposals for AGPs should not be required to demonstrate that they pass such tests. Authorities can already seek conditions on permissions including the design of schemes including multiple measures to prevent loss of rubber crumb from 3G pitches and end of surface life recycling for all AGPs. There is clearly a role for the planning system (and planning policies in particular in Local Plans) to ensure that such tests and requirements for mitigations are introduced to ensure that

communities and people's physical and mental health can still benefit from AGPs without compromising or having a net additional adverse impact on the environment. Much will need also to be done, outside of sport and the planning system, particularly if there is a future without artificial pitches, to help make the shift required to achieve net zero and to prevent, mitigate and adapt to climate change, while also providing fully for sport and health.

# West Berkshire Council

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

2024 - 2041

# Background Document 1: DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS

Produced by:  **Stuart Todd Associates**  
planning | policy | strategy | partnership

Produced for:  **WestBerkshire**  
COUNCIL

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# Strategy Recommendations

The strategy's recommendations are set-out under three themes to align with Sports England's PPS guidance: "Protect", "Enhance" and "Provide". They should be read alongside the "Direction of Travel" section above which sets out the overall approach for pitch sports. Under each of the three themes, recommendations are then set out for all sport and individual sports spatially, either applying to the WBC area as a whole or each sub-area, recommendations.

Recommendations must be "owned" by all organisations represented on the PPS Steering Group: West Berkshire Council, NGBs and Sport England. It is the responsibility of all of these organisations to respond positively to the recommendations, working closely with stakeholders to ensure their delivery.

The hyperlinks which follow on this page can be used in electronic versions of this strategy to navigate quickly to relevant sections.

**PROTECT**

## All Sports

### WBC-wide

- A1) Protect the existing supply of grass pitches and AGPs identified in the assessment and / or their capacity (to help accommodate existing known, projected and potential additional currently unidentified future demand) unless the strategy proposes or suggests that their replacement or alternative re-use for sport, leisure and recreation or unless replacement equivalent capacity can be provided elsewhere to an equal or better standard (i.e. “net improvements”) reflecting the demand and type of use required “on the ground” by clubs. This includes all pitches available for community use, whether used or unused and pitches not currently available for community use. The PROVIDE section sets out criteria which responds to proposals where the loss of a pitch is unavoidable. Any proposals which suggest potential loss of a playing pitch or wider playing field to supply should respond appropriately to the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>1</sup> and Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy<sup>2</sup>. It must not be assumed that the intensification of provision on an existing playing pitch or playing field site equates to satisfactory mitigation for loss of a grass pitch.
- A2) Where grass pitches are lost to formal pitch use, or could be at risk in the future, where appropriate, seek to ensure that there is significant policy protection through the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plans or legal means to prevent their loss as open or green space.
- A3) Proposals for development which have an implication for the use of an existing pitch (such as change of land use) should take into account the recommendations of this strategy and policies of relevance in adopted Development Plans relevant to the site /

pitch (i.e. Adopted Local Plans, other Development Plan Documents and Made Neighbourhood Plans).

- A4) Liaise closely with the education sector to ensure that it is aware of the variety of sports that can be hosted on different AGP surface types.

## Football

### WBC-wide

- F1) Maintain the quality of existing pitches to at least current standards where they have a quality rating of “standard” or “good”.
- F2) The identified notional “headroom” grass pitch capacity at pitches already used for matches should be retained during the strategy period to allow for flexibility of provision to help accommodate growth to the end of the strategy period, but also to provide flexibility of pitch options during particularly wet seasons.
- F3) Disused pitches previously used for football and pitches rested or reserved on multi-pitch sites should be retained as green / open space to protect potential future long-term demand and capacity for football or other sports should demand suggest a need. It should be noted that reinstatement of pitches could require investment to ensure that they are available to a “good” standard of quality. Re-opening pitches could also have implications for ancillary facilities and the suitability or age-group of teams using the pitches. If such pitches are unavoidably lost, replacement should be made in line with the National Planning Policy

<sup>1</sup> See para 104 in particular <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> NPPF, December, 2024

<sup>2</sup> See [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing_fields_policy)

Framework<sup>3</sup> and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy<sup>4</sup> to mitigate loss.

### AGPs

- F4) Ensure that all existing and new 3G AGPs that are on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.

### Delivery, operation and monitoring

- F5) Seek agreement between hockey (EH) and football (FA), other NGBs if necessary, and with providers and clubs, about which sport(s) should have shared, sole or priority use of sand based 11v11 (full size) AGPs where they see or could see shared use between the sports.
- F6) Seek agreement between rugby (RFU) and football (FA) and with providers and clubs, about which sport(s) should have shared, sole or priority use of rugby WR22 compliant 3G pitches where they see or could see shared use between the sports.
- F7) The FA, Football Foundation, operators and West Berkshire Council should work closely together to ensure that, when contracts are renewed on sites which have 3G pitches used for community use football, a pitch replacement fund and / or sinking fund is confirmed, is actively pursued and is protected (ring-fenced) for good quality maintenance and future replacement of the surface.
- F8) To help ensure that demand for 3G access from local grass roots clubs is catered for, the FA and WBC should work with operators of 3G pitches to monitor and help manage and enable access for grass roots clubs, to ensure balance in use between clubs and other users.

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<sup>3</sup> See para 104 in particular <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> NPPF, December, 2024

<sup>4</sup> See [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing_fields_policy)

# Hockey

## WBC-wide

### AGPs

- H1) Protect the pitches on the basis that they not only provide the only surface for hockey to be played competitively, but given that they serve a multi-sport and informal activity role, as well as serving as a usable option for informal / casual football and training option for some football teams where there is no other option such as a 3G with availability, 3G in close proximity to a team's players' base or where cost could be prohibitive.
- H2) Protect the current number of hours used by hockey in the peak period as a minimum.
- H3) Maintain good quality AGP surfaces and lighting to the appropriate quality standard.

### Delivery, operation and monitoring

- H4) Ensure that appropriate maintenance is in place to help sustain the life of surfaces which are of standard quality.
- H5) Protect the capacity available for hockey use on England Hockey Category 1, 2 and 3 surfaces. Consultation should take place between providers, clubs, England Hockey, Football Association and the Football Foundation prior to any change in surface type is introduced (for example, from sand to 3G). A change of surface type (or carpet) will sometimes require a planning application and applicants will have to show that there is sufficient AGP provision available for hockey within the demand catchment if the surface is changed. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should be sought prior to any planning application being submitted, either informally or via pre-application. In the event of proposed replacement of an AGP used for hockey with a 3G pitch, to ensure protection of capacity

for hockey, any replacement capacity must be provided or found for hockey clubs at the same site or an alternative site convenient for the club to access, and the proposed pitches must be demonstrably viable in the long-term (if necessary, by demonstrating usage by other sports on the pitch).

- H6) Support the retention of hockey surface AGPs on education sites where viable to support the England Hockey strategy's focus on growing youth hockey and getting more hockey played in schools as an important mechanism through which to achieve this growth. This places an emphasis on retaining school hockey surface AGPs in particular where possible and viable to do so.
- H7) Liaise closely with the education sector to ensure that Trusts, Academies and Colleges are aware of the importance of a sinking fund and of effective maintenance of AGPs.
- H8) England Hockey and West Berkshire Council should work closely together with operators / providers to ensure that, when contracts are renewed, a sinking fund is confirmed and actively pursued and protected (ring-fenced) for good quality maintenance and future replacement of the surface. The importance of this fund being additional to income which pays for ongoing maintenance should be conveyed.

### Sustainability

- H9) For the future long-term sustainability of hockey clubs (with regard to financial viability and maximising the availability of volunteer / coaches' time) a "one site model" for focusing club activity on one central site for each club should be followed.
- H10) Seek agreement between hockey (England Hockey) and football (Football Association), and with operators / providers and clubs, about timely sole or priority use of sand based full size AGPs where necessary and within the context of the football assessment conclusions and recommendations.

Sub-area Specific: East

- H11) Protect the capacity (amount of time) that Scarlet Runners HC needs to accommodate current demand.
- H12) If the relevant sub-area specific Enhance and Provide measures relevant to Scarlet Runners HC cannot be delivered, protect the pitch surface type at The Willink Leisure Centre which hosts the club's training in addition to the pitch surface at Elstree School.

Sub-area Specific: South

- H13) Protect the capacity (amount of time) that Newbury and Thatcham HC needs to accommodate current demand. In the face of potential resurfacing of the Trinity School AGP to 3G in 2026, urgently explore opportunities for the club to use St Bartholomew's School as a potential pitch to accommodate current short-term demand, until a second hockey AGP is delivered at Henwick Worthy (see Provide recommendations). Explore securing St Bartholomew's AGP as a "buffer" or "reserve" pitch for additional hockey use, should the club need additional time slots for matches or training in the future.
- H14) Protect the pitch type at Henwick Worthy AGP as the club's main ground.  
Protect Newbury and Thatcham HC's capacity required to accommodate match play at weekends and weekday evenings.

## Rugby

### WBC-wide

#### Grass

R1) Disused, closed or lapsed pitches previously used for rugby and pitches rested or reserved on multi-pitch sites should be retained as green / open space to protect potential future long-term demand and capacity for rugby or other sports should demand suggest a need. It should be noted that reinstatement of pitches could require investment to ensure that they are available to a “good” standard of quality. Re-opening pitches could also have implications for ancillary facilities and the suitability or age-group of teams using the pitches. Proposals which involve development of pitches should meet the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>5</sup> and Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy<sup>6</sup>.

#### AGPs

- R2) Ensure that any new 3G pitches that are World Rugby 22 compliant are re-tested every two years to sustain certification.
- R3) Seek to protect the capacity that WR22 compliant 3G pitches provide for rugby club use to provide certainty of capacity to accommodate demand.
- R4) RFU and West Berkshire Council should work closely together to ensure that, when contracts are renewed for operators / providers on sites which have WR22 3G pitches used for community use rugby, a sinking fund is confirmed, actively pursued and protected (ring-fenced) for good quality maintenance and future replacement of the surface.

#### Ancillary facilities

- R5) Protect changing, social and other ancillary facilities through formal agreements to maintain the quality to at least a “standard” quality, and importantly to ensure that facilities continue to meet up-to-date standards of provision and access during the strategy period.

#### Delivery, operation and monitoring

- R6) Monitor the position in relation to any clubs which have rolling annual, short and medium term leases or rental / hire arrangements for their home ground during the strategy period to ensure in advance of their expiry that they are renewed to provide certainty into a new period, preferably for the long-term.
- R7) Regular monitoring of the balance between supply and demand should take place to ensure that appropriate use of any available capacity is being made and confirm that any “headroom” capacity to accommodate growth is not considered as “surplus” to rugby union use.

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<sup>5</sup> See para 104 in particular <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> NPPF, December, 2024

<sup>6</sup> See [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing_fields_policy)

## Cricket

### WBC-wide

#### Grass

- C1) Protect the existing supply of pitches (and their capacity) identified in the assessment for future supply given the anticipated growth in junior age groups moving through into the adult game towards during the strategy period.
- C2) Protect the currently disused pitch sites from development, holding in reserve to ensure that headroom capacity could be available to respond to potential demand if no other suitable site with existing use and headroom capacity is available.
- C3) Where pitches are lost to formal pitch use, where appropriate, the Local Planning Authority should seek to ensure that there is significant policy protection through the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plans or legal means to prevent their loss as open or green space.
- C4) Protect pitches by seeking to establish security of tenure for grounds / pitches currently considered as unsecure and explore community use on those not currently available (also see Enhance below). The implications of any changes to security of use will need to be understood and factored into planning for delivery during the strategy period.

#### Delivery, operation and monitoring

- C5) Regular monitoring of the balance between supply and demand should take place to ensure that appropriate use of any available capacity is being made and confirm that any spare “headroom” capacity to accommodate growth is not considered as “surplus” to cricket use.

## Lacrosse

### Sub-area Specific: South

#### Grass

- LA1) Support the club to get a confirmed priority booking at St Bartholomew’s School to protect the existing access to Lacrosse pitches. This needs to consider of the club can secure any additional access to meet their needs.

## Tennis

### WBC-wide

- T1) Need to maintain the current level of provision and capacity for general community use to meet current and future needs. Reduction of overall capacity will have an impact on meeting future population growth.

## Netball

No netball specific recommendations.

# ENHANCE

## All Sports

### WBC-wide

#### Security of tenure

A5) Gain the secure use of clubs' and teams' home grounds / pitches (grass and AGPs) which do not currently have secure community use, to provide certainty of future supply and enable clubs and users to access necessary funding to invest in improvements. This includes club or team use of pitches on education sites (and for grass pitches any newly marked out pitches on any site). This could be through a secure community use agreement (where the local authority or other body is identified to enforce the agreement), long-term lease or long-term tenure of the ground, extending to ancillary facilities if possible.

#### Delivery, operation and monitoring

A6) Where relevant, NGBs and the local authority should work with clubs, operators and providers, on sites where facilities and / or pitch areas are shared between sports, to ensure that management, maintenance and access is shared appropriately between sports, for example, through establishment of multi-sport site Trusts or other management bodies / arrangements which work for all users of the site.

#### Sustainability

A7) Support proposals for improved energy efficiency and localised renewable and low carbon energy generation at facilities and grounds through measures such as LED directional lighting, solar pv, heat pumps and building insulation.

A8) Work with partners and key stakeholders to improve sustainable travel options to grounds, pitches and facilities.

A9) Support provision of secure cycle stands and ev vehicle charge points at club and other providers' grounds and facilities to enhance provision for low carbon forms of travel.

A10) Work closely with clubs to help sustain and grow the volunteer network which provides the operational framework for the running of clubs and matches and the maintenance of pitches and facilities.

A11) Work in partnership with multiple organisations as necessary, both within and outside of the sports and leisure sector, to help introduce and sustain access to formal and informal pitch sports to residents living within areas of high levels of deprivation.

## Football

### WBC-wide

#### Security of tenure

- F9) In order to help give clubs greater security of tenure and “ownership” of their home ground, support asset transfer and long-term lease models where supported by the club, WBC, FA and any other relevant partner. Agreements must ensure that they do not individually, or cumulatively, have a negative impact overall on the availability of grass pitches to grass roots football and clubs with 1 or a small number of teams.

#### Grass

- F10) Prioritise pitch quality improvements at key sites with regular use and preferably secure community use grounds over unsecure community use grounds. Enhance capacity on existing pitches by improving quality, and improve maintenance to ensure that the better quality is sustained in the long-term. There should be a focus on improving key sites with regular use and secure use pitches rated as “poor” and “standard”, to “good”, where feasible. The process should be administered through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund and Pitch Power, or latest approach adopted by the FA and Football Foundation. Improvements should also be prioritised at pitches and grounds where increased usage is demonstrably practical and feasible.
- F11) To inform fully the specific programme of improvements to be made to a pitch to enhance quality, delivery must be informed by an independent Grounds Management Association / Pitch Power report or equivalent, instructed by the NGB, local authority or club.
- F12) Enhance the quality of existing secure community use pitches or consider replacement where flooding / waterlogging is known to

be a consistent issue over several seasons and is preventing consistency and certainty of play by improving drainage (where feasible to do so and viable / subject to funding and a business plan being in place to ensure maintenance costs are catered for in the long-term).

- F13) Enhance the quality of existing pitches where they are subject to dog fouling by considering the introduction of open fencing and / or signage where cost effective to do so, where shared uses allow and practical to do so (in view of the available space outside the pitch for recreational use and where shared pitch sites can be fenced without compromising the quality of summer sports’ areas of play).

#### Ancillary facilities

- F14) Enhance the quality of changing and other ancillary facilities where necessary to help ensure the quality of the experience for the sport is enhanced for all and meets the needs of the clubs, teams and players using the pitch / ground. Particular focus should be on supporting the growth of disability, girls’ and women’s football through improvements which enhance the quality and accessibility of facilities.
- F15) Enhance, where necessary, outside of the sites named in sub-area sections below, the quality of ancillary and storage facilities, where improvements are identified as a priority during the strategy period.

#### Delivery, operation and monitoring

- F16) Improve the current use of existing pitches, where physically and logistically possible, by considering flexibility of when matches take place.
- F17) Clubs should be encouraged to open-up facilities and pitches that they own and manage to other local clubs where there is capacity

for them to do so (rather than allowing only their own teams to use their facilities and pitches).

Sub-area Specific: North and West

Security of tenure

F18) Gain the secure use of unsecure community use pitch sites (currently in use as the priority) through clubs and relevant authorities working with pitch providers / owners to seek a long-term secure use agreement to provide certainty of supply and reduce the need for additional secure use new pitches (where desirable by the club and provider). These include:

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Pitch Type
F017	BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND (NEWBURY)	Youth Football 9v9
F026	BUCKLEBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL	Mini Soccer 5v5
F185	BUCKLEBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL	Mini Soccer 5v5
F183	BUCKLEBURY VILLAGE RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 9v9
F038	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 11v11
F039	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 9v9
F064	FRILSHAM PLAYING FIELD	Adult Football
F067	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	Mini Soccer 7v7
F068	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 9v9
F069	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 11v11
F077	HERMITAGE VILLAGE HALL	Adult Football
F078	HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Mini Soccer 7v7
F079	HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 9v9

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Pitch Type
F080	HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Mini Soccer 5v5
F081	HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Mini Soccer 7v7
F083	INKPEN MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 11v11
F090	LAMBOURN SPORTS CLUB	Adult Football
F096	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Mini Soccer 7v7
F097	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 11v11
F174	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 11v11
F175	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 9v9
F111	PANGBOURNE RECREATION GROUND	Adult Football
F136	STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 9v9
F137	STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 11v11
F138	STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND	Adult Football
F159	TURNHAMS FARM RECREATION GROUND	Adult Football
F160	UPPER BASILDON RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 11v11

Grass

F19) Enhance capacity on existing pitches by improving quality and improve maintenance to ensure that the better quality is sustained in the long-term. There should be a focus, where feasible, on improving the following pitches rated as “poor” to “good” as a priority, and then secure use “standard” pitches to “good”, where there are known pressures on demand identified by

clubs. Pitches of “poor” quality with secure community use and currently being used should be prioritised from the list which follows:

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Security of tenure	Pitch Type
F077	HERMITAGE VILLAGE HALL	Unsecure	Adult Football
F111	PANGBOURNE RECREATION GROUND	Unsecure	Adult Football
F136	STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND	Unsecure	Youth Football 9v9
F138	STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND	Unsecure	Adult Football
F216 <sup>7</sup>	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	Secure	Youth Football 9v9
F217 <sup>8</sup>	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	Secure	Youth Football 9v9

F20) Enhance capacity on other sites, or enhance capacity off-site for the clubs using them, where overplay or a need for additional playing capacity (for matches and / or training) has been identified by clubs, with a focus on the following pitches / grounds (with those with secure use being prioritised):

#### Overplay

- F069, GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND, Youth Football 11v11 (unsecure)
- F085<sup>9</sup>, JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL, Youth Football 11v11 (secure)

<sup>7</sup> While noted as an unsecure pitch / site for the purposes of analysis, the site is considered by BBFA and FF as having a reasonable degree of security with the 3G on the site having been Football Foundation funded.

- F096, LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS, Mini Soccer 7v7 (unsecure)
- F174, LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS, Youth Football 11v11 (unsecure)
- F175, LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS, Youth Football 9v9 (unsecure)
- F160, UPPER BASILDON RECREATION GROUND, Youth Football 11v11 (unsecure)

Club identified demand for additional capacity or pitches (if not resolved by quality improvements)

- Cold Ash FC

#### Ancillary facilities

F21) Enhance the quality of changing and other ancillary facilities where possible to help ensure the quality of the experience for the sport for all is enhanced (with a focus on those of “poor” quality listed below, and then those with “standard” quality). Ancillary facilities identified by clubs should be considered for improvement:

- PANGBOURNE RECREATION GROUND (unsecure)
- BUCKLEBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL (unsecure)

Such improvements are particularly important to help grow participation in the women’s game and pitches hosting women’s teams should be prioritised where improvements are required. Improvement of unsecure community use pitch changing and

<sup>8</sup> While noted as an unsecure pitch / site for the purposes of analysis, the site is considered by BBFA and FF as having a reasonable degree of security with the 3G on the site having been Football Foundation funded.

<sup>9</sup> While noted as an unsecure pitch / site, the site has a degree of security with the 3G on the site having been Football Foundation funded.

other ancillary facilities should be a second priority after secure use site improvements.

### Sustainability

F22) Work with clubs to enhance their capacity to provide additional coaches and volunteers, identified by them as an area which they will need to strengthen in order to grow their number of teams:

- CSA 07
- Cold Ash FC
- Thatcham and Newbury Town Ladies and Girls FC
- Thatcham Tornados
- Thatcham Town Harriers
- Theale Tigers

### Sub-area Specific: South

F23) Gain the secure use of unsecure community use pitch sites (currently in use as the priority) through clubs and relevant authorities working with pitch providers / owners to seek a long-term secure use agreement to provide certainty of supply and reduce the need for additional secure use new pitches (where desirable by the club and provider). These include:

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Pitch Type
F040	CITY RECREATION GROUND	Adult Football
F042	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	Mini Soccer 7v7
F043	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 11v11
F044	COMPTON RECREATION GROUND	Adult Football
F052	DONNINGTON RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 11v11
F061	FARADAY ROAD STADIUM	Adult Football
F063	FRANCIS BAILY PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mini Soccer 5v5

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Pitch Type
F130	ST FINIANS RC SCHOOL	Mini Soccer 5v5
F182	ST FINIANS RC SCHOOL	Mini Soccer 5v5
F131	ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL	Youth Football 9v9
F133	ST JOSEPHS R C PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mini Soccer 7v7
F141	THE CASTLE SCHOOL (NEWBURY)	Youth Football 9v9
F142	THE DIAMOND	Adult Football
F143	THE MOORS PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 9v9
F144	THE MOORS PLAYING FIELDS	Mini Soccer 5v5
F212	THE MOORS PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 11v11
F149	THE WINCHCOMBE SCHOOL	Mini Soccer 7v7
F157	TRINITY SCHOOL	Adult Football
F158	TRINITY SCHOOL	Youth Football 11v11
F184	TRINITY SCHOOL	Youth Football 9v9

### Grass

F24) Enhance capacity on existing pitches by improving quality and improve maintenance to ensure that the better quality is sustained in the long-term. There should be a focus, where feasible, on improving the following pitches rated as “poor” to “good” as a priority, and then secure use “standard” pitches to “good”, where there are known pressures on demand identified by clubs. Pitches of “poor” quality with secure community use and currently being used should be prioritised from the list which follows:

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Security of tenure	Pitch Type
F073	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 1	Secure	Youth Football 11v11

F074	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 5	Secure	Youth Football 11v11
F075	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 9	Secure	Youth Football 9v9
F118	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	Secure	Youth Football 9v9
F119	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	Secure	Mini Soccer 7v7
F120	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	Secure	Mini Soccer 5v5
F187	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 2	Secure	Adult Football
F188	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 3	Secure	Adult Football
F193	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND M2 / 10a	Secure	Mini Soccer 7v7
F230	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 10 / 10c	Secure	Youth Football 9v9
F231	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 8	Secure	Adult Football
F232	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 6	Secure	Youth Football 11v11
F233	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	Secure	Mini Soccer 7v7
F042	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	Unsecure	Mini Soccer 7v7
F043	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	Unsecure	Youth Football 11v11
F182	ST FINIANS RC SCHOOL	Unsecure	Mini Soccer 5v5

F25) Enhance capacity on other sites, or enhance capacity off-site for the clubs using them, where overplay or a need for additional playing capacity (for matches and / or training) has been

identified by clubs, with a focus on the following pitches / grounds (with those with secure use being prioritised):

#### Overplayed

- F118, SPEEN RECREATION GROUND, Youth Football 9v9 (secure)
- F143, THE MOORS PLAYING FIELDS, Youth Football 9v9 (unsecure)
- F144, THE MOORS PLAYING FIELDS, Mini Soccer 5v5 (unsecure)

Club identified demand for additional capacity or pitches (if not resolved by quality improvements)

- EC7
- FC Cougars
- Kintbury Rangers
- Pangbourne Youth
- Reading YMCA FC
- Thatcham and Newbury Town Girls FC

#### Ancillary facilities

F26) Enhance the quality of changing and other ancillary facilities where possible to help ensure the quality of the experience for the sport is enhanced for all (with a focus on those of “poor” quality listed below, alongside other well-used facilities of “standard” quality).

- CITY RECREATION GROUND (unsecure)
- WASH COMMON (unsecure)

Other facilities, identified by clubs should also be considered for improvement:

- COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND (unsecure)
- COMPTON RECREATION GROUND (unsecure)
- THE MOORS PLAYING FIELDS (unsecure)

Clubs which identified a need for additional facilities such as changing facilities were:

- EC7
- Kintbury Rangers
- Procision

Such improvements are particularly important to help grow participation in the women’s game and pitches hosting women’s teams should be prioritised where improvements are required. Improvement of unsecure community use pitch changing and other ancillary facilities should be a second priority after secure use site improvements.

Sustainability

F27) Work with clubs to enhance their capacity to provide additional coaches and volunteers, identified by them as an area which they will need to strengthen in order to grow their number of teams:

- EC7
- FC Cougars
- Hungerford Town FC
- Kintbury Rangers FC
- Mortimer FC
- NCRC CFP Newbury
- Pangbourne Youth FC

Sub-area Specific: East

Security of tenure

F28) Gain the secure use of unsecure community use pitch sites (currently in use as the priority) through clubs and relevant authorities working with pitch providers / owners to seek a long-term secure use agreement to provide certainty of supply and reduce the need for additional secure use new pitches (where desirable by the club and provider). These include:

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Pitch Type
F003	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	Adult Football
F004	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	Adult Football
F168	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	Adult Football
F169	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	Mini Soccer 5v5
F170	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	Mini Soccer 5v5
F171	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	Mini Soccer 7v7
F172	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	Mini Soccer 7v7
F173	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	Youth Football 9v9
F101	ALFRED PALMER MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 11v11

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Pitch Type
F029	BURGHFIELD COMMON RECREATION GROUND	Adult Football
F030	BURGHFIELD COMMON RECREATION GROUND	Youth Football 9v9
F031	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	Adult Football
F032	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	Adult Football
F176	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	Adult Football
F177	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	Adult Football
F178	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	Youth Football 9v9
F035	CALCOT RECREATION GROUND	Adult Football
F053	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Adult Football
F054	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 11v11
F190	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Mini Soccer 7v7
F191	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Youth Football 9v9
F192	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Mini Soccer 7v7
F060	ENGLEFIELD ROAD RECREATION GROUND	Adult Football
F147	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	Youth Football 11v11
F179	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	Adult Football
F180	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	Adult Football
F151	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	Adult Football
F152	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	Adult Football
F153	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	Youth Football 11v11
F154	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	Youth Football 11v11

- F29) Enhance capacity on existing pitches by improving quality and improve maintenance to ensure that the better quality is sustained in the long-term. There should be a focus, where feasible, on improving the following pitches rated as “poor” to “good” as a priority, and then secure use “standard” pitches to “good”, where there are known pressures on demand identified by clubs. Pitches of “poor” quality with secure community use and currently being used should be prioritised from the list which follows:

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Security of tenure	Pitch Type
F053	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Unsecure	Adult Football
F176	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	Unsecure	Adult Football
F177	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	Unsecure	Adult Football
F190	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Unsecure	Mini Soccer 7v7
F191	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Unsecure	Youth Football 9v9
F192	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Unsecure	Mini Soccer 7v7

- F30) Enhance capacity on other sites, or enhance capacity off-site for the clubs using them, where overplay or a need for additional playing capacity (for matches and / or training) has been identified by clubs, with a focus on the following pitches / grounds (with those with secure use being prioritised):

Overplayed

- F032, BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION, Adult Football 11v11 (unsecure)
- F176, BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION, Adult Football (unsecure)
- F178, BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION, Youth Football 9v9 (unsecure)
- F047<sup>10</sup>, DENEFIELD SCHOOL, Adult Football 11v11 (secure)
- F049<sup>11</sup>, DENEFIELD SCHOOL, Youth Football 9v9 (secure)
- F054, DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS, Youth Football 11v11 (unsecure)
- F060, ENGLEFIELD ROAD RECREATION GROUND, Adult Football 11v11 (unsecure)
- F147, THE WILLINK SCHOOL, Youth Football 11v11 (unsecure)
- F179, THE WILLINK SCHOOL, Adult Football (unsecure)
- F180, THE WILLINK SCHOOL, Adult Football 11v11 (unsecure)

Club identified demand for additional capacity or pitches (if not resolved by quality improvements)

- AFC Aldermaston
- Burghfield FC
- Reading YMCA FC
- Tilehurst Panthers FC

Ancillary facilities

F31) Enhance the quality of changing and other ancillary facilities where possible to help ensure the quality of the experience for the sport for all is enhanced (with a focus on those of “poor” quality listed below, and then those with “standard” quality). Ancillary

<sup>10</sup> While noted as an unsecure pitch / site for the purposes of analysis, the site is considered by BBFA and FF as having a reasonable degree of security with the 3G on the site having been Football Foundation funded.

facilities identified by clubs should be considered for improvement:

- BURGHFIELD COMMON RECREATION GROUND (unsecure)
- THE WILLINK SCHOOL (unsecure)
- BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION (unsecure)

Clubs which identified a need for additional facilities such as changing facilities were:

- Reading YMCA FC
- Tilehurst Panthers

Such improvements are particularly important to help grow participation in the women’s game and pitches hosting women’s teams should be prioritised where improvements are required. Improvement of unsecure community use pitch changing and other ancillary facilities should be a second priority after secure use site improvements.

AGPs

F32) Support the resurfacing of the Park House School 3G pitch given the quality issues identified on the pitch.

Sustainability

F33) Work with clubs to enhance their capacity to provide additional coaches and volunteers, identified by them as an area which they will need to strengthen in order to grow their number of teams:

- Burghfield FC
- Reading YMCA FC
- Tilehurst Panthers FC

<sup>11</sup> While noted as an unsecure pitch / site for the purposes of analysis, the site is considered by BBFA and FF as having a reasonable degree of security with the 3G on the site having been Football Foundation funded.

## Hockey

### Sub-area Specific: East

#### Security of tenure

- H15) Seek security of tenure on the Elstree School site where there is currently unsecure community use.

#### Sustainability

- H16) Should the relevant sub-area specific Provide recommendations not be deliverable, seek to increase the availability of training slots open to the club on the Willink Leisure Centre pitch to meet its needs.

### Sub-area Specific: South

#### Security of tenure

- H17) Seek security of tenure for Newbury and Thatcham HC at the unsecure community use pitches it uses, until such time when relevant sub-area specific Provide recommendations can be delivered.

#### Ancillary Facilities

- H18) Improve the changing and clubhouse facilities at the Henwick Worthy site.

#### Sustainability

- H19) Improve the capacity / time slots available at Henwick Worthy AGP should a 3G delivery programme be adopted for football which enables the migration of football use away from Henwick Worthy.

## Rugby

### WBC-wide

#### Security of tenure

- R8) The RFU and the local authority should work with clubs, operators and providers, on sites where there is unsecure community use and where there is no control over the site by the club, to ensure that management, maintenance, access and improvements necessary and highlighted in the assessment report and strategy meet the requirements of the club using the site.

#### Grass

- R9) Prioritise pitch quality improvements at secure community use grounds over unsecure community use grounds. Improving the carrying capacity of pitches should be aligned with provision of sports-lighting to ensure that additional capacity provided by pitch improvements can be practically utilised on weekday evenings. The specific programme of works required to improve a pitch's quality must be informed by an independent GMA / Pitch Power report instructed by the NGB, local authority or club.
- R10) Ensure that the maintenance regime for improved pitches ensures that additional play brought about from introducing better quality and capacity and sports-lighting where relevant retains the "good" quality of the pitch in the long-term.
- R11) Improve the current use of existing pitches, where physically and logistically possible, by considering flexibility of when matches take place.

#### Ancillary facilities

- R12) Enhance the quality of changing and other ancillary facilities where necessary to help ensure the quality of the experience for the sport is enhanced.

### Sub-area Specific: North and West

#### Security of tenure

R13) Ensure that greater security of tenure is put in place for Hungerford RFC for the long-term (preferably in perpetuity) and ensure that investment can be secured to make the necessary improvements identified in the assessment report and strategy and in the future by the club and RFU. Ensure that an appropriate body is identified to monitor and enforce such agreements.

#### Ancillary facilities

R14) Support the improvement of the changing / ancillary facilities at Hungerford RFC (The Triangle), including provision of a medical room, girls' changing facilities and toilets to meet up-to-date standards.

R15) Discuss opportunities to improve parking arrangements for the club.

### Sub-area Specific: South

#### Grass

R16) Enhance capacity by improving the quality to “good” or above (GMA ratings) on pitches not currently at that standard or above at the following grounds and ensure that the appropriate maintenance regime is in place to maintain quality:

- a) Henwick Worthy (Thatcham RFC) within the context of and subject to the final masterplan for the overall site.
- b) Newbury RFC, improving drainage and utilising agreed s106 funding

#### Lighting

R17) Support Newbury RFC's plans to upgrade their existing sports-lighting.

R18) Improve sports-lighting on the existing (top) pitch at Henwick Worthy (Thatcham RFC) within the context of and subject to the final masterplan for the overall site.

#### Ancillary facilities

R19) Support the improvement of the changing facilities, entrance lobby and provision of a social space at Newbury RFC.

R20) Improve the changing facilities and clubhouse at Henwick Worthy (Thatcham RFC) within the context of and subject to the final masterplan for the overall site.

### Sub-area Specific: East

#### Security of tenure

R21) Gain the secure community use of the pitches used by Aldermaston RFC to provide certainty of future supply and ensure that investment can be secured to make the necessary improvements identified in the assessment report and strategy and in the future by the club and RFU. Ensure that an appropriate body is identified to monitor and enforce such agreements.

#### Grass

R22) Enhance capacity by improving the quality to “good” or above (GMA ratings) on pitches not currently at that standard or above at the following grounds and ensure that the appropriate maintenance regime is in place to maintain quality:

- a) Tadley RFC

#### Ancillary facilities

R23) Support the improvement of the changing / ancillary facilities at the following clubs' grounds:

- a) Aldermaston RFC
- b) Tadley RFC

## Cricket

### WBC-wide

#### Grass

- C6) Consider increasing the current use of existing pitches where spare capacity notionally exists, where physically, practically and logistically possible.
- C7) Support projected growth in the women's and junior games by ensuring that the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities meets their needs (i.e. that they are fit for purpose) where junior and women's teams play and train.
- C8) Support the training needs of clubs by providing in-situ practice nets where necessary to improve the capacity for training which can help retain the quality of pitches on the main square.

#### Ancillary Facilities

- C9) Support the continual improvement of facilities, and the workforce that prepare them, to a good quality to help attract and retain players. This particularly important to continue the growth of the women and girls game where ancillary facilities have not been designed for, or cater for female usage.

#### Sub-area Specific: East

##### Security of tenure

- C10) Gain the secure use of pitches which currently have unsecure community use at Aldermaston Village CC, Douai Park Playing Fields and Englefield Recreations Ground to provide certainty of future supply.

##### Grass

- C11) Consider increasing the current use of existing pitches where spare capacity notionally exists, where physically, practically and

logistically possible at Aldermaston Village CC and Mortimer Fairground.

- C12) Seek to address overplay at Aldermarston Recreational Society, Englefield Recreation Ground and Jack Booth's Ground (Sulhamstead & Ufton CC) if overplay is causing reduction in pitch quality, through improved maintenance, replacement of surfaces (at artificial pitches), provision of in situ practice nets for training and / or provision of additional grass or artificial pitches.

#### Ancillary facilities

- C13) Support the improvement of club ancillary facilities to provide fit for purpose facilities, to service current membership and the growth in the game at Jack Booth's Ground (Sulhampstead & Ufton CC). This list will need to be monitored as more and more clubs establish new women & girls' sections.

#### Sub-area Specific: North and West

##### Security of tenure

- C14) Gain the secure use of pitches which currently have unsecure community use at Chieveley Recreation Ground, Hungerford CC, Inkpen Memorial Playing Fields and Lambourn Sports Club to provide certainty of future supply.

##### Grass

- C15) Consider increasing the current use of existing pitches where spare capacity notionally exists, where physically, practically and logistically possible at Aldworth Recreation Ground, Chieveley Recreation Ground, Hampstead Norreys Village Hall, Inkpen Memorial Playing Field and Peasemore Village CC.
- C16) Seek to address overplay at Bradfield Playing Field, Englefield CC, Goosecroft Recreation Ground, Hungerford CC and Yattendon Cricket Ground if overplay is causing reduction in pitch quality, through improved maintenance, replacement of surfaces (at

artificial pitches), provision of in situ practice nets for training and / or provision of additional grass or artificial pitches.

#### Ancillary facilities

C17) Support the improvement of club ancillary facilities to provide fit for purpose facilities, to service current membership and the growth in the game at Hungerford CC and Yattendon CC. This list will need to be monitored as more and more clubs establish new women & girls' sections.

#### Sub-area Specific: South

#### Security of tenure

C18) Gain the secure use of pitches which currently have unsecure community use at Thatcham Town CC, Donnington Recreation Ground and Cold Ash Recreation Ground to provide certainty of future supply.

#### Grass

C19) Consider increasing the current use of existing pitches where spare capacity notionally exists, where physically, practically and logistically possible at Donnington Recreation Ground.

C20) Seek to address overplay at Falkland CC and Thatcham Town CC if overplay is causing reduction in pitch quality, through improved maintenance, replacement of surfaces (at artificial pitches), provision of in situ practice nets for training and / or provision of additional grass or artificial pitches.

#### Ancillary facilities

C21) Support the improvement of club ancillary facilities to provide fit for purpose facilities, to service current membership and the growth of the game. Although no current live plans to develop ancillary facilities in the South sub area, this will need to be

monitored as more and more clubs establish new women & girls' sections.

## **Lacrosse**

#### Sub-area Specific: South

#### AGPs

LA2) Work with St Bartholomew's School to reinstate the Lacrosse pitch markings on their AGP so it can be used for matches.

LA3) Investigate with St Bartholomew's School about the possibility of opening up their facilities on a Sunday so the club can play matches against other clubs.

## Tennis

### WBC-wide

- T2) Improve access to outdoor courts within the education sector for community use out of school hours with easy online journey to court.

### Sub-area Specific: East

- T3) Douai Park Tennis Club: Install sports-lighting and upgrade all six courts to unlock full capacity potential.
- T4) Elstree School: Open three lit courts for evening and after-school community sessions.
- T5) Little Heath School: Offer non-lit courts for daytime and weekend play, with potential for portable lighting.
- T6) Padworth College: Provide non-lit courts to the community during daylight hours, enhancing weekend access where feasible.
- T7) Theale Green School: Schedule community use of multiple lit MUGAs during out-of-school hours for tennis programmes.
- T8) The Willink School (Leisure Centre): Leverage dedicated lit courts in MUGAs for structured after-school and weekend sessions.

### Sub-area Specific: North and West

- T9) Basildon Tennis Club: Upgrade amenities and court surfaces to improve playability and capacity.
- T10) Boxford Tennis Club: Explore court-expansion or surface renewals to boost throughput.
- T11) Bucklebury Tennis Club: Construct additional courts and modernise features to address high utilisation.
- T12) Chieveley Tennis Club: Expand the clubhouse and implement targeted facility improvements to support active membership.

- T13) Kintbury Tennis Club: Deliver incremental court and amenity upgrades for improved player experience.
- T14) Lambourn Sports Club: Refurbish courts, install sports-lights and introduce digital pay-and-play bookings.
- T15) Mary Hare School: Enhance poor-rated MUGAs to open courts for future community play.
- T16) Pangbourne College: Schedule community access to three non-lit courts for after-school and weekend sessions.
- T17) Pangbourne Tennis Club: Investigate adding courts or modernising existing ones to relieve overcapacity.
- T18) Purley (Berks) Tennis Club: Review and enhance facility standards to meet rising demand.
- T19) St Andrew's School: Provide balanced community use of two non-lit courts around the school timetable.
- T20) West Ilsley Cricket Club: Upgrade tennis facilities, add sports-lighting and enable online community bookings.
- T21) Yattendon & Frilsham Tennis Club: Enhance lighting and court quality to better serve members.

### Sub-area Specific: South

- T22) Cold Ash Tennis Club: Install sports-grade sports-lighting to extend operating hours and boost attractiveness.
- T23) Downe House School Sports Centre: Leverage ten non-lit courts for weekend and holiday community programmes.
- T24) Henwick Worthy Sports Ground: Refurbish courts, add sports-lighting and enable pay-and-play bookings for local demand.
- T25) Kennet School (via Kennet Leisure Centre): Open four lit courts for extended evening tennis sessions.
- T26) Newbury Tennis Club: Upgrade ancillary facilities and surroundings to elevate overall club standard.
- T27) Park House School: Pilot community use of non-lit courts during favourable daylight periods.

- T28) Stockcross Recreation Ground: Improve court surfaces, install lighting and deploy online booking for community access.
- T29) St Bartholomew's School: Utilise two lit courts for structured after-school and weekend play.
- T30) St Finian's School: Offer non-lit courts for weekend and holiday play test sessions.
- T31) St Gabriel's School: Provide non-lit court access to local players during school breaks.
- T32) Thatcham Memorial Hall Tennis Club: Upgrade or install high-quality sport-lights to improve usability and appeal.
- T33) Trinity School: Make non-lit courts available on weekends and daytime slots.

## Netball

### WBC-wide

- N1) Prioritise refurbishment and updating of poor-quality or unplayable courts, including improvements to ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and lighting.
- N2) Implement secure community access protocols and guaranteed scheduling to enhance the reliability of facility use.

### Sub-area Specific: East

- N3) Theale Green School: Upgrade changing rooms and secure community access. If league demand arises, refurbish the currently unplayable MUGA to match playing standards.
- N4) Willink School (Willink Leisure Centre): Introduce clear booking protocols and streamline access so both Bowmore NC and the school can use the courts without conflict.
- N5) Elstree School: Prioritise surface improvements and facility upgrades to support club training and competitive matches;

formalise access arrangements for community use alongside school sessions.

- N6) No immediate shortfall, but continue monitoring participation growth. Should demand outstrip supply, plan for dedicated netball courts in the East.

### Sub-area Specific: North and West and West

- N7) Hungerford Leisure Centre: Preserve its commercial-league model, sports lighting and established usage patterns.
- N8) Mary Hare School: Back enhancements that elevate court quality and formalise community-school access for netball.
- N9) Target minor wear-and-access issues at various school and local-authority courts by resurfacing where needed and refining booking systems to meet both competition and recreational demand.

### Sub-area Specific: South

- N10) St Gabriel's School & St Bartholomew's School: Retain their "Standard" status and negotiate improved access windows to ease scheduling pressures.
- N11) Kennet School: Urgently refurbish courts and update ancillary facilities.
- N12) Park House School: Overhaul playing surfaces and supporting infrastructure.
- N13) Trinity School: Resurface courts and address any sports-lighting or boundary issues.
- N14) Henwick Worthy Sports Ground: Renew the netball court and upgrade sports-lighting for wider public use.

**PROVIDE**

## All Sports

### WBC-wide

#### AGPs

- A12) Where new AGPs are built or resurfaced, consult with lesser played sports NGBs as to whether additional line markings should be included.

#### Ancillary Facilities

- A13) New changing and other ancillary facilities should be built to up-to-date quality and accessibility standards (meeting Building Regulations) and designed to follow the most up-to-date Sport England and NGB guidance. Provision should help ensure that the quality of the experience is enhanced for all and meets the needs of the clubs, teams and players using the pitch / ground.

#### Delivery, operation and monitoring

- A14) For development detailed in the adopted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), CIL monies could be secured towards the upgrade and management of existing strategic outdoor sports and recreation provision and creation of new provision and associated facilities (this includes playing pitches as identified in the PPS). However, it is recommended that local authority officers consider the benefits of bringing forward new and improved facilities related to development through s106 planning obligations as the most appropriate mechanism to understand and apply requirements generated for sports pitches and ancillary facilities by a given population.
- A15) Negotiations with developers to secure off-site contributions should be made based on up-to-date outputs from the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator, and, where appropriate, additional contributions should be sought to enable purchase of

land to ensure that the spend of funds secured can be made to deliver the intended improvements.

- A16) Monitor closely the change in demand to map against projected demand and understand the real demand “on the ground” for additional match and training time. Additional new pitch provision, if required, should be provided only in response to demonstrable demand “on the ground”, together with a full understanding of feasibility and viability. The delivery of additional pitches should be made in a timely fashion, i.e. co-ordinated in alignment with demand, availability of supply and risk of loss of existing supply on unsecure sites. A “plan, deliver, monitor, manage” approach should therefore be taken to the provision of additional capacity.

## Football

### WBC-wide

#### Security of tenure

F34) Ensure that all new 3G pitches and facilities have a secure community use agreement in place for the long-term (preferably in perpetuity) for community access for a 38 hour peak period<sup>12</sup> where feasible and that the appropriate body is identified to monitor and enforce such agreements. Providers should ensure that provision is made for different user groups during the peak period including clubs, pay and play, informal use and casual leagues.

F35) Ensure that all new grass pitches and facilities have a secure community use agreement in place for the long-term (preferably in perpetuity) and that the appropriate body is identified to monitor and enforce such agreements.

#### Grass

F36) Ensure, as far as possible, that any proposed new grass pitches have certainty of users (clubs / teams) committed to them and that commitments to the management and maintenance of the ground are in place prior to delivery. The management and operation of new pitches and facilities should rest with a single operator if possible.

F37) Ensure that the supply of grass pitches can accommodate existing and future demand for matches in sync with the provision of additional 3G capacity. At no time should the total supply of grass pitches not be able to accommodate demand for play and “on the ground” demand for match play by each age group within the

structure of the game. The role of grass pitches is particularly important should the additional 3G capacity not be delivered.

F38) Where needed, increased capacity and / or use of grass pitches to meet demand could come from a combination of the following. Measures a) to e) should be considered before additional grass pitches are proposed:

- a) Increasing reliability and capacity of pitches through improved quality, drainage and maintenance;
- b) Considering better grouping of age groups (and therefore pitch types and sizes) on multi-pitch sites;
- c) Making better use of pitches which are available for community use but not yet currently used by teams, where additional community use on those pitches would not result in unacceptable wear which significantly reduces a pitch’s ability to cope with the additional demand / use placed upon it (for example, careful consideration must be given to use of education site pitches if those pitches are already well-used by students during the week);
- d) Re-opening disused pitches, where they provide supply in a location which can respond to demand;
- e) Provision of additional pitches in appropriate locations as demand requires during the strategy period to:
  - i. respond to growth in demand (as a result of club unmet and latent demand, club growth, growth in social / informal and non-club participation, increased population and spatial gaps in provision) where this cannot be catered for on existing pitches; and / or,
  - ii. where feasible, provide new additional capacity on larger scale strategic housing allocation sites where a new club can be formed to fully utilise pitches

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<sup>12</sup> The peak period is Mon-Thurs 5pm-9pm, Fri 5pm-7pm and Sat and Sun 9am-5pm.

provided, where such provision responds to demand arising from the new residents, and / or responds to insufficient supply locally to respond to demand, enabling an existing club to make the new pitches their home ground or an additional home ground. Such sites, if providing sufficient pitch capacity, could form new home grounds for nomadic clubs which currently play across more than one site and are looking to consolidate club activity in one location; and / or,

- iii. replace and increase the capacity of existing pitches of poor or standard quality; or, which prove uneconomical to manage and maintain; or, are unattractive to club use due to quality and / or cost.
- F39) Suggested provision of grass pitch sizes need to be considered flexibly as calculator outputs for future provision are projections and do not reflect specificity of team composition on the ground. Therefore, provision could be made, for example, for 1 x 11v11 instead of 4 x 5v5 pitches to ensure that flexibility is there in the long-term for clubs to adapt pitch sizes and markings to the needs of teams they have at any given point in time. In all cases, consideration should be given to 11v11 equivalent size pitches to enable maximum flexibility, seasons to season, for pitch use. For example, it might be considered appropriate to provide 2 x 11v11 pitches which can be changed to accommodate a range of other pitch sizes in any given season, rather than providing smaller pitches in a configuration which may not be adaptable to larger size pitches if needed in the future. Consideration should also be given, when planning for additional grass pitches, the new 3v3 format likely to be introduced in the 2026/27 season.

- F40) New grass pitches should be secure and, where feasible, be designed to be resistant to dog fouling and vandalism.
- F41) When providing new grass pitches, the marked-out pitch should preferably be additional to other multi-functional green space, with conflation of uses avoided.
- F42) New grass pitches should be provided to a “good” quality, with programmes put in place and managed to help ensure that this quality is retained into the future.

#### AGPs

- F43) If a sand-based pitch is converted to 3G, ensure that provision does not assume an additional whole pitch of capacity is provided if there is already football played on a sand AGP surface which is converted.
- F44) New 3G pitches should be provided to a standard which helps to ensure that they can be put on the FA Register.

#### Delivery, operation and monitoring

- F45) Where the loss of an existing pitch is unavoidable, ensure that replacement pitch provision and associated facilities are provided to a good quality standard in a location appropriate to demand to mitigate loss. If proposals come forward to develop on these pitches, requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>13</sup> and Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy<sup>14</sup> must be met.
- F46) Ensure that the provision of any new pitches and facilities meet the most up-to-date quality design standards and dimensions supported by the FA and Sport England. Provision must ensure that genders and age groups are supported and catered for. Any new grass pitches provided by a developer must be signed-off by an agronomist prior to “handover”.

<sup>13</sup> See para 104 in particular <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> NPPF, December, 2024

<sup>14</sup> See [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing_fields_policy)

- F47) Ensure that new 3G pitches are marked out to cater for quarter pitch segregation and capable of hosting 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 matches. Essentially however, markings and design should be prepared aligned to an intended programme of use to ensure the pitch is best able to meet local demand. The FA, FF and the local authority should also consult with England Lacrosse to determine if markings for lacrosse are needed on the 3G.
- F48) Ensure that delivery of additional 3G pitch capacity takes into account use of non 3G based pitches by teams for training and informal use and the relationships and inter-dependencies with hockey use on sand-based pitches where they exist. Delivery in the right locations and at the right time should be carefully planned and managed, discussing patterns of use with the RFU (re WR22 3G pitches) and with EH (re sand-based pitches).
- F49) Ensure that any new facilities and other associated pitch infrastructure are provided to meet the most up-to-date Building Regulations, including, but not restricted to, those relating to accessibility.
- F50) Support opportunities to utilise sites not currently available for community use where the provider has indicated a desire to do so, where they fill a spatial gap in supply, address a local team's demand not already catered for locally and where secure use can be agreed.
- F51) Provision of new additional pitches which increase net capacity / supply will need to respond to demonstrable demand "on the ground". This is particularly important in the latter part of the strategy period to ensure that supply responds to demand which has actually or will come forward.
- F52) Support provision of or contributions to fund new 11v11 sports-lit 3G pitches where certainty of delivery of the intended new 3G is or can be put in place (for example, planning permission secured) and mitigation of loss of any existing grass pitch on which the 3G would be built, if relevant, is considered satisfactory.
- F53) Enable opportunity for club progression up the FA pyramid by ensuring that relevant pitches can meet FA requirements for progression to the next step.
- F54) The provision of additional pitches and / or facilities should be closely co-ordinated between NGBs, clubs, leagues, Sport England, the local authority and the land owner (where not one of the aforementioned bodies).
- Sustainability*
- F55) Ensure that proposals for new pitches, both grass and 3G, and ancillary facilities, are provided outside of relevant flood risk zones, or provision can be satisfactorily tested through the sequential and exceptions tests to mitigate satisfactorily against adverse impact and risk.
- F56) Ensure that proposals for new and resurfaced 3G pitches:
- a. provide satisfactory protection and mitigation to minimise rubber crumb and other infill loss (retrofitting containment where necessary);
  - b. set out a lifetime recycling plan for the surface / carpet;
  - c. have considered fully whether the surface should be provided to WR22 compliance if there is a local rugby club quantifiable demand for capacity to support play on grass pitches;
  - d. are constructed to meet FA and / or RFU recommended quality performance standards (subject to the demand the pitch is catering for) to meet performance testing criteria;
  - e. provide energy efficient directional LED sports-lighting; and,
  - f. satisfy tests applied by the local authority in relation to carbon emissions, whole lifecycle of materials and requirements for net gains in biodiversity;
  - g. for new pitches, explore the opportunities for provision on multi-pitch hub sites where demand can be demonstrated.

- F57) Ensure that any new pitches and facilities have a sustainable long-term business and financial management plan in place to ensure long-term viability which includes usage plans. This includes, for 3G pitches in particular, the need for a pitch replacement fund and / or sinking fund to retain funds during use for refurbishment or replacement of the surface and for recycling of the carpet and infill, a maintenance programme agreed between the provider, local authority and the FA, and the provider must report to the local authority, Sport England and the FA on an annual basis on the state of the pitch replacement fund and / or sinking fund and statement of availability and use during the agreed peak period hours. Pitch replacement funds and / or sinking funds established should be monitored to ensure that collection is taking place. The costs of hiring 3G pitch time and space will need to be competitive to help ensure future viability but it is important that, to help enable transition from use of grass for matches to maximise use of capacity on 3Gs at weekends, match play charges reflect those paid for grass pitch use. This is particularly important in or close to areas of high deprivation where easy and affordable access is key for the community and clubs.
- F58) Ensure that usage plans are developed for new 3Gs and include agreement on the balance of use between rugby (and other sports) where relevant.
- F59) Given the nature of demand, provision set out in the sub-area sections below may require adjustment during the strategy period, and provision should be considered in a flexible way to allow provision of additional supply in one area to respond to demand which arises in another, in other words, reflecting spatial need across sub-area boundaries and likely travel times to the nearest pitch.
- F60) A “plan, deliver, monitor, manage” approach should therefore be taken to the management and any necessary “re-packaging” of

existing supply (if necessary) and the provision of additional capacity.

#### Sub-area Specific: North and West

##### Grass

- F61) Basic additional pitch requirements arising from growth in participation and population suggest that the following additional pitches need to be provided by 2041:
- 2 x adult football 11v11 grass pitches;
  - 6 x youth 9v9 / 11v11 pitches;
  - 4 x mini soccer 5v5 / 7v7 pitches; and,
  - associated necessary ancillary facilities to serve the pitches' likely demand.

These numbers above, however, are without taking into account the potential for increasing capacity through other measures and do not address any current deficits in provision or overplay.

Based on analysis of other measures which could be introduced, such as improvement of existing poor and standard quality pitches to good quality (thereby improving their carrying capacity), capping mini and youth usage according to kick-off times and introducing play onto pitch available for community use but not currently being used, the range of supply needed, if these measures can be introduced could see the number of additional grass pitches being adjusted and in some cases no new additional pitches being needed. In summary, the range which could result if improvement measures can be introduced and headroom capacity can be practically used is as follows:

- 3-7 x adult football 11v11 grass pitches of headroom capacity;

- between 6 x youth 9v9 / 11v11 pitches required and 1 x headroom capacity;
- 4-5 x mini soccer 5v5 / 7v7 grass pitches of headroom capacity.

The distribution of additional grass pitches in the district and the numbers projected for North and West need to be considered flexibly in relation to demand in the South and East sub-areas, and the heat map of teams, particularly in relation to demand in and around the centres of population. For example, some demand arising in the North and West sub-area may better be located and accommodated for clubs in South, in Newbury or Thatcham, for example.

#### AGPs

F62) Take the following strategy to the provision of 3G pitches:

- Deliver 3 x full-size 11v11 sports lit 3G pitches in the sub-area.
- Given the location of clubs expressing demand for additional training capacity, some or all of the demand for 3G pitches seems likely to emerge on the boundary of the North and West sub-area and the South sub-area, relative to Thatcham and Newbury, and / or the boundary with the East sub-area close to either Thatcham or Reading. The location of demand arising should be monitored during strategy period to determine the most appropriate locations for additional capacity if, where and when needed “on the ground”.

#### Sub-area Specific: South

#### Grass

F63) Basic additional pitch requirements arising from growth in participation and population suggest that the following additional pitches need to be provided by 2041:

- 2 x adult football 11v11 grass pitches;
- 5 x youth 9v9 / 11v11 pitches;
- 6 x mini soccer 5v5 / 7v7 pitches; and,
- associated necessary ancillary facilities to serve the pitches’ likely demand.

These numbers above, however, are without taking into account the potential for increasing capacity through other measures and do not address any current deficits in provision or overplay.

Based on analysis of other measures which could be introduced, such as improvement of existing poor and standard quality pitches to good quality (thereby improving their carrying capacity), capping mini and youth usage according to kick-off times and introducing play onto pitch available for community use but not currently being used, the range of supply needed, if these measures can be introduced could see the number of additional grass pitches being adjusted and in some cases no new additional pitches being needed. In summary, the range which could result if improvement measures can be introduced and headroom capacity can be practically used is as follows:

- 3-6 x adult football 11v11 grass pitches of headroom capacity;
- between 7 x youth 9v9 / 11v11 pitches required and 1 x headroom capacity;
- 3-7 x mini soccer 5v5 / 7v7 grass pitches of headroom capacity.

F64) Work with Thatcham Tornados FC to explore opportunities to provide additional capacity for teams which currently play outside of the sub-area on existing / improved pitches or new pitches, given the club’s desire to see teams play in closer proximity to Thatcham.

## AGPs

F65) Take the following strategy to the provision of 3G pitches:

- Deliver 3 x sports-lit full-size 11v11 3G pitches in the sub-area. Consider a 4<sup>th</sup> pitch in either this or neighbouring East sub-area, subject to where demand is most likely to make the location viable and the potential demand from rugby in the sub-area after quality improvements have been made at club grounds.
- Consider the following potential sites alongside others which come forward during the strategy period to accommodate some or all of this demand:
  - Faraday Road aspiration for full-size 11v11 sports-lit 3G.
  - Henwick Worthy aspiration for full-size 11v11 sports-lit 3G and consideration of the site for a second (WR22 compliant) 3G.
  - Newbury College aspiration for a full-size 11v11 sports-lit 3G.
  - One of either St Bartholomew's School or Trinity School aspirational conversion to 3G from sand-based AGP to full-size 11v11 sports-lit 3G (Trinity likely to require resurfacing sooner, although already has hockey use on it). One of either pitch to be retained as "reserve" for hockey use in long-term and provide capacity until Henwick Worthy additional sand-based AGP delivered. Also see and align with Hockey recommendations.

## Sub-area Specific: East

### Grass

F66) Basic additional pitch requirements arising from growth in participation and population suggest that the following additional pitches need to be provided by 2041:

- 3 x adult football 11v11 grass pitches;
- 7 x youth 9v9 / 11v11 pitches;
- 3 x mini soccer 5v5 / 7v7 pitches; and,
- associated necessary ancillary facilities to serve the pitches' likely demand.

These numbers above, however, are without taking into account the potential for increasing capacity through other measures and do not address any current deficits in provision or overplay.

Based on analysis of other measures which could be introduced, such as improvement of existing poor and standard quality pitches to good quality (thereby improving their carrying capacity), capping mini and youth usage according to kick-off times and introducing play onto pitch available for community use but not currently being used, the range of supply needed, if these measures can be introduced could see the number of additional grass pitches being adjusted and in some cases no new additional pitches being needed. Adding a return of exported demand also adjusts these figures. In summary, the range which could result if improvement measures can be introduced and headroom capacity can be practically used is as follows:

- 1-8 x adult football 11v11 grass pitches of headroom capacity;
- 5-10 x youth 9v9 / 11v11 pitches required;
- 5-6 x mini soccer 5v5 / 7v7 grass pitches of headroom capacity.

- F67) Support additional pitch capacity being made available, either through improvements to existing pitch quality where it is feasible, bringing into / back into use pitches no longer available for community use or provision of additional new grass pitches, for teams which currently have exported demand and wishing to return to the East sub-area. Calcot Royals, Burghfield and Theale Tigers are the clubs to which this applies. Provision should be considered in light of the most up-to-date picture of exported demand, but requirements are likely to be to provide for around:
- 6 match equivalents (1-2 pitches) for 5v5 teams;
  - 7 match equivalents (1-2 pitches) for 7v7 teams;
  - 4.5 match equivalents (1-2 pitches) for 9v9 teams; and,
  - 0.5 match equivalent (1 pitch) for 11v11 youth teams.

should be monitored during strategy period to determine appropriate location for additional capacity if needed “on the ground”.

#### AGPs

- F68) Take the following strategy to the provision of 3G pitches:
- Deliver 3 x sports-lit full-size 11v11 3G pitches in the sub-area. Consider a 4<sup>th</sup> pitch in either this or neighbouring South sub-area, subject to where demand is most likely to make the location viable and the potential demand from rugby in the sub-area after quality improvements have been made at club grounds.
  - Consider the following potential sites alongside others which come forward during the strategy period to accommodate some or all of this demand:
    - Kennet School aspiration for full-size 11v11 sports-lit 3G.
    - Theale Green School aspiration for full-size 11v11 sports-lit 3G.
  - Given the location of clubs expressing demand for additional training capacity, some or all of the remaining demand for 1 x 3G pitch seems likely to arise close to Reading or Thatcham, relative to the A4 corridor. The location of demand arising

## Hockey

### WBC-wide

#### Security of tenure

H20) Ensure that all new pitches and facilities have a secure community use agreement in place for the long-term (preferably in perpetuity) for peak period use and that the appropriate body or bodies are identified to monitor and enforce such agreements. Pitches should be available for 38 peak period hours (Mon – Thurs 5pm-10pm, Fri 5pm-7pm and Sat – Sun 9am-5pm).

#### AGPs

H21) Where the loss of an existing pitch is unavoidable, subject to relevant sub-area specific recommendations, provide replacement pitch capacity on a surface compliant for hockey use to a good quality standard in a single site / location appropriate to demand, to mitigate loss. If such pitches are unavoidably lost, replacement should be made in line with Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy<sup>15</sup> to mitigate this loss satisfactorily.

#### Delivery, operation and monitoring

H22) The provision of additional pitches and / or facilities should be closely co-ordinated between NGBs, clubs, leagues, Sport England, the local authority, and the land owner (where the latter is not one of the aforementioned bodies).

H23) Proposals for new sand based AGPs on education sites which are designed to meet only the needs of the students (i.e. without

community use / for hire) and are funded by the school, College or Trust should be supported in principal where they provide a facility for the establishment and demonstrate that they do not have a detrimental impact on the viability of full-size community use AGPs.

H24) New AGP pitches will be considered as “development” and the local authority should consider applying requirements to proposals, through planning policy, for future new AGPs, which assess impact in relation to carbon emissions from development through to the long-term use of the pitch, sports lighting and ancillary facilities, the impact of travel to and from the site and how the local authority and other partners will help to mitigate the impact of travel by private car and encourage active travel, the life of the surface and recycling at the end of its life, confirmation of maintenance regimes and viability of funding for them in the long-term to ensure longevity of the surface, and how net gains in biodiversity will be achieved.

H25) New AGPs should be located on a managed site hosted by a provider which will: adhere to the recommendations for pitches; and, not rely on third party management of the pitch and ancillary facilities.

#### Sustainability

H26) Ensure that proposals for new AGPs satisfy tests applied by the local authority in relation to carbon emissions, whole lifecycle of materials (including recycling) and requirements for net gains in biodiversity.

H27) Ensure that proposals for new AGPs, and ancillary facilities, are provided outside of relevant flood risk zones, or provision can be

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<sup>15</sup> See [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing_fields_policy)

satisfactorily tested through the NPPF sequential and exceptions tests to mitigate satisfactorily against adverse impact and risk.

- H28) Ensure that the provision of any new pitches and facilities meet the most up-to-date quality design standards and dimensions supported by the NGB and Sport England and include directional energy efficient LED sports lighting with a minimum of 350 lux.
- H29) Ensure that any new facilities and other associated pitch infrastructure are provided to meet the most up-to-date Building Regulations, including, but not restricted to, those relating to accessibility. Pitches should be secure; be easily and safely accessible by cycle, foot and public transport; have secure cycle storage / parking; electric vehicle charge points; and, have sufficient car parking spaces to accommodate demand for the use of the facility and any associated shared uses and comply with the most up-to-date Highways Authority, Local Planning Authority and Sport England requirements / guidance.
- H30) Ensure that any new pitches and facilities have a sustainable long-term business and financial management plan in place to ensure long-term viability. This must include arrangements for a sinking fund to ensure that the replacement or refurbishment of the pitch surface is viable when renewal is likely to be required. Sink funds established should be monitored to ensure that collection is taking place. It should also include a management and maintenance regime appropriate for the surface and level of use agreed with the appropriate bodies (for example, the local authority, England Hockey and / or Sport England).
- H31) The location of any new AGPs for hockey must be considered within the context of the long-term security, viability and sustainability of the pitch for hockey use. Co-location with other sports such as tennis and netball (if a Gen2 surface) and / or on school sites, where the security of community use can be confirmed with the school and Trust should be considered to help enable viability in the long-term.

#### Sub-area Specific: East

##### AGPs

- H32) Explore opportunities to introduce lighting at Elstree School, if security of tenure can be gained, to enable the club to move to use of a single pitch site to accommodate both matches and training needs to 2041. If this option can be delivered, the Willink Leisure Centre AGP could be considered for a 3G surface at the next point when resurfacing is required. Alternatively, Scarlet Runners HC could consider relocation to the hockey hub site at Henwick Worthy (South sub-area) if the second AGP is delivered.

#### Sub-area Specific: South

##### AGPs

- H33) Provide a second full-size sports-lit sand based AGP at Henwick Worthy (as a high priority given the risk to losing use of Trinity School AGP) to create a one-site hockey hub site and secure use of the AGPs for hockey as the primary use with the first choice of playing slots for hockey. If a second pitch is delivered at Henwick Worthy, the pitch must demonstrate viability in the long-term from either hockey only use or dual use with football, with hockey needs having priority and should 3G capacity be increased to cater for football.

## Rugby

### WBC-wide

#### Security of tenure

R24) Ensure that all grass and 3G new pitches and facilities have a secure community use agreement in place for the long-term (preferably in perpetuity), including secure tenure, and that the appropriate body is identified to monitor and enforce such agreements.

#### Grass

R25) Where the loss of an existing pitch is unavoidable, provide replacement pitches or capacity to good quality standard in a location appropriate to required evening and weekend demand to mitigate loss. If such pitches are unavoidably lost, replacement should be made in line with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy<sup>16</sup> to mitigate this loss satisfactorily.

#### AGPs

R26) Ensure that proposals for new and resurfaced WR22 compliant 3G pitches:

- a) provide satisfactory protection and mitigation to minimise rubber crumb and other infill loss (retrofitting containment if necessary);
- b) set out a lifetime recycling plan for the surface / carpet;
- c) are constructed to meet FA and RFU recommended quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria (and tested each time that the surface is required to have accreditation renewed); and,
- d) provide energy efficient directional LED sports-lighting;

e) satisfy tests applied by the local authority in relation to carbon emissions, whole lifecycle of materials and requirements for net gains in biodiversity.

#### Delivery, operation and monitoring

R27) Enable the supply of additional pitch capacity to accommodate existing overplay, deficit in capacity and future demand.

R28) The total amount of additional supply should come from a variety of sources, i.e. the projected demand is unlikely to need to be delivered solely through additional, new, grass pitches. Increased capacity to this amount will come from a combination of:

- i) Increase reliability of pitch use and improving the quality and / or maintenance regimes of existing pitches to improve quality to at least "good" quality to accommodate 3.3 match equivalents per week (where viable / subject to funding and a business plan being in place to ensure maintenance costs are catered for in the long-term) (see Enhance);
- ii) providing sports lighting to increase evening training capacity (see Enhance);
- iii) securing community use and security of tenure on current non-club unsecure sites if possible and feasible for club use, for example on education or other provider sites;
- iv) new additional pitches at existing club grounds where feasible, for example, through reconfiguration of existing pitch layouts to accommodate additional pitches, or provision adjacent or close to existing club sites;
- v) utilising playing fields:
  - a. with unused community use, lapsed or closed pitches if anticipated demand does not require them to be

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<sup>16</sup> See [https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=playing_fields_policy)

retained for their previous sport after measures to accommodate capacity needs have been introduced (see Football assessment);

b. which currently have no community use, where the operator / provider / owner is willing to open up for rugby team use; and / or,

vi) WR22 compliant 3G pitch(es) to serve as strategic provision if other provision to accommodate overplay and additional demand cannot be catered for through the above measures. (If a shared rugby and football 3G is seen as a solution for both sports, a programme of use and certainty of availability for each sport should be agreed.) Consider the role that rugby demand could play in the provision of 3G pitches, either for sole use or in part with football, in the areas where demand for rugby clubs might not be accommodated by pitch improvement measures and provision of additional grass capacity. 3G pitches would need to be provided with sports-lighting and to WR22 standard.

R29) New additional pitches required should be provided as close to existing club grounds or provided on new sites which accommodate all club needs. Where this cannot be achieved and provision of s106 or CIL monies are not provided to enhance capacity at existing clubs sites, satellite grounds could be explored, but practical use will be dependent upon a club's ability to adequately run (and maintain) a satellite ground. Volunteer capacity must feature as one of the tests to assess viability and feasibility, amongst others, and other risks to the club's long-term sustainability and viability must be mitigated. An alternative option, subject to financial viability and critical masses required to ensure viability both at start-up and in the long-term could be the establishment of a new club at a new ground. All off-club site provision must take into account the

RFU position on provision of pitch capacity and facilities away from existing club sites.

R30) Provision of new additional pitches will need to respond to demonstrable demand "on the ground". This is particularly important in the latter part of the strategy period to ensure that projected demand has actually come forward. A "plan, deliver, monitor, manage" approach should therefore be taken to the provision of additional capacity.

R31) The provision of additional pitches and / or facilities should be closely co-ordinated between the club, RFU, Sport England, the local authority, and the land owner (where not one of the aforementioned bodies).

R32) Ensure that usage plans are developed for new 3Gs and include agreement on the balance of use between rugby and other sports where relevant.

R33) Ensure that the provision of any new pitches and facilities meet the most up-to-date quality design standards and dimensions supported by the Rugby Football Union and Sport England.

R34) Ensure that any new facilities and other associated pitch infrastructure are provided to meet the most up-to-date Building Regulations, including, but not restricted to, those relating to accessibility.

R35) Support provision of or contributions to fund new full-size sports-lit 3G pitches where certainty of delivery of the intended new 3G is or can be put in place (for example, planning permission secured) and mitigation of loss of the existing grass pitch on which the 3G would be built is considered satisfactory.

#### Sustainability

R36) Ensure that proposals for new pitches, both grass and 3G, and ancillary facilities, are provided outside of relevant flood risk zones, or provision can be satisfactorily tested through the

- sequential and exceptions tests to mitigate satisfactorily against adverse impact and risk.
- R37) Ensure that any new pitches and facilities have a sustainable long-term business and financial management plan in place to ensure long-term viability. which includes usage plans. This includes, for 3G pitches in particular, the need for a sinking fund to retain funds during use for refurbishment or replacement of the surface and for recycling of the carpet and infill, a maintenance programme agreed between the provider, local authority and the RFU, and the provider must report to the local authority, Sport England and the RFU on an annual basis on the state of the sinking fund and statement of availability and use during the agreed peak period hours. Sinking funds established should be monitored to ensure that collection is taking place. The costs of hiring 3G pitch time and space will need to be competitive to help ensure future viability but it is important that, to help enable transition from use of grass for matches to maximise use of capacity on 3Gs at weekends, match play charges reflect those paid for grass pitch use.
- R38) Seek to provide additional capacity, where needed, at (or, if this is not possible, within close proximity to) existing club home grounds as a preference over sites far from home grounds, where physical, ownership and planning constraints do not prevent such change. This will help to ensure the long-term financial stability of clubs given the social tradition and culture of the sport. Developer contributions sought for pitch provision / improvements for rugby should (for example, from the Community Infrastructure Levy or section 106 planning obligations) where feasible within planning regulations be considered first as contributions towards existing rugby club sites given the nature of how and where rugby is played (as a club on-site based sport). This could help to avoid contributions being sought or spent inappropriately on sites which may be

remote from existing club home grounds and infrastructure and help to ensure any new provision or additional capacity provided through development is used (and in the most effective way). Additional capacity could be provided through grass, hybrid or 3G pitches.

Sub-area Specific: North and West

Grass

- R39) Support provision of an additional senior grass pitch at Hungerford RFC (The Triangle) with posts on the existing ground, should future demand require it.

Lighting

- R40) Provide sports-lighting on one pitch at Hungerford RFC.

3G

- R41) Support access for Hungerford RFC to 3G capacity, if a less than full-size WR22 compliant is delivered on land adjacent to John O’Gaunt School.

Sub-area Specific: South

Lighting

- R42) Provide sports-lighting on one pitch at Newbury RFC.  
 R43) Provide sports-lighting on one pitch at Thatcham RFC, within the context of the masterplan for the overall site.

Grass and 3G

- R44) After quality and capacity improvements have been made at Newbury RFC, provide up to 2 x additional grass pitches if and when demand requires it and if a suitable site can be found for new additional or accessing existing pitches, or provide an opportunity for club to access a WR22 3G if in close proximity, to support training demand in particular.

R45) After quality and capacity improvements have been made at Thatcham RFC (Henwick Worthy), provide 1 x additional grass pitch if and when demand requires it, perhaps later in the strategy period, and if a suitable site can be found for new additional or accessing existing pitches, or provide an opportunity for club to access a WR22 3G if in close proximity, to support training demand in particular. The recommendation needs to be seen within the context of the masterplan for the overall site.

#### Sub-area Specific: East

##### Lighting

R46) Provide sports-lighting on one pitch at Aldermaston RFC.

R47) Provide sports-lighting on one pitch at Tadley RFC.

##### Grass and 3G

R48) After quality and capacity improvements have been made at Tadley RFC, 1 x additional grass pitch if and when demand requires it or provide an opportunity for club to access a WR22 3G if in close proximity, to support training demand in particular.

## **Cricket**

### WBC-wide

#### Security of tenure

C22) Assuming that unsecure sites can be secured for community use and other measures to improve existing capacity have been taken, consider providing 107 additional grass pitches, or 9 additional artificial pitches, or a combination of both grass and artificial is more realistic. This could be provided (on existing grounds rather than a new ground where feasible and where the provision of additional capacity equates to real availability on the days demand requires. Where the additional demand is for capacity at existing club home grounds and there is no additional capacity on days when new teams require pitch use, an additional new ground may be required should the team generating the demand not be willing to play at sites where there may be available capacity when it is required.

C23) Where the loss of an existing pitch or practice nets is unavoidable, provide replacement pitch capacity with secure community use to good quality standard in a location appropriate to demand to mitigate loss.

C24) Ensure that all new pitches and facilities have a secure community use agreement in place for the long-term (preferably in perpetuity) and that the appropriate body is identified to monitor and enforce such agreements.

#### Grass

C25) Ensure that the provision of any new pitches and facilities meet the most up-to-date quality design standards and dimensions supported by the NGB and Sport England.

C26) Ensure that any new facilities and other associated pitch infrastructure are provided to meet the most up-to-date Building

- Regulations, including, but not restricted to, those relating to accessibility.
- C27) Ensure that any new pitches and facilities have a sustainable long-term business and financial management plan in place to ensure long-term viability.
- C28) Seek to provide additional capacity, where needed, at (or, if this is not possible, within close proximity to) existing club home grounds as a preference over sites far from home grounds, where physical, ownership and planning constraints do not prevent such change. This will help to ensure the long-term financial stability of clubs given the social tradition and culture of the sport.
- C29) The total amount of additional supply should come from a variety of sources, i.e. the projected demand is unlikely to need to be delivered solely through additional, new, grass pitches. Increased capacity to this amount will come from a combination of:
- Improved maintenance on sites that are rated as poor which will increase the number of match equivalents that the pitch can sustain.
  - Provide replacement of surfaces (at artificial pitches) which will increase the number of match equivalents that the pitch can sustain.
  - Provide in situ practice nets for training to move the usage for training from the match pitches to the practice nets.
  - Provide additional grass or artificial pitches on existing sites to increase capacity, where feasible to do so.
  - Bringing disused pitches back into use where and when necessary, provided they are in close proximity to the identified demand (i.e. providing additional capacity on sites

- where grass pitches are not currently in use but where there have been pitches before);
- Provision of new additional grass pitches at new grounds provided they are in close proximity to the identified demand.

#### Delivery, operation and monitoring

- C30) The combination of provision between grass and artificial pitches will need to be provided to fit with real demand (for example, to match increased participation in the junior and women's game should it materialise as projected / targeted by the ECB / the County Cricket Board)<sup>17</sup>.
- C31) The management of existing supply and the balance between supply and demand should be closely monitored and provision managed to ensure that supply (i.e. grounds) is best suited to the type and format of the game played and when matches take place. The provision of additional pitches and / or facilities should also be closely co-ordinated between the NGB, clubs, league administrators, Sport England, the local authority, and the landowner (where the latter is not one of the aforementioned bodies) to ensure that additional supply responds to required demand.

#### Sustainability

- C32) Ensure that proposals for new pitches and ancillary facilities, are provided outside of relevant flood risk zones, or provision can be satisfactorily tested through the sequential and exceptions tests to mitigate satisfactorily against adverse impact and risk.
- C33) Ensure that any new facilities and other associated pitch infrastructure are provided to meet the most up-to-date Building

<sup>17</sup> While projections have made assumptions about use, should for example, adult team demand come forward more for midweek than weekend matches, the balance

between grass pitch and artificial pitch provision may need to change to reflect the preferred surface for midweek matches.

Regulations, including, but not restricted to, those relating to accessibility.

- C34) Ensure that any new facilities and other associated pitch infrastructure are provided to meet the most up-to-date Building Regulations, including, but not restricted to, those relating to accessibility.

Sub-area Specific: East

C35) Within this sub-area, the following measures should be taken to address the current and projected demand:

- Enable the supply of additional pitch capacity to accommodate existing overplay and future demand to a total equivalent capacity of 23 additional grass pitches, or 2 additional artificial pitches, or a combination of both grass and artificial is more realistic, across this sub-area.
- Providing for additional supply should come, broadly sequentially, following the process set out in the district-wide recommendation above in PROVIDE, bullet point ix).
- If additional pitches are required, capacity increases should be concentrated at the following sites as these clubs are continuing to grow and require additional facilities to service this growth. It should be noted these sites are already at or close to capacity so securing access to existing grounds with spare capacity or providing new grounds should be considered as a priority. Each site needs to undertake an assessment to identify exactly how much and where additional capacity can be provided.
  - Aldermarston Recreational Society
  - Englefield Road Recreation Ground
  - Jack's Booth Ground (Sulhampstead & Ufton CC)

Sub-area Specific: North and West

C36) Within this sub-area, the following measures should be taken to address the current and projected demand:

- Enable the supply of additional pitch capacity to accommodate existing overplay and future demand to a total equivalent capacity of 30 additional grass pitches, or 3 additional artificial pitch, or a combination of both grass and artificial is more realistic, across this sub-area.
- Providing for additional supply should come, broadly sequentially, following the process set out in the district-wide recommendation above in PROVIDE, bullet point ix).
- If additional pitches are required, capacity increases should be concentrated at the following sites as these clubs are continuing to grow and require additional facilities to service this growth. It should be noted these sites are already at or close to capacity so securing access to existing grounds with spare capacity or providing new grounds should be considered as a priority. Each site needs to undertake an assessment to identify exactly how much and where additional capacity can be provided.
  - Bradfield Playing Field
  - Goosecroft Recreation Ground
  - Hungerford CC
  - West Isley CC
  - Yattendon Cricket Ground

Sub-area Specific: South

C37) Within this sub-area, the following measures should be taken to address the current and projected demand:

- Enable the supply of additional pitch capacity to accommodate existing overplay and future demand to a total equivalent capacity of 59 additional grass pitches, or 5

additional artificial pitch, or a combination of both grass and artificial is more realistic, across this sub-area.

- Providing for additional supply should come, broadly sequentially, following the process set out in the district-wide recommendation above in PROVIDE, bullet point ix).
- If additional pitches are required, capacity increases should be concentrated at the following sites as these clubs are continuing to grow and require additional facilities to service this growth. It should be noted these sites are already at or close to capacity so securing access to existing grounds with spare capacity or providing new grounds should be considered as a priority. Each site needs to undertake an assessment to identify exactly how much and where additional capacity can be provided.
  - Falkland CC
  - Thatcham Town CC

## Lacrosse

### WBC-wide

- LA4) Ensure that, for the delivery of any 3G pitches, England Lacrosse is consulted and provision made if necessary, for lacrosse markings so that the pitch can host lacrosse. This includes 9v9 3G provision, given the anticipated interest in 6v6 lacrosse around the time of the 2028 Olympics.
- LA5) Provide Phoenix Lacrosse Club with a 'home' venue with three Lacrosse pitches to service their current membership and facilitate the growth of the club. Location to be close to Newbury and could be a shared site. Options to be agreed with the Phoenix Lacrosse Club (Newbury).

## Tennis

### WBC-wide

- T34) Support the development of new tennis and padel tennis facilities across multiple contexts. Consider parks, clubs, leisure centres and private-sector venues equally when identifying sites for new courts.
- T35) Only permit conversion of existing tennis courts to padel where an LTA-approved capacity assessment confirms that traditional tennis demand will continue to be met.
- T36) Insist on clear commitments to community use and accessible pricing models. A community use agreement should be recommended as a condition for planning permission.

Sub-area Specific: South

- T37) Henwick Worthy Sports Ground: provide new padel tennis courts.

## **Netball**

WBC-wide

- N15) Increase the number of dedicated netball courts to reduce conflicts from multi-use.

Sub-area Specific: North and West

- N16) In areas where existing sites are school-locked, explore off-site contributions or partnerships to create dedicated, community-accessible netball courts.

Sub-area Specific: South

- N17) Newbury Junior NC (110 members) currently struggles with inconsistent access at St Gabriel's. A dedicated venue or additional courts would secure regular training and match play.

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# West Berkshire Council

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

2024 - 2041

# Background Document 2: Guidance for LA officers

Produced by:  **Stuart Todd Associates**  
planning | policy | strategy | partnership

Produced for:  **West Berkshire**  
COUNCIL

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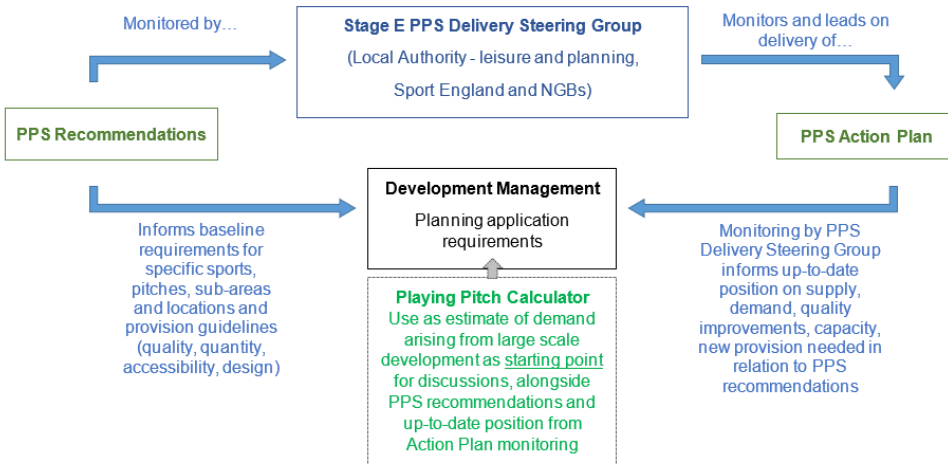
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# Planning Officer Guidance: using this Strategy

To aid use of the strategy by local authority planning officers, the diagram below aims to guide local authority officers on the key factors to think about when considering development proposals / planning applications.

## Guide to Interface between Delivery and Use of Strategy Recommendations to Inform Planning Applications



Within this context, the following section provides a guide for planning officers to aid use and application of this strategy when considering planning proposals.

## Guidance / “Thought Process”

- A. The PPS deals with pitch sports defined in the typology. It has had input from local clubs, sports governing bodies, Sport England and key stakeholders. Consider the diagram above for context and relationship between Development Management and this strategy.
- B. The Executive Summary provides a useful overview of the strategy and its findings in broad terms.
- C. If the proposal does or is likely to have an impact on existing or future provision / needs / demand, or it is simply unknown, initially discuss with ‘Planning Policy’ officers and or ‘Leisure’ officers. Conversations with Sport England and / or the relevant sports governing bodies (and Active Partnership, subject to the relevance of the proposal) will also likely prove helpful and will be essential for many proposals. Discussions should not always be confined to those on which Sport England is currently a statutory consultee.
- D. Identify where in the study area the proposal is and which sub-area it is within (or if it is on the edge of a sub-area).
- E. If on the edge of a sub-area, bear in mind that an appropriate response to development proposals may need to take into account demand from other adjoining sub-areas. Also consider the potential role of exported / imported demand from neighbouring local authority areas. The assessment report includes sections which consider these issues.
- F. Do not assume that the application of any existing Local Plan standards for on-site open space will provide the answer for pitch needs. Remember that appropriate provision for sport to respond to demand from development may not require an on-site solution but

might instead require off-site provision or contributions to satisfy demand from the development, often at an existing pitch site or club base.

G. In most cases, contributions for demand arising for hockey, rugby union, cricket and other or lesser played pitch sports will be required for existing site improvements to facilities and / or pitch quality or maintenance. This increases capacity at most sites to accommodate demand subject to practical useability of additional quality / supply at the times / days needed for teams. Detail of whether this is possible should be discussed with NGBs and / or Sport England initially. Off-site contributions are also likely to be preferable for football from smaller scale developments, particularly where the Playing Pitch Calculator demand suggests single pitch provision from the development's demand. Consideration should be given to the appropriate size of pitch needed and whether that size, age group using the pitch or local demand necessitates changing rooms / pavilion. NGBs and / or Sport England are likely to be able to advise in the first instance.

H. Early consideration is required of how financial contributions can or should be collected for sport (i.e. through CIL or s106) subject to an adopted CIL regime.

I. Contributions are most likely to be required to focus on addressing capacity at existing sites nearest to the proposal, although this will not always be the case. This should be discussed with NGBs

and / or Sport England in the first instance who maintain a strategic picture of demand during PPS delivery.

J. To understand the amount of land required for pitch sizes (and associated ancillary facilities) to be accommodated, refer to the most up-to-date dimensions standards. These can be found at <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/outdoor-surfaces>. Sport England also has Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance<sup>1</sup> which should also be considered.

K. A search in this Strategy and its Appendices and Background Documents (and in the technical Assessment Reports) for club, location or ground names will provide salient information about demand, supply and the needs of specific sites and pitches and importantly, recommendations specific to sites. For additional provision, consider recommendations in the "ENHANCE" and "PROVIDE" sections of the strategy. For protection against loss, consider "PROTECT" recommendations.

L. When considering recommendations of the strategy, they are split by sub-area in the Appendices and Background Documents. Recommendations are set out under the headings of "PROTECT", "ENHANCE" AND "PROVIDE". Detailed recommendations for sites are set out in full in Background Document 1 of this strategy and are also reproduced in the technical Assessment Reports.

M. Loss of pitches. The "bottom-line" in this strategy is protect all pitches from loss and to protect mothballed / disused / closed / unused

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-07/Biodiversity%20Report-v6-15.pdf?VersionId=QgRci4g9qEvzvcemqN4FgOMGkd8\\_ySgr](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-07/Biodiversity%20Report-v6-15.pdf?VersionId=QgRci4g9qEvzvcemqN4FgOMGkd8_ySgr)

pitches as a reserve of supply, for future use and to accommodate potential future demand. If unavoidable, replacement could be a solution. All proposals will need to meet requirements of the Sport England Playing Fields Policy.

N. Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator provides a “policy off” or “strategy neutral” calculation of demand which can arise from new development proposals. This tool should not be used in isolation and cannot be expected to provide a quick and accurate answer. It can, however, be used to give an estimation of demand and capital and revenue costs required to address new demand. Figures generated through the calculator should be used alongside the recommendations in this Strategy and to inform discussion of an appropriate response with NGBs and Sport England.

## How can housing developments contribute towards provision?

Sport England no longer support provision standards for playing pitches. The principal way of establishing a starting point for discussions about what on or off-site provision or financial contributions should be made from development can be derived by using Sport England’s playing pitch calculator. Provision can be made on or off-site, which should be determined through the planning process, with the most likely route for smaller developments being for off-site financial contributions being made towards improvement of existing pitches and ancillary facilities.

In cases where on-site provision is suggested, experience suggests that “provide and they will come” does not work for most pitch sports. Careful thought must be given the appropriateness, viability and practicalities of use, running and maintaining a pitch if in a location

away from an existing club’s home ground. Economies of scale and critical mass of members and volunteers required are also important factors, with provision of single pitch sites rarely representing good value or a practical solution when split sites draw members away from an existing home ground (therefore, introducing additional travel for some existing members / players) and where ancillary facilities also need to be provided at significant cost.

Careful consideration must also be given to not create single pitch community use sites where no existing club is prepared to play or run and maintain the site as a satellite location. Neither can it be automatically assumed that a new club will simply emerge from demand, given the need for volunteers and seed funds to establish a new club. It is also important to note that demand arising from the new population will occur incrementally as the development is delivered and occupied and that without sports infrastructure and “people capacity” in place at an early stage, demand will simply gravitate towards an existing club or clubs. This can often be the result of new residents moving to new developments who already live within the same housing market area – and it cannot be assumed that all new residents in a new development are new to the area and therefore these people will already have associations with existing sports clubs (and will be likely to retain them if travel time does not introduce an impediment such that it will stop them playing at their “home” club).

Operation of a satellite site for an existing club must be carefully thought through if this is considered to be a workable potential solution. For critical mass within age groups, it would be likely that a club would favour moving several age groups, for example, to a new satellite pitch. The implication can be that more existing players then have to travel further to the new satellite location than the alternative of

players arising from demand at a new development travelling to an existing club home ground. Support of NGBs is critical to realise effective and efficient creation of new clubs and / or the introduction of satellite sites for existing clubs.

Pooling or securing contributions from multiple sites can often be a more workable and appropriate solution for formal sports provision, if achievable within the planning system, where possible and where funds can be used to strengthen and improve capacity at existing club sites or can be channelled into strategic sports hub sites within a major development site to replace existing club sites where improvements and expansion of capacity could prove challenging in the longer-term.

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# **West Berkshire Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report Conclusions**

## **Background Document 3 – Maps Informing the Assessment**

January, 2026

**Key: PPS IDs**

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
T1	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T2	BOXFORD VILAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND (NEWBURY)	ROOD HILL HOUSE,BOXFORD,NEWBURY,RG20 8DD	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
AGP03	BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL	SAGE ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6SW	East	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP04	DENISON BARRACKS GYMNASIUM	GYMNASIUM,DENISON BARRACKS,OLD STREET,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9TP	North and West	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP05	DOWNE HOUSE SCHOOL	HERMITAGE ROAD,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9JL	South	Hockey	AGP - sand
AGP06	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP07	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Football	AGP - 3G
AGP08	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP09	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL	LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 5TY	East	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP10	MORTIMER ST MARYS JUNIOR SCHOOL	THE STREET,MORTIMER,READING,RG7 3PB	East	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP11	PANGBOURNE COLLEGE	PANGBOURNE HILL,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8LA	North and West	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP12	ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL	BUCKHOLD,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8QA	North and West	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP13	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL	ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6JP	South	Football	AGP - sand
AGP14	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP15	TRINITY SCHOOL	LOVE LANE,SHAW,NEWBURY,RG14 2DU	South	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP16	WILLINK LEISURE CENTRE	SCHOOL LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3XP	East	Hockey / Football	AGP - sand
AGP17	DENEFIELD SCHOOL	LONG LANE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6XY	East	Football	AGP - 3G
AGP18	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AN	North and West	Football	AGP - 3G
AGP19	St Nicolas C Of E Junior School	Link Rd, Newbury RG14 7LU	South	Football	AGP - sand
C001	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C002	ALDERMASTON VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB	THE PAVILLION,WASING PARK,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4NG	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
C003	ALDWORTH RECREATION GROUND	BELL LANE,ALDWORTH,READING,RG8 9SE	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C004	BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND (NEWBURY)	ROOD HILL HOUSE,BOXFORD,NEWBURY,RG20 8DD	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C005	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C006	BRADFIELD PLAYING FIELD	HEATH ROAD,SOUTHEND BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6HD	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C006p	BRADFIELD PLAYING FIELD	HEATH ROAD,SOUTHEND BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6HD	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C007	BRIGHTWALTON PLAYING FIELD	EDMUNDS COTTAGE,BRIGHTWALTON,NEWBURY,RG20 7DH	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C008	BROCKHURST & MARLSTON SCHOOL	MARLSTON HOUSE,MARLSTON,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9UL	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C008a	BROCKHURST & MARLSTON SCHOOL	MARLSTON HOUSE,MARLSTON,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9UL	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C009	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	JAMES LANE,BURGHFIELD,READING,RG30 3RS	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C010	CALCOT JUNIOR SCHOOL	CALCOT INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL,CURTIS ROAD,CALCOT,READING,RG31 4XG	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C011	CHADDLEWORTH CRICKET CLUB	BOTMOOR WAY,CHADDLEWORTH,NEWBURY,RG20 7EU	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C012a	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND,HIGH STREET,CHIEVELEY,NEWBURY,RG20 8TE	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C012p	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND,HIGH STREET,CHIEVELEY,NEWBURY,RG20 8TE	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C013	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	HERMITAGE ROAD,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9JH	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C013a	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	HERMITAGE ROAD,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9JH	South	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C014	DENEFIELD SCHOOL	LONG LANE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6XY	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C015	DENISON BARRACKS GYMNASIUM	GYMNASIUM,DENISON BARRACKS,OLD STREET,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9TP	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C015a	DENISON BARRACKS GYMNASIUM	GYMNASIUM,DENISON BARRACKS,OLD STREET,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9TP	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
C016	DONNINGTON RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,CASTLE LANE,DONNINGTON,NEWBURY,RG14 2LD	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C017	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	DOUAI PARK RECREATION GROUND,CODS HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TG	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C017p	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	DOUAI PARK RECREATION GROUND,CODS HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TG	East	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C018	EAST GARSTON MILLENNIUM FIELD	MILLENNIUM FIELD,HUMPHREYS LANE,EAST GARSTON,HUNGERFORD,RG17 7EX	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C019	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C020	ENGLEFIELD CRICKET CLUB	ST. MARKS HOUSE,ENGLEFIELD,READING,RG7 5EP	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C021	ENGLEFIELD ROAD RECREATION GROUND	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5AS	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C021p	ENGLEFIELD ROAD RECREATION GROUND	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5AS	East	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C022	FALKLAND CRICKET CLUB (Main ground)	Enborne Street, Newbury, RG14 6TW	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C022p	FALKLAND CRICKET CLUB (Main ground)	Enborne Street, Newbury, RG14 6TW	South	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C023	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,BEECH ROAD,PURLEY ON THAMES,READING,RG8 8BW	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C023a	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,BEECH ROAD,PURLEY ON THAMES,READING,RG8 8BW	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C023p	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,BEECH ROAD,PURLEY ON THAMES,READING,RG8 8BW	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C024	HAMPSTEAD NORREYS VILLAGE HALL	VILLAGE HALL,NEWBURY HILL,HAMPSTEAD NORREYS,THATCHAM,RG18 0TR	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C024a	HAMPSTEAD NORREYS VILLAGE HALL	VILLAGE HALL,NEWBURY HILL,HAMPSTEAD NORREYS,THATCHAM,RG18 0TR	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C024p	HAMPSTEAD NORREYS VILLAGE HALL	VILLAGE HALL,NEWBURY HILL,HAMPSTEAD NORREYS,THATCHAM,RG18 0TR	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C025	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C025a	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
C026	HUNGERFORD CRICKET CLUB	HUNGERFORD CRICKET CLUB,BULPIT LANE,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0BE	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C026p	HUNGERFORD CRICKET CLUB	HUNGERFORD CRICKET CLUB,BULPIT LANE,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0BE	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C027	INKPEN MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	POST OFFICE ROAD,INKPEN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 9PU	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C027a	INKPEN MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	POST OFFICE ROAD,INKPEN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 9PU	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C027p	INKPEN MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	POST OFFICE ROAD,INKPEN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 9PU	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C028	INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (CLOSED)	HIGH STREET,COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 7NN	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C029	JACK'S BOOTH GROUND (Main Ground)	BATH ROAD,SULHAMSTEAD,READING,RG7 5HP	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C029p	JACK'S BOOTH GROUND (Main Ground)	BATH ROAD,SULHAMSTEAD,READING,RG7 5HP	East	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C030	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AN	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C031a	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C032	LAMBOURN SPORTS CLUB	BOCKHAMPTON ROAD,LAMBOURN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 8PS	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C032a	LAMBOURN SPORTS CLUB	BOCKHAMPTON ROAD,LAMBOURN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 8PS	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C033	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	DETACHED PLAYING FIELDS,LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 4TT	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C034	LOWER WAY OPEN SPACE (CLOSED)	LOWER WAY,THATCHAM,RG19 3RR	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C035	MARY HARE SCHOOL	ARLINGTON MANOR,SNELSMORE COMMON,NEWBURY,RG14 3BQ	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C036	MEMBURY HOUSE CRICKET PITCH	MEMBURY HOUSE CRICKET PITCH,RAMSBURY ROAD,LAMBOURN WOODLANDS,HUNGERFORD,RG17 7TJ	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C037	MORTIMER FAIRGROUND	THE STREET,MORTIMER COMMON,READING,RG7 3RD	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
C038	MORTIMER WEST END PLAYING FIELD	MORTIMER FOOTBALL CLUB,THE PAVILLION,WEST END ROAD,MORTIMER COMMON,READING,RG7 3TX	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C038p	MORTIMER WEST END PLAYING FIELD	MORTIMER FOOTBALL CLUB,THE PAVILLION,WEST END ROAD,MORTIMER COMMON,READING,RG7 3TX	East	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C039	NORTHCROFT RECREATION GROUND	NORTHCROFT LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 1RS	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C039a	NORTHCROFT RECREATION GROUND	NORTHCROFT LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 1RS	South	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C039p	NORTHCROFT RECREATION GROUND	NORTHCROFT LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 1RS	South	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C040	PANGBOURNE COLLEGE	PANGBOURNE HILL,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8LA	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C041	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C041a	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C042	PEASEMORE VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB	WEST VIEW,PEASEMORE,NEWBURY,RG20 7JN	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C043	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	PLAY AREA,SPEEN RECREATION GROUND,STATION ROAD,SPEEN,NEWBURY,RG14 1UD	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C044	ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL	BUCKHOLD,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8QA	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C045	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL	ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6JP	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C046	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL (CLOSED)	ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6JP	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C047	THATCHAM MEMORIAL HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS	MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS,BATH ROAD,THATCHAM,RG18 3AG	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C048	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C048a	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C049a	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	HOLLYBUSH LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3JL	East	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C050a	TRINITY SCHOOL	LOVE LANE,SHAW,NEWBURY,RG14 2DU	South	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C051	WELFORD PARK CRICKET CLUB	WELFORD PARK,WELFORD,NEWBURY,RG20 8HP	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square

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C051p	WELFORD PARK CRICKET CLUB	WELFORD PARK,WELFORD,NEWBURY,RG20 8HP	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C052	WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB	THE JOHN VERNEY PAVILION,CATMORE ROAD,WEST ILSLEY,NEWBURY,RG20 7AT	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C052a	WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB	THE JOHN VERNEY PAVILION,CATMORE ROAD,WEST ILSLEY,NEWBURY,RG20 7AT	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C052p	WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB	THE JOHN VERNEY PAVILION,CATMORE ROAD,WEST ILSLEY,NEWBURY,RG20 7AT	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C053	YATTENDON CRICKET GROUND	THE CRICKET FIELD,CHURCH LANE,YATTENDON,THATCHAM,RG18 0UN	North and West	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C055a	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C056a	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	HOLLYBUSH LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3JL	East	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C057a	LINEAR PARK	18 CHARRINGTON ROAD, CALCOT, READING, RG31 7AW	East	Cricket	Cricket - artificial pitch
C058	FALKLAND CRICKET CLUB (2nd ground)	BELL HOLT,NEWBURY,RG14 6TW	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C058p	FALKLAND CRICKET CLUB (2nd ground)	BELL HOLT,NEWBURY,RG14 6TW	South	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C059	JACK'S BOOTH GROUND (2nd Ground)	BATH ROAD,SULHAMSTEAD,READING,RG7 5HP	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C061	JOHN RANKIN SCHOOL	JOHN RANKIN JUNIOR SCHOOL,HENSHAW CRESCENT,NEWBURY,RG14 6ES	South	Cricket	Junior
C062	THATCHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB	Brownsfield Rd, Thatcham RG18 3HF	South	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
C062p	THATCHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB	Brownsfield Rd, Thatcham RG18 3HF	South	Cricket	Cricket - practice nets
C063	STRATFIELD MORTIMER RECREATION GROUND	THE STREET,MORTIMER COMMON,READING,RG7 3RD	East	Cricket	Cricket - grass square
F001	ALDERMASTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	WASING LANE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4LX	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F002	ALDERMARSTON RECREATION GROUND (no pitches marked out)	Basingstoke Rd, Aldermaston, Reading RG7 4LX	East	Football	Other
F003	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Football	Adult Football
F004	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Football	Adult Football
F005	ALFRED PALMER MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	ALFRED PALMER MEMORIAL RECREATION FIELD,WEST END ROAD,READING,RG7 3TW	East	Football	Adult Football

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F006	ASHAMPSTEAD RECREATION GROUND	FLOWERS PIECE,ASHAMPSTEAD,READING,RG8 8SG	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F007	BARLOWS PARK	THE STACEY PAVILION,SILCHESTER ROAD,TADLEY,RG26 3BQ	Outside of area	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F008	BARLOWS PARK	THE STACEY PAVILION,SILCHESTER ROAD,TADLEY,RG26 3BQ	Outside of area	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F009	BARLOWS PARK	THE STACEY PAVILION,SILCHESTER ROAD,TADLEY,RG26 3BQ	Outside of area	Football	Adult Football
F010	BARLOWS PARK	THE STACEY PAVILION,SILCHESTER ROAD,TADLEY,RG26 3BQ	Outside of area	Football	Adult Football
F011	BARLOWS PARK	THE STACEY PAVILION,SILCHESTER ROAD,TADLEY,RG26 3BQ	Outside of area	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F012	BARLOWS PARK	THE STACEY PAVILION,SILCHESTER ROAD,TADLEY,RG26 3BQ	Outside of area	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F013	BASILDON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL	SCHOOL LANE,UPPER BASILDON,READING,RG8 8PD	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F014	BEEDON C OF E SCHOOL	STANMORE ROAD,BEEDON,NEWBURY,RG20 8SL	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F015	BIRCH COPSE PRIMARY SCHOOL	WITTENHAM AVENUE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 5LN	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F016	BLOSSOM FIELD	ENBORNE STREET,ENBORNE,NEWBURY,RG14 6RB	South	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F017	BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND (NEWBURY)	ROOD HILL HOUSE,BOXFORD,NEWBURY,RG20 8DD	North and West	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F018	BRADFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	COCK LANE,BRADFIELD SOUTHEND,READING,RG7 6HR	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F019	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F020	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F021	BRADFIELD PLAYING FIELD	HEATH ROAD,SOUTHEND BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6HD	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F022	BRIGHTWALTON PLAYING FIELD	EDMUNDS COTTAGE,BRIGHTWALTON,NEWBURY,RG20 7DH	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F023	BRIMPTON RECREATION GROUND (CLOSED)	CROOKHAM COMMON ROAD,CROOKHAM,THATCHAM,RG19 8EG	South	Football	Adult Football

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F024	BROCKHURST & MARLSTON SCHOOL	MARLSTON HOUSE, MARLSTON, HERMITAGE, THATCHAM, RG18 9UL	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F025	BROCKHURST & MARLSTON SCHOOL	MARLSTON HOUSE, MARLSTON, HERMITAGE, THATCHAM, RG18 9UL	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F026	BUCKLEBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL	BLACKLANDS ROAD, UPPER BUCKLEBURY, READING, RG7 6QP	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F027	BUCKLEBURY VILLAGE RECREATION GROUND	BUCKLEBURY ROAD, BUCKLEBURY, READING, RG7 6PR	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F028	BUCKNELLS MEADOW	BUCKNELLS MEADOW, MAPLEDURHAM DRIVE, PURLEY ON THAMES, READING, RG8 8BG	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F029	BURGHFIELD COMMON RECREATION GROUND	BURGHFIELD VILLAGE HALL, RECREATION ROAD, BURGHFIELD COMMON, READING, RG7 3EN	East	Football	Adult Football
F030	BURGHFIELD COMMON RECREATION GROUND	BURGHFIELD VILLAGE HALL, RECREATION ROAD, BURGHFIELD COMMON, READING, RG7 3EN	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F031	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	JAMES LANE, BURGHFIELD, READING, RG30 3RS	East	Football	Adult Football
F032	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	JAMES LANE, BURGHFIELD, READING, RG30 3RS	East	Football	Adult Football
F033	BURGHFIELD ST MARYS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	THEALE ROAD, BURGHFIELD, READING, RG30 3TX	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F034	CALCOT JUNIOR SCHOOL	CALCOT INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL, CURTIS ROAD, CALCOT, READING, RG31 4XG	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F035	CALCOT RECREATION GROUND	PARISH OFFICE, HIGH VIEW, CALCOT, READING, RG31 4XD	East	Football	Adult Football
F036	CALCOT RECREATION GROUND	PARISH OFFICE, HIGH VIEW, CALCOT, READING, RG31 4XD	East	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F037	CALCOT RECREATION GROUND	PARISH OFFICE, HIGH VIEW, CALCOT, READING, RG31 4XD	East	Football	Adult Football
F038	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND, HIGH STREET, CHIEVELEY, NEWBURY, RG20 8TE	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F039	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND, HIGH STREET, CHIEVELEY, NEWBURY, RG20 8TE	North and West	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F040	CITY RECREATION GROUND	CITY RECREATION GROUND, ANDOVER ROAD, NEWBURY, RG14 6LR	South	Football	Adult Football
F041	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	HERMITAGE ROAD, COLD ASH, THATCHAM, RG18 9JH	South	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F042	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	HERMITAGE ROAD, COLD ASH, THATCHAM, RG18 9JH	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F043	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	HERMITAGE ROAD, COLD ASH, THATCHAM, RG18 9JH	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F044	COMPTON RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,BURRELL ROAD,COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6NP	South	Football	Adult Football
F045	COTSWOLD RECREATION GROUND	DOWNS WAY,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6SL	East	Football	Adult Football
F046	COTSWOLD RECREATION GROUND	DOWNS WAY,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6SL	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F047	DENEFIELD SCHOOL	LONG LANE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6XY	East	Football	Adult Football
F048	DENEFIELD SCHOOL	LONG LANE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6XY	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F049	DENEFIELD SCHOOL	LONG LANE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6XY	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F050	DENISON BARRACKS GYMNASIUM	GYMNASIUM,DENISON BARRACKS,OLD STREET,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9TP	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F051	DENISON BARRACKS GYMNASIUM	GYMNASIUM,DENISON BARRACKS,OLD STREET,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9TP	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F052	DONNINGTON RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,CASTLE LANE,DONNINGTON,NEWBURY,RG14 2LD	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F053	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	DOUAI PARK RECREATION GROUND,CODS HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TG	East	Football	Adult Football
F054	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	DOUAI PARK RECREATION GROUND,CODS HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TG	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F055	DOWNSWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL	WARBRECK DRIVE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6FE	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F056	EAST GARSTON MILLENNIUM FIELD	MILLENNIUM FIELD,HUMPHREYS LANE,EAST GARSTON,HUNGERFORD,RG17 7EX	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F057	EAST GARSTON MILLENNIUM FIELD	MILLENNIUM FIELD,HUMPHREYS LANE,EAST GARSTON,HUNGERFORD,RG17 7EX	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F058	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F059	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F060	ENGLEFIELD ROAD RECREATION GROUND	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5AS	East	Football	Adult Football
F061	FARADAY ROAD STADIUM	FARADAY ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 2AD	South	Football	Adult Football
F062	FIR TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL	FIR TREE LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 2RA	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F063	FRANCIS BAILY PRIMARY SCHOOL	SKILLMAN DRIVE,THATCHAM,RG19 4GG	South	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F064	FRILSHAM PLAYING FIELD	THE ANNEXE AT,HATCHETS GATE,HATCHETS LANE,FRILSHAM,THATCHAM,RG18 9XE	North and West	Football	Adult Football

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F065	GARLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL	CLAYHILL ROAD,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3HG	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F066	GLADSTONE MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND	KINTBURY TENNIS CLUB,THE RECREATION GROUND,INKPEN ROAD,KINTBURY,HUNGERFORD,RG17 9TU	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F067	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,BEECH ROAD,PURLEY ON THAMES,READING,RG8 8BW	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F068	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,BEECH ROAD,PURLEY ON THAMES,READING,RG8 8BW	North and West	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F069	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,BEECH ROAD,PURLEY ON THAMES,READING,RG8 8BW	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F070	GREAT SHEFFORD RECREATION GROUND	CAMELOT,STATION ROAD,GREAT SHEFFORD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 7DR	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F071	HAMPSTEAD NORREYS VILLAGE HALL	VILLAGE HALL,NEWBURY HILL,HAMPSTEAD NORREYS,THATCHAM,RG18 0TR	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F072	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND M1 / 10b	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F073	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 1	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F074	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 5	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F075	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 9	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F076	HERMITAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL	HAMPSTEAD NORREYS ROAD,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9SA	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F077	HERMITAGE VILLAGE HALL	HERMITAGE VILLAGE HALL,PINEWOOD CRESCENT,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9WL	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F078	HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	PLAYING FIELDS,HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL,FAIRVIEW ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0BT	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F079	HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	PLAYING FIELDS,HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL,FAIRVIEW ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0BT	North and West	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F080	HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	PLAYING FIELDS,HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL,FAIRVIEW ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0BT	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F081	HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	PLAYING FIELDS,HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL,FAIRVIEW ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0BT	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F082	HUNGERFORD RECREATION GROUND FOOTBALL FIELD	BULPIT LANE,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AY	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F083	INKPEN MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	POST OFFICE ROAD,INKPEN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 9PU	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F084	INKPEN MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	POST OFFICE ROAD,INKPEN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 9PU	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F085	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AN	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F086	JOHN RANKIN SCHOOL	JOHN RANKIN JUNIOR SCHOOL,HENSHAW CRESCENT,NEWBURY,RG14 6ES	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F087	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	Football	Adult Football
F088	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F089	KENNETT VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL	CARTERS RISE,CALCOT,READING,RG31 7YT	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F090	LAMBOURN SPORTS CLUB	BOCKHAMPTON ROAD,LAMBOURN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 8PS	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F091	LAMBOURN SPORTS CLUB	BOCKHAMPTON ROAD,LAMBOURN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 8PS	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F092	LECKHAMPSTEAD PLAYING FIELD	EGYPT HILL,LECKHAMPSTEAD,NEWBURY,RG20 8QF	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F093	LINEAR PARK	RECREATION GROUND,CHARRINGTON ROAD,CALCOT,READING,RG31 7AT	East	Football	Adult Football
F094	LINEAR PARK	RECREATION GROUND,CHARRINGTON ROAD,CALCOT,READING,RG31 7AT	East	Football	Adult Football
F095	LINEAR PARK	RECREATION GROUND,CHARRINGTON ROAD,CALCOT,READING,RG31 7AT	East	Football	Adult Football
F096	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	DETACHED PLAYING FIELDS,LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 4TT	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F097	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	DETACHED PLAYING FIELDS,LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 4TT	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F098	MARY HARE SCHOOL	ARLINGTON MANOR,SNELSMORE COMMON,NEWBURY,RG14 3BQ	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F099	MOORSIDE (no pitches marked out)	COLDSTREAM WAY,THATCHAM,RG19 4PS	South	Football	Adult Football
F100	MORTIMER ST MARYS JUNIOR SCHOOL	THE STREET,MORTIMER,READING,RG7 3PB	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F101	ALFRED PALMER MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	MORTIMER FOOTBALL CLUB,THE PAVILLION,WEST END ROAD,MORTIMER COMMON,READING,RG7 3TX	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F102	ALFRED PALMER MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	MORTIMER FOOTBALL CLUB,THE PAVILLION,WEST END ROAD,MORTIMER COMMON,READING,RG7 3TX	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F103	NORTH STREET PLAYING FIELD	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5FJ	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F104	NORTH STREET PLAYING FIELD	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5FJ	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F105	NORTHCROFT RECREATION GROUND	NORTHCROFT LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 1RS	South	Football	Adult Football
F106	NORTHCROFT RECREATION GROUND	NORTHCROFT LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 1RS	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F107	NORTHCROFT RECREATION GROUND	NORTHCROFT LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 1RS	South	Football	Adult Football
F108	PADWORTH VILLAGE HALL	PADWORTH LANE,LOWER PADWORTH,READING,RG7 4HY	East	Football	Adult Football
F109	PANGBOURNE COLLEGE	PANGBOURNE HILL,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8LA	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F110	PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL	PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL,KENNEDY DRIVE,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 7LB	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F111	PANGBOURNE RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,THAMES AVENUE,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 7BY	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F112	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Football	Adult Football
F113	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Football	Adult Football
F114	PARSONS DOWN PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS	HERONS WAY,THATCHAM,RG19 3SR	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F115	SHEFFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	WANTAGE ROAD,GREAT SHEFFORD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 7DB	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F116	SMITHAM BRIDGE PLAY PARK	SMITHAM BRIDGE ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0QP	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F117	SOUTHDOWN ROAD RECREATION GROUND (no pitches marked out)	10 Southdown Rd, Tadley RG26 4BT	Outside of area	None	Other
F118	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	PLAY AREA,SPEEN RECREATION GROUND,STATION ROAD,SPEEN,NEWBURY,RG14 1UD	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F119	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	PLAY AREA,SPEEN RECREATION GROUND,STATION ROAD,SPEEN,NEWBURY,RG14 1UD	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F120	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	PLAY AREA,SPEEN RECREATION GROUND,STATION ROAD,SPEEN,NEWBURY,RG14 1UD	South	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F121	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	PLAY AREA,SPEEN RECREATION GROUND,STATION ROAD,SPEEN,NEWBURY,RG14 1UD	South	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F122	SPEENHAMLAND SCHOOL	PELICAN LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 1NU	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F123	SPURCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL	SPURCROFT ROAD,THATCHAM,RG19 3XX	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F124	SRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL	BARTON ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 5NJ	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F125	ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL	BUCKHOLD,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8QA	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F126	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL (ENBORNE ROAD PITCHES)	ENBORNE ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6AT	South	Football	Adult Football
F127	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL (ENBORNE ROAD PITCHES)	ENBORNE ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6AT	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F128	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL (ENBORNE ROAD PITCHES)	ENBORNE ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6AT	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F129	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL (FIFTH ROAD PITCHES)	RECREATION GROUND,FIFTH ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6DT	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F130	ST FINIANS RC SCHOOL	THE RIDGE,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9HU	South	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F131	ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL	SANDLEFORD PRIORY,NEWTOWN ROAD,NEWTOWN,NEWBURY,RG20 9BD	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F132	ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL	SANDLEFORD PRIORY,NEWTOWN ROAD,NEWTOWN,NEWBURY,RG20 9BD	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F133	ST JOSEPHS R C PRIMARY SCHOOL	NEWPORT ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 2AW	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F134	ST PAULS R.C PRIMARY SCHOOL	CITY ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 4SZ	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F135	STOCKCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL	CHAPEL ROAD,STOCKCROSS,NEWBURY,RG20 8LD	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F136	STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND	THE RECREATIONAL GROUND,CHAPEL ROAD,STOCKCROSS,NEWBURY,RG20 8LW	North and West	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F137	STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND	THE RECREATIONAL GROUND,CHAPEL ROAD,STOCKCROSS,NEWBURY,RG20 8LW	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F138	STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND	THE RECREATIONAL GROUND,CHAPEL ROAD,STOCKCROSS,NEWBURY,RG20 8LW	North and West	Football	Adult Football

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F139	STREATLEY RECREATION GROUND	CLEEVE COURT LODGE,STREATLEY,READING,RG8 9PR	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F140	THATCHAM MEMORIAL HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS	MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS,BATH ROAD,THATCHAM,RG18 3AG	South	Football	Adult Football
F141	THE CASTLE SCHOOL (NEWBURY)	LOVE LANE,DONNINGTON,NEWBURY,RG14 2JG	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F142	THE DIAMOND	GREENHAM LODGE,PIGEONS FARM ROAD,THATCHAM,RG19 8XA	South	Football	Adult Football
F143	THE MOORS PLAYING FIELDS	LOWER WAY SPORTS FIELD,THE MOORS,THATCHAM,RG19 3LB	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F144	THE MOORS PLAYING FIELDS	LOWER WAY SPORTS FIELD,THE MOORS,THATCHAM,RG19 3LB	South	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F145	THE TRIANGLE FIELD	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AR	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F146	THE TRIANGLE FIELD	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AR	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F147	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	HOLLYBUSH LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3JL	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F148	THE WILLOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL	PYLE HILL,NEWBURY,RG14 7SJ	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F149	THE WINCHCOMBE SCHOOL	FLAT,WINCHCOMBE SCHOOL,MAPLE CRESCENT,NEWBURY,RG14 1LN	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F150	THEALE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL	THEALE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL,ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5AS	East	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F151	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	Football	Adult Football
F152	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	Football	Adult Football
F153	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F154	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F155	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F156	BULPIT LANE	CLUBHOUSE,TOWN GROUND,BULPIT LANE,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AY	North and West	Football	Adult Football
F157	TRINITY SCHOOL	LOVE LANE,SHAW,NEWBURY,RG14 2DU	South	Football	Adult Football
F158	TRINITY SCHOOL	LOVE LANE,SHAW,NEWBURY,RG14 2DU	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F159	TURNHAMS FARM RECREATION GROUND	TURNHAMS FARM FOOTBALL GROUND,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 4TT	North and West	Football	Adult Football

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F160	UPPER BASILDON RECREATION GROUND	BETHESDA STREET,READING,RG8 8NU	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F161	VICTORIA PARK (NEWBURY)	VICTORIA PARK,PARK WAY,NEWBURY,RG14 1EH	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F162	WASH COMMON	WASH COMMON RECREATION GROUND,BATTLE ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NX	South	Football	Adult Football
F163	WATERSIDE PARK	WATERSIDE PARK,CROOKHAM HILL,THATCHAM,RG19 4PA	South	Football	Adult Football
F164	WATERSIDE PARK	WATERSIDE PARK,CROOKHAM HILL,THATCHAM,RG19 4PA	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F165	WESTWOOD FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL	FULLBROOK CRESCENT,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6RY	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F166	WHITELANDS PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL	SAGECROFT ROAD,THATCHAM,RG18 3FH	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F167	ALFRED PALMER MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	ALFRED PALMER MEMORIAL RECREATION FIELD,WEST END ROAD,READING,RG7 3TW	East	Football	Adult Football
F168	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Football	Adult Football
F169	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F170	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F171	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F172	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F173	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F174	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	DETACHED PLAYING FIELDS,LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 4TT	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F175	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	DETACHED PLAYING FIELDS,LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 4TT	North and West	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F176	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	JAMES LANE,BURGHFIELD,READING,RG30 3RS	East	Football	Adult Football
F177	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	JAMES LANE,BURGHFIELD,READING,RG30 3RS	East	Football	Adult Football
F178	BURGHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION	JAMES LANE,BURGHFIELD,READING,RG30 3RS	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F179	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	HOLLYBUSH LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3JL	East	Football	Adult Football

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F180	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	HOLLYBUSH LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3JL	East	Football	Adult Football
F181	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND,HIGH STREET,CHIEVELEY,NEWBURY,RG20 8TE	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F182	ST FINIANS RC SCHOOL	THE RIDGE,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9HU	South	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F183	BUCKLEBURY VILLAGE RECREATION GROUND	BUCKLEBURY ROAD,BUCKLEBURY,READING,RG7 6PR	North and West	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F184	TRINITY SCHOOL	LOVE LANE,SHAW,NEWBURY,RG14 2DU	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F185	BUCKLEBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL	BLACKLANDS ROAD,UPPER BUCKLEBURY,READING,RG7 6QP	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F186	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F187	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 2	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Adult Football
F188	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 3	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Adult Football
F189	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 4	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Adult Football
F190	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	DOUAI PARK RECREATION GROUND,CODS HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TG	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F191	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	DOUAI PARK RECREATION GROUND,CODS HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TG	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F192	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	DOUAI PARK RECREATION GROUND,CODS HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TG	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F193	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND M2 / 10a	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F194	NORTH STREET PLAYING FIELD	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5FJ	East	Football	Adult Football
F195	Chaddleworth St. Andrew's & Shefford Church of England Federated Primary Schools (Shefford site)		North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F196	Chieveley Primary School		North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F197	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Youth Football 11v12

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F198	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F199	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F200	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F201	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F202	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F203	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F204	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F205	HERMITAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL	HAMPSTEAD NORREYS ROAD,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9SA	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 5V5
F206	JOHN RANKIN SCHOOL	JOHN RANKIN JUNIOR SCHOOL,HENSHAW CRESCENT,NEWBURY,RG14 6ES	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F207	JOHN RANKIN SCHOOL	JOHN RANKIN JUNIOR SCHOOL,HENSHAW CRESCENT,NEWBURY,RG14 6ES	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F208	HUTTON CLOSE		South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F209	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F210	Robert Sandilands Primary School & Nursery		South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F211	ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL	SANDLEFORD PRIORY,NEWTOWN ROAD,NEWTOWN,NEWBURY,RG20 9BD	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F212	THE MOORS PLAYING FIELDS	LOWER WAY SPORTS FIELD,THE MOORS,THATCHAM,RG19 3LB	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F213	CALCOT RECREATION GROUND	PARISH OFFICE,HIGH VIEW,CALCOT,READING,RG31 4XD	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F214	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	PLAY AREA,SPEEN RECREATION GROUND,STATION ROAD,SPEEN,NEWBURY,RG14 1UD	South	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5
F215	HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	PLAYING FIELDS,HUNGERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL,FAIRVIEW ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0BT	North and West	Football	Mini Soccer 5v5

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
F216	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AN	North and West	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F217	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AN	North and West	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F218	NORTH STREET PLAYING FIELD	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5FJ	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F219	NORTH STREET PLAYING FIELD	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5FJ	East	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F220	NORTH STREET PLAYING FIELD	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5FJ	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F221	NORTH STREET PLAYING FIELD	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5FJ	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F222	NORTH STREET PLAYING FIELD	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5FJ	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F223	NORTH STREET PLAYING FIELD	ENGLEFIELD ROAD,THEALE,READING,RG7 5FJ	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F224	PADWORTH VILLAGE HALL	PADWORTH LANE,LOWER PADWORTH,READING,RG7 4HY	East	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F225	BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL	SAGE ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6SW	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F226	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F227	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F228	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F229	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F230	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 10 / 10c	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Youth Football 9v9
F230	LINEAR PARK	RECREATION GROUND,CHARRINGTON ROAD,CALCOT,READING,RG31 7AT	East	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
F231	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 8	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Adult Football
F232	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND 6	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Football	Youth Football 11v11
F233	SPEEN RECREATION GROUND	PLAY AREA,SPEEN RECREATION GROUND,STATION ROAD,SPEEN,NEWBURY,RG14 1UD	South	Football	Mini Soccer 7v7
H1	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Hockey	Hockey - grass

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
H10	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	HOLLYBUSH LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3JL	East	Hockey	Hockey - grass
H11	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	Hockey	Hockey - grass
H2	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Hockey	Hockey - grass
H3	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	Hockey	Hockey - grass
H4	MARY HARE SCHOOL	ARLINGTON MANOR,SNELSMORE COMMON,NEWBURY,RG14 3BQ	North and West	Hockey	Hockey - grass
H5	PANGBOURNE COLLEGE	PANGBOURNE HILL,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8LA	North and West	Hockey	Hockey - grass
H6	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Hockey	Hockey - grass
H7	ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL	BUCKHOLD,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8QA	North and West	Hockey	Hockey - grass
H8	ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL	SANDLEFORD PRIORY,NEWTOWN ROAD,NEWTOWN,NEWBURY,RG20 9BD	South	Hockey	Hockey - grass
H9	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Hockey	Hockey - grass
LAC1	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Lacrosse	Lacrosse
LAC2	DOWNE HOUSE SCHOOL GRASS PITCHES	HERMITAGE ROAD,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9JL	South	Lacrosse	Lacrosse
LAC3	ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL	BUCKHOLD,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8QA	North and West	Lacrosse	Lacrosse
LAC4	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL	ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6JP	South	Lacrosse	Lacrosse
LAC5	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL (CLOSED)	ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6JP	South	Lacrosse	Lacrosse
LAC6	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL (FIFTH ROAD PITCHES)	RECREATION GROUND,FIFTH ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6DT	South	Lacrosse	Lacrosse
LAC7	JOHN RANKIN SCHOOL	JOHN RANKIN JUNIOR SCHOOL,HENSHAW CRESCENT,NEWBURY,RG14 6ES	South	Lacrosse	Junior
MU1	BRADFIELD PLAYING FIELD	HEATH ROAD,SOUTHEND BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6HD	North and West	MUGA	MUGA
MU10	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	MUGA	MUGA
MU11	COTSWOLD SPORTS CENTRE	DOWNS WAY,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6SL	East	MUGA	MUGA

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
AGP01	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Tennis	AGP - sand
AGP02	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Tennis	AGP - sand
MU14	BEEDON C OF E SCHOOL	STANMORE ROAD,BEEDON,NEWBURY,RG20 8SL	North and West	Netball	MUGA
MU15	BRADFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	COCK LANE,BRADFIELD SOUTHEND,READING,RG7 6HR	North and West	Netball	MUGA
MU16	BURGHFIELD COMMON RECREATION GROUND	BURGHFIELD VILLAGE HALL,RECREATION ROAD,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3EN	East	MUGA	MUGA
MU17	THE CASTLE SCHOOL (NEWBURY)	LOVE LANE,DONNINGTON,NEWBURY,RG14 2JG	South	MUGA	MUGA
MU18	Chaddleworth St. Andrew's & Shefford Church of England Federated Primary Schools (Chaddleworth site)		North and West	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU19	Chaddleworth St. Andrew's & Shefford Church of England Federated Primary Schools (Shefford site)		North and West	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU20	DENEFIELD SCHOOL	LONG LANE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6XY	East	Netball	MUGA
MU21	Cold Ash St Mark's CE Primary School		South	Netball	MUGA
MU22	THE WILLINK SCHOOL	SCHOOL LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3XJ	East	MUGA	Tennis
MU23	THE WILLINK SCHOOL	SCHOOL LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3XJ	East	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU28	HUNGERFORD LEISURE CENTRE	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AL	North and West	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU29	HUNGERFORD LEISURE CENTRE	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AL	North and West	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU3	COTSWOLD RECREATION GROUND	DOWNS WAY,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6SL	East	MUGA	MUGA
MU31	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU32	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU37	Inkpen Primary School		North and West	MUGA	MUGA
MU38	MARY HARE SCHOOL	ARLINGTON MANOR,SNELSMORE COMMON,NEWBURY,RG14 3BQ	North and West	MUGA	Tennis and Netball

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
MU39	CITY RECREATION GROUND	CITY RECREATION GROUND,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6LR	South	MUGA	MUGA
MU40	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU41	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU42	Robert Sandilands Primary School & Nursery		South	MUGA	MUGA
MU43	Robert Sandilands Primary School & Nursery		South	Netball	MUGA
MU44	Robert Sandilands Primary School & Nursery		South	Netball	MUGA
MU45	ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL	SANDLEFORD PRIORY,NEWTOWN ROAD,NEWTOWN,NEWBURY,RG20 9BD	South	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU46	St John the Evangelist Infant and Nursery School		South	MUGA	MUGA
MU47	ST JOSEPHS R C PRIMARY SCHOOL	NEWPORT ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 2AW	South	Netball	MUGA
MU48	ST FINIANS RC SCHOOL	THE RIDGE,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9HU	South	Netball	MUGA
MU49	STRATFIELD MORTIMER RECREATION GROUND	THE STREET,MORTIMER COMMON,READING,RG7 3RD	East	MUGA	MUGA
MU5	Hermitage Village Hall	HERMITAGE VILLAGE HALL,PINEWOOD CRESCENT,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9WL	North and West	MUGA	MUGA
MU50	THE WINCHCOMBE SCHOOL	FLAT,WINCHCOMBE SCHOOL,MAPLE CRESCENT,NEWBURY,RG14 1LN	South	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU51	TRINITY SCHOOL	LOVE LANE,SHAW,NEWBURY,RG14 2DU	South	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU52	Yattendon CE Primary School		North and West	Netball	MUGA
MU53	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU54	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU6	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	MUGA	Tennis and Netball
MU7	INKPEN MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS	POST OFFICE ROAD,INKPEN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 9PU	North and West	MUGA	MUGA
MU8	HUNGERFORD LEISURE CENTRE	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AL	North and West	MUGA	Netball and Football
MU9	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	MUGA	MUGA

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
R001	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R002	BROCKHURST & MARLSTON SCHOOL	MARLSTON HOUSE,MARLSTON,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9UL	North and West	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R003	BROCKHURST & MARLSTON SCHOOL	MARLSTON HOUSE,MARLSTON,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9UL	North and West	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R004	DENEFIELD SCHOOL	LONG LANE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6XY	East	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R005	DENISON BARRACKS GYMNASIUM	GYMNASIUM,DENISON BARRACKS,OLD STREET,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9TP	North and West	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R006	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R007	ELSTREE SCHOOL	SCHOOL HOUSE,ELSTREE SCHOOL,WOOLHAMPTON HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TD	East	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R008	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R009	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AN	North and West	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R010	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R011	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	DETACHED PLAYING FIELDS,LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 4TT	North and West	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R012	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R013	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R014	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R015	PANGBOURNE COLLEGE	PANGBOURNE HILL,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8LA	North and West	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R016	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R017	ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL	BUCKHOLD,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8QA	North and West	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R018	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL	ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6JP	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R019	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL (CLOSED)	ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6JP	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R020	TADLEY RFC (FRANK JOSE PARK)	FRANK JOSE PARK,RED LANE,RED LANE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PA	East	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
R021	TADLEY RFC (FRANK JOSE PARK)	FRANK JOSE PARK,RED LANE,RED LANE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PA	East	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R022	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R023	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R024	THE TRIANGLE FIELD	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AR	North and West	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R025	THE TRIANGLE FIELD	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AR	North and West	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R026	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	HOLLYBUSH LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3JL	East	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R027	THEALE GREEN SCHOOL	CHURCH STREET,READING,RG7 5DA	East	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R028	TRINITY SCHOOL	LOVE LANE,SHAW,NEWBURY,RG14 2DU	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R029	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R030	HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND	PLAYING FIELDS,HENWICK WORTHY SPORTS GROUND,HENWICK LANE,THATCHAM,RG18 3BN	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R031	THE TRIANGLE FIELD	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AR	North and West	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R032	THE TRIANGLE FIELD	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AR	North and West	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R033	ALDERMASTON RECREATIONAL SOCIETY	AWE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PR	East	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R034	TADLEY RFC (FRANK JOSE PARK)	FRANK JOSE PARK,RED LANE,RED LANE,ALDERMASTON,READING,RG7 4PA	East	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R035	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R036	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R037	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union
R038	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R039	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R040	NEWBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB	MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Rugby Union	Mini / midi Rugby
R041	JOHN RANKIN SCHOOL	JOHN RANKIN JUNIOR SCHOOL,HENSHAW CRESCENT,NEWBURY,RG14 6ES	South	Rugby Union	Junior
R042	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Rugby Union	Senior Rugby Union

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
RFL1	STREATLEY RECREATION GROUND	CLEEVE COURT LODGE,STREATLEY,READING,RG8 9PR	North and West	Rugby League	Mini / midi Rugby
ROU1	BIRCH COPSE PRIMARY SCHOOL	WITTENHAM AVENUE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 5LN	East	Rounders	Rounders
ROU10	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AN	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU11	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	Rounders	Rounders
ROU12	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	DETACHED PLAYING FIELDS,LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL,LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 4TT	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU13	MARY HARE SCHOOL	ARLINGTON MANOR,SNELSMORE COMMON,NEWBURY,RG14 3BQ	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU14	PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL	PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL,KENNEDY DRIVE,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 7LB	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU15	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Rounders	Rounders
ROU16	SRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL	BARTON ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 5NJ	East	Rounders	Rounders
ROU17	ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL	BUCKHOLD,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8QA	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU18	THE CASTLE SCHOOL (NEWBURY)	LOVE LANE,DONNINGTON,NEWBURY,RG14 2JG	South	Rounders	Rounders
ROU19	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU2	BRADFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	COCK LANE,BRADFIELD SOUTHEND,READING,RG7 6HR	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU20	THE WILLINK SCHOOL PITCHES	HOLLYBUSH LANE,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3JL	East	Rounders	Rounders
ROU21	TRINITY SCHOOL	LOVE LANE,SHAW,NEWBURY,RG14 2DU	South	Rounders	Rounders
ROU22	WESTWOOD FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL	FULLBROOK CRESCENT,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6RY	East	Rounders	Rounders
ROU23	HERMITAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL	HAMPSTEAD NORREYS ROAD,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9SA	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU24	JOHN RANKIN SCHOOL	JOHN RANKIN JUNIOR SCHOOL,HENSHAW CRESCENT,NEWBURY,RG14 6ES	South	Rounders	Junior
ROU3	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU4	BROCKHURST & MARLSTON SCHOOL	MARLSTON HOUSE,MARLSTON,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9UL	North and West	Rounders	Rounders

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
ROU5	BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL	SAGE ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6SW	East	Rounders	Rounders
ROU6	BUCKLEBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL	BLACKLANDS ROAD,UPPER BUCKLEBURY,READING,RG7 6QP	North and West	Rounders	Rounders
ROU7	DENEFIELD SCHOOL	LONG LANE,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6XY	East	Rounders	Rounders
ROU8	DOWNE HOUSE SCHOOL GRASS PITCHES	HERMITAGE ROAD,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9JL	South	Rounders	Rounders
ROU9	GARLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL	CLAYHILL ROAD,BURGHFIELD COMMON,READING,RG7 3HG	East	Rounders	Rounders
S1	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Softball	Softball
S2	BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL	SAGE ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 6SW	East	Softball	Softball
S3	KENNET SCHOOL	STONEY LANE,THATCHAM,RG19 4LL	South	Softball	Softball
S4	PARK HOUSE SCHOOL	239,ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6NQ	South	Softball	Softball
S5	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL (ENBORNE ROAD PITCHES)	ENBORNE ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6AT	South	Softball	Softball
S6	THE DOWNS SCHOOL	COMPTON,NEWBURY,RG20 6AD	North and West	Softball	Softball
S7	TRINITY SCHOOL	LOVE LANE,SHAW,NEWBURY,RG14 2DU	South	Softball	Softball
MU12	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Tennis and Netball	MUGA
T3	BRADFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX	SPORTS COMPLEX,BRADFIELD,READING,RG7 6BZ	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T4	BUCKLEBURY TENNIS CLUB	BUCKLEBURY VILLAGE HALL,BROAD LANE,BROAD LANE,UPPER BUCKLEBURY,READING,RG7 6QH	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T5	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND	CHIEVELEY RECREATION GROUND,HIGH STREET,CHIEVELEY,NEWBURY,RG20 8TE	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T6	COLD ASH RECREATION GROUND	HERMITAGE ROAD,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9JH	South	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T8	DAVID LLOYD (NEWBURY)	LAND WEST OF NEWBURY RUGBY CLUB,MONKS LANE,NEWBURY,RG14 7RW	South	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T9	DE VERE WOKEFIELD ESTATE	PIERCES FARM,GOODBOYS LANE,MORTIMER,READING,RG7 3AH	East	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T11	DENISON BARRACKS GYMNASIUM	GYMNASIUM,DENISON BARRACKS,OLD STREET,HERMITAGE,THATCHAM,RG18 9TP	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T12	DOUAI PARK PLAYING FIELDS	DOUAI PARK RECREATION GROUND,CODS HILL,UPPER WOOLHAMPTON,READING,RG7 5TG	East	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
T13	DOWNE HOUSE SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE	DOWNE HOUSE,HERMITAGE ROAD,COLD ASH,THATCHAM,RG18 9JJ	South	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T15	GLADSTONE MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND	KINTBURY TENNIS CLUB,THE RECREATION GROUND,INKPEN ROAD,KINTBURY,HUNGERFORD,RG17 9TU	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T16	GOOSECROFT RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,BEECH ROAD,PURLEY ON THAMES,READING,RG8 8BW	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T19	HUNGERFORD TENNIS CLUB	HUNGERFORD TENNIS CLUB,THE CROFT,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0HY	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T21	JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL	PRIORY ROAD,HUNGERFORD,RG17 0AN	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T23	LAMBOURN SPORTS CLUB	BOCKHAMPTON ROAD,LAMBOURN,HUNGERFORD,RG17 8PS	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T24	LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL	LITTLE HEATH ROAD,TILEHURST,READING,RG31 5TY	East	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T44	MARY HARE SCHOOL	ARLINGTON MANOR,SNELSMORE COMMON,NEWBURY,RG14 3BQ	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T26	MERCURE NEWBURY ELCOT PARK HOTEL	ELCOT,NEWBURY,RG20 8NJ	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T27	NEWBURY TENNIS CLUB	LAWN TENNIS CLUB,POPLAR PLACE,NEWBURY,RG14 1NA	South	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T28	PADWORTH COLLEGE	SOPERS LANE,PADWORTH,READING,RG7 4NR	East	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T29	PANGBOURNE COLLEGE	PANGBOURNE HILL,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8LA	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T30	PANGBOURNE RECREATION GROUND	RECREATION GROUND,THAMES AVENUE,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 7BY	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T32	ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL	BUCKHOLD,PANGBOURNE,READING,RG8 8QA	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
MU13	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL	ANDOVER ROAD,NEWBURY,RG14 6JP	South	Tennis and Netball	MUGA
T34	STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND	THE RECREATIONAL GROUND,CHAPEL ROAD,STOCKCROSS,NEWBURY,RG20 8LW	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T35	STRATFIELD MORTIMER RECREATION GROUND	THE STREET,MORTIMER COMMON,READING,RG7 3RD	East	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor

PPS Pitch ID	Site Name	Address	Sub Area	Sport	Pitch Type
T36	THATCHAM MEMORIAL HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS	MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS,BATH ROAD,THATCHAM,RG18 3AG	South	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T37	THE CASTLE SCHOOL (NEWBURY)	LOVE LANE,DONNINGTON,NEWBURY,RG14 2JG	South	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T40	UPPER BASILDON RECREATION GROUND	BETHESDA STREET,READING,RG8 8NU	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T41	VICTORIA PARK (NEWBURY)	VICTORIA PARK,PARK WAY,NEWBURY,RG14 1EH	South	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T42	WEST ILSLEY CRICKET CLUB	THE JOHN VERNEY PAVILION,CATMORE ROAD,WEST ILSLEY,NEWBURY,RG20 7AT	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor
T43	YATTENDON AND FRILSHAM TENNIS CLUB	VILLAGE HALL,ROAD KNOWN AS YATTENDON LANE,YATTENDON,THATCHAM,RG18 0UE	North and West	Tennis	Tennis - outdoor

**.pdf Map files**



Football teams heat map.pdf



Fball 5v5 com use.pdf



Fball 9v9 com use.pdf



Fball Yth 11v11 com use.pdf



Fball 11v11 adult com use.pdf



Fball pitches com use and IMD.pdf



Fball not avail IMD.pdf



Fball com use 7v7.pdf



3G football use 20 min catchment.pdf



3Gs and top 20% IMD.pdf



Sand full size football use 20 min catchments



size football use 20 m



Hockey clubs and IMD areas.pdf



HC full size and lit AGPs only 20 min cat



min catchment.pdf



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IMD top 20% cricket used zoom.pdf



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Cricket disused.pdf



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Cricket RAG all whole district PPS ID.pdf



Cricket Green PPS ID.pdf



Cricket Amber PPS ID.pdf



Cricket Amber Names.pdf



Tennis - Map 2 - Catchment Analysis  
 Tennis - Map 1 - Overview of LTA Regi  
 Tennis - Map 4 - Top 20% IMD with all tenr  
 Tennis - Map 3 - LTA Non-Registered Sites



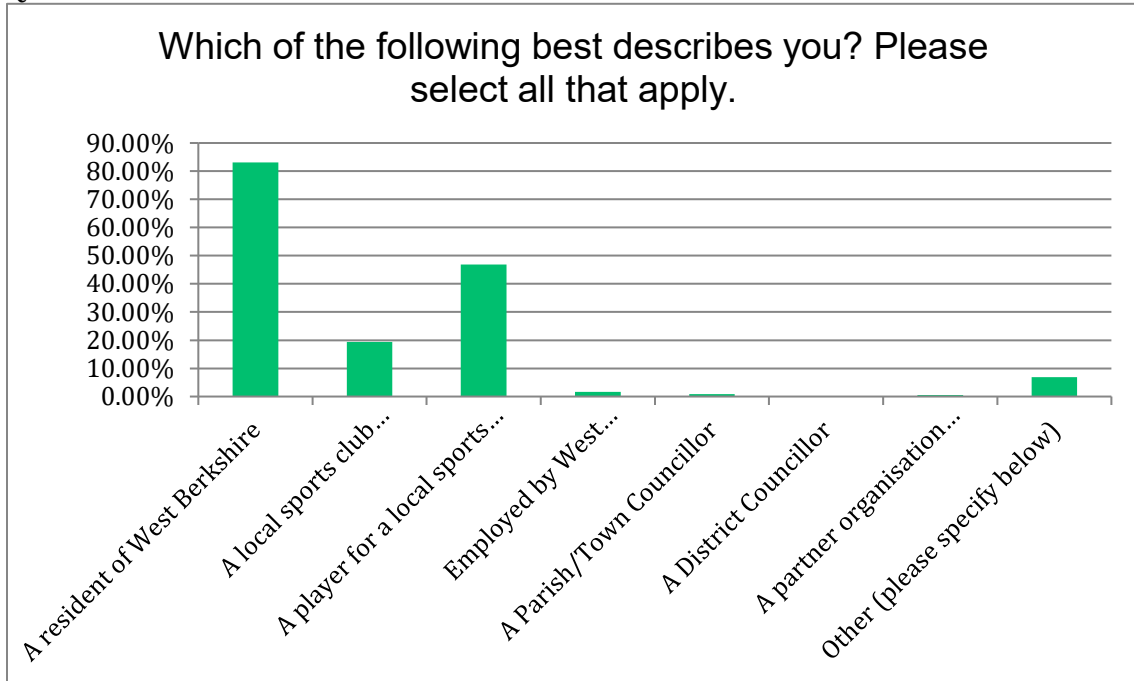
Netball - Map 2 - Catchment Analysis  
 Netball - Map 1 - Overview of EN Mem  
 Netball - Map 4 - Top 20% IMD with all nett  
 Netball - Map 3 - EN Non-Member & Infor



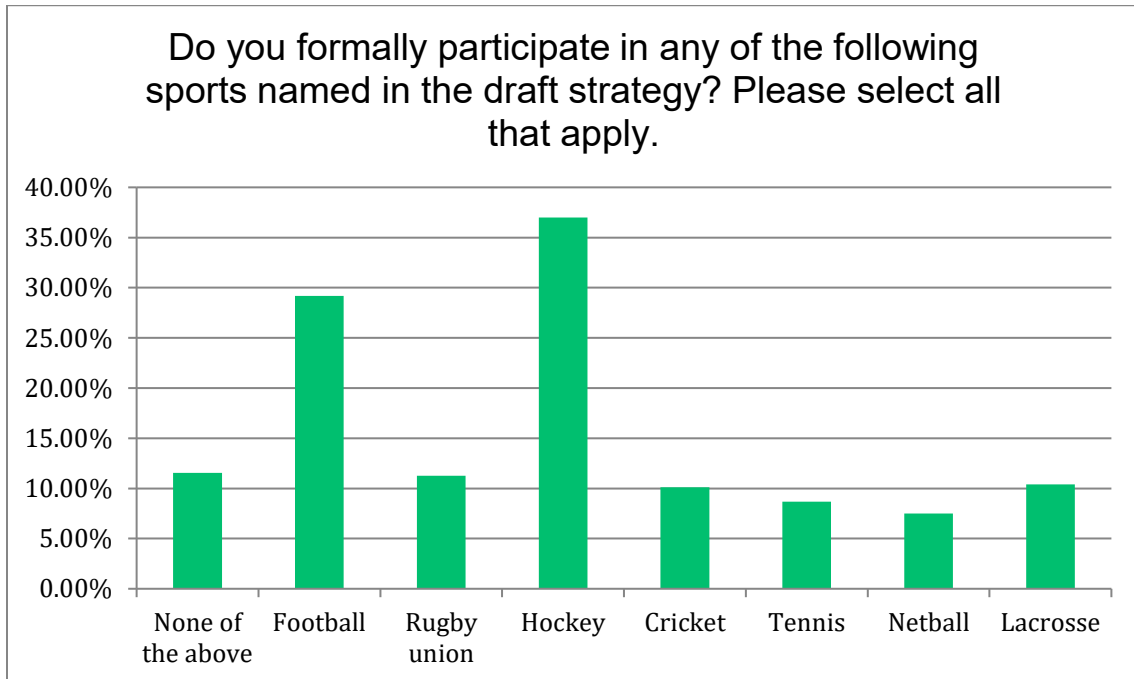
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## Consultation Questions – Summary of Responses

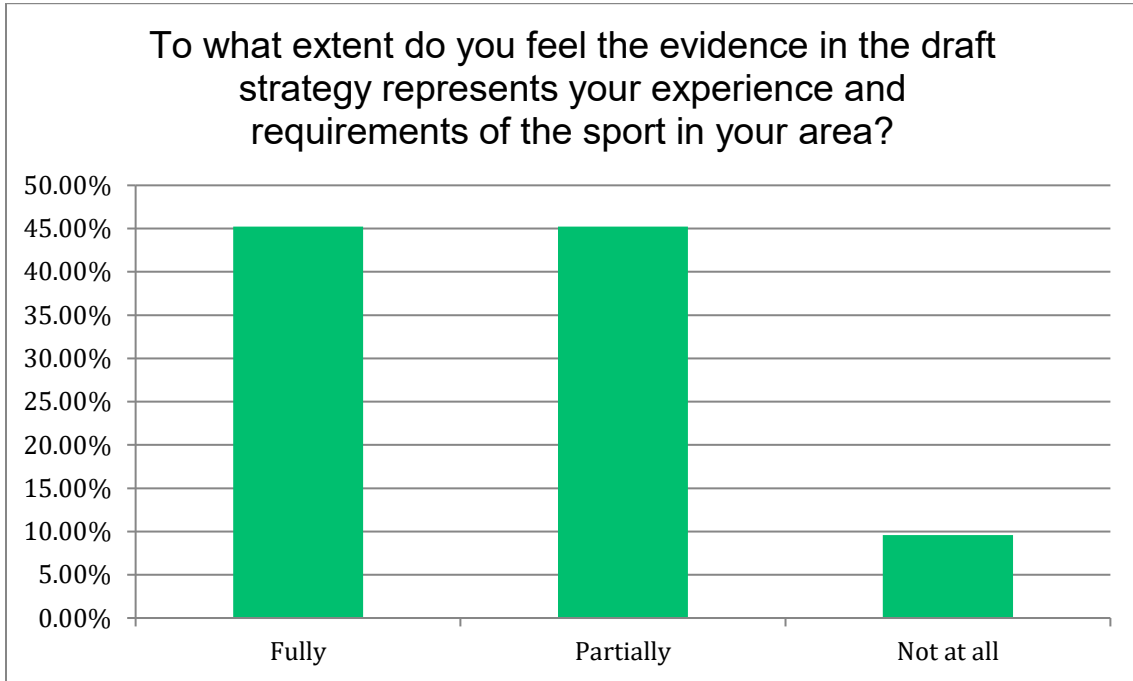
Q1



Q2

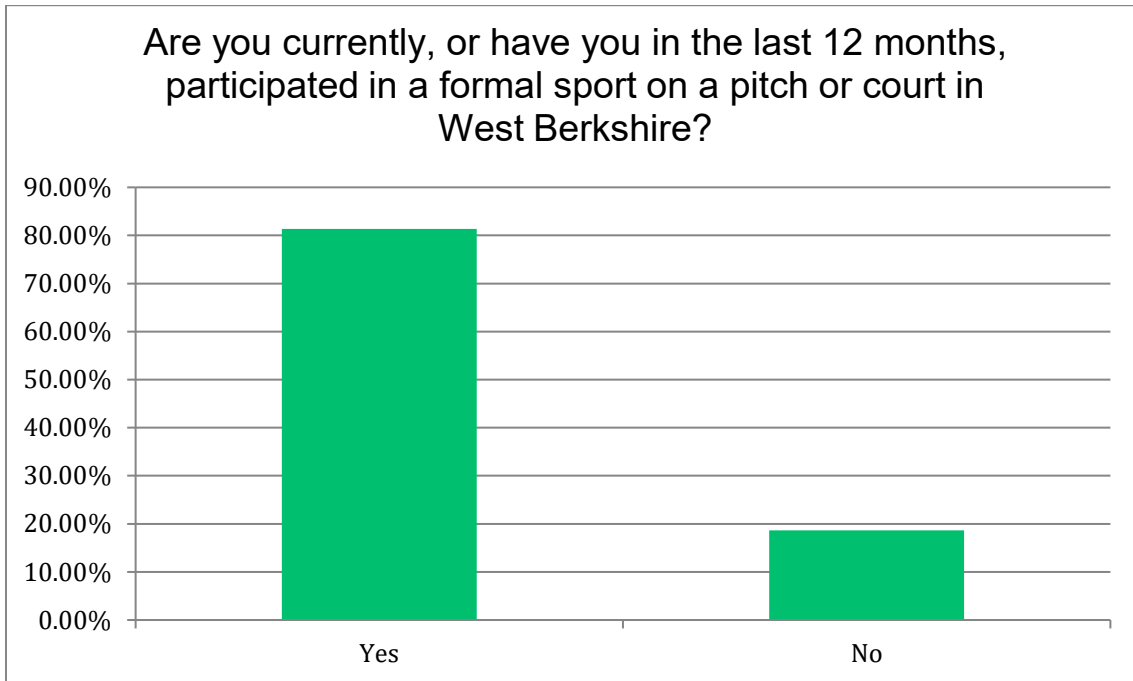


Q3



Question No.	Q4
Question	What adjustments could be made to the draft strategy to ensure your sporting participation is included?
Summary of Responses	Respondents called for improvements to pitch availability, access, and quality, with emphasis on the need for a second full-size, floodlit hockey pitch at Henwick. There were calls for improvements to supporting infrastructure, security of tenure for clubs and clearer actions, funding routes, and delivery mechanisms.

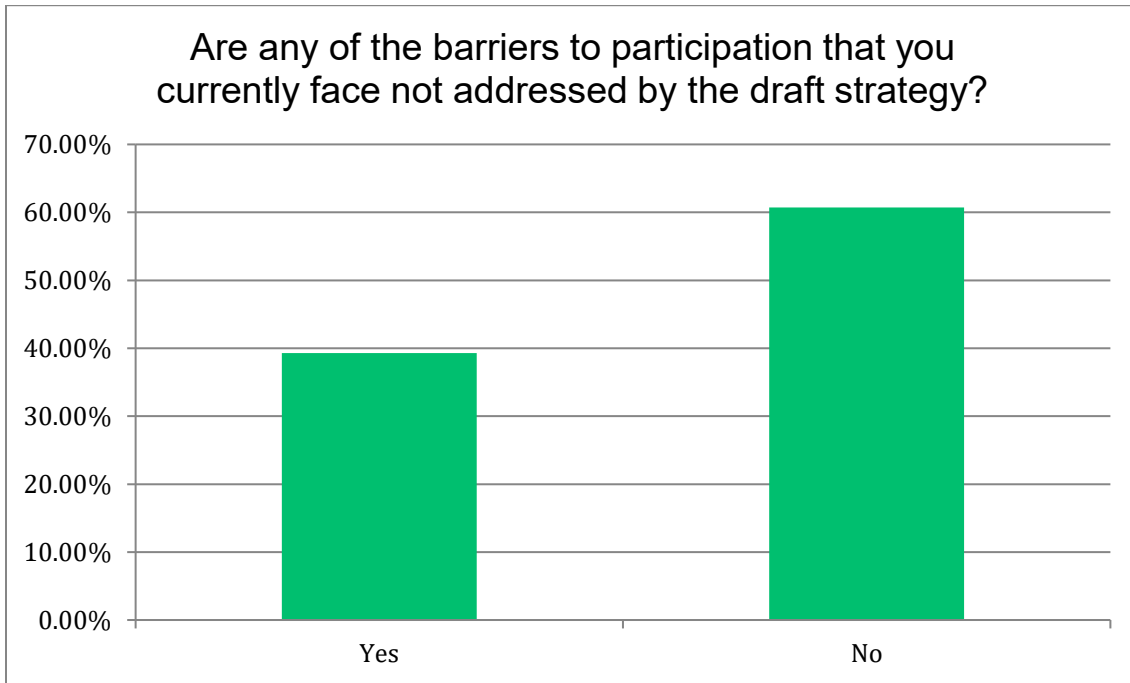
Q5



Question No.	Q6
Question	Do you feel the recommendations in the draft strategy would enhance your opportunities to participate in sporting activities?
Summary of Responses	Respondents felt the strategy could enhance participation, if delivered in full and at pace. It was felt that timely delivery, adequate infrastructure, and affordability were crucial

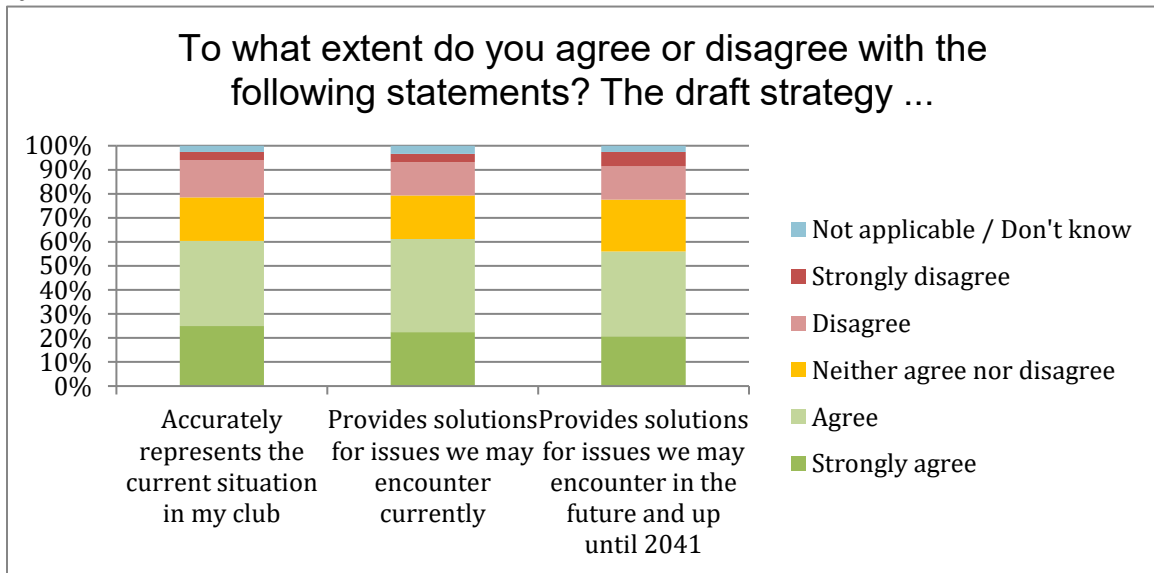
Question No.	Q7
Question	Do you currently face any of the following barriers to participating in sporting activities?
Summary of Responses	Barriers included limited pitch availability, late training slots, poor pitch condition, lack of facilities, cost, travel, and accessibility constraints.

Q8



Question No.	Q9
Question	If you feel the strategy could provide solutions to the barriers you face, please provide information below.
Summary of Responses	Respondents highlighted delivering additional pitches, improved infrastructure, security of tenure, affordability measures and better maintenance, as key solutions.

Q10



Question No.	Q11
Question	Is the draft strategy clear and easy to understand?
Summary of Responses	The strategy was viewed as generally clear but greater detail on delivery, timelines, funding, and site-specific actions was requested

Question No.	Q12
Question	Do you have any further comments you'd like to share about the draft strategy?
Summary of Responses	Further comments reinforced the need for urgent delivery, protection of key sites, adequate capacity, affordability, and confidence that the strategy will be implemented with accountability.

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## Review of Ethical Investment Policy Relating to the Council and Berkshire Pension Fund

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	21 May 2026
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Vicky Poole
<b>Report Author:</b>	Richard Howroyd

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### 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 A Motion was submitted to Council at its meeting of the 16 October 2025, and following debate, Council resolved to:
- Request that the Executive review its own investments and request that those of the Berkshire Pension Fund are reviewed to identify any direct or indirect holdings in companies that are supplying arms, military technology, or logistical support which enable breaches of international law in Gaza.
  - Work with its asset managers to take steps to end such investments and strongly request, through its representative, that the Berkshire Pension Fund does the same.
- 1.2 At the meeting of West Berkshire Council that took place on the 27 November meeting, a Petition was submitted entitled "*Berkshire Pension Fund divestment from companies complicit in Israeli genocide and apartheid*".

### 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Executive are informed of the outcome of a review that has taken place in response to the Motion submitted to Council on the 16 October, and the Petition submitted on the 27 November relating to investments and that no further action will be taken.

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary			
<b>Financial:</b>	Whilst there are no direct implications from the report any changes to the Council's investment policy will have consequences in terms of financial return on investment			
<b>Human Resource:</b>	Not Applicable			
<b>Legal:</b>	<p>There are specific legal issues around non commercial considerations relating to public supply and works contracts with relation to Section 17 of the Local Government Act 1988</p> <p>It is the duty of every public authority in relation to its public supply or works contracts, regulated by this section to exercise that function without reference to matters which are non-commercial matters for the purposes of this section.</p> <p>(e) the country or territory of origin of supplies to, or the location in any country or territory of the business activities or interests of contractors;</p> <p>(f) any political, industrial or sectarian affiliations or interests of contractors or their directors, partners or employees;</p>			
<b>Risk Management:</b>	Not applicable			
<b>Property:</b>	Not Applicable			
<b>Policy:</b>	Not Applicable			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				

<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		No implications
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		No implications
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		X		No implications
<b>Health Impact:</b>		X		No implications
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		X		No implications
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		No implications
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>		X		No implications
<b>Core Business:</b>		X		No implications
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		No implications
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	This report is in response to a motion and petition to Executive			

## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The Motion requested that the Council review its own investments and that those of the Berkshire Pension Fund are reviewed to identify any direct or indirect holdings in companies that are supplying arms, military technology, or logistical support which enable breaches of international law in Gaza. The Executive was also asked to work

with its asset managers to take steps to end such investments and strongly request, through its representative, that the Berkshire Pension Fund does the same.

- 4.2 A petition was also submitted requesting that the Council *“commit to divest the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) fund administered by the Berkshire Pension Fund from companies complicit in Israel’s genocide and apartheid against Palestinians. This includes arms companies supplying Israel with weapons and military technology; companies providing infrastructure for Israel’s unlawful military occupation of Palestinian land; and companies conducting business activity in Israel’s illegal settlements on stolen Palestinian land. End procurement contracts with any companies complicit in Israel’s attacks. Terminate all banking arrangements with NatWest, which provides financing to companies supplying Israel with weapons and companies linked to illegal settlements on stolen Palestinian land.”*
- 4.3 This report responds to the Motion and the Petition received.

## 5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Council has limited funds invested and keeps working capital to the minimum of £10m that has been deemed prudent in the Investment & Borrowing Strategy and gives us the status of a professional investor under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II commonly known as MiFID 2. Funds available for investment tend to be driven by short term timing differences in our cashflow.
- 5.2 We have requested confirmation of the above from CCLA Investment Management and from Goldman Sachs, both of whom are manage some elements of our investments when we do have surplus cash. CCLA confirmed that the Public Sector Deposit Fund (PSDF) will only invest in sterling denominated investments and deposits. The Fund’s principal investments comprise certificates of deposit, call accounts and term deposits with banks and building societies.
- 5.3 While the PSDF may also invest in other securities such as commercial paper, floating rate notes and bonds which may be issued or guaranteed as to principal or interest by sovereign government and their agencies, supranational entities, corporations and financial institutions, there are no such investments at this time (Nov 25), therefore there are no fund holdings, direct or indirect that fall into the categories listed in the query.
- 5.4 They also confirmed that the PSDF only has exposure to banks and the UK Government and none of the banks they have exposure to are domiciled in Israel.
- 5.5 Goldman Sachs provided a lengthy prospectus in which they state that they as investment managers, adhere to the Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) criteria by avoiding investment in debt securities issued by corporate issuers that are, in the opinion of the investment manager, directly engaged in, and/or deriving significant revenue (the threshold of “significant” is determined by the investment manager) from the following activities:
- Production of and/or involvement in controversial weapons (including nuclear weapons); and
  - production or sale of tobacco; and

- extraction, production or generation of certain fossil fuels (thermal coal, shale gas and oil, oil sands, and arctic oil and gas): and
  - production or sale of civilian firearms; and
  - operation of private prisons
- 5.6 The Fund also promotes environmental and/or social characteristics related to support for human rights, labour standards and anti-corruption and reduction of environmental footprint by excluding from its investment universe companies the investment manager believes to be violating the United Nations Global Compact's ten principles (which are widely recognised corporate sustainability principles that meet fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption) using the proprietary approach to assess good governance practices with the additional use of data provided by third party vendors.
- 5.7 The Berkshire Pension Fund were able to provide a comprehensive response to the question, confirming that they have been under significant pressure for a considerable time in respect of this issue and have done a lot of work identifying such investments and responding to public questions and FOI requests on this topic.
- 5.8 In respect of responses to previous public questions at the Pension Fund Committee, please see below:
- 5.9 [Agenda for Berkshire Pension Board on Monday 17 March 2025, 11.00 am](#) 17 March 2025: minutes Responsible Investment item (page 8 of 12)
- 5.10 [Agenda for Berkshire Pension Fund Committee on Monday 16 June 2025, 4.00 pm](#) 16 June 2025: written response to public question; minutes Responsible Investment item (page 11 of 12)
- 5.11 At the Pension Fund Committee meeting on 15 September 2025 [Agenda for Berkshire Pension Fund Committee on Monday 15 September 2025, 4.00 pm](#), there was a very long discussion about the Fund's revised Responsible Investment (RI) Policy: **Agenda item 5d report, draft policy, draft minutes (pages 3 to 6 of 11)**. This discussion also covered the process for divestment from companies/sectors at a very high level.
- 5.12 All the Pension Fund's investments are managed by its investment pool, Local Pensions Partnership Investments (LPPI), who regularly monitor and report on investments connected to Israel, specifically against the UN OPT List. This is a list of businesses involved in certain activities in illegal (as defined by the United Nations) Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory. As of September 2025, it listed 158 business enterprises from 11 countries. At the end of October, the Fund held only one investment included on the list: Booking Holdings Inc – the subject of a prolonged debate at the Committee on 15 September 2025. This investment forms 1.347% of the Fund's Global Equity holdings (approximate value £25m – out of total investment holdings of £3.4 billion).
- 5.13 A question has been raised with the LPPI regarding "companies that are supplying arms, military technology, or logistical support", but based on holdings at the end of

October, the Fund had exposure to the following companies classified as “Aerospace/Defence”:

- BAE Systems
- GE Aerospace
- Heico Corp
- Joby Aviation
- Rocket Lab Corp

5.14 Total exposure was 2.958% of the Global Equity Fund (approx. £56m)

5.15 The Fund has a fiduciary duty to its scheme members and employers to invest in such a way as to ensure it can pay current and future benefits to its members, while meeting a secondary objective of maintaining affordability of employer contributions.

5.16 The Fund classes itself as a Responsible Investor, as stated in the RI policy (see 5.20). It prefers engagement with companies to effect change, rather than divestment, although this may be applied if all efforts and engagement prove unsuccessful in generating the required change.

5.17 Divestment is not a simple process, particularly as the Fund is invested in pooled vehicles, which are used by other Local Government Pension Scheme Funds. Agreement would need to be obtained from all partner funds to instruct LPPI to divest and would then be subject to LPPI’s own due diligence and scrutiny process, before any action could be taken.

5.18 Should agreement with partner funds not be obtained, the Fund would need to consider whether it wanted to act alone, in which case a separate investment vehicle would need to be created, bespoke to Berkshire, which would likely be very costly to implement. Full discovery on this course of action has not yet been undertaken, but it is on the minds of the committee members, and work is being undertaken in the background to explore the scenarios.

5.19 The Committee asked Officers to review the statements in the draft RI policy in respect of the Fund’s approach to Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (CAHRAs), and a revised policy was presented to the Committee in December. [Pension Fund Committee Monday 8 December 2025, 4.00](#)

5.20 The Fund relies on the LPPI Position statement on conflict affected areas [LPPI Position statement on conflict-affected areas - June 2025.pdf](#), in which LPPI define their approach to integrating these factors in their investment decision making process.

5.21 Engagement with investee companies is undertaken on behalf of LPPI by Robeco, and the Fund is also a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) which undertakes collective engagement on behalf of its member LGPS funds. The Fund publishes the reports from those bodies, detailing the engagement work undertaken, on

its website here: [Responsible Investment | Berkshire Pension Fund](#) . This area also includes the quarterly RI reports presented to the committee by LPPI at each meeting.

- 5.22 The Fund invites representatives on the Pension Advisory Panel to attend all working groups held in the formation of the revised RI policy and to attend all Committee meetings to represent the interests of West Berkshire in the Fund's decision making process.
- 5.23 Regarding the authorities banking arrangements, the current contract was tendered in 2020 and extended for another 5 years in 2025 to 2030.
- 5.24 Regarding procurement, the Council cannot incorporate non-commercial matters within its procurement processes under the Public Contract Regulation 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023.
- 5.25 Section 17 of the Local Government Act 1988 does not allow the country of origin to influence the decision of a procurement of any value and is likely to result in a legal challenge if a Contracting Authority was to do so. This is very specific to Local Authorities and was originally put on the statute book because of the boycotting of Barclays Bank by many Councils over connections to South Africa. It recently impacted on Councils ability to terminate contracts with Russian controlled energy companies.
- 5.26 Section 17(1) *"It is the duty of every public authority to which this section applies, in exercising, in relation to its public supply or works contracts, any proposed or any subsisting such contract, as the case may be, any function regulated by this section to exercise that function without reference to matters which are non-commercial matters for the purposes of this section."*
- 5.27 Section 17(5) *"The following matters are non-commercial matters as regards the public supply or works contracts of a public authority, any proposed or any subsisting such contract, as the case may be, that is to say—*
- (a) the terms and conditions of employment by contractors of their workers or the composition of, the arrangements for the promotion, transfer or training of or the other opportunities afforded to, their workforces;*
  - (b) whether the terms on which contractors contract with their sub-contractors constitute, in the case of contracts with individuals, contracts for the provision by them as self-employed persons of their services only;*
  - (c) any involvement of the business activities or interests of contractors with irrelevant fields of Government policy;*
  - (d) the conduct of contractors or workers in industrial disputes between them or any involvement of the business activities of contractors in industrial disputes between other persons;*
  - (e) the country or territory of origin of supplies to, or the location in any country or territory of the business activities or interests of, contractors;*
  - (f) any political, industrial or sectarian affiliations or interests of contractors or their directors, partners or employees;*

*(g) financial support or lack of financial support by contractors for any institution to or from which the authority gives or withholds support;*

*(h) use or non-use by contractors of technical or professional services provided by the authority under the Building Act 1984 or the Building (Scotland) Act*

5.28 Section 17 of the Act has recently been reviewed to align it with the Procurement Act 2023 by the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The Local Government (Exclusion of Non-commercial Considerations) (England) Order 2026 has been laid before Parliament. This will resolve some of the issues around section 17 but will not change the legal position in this case or in relation to any country where a trade treaty is in place

## 6 Other options considered

6.1 Report is for information only

## 7 Conclusion

7.1 A review has been conducted in response to the Motion and Petition that were submitted to meetings of West Berkshire Council. It has concluded that the Council and Berkshire Pension Fund have robust processes in place to minimise exposure to conflict zone investments and companies. The Council will continue to monitor the position but will take no further action.

## 8 Appendices

8.1 None

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### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position

Considered or reviewed by one of the Council's Scrutiny Committees or associated Task Groups within the preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

**Wards affected:** No specific wards affected

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**Officer details:**

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Tel No:  
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# Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report 2024/2025

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	21 May 2026
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Stuart Gourley
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	23 February 2026
<b>Report Author:</b>	Emily Ashton-Jelley and Helen Ramsey

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report. The Annual Progress Report covers the period from July 2024 through to July 2025. It is, however, part of the continuous story of how the council is addressing climate change, biodiversity enhancements and promoting environmental sustainability in West Berkshire.
- 1.2. The report includes a summary of achievements as well as an update on the council’s carbon footprint for financial year 2024 / 2025 and looks ahead to how existing and new projects will assist the Council in achieving Net Zero by 2030 with a ‘pathway to Net Zero’ graph. A key finding from this year’s report is the council’s carbon emissions have reduced by 38% compared with the baseline year (2019/20).

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. To present and note the latest 2024/2025 Progress Report on the Environment Strategy (as included in Appendix C) and agree its publication on the Council’s website.

## 3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	There are no direct funding implications as a result of this report. Projects and actions already underway are funded by existing approved budgets and/or external funding. Teams across the council will use the budget setting process to plan for future programmes and secure funding for them.

<b>Human Resource:</b>	There are no direct HR implications as a result of this report.
<b>Legal:</b>	There are no direct Legal implications as a result of this report.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	A high-level risk register has been developed for the Environment Strategy. This is reported to the Net Zero Steering Group and kept under review.
<b>Property:</b>	There are no direct property implications as a result of this report. Whilst there are projects discussed or indicated in the Pathway to Net Zero that impact on the council's property portfolio, these are projects that are already approved and nothing new is being proposed through this report.
<b>Policy:</b>	Priority Area: 3. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency. This annual progress report aims to demonstrate how the Environment Strategy is being delivered and will play a part in informing and shaping relevant Council policies and plans across the organisation. With the introduction of the Sustainability Assessment Tool last year, this is assisting in increasing the influence and understanding of the Environment Strategy and how the Council can address the climate and ecological emergencies as well as other important health and wellbeing outcomes through its policies, plans and events. The Sustainability Assessment Tool is also helping to guide staff and Members on how they can assist in delivering environmental outcomes within their roles.

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		No impact directly as a result of the annual progress report. Across the Delivery Plan this will need to be dealt with on a project-by-project basis through the PMM process to ensure delivery does not have a negative impact.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		No impact directly as a result of the annual progress report. Across the Delivery Plan this will need to be dealt with on a project-by-project basis through the PMM process to ensure delivery does not have a negative impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics.

<p><b>Environmental Impact:</b></p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The purpose of the annual progress report is to demonstrate the delivery of the <a href="#">Environment Strategy</a> which seeks to have a positive impact on the environment in numerous ways addressing both the climate and ecological emergencies declared by the council. It has a primary target of achieving net zero on Council operations by 2030. An outline of the Council's vision can be found in section 4 of the Environment Strategy. As the projects within the Delivery Plan are implemented, consideration will be given in the detailed planning stages as to whether there are unintended negative environmental impacts that require mitigation. The Sustainability Assessment Tool will help determine and mitigate against any negative impacts of projects. The ecological emergency declared by the Council in 2023, will add further focus for positive environmental improvement and will be assisted by a framework to drive positive change as well as identifying collaboration and engagement opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Health Impact:</b></p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The Annual Progress Report does not have a direct impact on health outcomes, however the projects and activities within the Environment Strategy Delivery Plan that have a focus on carbon reduction will have health benefits through a reduction in air pollution. Some projects delivered to date are not purely focused on outcomes that reduce carbon and seek to improve health and wellbeing as a key benefit.</p>
<p><b>ICT Impact:</b></p>		<p>X</p>		<p>There is not a significant ICT impact.</p>
<p><b>Digital Services Impact:</b></p>		<p>X</p>		<p>There is not a significant impact on Digital Services.</p>

<p><b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b></p>	<p>X</p>		<p>The main Council Priority to which the projects and actions within the Delivery Plan contribute is <b>tackling the climate and ecological emergency</b>. They do this in many ways but will have a key focus on achieving net zero and enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>Other priorities from the Council Strategy that the Environment Strategy helps to deliver are:</p> <p>Develop local infrastructure, including housing, to support and grow the local economy. The Delivery Plan includes active travel infrastructure, green and blue infrastructure and influencing the environmental standards of other infrastructure, including housing.</p>
<p><b>Core Business:</b></p>	<p>X</p>		<p>As a result of projects detailed within the Annual Progress Report the council will see some of its core business processes improved as the Environment Strategy starts to have an impact. For example, the implementation of the Sustainability Assessment Tool that includes environmental and socio-economic factors to consider, is having a positive impact on project delivery and aligns with the Environment Strategy and bring environmental improvements.</p>
<p><b>Data Impact:</b></p>		<p>X</p>	<p>It is not envisaged that there will be any data impacts.</p>

<p><b>Consultation and Engagement:</b></p>	<p>The Annual Progress Report has been presented to key personnel. Those consulted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Councillor Stuart Gourley, Executive Portfolio Holder: Environment and Highways</li> <li>- Clare Lawrence, Executive Director, Place</li> <li>- Jon Winstanley, Service Director, Environment</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Kofi Adu-Gyamfi, Service Lead Climate Change</li><li>- Jenny Graham, Environment Delivery Manager</li></ul> <p>Various teams across the council have contributed to and been consulted on the Annual Progress Report and the pathway to net zero graph.</p>
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## 4. Executive Summary

- 4.1. The purpose of this report is to present the Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report. The Annual Progress Report covers the period from July 2024 through to July 2025. It is, however, part of the continuous story of how the council is addressing climate change, biodiversity enhancements and promoting environmental sustainability in West Berkshire.
- 4.2. The Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report is included in Appendix C. The report includes a summary of our achievements as well as an update on the council's carbon footprint for financial year 2024 to 2025 and looks ahead to how existing and new projects will assist the Council in achieving Net Zero by 2030 with a 'pathway to net zero' graph. Key projects highlighted in the 'pathway to net zero' demonstrate projects on the horizon, the momentum that exists and the significant investment being made in planning some of our larger infrastructure projects.
- 4.3. A key finding from this year's report is the council's carbon emissions have reduced by 38% compared with the baseline year (2019/20) decreasing from 11,619.59 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to 7,162 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024/25. In addition, emissions have fallen by 20.65% compared with last year, representing a reduction of 1,864 tCO<sub>2</sub>e from the 2023/24 total of 9,025.90 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is due to several factors including better quality data and fewer estimates for school sites; a reduction in staff mileage claims; energy efficiency measures and solar panel installations at several council sites; and HVO fuel being used in our food waste vehicles. These figures demonstrate continued and meaningful progress toward our long- term decarbonisation goals.
- 4.4. At a district level, the Government releases annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions data for each local authority with both a full dataset and a subset that removes emissions from nationally managed roads. The latest available data is for 2023 due to a two- year lag in data being reported. Long- term trends show decreases across both datasets, mainly due to cleaner electricity generation, better energy efficiency in buildings, economic changes, gradual improvements in transport emissions, and strong climate policies.

## 5. Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.1. The report seeks to inform the public about this year's progress on the Environment Strategy.

- 5.2. The Annual Progress Report covers a busy year of climate- related activity for the Council, with several projects completed, new ones launched, and strong progress on longer-term initiatives.
- 5.3. Three main areas of action continue to guide the work:
- 5.4. **Reducing the Council's own carbon emissions**, with contributions from teams across the organisation.
- 5.5. Collaboration between colleagues across the organisation to **address the ecological emergency**.
- 5.6. **Supporting and engaging communities and stakeholders** to help lower emissions and improve the environment across the whole district.

## Background

- 5.7. Although it's not a legal requirement for local authorities to publish their emissions, it is considered good practice. Mandatory reporting may be considered by the Government in the future, so this report, in conjunction with our carbon footprint calculation methodology, ensures the Council is prepared.
- 5.8. The Council's 2024/25 data indicates emissions continuing to fall, remaining below the levels seen during the COVID- 19 pandemic. This confirms that reductions are now being achieved through sustained action rather than temporary circumstances. Overall emissions have decreased by 38% since 2019/20, decreasing from 11,619.59 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to 7,162 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024/25. Breaking this down further, since last year, emissions have fallen by 20.65% representing a reduction of 1,864 tCO<sub>2</sub>e from the 2023/24 total of 9,025.90 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- 5.9. Improvements in data collection, especially more accurate, site- specific information for schools has contributed to more reliable reporting. This enhanced accuracy supports better decision- making as the council progresses toward its Environment Strategy goals.
- 5.10. Additional reductions have come from:
  - **Lower staff mileage**, supported by increased use of pool cars (including an EV), public transport, and smarter working practices.
  - **Energy- efficiency upgrades** at council sites including leisure centres, such as improved boilers and pool covers.
  - **Transition to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)** for food- waste vehicles, cutting emissions through the use of a renewable, lower- carbon fuel.
- 5.11. The council remains committed to continuously improving its carbon reporting by adopting best practice and updating methodologies as needed.
- 5.12. The Government publishes annual data on carbon dioxide emissions for every local authority, measured in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person. Two versions are provided: a full dataset covering all local emissions sources and a subset that excludes emissions from

nationally managed roads like the M4 and A34. Due to a lag in the reporting cycle, the latest available figures are for 2023.

- 5.13. COVID- 19 significantly influenced the 2020 data, with emissions dropping during lockdowns. Emissions rose again in 2021 as restrictions eased and remained broadly similar in 2022, with slight reductions in some areas.
- 5.14. Overall, both the full and subset datasets show a long- term downward trend. Key drivers include cleaner electricity generation, improved energy efficiency in buildings, structural economic changes, gradual reductions in transport emissions, and better waste and land management. National and local climate policies have also supported these reductions.
- 5.15. The Council emphasises the need for continued district-wide action and highlights the importance of community engagement, supportive policies, and measures within the Delivery Plan and Local Plan to help reduce emissions and respond to the climate and ecological emergencies.

## Proposals

- 5.16. We propose the Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report is approved for publication on the website specifically noting:
- A reduction in emissions from the baseline year of 38%.
  - The progress the Council has made in delivering our projects as outlined in our Environment Strategy Delivery Plan.
  - The updated Pathway to Net Zero graph which shows the key projects the council has committed to in order to progress towards net zero for its own operations by 2030.

## 6. Other options considered

- 6.1. The Council is committed to reporting annually on its progress in delivering the Environment Strategy. Each report covers activity and achievements from July of one year to the end of June the following year, reflecting the Strategy's approval in July 2020.
- 6.2. The Council's own carbon footprint is measured by financial year, with the most relevant data included in each Annual Progress Report (APR). District- wide emissions figures, provided by central government through the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), are reported by calendar year, and the latest published data is also incorporated into the APR.
- 6.3. Alternative options would be:
- (a)** *Not reporting on progress in delivering the Environment Strategy, or*
- (b)** *Reporting only the Council's carbon footprint data and the District- wide emissions data from DESNZ.*

**Response:**

Whilst the Council are in a position to resource the reporting of progress in delivering the Environment Strategy and the latest carbon footprint figures, this will be carried out. Limiting the report to data alone would overlook the wider work, projects, initiatives and policy development that contribute to reducing environmental impacts. Producing a more detailed report allows both the Council and the communities of West Berkshire to showcase the broad range of activity taking place across the district. It also helps to inspire further action by sharing useful and engaging information about ongoing work.

## 7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The Annual Progress Report highlights the progress made over the past year in delivering the Environment Strategy. It forms part of the ongoing narrative of how the Council is addressing the challenges of tackling the climate and ecological emergencies.
- 7.2. Both the council's own carbon emissions and those recorded across the district continue to show an overall downward trend, moving us closer to our net zero target. While there is still significant work ahead, the delivery of several major projects currently in development will support meaningful progress in the coming years.
- 7.3. Work will continue to be driven by the Environment Strategy Delivery Plan, which is updated throughout the year and published on the Council's website. Both the Strategy and the Delivery Plan have recently been refreshed to ensure resources are focused on the actions with the greatest impact.
- 7.4. Despite wider challenges, such as the ongoing cost of living pressures, it remains essential to maintain momentum on climate action and protecting and enhancing the district's natural habitats for future generations.
- 7.5. We're also forging ahead with rooftop solar projects; we have secured a four-year contract to install solar PV across council sites and schools. Alongside this we are progressing a significant nutrient mitigation programme in the River Lambourn catchment to stop the decline of water quality in sensitive habitats by ensuring that new developments do not increase the overall load of nutrients. Our successful Town and Parish Forum has been expanded (now the [Community Climate Forum](#)) to include community groups and individuals which will provide greater collaboration on climate action. A great deal of background work has been happening around [EV infrastructure](#) which will help secure the delivery of further installations.

## 8. Appendices

- 8.1. Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 8.2. Appendix B – Data Protection Impact Assessment
- 8.3. Appendix C – Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report July 2024 – July 2025

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## Consideration by Special, Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee

- The Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report 2024/2025 and additional requested information on the Ecological Emergency was taken to a [Special, Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee](#) on Tuesday 12 May 2026.

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### Background Papers:

#### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No: **No**

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position:

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

**Wards affected:** This is not an item for decision, but the Annual Progress Report includes actions and projects being delivered throughout the district.

#### Officer details:

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# West Berkshire Council Equity Impact Assessment

TEMPLATE

March 2023

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**Section 1: Summary details**

<b>Directorate and Service Area</b>	Climate Change Service, Environment Department
<b>What is being assessed</b> (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	To approve the Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report.
<b>Is this a new or existing function or policy?</b>	Existing (reporting only)
<b>Summary of assessment</b> Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community?  (following completion of the assessment).	Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report is for reporting purposes only and is not considered to an impact on individuals or groups in the community.
<b>Completed By</b>	Emily Ashton-Jelley
<b>Authorised By</b>	Jenny Graham
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	02/01/26

## Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p><b>Context / Background</b></p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>This is the fifth year of the Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report. The report is for information and reporting purposes only.</p>
<p><b>Proposals</b></p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>Not Applicable, reporting purposes only.</p>
<p><b>Evidence / Intelligence</b></p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our</p>	<p>Not Applicable, reporting purposes only.</p>

**Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report 2024/2025**

ability to deliver our climate commitments.	
<p><b>Alternatives considered / rejected</b></p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	Not Applicable, reporting purposes only.

**Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics**

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
<b>Age</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A
<b>Disability</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A

Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report 2024/2025

<b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A
<b>Race</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A
<b>Sex</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a	N/A	EAJ	N/A

Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report 2024/2025

				protected characteristic than on anyone else.			
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A

**Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts**

<b>Additional community impacts</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Description of impact</b>	<b>Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts</b>	<b>Action owner</b> (*Job Title, Organisation)	<b>Timescale and monitoring arrangements</b>
<b>Rural communities</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment	N/A	EAJ	N/A

Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report 2024/2025

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
				Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.			
Areas of deprivation	☒	☐	☐	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A
Displaced communities	☒	☐	☐	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a	N/A	EAJ	N/A

Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report 2024/2025

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
				person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.			
<b>Care experienced people</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A
<b>The Armed Forces Community</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress with delivering the aims of the Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.	N/A	EAJ	N/A

## Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

<b>Review Date</b>	N/A
<b>Person Responsible for Review</b>	N/A
<b>Authorised By</b>	N/A

EDI employee related EQiA's should now be sent to Human Resources [hrenquiries@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:hrenquiries@westberks.gov.uk)

## Appendix B

### Data Protection Impact Assessment – Stage One

The General Data Protection Regulations require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for certain projects that have a significant impact on the rights of data subjects.

Should you require additional guidance in completing this assessment, please refer to the Information Management Officer via [dp@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:dp@westberks.gov.uk)

Directorate:	Place
Service:	Climate Change Service, Environment Department
Team:	Environment Delivery Team
Lead Officer:	Emily Ashton-Jelley
Title of Project/System:	Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report
Date of Assessment:	02/01/26

#### Do you need to do a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)?

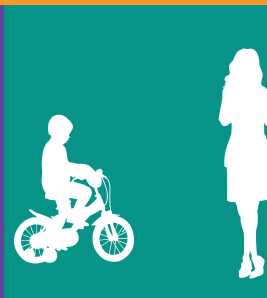
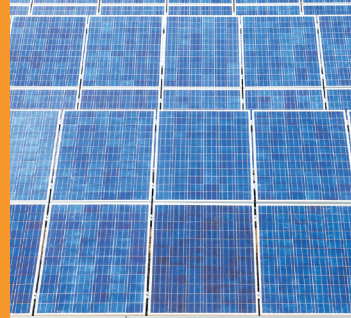
	Yes	No
<p><b>Will you be processing SENSITIVE or “special category” personal data?</b></p> <p><i>Note – sensitive personal data is described as “data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation”</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Will you be processing data on a large scale?</b></p> <p><i>Note – Large scale might apply to the number of individuals affected OR the volume of data you are processing OR both</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Will your project or system have a “social media” dimension?</b></p> <p><i>Note – will it have an interactive element which allows users to communicate directly with one another?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Will any decisions be automated?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Note – does your system or process involve circumstances where an individual's input is "scored" or assessed without intervention/review/checking by a human being? Will there be any "profiling" of data subjects?		
<b>Will your project/system involve CCTV or monitoring of an area accessible to the public?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Will you be using the data you collect to match or cross-reference against another existing set of data?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Will you be using any novel, or technologically advanced systems or processes?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Note – this could include biometrics, "internet of things" connectivity or anything that is currently not widely utilised		

**If you answer "Yes" to any of the above, you will probably need to complete [Data Protection Impact Assessment - Stage Two](#). If you are unsure, please consult with the Information Management Officer before proceeding.**

# Environment Strategy

Annual Progress Report  
(July 2024- July 2025)



# Foreword

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This year marks a milestone for West Berkshire as we complete several major initiatives shaping a greener, more connected future.

Our updated Local Plan now embeds ambitious policies to tackle climate change, ensuring development is sustainable and resilient. Alongside this, Government funding is supporting the Council to develop nutrient mitigation projects in the River Lambourn catchment, directly addressing the ecological emergency while unlocking opportunities for responsible growth.

We also published our new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) in summer 2025. This sets out a clear vision for modernising transport across the district, tackling challenges and embracing opportunities to deliver a system that supports residents, businesses, and visitors.

Together, these achievements highlight our determination to protect the environment, strengthen communities, and invest in infrastructure. They demonstrate that West Berkshire is not only meeting today's challenges but actively shaping a sustainable future.



**Councillor Stuart Gourley**  
Executive Member for Environment  
and Highways

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# Introduction

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Tackling climate action is imperative. This year saw above-average tropical cyclone activity, with 18 named storms by October, alongside devastating floods, heatwaves, and wildfires globally. (Source: [Assessing the Global Temperature and Precipitation Analysis in October 2025 | News | National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#))

West Berkshire Council (WBC) declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and is committed to achieving net zero for Council activities by 2030, while supporting net zero across the district.

Following the declaration, we published an Environment Strategy in July 2020 and our first annual report in 2021. In October 2023 we also declared an ecological emergency which is addressed in our plans.

We revisited and refreshed our Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan earlier this year, taking stock at the mid-point on our pathway to net zero target of 2030. The refreshed version of the Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan, which included a look ahead to how the Council will reduce its carbon emissions by 2030, was approved by the Executive on the 22nd of May 2025. The aim of the refreshed Environment Strategy and our Environment Strategy Delivery Plan is to be more focussed, achievable and resource efficient. Full detail of the [Environment Strategy](#) and [Delivery Plan](#) refresh and previous [Annual reports](#) can be found on the Green Hub section of the Council's website.

Our Annual Reports are designed to keep our residents and local businesses informed of our progress to date and outline the actions the council will be taking on the pathway to net zero by 2030.

This fifth report covers activities from July 2024–July 2025. This edition of the Annual Report looks at our 2019/20 carbon footprint baseline and analyses and compares this data with the recently compiled 2024/25 carbon footprint data set. The Annual Report also reports on district-wide emissions figures which are collected by the Government.

We've aimed to streamline this report in comparison to previous years, focusing on data and key stories from the year. Further information, events and news stories can be found in our monthly [Environment Newsletters](#).

Included on Appendix C, for reference, is a glossary of terms, created after public consultation in 2021.

# The Fifth Year - summary of actions and achievements

In its fifth year of implementation, the Environment Strategy has delivered significant progress, with a variety of actions and achievements across the council and within our local communities.

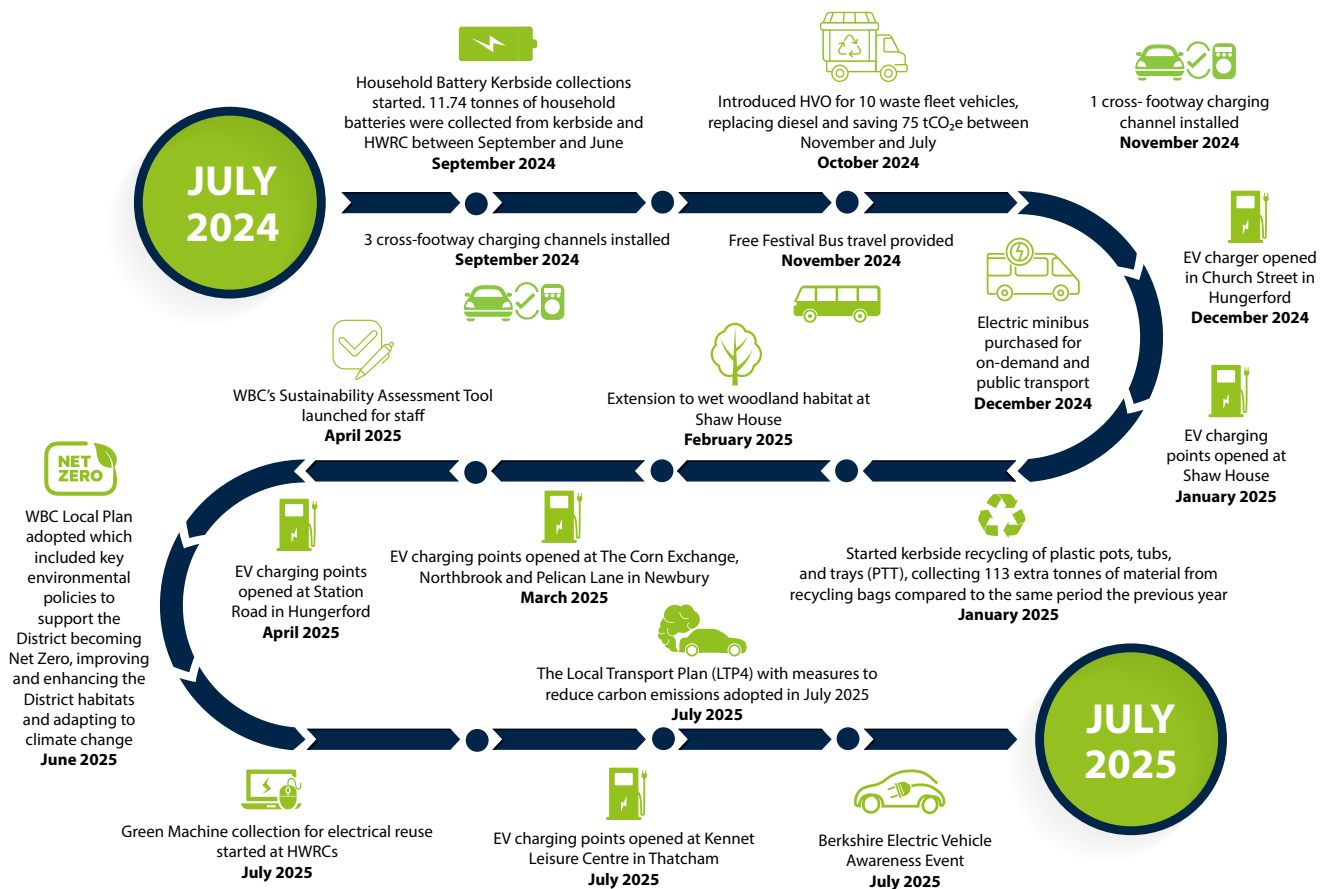
Since the publication of the original Environment Strategy in July 2020, Annual Progress Reports have been produced and presented to the Executive. These reports, available on the council's Environment Strategy webpage, track progress in reducing the Council's carbon footprint and showcase a wide range of climate action from both the council and the community.

Each Annual Progress Report includes a roadmap highlighting the key projects and achievements of the year. The latest roadmap is shown below, previous roadmaps are included in Appendix A.

Over the last year, the Council with its partners has been working on several key projects to assist in delivery of the Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan Refresh and support the council addressing the climate and ecological emergency.

An overview of these projects is highlighted within the July 2024 – July 2025 roadmap.

Figure 1: Highlights of delivery of the Environment Strategy July 2024 – July 2025



The roadmap is followed by case studies of actions and achievements that have taken place throughout the year.

# Climate mitigation measures along the River Lambourn

In February 2025, West Berkshire Council’s Environment Delivery and Countryside Teams established a riparian tree buffer zone along the River Lambourn on council-owned land at Almond Avenue Park, near Shaw. This initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to protect and enhance one of the world’s rare chalk streams.

Working in partnership with the Wild Trout Trust (WTT) and the Environment Agency (EA), the project aims to help future-proof the river’s marginal corridor at Almond Avenue Park. The River Lambourn is globally significant, being one of only 220 chalk streams on earth. Around 80% of these protected rivers are found in Southern England, with several located in West Berkshire. The section at Almond Avenue is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Chalk streams support unique habitats and species that are highly sensitive to climate change, water quality, flow variations, pollutants, and invasive species. To strengthen resilience, 48 native riverside trees- including Blackthorn, Alder, Downy Birch, Bird Cherry, Goat Willow, Alder Buckthorn, and Hawthorn were chosen and planted within newly unmown marginal areas. Biodegradable tree guards are being used to minimise environmental impact.

The buffer zone will provide multiple benefits: mitigation from the impact of climate change, supporting carbon sequestration, providing valuable food sources, protect areas from predation and increased bankside stability. Over time, it will develop into a valuable riverbank habitat, enhancing biodiversity and ecological stability.

Additionally, mowing practices have been adapted along river edges, introducing a 3-metre ‘no-mow’ zone. This change, implemented by Countryside Team contractors, will encourage the growth of native vegetation, offering shade, shelter for fish and invertebrates, and improved bank stability. These measures collectively aim to protect wildlife, increase habitat diversity, and safeguard the future of this rare chalk stream.



# West Berkshire Local Plan: Supporting a Sustainable Future

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## West Berkshire



## Local Plan

West Berkshire Council adopted its new Local Plan Review (2023–2041) on the 10th of June 2025, setting out a vision for how the district will grow and develop over the coming years. This plan replaces previous planning documents and provides a framework to guide housing, employment, and infrastructure while ensuring that sustainability remains at the heart of decision-making.

A key priority of the Local Plan is tackling climate change. All new development must contribute to West Berkshire's ambition to become net zero as a District by 2030. This means homes and businesses will be designed to achieve net zero carbon, with a strong emphasis on energy efficiency, low and zero carbon technologies and renewable energy. The plan also promotes sustainable transport and reducing reliance on cars.

Protecting and enhancing the natural environment is another central theme of the Local Plan. The Local Plan requires developments to incorporate green and blue infrastructure, such as trees, open spaces, and water features, which help absorb carbon, provide cooling, and support biodiversity. It also includes measures to manage flood risk through sustainable drainage systems and improve water quality. Wildlife habitats will be safeguarded and connected to allow species to adapt to climate change.

By embedding these principles, the Local Plan ensures that growth in West Berkshire is not only about meeting housing and economic needs but also about creating resilient communities and a healthier environment for future generations.

# West Berkshire Council Drives EV Awareness at Berkshire rEVolution

West Berkshire Council played a pivotal role in this summer's Berkshire Electric Vehicle Awareness Event, held on the 11th of July 2025 at Winnersh Triangle Business Park. The event, known as Berkshire rEVolution, brought together over 200 residents, business owners, and sustainability advocates to explore the future of transport and accelerate the transition to electric vehicles (EVs).

Visitors had the chance to:

- test drive over 40 electric vehicles from brands like Tesla, BMW, Citroën, and Porsche.
- attend expert-led presentations on EV innovation, climate change, and government grants.
- explore indoor and outdoor exhibitions featuring EV infrastructure providers, sustainability initiatives, and local authority projects.
- engage in panel discussions with industry leaders and academics, including speakers from the University of Reading, Energy Saving Trust, and EZOO.

At the EV event, the following WBC approved products and services were present with stands: Kerbo Charge, Solar Together (our partners), Ubitricity (on-



street charging installer), and Enterprise Mobility (Car Club Provider).

The event was organised in partnership with Let's Experience Electric, Winnersh Triangle Business Park, and all six Berkshire local authorities - including West Berkshire Council. West Berkshire Council made a strong impression with a vibrant stand showcasing:

- EV infrastructure projects across the district
- environmental strategy materials
- press coverage of recent EV charger installations

Council Officers led by Service Lead for Climate Change, Kofi Adu-Gyamfi, engaged with attendees throughout the day, answering questions and sharing insights into local EV initiatives. West Berkshire Councillor Justin Pemberton and Mayor of Thatcham Town Council Petra Pemberton, also visited the stand, discussing future plans and offering support for promoting EV adoption in Thatcham and beyond.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

- 92% rated the event as Good or Excellent
- 75% said they're very likely to consider purchasing an EV
- test drives were the most popular feature, followed by presentations and exhibitor engagement

West Berkshire Council's active participation in Berkshire rEVolution demonstrates its leadership in climate action and sustainable transport. By promoting EV infrastructure, collaborating with partners, and engaging the community, WBC is sparking real change on the road to a net zero future.

# Update on the Council's carbon footprint

Following WBC's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, we established a baseline for our carbon footprint covering April 2019 to March 2020. A specialist contractor supported us in assessing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated by our assets and activities.

We adopted an operational control approach, meaning emissions from assets under our direct control were included in the calculations.

GHG emissions are categorised in 3 different scopes:

- **Scope 1 (Direct):** Emissions from sources we own or control, such as our fleet vehicles.
- **Scope 2 (Indirect):** Emissions from purchased energy (electricity, heat) used in our buildings.
- **Scope 3 (Indirect):** Emissions from goods and services we use but do not directly control, such as investments and contractor activities.

It is mandatory for us to report Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. Scope 3 emissions are optional; however, we have included emissions from our largest contracts:

- Waste Management (Veolia),
- Highways (Volker Highways) and,
- Leisure centre operator (Everyone Active).

West Berkshire Council's carbon reporting cycle aligns with the financial year, i.e., 1st April to 31st March, annually. Therefore, activity data within the period 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 has been used to update the carbon footprint and to compare against the baseline data.

Using the data available, the council's carbon emissions (or carbon footprint) are calculated using the following formula: Activity Data x Emissions Factor = Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).

Emission factors represent the quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions linked to specific activity data, for example, the emissions produced from burning one litre of diesel. The term tCO<sub>2</sub>e refers to tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, a standard metric used to compare emissions from different greenhouse gases. It does so by converting the amounts of these gases into the equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub>, based on their Global Warming Potential (GWP).

**Table 1: West Berkshire Council's Carbon Footprint 2024/25 compared to baseline (2019/20)**

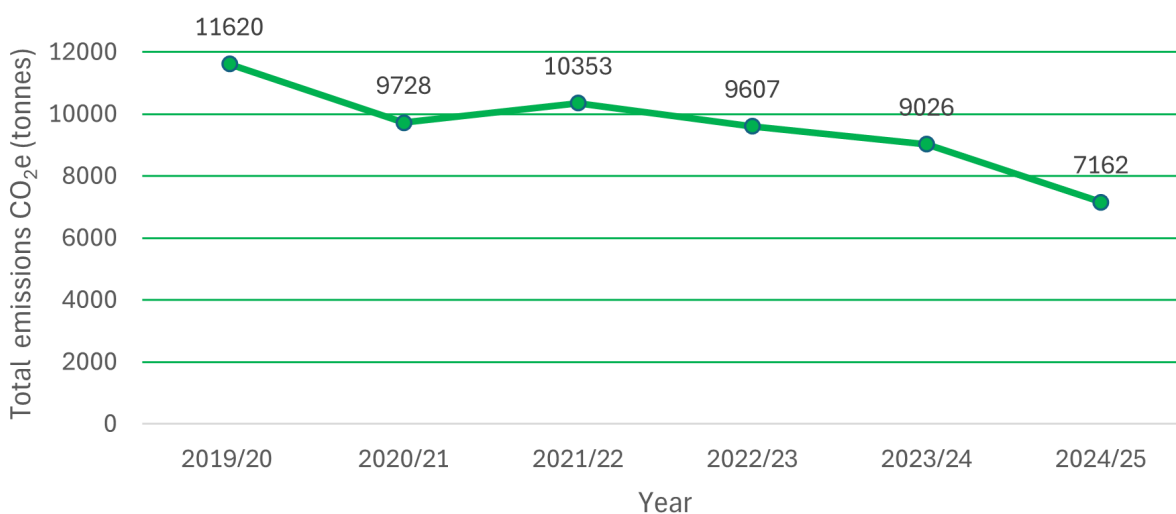
Emissions Scope	Emissions Source	2019/20 (Baseline)		2024/2025		difference CO <sub>2</sub> e (tonnes) between baseline and 24/25	% difference between baseline and 24/25
		CO <sub>2</sub> e (tonnes)	% of total emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> e (tonnes)	% of total emissions		
1	Stationary Combustion (e.g. energy use)	3,502.3	30.1%	1,836.69	26%	-1665.6	-47.5%
	Mobile Combustion (e.g. vehicles)	290.6	3%	210.2	3%	-80.4	-27.6%
	Sewage Processing and Refrigerants	146.0	1%	124.2	2%	-21.8	-14.9%
	<b>Total Scope 1</b>	<b>3,939.0</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>2,171.1</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>-1767.9</b>	<b>-44.9%</b>
2	Purchased electricity	3,495.8	30%	2,196.1	30%	-1299.7	-37.1%
	<b>Total Scope 2</b>	<b>3,495.8</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>2,196.1</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>-1299.7</b>	<b>-37.1%</b>
3	Contractor Emissions	2,574.7	22%	1,897	26%	-677.7	-26.3%
	Leisure Centres	1,228.9	11%	631.2	9%	-597.7	-48.6%
	Business Travel	381.2	3%	266.5	4%	-114.7	-30.0%
	<b>Total Scope 3</b>	<b>4,184.8</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>2,794.7</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>-1390.1</b>	<b>-33.2%</b>
<b>All Scopes</b>		<b>11,619.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7,161.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-4457.70</b>	<b>-38.3%</b>

Table 1 shows the comparison between the baseline data and the data for 2024/25. The percentage differences between these two positions are shown in the last column in the table. The overall position is that the latest 2024/25 figures show a 38% reduction in emissions from the baseline.

The year-on-year changes from the baseline through to 2024/25 are set out in the full data table in appendix B.

Figure 2 below shows a summary of the total emissions for each of the years from the baseline to current position.

**Figure 2: West Berkshire Council's Carbon Emissions 2019/20 - 2024/25**



In our first annual report, we showed how the COVID-19 pandemic had a clear impact on our carbon footprint for 2020/21. The big drop from the baseline was mainly because many council activities were put on hold and buildings weren't running as usual during the national lockdown. Once restrictions eased, many of those activities resumed, and the 2021/22 figures reflect that increase. Even so, emissions didn't return to pre-COVID levels, and we still saw a solid reduction compared to the baseline.

The graph for 2024/25 shows that, as in the previous year, the Council's emissions have fallen below the levels recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic. This demonstrates that reductions are being achieved through the Council's ongoing actions rather than temporary external factors. Since reporting began in 2019/20, overall emissions have decreased by 38%. Continued progress is expected as further projects and initiatives are implemented.

We've seen a 38% reduction in our reported carbon footprint this year, in part due to improvements in how we collect and manage data, particularly for our school sites. By moving away from estimates and using more accurate, site-specific information, we're now able to report our emissions with greater confidence. This not only gives a clearer picture of our environmental impact but also helps us make more informed

decisions as we work towards our Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan goals.

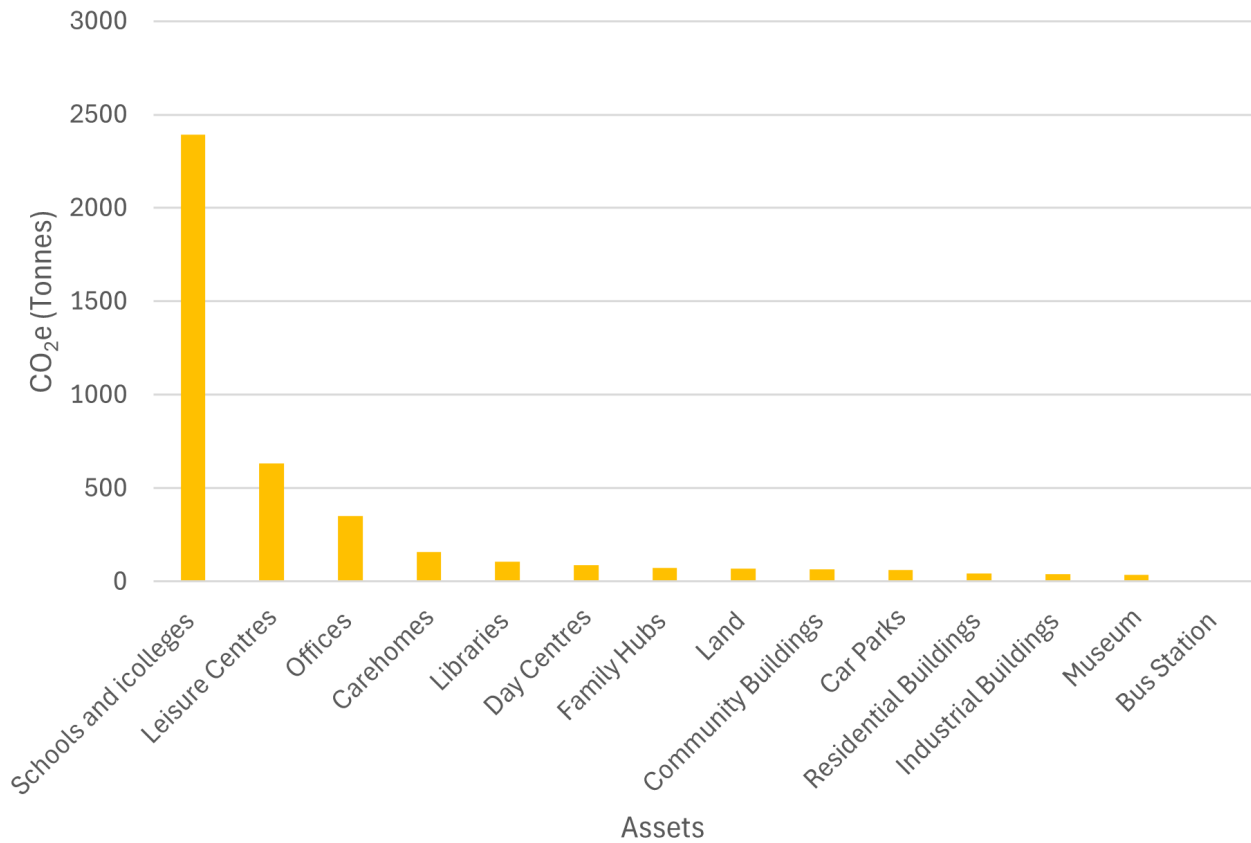
In addition, staff mileage has significantly decreased this year, partially due to an increase in staff using pool cars (one of which is an EV), staff being encouraged to use public transport and smarter ways of working, i.e. reducing the need for in-person meetings this has also contributed to our reduction in emissions.

We've made improvements to some of our leisure centres too, such as the installation of more efficient boilers and using pool covers to save energy.

The transition to using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel, particularly for our food waste collection vehicles, has contributed to a measurable reduction in our carbon emissions. As a renewable diesel alternative, HVO offers significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional fossil fuels, supporting our commitment to more sustainable operations and helping us progress toward our net zero targets.

WBC remains committed to continuous improvement in carbon reporting by adopting best practices, considering new guidance, and updating methodologies as required to ensure our reporting is as accurate as possible.

Figure 3: West Berkshire Council Emissions by Asset Type 2024/25



The Council owns a significant number of buildings and other assets that all contribute to the organisation’s carbon footprint. Figure 3 details the emissions in relation to the council’s assets reported by asset type.

We have updated the accuracy of our reporting, hence some of these assets have different names since the last reporting period. In addition, in previous years some assets of similar types were merged, but we have separated them for greater clarity.

Schools and colleges have reduced their emissions by 1,864 tonnes this year, as mentioned previously, this is mainly due to more accurate data being received.

Although leisure centres still appear in our top emitters, they have reduced their emissions this year by 235 tonnes, for the reasons discussed previously, which is very encouraging. With the Northcroft Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Project underway, we expect to see greater reductions in the future.

# Pathway to Net Zero

Looking ahead, we've updated our pathway to net zero graph (the initial version of which features in our Environment Strategy Refresh 2025 document), to reflect the recent changes and incorporate the latest carbon footprint data.

Figure 4 shows the impact of all our funded projects (some of which are yet to start), on our target towards net zero by 2030. The gap in emissions is currently estimated to be 49 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. This graph will be 'live' and be revised as and when more projects are agreed and each time the carbon footprint calculation is published.

**Figure 4: West Berkshire Council's predicted Carbon Footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) 2019/20 – 2029/30 – committed projects**

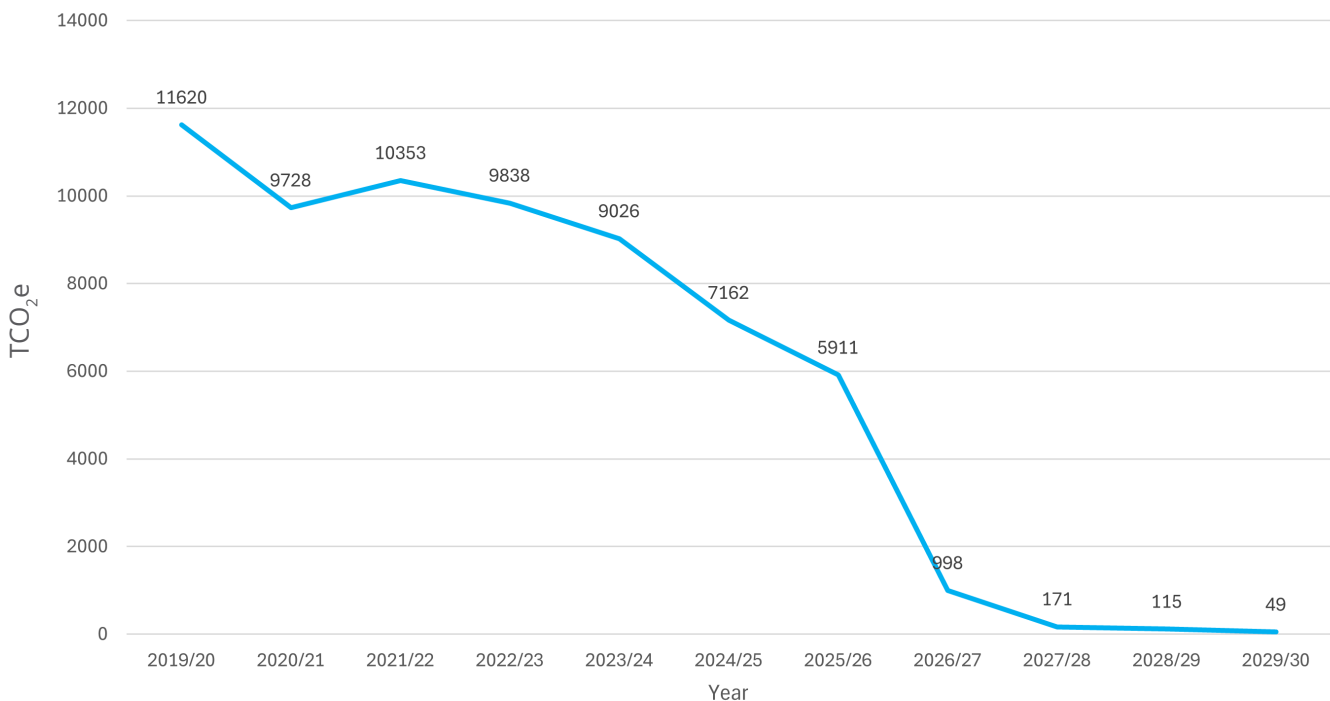


Figure 5: How projects contribute to meeting net zero

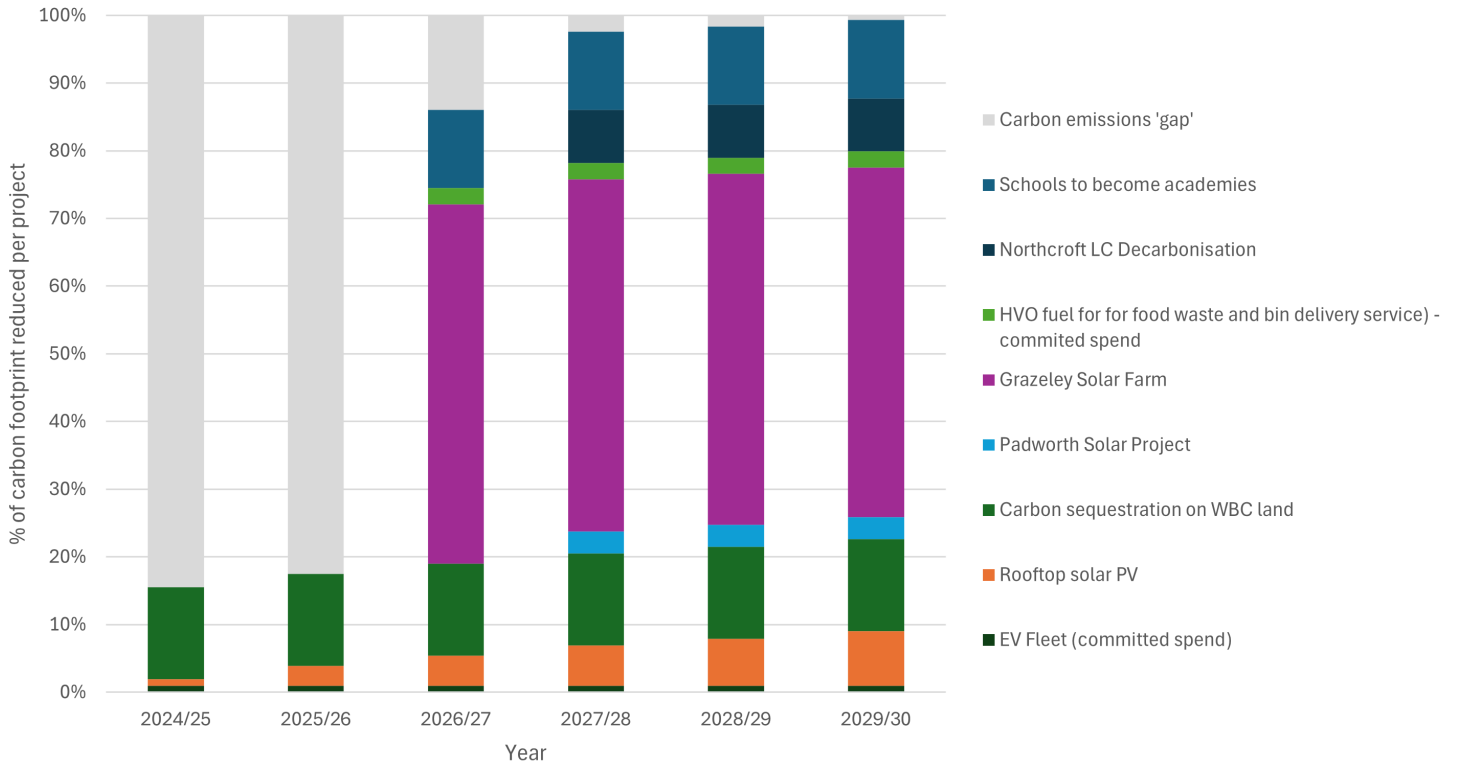


Figure 5 above shows how each funded project contributes to our net zero by 2030 target. Grazeley Solar Farm is expected to deliver the highest proportion of CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction on the Council’s pathway to Net Zero, however it should be noted that the viability of this proposal is still being considered.

# Update on the District's emissions

Every year, the Government publishes data showing how much carbon dioxide is emitted in each local authority area. This is reported as tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person.

Two sets of figures are provided:

- The Full set – includes emissions from transport, homes, businesses, and agriculture.
- The Subset – removes emissions we can't control locally, such as traffic on major roads like the M4 and A34, which are managed nationally.

Because of the way data is collected, there's a two-year delay before figures are confirmed. The most recent data available is for 2023, and you'll find these figures in Table 2 and Figure 3, along with previous years to show progress over time. We also include updates the government have made since the last report was published.

The 2020 figures highlighted the significant changes in behaviour brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns. By 2021, as restrictions were lifted, new patterns of activity emerged, resulting in higher emissions. The 2022 data shows a similar trend, with overall emissions remaining broadly consistent with 2021, though showing a slight decrease in some subsets.

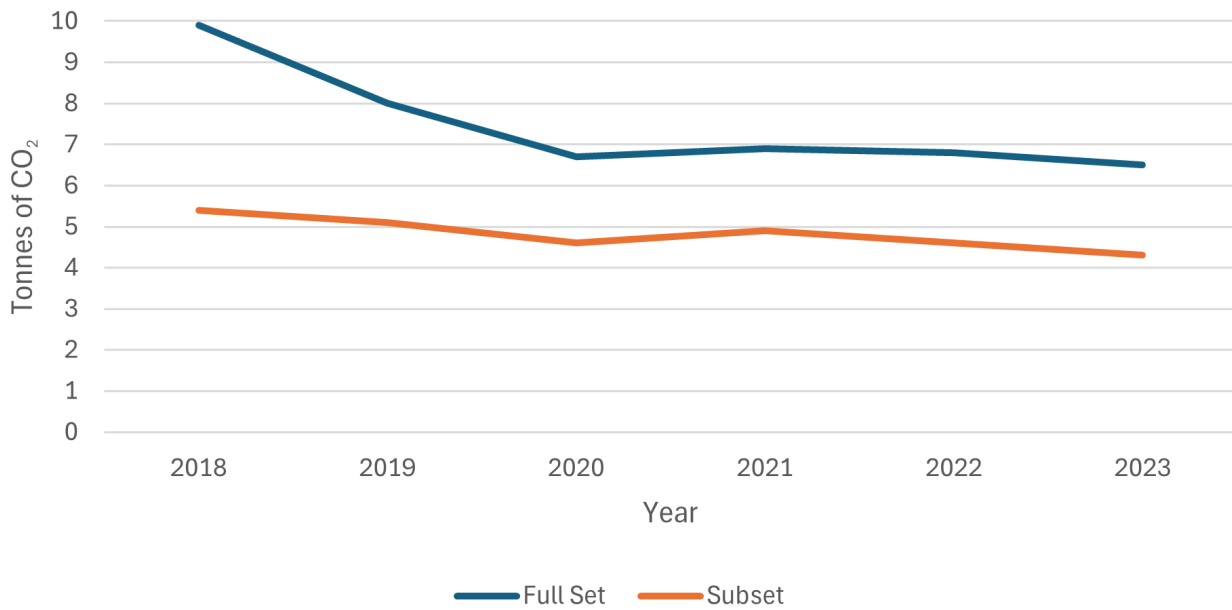
Both the subset and the full set of data have reduced, this is due to several factors. The biggest driver has been the decarbonisation of electricity, with a shift from coal to renewables and nuclear power. Energy efficiency improvements in homes and buildings, along with structural economic changes such as the decline of heavy industry, have also contributed. Transport emissions have reduced more slowly but are impacted by electric vehicle uptake and public transport initiatives. Additionally, better waste management, land use changes, and strong national and local climate policies have supported this downward trend.

Continuous action is needed across the district to reduce emissions, and the Council recognises its role in encouraging and influencing communities and residents, as well as ensuring that the policies and plans it sets align with carbon reduction aims. Actions within the Delivery Plan highlight the importance of working with the local community, to support everyone living and working in West Berkshire to have a positive impact and help address the climate and ecological emergencies. Policies within the recently adopted Local Plans also play an important role in reducing carbon emissions across the district.

**Table 2: Full Set and Sub Set Per Capita Carbon Dioxide emissions (tonnes) for West Berkshire**

	Full Set	Sub Set
2018	9.9	5.4
2019	8.0	5.1
2020	6.7	4.6
2021	6.9	4.9
2022	6.8	4.6
2023	6.5	4.3

Figure 6: Full Set and Subset per capita carbon dioxide emissions (tonnes) for West Berkshire.



There is still a lot of work to be done, but with continued, collective effort progress can be made. Innovation and collaboration are essential to achieving a more sustainable future for the district.



## Conclusion and looking ahead

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This year has been full of progress and collaboration as we continue delivering our Environment Strategy. From project delivery and new initiatives to funding bids and future planning, we've worked closely with the local community to share opportunities and drive climate action, including via the Town and Parish Climate Forum.

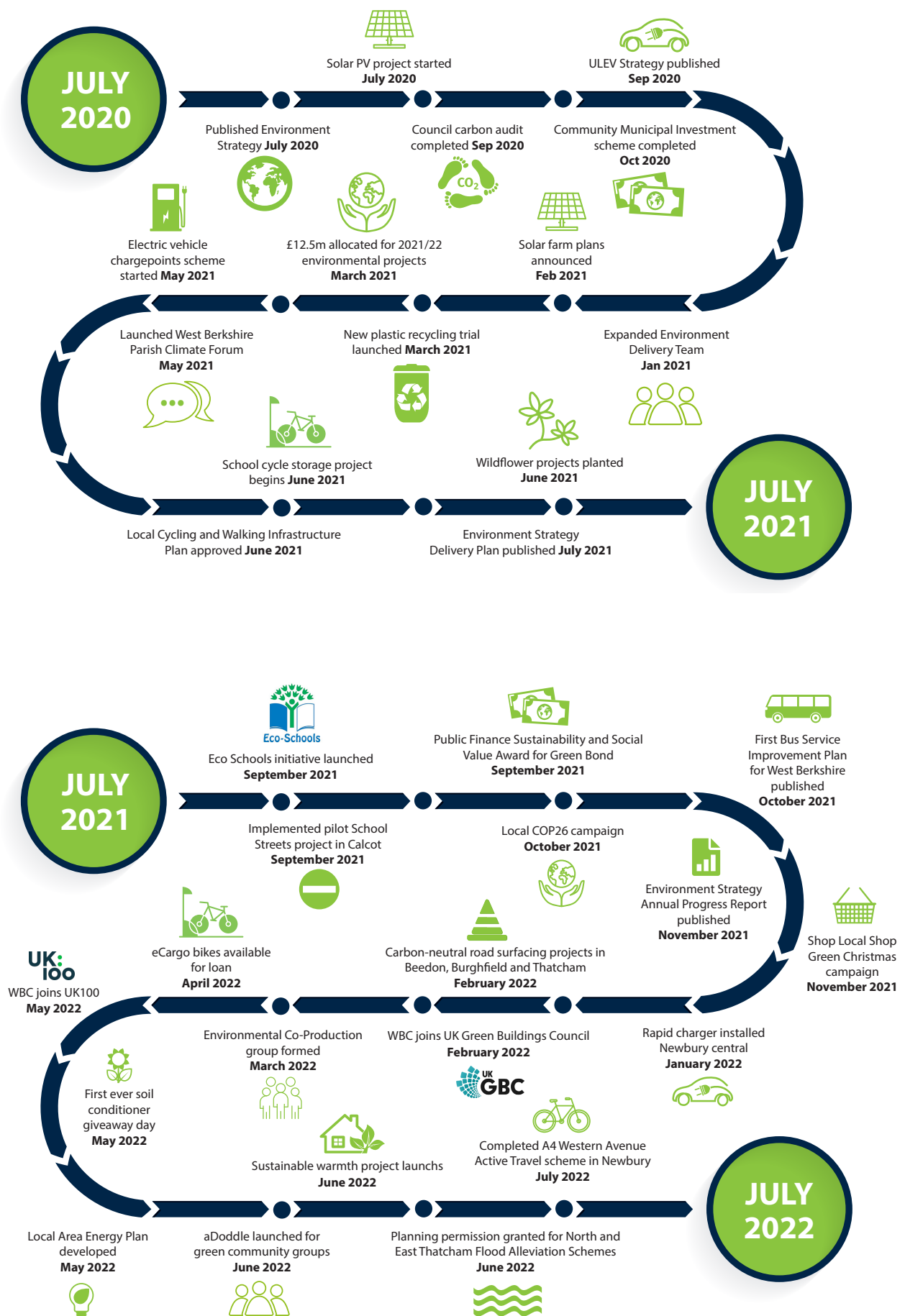
Officers from the Climate Service supported a variety of sustainability events this year, including 'Green Fest' in Newbury, The Berkshire Electric Vehicle Awareness Event and The Great British Spring clean.

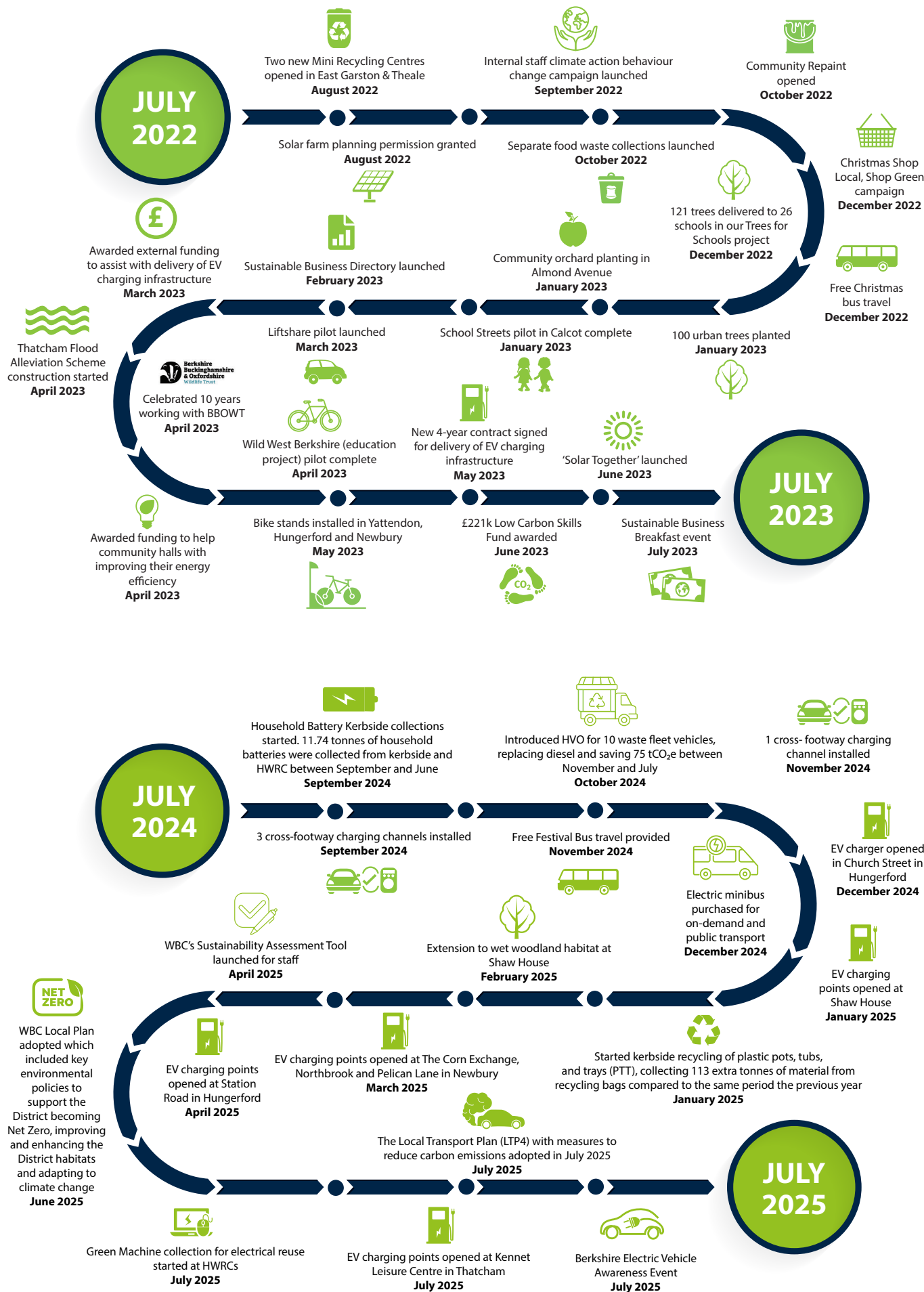
We have more exciting and impactful projects planned for next year, including the Northcroft Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Project. We're also forging ahead with our roof top solar project; we have secured a four-year contract to install solar PV across council

sites and schools. Alongside this we are progressing a significant nutrient mitigation programme in the River Lambourn catchment to stop the decline of water quality in sensitive habitats by ensuring that new developments do not increase the overall load of nutrients. Our successful Town and Parish Forum has been expanded to include community groups and individuals which will provide greater collaboration on climate action. A great deal of background work has been happening around EV infrastructure which will help secure the delivery of further installations.

Engagement through forums, newsletters, and blogs has helped inspire and connect our community. As we reach the halfway point of 2025, we've refreshed the Environment Strategy and our Delivery Plan to sharpen our focus, streamline delivery, and strengthen our pathway to net zero.

# Appendix A - Roadmaps





# Appendix B – Full Carbon Footprint Data Table

The table below shows the annual emissions data for West Berkshire Council's activities (Scope 1, 2 and 3). It covers the period from 2019/20 (baseline year) through to 2024/25. Figure 2 of the main report represents the total emissions data from this table in a graph.

Emissions Source	2019/20 (Baseline)		2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025		
	CO <sub>2</sub> e (tonnes)	% of total emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> e (tonnes)	% of total emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> e (tonnes)	% of total emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> e (tonnes)	% of total emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> e (tonnes)	% of total emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> e (tonnes)	% of total emissions	
1	Stationary Combustion (e.g. energy use)	3,502.34	30.1%	3,219.1	33.1%	3,586.2	34.6%	3,164.79	32.2%	2,953.1	32.7%	1,836.69	26%
	Mobile Combustion (e.g. vehicles)	**290.64	2.5%	353.9	3.6%	552.9	5.3%	232.73	2.4%	218.4	2.4%	210.20	3%
	Sewage Processing	38.33	0.3%	38.3	0.4%	15.7	0.2%	15.68	0.2%	124.2	1.4%	15.7	0%
	Refrigerants	107.71	0.9%	81.9	0.8%	121.2	1.2%	108.61	1.1%	108.5	1.4%	108.5	2%
	<b>Total Scope 1</b>	<b>3,939.01</b>	<b>33.9%</b>	<b>3,693.1</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>4,276.1</b>	<b>41.3%</b>	<b>3,521.80</b>	<b>35.8%</b>	<b>3,295.8</b>	<b>36.5%</b>	<b>2,171.10</b>	<b>30%</b>
2	Purchased electricity	3,495.76	30.1%	2,946.6	30.3%	2,643.4	25.5%	2,475.21	29.4%	2,529.4	28%	2,196.10	31%
	<b>Total Scope 2</b>	<b>3,495.76</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>2,946.6</b>	<b>30.3%</b>	<b>2,643.4</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>2,475.21</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>2,529.4</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,196.10</b>	<b>31%</b>
3	Contractor Emissions	2,574.72	22.2%	2,397.0	24.6%	2,359.3	22.8%	2,537.77	25.8%	2,010.23	22.3%	1,897.00	26%
	Leisure Centres	1,228.93	10.6%	691.3	7.1%	1,066.3	10.3%	938.34	9.5%	865.54	9.6%	631.2	9%
	Business Travel	**381.17	3.3%	0.3	0.0%	8.4	0.1%	364.56	3.7%	325.0	3.6%	266.5	4%
<b>Total Scope 3</b>	<b>4,184.82</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>3,088.6</b>	<b>31.7%</b>	<b>3,433.9</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>3,840.67</b>	<b>39.0%</b>	<b>3,200.7</b>	<b>35.5%</b>	<b>2,794.70</b>	<b>39%</b>	
<b>All Scopes</b>	<b>11,619.588</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,728.2</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>10,353.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,837.68</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,025.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7,161.90</b>	<b>100%</b>	

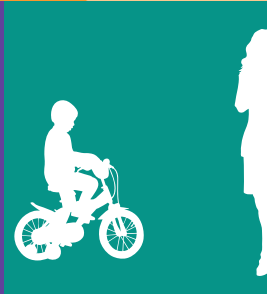
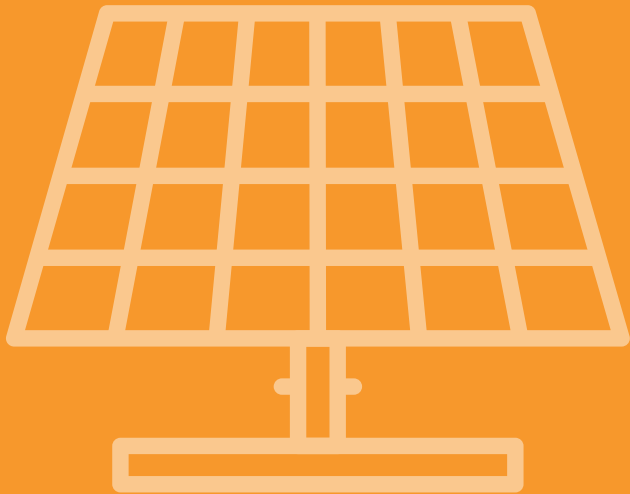
# Appendix C – Glossary

This glossary provides an explanation of terms used in this annual report along with some additional terms which may also be of general interest relating to climate change and our environment.

Abbreviation	Term	Explanation
	<b>Anaerobic Digestion</b>	A process in which organic matter is broken down by micro-organisms in an oxygen free 'tank' to produce fuels.
	<b>Baseline</b>	A fixed point of reference used as a starting point for comparison purposes.
	<b>Biodiversity</b>	The variety of plant and animal life.
	<b>Carbon budget</b>	The maximum amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted over a certain period.
<b>CCS</b>	<b>Carbon capture and storage</b>	Trapping carbon at its emission source, and then storing it long term.
<b>CO2e</b>	<b>Carbon Dioxide Equivalent</b>	A term used to describe different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any greenhouse gases and their amount, it is the amount of carbon dioxide which would have the equivalent warming impact.
	<b>Carbon footprint/carbon audit</b>	The total greenhouse gas emissions caused by a person/ event/organisation/product, expressed as the carbon dioxide equivalent.
	<b>Carbon neutral/ carbon neutrality</b>	Balancing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by offsetting, or removing from the atmosphere, an equivalent amount of carbon for the amount produced.
	<b>Climate change</b>	The long-term shift in the planets weather patterns and temperatures.
<b>CCA</b>	<b>Climate Change Act 2008</b>	Provides the framework for the UK's climate change policy
	<b>Climate Change Bonds</b>	Fixed income bonds, linked to climate change solutions.
	<b>Climate Emergency Declaration</b>	The Declarations vary for each organisation. The Council's Declaration is set out in the Introduction section of the Environment Strategy.
	<b>CO2 emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities</b>	The UK produces a breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions by Local Authority area as a subset of its annual inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. The emissions deemed to be within the scope of Local Authorities exclude large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land-use.
<b>CCC</b>	<b>Committee on Climate Change</b>	Independent body to advise the government on climate change.
<b>CIL</b>	<b>Community Infrastructure Levy</b>	A charge which can be levied on new developments within the Local Authority's area. It helps deliver required infrastructure.
	<b>Delivery Plan</b>	The Council's plan on how the objectives of the Environment Strategy will be achieved.
	<b>Economic Development Board</b>	Newly formed Economic Board which will oversee the Economic Development Strategy, implementing an action plan to fulfil its objectives.

<b>EU ETS</b>	<b>European Union Emissions Trading System</b>	The first and largest greenhouse gas emissions trading system in the world. It works on a 'cap and trade' principle where allowances are set. Allowances are auctioned off or allocated for free. Emitters must ensure they have enough allowances to meet their emissions or purchase more. Those who reduce their emissions and have spare allowances can sell off their credits.
<b>GWP</b>	<b>Global Warming Potential</b>	The potential of a Greenhouse Gas to trap additional heat in the atmosphere relative to Carbon dioxide. Specifically, it is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 tonne of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 tonne of carbon dioxide. The larger the GWP, the more that gas warms the Earth compared to CO2 over that time period.
	<b>Green energy</b>	Definitions would usually mean the gas or electricity were from 100% renewable sources.
<b>GHG</b>	<b>Greenhouse gases</b>	Gases in the atmosphere that absorb and re-emit heat. They occur naturally in the Earth's atmosphere but human activity increases these, leading to increased warming and climate change.
<b>GDP</b>	<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>	The total monetary/market value of the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period.
	<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>	A partnership that brings together West Berkshire's leaders of the health and social care system.
<b>KPIs</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	A measurable value/outcome to gauge how well an organisation is meeting its key objectives.
<b>LULUCF</b>	<b>Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry</b>	A greenhouse gas sector defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
<b>LCWIP</b>	<b>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Programme</b>	Sets out the Council's long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks
	<b>Local Plan</b>	The plan is part of the overall Development Plan for West Berkshire, setting out our local planning policies.
<b>LTP</b>	<b>Local Transport Plan</b>	Aims to deliver effective transport solutions for all by increasing choice and minimising congestion.
<b>NAEI</b>	<b>National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory</b>	The Inventory is compiled by Ricardo. It is the standard reference inventory for the UK and includes emission estimates for a wide range of important pollutants.
	<b>Nature Recovery Plan</b>	The plan defines the objectives and key actions required to improve biodiversity and wildlife in the district
	<b>Net zero / Net zero carbon</b>	Making changes to reduce carbon or GHG emissions to the lowest amount – and offsetting as a last resort to reach an overall net position of zero carbon.
	<b>North Wessex Downs National Landscape (previously AONB)</b>	Area of countryside designated for conservation in recognition of its national importance.
	<b>Per capita</b>	The district's emissions divided by the number of people to give a value per person. This can be useful in comparing other areas of differing population size.

	<b>Operational Control</b>	A method of providing a boundary for an organisation to isolate its carbon emissions. This method describes where an organisation has functional operational control of an asset it will be included in calculations.
	<b>Scope 1 Emissions</b>	aka direct emissions, come from sources that are owned or controlled by an organisation, e.g. vehicles
	<b>Scope 2 Emissions</b>	(aka Energy indirect) come from the consumption of electricity used in an organisation's buildings
	<b>Scope 3 Emissions</b>	(aka other indirect) emissions come from goods/ services that an organisation utilise but are not directly responsible for e.g. investments.
<b>SME</b>	<b>Small medium enterprises</b>	Small or medium businesses are generally defined as businesses with less than 250 employees.
<b>SuD</b>	<b>Sustainable drainage systems</b>	Systems designed to manage the drainage of surface water.
	<b>Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership</b>	An organisation bringing together business, public sector, education and community together to drive the local economy.
	<b>Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum</b>	A Forum to help prepare, respond and recover from emergency incidents.
	<b>The National Adaptation Programme</b>	This sets out the actions that the UK government and others will take over the next five-yearly cycle to adapt to the challenged of climate change.
<b>ULEV</b>	<b>Ultra low emission vehicle</b>	A vehicle that emits no more than 75g/km CO <sub>2</sub> , based on the NEDC test, at the tailpipe. This includes pure electric, hydrogen, range-extender and plug in hybrid vehicles.
	<b>Whole life carbon</b>	The emissions created for every stage of an item/ buildings production, use and disposal.



# Disposal of Ramsbury Drive Play Area to Hungerford Town Council

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	21 May 2026
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Nigel Foot
<b>Report Author:</b>	Matthew Hart

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider Hungerford Town Council (HTC) request for the leasehold transfer, and all future maintenance responsibility, of Ramsbury Drive Play Park not including the open space.

## 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the land is transferred to Hungerford Town Council (HTC) on a long lease of at least 75 years.

## 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	<p>There will be a future small saving to West Berkshire Council as HTC will take on all future maintenance of the site both in terms of revenue and capital.</p> <p>HTC have asked for a capital sum of 13k which WBC had previously identified as being required for key upgrades to be passed to them as part of the transfer.</p>
<b>Human Resource:</b>	None
<b>Legal:</b>	<p>Heads of Terms have been agreed in principle between both parties. The disposal of Ramsbury Drive Play Park will be advertised in accordance section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.</p>

**Disposal of Ramsbury Drive Play Area to Hungerford Town Council**

	<p>The usual covenants preventing disposal or development form part of the heads of terms and will also be included in the lease.</p> <p>Discussions will have to take place with the grounds maintenance contractor as this play park will be removed from the Grounds Maintenance Contract. There is a minimal saving but a benefit in terms of contractor capacity.</p>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	<p>There is a reduction in risk to West Berkshire Council as HTC become responsible for the playground. All liabilities for the play park pass to the Town Council.</p>
<b>Property:</b>	<p>None</p>
<b>Policy:</b>	<p>This proposal supports the council's commitment to locally-led service delivery.</p>

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		✓		The town council may need to take their own advice on equalities provision when the playground has to be upgraded. This advice is however available from suppliers. HTC will know their local community requirements better than WBC.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		✓		As above there may be some positive outcomes in this respect.

**Disposal of Ramsbury Drive Play Area to Hungerford Town Council**

<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		✓		No negative environmental impacts.
<b>Health Impact:</b>	✓			Children's play has undoubted mental and physical health benefits.
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		✓		None
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		✓		None
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>	✓			Ensures sustainable play and open space provision through innovation and partnerships
<b>Core Business:</b>	✓			As above this proposal ensures sustainable play and open space provision through innovation and partnerships. Play provision is core business within Environment.
<b>Data Impact:</b>		✓		None

<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	Hungerford Town Council, Devolution Working Group, which includes Legal and Property Service representatives.
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## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 Hungerford Town Council (HTC) submitted a request to have this playground transferred into their care on a long lease in accordance with our devolution commitments. At their last meeting they agreed to a draft heads of terms for the transfer of play areas and want to progress this transfer as soon as practicable.
- 4.2 The play park at Ramsbury Drive is a small children's play area which is generally in good condition, but which requires some capital investment to bring some items of play equipment up to modern standards.
- 4.3 Routine annual maintenance costs for Ramsbury Drive play park are minimal. One off repairs and maintenance costs are approximately £500/annum. HTC have asked for a capital sum of 13k which WBC had previously identified as being required for key upgrades to be passed to them as part of the transfer.
- 4.4 This play park can be devolved to the town council on a long lease on terms to be determined in line with other lease arrangements.
- 4.5 This proposal offers an opportunity for West Berkshire Council to support the devolution agenda and place this play park asset at the appropriate level of government to ensure that they are maintained appropriately and continue to meet the requirements of the local community into the future.
- 4.6 Hungerford Town Council will potentially have greater access to the necessary CIL funding required within HTC, specifically capital funding, to ensure these play assets remain available to the public.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.1 HTC expressed an interest in the transfer of this play area some time ago and have formally agreed a draft Heads of terms for the transfer. This accords with WBC's devolution aspirations and the recent Parish Brochure which sets out which assets and functions that WBC are seeking to transfer to local town or parish council's.
- 5.2 HTC will be provided with the most up to date RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) report prior to transfer. This report will confirm the condition of the play equipment at that stage, which is in a good condition.
- 5.3 If this proposal is agreed by this council then HTC will undertake and fund all ongoing maintenance costs and capital investment in the play park from the point of transfer.

## Background

5.4 A plan of Ramsbury Drive is provided within the supporting information below. Ramsbury Drive is an area of open space with a small play park which transferred to West Berkshire Council after the area was developed for housing. The children's play park is in good condition with no faults reported in the last RoSPA inspection on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

5.5 Location Plan:



5.6 Hungerford Town Council are seeking the capital sum of £13000 to cover planned upgrades to the play park and bring up to a standard.

5.7 Ramsbury Drive play park offers the more common play equipment features in its design. This equipment is now more than 10 years old and will need to be replaced at some point in the future, perhaps well before the average lifespan of 20-25 years. Ongoing maintenance costs generally increase as the equipment ages.

5.8 This Council has a legal responsibility to ensure children's play areas under our control are maintained in as safe a condition as reasonably practicable. In addition play provision also has to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and other directives such as the Disability Equality Duty 2006. This requires significant management time and financial investment over time.

## Disposal of Ramsbury Drive Play Area to Hungerford Town Council

5.9 Although no playgrounds have had to close in West Berkshire, as budget pressures become more acute the responsibility for maintenance and investment in playgrounds and play equipment becomes more difficult to fulfil. According to the Association of Play Industries (API) between 2014/15 and 2015/16 local councils in England closed 214 children's playgrounds.

5.10 Current annual maintenance costs are set out below:

- i. Routine Annual Maintenance Costs are minimal, this is to maintain the grass and weeds in the play park.
- ii. One off Repairs and Maintenance. These costs, mostly relating to the play park (replacement of worn/damaged equipment) are approximately £500 per year. Note however this figure can go up or down each year depending on the findings of the quarterly Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) inspections. The play park equipment in Ramsbury drive will need some significant capital investment in the future.

5.11 Current CIL arrangements have an implication for the future maintenance of playgrounds. It is increasingly likely that there will be less capital funding available to the Environment Department in order to manage these assets as they near end of life, or when equipment needs to be replaced. As local councils have a greater CIL allocation, then the likelihood is that this Council will have to approach the relevant parish council for a contribution towards the cost of replacement play park equipment. It makes sense therefore to transfer these assets to the local parish or town council who are better placed to manage the assets into the future.

## 6 Other options considered

6.1 None. The principle of devolution of open space and built assets to local councils has already been established, most notably the arrangements currently in place with Thatcham Town Council and Hermitage Parish Council. This proposal, alongside other devolution projects, supports West Berkshire Council's commitment to locally led service delivery.

## 7 Conclusion

7.1 Hungerford Town Council (HTC) are best placed to manage the future of the play park in Ramsbury Drive. HTC are closer to the local community, have greater understanding of their leisure needs so as to ensure the future ongoing maintenance and development of the play park.

7.2 This proposal offers an opportunity for West Berkshire Council to support the devolution agenda and place this playpark asset at the appropriate level of government to ensure that they are maintained appropriately and continue to meet the requirements of the local community into the future.

7.3 This play park should therefore be devolved to the Parish on a long lease on terms to be determined in line with other lease arrangements.

## 8 Appendices

### 8.1 Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment

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#### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees or Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

**Wards affected:** Hungerford Town Council

#### Officer details:

Name: Matthew Hart  
Job Title: Grounds Maintenance Team Leader  
Tel No: 01635 519505  
E-mail: matt.hart1@westberks.gov.uk

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# West Berkshire Council Equity Impact Assessment

TEMPLATE

March 2023

## Contents

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Section 2: Detail of proposal .....	10
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics .....	12
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts.....	13
Section 4: Review.....	14

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Section 1: Summary details

<b>Directorate and Service Area</b>	Place Directorate, Countryside.
<b>What is being assessed</b> (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Devolve Ramsbury Drive play park to Hungerford Town Council on a long lease. They will manage the asset thereafter.
<b>Is this a new or existing function or policy?</b>	No
<b>Summary of assessment</b> Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	Service remains the same only the responsible body changes.
<b>Completed By</b>	Matthew Hart, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader.
<b>Authorised By</b>	
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	06/03/2026

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p><b>Context / Background</b></p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>Service remains the same only the responsible body changes</p>
<p><b>Proposals</b></p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	
<p><b>Evidence / Intelligence</b></p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our</p>	<p>Service remains the same only the responsible body changes</p>

**Equity Impact Assessment**

ability to deliver our climate commitments.	
<p><b>Alternatives considered / rejected</b></p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	Service remains the same only the responsible body changes



**Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics**

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts**

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Areas of deprivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Displaced communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Care experienced people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The Armed Forces Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

## Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

<b>Review Date</b>	
<b>Person Responsible for Review</b>	
<b>Authorised By</b>	

**EDI employee related EQiA's should now be sent to Human Resources**

# Adult Social Care Self-assessment

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	21 May 2026
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Patrick Clark
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	23 April 2026
<b>Report Author:</b>	Paul Coe

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share the self-assessment document developed in line with the requirements of the Care Quality Commission (CQC)'s programme of Local Authority Assurance.
- 1.2 The assurance process focuses on Adult Social Care but takes account of associated activity by other departments including Housing, Commissioning, Public Health, Human Resources and others.
- 1.3 The development of an Annual self-assessment report is a new requirement. It forms part of the 'Information Return' to be shared upon notification of an Assurance visit.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the self-assessment is endorsed for sharing with CQC when required.
- 2.2 That the self-assessment is published to raise awareness of the work undertaken by council services.

## 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	<p>The self-assessment describes work which has already been completed. There are no new financial implications.</p> <p>The council may take the view that it wishes to publish hard copies of the report. This is not a requirement but would entail costs if pursued.</p>

<b>Human Resource:</b>	<p>The self-assessment describes work which has already been completed. There are no new HR implications.</p> <p>The publication of the self-assessment creates an opportunity to celebrate achievements and recognise staff contributions.</p>			
<b>Legal:</b>	<p>The self-assessment describes work which has already been completed. There are no new Legal implications.</p>			
<b>Risk Management:</b>	<p>The self-assessment describes work which has already been completed. There is small risk of reputational challenge if the self-assessment is not seen as a credible account.</p>			
<b>Property:</b>	<p>None.</p>			
<b>Policy:</b>	<p>None.</p>			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		The self-assessment describes work already completed.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		The self-assessment describes work already completed.
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		X		The self-assessment describes work already completed.

<b>Health Impact:</b>		X		The self-assessment describes work already completed.
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		X		The self-assessment describes work already completed.
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		The self-assessment describes work already completed.
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>		X		The self-assessment describes work already completed.
<b>Core Business:</b>	X			The publication of the self-assessment creates an opportunity to celebrate achievements and recognise staff contributions.
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		The self-assessment describes work already completed. It includes compliments received from customers and photographs. Consent has been gained where appropriate, or text anonymised as necessary.

<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	<p>Multiple departments have supported the development of the self-assessments, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Social Care</li> <li>• Procurement and Commissioning</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Public Health</li> </ul>
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## 4 Executive Summary

4.1 The CQC now requires that local authorities develop an annual self-assessment document as part of the Local Authority Assurance process.

- 4.2 There is significant discretion regarding the format of the self-assessment. A review of published documents shows a good degree of variation in the approach taken relating to length, format and content.
- 4.3 West Berkshire Council staff have now compiled a self-assessment in readiness for submission and or publication, drawing on examples of good practice seen elsewhere.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.1 The CQC requires local authorities to complete an annual self-assessment. This is a new requirement. The self-assessment will form a key part of the 'Information Return', which inspectors review before they attend their site visit.
- 5.2 CQC provide 6-8 weeks of notice prior to an assurance visit. There is a good likelihood that we will be re-assessed during Spring/ Summer 2026. Our self-assessment has been developed in anticipation of this timeline.

### Background

- 5.3 West Berkshire Council developed a self-assessment for the CQC assurance activity conducted in 2024. It was developed at short notice. We were the first local authority in the South East to go through the new assurance regime, and so there were no examples available to inform our approach.
- 5.4 Now that there are a number of examples available in the public domain, we have undertaken a review of published examples, cross-referencing with the outcomes of the assurance visits.
- 5.5 The self-assessment addresses the 4 Themes on which the assurance process is focused.
- 5.6 Key messages are as follows.
- 5.7 Strengths are:
  - a) Positive outcomes and high satisfaction (compliments significantly outweigh complaints; strong survey feedback).
  - b) Strong partnership working across internal and external partners; effective joint working on hospital discharge pathways.
  - c) Clear governance, accountability and oversight; strengthened scrutiny arrangements.
  - d) Skilled, motivated workforce with positive culture; evidence of engagement, supervision, and development opportunities.
  - e) Person-centred, strengths-based practice (Three Conversations model; preventative approach; improved audit assurance).
  - f) Improved information, advice and accessibility (webpage review via co-production; directory improvements; champion scheme).
  - g) Strong safeguarding arrangements and focus on Making Safeguarding Personal; positive safeguarding outcomes.

## Adult Social Care Self-assessment

- h) Service innovation and improvement activity (e.g., Magic Notes; digital innovation programme; learning and external reviews).

### 5.8 Areas for development:

- a) Reduce waiting times and improve timeliness of assessments, care planning and annual reviews.
- b) Increase uptake of Direct Payments and reduce backlogs; sustain improvements following team/process changes.
- c) Strengthen commissioning and market shaping, including joint commissioning with health and provider market development.
- d) Develop more granular understanding of population needs at community level to target interventions and address inequalities.
- e) Embed and assure effectiveness of new Safeguarding Adults Board arrangements, while maintaining strong multi-agency links.

## Proposals

5.9 It is proposed that the self-assessment document is endorsed for submission and publication.

5.10 A 2-page summary has also been developed to make the document more accessible for staff and partners in anticipation of the Assurance visit. Stakeholder will be briefed ahead of the assurance visit.

## 6 Other options considered

6.1 It is a requirement of the CQC regime for a self-assessment to be completed. On that basis, no other options have been considered.

## 7 Conclusion

7.1 Council officers have now completed a self-assessment in line with the requirements of the CQC Local Authority Assurance programme. It has been developed with input from multiple departments, based on examples of good practice seen elsewhere.

## 8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Draft Self-assessment

8.2 Appendix B – High-level Summary

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### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

## Adult Social Care Self-assessment

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position:

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

### Officer details:

Name: Paul Coe  
Job Title: Executive Director  
Tel No: X 3386  
E-mail: paul.coe@westberks.gov.uk



# Adult Social Care Care Quality Commission Self-Assessment

APRIL 2026



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*"Oh yes, they helped me, it is not easy coming out of hospital in your eighties and you have some problems. You know they came in and they made me walk, that helped me. They were lovely, every one of them was cheerful. The service was fantastic; they were absolutely super-duper. It was an enormous benefit to me, and they got me back on the rails you could say".*

### **A Reablement customer**



# 1. Overview and Executive Summary

West Berkshire Council was pleased to receive a 'Good' rating for our last Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment. As well as providing an opportunity to celebrate the good outcomes for the people who draw on our care and support, it also helped us to focus on areas which need to improve. Good progress has been made against almost all key areas identified at the time, and we have also been able to move forward significantly on new areas to make the most of emerging opportunities and innovation.

We are also very pleased to note the good results from our latest data release relating to the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). This shows a great deal of positive outcomes driven by the hard work and dedication of our workforce. We are committed to building on this strong performance and addressing any deficits.

We are lucky that West Berkshire is an excellent place to live with a mostly healthy and affluent population. Small pockets of deprivation exist, and we are strongly committed to addressing the impact of that deprivation alongside our colleagues and partners. Our ageing population is testament to the opportunities in the district to live a long and healthy life.

We have extremely strong relationships with a whole range of key partners, and we recognise entirely that we can achieve more when we work together. This includes both formal and informal arrangements across multiple priority areas.

We work within clear and robust arrangements relating to governance and accountability, with good oversight from our Executive Leadership team and our Elected Members.

Governance arrangements have been strengthened by the establishment of a dedicated Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee. We also benefit from an engaged and experienced elected member whose Portfolio includes Public Health.

We are committed to ensuring that we have a skilled, motivated and well supported workforce with a positive culture. Our evidence base gives us strong assurance that our people are enthusiastic about their work and highly effective at what they do.



We are committed to listening to the people who draw on our care and support, and to ensuring that our services reflect both their needs and their preferences. We have introduced improved systems to collect their feedback and adapt services accordingly. We have undertaken targeted work with key groups, including carers and those who might struggle to access services for a variety of reasons. We are committed to working in a Preventative approach to achieve better outcomes for people and to better manage our available resources.

We are a confident and ambitious Adult Social Care department working alongside equally skilled colleagues across Commissioning, Housing, Public Health and beyond.

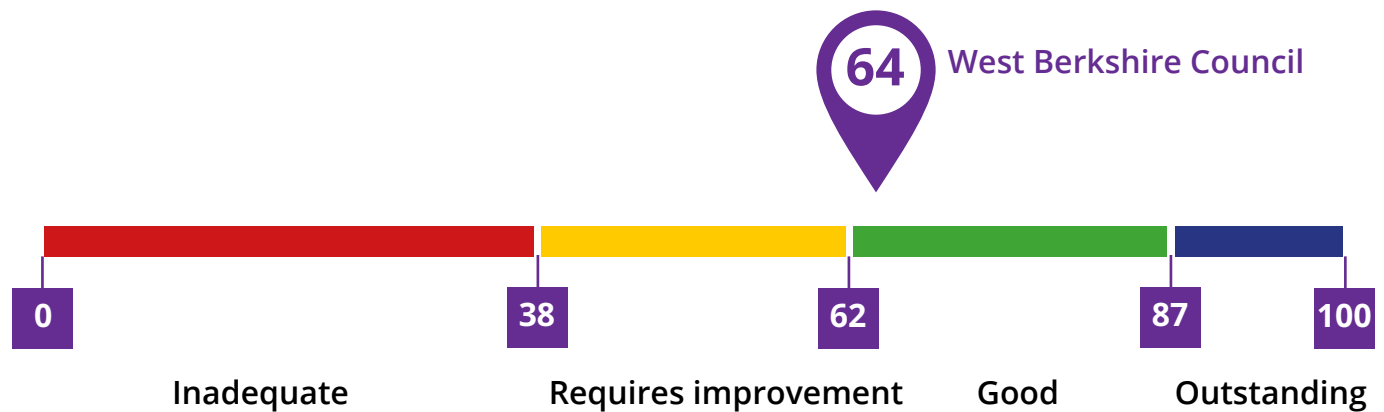
## 2. Our last CQC report

West Berkshire Council received notification in December 2023 of a planned CQC Assessment. The on-site visits took place in February 2024, and the final report was published 17th May 2024.

The Assessment process was a positive one, and the report was accepted without challenge.

The summary findings of the 2024 report were as follows:

The overall rating was **Good** with a score of **64**.



Quality Statement scores were as follows:

Assessing needs	Score: 3	●
Supporting people to lead healthier lives	Score: 2	●
Equity in experience and outcomes	Score: 2	●
Care provision, integration and continuity	Score: 2	●
Partnerships and communities	Score: 2	●
Safe pathways, systems and transitions	Score: 3	●
Safeguarding	Score: 3	●
Governance, management and sustainability	Score: 3	●
Learning, improvement and innovation	Score: 3	●

The Assessment gave council staff an excellent opportunity to reflect on the positive work being undertaken, celebrate good outcomes and identify opportunities for future improvement. Staff feedback was that the assessment activity had been well received and was conducted in a respectful and positive way.

The report was taken through the council's governance cycle, which provided further opportunities to increase wider understanding of the work being delivered within council services. It was accompanied by an action plan to take forward improvements in line with the report findings. Updates on the delivery of the plan have been taken to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, which was formed partly in response to the report's recommendations regarding governance and oversight.

A summary of the issues raised in the 2024 Assurance report is provided here:

Issue	Action	Action	
Some online resources were 'clunky' and not accessible to all.	Review relevant pages; engage with user groups to seek feedback; identify and implement improvements.	All ASC webpages were reviewed using co-production with groups of users and changes made including making the pages more accessible, in plain English and easier to navigate.	
Some carers not aware of available support.	Develop guidance notes for social care staff; deliver briefing sessions.	Delivered briefing sessions for staff to raise awareness; web pages reviewed; new online self-referral for carers developed using co-production model.	
Some barriers to access for people in rural communities.	Review resources; liaise with community centres/ libraries and other community resources. Print and distribute documents identified through the review process.	New 'Let's Talk' programme instituted to provide outreach into communities. Printed documents distributed to key locations.	
There was a low number of people using direct payments. There was also a backlog in the waiting time for reviews of direct payments.	Task group has been identified and is following up on advice provided by the Local Government Association. The Task group will identify measures which are likely to include changes to staffing structure and system.	LGA/PCH review took place and provided advice. The team has been increased in size with a view to changing processes. There has not yet been a change in the numbers, and this remains an area of focus.	

<p>There were negative trends in the data for the number of people who have short term care (reablement) that becomes long term.</p>	<p>Detailed review and analysis of the data will be undertaken. Insights will be shared with the Service Director/s of Adult Social care for them to identify associated actions.</p>	<p>Our threshold for accessing Reablement is low, as we deliberately want to offer this service to a large group of people where we think there may be benefit. This performance indicator is likely to change as a result of changes to the Health contractual arrangements.</p>	
<p>More focus needed to be placed on measuring impact and savings of preventative work for example, which could improve outcomes for individuals as well as help reduce future costs of an aging population and address the high numbers of working aged people with long term care needs.</p>	<p>Detailed review and analysis of the data will be undertaken. Insights will be shared with the Service Director/s of Adult Social Care for them to identify associated actions.</p>	<p>A briefing paper was shared with the Executive group to set out the range of prevention activities and the benefits across the system. Additionally, an updated Prevention Strategy is in development in conjunction with the Integrated Care Board and Public Health colleagues. This will set out the measures of impact.</p>	
<p>Consideration needs to be given to better understanding of the data, demographics and population need, particularly at community level.</p>	<p>Detailed review and analysis of the data will be undertaken. Insights will be shared with the Executive Director for People (Adults) for action.</p>	<p>We now have an updated Joint Strategic Needs Assessment as well as a refreshed Market Position Statement. A detailed Mental Health Needs Assessment has also been undertaken.</p>	
<p>Care largely delivered through traditional models of care such as care homes, nursing homes and home care.</p>	<p>Review Market Shaping/ Commissioning arrangements to identify resource requirements and improved approaches.</p>	<p>A refreshed Market Position Statement has been published, and work has begun to change the relationship between the Commissioning function and the provider market. A 'Business Partner' model is being developed.</p>	

<p>Further work was needed with partners to work toward joint commissioning, this included ongoing work with the integrated care board in relation to Continuing Health Care funding.</p>	<p>Review Market Shaping/ Commissioning arrangements to identify resource requirements and improved approaches.</p>	<p>Changes in the Integrated Care Board, including the need for them to very significantly reduce their operating costs, have made this difficult to progress. Some progress has been made on the pathway for CHC casework.</p>	
<p>The local authority needed to do more work in collaboration with people and partners to promote and support innovative and new ways of working to improve people's social care experience and outcomes.</p>	<p>Review Market Shaping/ Commissioning arrangements to identify resource requirements and improved approaches</p>	<p>We have had several reviews by the LGA, including Review of Leadership, Review of Workforce Strategy and Information and Advice Maturity assessment.</p> <p>The Market position Statement has been refreshed to invite new partnerships. External expertise (Triple Value Impact) has been brought in to support innovation in the way that we meet needs. The new Memorandum of understanding with the voluntary sector supports better partnership working. Swift have advised on our in-house care home provision.</p>	
<p>Partly because of the Covid-19 pandemic some of the goals and aspirations of previous strategies had not been met.</p>	<p>Review Market Shaping/ Commissioning arrangements to identify resource requirements and improved approaches</p>	<p>An ongoing review by the ASC Management team of processes/ procedures/ policies and strategies continues to review and adjust appropriately. Issues are raised with partners as appropriate.</p>	
<p>The local authority had identified they needed to develop their work with the voluntary sector as well as embed co-production across the authority.</p>	<p>Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the voluntary sector which reflects the report.</p>	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed and adopted; it was developed collaboratively and has led to higher levels of engagement with the sector. We have undertaken more co-productive activities (e.g. web page review/ Carer self-assessment.</p>	

<p>The report identified a lack of clarity on the action taken by the local authority in relation to addressing equality issues and said better communication in this area was required.</p>	<p>Ensure that ASC supports the delivery of the EDI framework.</p>	<p>A range of forums and activities support this issue. The publication of an updated JSNA provides good data. The Let's Talk programme provides better access to council services. The Carers Group/ Autism Partnership Board/ Learning Disability Partnership Board support better services to key groups. Targeted interventions on high-risk groups and places (e.g. the racing community) have been delivered. The Target Priority Group meeting co-ordinates our work with people with overlapping needs. More still needs to be done.</p>	
<p>Assessment and care planning arrangements were not always timely and up to date. Some people were waiting a long time for assessment.</p>	<p>Issue to be kept under review and addressed using insight from Local Government Association consultant</p>	<p>The LGA review helped to identify the best approach and training was delivered on the back of their findings. This target has been impeded by the insolvency of our Community Equipment Provider and issues with our case management system, both of which are being managed.</p>	
<p>Advocacy support was not always immediately available which meant people had to wait which resulted in delays to assessments.</p>	<p>Commissioning arrangements to be reviewed.</p>	<p>Performance monitoring arrangements have been improved. These included some focus on IMCA functions for nearby secure unit.</p> <p>Performance is much improved following an initial period of challenge.</p>	
<p>Voluntary sector carers organisation felt they could be used more in service development.</p>	<p>Engage with service providers and agree future arrangements</p>	<p>A new Carers Strategy has been written in collaboration with the Carers Group which includes voluntary sector providers.</p>	

<p>One way communication with the voluntary sector with missed opportunities for joint-working.</p>	<p>Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the voluntary sector which reflects the report. Review the approach to voluntary sector commissioning.</p>	<p>A memorandum of understanding has now been adopted with representatives of the voluntary sector. This has been accompanied by improved engagement and representation.</p>	
<p>Small care quality team with concerns about resourcing.</p>	<p>Review the care quality function and resources.</p>	<p>The team has been reviewed. No changes were made to staffing levels.</p>	
<p>Measurement of impact beyond the BCF and hospital discharge was limited as there was still work to be done to develop impactful partnership working with fully integrated joint commissioning across health and care.</p>	<p>Review data monitoring arrangements; maximise impact of Locality Integration Board.</p>	<p>The new Client Level Dataset is supporting better understanding of volumes, performance and impact. Work has been undertaken in partnership with the ICB on Neighbourhoods and Prevention. The LGA Review of the Health and Wellbeing Board will support more impactful interventions.</p>	
<p>Members understood their roles but were still in the process of learning the detail.</p>	<p>Provide additional support, advice and information to relevant members, notably the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and the chairs for the Scrutiny Commission/ Health Scrutiny.</p>	<p>New Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee has formed and reviewed multiple items regarding Adult Social care. Regular briefings for Portfolio Holder continue.</p>	



*I am writing because I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Theresa Mulberry for her support during my father's CHC assessment and beyond. As you will be aware, applying for CHC is an incredibly complex and exhausting process, but Theresa provided me with vital support by going above and beyond what I expected from her. The most important thing was that Theresa saw my father as a person, not just a case or a number and could easily see that things were not right for him in many ways. She helped me to realise that Dad had the right to better care than he was receiving and gave me the courage to challenge the care home on their appalling treatment of my dad.*

*I was so pleased to hear from Theresa today and to hear about how she didn't forget about my dad. I don't doubt for one minute that she has a considerable workload but she definitely went the extra mile and I hugely appreciate both her actions and her support.*

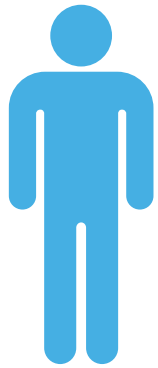
*I had just about lost faith in all professionals involved in Dad's care, he had been let down by just about everyone, yet Theresa's invaluable support helped me to find a better solution for Dad. I cannot express in words just how much this means to us. Please pass these words on to Theresa and her managers.*

**A daughter**

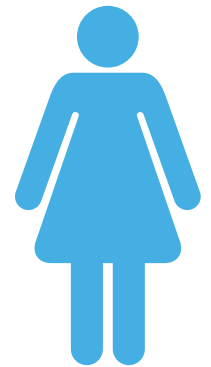
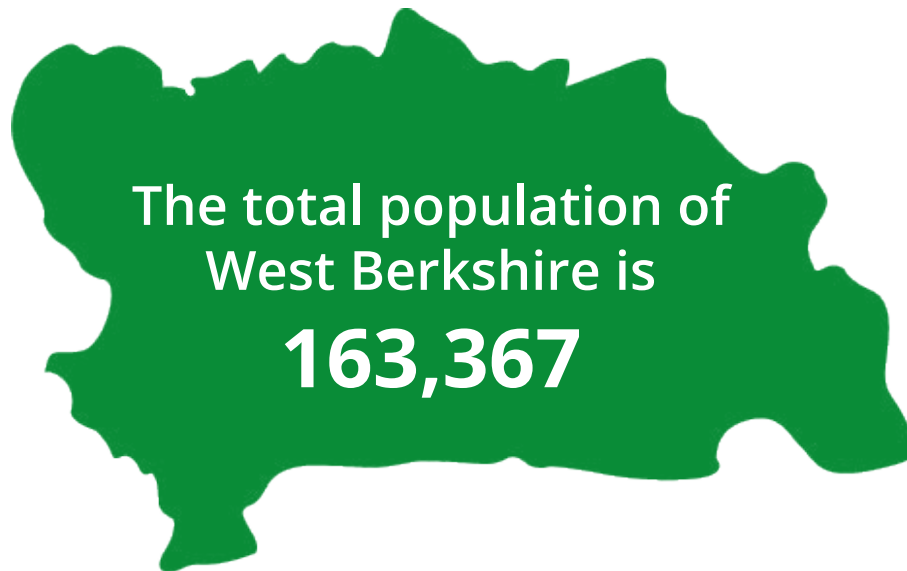
### 3. About West Berkshire

#### Our place and people

West Berkshire is an excellent place to live, with strong indicators relating to health, living standards and satisfaction



**49%**  
male



**51%**  
female

#### Age range

**95,185**

of the populations are aged 18-64

**32,857**

of the population are aged 65+

In the latest census 2011 to 2021,  
there was an increase of

**33.8%**

in people aged 65 and over in  
West Berkshire.



The geography is mainly rural, with a few centres of population, e.g. Newbury, Hungerford & Thatcham. There are good transport links including the M4/ A34 and rail. A fuller description of the district is available [here](#) and a summary of key elements is below.

[Your district in facts and figures - West Berkshire Council](#)

The population is relatively affluent and healthy. 2025 data showed that West Berkshire is one of the least deprived areas in the country ranked at 257 on the Index of Multiple deprivation (where 1 is high).

[Local Deprivation Explorer - Download all data](#)

There are, of course, pockets of deprivation and this deprivation can be particularly impactful on people when located within relative affluence. Adult Social Care has an important role to play in mitigating the impacts of deprivation, alongside partners.

The district has relatively high numbers of older adults, and this is the main area of growth over recent years. The number of people aged 65 to 74 years rose by around 4,100 (an increase of 31.7%), while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by around 4,000 (11.2% decrease). The over 90 population increased by 23%.

In many ways, this growth is a positive story, showing that West Berkshire residents are able to live long lives and that services make the district an attractive place to live for older adults. It does, of course, create additional demand on services.

In 2021, 50.9% of West Berkshire residents described their health as “very good”.

In 2021, 91.9% of people in West Berkshire identified their ethnic group within the “White” category (compared with 94.8% in 2011). The relatively low numbers of people coming from a global majority ethnicity can make it challenging to tailor services accordingly, but on a positive note the adult social care workforce is more ethnically diverse than the local population.

There is a positive job density in the district (i.e. there are more jobs than there are people). This is a good position, although it does create challenges for social care employers. Additionally, the cost of housing is high, again making it difficult to attract people into the district in relatively low paid roles.



## Our council

West Berkshire Council (WBC) is a Unitary Authority in the South East of England. There is a strong Liberal Democrat majority following the local elections in May 2023.

A new Council Strategy was agreed in October 2023.

[Council Strategy 2023-2027 - West Berkshire Council](#)

The strategic approach seeks to reduce silo working and priorities all have a crosscutting quality. One priority – ‘A Fairer West Berkshire with Opportunities for All’ has particular relevance to Adult Social Care, but others are also relevant (e.g. ‘Thriving Communities with a strong local voice’).

There is a strong culture of delivering high quality performance across multiple services and engaging proactively with the local population. Governance oversight is effective and informed by external review (e.g. Local Government Association, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, etc.). The financial context is challenging, and the council is in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support as are many other Upper Tier and Unitary councils.

## Our local partners

The council is committed to effective partnership working across all key areas.

West Berkshire sits within the newly formed Thames Valley Integrated Care System (ICS). Previously, we sat in the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) ICS. The Thames Valley ICS will need time to form up and develop effective working relationships but there is already a well-established culture of joint working across the patch. We work collaboratively with Acute (primarily Royal Berkshire Hospital, Great Western Hospital and North Hampshire Hospital) and Community services (primarily Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust).

We have an agreed Health and Wellbeing Strategy across the Berkshire West geography (which includes Reading Borough Council and Wokingham District Council). The Priorities are to:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people.
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives.
- Help families and children in early years.
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people.
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults.

### [Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2030 - West Berkshire Council](#)

We have an effective Health and Wellbeing Board, which has recently been reviewed by the Local Government Association with a focus on making the Board more impactful. There was good engagement in the review with a clear improvement plan.

The Locality Integration Board is a sub-group of that Board and supports further partnership work across Adult Social Care, Health, the Voluntary Sector and so on.

We aspire to have an improved relationship with our voluntary sector and to that end we have developed a Memorandum of Understanding with key representatives of the sector.

### [Council and Voluntary Sector unite under Memorandum of Understanding - West Berkshire Council](#)

From April 2026, West Berkshire established a new Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), following withdrawal from the tri-borough Berkshire West SAB. This creates opportunities for a greater focus on our local population and the issues they face. We will continue to work collaboratively with neighbours to share learning and resources.

We work with Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and others in a variety of forums including the Community Safety Partnership, Domestic Abuse Board, MAPPA meetings, etc.



*I would like to pass on my sincere thanks and praise for one of your team as an end user of the adult social care service.*

*My wife and I have power of attorney for my mother and father in-law who unfortunately were placed into care during April 2025. Initially respite care and eventually permanent placements for both.*

*I have been liaising with Holly Gratton who has been a tremendous help in guiding and explaining us through the process from initial financial assessment at the end of 2024 and every step of their eventual full-time placement in during April 2025.*

*Holly has shown great empathy, patience and knowledge to help us throughout this difficult time and we felt reassured Holly had a full understanding of both parents' needs. This has been a great comfort to us knowing help was at hand.*

*Can you please pass on our sincere thanks to Holly for all the help over the last 6 months or so.*

**A family member**

## 4. Activity and Performance

### Volumes of activity in 2024/25

In 2024/25 we had the following demand picture:

- **8806** requests for support.
- **50.5%** of requests for support were resolved at first point of contact through provision of good information, advice and signposting.
- **737** Care Act assessments for long term support carried out.
- A further **1770** assessments for short term support (includes specialist assessments and assessments for equipment provision through our Trusted Assessors).
- **1676** reviews for individuals were completed.
- **40** individuals were successfully supported through transitions from Children's

### Support for carers

- **1055** individuals were identified during 2024/25 supporting adults with care and support needs and/or receiving a carer's assessment.
- **146** carer's assessments carried out.
- **183** carers received services and a further **583** carers were provided with information advice and signposting.
- **123** carers received respite services

### Short term services

- **565** people provided with supportive equipment to assist with daily living.
- **845** items of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) equipment provided.
- **265** people coming out of hospital; were supported with reablement services.

*I am writing to you to express my deepest appreciation for the work that Jules does for TPH, and the team around her at WBC. TPH have 140 patients with acute, intensive, complex needs, and numerous daily Safeguarding issues.*

*However, Jules has been nothing but exceptional. She is committed, dedicated, hardworking and continuously has provided brilliant advice to TPH. I cannot express how absolutely lucky TPH are to have her working with us. I know she has great management support around her, which she has often stated.*

**Lead Forensic Social Worker**

## Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)

West Berkshire Council performs well on most of the ASCOF indicators. The following reflects the report received in January 2026.

The high-level summary is as follows:

- 1st Quartile for 8 indicators
- 2nd Quartile for 6 indicators
- 3rd Quartile for 9 indicators
- 4th Quartile for 2 indicators

West Berkshire Council is in the top quartile for the following indicators:

- Carer-reported quality of life
- Overall satisfaction of carers with social services
- The proportion of people who receive long-term support who live in their home or with family, aged 18 to 64
- Proportion of carers who report that they have been included or consulted in discussion about the person they care for
- The proportion of S42 safeguarding enquiries where a risk was identified, and the reported outcome was that this risk was reduced or removed
- Proportion of people who use services and who reported that they had as much social contact as they would like (service users)
- The proportion of staff in the formal care workforce leaving their role in the past 12 months
- The percentage of residential adult social care providers rated good or outstanding by CQC

We are very pleased to note this strong performance. It is particularly good to note the positive results relating to carers, where we have used a co-productive approach involving our voluntary sector partners and people with lived experience. It is also very reassuring to see the good outcomes in relation to keeping people safe.

Improved staff retention is the product of multiple factors, including a change to the remuneration package as well as improved communication and engagement approaches and the introduction of Magic Notes.

Of the two indicators in the 4th quartile, we recognise the weak performance relating to Direct Payments despite our efforts to improve. We believe changes will in due course improve performance. However, we have reservations about the indicator relating to Reablement. Our threshold for accessing Reablement is low, as we deliberately want to offer this service to a large group of people where we think there may be benefit. We will, nonetheless, look to make improvements. We also anticipate that our performance will improve significantly due to a change in the commissioning arrangements for reablement provided by external providers.

The full table is reproduced on the next page.

## ASCOF - West Berkshire Council Performance over time / Ranking 2024-25

	Indicator	West Berks 2022/23	West Berks 2023/24	West Berks 2024/25	England 2024/25	LA Ranking 2024/25	Quartile 2024/25	
Objective 1: Quality of Life	ASCOF 1A	Social care-related Quality of Life (out of 24)	19.3	19.8	19.2	19	63	2nd
	ASCOF 1B	Adjusted quality of life score based on responses to the ASC Survey	0.431	0.438	0.421	0.419	68	2nd
	ASCOF 1C	Carer-reported quality of life	No Carers Survey	7.6	No Carers Survey	No Carers Survey 7.3 in 2023/24	24 <i>(using 2023/24 results)</i>	1st
	ASCOF 1D	Proportion of service users who are extremely satisfied or very satisfied with their care and support	69.3	72.1	67.1	65.1	52	2nd
	ASCOF 1E	Overall satisfaction of carers with social services	No Carers Survey	44.9	No Carers Survey	No Carers Survey 36.7 in 2023/24	24 <i>(using 2023/24 results)</i>	1st
Objective 2: Independence	ASCOF 2A	The proportion of people who received reablement during the year, who previously were not receiving services, where no further request was made for ongoing support			62.8	77.1	116	4th
	ASCOF 2B	The number of adults aged 18 to 64 whose long-term support needs are met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population	13.6 <i>(13 new admissions)</i>	9.5 <i>(9 new admissions)</i>	12.5 <i>(12 new admissions)</i>	17	45	2nd
	ASCOF 2C	The number of adults aged 65 and over whose long-term support needs are met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population	663.8 <i>(211 new admissions)</i>	648.3 <i>(213 new admissions)</i>	563.2 <i>(189 new admissions)</i>	592.5	63	2nd
	ASCOF 2D1	The proportion of people aged 65 and over discharged from hospital into reablement and who remained in the community within 12 weeks of discharge			60.3	60.7	90	3rd
	ASCOF 2D2	The proportion of people aged 65 and over discharged from hospital, who received reablement services			3.7	5.7	90	3rd
	ASCOF 2E	The proportion of people who receive long-term support with a learning disability, who live in their home or with family, aged 18 to 64	80.5	80.4	80.9	81.4	97	3rd
	ASCOF 2E (2a) <i>NEW for 2024/25</i>	The proportion of people who receive long-term support who live in their home or with family, aged 18 to 64			85.8	77.4	22	1st
	ASCOF 2E (2b) <i>NEW for 2024/25</i>	The proportion of people who receive long-term support who live in their home or with family, aged 65+			59.2	60.3	93	3rd
	ASCOF 3A	Proportion of People who use services who have control over their daily life	78.7	83.5	74.6	77.3	114	3rd
Objective 3: Empowerment - information and advice	ASCOF 3B	Proportion of carers who report that they have been included or consulted in discussion about the person they care for	No Carers Survey	74.7	No Carers Survey	No Carers Survey 66.4 in 2023/24	12 <i>(using 2023/24 results)</i>	1st
	ASCOF 3C1	Proportion of People Who Use Services Who Find It Easy to Find Information About Services (Users)	70.2	72.4	66.2	67.8	98	3rd
	ASCOF 3C2	The proportion of carers who find it easy to find information about support	No Carers Survey	61	No Carers Survey	No Carers Survey 59.1 in 2023/24	60 <i>(using 2023/24 results)</i>	2nd
	ASCOF 3D (1a)	The proportion of care users who receive self-directed support	99.9	99.3	98.4	82.4	83	3rd
	ASCOF 3D (2a)	The proportion of care users who receive direct payments	14	13	12	24.5	147	4th
	ASCOF 4A	Proportion of people who use services who feel safe	73.9	75.8	70.5	70.1	77	3rd
Objective 4: Safety	ASCOF 4B <i>NEW for 2024/25</i>	The proportion of S42 safeguarding enquiries where a risk was identified, and the reported outcome was that this risk was reduced or removed			95.5	91.2	35	1st
	Objective 5: Social	ASCOF 5A 1	Proportion of people who use services and who reported that they had as much social contact as they would like (service users)	41.9%	47.7%	49.4%	45.4%	26
ASCOF 5A 2		Proportion of Carers who use services, who reported that they had as much social contact as they would like (carers)	No Carers Survey	28.40%	No Carers Survey	No Carers Survey 30% in 2023/24	84 <i>(using 2023/24 results)</i>	3rd
Objective 6: Workforce	ASCOF 6A <i>NEW for 2024/25</i>	The proportion of staff in the formal care workforce leaving their role in the past 12 months			18.4	23.7	33	1st
	ASCOF 6B <i>NEW for 2024/25</i>	The percentage of residential adult social care providers rated good or outstanding by CQC			90.2	80	24	1st



## 5. Theme 1: How the Local Authority works with People

### Our strengths

During the reporting year 2024/25, ASC received 7 times more compliments than complaints, indicating a positive impact on the majority of the people who drew on our care and support. Some of the compliments have been included in this report. Additionally, quality monitoring, including statutory surveys, indicate high levels of satisfaction from those we support. We take complaints very seriously and are able to resolve the great majority successfully. In 2024/25 only 1 complaint progressed to the LGSCO. There is very strong evidence that we achieve positive outcomes and that people have a high level of satisfaction with the service on offer.

Our Annual Complaints Report identified some areas for focus. Contextually, these were not always numerically significant, but they provide opportunities to improve our service and as a result they were highlighted for further work.

They were:

- Complaints about care planning/ staff response
- Complaints regarding the transition from Children's Services to ASC

In response, there was further training with staff relating to their care management work and investment in the Transitions Team to manage the levels of demand in terms of both volume and complexity.

We have undertaken a good amount of work to involve the people who use our services to help develop our offer. Our review of webpages drew on a very engaged user group, so we are more confident that they are fit for purpose. A selection of carers also supported us to develop an online carers' self-referral process, using innovation funding. We have introduced an improved 'feedback loop' so that people who have drawn on our care and support can let us know their experience.

We have also relaunched our Directory, and this is informed by user feedback too. In addition, we have introduced the [West Berkshire Directory Champion Scheme](#), through which professional partners across the district receive training and support to enhance their ability to assist individuals who are isolated or not digitally connected. This ensures that residents who may otherwise experience barriers to accessing information are supported to find relevant services, resources, and community opportunities.



Co-production event for webpages

*I have only this morning been singing praises that West Berkshire have met with us to help shape the adult social care website pages.*

**Alex Kaardal, Learning Disability Partnership Board**

We continue to use the Three Conversations Practice Model, which focuses on people's strengths and seeks to reduce dependence on statutory services. We have delivered a round of refresher training for front-line staff, and the data indicates that the model is well understood and used.

Approximately 4% of people who approach us from the community (rather than hospital or through the Transitions pathway, for example) end up with a long-term service.

Improved and expanded audit activities provide reassurance that the model is being consistently applied. The model strongly encourages finding creative solutions which are co-produced with the person with care and support needs and their carer where applicable. It steers us away from a 'tick-box' approach driven only by statutory eligibility considerations.

Preventative approaches are at the heart of our work with people. This comes in many forms, starting with the above improved Information and Advice offer, as well as the Three Conversations model. It is complemented by active work with partners in the Voluntary and Community sector as well as with other providers such as our Leisure centres. We work closely with colleagues in the Communities team including their outreach model (Let's Talk) and Public Health (such as on our Community Wellness Outreach Service – more detail below).

We have worked hard to maintain our Community Equipment offer through a period of significant turbulence, always looking to reduce dependence and enhance people's ability to manage safely in their preferred setting. We are clear on the importance of preventative work in both achieving the best outcomes for people, managing the council's budget, and managing the impact on partner services such as Health.

## Case example

*Mrs W, an 83 year old woman living independently, was admitted to hospital with a urinary and kidney infection, alongside reduced cognition and abdominal pain. Following discharge, she required support with washing, dressing, mobility, and medication management due to reduced strength, unsteadiness, and short term memory difficulties. A reablement pathway with OT involvement was initiated to help her regain independence.*

*An OT assessment identified goals around personal care, medication management, and safe mobility, including returning to outdoor walking. Reablement practitioners supported Mrs W daily to rebuild confidence and functional ability. The OT liaised with her son regarding purchasing a four wheeled walker, arranging a hearing test, and monitoring medication. Strategies such as written prompts were reinforced to support memory and independence. A review of her care needs led to planning for the safe cancellation of her care package.*

*Mrs W successfully regained independence in washing, dressing, medication management, and mobility. Her son agreed to purchase a suitable walker and arrange a hearing assessment. With all goals achieved, her reablement package ended and she was able to continue living at home without ongoing care.*

We draw on a range of data to identify how to best meet the needs of our community. We benefit from a refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which provides very helpful information about the health of the district. Public Health have undertaken a very detailed Mental Health Needs Assessment which provides a comprehensive overview of adult mental health and wellbeing across the district, including consideration of a range of factors such as individual, social, economic and environmental factors. This assessment shone a light on mental health inequalities relating to ethnicity, sexuality and neurodivergence.

The Mental Health Needs Assessment identifies the following groups as having higher needs:

- Adults aged 40–60, especially men, who are less likely to seek help and more likely to experience work-related stress and emotional dysregulation.
- People with severe mental illness (SMI), who face significant health inequalities and higher mortality rates.
- Ethnically diverse communities, who experience barriers to culturally appropriate care and higher rates of discrimination.

- Travelling communities, including Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller families, who face stigma, isolation, and limited access to services.
- Liveaboard boaters, who experience social exclusion, lack of continuity in care, and housing instability
- Farming and racing communities, who face unique occupational stressors, stigma and rural isolation.
- Unpaid carers, including young carers who are at risk of chronic stress and emotional exhaustion.
- LGBTQ+ individuals, who face higher rates of anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation due to stigma and exclusion
- People living in poverty or deprived areas, where mental health challenges are compounded by financial stress, housing insecurity, and limited access to services
- Neurodiverse individuals, including those with autism and ADHD, who often face inappropriate referrals and lack tailored support.
- Perinatal women, with 23.5% estimated to experience mental health conditions during or after pregnancy.

We are benefiting from closer links between ASC and Public Health, which sit under the same Executive Director and Portfolio Holder. The Public Health team includes a nominated lead for ASC and enhanced data analytic resources. Their insight supports better decision-making and service design.

A range of responses are used to meet the differing needs of our population. These include:

- The Community Wellness Outreach Service has targeted work on under-represented groups with a particular focus on cardio-vascular health to support a preventative approach and avoid people becoming dependent upon services. The service commenced in January 2024 and is contracted to end June 2026. To February 2026, the service has delivered 3,352 full NHS Health Checks to people at 37 different locations in our communities, with 73% of these being in agreed priority groups. 118 engagement events with 3,063 attendees have been held across the district, engaging with our communities, offering health checks and providing lifestyle and Cardio-vascular Disease guidance.
- We work with Housing colleagues, Health partners and Addiction services to provide a joined-up response to people with overlapping needs including homelessness, mental health needs and substance/ alcohol use through the Target Priority Group meeting.

- Targeted work has been undertaken with the Racing community in Lambourn, following some deaths by suicide. Heightened risks were identified due to the nature of the lifestyle, and support was offered to stables and their staff.
- The LIFT platform has been commissioned. This is the 'Low Income Family Tracker' and supports families to maximise their income particularly through accessing all available welfare benefits.
- Under the 'Let's Talk' banner, ASC staff have supported colleagues to reach out to communities, especially in rural areas. We have also worked closely with libraries to make it easier for people to access our services, by providing our leaflets, posters, and training librarians how to support people to get information from the West Berkshire Directory.
- We have developed an All-Age Autism Strategy to better meet the needs of autistic people.
- A Domestic Abuse and Suicide Risk Support Toolkit has been developed to reduce the risk to survivors of domestic abuse.
- The Let's Talk programme provides outreach to communities to provide practical support and signposting. The monthly data for January 2026 (as an example) is as follows:



We have launched our Co-production webpages and set up an ASC-focused Community Panel.

[Co-production in adult social care - West Berkshire Council](#)



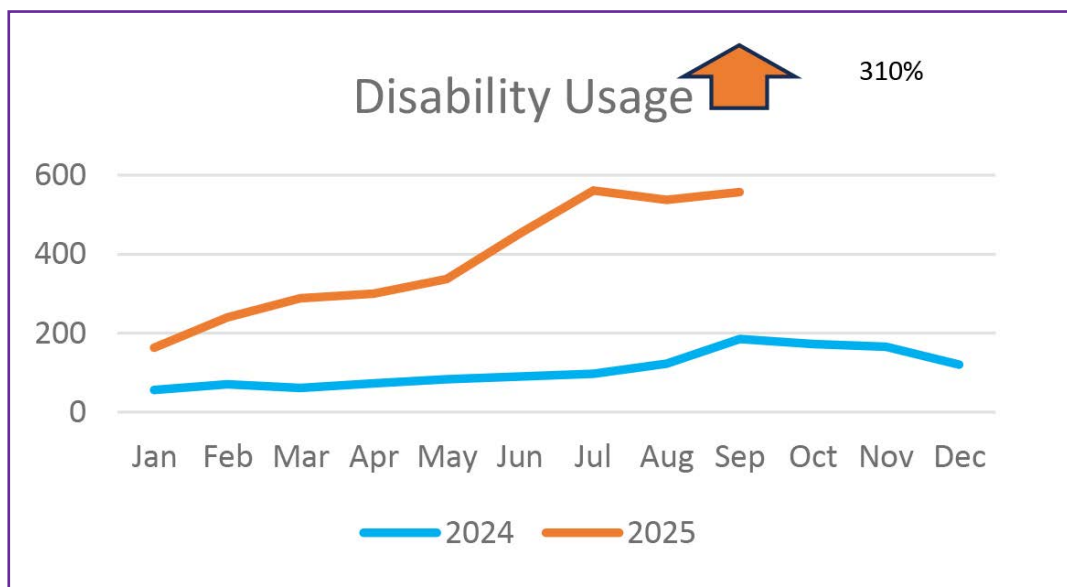
A selection of ASC leaflets

We listen actively to partners relating to a range of key areas. For example, there is an active and vibrant Learning Disability Partnership Board, as well as a Carers Strategy Group and Autism Partnership Board hosted by our Principal Social Worker. These forums help to ensure that our service is responsive to the experiences of people in our community.

Although the insolvency of our Community Equipment provider (NRS) created very substantial difficulties, we were very positive about our response to manage the crisis. West Berkshire Council is the lead Commissioner on behalf of all Berkshire authorities and Health partners. As such, there was a major impact on our people in managing the issues and bringing in new providers. For a period of time, this included standing up an 'in-house' offer, under which our Transport Team were distributing essential equipment. The Emergency Response has been independently reviewed and the findings were that the crisis was well managed.

We work to maximise the impact of services for groups with specific needs, for example our Leisure Provider is now offering bespoke sessions for people with Learning Disabilities and offering outreach to people who might struggle to get to the available centres. This has led to an increase in the take-up of these preventative services.

Data from Everyone Active



# The targeted Exercise Referral Programme

## WEST BERKSHIRE CONTRACT Exercise Referral Programme

Sessions are friendly inclusive and open to all  
Whether you're a member or not, we're here to support you  
on your way to a more active lifestyle



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday ctd	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Senior Circuits 9.30am-10.30am Mortimer	Senior Swim 10am-11am	Cancer Rehab 9.30am-10.15am	Falls Prevention 12.45pm-1.30pm	Senior Swim 8.30am-9.30am	Cardiac Circuits 9.15am-10.15am	Cardiac Rehab 9am-10am
Falls Prevention 10am-10.45am	Senior Circuits 10am-11.30am West Ilsley	Cardiac Rehab 10am-11am	Senior Swim 1pm-2pm	Falls Prevention 9.30am-10.15am	Senior Circuits 10am-11am Pangbourne Village Hall	
Senior Circuits 10.30am-11.30am Mortimer	Senior Swim 11am-12pm	Senior Circuits 10.30am-11.30am Theale	Escape Pain 1pm-2.30pm	Walking Football 9.45am-10.45am	Falls Prevention 10.20am-11.05am	
Falls Prevention 10.45am-11.45am	Good Boost 1pm-1.45pm	Wellbeing Circuits 10.45am-11.30am	Falls Prevention 1.30pm-2.30pm	Senior Swim 9.30am-10.30am	Walking Netball 10.30am-11.30am	
Escape Pain 11am-12.30pm		Seated Exercise 10.45am-11.30am	Senior Swim 2pm-3pm	Health Walk 10.30am-11am Thatcham	Senior Swim 10.30am-11.30am	
Community Cafe 11.30am-12.30pm Mortimer		Cardiac Rehab 11am-12pm	Walking Football 3pm-4pm	MSK Circuits 10.30am-11.15am	Cardiac Rehab 10.30am-11.30am	
Cardiac Rehab 12pm-1pm		Walking Football 11am-12pm	Cardiac Rehab 6.30pm-7.30pm	Cardiac Rehab 11am-12pm		
Good Boost 1pm-2pm		Cardiac Circuits 11am-12pm		Walking Football 11am-12pm		
Good Boost 1pm-1.45pm		Falls Prevention 11.30am-12.30pm		Community Cafe 11am-11.30am Thatcham		
Cancer Rehab 1.30pm-2.30pm		Falls Prevention 12pm-1pm		Senior Swim 1pm-2pm		
Cardiac Rehab 6.30pm-7.30pm				Good Boost 2pm-2.45pm		

Key
Northcroft Leisure Centre
Kennet Leisure Centre
Cotswold Leisure Cent
Willink Leisure Centre
Hungerford Leisure Centre
The Lambourn Centre
Downlands Sports Centre
West Berkshire Community



Book online at [www.everyoneactive.com](http://www.everyoneactive.com)

\*Timetable correct at the time of print – January 2026  
Additional activities may be available during school holidays. Sessions subject to change please check the website for more information. Contact [Callumyates@everyoneactive.com](mailto:Callumyates@everyoneactive.com) with any questions or enquiries

## Everyone Active Outreach/ Inclusive offers

**GP Exercise Referral**  
**EXERCISE REFERRAL PROGRAMME**

Welcome to our GP Exercise Referral scheme

Congratulations on taking your first step towards a healthier you. In addition to gym-based exercises, we offer a variety of classes and courses that you can participate in whilst on our scheme. Below, you will find some health tips to consider which will support your healthy lifestyle changes.

- TIP MOVE MORE NATURALLY**  
Try to think of exercise as movement, and incorporate it into your daily life by walking to the shops instead of driving, or taking the stairs instead of the lift. Small changes make the difference!
- TIP PACE YOURSELF**  
Plan to start slowly and increase your activity level gradually over time. If you've missed a few sessions, drop back to a lower level of exercise before building up again. Remember, doing some movement is better than nothing!
- TIP LISTEN TO YOUR BODY**  
Moderate-intensity workouts can sometimes feel uncomfortable. Hold off on exercise when you're sick or feeling very fatigued, and stop altogether if feeling faint. Be kind to yourself as the body needs time to adapt to the lifestyle changes you are trying to make.
- TIP DO SOMETHING YOU ENJOY**  
Behaviour change needs to be sustainable, so choosing activities that you enjoy is really important. This could be an activity you previously took part in, or it might be a more social activity with others such as a health walk.
- TIP ALWAYS WARM UP AND COOL DOWN**  
Try warming up at lower intensity. Warming up is all about mobility and getting oxygenated blood around the body. A good way to warm up is dynamic stretches or low intensity movement.  
The aim of a cool down is to bring your heart rate back down to normal and to release excess blood from the muscles to avoid next day aches and pains. Static maintenance stretches and low intensity movement is ideal to cool down. For support on warm up and cool down, please speak with your Exercise Referral Instructor.
- TIP BE PREPARED**  
When taking part in exercise, it's always important to wear the correct clothing and having fluid available. Wear something comfortable that will assist with more dynamic movement as well as being appropriate for the environment. When moving, the body will sweat, so having water available to keep you nice and hydrated is very important.

Did you know?  
The Chief Medical Officer recommends moving at moderate intensity for 30 minutes 5 times a week to achieve a healthier and more active lifestyle.

**GP Exercise Referral**

**everyone ACTIVE**

GP Exercise Referral supports individuals with long term health conditions to move more.

Suggested activities are individual to your goals and needs and may include: walking, walking sports, pool activities and meeting other people with long term health conditions.

Ask your healthcare professional to make your referral on your behalf or for more information, visit [everyoneactive.com/GPReferral](http://everyoneactive.com/GPReferral)

**Benefits are:**

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Manage and reduce pain
- Stay mobile
- Sleep better
- Improve your mood
- Sharpen your memory
- Have healthy muscles and bones
- Meet like-minded people

**EVERYONE IS STAYING ACTIVE**

[everyoneactive.com](http://everyoneactive.com)

**The Everyone Active EXERCISE REFERRAL SCHEME**

The Everyone Active Exercise Referral Scheme offers individuals with long term health conditions a safe and welcoming environment to become more active and improve their health and wellbeing.

What is included?

- Personalised support and programme
- 1-1 Consultation with qualified instructors
- Discounted membership with access to a range of activities
- Continuous support and progress tracking
- Access to specialist programmes

WE ARE UNDEFEATABLE

everyone ACTIVE

*Anne's review notes arrived this morning and Anne and I read through them together.*

*Now this isn't being sent to keep you sweet or to leave you feeling big headed, although I don't think you would feel this anyway but I've been in care for most of my career and found your notes written in a personal and person-centred approach than I've ever read before.*

*I think the way you have broken down each issue and activity in a clear and again person-centred way using language that can be easily understood by others is refreshing.*

*I hope that you are able to pass on the above skills to other social workers and professionals as I think it would be very much appreciated by clients and those you are responsible for going forward.*

### **A carer**



## **Areas we are focused on**

We are extremely motivated to reduce waiting times and to improve our performance relating to Annual Reviews. We invited an LGA review, which gave us useful feedback, and we delivered refreshed training on the back of their findings. We are using an enhanced audit approach and we monitor performance actively through our Performance and Operations Group, using our Datazone reports. We are seeing some improvement in this area. It is one of the Council's Strategic Priorities to ensure that people receive timely assessments.

We have been hampered in our efforts by three key areas.

- The insolvency of our Community Equipment provider (NRS) had a major impact on both senior managers and front-line staff. There was major disruption to the supply of equipment and we lost our 'trusted assessor' function. We now have a good level of service from our new suppliers (Millbrook and Livity Life) and this area of work is returning to normal.
- We have now introduced a new case management system, Mosaic, and are working hard to ensure we realise the benefits of this change. It has been a very significant change and has taken a great deal of effort from very many staff and colleagues. We are looking to introduce additional functionality in the coming months.
- The council is receiving Exceptional Financial support and difficult decisions have been made relating to funding.

We have received advice from the LGA on how to improve our performance relating to the number of people receiving direct payments. We have made some changes to the team but due to some turnover in personnel we have not made the progress we expected. This area remains under review.



## 6. Theme 2: Providing Support

### Our strengths

We have very strong relationships with a whole range of partners, both internal to the council and external. Our external partners include statutory services, such as Health, Fire and Police, and non-statutory partners including care providers and the voluntary sector. We know that we can achieve more when we work in a collective and coordinated way. We also know that the people we work with expect services to talk to each other and work in a joined-up way. It makes their experience so much better when we achieve that.

One of the areas where this is particularly important is in supporting hospital discharge and this is an area of strength. We have well established partnership arrangements supporting timely, safe and effective discharge. There is similar joint-work to avoid hospital admissions wherever possible too.

Hospital discharge work has been affected by the Community Equipment disruption mentioned above, but the impacts were well managed. The local system (pan-Berkshire/ Health and Social Care) responded collectively to the NRS insolvency, and we are proud of the way we came together to manage a major risk to our service provision.

## Case example

*The person with lived experience was admitted to hospital after falling from his mobility scooter. He has a history of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder linked to a serious assault, which contributes to absence seizures and impacts his confidence and daily functioning.*

*A trauma informed, person centred, strengths-based approach was used throughout reablement. The person with lived experience was discharged home with four care calls a day support and telecare. Practitioners explored his interests, particularly woodwork and model making, to promote wellbeing and rebuild confidence. He was signposted to community-based activities including Eight Bells, the Community Furniture Project (as a volunteer), and Men's Shed to support social connection and purposeful activity.*

*Reablement was gradually reduced as the person with lived experience regained his independence. He now lives safely at home without formal support, maintaining his wellbeing through meaningful community networks and activities.*

One of the key services used to facilitate discharge is our Reablement Service. This service achieves exceptionally high levels of customer satisfaction and makes a material difference to people's lives after a stay in hospital. It is one of the Council's Strategic Priorities to grow the Reablement Service. A recent customer survey (January 2026) gave the following results:

### Reablement Survey:

**How likely are you to recommend the service to someone else?**

<b>Extremely likely:</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Likely:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Neither likely or unlikely:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Unlikely:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Extremely unlikely:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Skipped:</b>	<b>2</b>

**Overall, how satisfied are you with the service?**

<b>Very satisfied:</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Satisfied:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Not satisfied:</b>	<b>0</b>



Reablement colleagues

We have well established partnership arrangements, including our Health and Wellbeing Board and Locality Integration Board. A recent multi-agency LGA review of the Health and Wellbeing Board provided clear advice on how to make the Board more impactful, and that advice has now been implemented. New priorities have been set and will be closely monitored. The Locality Integration Board benefits from strong relationships and good engagement from a range of partners. The local system jointly developed multiple bids for Innovation Funding, for example relating to Neighbourhoods and Prevention.

Our Commissioning functions were an area of weakness in our last CQC report. Since then, there has been a review of the Commissioning structure and some new appointments have been made in key roles. The service has also grown in size. This has led to greater clarity on the approach and greater focus on the necessary actions. The service has identified a Strategic Partner to progress our commissioning work and we have also undertaken an LGA Review which has given us excellent insight into how to develop further. The service continues to run a Provider Forum to share insights and provide support to the sector. A refreshed Market Position Statement has been published which sends a clear message to suppliers/ potential future partners. In addition, a February Summit on Commissioning yielded some very helpful results. We work actively with our Planning Department to encourage new developments to accommodate care providers. We have also conducted a targeted event with providers and stakeholders working with Adults with Learning Disabilities. This ensured that we have a clear understanding of the needs of people with Learning Disabilities to support further market engagement. In attendance were people who draw on care and support, parents, provider organisations, health partners and advocacy services.



Learning disability engagement event

There are positive signs in the provider market. West Berkshire has a high proportion of providers which are rated 'Good' by the CQC. We also have good levels of sufficiency in the domiciliary care sector, with no waiting times for new packages of care.



An Awareness Raising event

We are undertaking a range of activities relating to community equipment following the onboarding of two new providers – Millbrook & Livity life. We raise awareness of new technologies in the telecare arena (including our Companion Pets offer). We have also relaunched our Directory so that our residents can more easily navigate the range of services and community assets available to them.

## Case example

*Mrs D is a resident living with advanced dementia. She experiences anxiety which can lead to behaviours which challenge. She has a strong attachment to her cat.*

*Her condition, and subsequent symptoms, combined with age-related frailty and a history of falls, has made completing her daily activities increasingly unsafe and increased her dependence on her live-in carer. Mrs D frequently walked to the bottom of her garden to look for her cat in his favourite spot, which posed a significant fall risk and heightened her carer's responsibilities and related costs.*

*To address these challenges, the OT Assistant arranged installation of a galvanised rail along the garden to enable Mrs D to walk more safely and independently. Additionally, after consulting her daughter, she provided Mrs D with a black and white Robotic Companion cat resembling her own cat.*

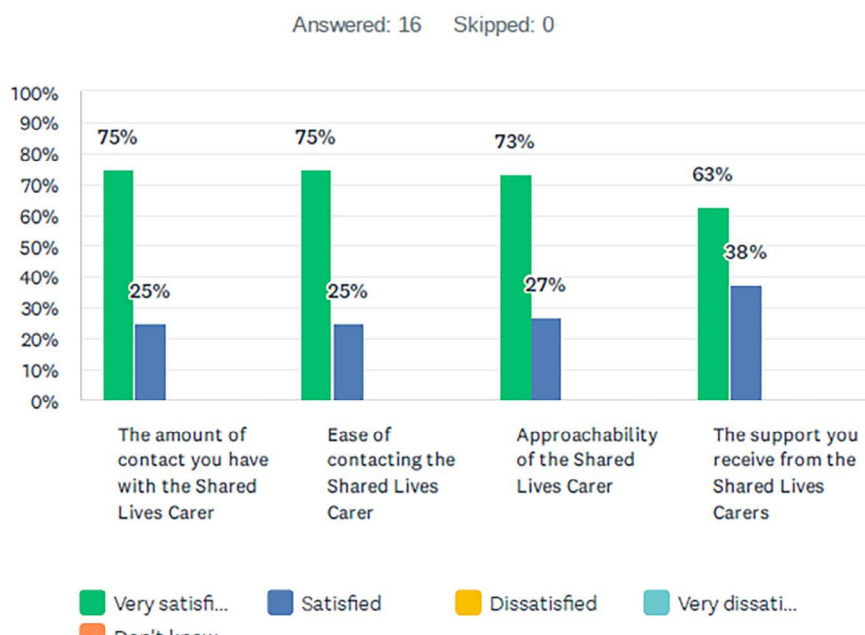
*This intervention successfully reduced her anxiety, particularly in the evenings when her Robo cat could sit within eyeline on a nearby sofa or purring in Mrs D's lap and minimised her need to walk to the garden unsupervised. These measures improved Mrs D's safety, well-being, and independence while alleviating pressure on her carer. Her daughter was very happy and stated that Mrs D "loves the cat", highlighting the positive impact of these person-centred interventions.*

We have benefited from some external consultancy (Triple Value Impact) to maximise the benefits we can gain from digital innovation. This has led to procurement of new technologies – Howz and Vocala – and a programme to use them to provide better and more cost-effective support to people. This will be a significant programme of work.

We have a vibrant and effective Shared Lives offer, which delivers excellent outcomes for a good number of people.

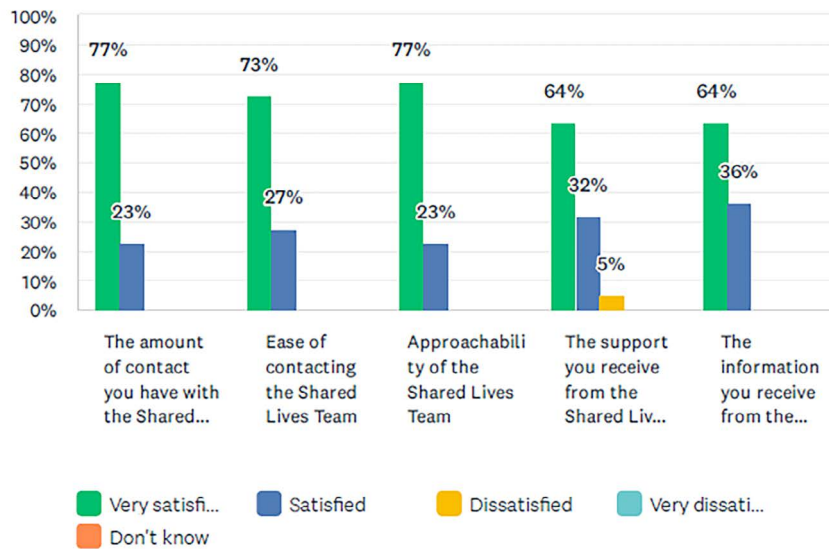
We undertook a survey relating to the Shared Lives service in 2025. Key data points are below:

### We asked unpaid family members "Are you satisfied with the support offered by your Shared Lives carer?"



## We asked our carers “Are you satisfied with the support you receive from the Shared Lives team?”

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



### Case example

*Kathy, a long-term Shared Lives resident, had no known contact with her biological family and was believed to have no living relatives nearby. Supporting her emotional wellbeing and sense of belonging remained a priority for the Shared Lives team.*

*The Deputyship Officer reviewed historical records and liaised with external agencies, identifying a potential family link, Kathy's niece. Working with Care Management and the Service Lead (acting as Caldicott Guardian), the team ensured all decisions followed confidentiality, safeguarding, and data protection principles. Once approved, contact was made sensitively through the Shared Lives Officer, who then connected the niece with Kathy's carers and supported early communication.*

*Kathy was delighted to learn she had family and expressed excitement about reconnecting. Plans are now underway for a supported visit, with Shared Lives Carers, Care Management, and Deputyship working together to ensure her emotional wellbeing. The case demonstrated strong teamwork, safe information sharing, and person-centred practice, leading to a meaningful reconnection for Kathy.*

We also benefit from three in-house pan-disability Resource Centres.

These offer an excellent range of services, with good coverage across the district (Hungerford, Newbury and Calcot).



The ASC Portfolio Holder's visit to one of our Resource Centres

## Case example

*For Richard and Tina, who share a cosy three-bedroom home, everyday routines had slowly become a source of worry, strain and, at times, danger.*

*Richard's mobility challenges meant that something as simple as getting into the bath placed him at constant risk of falling. For Tina, who supports him daily, the fear of an accident was never far away.*



*We used the Disabled Facilities Grant to provide:*

- *A dropped kerb and hardstanding, enabling easier access to the property*
- *A new ground floor WC, converted from the understairs cloakroom*
- *A full first floor bathroom adaptation, including a level access shower*

*The changes have brought them peace of mind. Tina was determined that their home shouldn't end up looking clinical or hospital-like and she provided input to the final design. The changes mean she can step back in the knowledge that Richard is safer.*

## Areas we are focused on

We will take forward the learning from the LGA Review of Commissioning and the Commissioning Summit.

We will continue to make use of innovation in the sector, including new technologies.

We will develop our relationship with the provider market through our new Strategic Partnership.

*I wanted to contact you to say thank you so much for helping with Mum.*

*You were so kind and I valued your gentle and supportive manner. I really appreciated the way in which you listened attentively to my concerns and worries, at such a difficult and worrying time for our family.*

*It was definitely the right decision for mum to go to [care home], her physical needs are now being taken care of in a way I couldn't provide. Emotionally she is much better and has a new lease of life. Although she can't join in with many activities, she is able to join in with some activities (enjoying the singing) but is also happy to just watch the comings and goings.*

*Thank you so much.*

**A daughter**



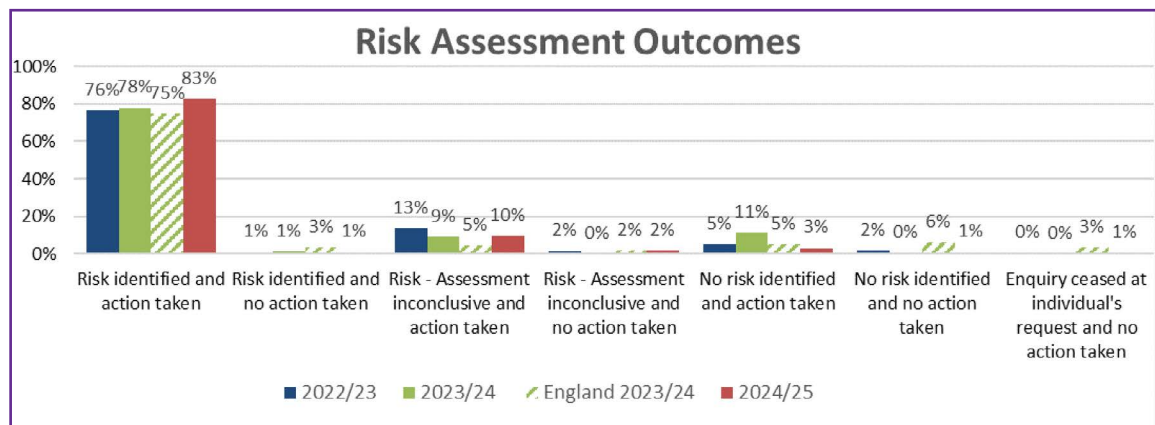
## 7. Theme 3: How the Local Authority ensures safety within the system

### Our strengths

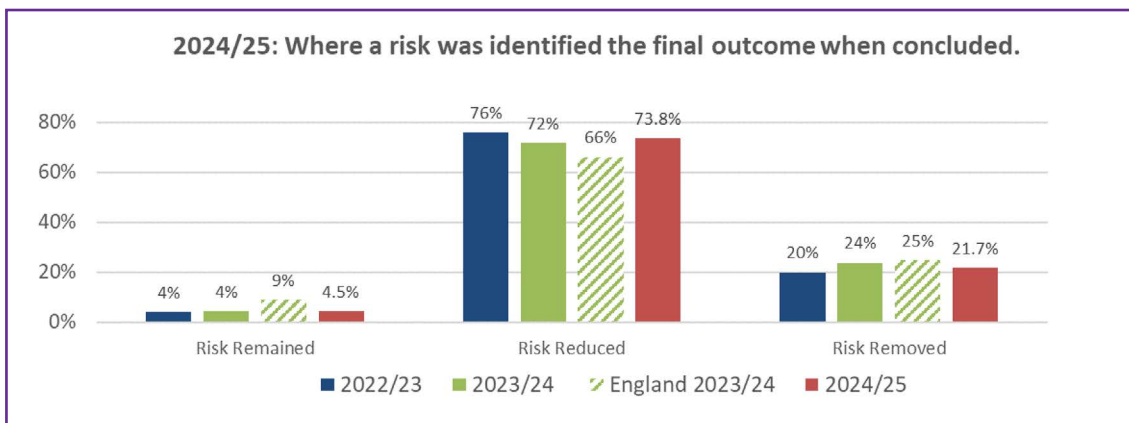
Our last CQC report was very positive about the work we undertake to keep people safe. We believe that it continues to be an area of strength. Safeguarding casework is audited by our Safeguarding Service Manager, Principal Social Worker and others. The outcomes on safeguarding interventions are reported on a quarterly basis and reviewed by our Senior Leadership Team. The data shows positive impact in keeping people safe as well as good compliance with the principles of 'Making Safeguarding Personal' by co-designing action plans. The Annual Report is here:

[10. WB Safeguarding Performance 2024-25 Annual Report 002.pdf](#)

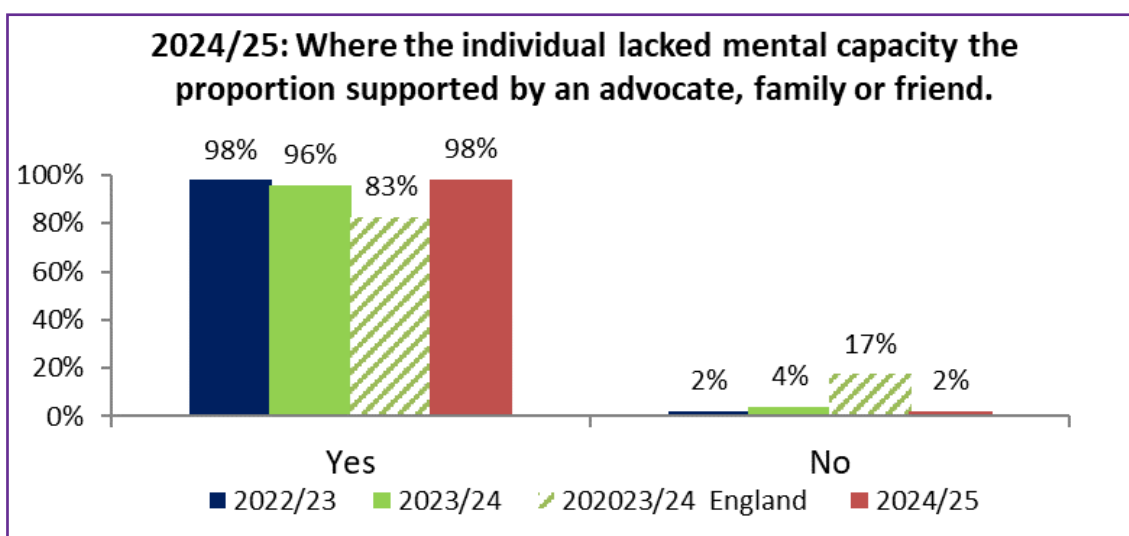
Concluded enquiries by risk outcomes 2022/23 - 2024/25



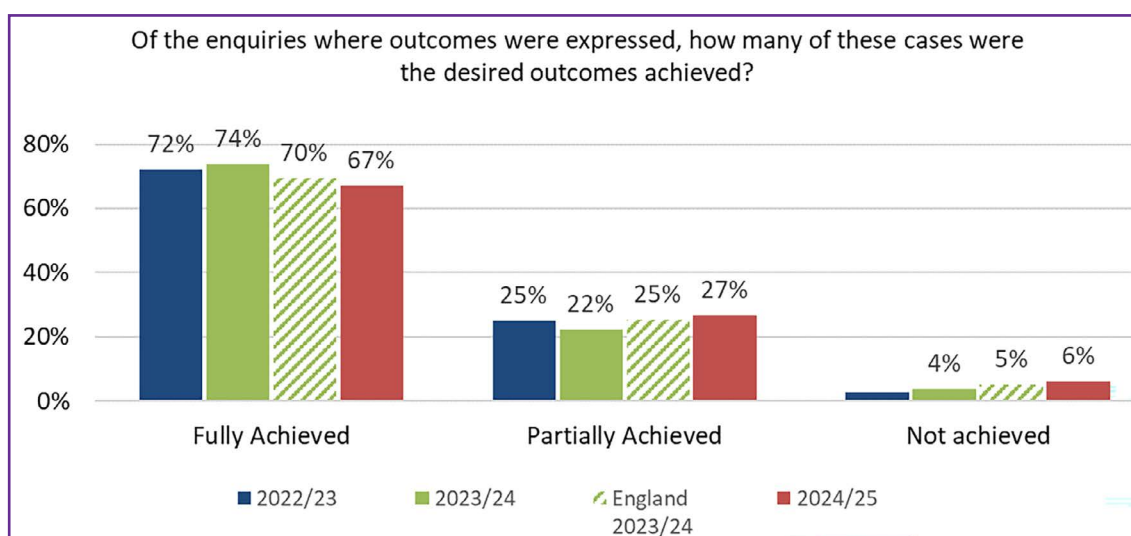
### Concluded enquiries by result 2022/23 – 2024/25



### Concluded enquiries by advocacy provision 2022/23 – 2024/25



### Concluded enquiries by expressed outcomes achieved



We have introduced a new West Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board, following the ending of the Tri-Borough Board. This will support us to have a clearer focus on the particular needs of West Berkshire's population. We will continue to link closely with neighbouring authorities and will keep our new arrangements under review.

There is good joint working between our Safeguarding Board and the leads on

Community Safety, Prevent and Domestic Abuse. The Executive Director for ASC also chairs the Domestic Abuse Board.

We have set out above how we support people to leave hospital and return home safely. Performance against our Better Care Fund targets are monitored closely by our Locality Integration Board and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## Case example

*The person with lived experience was discharged from hospital under the Joint Care Pathway, and it became clear that long term care would be needed to maintain safety and stability at home. Assessment also revealed that the person with lived experience wife, acting as the main carer, was experiencing significant strain and was at risk of carer breakdown.*

*A comprehensive assessment informed the development of a tailored long-term package of care designed to support both the individual and his wife. Additional practical support, including a cleaning call, was arranged to reduce pressure on the household and help the wife manage her caring responsibilities more comfortably.*

*The person's long term care needs were safely met, and the wife experienced reduced stress and improved ability to cope. Both individuals now have a more sustainable level of support, contributing to a safer and more manageable home environment.*

We have made significant additional investment in our Transitions team, which continues to deliver strong performance in this complex area. The team maintain a strong focus on person-centred planning, enabling young people and their families to work collaboratively as they move from children's service into adults. Through effective coordination and multi-agency working, the team supports safe transitions and promotes continuity of care, ensuring young people come into adulthood with clear and well-planned support in place.

Our Specialist Mental Health team (SMHT) is also effective in delivering prompt and skilled responses to people in crisis, alongside other statutory partners. The DASS has chaired the Regional Mental Health Leads network on behalf of ADASS.

We continue to provide strong response times for Mental Health Act Assessments (MHAA) work, ensuring appropriate and timely information is handed over to the Emergency Duty Team to maintain a seamless service both in and out of hours. We also have very positive working relationships with colleagues in the PMS (Psychological Medicine Service) as well as teams in Older People's Mental Health, Community Mental Health for Adult and Responsible Clinicians.

Joint "clinically ready to discharge" meetings are held on the ward, with a clear focus on ensuring timely and safe discharges from the local psychiatric hospital. Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust introduced MADE (Multi Agency Discharge Event) into the acute mental health setting last week. Although previously used on general wards, the approach has now been adapted for mental health.

MADE brings together senior clinical and operational staff from community, mental health, social care, and acute services to unblock complex cases and support patients to move to the most appropriate environment. By the end of the week, the event had achieved its aims, demonstrating strong partnership working.

The SMHT also works closely with the Crisis Team in Newbury. The Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team has expressed their thanks for the advice provided, including guidance when individuals were not eligible for assessment under the Act and when alternatives to hospital admission were explored.

The team has received positive feedback from people with lived experience, particularly for early support and signposting, for example financial guidance and referrals to Breathing Space for debt support. Families have also expressed gratitude for ensuring pets are cared for when a loved one is detained in hospital. Although this is a duty on Approved Mental Health Professionals under the Act, families appreciate the follow up, especially when admissions become longer term.



We have strong partnership working with the ICB in relation to Section 117 Aftercare services, and the joint funding panel meets weekly. We have seen an increase in s117 cases. In West Berkshire, we use a matrix to support consistent decision making, ensuring people with lived experience receive the right level of support with an appropriate balance between health and social care needs.

Joint working within the panel enables open discussion and resolution of any disagreements about support levels or costs. Costs are considered objectively, focusing on value for money, appropriateness, comparisons with similar providers, and whether the package meets the individual's needs. The matrix provides a fair and consistent approach for each person. It was reviewed in 2024 and will be reviewed again in 2026 to ensure the evidence and information used remain robust for both joint funders and the individual.

Joint reviews give a full picture of the individual's current situation, allowing the matrix to be updated accurately and efficiently. This strengthens communication between organisations and helps reduce delays. Reviews also enable us to monitor changes, make necessary adjustments, improve quality of life, promote independence, and consider step down accommodation or services as the person stabilises and progresses.

We are using a new approach to support people with overlapping needs consisting of a combination of homelessness, substance/ alcohol use, mental health needs and safeguarding risks. These people are at escalated risk of harm, and they require a joined up system response to achieve the best outcomes. This requires input from Housing, Public Health, Safeguarding, Addiction and Mental Health services.

We also undertook targeted work with the Racing community in Lambourn following raised concerns relating to suicide risk. A Summit in February brought together expertise from Public Health and Voluntary Sector providers to share meaningful insights with representatives from the Racing community. The event was very well attended and there were clear benefits in terms of clarifying the available support offer and making useful connections to embed awareness within the community.

### **Areas we are focused on**

We will need to undertake some targeted work to embed the new Safeguarding Adults Board arrangements and ensure its effectiveness.

We know there is growing demand to support young people transitioning into adulthood. We will continue to monitor that demand, and our ability to respond in a timely and effective way.

*Please forgive me for contacting you directly but I would like to pass my sincere gratitude for assigning Tom Tremlin to my case.*

*Tom has not only demonstrated dedication to his profession in every contact but done so in a manner that highlighted his care and hard work in trying to help me overcome the new challenges I face.*

*As such, I would be very grateful if Tom's efforts could be recognised, if appropriate, in a formal manner by his line manager.*

**A person supported to leave hospital**



The visit of the Chief Social Worker for Adults, the President of ADASS, the Chief Executive of ADASS and Deputy Director of Department of Health and Social Care

## 8. Theme 4: Leadership

### Our strengths

Since the last CQC report, we have established a Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee. The committee has received multiple reports from ASC representatives, and this has led to greater understanding and oversight amongst elected members. Papers have of course also been reviewed by our Corporate Board, Senior Leadership Team, Executive and full Council as appropriate. We have regular briefings with our Portfolio Holder (and shadow Portfolio Holder) to ensure that they are fully briefed on all key issues affecting the service.

We have been very active in seeking support/ review from LGA/ Partners in Care and Health. They have advised on the following:

- Review of Leadership
- Workforce Strategy

- Information and Advice Maturity Assessment
- Commissioning
- Health and Wellbeing Board

We have also drawn on external consultancy to benefit from their expertise (e.g. Triple Value Impact and Swift).

The Council undertook a survey of Employee Engagement. This gave strong reassurance that the ASC staff group are well trained and motivated, with high levels of satisfaction. The survey also indicated that front-line staff had quite low levels of confidence that senior leaders fully understand their day-to-day work. In response, we have undertaken a programme of 'reverse shadowing', which appears to have made a material difference on this issue. This involves senior managers spending time with front-line practitioners while they undertake their work.



Reverse Shadowing sessions

The council has also undertaken a survey on 'psychological safety' which provided reassurance that staff are able to speak up on issues affecting them. A regular 'Employee Engagement Forum' takes place, giving staff a chance to highlight issues to senior management. The Service Director for ASC is one of the management representatives. Our Values are Integrity, Customer Focused and Fairness. Our Behaviour Framework is a key plank in setting our organisational culture:



There has been a focus on communicating with staff through a range of measures:

- Principal Social Worker Annual Report
- Service Director's Newsletter
- Directorate Briefings
- Drop-ins with Senior Leaders
- Let's Chat (with the Chief Executive/ Leader)

Our Service Lead sits on the Executive Board of the National Association of Financial Assessment Officers (NAFAO), who represent the views of the other Local Authority members and aim to influence any changes to the charging for care legislation that the Department of Health & Social Care make. She also sits on the Advisory Board of the Society of Later Life Advisors (SOLLA), to help influence the advice that Financial Advisors are giving around paying for care.

On innovation, ASC led the introduction in West Berkshire Council of Magic Notes, which has been extremely well received by staff and is making a positive impact on our recruitment and operational efficiency.

We are also innovating (as above) through our programme on digital tools (Howz/ Vocala). We have delivered phase one of a major programme to introduce a new case management system (Mosaic).

We have shown system leadership through our engagement with Health (e.g. Health and Wellbeing Board, Innovation Fund work) and the voluntary sector (development of the Memorandum of Understanding).

We have ensured that our workforce is supported and effective through a number of areas of work:

- We have conducted a Supervision survey to ensure that this key area of practice is being effectively used and to identify any necessary actions.
- We have conducted a Training Needs Analysis.
- We have established a Principal Occupational Therapist post.
- We have supported staff to develop professional qualifications through the apprenticeship scheme.
- We have offered Approved Mental Health Professional training.
- We have introduced a Market Supplement Payment, leading to better recruitment and retention and a reduced use of agency staff.
- We hold regular forums, such as the Social Worker Forum, and Learning events, such as the Quarterly Learning Event, hosted by the Service Director for ASC.
- We undertook a round of Succession Planning work, under which our Team Managers could develop their understanding of the Service Manager role, and gain valuable experience.



Becky, an award-winning Apprentice

The Supervision Survey was conducted in December 2025. It indicated good performance in this critical area of work.

90% of respondents have supervision at least every 7 weeks. Most sessions are between 30-90 minutes. There was good evidence that supervision consistently delivers against key standards:

- Uninterrupted sessions
- Clarifies roles and responsibilities
- Challenges people to work in a non-discriminatory way
- Provides an opportunity to reflect on work
- Enables staff to manage workload
- Identifies training needs
- Supports the management of stress
- Can be used to express concerns
- Provides positive feedback



The Principal OT at an awareness raising session

There is a strong support offer to staff, including an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), which is a confidential, independent service that anyone can use - whether or not work is the main issue.

Support includes:

- Talking through stress, anxiety and low mood
- Support around uncertainty, change, and workload pressure
- Help with personal, family or financial concerns
- Advice on sleep, resilience and managing overwhelm

In addition, a Mental Health First Aider programme ensures that colleagues are available to give a first line response to people experiencing mental health challenges.

Management information and oversight have also been improved, by:

- Introducing an improved Feedback loop for people who have drawn on a service from ASC
- Expanding the casefile audit regime.
- Introducing and monitoring the Client Level Dataset

At West Berkshire Council, our training and development offer isn't just a list of courses, it's a commitment to helping every colleague grow, thrive, and feel equipped for the future. We focus on practical, high impact learning that builds confidence, strengthens teams, and supports long term career progression.

In an average year, there are 180 training courses delivered internally which are available to all ASC staff. There are also many opportunities to access external courses. A programme of 'bite-size' or 'lunch and learn' sessions is in development.

There are also 40 e-learning modules for ASC staff on our Learning Hub.

ASC staff can access a wide range of resources via Care Knowledge, journals, reports, books, webinars, blogs, etc. and this is widely utilised. Around 300 ASC staff receive the weekly emails from Care Knowledge which detail the latest content. More than half of these people regularly access the site, visiting around 500 separate resources each month. This is also an excellent way to log Continuous Professional Development. ASC staff can also access a number of free webinars via Making Research Count.

Monthly emails are sent to all ASC staff highlighting all the learning opportunities coming up that month. An Adult Social Care Training Programme is produced each year and added to throughout the year to include all that is available.

In an average year, 15 to 20 people achieve qualifications (BIA, PEPS, ILM, Diploma, etc.). The opportunity to undertake the Apprenticeship Degree in Social Work and in Occupational Therapy is open to staff each year.

Requests for funding of training or qualifications are welcomed throughout the year and are considered by our Workforce Development Board.

ASC staff are encouraged to share their knowledge through team meetings or by facilitating learning events. We wish for all staff to embrace a culture of continuous development and to all play a part in supporting this.

Our Principal Occupational therapist meets regularly with each OT team leader and has made it her mission to know each OT individually to enable her to tailor learning and development opportunities personally.

She has begun delivering regular best practice workshops to enhance learning for the Occupational Therapy cohort which aim to improve service delivery. Topics to date have included 'Reablement approaches and equipment provision' and 'Recording' with the next set to cover 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' with specific reference to West Berkshires marginalised groups demographic.

The quarterly OT meetings are also a place to share learning and development. They feature a different area of practice for exploration each time with the teams deciding on the content they need, researching and delivering it themselves.



An Occupational Therapy Training Event

## Areas we are focused on

We need to continue our focus on Budget management, in light of the council being in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support

Development of an updated ASC Strategy to provide clarity on our priorities.

*Dearest Alex*

*Once again thank you from the bottom of all our hearts for the part you played in all our lives and for the help that you and your team have given us in our time of need! We will always think of you as our guardian angel and wish you and your loved ones all the very best in this world.*

*Mum and dad are very happy and loved at [care home]. Their 62nd anniversary and both their birthdays were celebrated with all other residents and staff.*

*I am on a business trip right now, and for the first time in 12 years I feel good, because I know they are being looked after. Thank you once again.*

**A son**

## West Berkshire Council

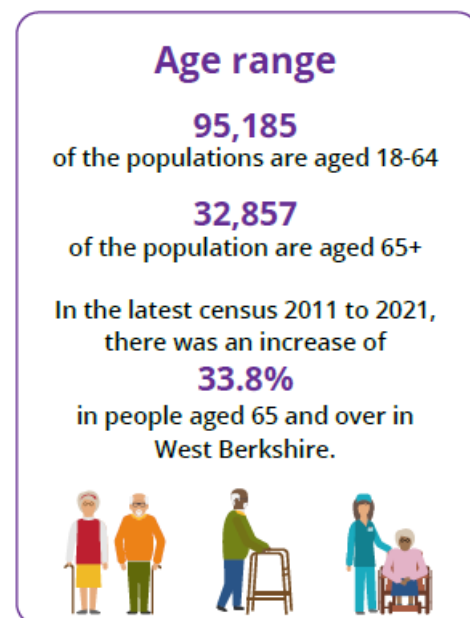
### CQC Self-Assessment – Summary of Key Messages (April 2026)

#### Strong Foundations & Assurance

- **Strong quality baseline:** We were rated Good by CQC (published 17 May 2024), with an overall score of 64/100, providing a solid platform for continued improvement.
- **Improvement since last inspection:** Good progress has been made against almost all areas identified for improvement, alongside progress on new opportunities and innovation.
- **Positive outcomes performance:** The latest ASCOF data (Jan 2026) shows strong outcomes with most indicators in the top 2 quartiles.

#### Context

- **High and rising demand:** In 2024/25, 8,806 requests for support were received, with 50.5% resolved at first point of contact through information, advice and signposting.
- **Population need is rising:** 32,857 residents are aged 65+, and the 65+ population grew by 33.8% (2011–2021), increasing demand and reinforcing the focus on prevention and partnership working.
- **Relative need:** West Berkshire is generally healthy and affluent, but there are pockets of deprivation and an ageing population, both shaping demand and priorities.



#### How the Local Authority works with people

- **Positive feedback:** Surveys indicate high levels of satisfaction, with many more compliments than complaints.
- **Co-production:** We have redesigned some of our services with input from people with lived experience.
- **Listening:** We have improved our communication with people including our feedback systems; we play a leadership role in networks such as the Carers Group and Autism Partnership Board.
- **Prevention:** We have a focus on working in a preventative approach, with good indications of effectiveness.
- **Timeliness:** We are focused on improving the timeliness of our responses to people requesting help. We have effective systems to prioritise our response to those at greatest risk.

## Providing Support

- **Partnerships:** The council has very strong relationships with many key partners; we believe that better outcomes are achieved through joint working.
- **Hospital Discharge and Reablement:** We have an excellent Reablement service with very strong performance measures; they support effective work to support hospital discharge.
- **Provider market:** The local population is well served by many 'Good' local providers.
- **Shared Lives:** our vibrant Shared Lives scheme achieves very positive feedback.
- **Innovation:** We continue to innovate in our service delivery, making use of new technologies as they emerge.
- **Commissioning:** We are focused on improving our commissioning functions, drawing on expert guidance from a recent LGA review.



Reablement colleagues

## Ensuring Safety

- **Safeguarding:** Safeguarding is an area of strength, with evidence of positive outcomes and effective interventions.
- **Targeted responses:** We undertake focused work to support those at greater risk, for example people with co-occurring mental health needs, substance use and housing issues.
- **System responses:** We ensure that we work closely with partners to ensure that people with increased vulnerability are kept safe, especially at points of transition.
- **Safeguarding Adults Board:** We are focused on developing the new West Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

## Leadership and Governance

- **Accessing external expertise:** The council draws on external support and expertise to continually improve.
- **Engaged leadership:** We have strong and effective leadership, offering support, scrutiny and development opportunities.
- **Governance and oversight:** There are clear accountability arrangements, strengthened by a dedicated Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee and engaged Portfolio Holder.
- **Workforce confidence:** We have a skilled, motivated and well-supported workforce in place, with strong evidence that staff are enthusiastic, confident and effective in their practice.
- **ASC Strategy:** We are focused on updating our ASC Strategy to reflect our ambition and commitments.

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## Response to Emotional Wellbeing Task Group

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Heather Codling
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	01 April 2026
<b>Report Author:</b>	AnnMarie Dodds

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### 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide a formal response to the working group recommendations relating to children and young people's emotional and mental health support, highlighting the significant changes in the operational landscape and identifying where recommendations cannot currently be delivered due to resource constraints or responsibilities resting with other system partners.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive is asked to:
- (a) Acknowledge the operational changes affecting the delivery of mental health and early intervention emotional well-being services in West Berkshire.
  - (b) Agree the responses that are set out at paragraph 5.16 of this report.
  - (c) Agree that several recommendations fall outside the remit or current resource capacity of West Berkshire Council Children's Services and should be referred to the appropriate system partners (specifically the ICB, Leisure, schools, and commissioned providers).
  - (d) Endorse the position that further delivery against these recommendations will require:
    - i) Additional resource from the ICB; and/or
    - ii) Cross system agreement through the Family First Partnership and Best Start/Family Hubs programme.

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	There are no additional financial resources available within existing Children’s Services budgets to deliver the full set of recommendations. The withdrawal of £100k ICB funding from the Emotional Health Academy has significantly reduced early intervention capacity. Any expansion of emotional wellbeing or mental health provision would require additional external funding, primarily from the ICB, or new cross-system investment agreed through partnership governance.
<b>Human Resource:</b>	There are no additional staffing resources available within Children’s Services to take on new or expanded delivery expectations. Workforce development activity, including trauma-informed practice, can only be progressed where funded training capacity exists. Reprioritising existing staff would place unacceptable pressure on statutory safeguarding, SEND and early help duties.
<b>Legal:</b>	Many recommendations relate to clinical services, commissioning responsibilities or autonomous organisations (e.g. schools), which sit outside the Council’s legal remit. No additional legal implications arise from noting or allocating recommendations to the appropriate system partners.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	There is a risk to system confidence and service sustainability if recommendations are interpreted as deliverable by Children’s Services without the required funding or authority. This report mitigates that risk by clearly identifying appropriate ownership, dependencies and constraints, ensuring expectations remain aligned with actual system capacity.
<b>Property:</b>	There are no direct property implications for the Council. Recommendations relating to the use of school or community facilities sit with individual schools or external providers, over which the Council has no operational control.

<b>Policy:</b>	The proposals align with national direction, including Family First, Best Start / Family Hubs and integrated early help reform. No new Council policy is required. The approach supports delivery through existing strategies and partnership frameworks, rather than creating additional standalone policies.			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		The report itself does not introduce service reductions or policy changes. It provides clarity on system roles and realistic delivery expectations, supporting equitable access by avoiding commitments that cannot be fulfilled. Future service developments will continue to be shaped through co-production with children, young people and families, particularly those with protected characteristics.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		Children and young people with SEND, neurodivergent needs or mental health vulnerabilities may be disproportionately affected by wider system capacity pressures. These impacts are outside the sole control of the Council and require coordinated action and investment from health and system partners.

<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		X		There are no direct environmental impacts arising from this report. Where services are accessed digitally or through community-based delivery models, this may support reduced travel and improved local access.
<b>Health Impact:</b>		X		The report recognises the importance of emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people. However, the ability to improve health outcomes is dependent on NHS-commissioned services and ICB investment. The Council's role remains focused on early help, coordination and partnership facilitation.
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		X		There are no immediate ICT implications arising from this report. Any future digital enhancements to service navigation or access will be progressed through existing programmes, subject to capacity and funding.
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		Digital access to information and services is already provided through the Local Offer, Family Information Service and Best Start programme. Further improvements are planned but are resource-dependent and cannot be accelerated without additional investment.

<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>	X			The approach supports the Council's priorities around prevention, early intervention, partnership working and system sustainability, while maintaining a clear focus on statutory responsibilities and realistic delivery.
<b>Core Business:</b>		X		The recommendations reinforce Children's Services' core role in coordination, early help and safeguarding, while appropriately allocating responsibility for clinical, commissioning and autonomous delivery functions to system partners.
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		No new data processing or data-sharing arrangements are introduced through this report. Existing governance and data protection arrangements remain in place.
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	Engagement with children, young people and families continues through Family First, the Local Offer, Community Hubs and partnership forums. Any future gap analysis or service development will be delivered through ongoing co-production rather than standalone consultation exercises.			

## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 This report sets out the Council's response to the Emotional Wellbeing Task Group recommendations, reflecting significant changes to the local system and clarifying where delivery is constrained by resources or sits with other partners, particularly the ICB, NHS providers, schools and leisure services. It confirms that deliverable elements will be progressed through existing programmes including Family First, Best Start and Family Hubs, while any further expansion of provision would require additional ICB investment or cross-system agreement. Committee endorsement is sought to confirm appropriate ownership of actions, maintain realistic expectations, and support continued partnership working to improve outcomes for children and young people.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

5.1 The Council would like to thank the Emotional Wellbeing Task Group for its work in highlighting the challenges and opportunities to improve emotional wellbeing and mental health support for children and young people in West Berkshire. This report responds to the Task Group's recommendations, setting out how they will be taken forward where possible and providing clarity on current system responsibilities and constraints.

### Background

- 5.2 There have been significant system changes since the original design of the Emotional Well-being task group:
- 5.3 The ICB has withdrawn £100,000 of funding, significantly reducing the level of early intervention mental health support available through the Emotional Health Academy.
- 5.4 West Berkshire Council are no longer commissioned to deliver Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs), which now operate solely as an ICB commissioned service from an existing health provider.
- 5.5 The Youth Offer is now being co-ordinated through the 0–19 Family Hub model, forming a core element of the Family First early intervention pathway.
- 5.6 Cross system work on neurodiversity, CAMHS access, and wider mental health commissioning sits primarily with the ICB, supported by partnership arrangements across Berkshire West (including Wokingham & Reading). West Berkshire Council are engaged in a neurodiversity project, coproduced with all relevant partners to deliver a multi-disciplinary response to children.
- 5.7 These changes materially affect the ability of the Council to deliver several recommendations as currently drafted.

### Proposals (Response to Working Recommendations)

- 5.8 Areas outside the remit of Children's Services
- 5.9 Several recommendations concern activity not within the control of the Council:
- (a) Use of school facilities – this is a matter for individual schools as autonomous organisations.
  - (b) Subsidised leisure access – decisions sit with the leisure provider and should be addressed through Place governance arrangements.
  - (c) Clinical pathways, CAMHS access, neurodiversity services, and professional networks – these are the responsibility of the ICB as commissioner. These recommendations should therefore be directed to the ICB for resourcing and coordination.

5.10 Items incorporated within existing programmes

5.11 Some recommendations are already embedded within current service transformation aligned to current government direction:

- a. The Early Help Roadmap will be developed through the Family First Partnership as part of Family Hubs implementation.
- b. Community based pathways can be further supported through:
  - i. Community Hubs
  - ii. Time to Talk
  - iii. The Local Offer
  - iv. The Family Information Service
  - v. Digital access/enhancements through the Best Start programme

5.12 Resource limitations impacting deliverability

5.13 The withdrawal of ICB funding from the EHA and the increasing service demand on remaining resource means that there is no capacity to expand early intervention activity without additional resource.

5.14 Workforce development can be extended — including trauma informed training — only if training capacity and funding are provided. Constrained training capacity and budgets mean additional service expectations cannot be met within current staffing or financial envelopes.

5.15 Coproduction and Gap Analysis

5.16 Any future gap analysis will be delivered through ongoing coproduction across Family First Partnership reform, SEND and Educational reform, the Local Offer, community partners, and young people feedback. This ensures that identified needs are realistic and aligned with actual system capability.

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Management Response</b>
1	Provide and promote a Local Youth Offer, including mapping services, improving access to facilities, and subsidised leisure access.	<p>The Council recognises the importance of a comprehensive youth offer. Mapping of and access to services will be delivered as part of the Families First / Family Hub offer.</p> <p>Opportunities for collaboration will be explored, and implementation will be in line with existing resource.</p>

2	<p>Improve communication and navigation of local services, including a central hub and streamlined CAMHS overview.</p>	<p>We agree this would significantly benefit families, the development of a digital hub and enhanced communications will be part of the Best Start, Family Hub, Family Information Service and enhanced SEND Local Offer.</p> <p>CAMHS service design and delivery sits with BHFT and the ICB, and we will continue to work in partnership to ensure clarity and accessibility for families.</p>
3	<p>Convene professionals regularly, develop a system strategy, expand mental health workers in GP surgeries, and ensure Senior Mental Health Leads in schools.</p>	<p>These actions require substantial coordination and additional workforce investment from ICB.</p> <p>Expansion of mental health workers in GP surgeries and CAMHS capacity is the responsibility of the ICB and BHFT. These issues are expected to be addressed through the development of the Neighbourhood Health Model, specifically multi-disciplinary teams.</p> <p>The Council will maintain existing partnership forums and advocate for prioritisation of emotional and mental health well-being.</p>
4	<p>Embed trauma-informed practices district-wide, including training and workshops.</p>	<p>The Council supports trauma-informed approaches and already works to a trauma-informed model in Children’s Social Care. The social care model follows national best practice which recommends embedding principles such as safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment, and cultural awareness, supported by leadership commitment and reflective supervision.</p> <p>Additional delivery district-wide including training and policy development, requires significant investment and capacity, which are not currently available.</p> <p>We will continue to promote awareness through existing networks and explore external funding opportunities.</p>
5	<p>Review smartphone/social media use and online safety,</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the importance of this issue. Decisions on mobile phone use in</p>

	including best practice and parental support.	schools are a matter for individual schools and governing bodies.  The Council will share national best practice, which recommends clear 'no phones during the school day' policies, secure storage, reasonable exceptions for medical/SEND needs, and strong communication with parents. We will also encourage schools to review their policies annually and provide education on online safety.
6	Include Children and Young People's Mental Health as a priority for the Health and Wellbeing Board.	This can be considered as part of the Board's strategic planning. Any associated actions will require additional capacity and funding to deliver effectively.  The Council will work with health partners to ensure alignment with ICB priorities.

## 6 Other options considered

6.1 Delivering the recommendations in full using existing resource.

- (a) This option was discounted as current operational capacity is insufficient and would create unsustainable pressure on statutory services.

6.2 Reprioritising internal resources

- (a) Not recommended, as this would negatively impact statutory safeguarding, SEND, and new statutory early help responsibilities.

6.3 Seeking additional internal funding

- (a) Not feasible given current budgetary constraints.

6.4 The recommended option is therefore to align recommendations to system partners priorities and progress deliverable elements wherever possible through Family Hubs and Family First.

## 7 Conclusion

7.1 The Council acknowledges the importance of improving children's mental health and emotional wellbeing and supports the principles behind the Task and Finish Group's recommendations. We will continue to explore opportunities for partnership working and external funding to progress these recommendations in the future.

7.2 For school-level matters such as mobile phone use, the Council will provide advisory guidance based on national best practice but will not mandate policy. For trauma-informed practice, the Council will maintain its current model within Children's Social

Care and seek opportunities to expand this approach in line with national best practice when resources allow. For CAMHS and wider health services, responsibility lies with the ICB and BHFT, and the Council will continue to work collaboratively to influence improvements and ensure joined-up support for children and families.

- 7.3 The report provides clarity on appropriate agency ownership of actions, identifies resource gaps, and ensures alignment with ongoing reform programmes. Committee approval is sought to endorse this position.

## 8 Appendices

### 8.1 None

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#### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position:

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

## Bond Riverside 13B, C & D

## Part I

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	21 May 2026
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Justin Pemberton
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	7 May 2026
<b>Report Author:</b>	Bill Bagnell

### 1 Purpose of the Report

To inform the Executive that the marketing exercise for the potential disposal of the Council's freehold interest on 13B, C & D Bond Riverside has been completed. Following an independent formal valuation in order to satisfy Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, the report proposes to progress disposal of the freehold.

### 2 Recommendations

- 1 That the Executive considers the financial information and legal advice contained in this report and supports the disposal of 13B, C & D Bond Riverside.
- 2 That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director Place, working with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, s151 Officer and Service Lead for Legal and Democratic Services, to conclude negotiations and enter into contracts for disposal.

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	<p>The Council has received an unconditional offer with overage for the sale of the freehold interest at 13B, C &amp; D Bond Riverside. The Council sought a formal valuation of the site in April 2026 and the unconditional element of the offer made is acceptable to satisfy s123 of the Local Government Act 1972</p> <p>Should the Executive decide to proceed with a disposal, it will forego ground rent income which has the capacity to rise via</p>

	<p>rent reviews. This has been considered against the capital receipt for the disposal of the freehold.</p> <p>If the unconditional capital receipt is to be used to fund the Council's capital programme, it would reduce the need to borrow and appreciably reduce financing costs. It would also avoid future Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). Alternatively, the capital receipt could be used to helpfully fund qualifying transformation projects that deliver ongoing revenue savings.</p>
<b>Human Resource:</b>	N/A
<b>Legal:</b>	<p>The marketing exercise was conducted based on the sale of the freehold and leasehold from the current leaseholder and did not result in offers that were acceptable to both parties. However, a bid for the freehold offering both an unconditional element and overage was received and represents a proceedable offer.</p> <p>The council has sought external legal advice to support the potential disposal process and support the s123 assessment.</p>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	Working with both internal and external legal support, officers will complete due diligence in respect of any transaction.
<b>Property:</b>	The council has no liabilities in respect of 13B, C & D beyond maintaining appropriate insurance and in line with the terms of the lease.
<b>Policy:</b>	Should the council to dispose of its freehold on 13B, C & D it maximises the chance of regeneration taking place on the site which complies with Council Priority Area: 4. A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire:

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Health Impact:</b>		X		
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		

<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>	X			<p>Potentially disposing of the freehold maximises the chances of regeneration on 13B, C &amp; D, which contributes:</p> <p>Council Priority Area: 4. “A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire” :</p> <p>4.B. Regeneration of Bond Riverside and build a new community sports stadium</p> <p>4.7. The Bond Riverside regeneration programme is progressed</p>
<b>Core Business:</b>	X			<p>The capital receipt can be used to fund the Council’s capital programme reducing the need to borrow or fund qualifying transformation projects that deliver ongoing revenue savings.</p>
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	Finance, Legal Services and Property Services Officers			

## 4 Executive Summary

The council has completed a marketing exercise on the basis of the freehold being sold and the leases surrendered, which did not result in a proceedable offer. However, the council has received an offer for the sale of the freehold which following formal valuation is considered acceptable to satisfy s123. Subject due diligence, the report proposes the disposal of the site.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Background

- 5.1 The combined land holding of 13B, C & D is an important edge of town centre site which is generally tired. The council has long held the aspiration to regenerate the industrial estate and sees 13B, C & D as a key gateway into the estate, which should it be redeveloped to act as a catalyst for the wider regeneration on the rest of the estate.

## Proposals

- 5.2 After completing a marketing exercise of 13B, C & D Bond Riverside for the sale of the council's freehold and the surrender of leases by the current leaseholder, a proceedable offer was not received. However, the Council received an unconditional offer for the sale of the freehold with the opportunity for overage.
- 5.3 The Council undertook a formal valuation of its interest in the site and this was assessed against the current and future ground rental, and the offer received, it is considered that this offer satisfies the test set out in s123 for the Local Government Act 1972. If the unconditional capital receipt is to be used to fund the Council's capital programme, it would reduce the need to borrow and appreciably reduce financing costs or fund qualifying transformation projects that deliver ongoing revenue savings.

## 6 Other options considered

- 6.1 That the council purchases the leasehold interest and redevelops 13B, C & D itself. This option is not practical and highly risky. The Council would need to borrow the capital at a time of high interest rates and the Council has limited experience and capacity to deliver regeneration itself without considerable risk to itself.
- 6.2 The Council could choose to market the freehold of the whole of the Bond Riverside Estate (excluding the football ground). While there has been an indication that there may be some appetite to purchase the freehold of the whole site, the likelihood of receiving a realistic offer is uncertain and while the site is marketed, the current offer could be withdrawn undermining the ability of the Council to secure a capital receipt and the potential to support regeneration on this part of the estate.
- 6.3 The Council could determine to retain the freehold and continue with the current arrangements. This option has been discounted in view of the benefits of securing a capital receipt and the potential to support regeneration.

## 7 Conclusion

- 7.1 On the basis of the information contained in this report, it is proposed the council disposes of the freehold on 13B, C & D.
- 7.2 If the Executive supports the disposal, delegated authority is requested for the Executive Director Place, working with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, s151 Officer and Service Lead for Legal and Democratic Services, to conclude negotiations and enter into contracts for exchange supported by external legal advisers.

## 8 Appendices

- 8.1 N/A
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## Background Papers:

N/A

### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position:

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

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Executive – 21 May 2026

**Item 15 – Scrutiny Review of Called-in  
Decision**

To follow

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Executive – 21 May 2026

## **Item 16 – Member Questions**

To follow

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# Agenda Item 18.

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